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Copy of speech by Clara Louise Guild given November, 1903 for the presentation of the flag pole

Clara Louise Guild

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Copy of clipping from
Nov. 1903Clara Louise
SPEECH OF MISS GUILD

AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE FLAG POLE

Mr. President and Friends:

When I was asked to say a few words to-day, my first impulse was to say no, but on account of my great love for the College and remembering the words of Dr. Hooker, the first president, upon my graduation, I consented.

His theme on that day was, "As ye go, preach." The one sentence I recall is, "Take heart, be brave, there will be difficulties, many hard words to say." Now I do not mean to imply it is hard for me to speak of the work of the college, but it is not my fate to make a speech.

You will pardon me, no doubt, if "I" is very noticeable. Probably I am the only one present, who has been associated with the college from its foundation. Being the first pupil enrolled, I think I feel differently toward it than any pupil now can. I have watched its progress, slow but sure, these years. I have almost a feeling of reverence for these buildings.

In the first weeks of school we assembled in the Congregational Church for classes, then removed to the room over the Pioneer Grocery Store. With what rejoicing did we come to Knowles Hall.

When the time came for the third class, which ^{comprised} consisted of two members, to bid farewell, we saw four buildings on the campus but in all these years we had not had the privilege of looking upon our Country's colors in this town.

We wished to leave some little memento to show our love and gratitude and what was more fitting than our flag. The incident attending this gift has been told in many cities of our Country, by one of the old Generals of the Army, who had been told of it when he visited the School.

One member of the class was from Massachusetts, the other from South Carolina, each held an end of our flag as they presented it to the College.

Thus we are still united, true to our Country, true to our College. Our alumni is gradually increasing. We have tried to form an Alumni Association so that we may still be in touch with our Alma Mater. Although we as yet are not able to bestow rich gifts, yet we are dreaming dreams and making many plans for the future, assured that Rollins is to be an honor to our State.

Clara Louise Guild