

**JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY
2311 MEMORIAL AVENUE
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24501**

(434) 846-0501

MARY FRANCES WATTS JONES (1829-1920) PAPERS

The collection includes the scrapbook of Mary Frances (WATTS) JONES, with letters and newspaper clippings, many about the Jones Memorial Library. There are also included loose letters, photographs, and resolutions from several organizations concerning the Library.

FOLDER 1 Scrapbook

FOLDER 2 Miscellaneous Letters and Photograph:
Gabriel JORDAN to George M. JONES (1845);
Poetry (ca. 1842); Georgie JONES to Mrs. S.
I. WORSHAM; William Holmes DAVIS to Mrs. JONES (1905);
Will of Mary F. JONES;
Photograph

[FOLDER 3] Resolution - Woman's Club (24 February 1905)
(Oversize) Resolution - City Council (April 1905)
Resolution - Teacher's Club (n.d.)
Photograph - Birthplace of George M. JONES

MARY FRANCES WATTS JONES (1829-1920)

Mary Frances WATTS, the daughter of Richard WATTS and Isabella NEWELL, was born 18 December 1829, in Bedford County, Virginia. She married 14 September 1848, in Bedford County, George Morgan JONES, son of Wharton JONES and Nancy WOOD, of Page County, Virginia. George M. JONES, hardware merchant and philanthropist of Lynchburg, had wanted to build and endow a public library for the city. Following his death in 1903, Mary F. (WATTS) JONES conveyed a lot on Rivermont Avenue to the Library Association, gave \$50,000 for the construction of the building, gave an additional \$50,000 for the endowment of the Library, and later provided funding for the purchase of books. She became President of the George M. Jones Library Association in 1904, and the Library was opened to the public in 1908. Mrs. JONES died 15 October 1920 and was buried in Spring Hill Cemetery.

[Burial Record, Diuguid Funeral Home, Lynchburg, VA, Book 19, p. 51; Obituary, *Lynchburg News*, 15 October 1920, p. 5 col. 2; Lyon G. Tyler, *Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography*, Vol. IV (New York: Lewis Historical Publ., 1915), pp. 107-109; Jones Memorial Library Papers, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, VA; R. A. Brock, *Virginia and Virginians*, Vol. II (Richmond: H. H. Hardesty, 1888), pp. 570-571.]

MS2066