

Nebraska University Marches On

Institution Makes Rapid Progress Since Founding

Enrollment Figure Jumps From 130 to 6,000 In 67 Years.

By Orville Donald De Frain.

It seems especially appropriate at this time for the Daily Nebraskan to publish a historical sketch of the school which has so extensively advertised the state of Nebraska. To look back over for two-thirds of a century of Nebraska higher education and to choose the facts that should be of interest to the readers of the Daily Nebraskan has been no easy task, and to have written this story without the wholehearted interest and co-operation of a great many people and the scrutinizing of old musty records, would have been quite impossible. Miss Helen L. Pascoe, editor of the Daily Nebraskan, and Charles Tanton, business manager; Dr. Addison E. Sheldon, secretary and manager of the State Historical society in the state capitol; the officers, students and some of the faculty, as well as the library employes of the university, have given a great measure of assistance in finding and checking up on source material.

There are many who have manifested more than a perceptible interest in the supplying of data in the critical reading of the manuscript. Every student and professor whom we contacted, as well as various other people, seemed to sanction this survey of the early history of the University of Nebraska.

INSTITUTION OPENS AS ONE COLLEGE UNIVERSITY

The university opened Sept. 7, 1871, with a single college of literature, science, and the arts. It offered courses in Latin, Greek and the sciences. The first faculty included Allen Richardson Benton A. M., LL.D., chancellor and professor of intellectual and moral science; A. M. Manley, professor of ancient language and literature; Henry Ethan Hitchcock, A. M., professor of mathematics; O. C. Drake, professor of rhetoric and English literature; Samuel Aughy, A. M., professor of chemistry and natural science; George E. Church, A. M., principal of the Latin school; S. R. Thompson, professor in the department of agriculture. The first duty of the professor of agriculture is said to have been to landscape and plant trees and arrange sidewalks on the campus. This not only beautified the campus but added to its appearance.

The first students to attend the university were the following: Freshmen: Frank Hurd of Tecumseh; Uriah M. Malick, Camden; H. Kanaga Metcalf, Rock Creek; W. H. Sheldon, Perceville, Ia.; Mary W. Sessions, Lincoln. Sophomores: Wallace M. Stephens, Nebraska City; William H. Snell, Lincoln. Junior: J. Stuart Dales, East Rochester, O. Mr. Dale and Mr. Stuart were the first students to receive degrees, granted them in 1873. Mr. Stuart passed away Aug. 14, 1937, after devoting most of his entire business life to educational work in the University of Nebraska.

FIRST YEAR'S ROLL SHOWS 130 STUDENTS

In addition to the regular students, there were 12 irregular students and 110 in the preparatory school, making a total of 130 students in attendance the first year. Down thru the years the university has attracted an ever growing number of students from every state in the union and also from Japan, Korea, Canada, the Philippines and many European countries. Today the University of Nebraska is one of the outstanding educational institutions of the middle west with about 6,000 enrolled and more than 500 members of the faculty who rank high in the realm of education.

This university is constituted by law a part of the educational system of the state. It owes its existence to the same authority that has given the state its system of common schools, and its interests have been placed in the hands of a board of six regents, elected by the people every two years. The

PIONEERS FOUND NEW UNIVERSITY TO HOLD GRANTS

Scientific Spirit Changes Culture, Environment Of Commonwealth.

Little of the prairie had yet been brought under the plow. The state was rich prospectively, but really poor practically, and yet it was proposed to establish such an institution several years in advance of the time required by the United States law, in order to hold the large grants of land for the support of the agricultural college and university. Under these circumstances many people claimed that it would be wiser to wait for an increase in population and wealth, and the building up of preparatory schools before inaugurating such an enterprise. Others again wished to regulate the higher education wholly to the Christian denominations, by whom for generations it had been controlled in the eastern states.

YALE TRAINS SONS THROUGH GENERATIONS.

Proponents of the new institution urged that a state could not too early establish the higher educational institutions. They said that the most distinguished colleges in the east originated during the infancy of the commonwealth which they have made glorious, that Massachusetts, for example, owes her political and intellectual glory to the fact that Harvard has for generations, and from its earliest history, been training her sons; that Yale performed the same duty for another colony, and is now great because she, also, began her career so early in history of the commonwealth. There were others, too, who felt that the time had come when an advance should be made in traditional methods of education.

The state had provided a magnificent free school system. To perfect that scheme, the higher education needed to be furnished to the youth of the state on the same terms as the common schools provided elementary instruction. To do this a university was needed—a university "by the people and for the people"—an institution which should be expressive of intellectual life, not of the past or present, but at all times. To accomplish this, an institution was needed where pre-eminently the scientific spirit should prevail. By a scientific spirit is not meant a mere study of the so-called sciences. Scientific methods are applicable to all studies—to literature and languages, as well as to metaphysics, political economy, natural history and physics.

SCIENTIFIC SPIRIT REVOLUTIONIZES TIMES.

This scientific spirit is pre-eminently the spirit of our epoch. It is the spirit that is revolutionizing

DANIEL A. FREEMAN FIRST HOMESTEADER

Pioneer Settler Claimed Land Near Beatrice In Dec. 1862.

First homesteader in the entire United States was Daniel A. Freeman, whose son, Samuel, is now seeking the democratic nomination



Lincoln Journal. Samuel Freeman.

for governor of the state of Nebraska.

The elder Freeman filed his application for a homestead with the land office at Brownville, Neb., the midnight of Dec. 31, 1862. A soldier in the army encampment near Des Moines, Ia., Freeman requested a leave of absence from his commander, was granted the leave and traveled to Brownville to put his claim, which became effective the morning of the new year, 1863. Freeman's homestead is located about seven miles northwest of Beatrice in Gage county.

names of the present regents and the date their terms expire are as follows: Frank J. Taylor, president of the board, of St. Paul, term expires Jan. 1, 1939; Stanley D. Long of Grand Island, who will complete his term Jan. 1, 1939; Marion Shaw, David City, who has until Jan. 1, 1941, to serve; Charles Y. Thompson, who resides in West Point, will complete his official duties Jan. 1, 1941; Arthur C. Stokes is the only member residing in the metropolis of Nebraska, Omaha. His term will expire Jan. 1, 1943; one member claims Lincoln as his home. This member is Robert W. Devoe, whose term expires Jan. 1, 1943. He says that Lincoln was incorporated as a city

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Panic, Locusts Cut Enrollment In Early Years

University Faces, Overcomes Great Interferences Under Dr. Benton.

The success of the university during the Chancellorship of Dr. Allen Richardson Benton was the more remarkable as difficulties unexpected and unforeseen arose that naturally greatly interfered with the attendance of students. Among these obstacles to success were the locust raids of 1872, '73, and '74. The crime of 1873, the money panic, was the topic of discussion at that time. Owing to these raids the farmers, who made up the population, which constituted the majority of the people in Nebraska were financially straitened, and were unable to send their children to school away from home. At the same time shrinkage in the value of real estate and other property occurred to such an extent that many who had been opulent were impoverished. That the university should grow during such times and under such circumstances is a remarkable feature in its history, and speaks volumes for its management and those who were doing its educational work. It should also be remembered that when the university was opened in 1871, the population of the state was only 133,000, and at the close of Chancellor Benton's administration in 1876 it had increased to 257,747. The percentage of students with reference to the whole population has never been higher except in the past few years.

PROF. DAKE LENT COLOR TO EARLY HISTORY.

One other character connected with the early history of the university deserves special mention. He was Prof. O. C. Dake, the first professor of English literature. Before his election to the chair, he published a volume of poems, "Nebraska Legends." He found abundant material here to inspire his work, and loved to pour out his thoughts and emotions in inspired song. His reading was exhaustive, especially in literature and history, and in some departments of theology, for he had been an active priest in the Episcopal church and was still connected with that phase of religion. This educator and poet was exceptionally open, candid, courageous and impulsive. No man ever doubted where he stood, or what he thought. He never took advantage of an opponent. Owing to his impulsive character, sometime speaking and writing without careful study, he laid himself open to attack. He was ready to give blows and receive them. He was similar to the late George Marvin, editor of the Gage County Democrat, published in Beatrice; the late Sol Miller, editor of the Lincoln Daily Call, from 1894 to 1898. The poetic temperament was his in a high degree. He published a second volume of poems while yet at the University of Nebraska, demonstrating that his muse was increasing in intensity, brilliancy and depth. It received much praise from literary critics. The number of volumes published in Nebraska at that time, however, was comparatively small, due to the fact that so few persons appreciated and loved poetry for its own sake. Poetry at that time was not the rage because so few were educated to such an extent that they could give an independent judgment of the merits of a poem. As an illustration of the man's character we will quote his estimate of manhood from "Nebraska Legends."

Men grow by independent thought,
Self-centered action unconstrained;
Far greater he whose lines are wrought
By purpose in himself contained
Than he who, by another's will
Some tiresome, endless, dull routine
That makes him but a mere machine,
Give me a hut with scanty cheer,
Far on the blooming, wild frontier,
A yoke of cattle and a cow,

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GEORGE HEINKE FILES CONGRESS CANDIDACY

Resident of Nebraska City Graduated From Law College in '08.

By Mildred Ruth Vavra. George H. Heinke, Nebraska City, a graduate of Nebraska, has never moved very far from his birthplace at Dunbar, Neb., where he was born of German parents on



Lincoln Journal. George H. Heinke.

July 22, 1881. But his next move will be to Washington, D. C., in January if his campaign in the First congressional district this year is successful. He is a candidate for the nomination for congress on the republican ticket, at the primary Aug. 9, 1938.

During his university career Mr. Heinke was on the editorial staff of the Sombrero and the Law Book, university publications, and was president of the senior law school class in 1908.

Immediately upon his graduation Mr. Heinke went to Nebraska City, hung out his shingle and started the practice of law. He was married in 1909 to Miss A. Blanche Frerichs of Auburn. Mr. and Mrs. Heinke have three sons, Martin, who attended the university and now farms in Nemaha county; John Paul, now in the university, and Robert, in school in Nebraska City.

our times. It built our railroads, bridges, our telegraph lines, radios, automobiles, airplane, combines, uniting society by the telephone, and turning darkness into light by electricity. It culls the best thoughts of our literature of the ages, and illuminates with a

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The 1880 University--Old U Hall



Lincoln Journal.