This talk is a case study for the preservation and writing of the history of a mathematics department, in particular, Vassar College’s department. The occasion was the 150th anniversary of the founding of the college. The audience was broad for such an event, calling for use of a wide range of materials. I will discuss how I went from available documents and artifacts to a written history, what I had to dig up, and the sort of questions prompted by the research. The web version of the history may be found at https://math.vassar.edu/about/history.html. (Received June 20, 2016)