

A Guide to the Natalie Lancaster Letter to H. A. Anderson, 1923 February 6 SC 0329

Natalie Lancaster letter to H. A. Anderson

1923 February 6



Title Statement

A Guide to the Natalie Lancaster Letter to H. A. Anderson, 1923 February 6 SC 0329

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

SC 0329

Unit ID

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Unit Date

1923 February 6

Language

English

Abstract

The Natalie Lancaster Letter to H. A. Anderson, 1923 February 6, comprises a one-page typed letter from Lancaster, as social director at the State Normal School for Women at Harrisonburg, to H. A. Anderson, likely a student affiliated with the Virginia Tech Minstrels. Lancaster thanks Anderson for his most recent letter and reacts to the Minstrels January 1923 performance at the Normal.

Creator

Lancaster, Natalie (1882-1952)

Creator

Anderson, H. A.

Extent

0.08 cubic feet 1 folder

Repository

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

Collection open to research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk (library-special@jmu.edu).

Acquisition Information

Letter was found framed in Special Collections storage in 2022.

Processing Information

The letter was removed from its frame in March 2022 and the frame discarded.

Preferred Citation

[identification of item], [box#, folder #], Natalie Lancaster Letter to H. A. Anderson, 1923 February 6, SC 0329, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA.

Bio/Historical Note

In 1909, Natalie Lancaster (1882-1952) was hired by the State Normal and Industrial School for Women at Harrisonburg as the mathematics instructor. She had previously taught at the State Female Normal School at Farmville (now Longwood University). During her time at the Harrisonburg Normal, Lancaster also served advisor to the YWCA and as social director, later known as dean of women. The social director position was responsible for supervising dormitory conduct as well as the overall social life of the students. Lancaster resigned in 1923 to accept the position of dean of women at the Presbyterian Assembly's Training School in Richmond.

The identity of H. A. Anderson, the recipient of Lancaster's letter, is unknown though presumably, given the address line, he was a Virginia Tech student or faculty. It's possible Lancaster addressed the letter in error and the recipient's name was actually H(arvey). W(ilson). Anderson ('23) who, during the 1922-1923 academic year, served as the assistant director of the Virginia Tech Minstrels.

Scope and Content

The Natalie Lancaster Letter to H. A. Anderson, 1923 February 6, comprises a one-page typed letter from Lancaster, as social director at the State Normal School for Women at Harrisonburg, to H. A. Anderson, likely a student affiliated with the Virginia Tech Minstrels. Lancaster thanks Anderson for his most recent letter and reacts to the Minstrels' January 1923 performance at the Normal.

The correspondence is printed on letterhead from the Office of the Social Director at the State Normal School for Women, Harrisonburg Virginia and is addressed to H. A. Anderson, V. P. I., Blacksburg, Virginia. Lancaster thanks Anderson for his letter and relates her appreciation for the recent visit of the "Tech Minstrel" troupe to the Harrisonburg campus. Lancaster is likely referencing the January 20, 1923 performance of the Virginia Tech Minstrels. The Virginia Tech Minstrels was an all-male traveling theatrical student group comprising

white actors in blackface engaging in minstrelsy.

Lancaster refers to the Normal students as "my girls" and relates that they look forward to the visit of the troupe as "an event of the session." Lancaster also relates that she has shared with Dr. Julian Burruss her high regard for the performance and troupe, and appreciation of the "bearing and gentlemanly conduct of the students of V.P.I." Burruss was the former president of the Normal at Harrisonburg and, at the time of this letter, president of Virginia Tech.

Keywords

Letters (correspondence)

Minstrel shows -- Virginia

Blackface entertainers -- Virginia

State Normal School for Women at Harrisonburg (Harrisonburg, Va.) -- History

James Madison University -- History

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute -- History

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University -- History

Bibliography

The Bugle, 1923. Blacksburg (Va.): Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute. Dingleline, Raymond C. Madison College, the First Fifty Years, 1908-1958. Harrisonburg, VA: Madison College, 1959.

Provenance

Framed letter is presumed to have been transferred from a JMU office, where it was likely once on display.

Description of Subordinate Components

Natalie Lancaster letter to H. A. Anderson

Unit ID /repositories/4/archival_objects/26132

Unit Date 1923 February 6

Mixed Materials [1000885703] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)