

ERASTUS MILO CRAVATH COLLECTION
PAPERS, 1873 - 1897

Scope Note

**Erastus Milo Cravath Collection
Papers, 1873 - 1897**

The Erastus Milo Cravath Collection numbers six manuscript boxes of his travels with the Fisk Jubilee Singers. The collection contains the following correspondence; accounts, bills, receipts; receipt books; passport; notes; announcements; programs; newspaper clippings; books; photograph; pamphlets; papers and addresses; press notices; newspapers; printed matter; and miscellaneous material.

Erastus Milo Cravath
(1833 - 1900)

Erastus Milo Cravath was born in Berlin Heights, Ohio in 1833. He was the son of Oren and Betsey Cravath. Cravath graduated from the Oberlin College School of Theology in 1857. Cravath was a veteran of the American Civil War. He was a deeply religious man and believed he was heaven-directed to duty in working with the freedmen after the war. Cravath's chaplain duties with the 101st Ohio Regiment brought him to Nashville and his assignment with the American Missionary Association.

Under the auspices of the American Missionary Association, Fisk University was established in 1866. Cravath became the university's first president in 1875, and served as president of Fisk for 25 years. Cravath, along with George L. White, and Adam K. Spence, developed Fisk into a well-known liberal arts institution. It was under the presidency of Cravath that the Fisk Jubilee Singers conducted their first tour to raise money for the school in 1873. "His motto for Fisk: teachers from the race must be educated and in them ideals must be implanted for personal fulfillment."¹ He died in March 1900, after an attack of "la grippe."

He married Ruthanna Jackson, who succeeded him in death in 1922. They had three children Paul Drennan, Erastus Milo, and Betsey.

¹Collins, Leslie M., One Hundred Years of Fisk University Presidents 1875 - 1975, Hemphill's Creative Printing, Inc., 1989, p. 9.

ERASTUS MILO CRAVATH COLLECTION
Papers, 1873 - 1897

Box 1

- f. 1--Correspondence--General--January 10, 1877 - June 28, 1877
2--Correspondence--General--February 4, 1876 - January 2, 1877
3--Correspondence--General--July 16, 1877 - October 29, 1877
4--Correspondence--General--November 10, 1877 - April 8, 1878
5--Correspondence--General--April 18, 1878 - February 10, 1897

Box 2

- f. 1--Correspondence--General--n.d.
2--Accounts, Bills, Receipts--December 15, 1873 - September 3, 1877
3--Accounts, Bills, Receipts--September 29, 1877 - October 31, 1877
4--Accounts, Bills, Receipts--November 17, 1877 - December 10, 1877

Box 3

- f. 1--Accounts, Bills, Receipts--December 11, 1877
2--Accounts, Bills, Receipts--January 1878 - January 11, 1878
3--Accounts, Bills, Receipts--January 14, 1878 - July 20, 1887
4--Accounts, Bills, Receipts--n.d.
5--Accounts, Bills, Receipts--n.d.
6--Receipts Book--1875

Box 4

- f. 1--Receipt Books--1876 - 1877
2--Receipt Books--1877 - 1878
3--Receipt Books--1878
4--Receipt Book--n.d.
5--Passport--October 30, 1876
6--Notes
7--Announcements--1877 - 1878
8--Programs--1877 - 1878; n.d.

Box 5

- f. 1--Newspaper Clippings--April 28, 1876 - May 19, 1876
2--Newspaper Clippings--n.d.
3--Newspaper Clippings--n.d.
4--Book--Neueste Post & Eisenbahnkarte Des Deutschen Reich's

Box 5 Contd.

- f. 5--Book--Zur Feir Des Reformationsfestes und Zum Rectorwechsel
--1877
6--Book--Die Gefchichte Der Jubilaums-Sanger Von Der Fisk-Univerfitat
in Nashville--1877
7--Photograph--Jubilee Singers
8--Pamphlets--1878; n.d.
9--Papers and Addresses--1876 - 1877
10--Press Notices--1881

Box 6

- f. 1--Newspaper--De Ba Zuin--1879
2--Newspaper--The Jubilee--1879 - 1881
3--Newspaper--Volkbote--May 8, 1878
4--Newspaper--Wittenberger Kreisblatt--1880
5--Printed Matter
6--Miscellaneous Material
7--Envelopes