

1-1-1927

## Speech given to Rollins Alumni Association by Clara Louise Guild, 1927

Clara Louise Guild

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### Recommended Citation

Guild, Clara Louise, "Speech given to Rollins Alumni Association by Clara Louise Guild, 1927" (1927). *Text Materials of Central Florida*. 893.

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I.  
Dear Alumni:—

It is fitting that we should gather here on this anniversary day to do honor to our Alma Mater & bond more closely that chain of associations that links <sup>us</sup> to dear old Rollins—

— A new Rollins for the spirit of progress ever preserves our Alma Mater in the bloom & freshness of youth. Forward has been the watchword from the day it began its career.

It is 42 years since the college was founded. Before many of you were born. How we love to look back over the past and compare those days with the present. Perhaps I have an advantage over the rest of you Alumni, for having been present at the very beginning of

all things in relation to the college. I can see the bonfires and the torches, hear the voices of the speakers, on the night of celebration, when the news came that the college was to be located here.

You younger Alumni are enthusiastic and rightly so over present prosperity and changes, but you cannot imagine the enthusiasm we all felt in those early days. - everywhere a wilderness, - then to watch the land cleared. the old saw-dust-depart - where a saw-mill had stood: what joy when the first building was erected - old Knowles Hall with its picturesque bell-tower, dear to all students of Rollins for many years. In this building the

dedicatory exercises were held. What a glow it was to us, when it burned.

The Alumni of Rollins now - of these 40 odd years are widely scattered, some in foreign lands, where one even laid down her life in the Boxer rebellion. - others throughout all portions of our country. Not all have risen to heights of eminence & renown in literary or scientific pursuits, although some have done so, but many of us have been trying in our small corners of life to fulfil what was instilled in us, here at Rollins, to be useful to our fellowmen.

I think I can safely say that there has not been a joy or sorrow

hope for the future, a regret for the  
 past, not an interest so trivial  
 but what is shared by the majority  
 of Rollins Alumni. The very thought  
 of the name of Rollins awakens  
 many tender memories. Though  
 our number is small in compari-  
 son to what we trust it will be  
 in years to come, yet may we be  
 strong in our united well-wishes  
 for the college and all laboring in  
 its behalf. May we never have  
 less reason to be proud of Rollins  
 than we have to-day, and when  
 you and your children gather  
 here in future years, may  
 you remember kindly the  
 toilers of the Early Days, who  
 helped to make for R - an  
 honorable record -

To our youngest Alumni, may I say - To out and be true to the teachings & high influence of Rollins - I would not say a word of discouragement; or cut off one ray of hope which makes partings happy at your age. Let be not disappointed, if you meet not the returns you really deserve. It is said that a visitor at Strasburg will look wonderingly upon the cathedral, that monument of true religious devotion of some centuries past. He will see as he walks about it many beautiful carvings and gracefully cut stones, but when he has climbed up into the high towers & yet up into the open spire, he will see

early hidden ornament, the finest carving in the cathedral. It cannot be detected from the ground below. It was made by a roman and its carving consumed many years of her life. When men said, some stone should be taken away from a lower conspicuous place and this should be set where all eyes see and admire it - she replied - It is in sight of the Lord and his Holy Angels for their eyes - it was carried.

Do what you do with such a spirit and you will not be disappointed.

Let us Alumni - be loyal to our college - We cannot serve our country than in this way. To the student, the school is in loco patriae. He lives in it

and by it: gets from it inspiration  
 intellectual wealth, ideals, charac-  
 ter. Loyalty to it, consecration of  
 wealth and influence to sustain  
 it are his duty and privilege.

If it fails he loses the friend  
 and benefactor of his youth; pride  
 of mature years, comfort of age -  
 May the love of Alma Mater  
 lead us! Let us cherish the  
 class spirit; keep in touch with  
 classmates by friendly correspond-  
 ence, but better by reunions  
 here at the college - where you  
 first met; where most sacred  
 friendship of life begins -

"If I forget thee O Jerusalem  
 may my right hand forget her  
 cunning". Let us adopt -



These words of the Psalmist - as  
an expression of our devotion to  
Rollins - The college and Alumni  
cannot be separated, their inter-  
ests are one.

Our love for the college must  
not grow less as the years go by.  
Changes that are sure to come  
must not lessen our loyalty or  
weaken our confidence.