

Guide to the **School Records Collection: Ithaca Public Schools General – Frank D. Boynton Papers, 1900-1930**

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See also: Ithaca City Schools Publications Collection (V-63-8-4)

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

Frank D. Boynton was one of Ithaca's longest serving and most influential superintendents. Born in Potsdam, NY in the 1860s, Boynton's family struggled frequently with money during his childhood, regularly interrupting his education during his teenage years as he was forced to leave school and take on odd jobs. He finally completed his course of study at the Potsdam Normal School in 1887 and, having saved some money during his periods of employment, began his college education at Middlebury that same fall. Boynton was an energetic and enthusiastic student and a high achiever, and was honored as the commencement speaker at his graduation in 1891. From there, he launched immediately into his career as an educator. Boynton served as a high school principal in Webster, NY from the fall of 1891 until 1893, when he was hired to the same position at Ithaca High School. His principalship in both towns resulted in dramatic increases of new students – Ithaca High School's registration increased by over 50% in seven years – and the creation of many new programs and organizations for the student body. Widely recognized for his abilities as a master organizer, Boynton was promoted to superintendent of Ithaca's public school district at the end of 1900, a position he filled until his death in 1930. Boynton kept detailed records in the course of his professional duties and wrote extensively about pedagogy and the Ithaca public school district that he served.

This box holds two additional letter press books from 1900, showing Boynton's professional correspondence during his final months as principal before his promotion. It also contains two folders of speeches and essays written by Boynton during his tenure as superintendent.

CONTAINER LIST

| <i>Contents</i> | <i>Folder</i> |
|--|---------------|
| Letter Press Book, Frank D. Boynton, March 1900 – August 1900 | 1 |
| Letter Press Book, Frank D. Boynton, August 1900 – December 1900 | 2 |
| Boynton Educational Addresses, 1908-1929 | 3 |
| Essays and Statements, 1909-1931 | 4 |

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