



*Special Collections/Archives Department  
John B. Coleman Library  
Prairie View A&M University*

UA0078

The PVAMU Principals and Presidents Collection

Compiled by Anna Gaffey, 2013

Revised by Evelyn Davis, December 2023

## The PVAMU Principals and Presidents Collection Finding aid

### Collection Overview

**Creator:** The PVAMU Principals and Presidents

**Title:** The PVAMU Principals and Presidents Collection

**Dates:** 1878-2023

**Bulk Dates:** 1879-2002

**Quantity:** .25 linear feet (9 boxes)

**Abstract:** Alta Vista Agriculture & Mechanical College for Colored Youth was led by the Texas A&M Board of Regents. The A&M Board of Directors was authorized to appoint a President Alta Vista College with an assigned principal station at Alta Vista to administer the college's day to day affairs. This collection is to preserve the previous PVAMU Principals and Presidents that are housed in the Special Collections and Archives Department.

**Identification:** UA 0078

**Use Restrictions:** Written permission must be obtained from the Special Collections/ Archives Department and all relevant rights holders before publishing quotations, excerpts, or images from any materials in this collection.

**Language:** The materials are in English.

**Repository:** Prairie View A&M University

**Biographical Note:** The Prairie View A&M University (or called, Alta Vista Agriculture & Mechanical College for Colored Youth) was led by the Texas A&M Board of Regents. The A&M Board of Directors was authorized to appoint a President of Texas A&M College and Alta Vista College with an assigned principal station at Alta Vista to administer the college's day to day affairs. Confederate President Jefferson Davis recommended Mr. Thomas S. Gathright of Mississippi, also from Mississippi and he brought Mr. L.W. Minor, of Mississippi to serve as Principal. The list below are all the previous PVAMU Principals and Presidents that are housed in the Special Collections and Archives Department.

### *PRINCIPALS, 1878-1948*

These men led the Alta Vista Agriculture & Mechanical College for Colored Youth (also called Prairie View State Normal School, Prairie View State Normal & Industrial College,

Prairie View University and Prairie View Agricultural & Mechanical College of Texas) during 1878 to 1948. The eight principals and their tenures were:

- L.W. Minor, 1878
- E.H. Anderson, 1879-1884
- Laurine C. Anderson, 1884-1894
- Edward L. Blackshear, 1895–1915
- Isaiah M. Terrell, 1915-1918
- J.G. Osborne, 1918-1925
- Willette Rutherford Banks, 1926-1947
- Edward B. Evans, 1947-1948

*PRESIDENTS, 1948-Present*

In 1948, the Board of Directors changed the title of Principal to President on December 3, 1948. The Presidents and their tenures are:

- Edward B. Evans 1948-1966
- Jesse M. Drew, 1966
- Alvin I. Thomas, 1966-1982
- Percy A. Pierre, 1983-1989
- Julius W. Becton, Jr., 1989-1994
- Willie A. Tempton, Sr. (Interim President), 2002-2003
- George C. Wright, 2003-2017
- Ruth J. Simmons, 2017-2023
- Tomikia P. LeGrande, 2023

Sources:

Prairie View Principals and Presidents. (n.d.). Prairie View A&M University.  
<https://www.pvamu.edu/tiphc/texas-celebrates/founders-day-and-honors-recognition-convocation-2021/prairie-view-principals-and-presidents/>

**Scope and Contents Note**

The collection has both originals and photocopies of letters, newspaper clippings, and other administrative files of certain principals and presidents of PVAMU. The collection has twelve Presidential Paper collections, three Large Manuscript collections of E. B. Evans and George C. Wright materials. Lastly, the inventory list is broken down by the box-level only and the miniature collections are separated by individual Principal and President.

### **Arrangement**

The collection is arranged in original order by the creator(s) of each individual Principal and President miniature collection.

### **Administrative Information**

#### **Preferred Citation**

The PVAMU Principals and Presidents Collection, UA0078, Special Collections/Archives Department, John B. Coleman Library, Prairie View A&M University.

**Related Material:** Related material may be found in the Special Collections/Archives Department Vertical Files.

**Separated Material:** none.

### **Index Terms**

African American educators.  
Alta Vista Agriculture & Mechanical College of Texas for Colored Youth.  
Anderson, Ernest H., 1850-1885.  
Banks, Willette Rutherford, 1881-1969.  
Becton, Julius W. (Julius Wesley), 1926-  
Blackshear, Edward L. (Edward Levoisier).  
Clippings (information artifacts).  
Colored Teachers State Association of Texas.  
Correspondence.  
Educators – United States.  
Employees – Administrators.  
Evans, Edward Bertram, 1894-1976.  
Minor, Lawrence Washburne.  
Osborne, John Granville, 1872-1940  
Photocopies.  
Pierre, Percy A.  
Prairie View A & M University.  
Prairie View State Normal School.  
Prairie View Normal and Industrial College (Prairie View, TX)  
Prairie View State College.  
Prairie View (TX).  
Tempton, Willie A.  
Terrell, Isaiah Milligan, 1859-1931.  
Thomas, Alvin I. (Alvin Ignace), 1925-  
Walton, Thomas O, 1883-1961.  
Wright, George C.  
Writings.

### **Inventory**

Box #	Title/Description	Date	Location
1	L.W. Minor	1878	R2/C2/R5
1	E.H. Anderson	1879-1884	R2/C2/R5
1	Edward L. Blackshear	1895-1915	R2/C2/R5
1	Isaiah M. Terrell	1915-1918	R2/C2/R5
1	J.G. Osborne	1918-1925	R2/C2/R5
1	Willette Rutherford Banks	1926-1947	R2/C2/R5
2	Alvin I. Thomas	1966-1982	R2/C2/R5
2	Percy A. Pierre	1983-1989	R2/C2/R5
3	Julius W. Becton, Jr.	1989-1994	R2/C2/R5
3	Willie A. Tempton, Sr. (Interim President)	2002-2003	R2/C2/R5
3	George C. Wright	2003-2017	R2/C2/R5
4-9	Ruth J. Simmons	2017-2023	R2/C2/R5
5	Ruth J. Simmons	2017	R2/C2/R4
6	Ruth J. Simmons	2017	R2/C2/R4
7	Ruth J. Simmons	2017	R2/C2/R4
8	Ruth J. Simmons	2017	R2/C2/R4
9	Ruth J. Simmons	2017	R2/C2/R4
10	Tomika LeGrande	2023	R2/C2/R5
11	E. B. Evans Personal Papers Collection	1936-1965	R2/C2/R4
12	The George C. Wright Speech Collection	1976-2015	R2/C1/R3
13	The George C. Wright Personal Papers Collection	2000-2015	R2/C4/R2