

9-1-2016

From the Vault: A Face from the Past

Furman University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine>

Recommended Citation

University, Furman (2016) "From the Vault: A Face from the Past," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 59 : Iss. 2 , Article 18.
Available at: <http://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol59/iss2/18>

This Regular Feature is made available online by Journals, part of the Furman University Scholar Exchange (FUSE). It has been accepted for inclusion in Furman Magazine by an authorized FUSE administrator. For terms of use, please refer to the [FUSE Institutional Repository Guidelines](#). For more information, please contact scholarexchange@furman.edu.



Postings from the Inter-webs

*What do you
love most about
Greenville?*

ECDBEN

*I love the tree with the
exposed roots by the falls*

CAMMI STILWELL

(icedfrapp)

*Going to the Peace Center
with my mom to catch
a show.*

KATHERYNMARIANNE

*I love that no matter where
you are in Greenville, you
can always find something
fun to do from hiking,
walking in Falls Park, or
simply just reading a book
with a beautiful view.*

CHRISTINA ALSIP

(lovelyeverafters)

*Greenville feels like home,
even for travelers passing
through. It's open and
welcoming to all, and there
is something for everyone.*

MAMABEAR020305

*Greenville is big enough
that there are tons of
choices in activities and
dining but small enough
that you usually run into
a familiar face when you
are out and about... the
perfect place for people of
all ages and backgrounds
too. I came to Furman in
'94 and still haven't left!
#yeahthatgreenville*

MINITWIZZLER

*It's a terrific example of
great urban planning—
blending the old with the
new and making the most
of natural elements to
create some really magical
public spaces.*



A face from the past

*Who was William Rosamond—Furman student,
carpenter, soldier of the Civil War?*

One of the more unique artifacts in Furman's Special Collections and Archives is a plaster life mask of William Nathaniel Rosamond, a ministerial student who attended Furman in 1855. According to a 1941 newspaper article, the casting was made that same year at Gower, Cox and Markley's coach factory in Greenville, by a fellow student. The coach works was apparently a place where Furman students had opportunities for vocational training, learning clay-molding, cabinet work, and carpentry. The cast was presented to the Furman Museum on the downtown campus in 1940 by Rosamond's daughter, Ida Anne Rosamond.

William Rosamond was born in Greenville about 1836. Before attending Furman, he worked in his father's Greenville carpentry shop alongside four apprentices. Rosamond married Nancy Caroline Westmoreland (1835–1904) about 1857, and they had three children while they lived in Greenville: Fannie, Ida, and Sidney.

A tintype showing Rosamond in uniform was given to the Furman library in 1967. According to military records, Rosamond served in the Civil War in the 16th SC Infantry Regiment, Greenville, entering at the rank of sergeant and leaving service with the rank of private.

Newspaper accounts and business advertisements give clues about Rosamond's life after the Civil War. He moved his family to Mexico, MO, between 1872 and 1876, and



A tintype of Rosamond in uniform.

ROSAMOND MOVED HIS FAMILY TO MISSOURI AROUND 1874.

his wife ran a millinery shop while Rosamond was an agent for the Walton Tub Washing Machine and Centennial Wringer Company, though his profession is listed as "carpenter" on the 1880 US Census. Rosamond died on February 20, 1897, and is buried in Mexico, MO, alongside his wife and his daughter, Fannie. His son Sidney and daughter Ida are buried in Greenville County.

The life mask and tintype of Rosamond are currently on display in the James B. Duke Library as part of our fall exhibition, "We Are Furman: Alumni Collections in Special Collections and Archives," and can be viewed whenever the library is open, through the end of December. ●