



Miami University

Topic Guide for Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>)

Introduction

Miami University is a public research institution located in southwestern Ohio in Oxford that was founded on February 2, 1809. It is the second oldest university in Ohio and the tenth oldest in the United States. In 1824, the first classes were held. Enrollment rose over the next decade until it peaked in 1839 with 250 students. The University temporarily closed in 1873 due to lack of funding and decreased enrollment. After reopening in 1885, Miami University expanded its course offerings to include science classes. The student population remained under 100 until the early 1900s, when the University began to accept female students. In the 1960s, enrollment increased to its present size of around 15,000 students and the University expanded to include both regional campuses and a branch in Luxembourg.

Important Dates

- February 2, 1809: The Ohio General Assembly passes "An Act to Establish the Miami University."
- 1839: Beta Theta Phi, the first fraternity formed at Miami University, is established.
- January 12-13, 1848: The Snowball Rebellion occurs as a result of students defying the faculty's stance on fraternities. 17 students are expelled.
- 1873-1885: Miami University is closed. The time period prior to this closing is called "Old Miami."
- 1885: Miami University reopens, beginning the "New Miami" period.
- June 21, 1887: A trustee resolution permits the admission of five women as "special students."
- 1888: The University plays its first intercollegiate football game against the University of Cincinnati.
- 1891-1899: William Oxley Thompson serves as president of Miami University.
- 1900: Miami University graduates its first three female students.
- September 10, 1902: The Ohio State Normal College is established in Oxford.
- 1905: Nellie Craig, Miami's first African American female student, graduates from the Normal School.
- 1910: The Alumni Library, funded partially through a \$40,000 grant from Andrew Carnegie, opens.

Suggested Search Strategies

- Search "Miami University" as a phrase or try combining it with the following terms: football, student, fraternity, Oxford, Ohio, library.
- Limit your search by date to find information about specific events.
- Some results may be articles or brief notices written about Miami University faculty and students.

Sample Articles from Chronicling America

- "[Old Miami](#)" *Highland Weekly News* (Hillsboro, OH), July 1, 1869, Image 2, col. 4-5.
- "[The Game Today](#)" *Marietta Daily Leader* (Marietta, OH), November 25, 1897, Image 3, col. 1.
- "[Miami University](#)" *Perrysburg Journal* (Perrysburg, OH), June 3, 1899, Image 7, col. 1-2.
- "[Dr. W. O. Thompson](#)" *News-Herald* (Hillsboro, OH), June 29, 1899, Image 2, col. 3.
- "[Used a Fire Hose on Girl Students](#)" *Akron Daily Democrat* (Akron, OH), November 26, 1901, Image 1, col. 1-2.
- "[College Gives Mackaye a Home](#)" *New-York Tribune* (New York, NY), August 1, 1920, Image 57, col. 4-5.