

**FINDING AID to the**

**W. M. BLACKBURN, 1828-1898  
SPEECH ON PAST HANOVER COLLEGE  
PRESIDENTS, 1877**

**MSS 31**  
(.1 linear ft.)

By

Clinton D. Christensen  
Archivist

Hanover College Archives  
Agnes Brown Duggan Library  
Hanover College  
Hanover, Indiana

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT STATEMENT

William Blackburn's speech entitled "The Presidents of Hanover College," was given to alumni and students of the school. The address reflects upon the contributions of the first eight presidents of Hanover, the founder John Finley Crowe, and John Matthews, who started the Indiana Theological Seminary.

## BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

William Maxwell Blackburn was born in Carlisle, Indiana on Dec. 30, 1828. His educational experiences included a B.A. and A.M. from Hanover College in 1850 and 1854, respectively, and a D.D. from Princeton College in 1870. Blackburn attended Princeton Theological Seminary from 1850-1853 and was ordained a Presbyterian minister in 1853. He worked as a minister in New Brunswick, Lake, and Three Rivers, Michigan before 1856. He served as the pastor of Park Church in Erie, PA, from 1856-1863 and as pastor in the 4<sup>th</sup> Presbyterian Church in Trenton, NJ, from 1863 to 1868.

Blackburn became professor of Bible and Ecclesiastical History at Northwestern Theological Seminary in Chicago in 1868. He served in this responsibility until 1881, and spent his first four years in Chicago assisting at the Fullerton Ave. church. After his responsibilities in Chicago concluded, he became the pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, Ohio. He later served as president of Pierre University in South Dakota. Blackburn authored several books and died in Pierre, South Dakota on Dec. 29, 1898. (Biographical data was taken from the "Alumni Record: 1827-1927," *Bulletin of Hanover College*, Vol. 20 No. 4, Jan. 1, 1928, p. 29).

## PROVENANCE

There is a not a record in the archives of the donor and date this address was given to Hanover College.

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**SERIES 1    SPEECH, 1877**

Fd. 1-2        “The Presidents of Hanover College” Speech, 1877  
                  55 p.

The first seven pages contain allusions and metaphors from Europe, the Renaissance and early education in America. Beginning on page ten, Blackburn begins mentioning Hanover. Dr. Crowe and the Indiana Theological Seminary are praised (pg. 13) and on the next page John Matthews’ contributions to the school are extolled. A discussion of the presidents of Hanover College include James Blythe (15-24), Duncan McCaulay, (24-25), Erasmus MacMaster (25-30), an intermediate period (31-32) before Sylvester Scovel (33-36), Thomas E. Thomas (37-41), Jonathan Edwards (41-42), James Wood (42-44), and George D. Archibald (45-48). The remaining pages are notes and a conclusion to the alumni and students to remember the past contributions of the presidents of Hanover College.

Fd. 1        Original  
                  **Restricted, Fragile**  
Fd. 2        Photocopy