



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**GRAVES, ZUINGLIUS CALVIN**  
**(1816-1902)**  
**PAPERS**  
**1850-[1850-1896]-1980**

*Processed by:*

Shirley W. Tomlin  
Archival Technical Services

Accession Number: 1992.004  
Date Completed: February 3, 1992  
Location: XIV-C-4  
Microfilm Accession Number: 1352

**MICROFILMED**

## INTRODUCTION

The Zuinglius Calvin Graves (1816-1902) Papers, 1850-1980, are centered around Dr. Graves, president of Mary Sharp College. There are also materials in the collection on Dr. Graves brother, Dr. J.R. Graves, founder of the college. The papers were a gift of Elizabeth Zerfoss Fryer of Nashville, Tennessee.

The materials in this finding aid measure .42 cubic feet. There are no restrictions on the materials.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Zuinglius Calvin Graves Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Zuinglius Calvin Graves Papers, containing approximately 102 items, span the period 1850-1980, although it is concentrated in the years of the college's existence, 1850-1896. The collection is composed of a holiday card, catalogs, clippings, an invitation, correspondence, notes, printed materials, reminiscences, writings, and several miscellaneous items.

The collection is centered on Dr. Zuinglius Calvin Graves president of Mary Sharp College, which was located in Winchester (Franklin County), Tennessee. Mary Sharp College was the first institution for women in the United States whose curriculum made it "equal to and parallel with Brown University and other eastern schools."

The correspondence of alumna of Mary Sharp College to Lessie Jones Savage consists of reminiscences of college life and particularly of Dr. Z.C. Graves, his teaching and philosophy regarding the formal education of young ladies.

The following books were removed to the Tennessee State Library holdings: *All the World in All the Word: The Ideal Teacher*; and *Dr. Z.C. Graves and The Mary Sharp College, 1850-1896*.

The Zuinglius Calvin Graves Papers provide information to scholars' on early attempts in female higher education in the last half of the nineteenth century in Middle Tennessee.

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

### Zuinglius Calvin Graves

- 1816 April 15 – Born in Chester, Vermont, the son of Calvin Zuinglius and Lois (Snell) Graves
- 1832 Entered Chester Academy
- 1837 Finished Baptist High School; later that year, moved to Ashtabula, Ohio, and opened an academy; succeeded brother, J.R. Graves, as principal of Kingsville Academy (Ohio)
- 1841 Married Adelia C. Spencer of Kingsville, Ohio, sister of Platt Spencer, author of Spencerian system of writing
- 1850 Began work at Mary Sharp College in Winchester (Franklin County), Tennessee
- 1891 Accepted presidency of Soule College, Murfreesboro, Rutherford County, Tennessee
- 1893 Accepted presidency of Boscobel College in Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee; returned to Mary Sharp College along with the Senior Class of Boscobel College
- 1896 Mary Sharp College closed its doors
- 1906 May 18 – Died in Winchester; interred at Winchester City Cemetery

## CONTAINER LIST

### **Box 1**

1. Card – Christmas – Dye, Jessie to Mrs. G.C. Savage, 1923
2. Clippings – Education in Grundy County, 1957
3. Clippings – Mary Sharp College, 1934-1963
4. Clippings – Miscellaneous, n.d.
5. Correspondence – \_\_\_\_\_ - Taylor
6. Invitations – Marriage – Frances Mildred Carter to Thomas Wordlow Steele, 1943
7. Notes – Data on Mary Sharp College – author unknown, n.d.
8. Notes – Z.C. Graves Scholarship Fund, n.d.
9. Printed materials – “Brief History of Mary Sharp College,” 1908
10. Printed materials – “Franklin County Historical Review” – Mary Sharp issue, January 1980
11. Printed materials – “George Peabody College for Teachers,” 1957
12. Printed materials – “Home and Foreign Fields” – with notes, November 1957
13. Printed materials – Mary Sharp College stationery, n.d.
14. Printed materials – Tennessee College, October 1916
15. Printed materials – Thirty-sixth Annual Catalog of Mary Sharp College, 1885-1886
16. Reminiscences – “Dr. Graves – The Teacher,” ca. 1922
17. Writings – “The Argo of Mary Sharp College,” edited by Senior Class, 1886
18. Writings – Handwritten notes of research on Mary Sharp College and its teachers, n.d.

## NAME INDEX

This is a name index of only the correspondence in the Zuinglius Calvin Graves Papers, together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found.

- \_\_\_\_\_ to Mrs. G.C. Savage, 1949, re: memories of Mary Sharp College; (postcard with picture), 1-5
- Caperton, Anna P. to Mrs. Savage, 1925, re: letter of thanks regarding data sent on possible grant to son through the Colonial Dames, 1-5
- Chatten, Mrs. E.C. to Dr. Kate Zerfoss, 1960, re: the burial grounds of the Sharp family with photograph, 1-5
- Gray, L. Cecil to Mrs. Kate Savage, 1922, re: speaks of his mother's last illness and subsequent death; how much Mrs. Savage's friendship meant to her, 1-5
- Moore, Sarah to Mrs. [Kate] Zerfoss, 1980, re: interest in Mary Sharp College; sends a copy of the *Franklin County Historical Review*, 1-5
- The New York Protestant Episcopal City Mission Society to Mrs. W.G. Savage, 1923, re: speaks of the illness of a friend, Miss Reed, who is in need of financial aid, 1-5
- Pearson, Mrs. M. to Dr. Kate Savage Zerfoss, 1957, re: reminiscences, 1-5
- Roemer, Mrs. Joseph to Mrs. G.C. Savage, 1942, re: encloses a Life Membership to the Peabody Aid, 1-5
- Simmons, Elise D. (2) to Dr. Kate Zerfoss, 1963, 1965, re: the restoration of the Mary Sharp bell; an invitation to attend the Franklin County Educational Association "Open House" during which a Mary Sharp Memorial will open, 1-5
- Taylor, J.W. to the Postmaster of Winchester, 1910, re: asks for information on the founding of Mary Sharp College and its standards [copy], 1-5