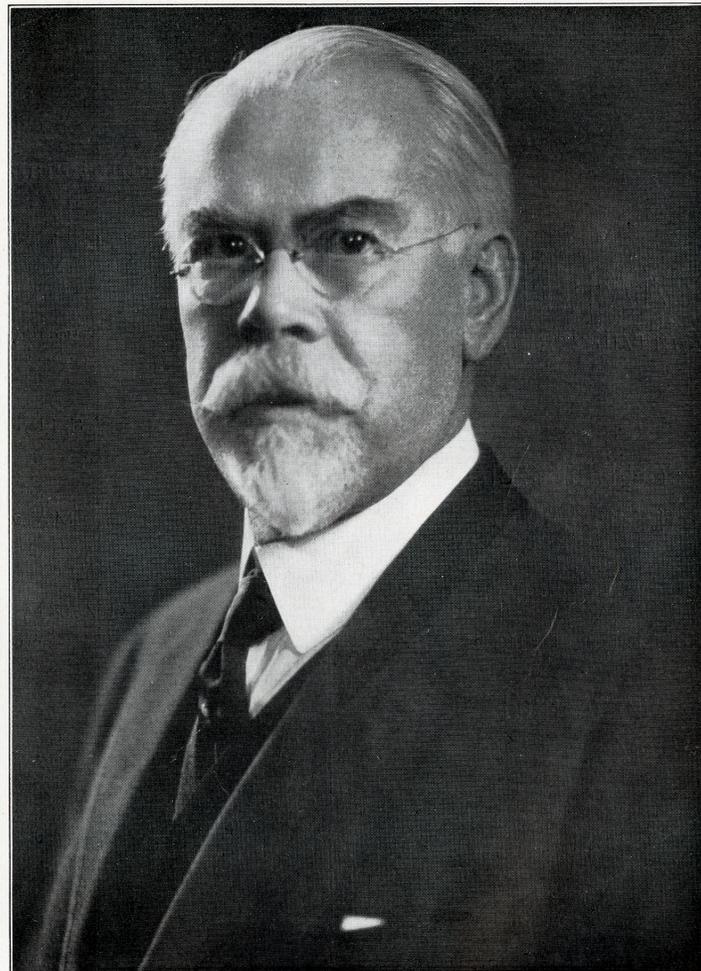


**President George Samler Davis Collection
1908-1923
Finding Aid**



GEORGE SAMLER DAVIS, LL.D.
President

Archives and Special Collections



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Accession Number: 95-11

Size: 1.8091 cu. ft.

Provenance: Hunter College Office of the President

Restrictions: None.

Location: Range 4 Section 1 Shelf 4

Archivist: Prof. Julio L. Hernandez-Delgado

Assistants: Ms. Ai Qing He
Ms. Gretchen Opie

Date: June, 1999

Revised: February, 2011

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

George Samler Davis, the son of Mary Samler and Robert Vernon Davis, was born on October 22, 1858 in New York City. Davis initially attended private schools in New York City, but later completed his elementary education by attending public grammar schools. In September of 1875 Davis matriculated in the College of the City of New York and received a Bachelor of Science degree in June 1880. He subsequently received an LL.D. from New York University in 1908.

Davis' professional career began in 1883 when he assumed the post as First Assistant Principal in Grammar School 83 at 110th Street and Third Avenue. Five years later he was elected Assistant Superintendent of New York schools. In 1908, he served as the Associate Superintendent of Public Schools in New York City.

Dr. Davis was inaugurated as the second president of Hunter College on May 4, 1908. During his tenure President Davis presided over the granting of accreditation to Hunter College, the revision of the school's curriculum and the renaming of the Normal College of the City of New York to Hunter College in 1914 in honor of its first presiding officer. He oversaw the design and construction of a new building in 1912 (now known as Thomas Hunter Hall) on 68th Street and Lexington Avenue. Davis was also instrumental in establishing the first Summer Session in 1916, and the Evening and Extension Session in 1917. Late in his presidency Davis laid the groundwork for the expansion of Hunter College to a new site in the Bronx. The construction of the new facility would be completed under President Michael A. Kieran's watch and come to be known as Hunter College in the Bronx. The Bronx Campus would later become Lehman College in 1968.

During President Davis' tenure Hunter College grew in size and reputation and became an outstanding municipal liberal arts college for women in New York City. He retired from Hunter College on February 1, 1929 and died on January 7, 1931.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

When George Samler Davis was inaugurated as the 2nd president of the Normal College of the City of New York on May 4, 1908, he was aware of the iconic stature of his predecessor. Thomas Hunter had been the admired and beloved president of the Normal College for 36 years. He had earned the recognition and respect of the Board of Trustees, the faculty and student body for his steadfast commitment to the ideals of the first municipally funded college for women in New York City.

President Davis continued in the same vein as President Hunter by advocating, promoting and securing the stability of the Normal College as it entered the threshold of the 20th Century. During his tenure, President Davis secured accreditation for the Normal College in 1888, established the first summer session in 1916, and the first Evening and Extension session in 1917. President Davis was also instrumental in getting the name of the school changed in 1914 from the Normal College to Hunter College in honor of its first president.

The President George Samler Davis Collection is diminutive in size, but it does highlight Davis' tenure as president of the Normal/Hunter College from 1908 to 1929. The growth and expansion of the Normal/Hunter College is once again best documented in the annual reports. President Davis' aspirations, concerns and thoughts are reflected in his addresses, annual reports and general correspondence. Another key component of the collection are the Reports of the Evening & Extension Session of Hunter College (1917-1930) and the Reports of the Summer Session of Hunter College (1916-1922), which were both initiated under President Davis' watch.

This collection should be of interest to researchers who have a specific interest in the administrative history of the Normal/Hunter College from 1908-1929.

SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series I - Biographical Information

Series I consist of brief biographical entries on George Samler Davis which appeared in the *Wistarion* (1908), *The New York Times* (1908) and the *World* (1923).

Series II – Inauguration

The inauguration of George Samler Davis as the 2nd president of the Normal College of the City of New York is documented in the installation program of May 4, 1908, and in a *New York Times* article.

Series III – Administration

President Davis' aspirations, concerns and thoughts are reflected in his addresses, annual reports, and general correspondence. The annual reports continue to provide an array of information about the administration, faculty and course of study of the Normal/Hunter College from 1908 to 1929.

Series IV- General Files

Series IV is an assortment of files arranged alphabetically by topic. Of most important are the Reports of the Evening & Extension Session of Hunter College (1917-1930) and the Reports of the Summer Session of Hunter College (1916-1922).

CONTAINER LIST

SERIES I – BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
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1	1	“George S. Davis.” <i>Wistarion</i> , 1908 “George S. Davis to Head the Normal College,” <i>The New York Times</i> , April 4, 1908, p. 3. “Hunter College Head.” <i>The World</i> , September 16, 1923
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SERIES II – INAUGURATION

1	2	“G.S. Davis to Head the Normal College,” <i>The New York Times</i> , ca. May 1908. Installation of Dr. George Samler Davis, May 4, 1908
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SERIES III – ADMINISTRATION

1	3	Addresses Address presented at a dinner of the Association of the Collegiate Alumnae, October 27, 1911 Address presented at the convocation held on November 10, 1911 in connection with the inauguration of Chancellor Brown of New York University “Organization and Aims of the Normal College,” ca. 1911 “The Training of High School Teachers,” ca. December 1917 Address presented for the 50 th Anniversary of Hunter College, February 11, 1920 “Scholarship and the Teacher,” n.d.
	4	Commencement Addresses “Greetings to the Graduates of the January Class,” 01/26/1910 June, 1910 June, 1911
	5	June, 1912

SERIES III – ADMINISTRATION

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
		Addresses
		Commencement
1	5	January, 1913
		June, 1916
		June 16, 1921
		June, 1922
		Annual Reports
	6	1908
	7	1909
	8	1910-1911
	9	1912
	10	1913
	11	1914
	12	1915
	13	1916, 1928-1929
		Articles
		Davis, George S. "League Necessary to Prevent War." <i>Saturday Evening Post</i> , April 3, 1919
		Correspondence
2	1	February 1910-April 1921
	2	September 1921-June 1927

SERIES IV – GENERAL FILES

2	3	Anniversary of the Founding, 50 th , 1920
	4	Employee Evaluations, 1914-1916
	5	<i>Interborough Bulletin</i> , April, 1922
	6	Miscellaneous Materials
	7	New York County Supreme Court: The Application of Hunter College of the City of New York for a Mandamus Order Against the Board of Estimate and Apportionment of the City of New York, 1923
	8	New York Supreme Court: Briefs, 1923
	9	Organization of Government of Hunter College of the City of New York, October 2, 1917
	10	Papers on Appeal, March 27, 1923

SERIES IV- GENERAL FILES

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
2	11	Promotion Committee, 1908-1914
	12	Renaming of the Normal College to Hunter College, April 4, 1914
	13	Petition to the Faculty for a Required Freshman Year, ca. 1917
	14	Poll on Faculty and Department Reorganization, July 7, 1938
	15	Research and Publications of Members of the Hunter College Staff, January 31, 1927
	16	Report of Committee on Cost of the College of the City of New York, January 28, 1915
		Memoranda Accompanying Report of Committee on Costs, May 17, 1915
3		Report of the Evening & Extension Session of Hunter College
	1	February 1917-June 1919
	2	February 1922-June 1925
	3	September 1925-June 1926
	4	September 1926-January 1927
	5	February 1927-June 1928
	6	September 1928-June 1929
7	September 1929-January 1930	
4		Report of the Summer Session of Hunter College
	1	1916
	2	1917
	3	1918
	4	1919-1922
		Resolutions
	5	Resolutions Adopted by the Faculty of Hunter College on the Death of Dr. George Samler Davis, January 7, 1931
	6	Resolutions of Alumnae and Staff of Hunter College Staff, 1928