

Alma: Then Impacting Now.

by Claire Wittlieff

My specific topic will focus on Alma as it existed in the year 1900, and how notable events of the year played a role in shaping the town of Alma as it exists today. The central question of this research will be *How did historical events of the year 1900 shape Alma as it is known today?* The goal of this research is to analyze Alma's history while also bringing attention to how history is very much a part of the present, and how it will influence Alma's future. I hope to use both primary and secondary sources for my research material, including past issues of the Alma Record and *The Almanian*, as well as four books: *Built on Pines* by David McMacken, *Down Twelve Decades* by David McMacken and Louise Davenport, *Within Our Bounds* by selected members of the Alma College faculty, and *A History of Alma College: Where Plaid and Pride Prevail* by David McMacken and Gordon Beld. My research is currently in progress, so I have a few expected findings. I expect to find connections between Alma society then and Alma society now. The year 1900 was a time of great change, especially because it marked the beginning of the 20th century. We ourselves are living in a historical time, in the middle of a pandemic that will not be forgotten easily, as well as a time of great social change. Although we did not live in Alma during 1900, I believe that I may find eerie similarities between the time period and now.