

WELLS COLLEGE
ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston Collection

Quantity: 1 linear foot

Containers: 1 archival box

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INTRODUCTION

Biographical Note: Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston was born on July 21, 1864 in Buffalo, New York. Frances Folsom graduated from Central High School in Buffalo and attended Wells College in Aurora, New York. During her senior year at Wells College, Frances Folsom received a letter from President Grover Cleveland asking her to marry. Frances accepted and married him at the age of 21 on June 2, 1886 at the White House. Frances became the youngest First Lady and took over the duties of hostess in the White House. Grover Cleveland lost the 1888 presidential election, but won again in 1892. Upon the post-presidential period, Frances became a widow after her husband's death in 1908. Frances moved to Princeton, New Jersey and met Thomas Preston. Frances moved back to Aurora, New York along with Thomas, whom she married in February of 1913. Frances Cleveland Preston served as a trustee member at Wells College during the second decade of the 20th century. During the Great Depression, Frances helped lead the Needlework Guild of America and raised clothing drives for the poor. Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston passed away in Baltimore on October 29, 1947 and was buried next to her first husband, Grover Cleveland in Princeton, New Jersey.

Related Material:

Items:

National First Ladies Library, Ceramic Plates (2) of Frances Folsom Cleveland and Pansies (Flower of the First Lady). Signatures on back of Pansy plate from Lady Bird Johnson, Betty Ford, Rosalyn Carter, Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush and Hillary Clinton.

Portrait of Frances Folsom Cleveland (Mrs. President Cleveland) in wooden frame, advertising the "use of Sulphur Bitters".

Public Relations Company for Alexander Doll Company, Doll of Frances Folsom Cleveland in Wedding Attire.

The White House Historical Association Christmas Ornament 2007, Wedding of Grover Cleveland and Frances Folsom.

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Books:

Commager, Henry Steele. One Hundred Years of Famous Pages from the New York Times, 1851-1951 with an introd., New York: Simon and Schuster, 1951.

Dieckmann, Jane Marsh. Wells College: A History., Aurora, N.Y.: Wells College Press, 1995.

Dunlap, Annette. Frank: The Story of Frances Folsom Cleveland, America's Youngest First Lady., Albany, N.Y.: Excelsior Editions, 2009.

Doll dressed in a wedding dress.
Medicinal Remedy of Frances Cleveland.

Pickard, Nancy. The First Lady Murders., New York: Pocket Star Books, 1999.

Robar, Stephen F. Frances Clara Folsom Cleveland., New York: Nova History Publications, 2002.

Author Unknown. Index to the Grover Cleveland Papers., Superintendent of Documents, Washington: U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1965.

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DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

Scope and Content Note:

The Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston Collection covers three periods of the life of the famed Wells alumna. The years of 1884 to 1885 cover Frances' attendance at Wells College as a student. The second covers her life as a newly wedded First Lady of President Grover Cleveland from 1886 until the early twentieth century. The third part of the collection cover Frances' departure from the White House to her return to Aurora, New York in 1913, when she married Thomas Preston, who taught at Princeton University before teaching at Wells College. The collection also contains portraits, articles, and photographs of the commemoration after her death in 1947.

Organization and Arrangement

The papers are organized into three series:

Series Descriptions

Series 1, Frances Folsom's life as a Wells College student from the early 1880's

Series 2, France's marriage to President Grover Cleveland in 1886 and her life as First Lady

Series 3, Frances's tenure as an alumna, second marriage to Thomas Preston, death and commemoration

Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston Collection

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
Series 1			
1	1	1884-1894	Frances Folsom Cleveland, Wells College Student
1	2	1884-1885	Frances Folsom Cleveland, Wells College Student Photographs
1	3	1885-1994	Frances Folsom Cleveland, Wells College Alumna
1	4	1885-1997	Frances Folsom Cleveland, Alumna from Wells College

Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston Collection

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
Series 2			
1	1	1884-1994	Frances Folsom Cleveland, White House Years
1	2	1885-1886	Frances Folsom Cleveland Photos, White House Years
1	3	1885-1987	Frances Folsom Cleveland/President Grover Cleveland
1	4	1886-1897	Frances Folsom Cleveland Photographs, White House Years
1	5	1886-1971	Frances Folsom Cleveland, Wedding/White House Years
1	6	1887	Photocopy of Frances Cleveland Journals
1	7	1887	Frances Folsom Cleveland, White House Diary transcribed by Julia Severance
1	8	1912-2000	Frances Folsom Cleveland/President Grover Cleveland

Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston Collection

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
Series 3			
1	1	1912-1964	Frances Folsom Cleveland marriage to Thomas Preston
1	2	1910-1924	Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston, Trustee at Wells College
1	3	1910-1924	Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston, Trustee at Wells College
1	4	1920's-1930's	Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston, Photographs, Trustee at Wells College
1	5	1935-1942	Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston, Trustee at Wells College
1	6	1930's-1945	Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston, Trustee at Wells College
1	7	1947-1948	Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston, Death of
1	8	1972-2004	Frances Folsom Cleveland Preston, Paintings/Exhibit
1	9	1888-1952	Frances Cleveland Family, News Articles, Photos
1	10	1913-2004	Frances Cleveland Family, News Articles, Photos
1	11	1993	Frances Folsom Cleveland Portrait Unveiling, 1993