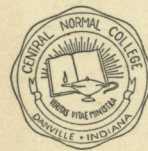


History of
Central Normal College



Written By
JULIAN D. HOGATE

in
1925



This copy is presented to you in memory of Mr. Julian D. Hogate, who was a member of the Board of Trustees for many years and who loved the school most heartily and served most willingly.

HISTORY OF CENTRAL NORMAL COLLEGE

In this necessarily brief sketch of Central Normal College, it is impossible to tell of the hopes and fears of those who have been connected with its history in the fifty years that it has existed.

It is an honorable record. It is a record of labor that seemed never-ending. The history of Central Normal College is in reality the history of brave-hearted men and women who had a vision that moved them. That the institution has survived its many crises, that its future at the half-century mark seems brighter than ever, are proof that the vision was something more than the flimsy fabric of a dream. Real worth was woven into the woof and warp of Central Normal. It had a mission and it is fulfilling that mission today more grandly than ever.

It was originally conceived on the model of the National Normal School of Lebanon, Ohio. In 1876—on September 5, it opened its doors at Ladoga, Indiana. Those in charge were W. F. Harper and Warren Darst. There were 48 pupils. Darst withdrew in the second year and Harper continued the school and gathered about him some choice, rare souls like Franklin P. Adams, CeDora Lieuellan, John Scherr, A. Kate Huron, Marcus Saylor, J. H. Woodruff, J. F. Stephens, Mrs. Mollie Wilson, R. C. Drake.

School Is Moved

The attendance grew and it was remarkable how far that educa-

tional candle shed its rays. Finally, Ladoga was unable to accommodate the students or provide more school buildings. Mr. Harper cast about for a new location and he finally accepted the offer of Danville citizens, they to give the building and grounds of the old Danville Academy, owned by the Methodist Episcopal church of Danville.

On May 10, 1878, the effects of the school, of the faculty and of the students were removed from Ladoga to Danville, Danville sending over a long train of vehicles to provide the means of transportation. It was probably about 9 o'clock in the morning that the procession from Ladoga moved along the north side of the square with students, instructors and their property.

Mr. Harper was the sole proprietor of the school but in a few months, he mysteriously disappeared and was not located for a considerable period. Meanwhile the institution must "carry on" and Franklin P. Adams was made head of the institution and the deed to the property which had not yet been delivered to Harper was made over to Adams, presumably upon the completion of the raising of the money by the citizens with its payment to the Methodist church.

Franklin P. Adams was a lovable man who had the knack of making and holding friends and the institution took renewed growth under him. He added to the faculty, engaging A. C. Hopkins, former State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Joseph Tingley,

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for many years with Asbury, now DePauw university, G. Dallas Lind, W. T. Eddingfield.

1880-83 Brilliant Period

With the spring of 1880, there were many new students and more instructors, among them J. A. Steele, from the National Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio. The period from 1880 to 1883 was a brilliant one in the history of the institution. In 1880, G. L. Spillman, a teacher of rare ability, was added to the faculty. Franklin P. Adams had overtaxed his strength and he died November 25, 1882. He requested that Mrs. Adams be made president with John A. Steele vice president. Mr. Adams' wishes were carried out.

In 1884, Steele became ill and it was realized that he had tuberculosis. He spent a winter in Florida without benefit and in April of 1885, he returned home, knowing that his days were numbered.

Mr. Steele died May 5, 1885. During his illness, his work had passed largely to Charles A. Hargrave, who since April 1883 had been his assistant in office and class room. The next four years, the institution prospered.

In July 1889, Mrs. Adams, the president, married J. A. Joseph and, desiring to be relieved of her college work, Charles A. Hargrave accepted the presidency. Miss A. Kate Huron was made vice president and Mr. Joseph, secretary and treasurer. The arrangement was known to be temporary until Mr. Joseph could get in touch with all details of the school. The College

had prosperous days and the enrollment was 683.

In 1890, at the end of the school year, Mr. Joseph became president. He had already projected the new building in which the chapel is located. The following spring the enrollment was 771.

Rigdon, Spillman, Hargrave

But eventually, the institution began to lag and dreary days, financially, appeared. In August, 1900, some 80 citizens of Danville organized a stock company and took over the property from Mr. and Mrs. Joseph, placing a board of directors in charge. These directors were Thomas J. Cofer, G. L. Spillman, Townsend Cope, I. N. Estep, H. S. Dickey, Jonathan Rigdon, Charles A. Hargrave. Jonathan Rigdon was made president, G. L. Spillman, vice president, and Charles A. Hargrave, secretary-treasurer.

In 1903, Rigdon and Spillman both resigned and A. J. Kinnaman and G. W. Dunlavy were named as their successors. Kinnaman resigned as president in 1906. Dunlavy succeeded to the presidency with John W. Laird, vice president. Mr. Dunlavy's health failed and John W. Laird was made president and H. M. Whisler, vice president.

Upon Mr. Laird's resignation, Jonathan Rigdon was again called to the presidency and has so continued for many years with H. M. Whisler vice president, a splendid team who have the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts are rewarded by a better and greater Central Normal.

College Is Incorporated

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In 1911, the College was incorporated under a law that was enacted especially for Butler College. Under this law, the stockholders turned in their stock which was cancelled and the institution passed to the control of a self-perpetuating board of trustees, the first board selected by the stock-holders. These trustees serve without compensation.

Under the law, if the institution should go out of business, the property passes to the common school fund of the State. The result of this form of management has been a large saving in postage bills and the benefit of the removal of the charge of any possibility of selfish management.

The need of additional room was felt and Science hall was constructed partly from the earnings of the school but more from the contributions of loyal friends.

Gymnasium Erected

Years passed and the need of a gymnasium was evident and the present structure was erected north of the original building on a lot which had been purchased some years before from the Baptist church. The gymnasium building is one of the remarkable buildings of this section of Indiana. The College had a few thousand dollars of surplus money to put into it. The students did a considerable part of the rough labor. Material was bought at the lowest possible price and the huge structure has won many compliments. The College floated a loan, secured by

mortgage on the entire plant. This loan matures serially and the payments are being met. Within a few years, the last of the bonds will have been paid and the institution will be free from debt.

The institution is an accredited school under the laws of the State and graduates enjoy the same favors as do graduates of the State Normal.

A law department was suspended with the opening of the World war as the entire enrollment of the law school enlisted. This department is now being re-established. During the last few weeks of the war the government established a S. A. T. C. at the College under the guidance of three army officers, the camp was progressing satisfactorily, but it was abandoned shortly after the armistice.

For years, a department of music has served many people. And the cultural benefit of this phase of work has been marked.

But in the field of training teachers, the school has achieved its greatest renown. Its influence has been marked in educational circles of Indiana.

Cheapness Brings Hundreds

In its early days, the low tuition price and the cheapness of living brought untold hundreds of students. In fact, it did then as now, afford many young people with limited means the opportunity to secure an education which otherwise would have been denied them. In later years, in keeping with the rising scale of prices, expenses have, of necessity increased.

But they are still lower than in most other institutions and so the ratio is preserved that existed in its earlier days.

There is in the institution a marked degree of application, an intenseness of study, an absence of social frivolities that make for better scholarship.

With plans now on foot which should work out, the future of the College is most promising. It has its field. It is living up to its obligations.

The writer feels that this all-too-brief sketch would be incomplete without one special mention. Many noble souls have toiled and are toiling in Centra Normal. Full honor is paid them. But there is one outstanding character that deserves special tribute. He is the grand man of Central Normal College—Charles A. Hargrave. No word can be said of him that would be too extravagant. To think of Central Normal without having in mind Charles A. Hargrave is impossible. He is responsible that the school is alive today because it was his car, his labor, his foresight, his constant effort that took the institution through many dark days. And he did it all because of love for Central Normal College. He has occupied every position in the administrative force. He has toiled in obscurity and he has toiled as the president, but always with honor. He is the grand man of Central Normal.

Enrollment Figures

It is estimated that 40,000 students have enrolled in the institu-

tion since its founding. That would be an average of 800 per year.

The high-water mark of attendance was in 1921-22 when there were 1,308 enrollments. This was perhaps because of the conditions following the great war when affairs were becoming more settled.

Figures of other years—1917-1918, attendance 719; 1918-1919, attendance, 846; 1919-1920, attendance, 970; 1920-1921, attendance 1,182; 1921-1922, attendance 1,308; 1922-1923, attendance 1,143; 1923-1924, attendance 918; 1924-1925, attendance 976. There have always been more women than men enrolled.

In 1921-1922, there were 604 men and 704 women. In 1924 and 1925, there were 436 men and 540 women. This ratio has been about the average through the years.

SINCE 1925

The history of Central Normal College since 1925—the year at which Mr. Hogate's history ends—might conveniently be divided into three periods. From 1925 to 1929 Dr. Rigdon continued to act as President. He was replaced by Dr. Waldo Wood, who served until the inauguration of Dr. Carl H. Griffey in 1936.

Between 1925 and 1939 the College lived through many financial adversities. It was fortunate, however, in securing the teaching services of Dr. George H. Reibold, who remained on the faculty until his death in 1934. Dr. Reibold's reputation is still very much alive at Central Normal; his love for the school, and his understanding of his pupils, endeared him to faculty and student body alike.

In 1927 the Well House in front of Science Hall was built by the Senior Class. Like the bell tower of Recitation Hall, it has become one of the familiar emblems of the College.

On the night of November 10, 1936, the gymnasium described in Mr. Hogate's account, burned to the ground. The cause of the fire was never definitely ascertained. A year later the present gymnasium replaced it—built like its predecessor, largely by student labor.

In 1934, under the presidency of Dr. Wood, many changes were made in the location of rooms. The old library was moved to the first floor of Recitation Hall, and its

former site became the present Recreation Room and the kitchen adjoining it. The Commerce Department, which had previously occupied the first floor of Recitation Hall, was moved to the second floor, until in 1935 it outgrew even those quarters and was moved again to the still more spacious third floor. The basement of the gymnasium, called the Grid Room, was made available for dances and other social functions.

During the summer of 1932 the Student Health Department was organized. Its equipment has improved steadily ever since.

Each week and each year brings new problems, new traditions, and new hopes. The College continues to mould its students into men and women of whom the State can be proud. As in former years, the work of the School is particularly adapted to the securing of economical higher education—education which will fit graduates for adjustment to any situation with which they may be confronted in later life.

The class of students attracted to Central Normal is indicated by this year's graduating class. Of the seniors who will receive the A. B. and B. S. degrees, 29 have worked while in school, and 32 have taught since their completion of the two-year elementary course.

The time has now come when it is necessary for Central Normal to have an endowment fund. The College awaits with confidence the response of its sons and daughters.

PRESIDENTS OF CENTRAL
NORMAL COLLEGE

W. E. Harper1876-1878
Frank P. Adams1878-1882
John Steele1882-1883
Mrs. Frank P. Adams ..1883-1888
C. A. Hargrave1889-1890
J. A. Joseph1890-1900
Jonathan Rigdon1900-1903
A. J. Kinnaman1903-1906
G. W. Dunlavy1906-1909
J. W. Laird1909-1916
J. B. Thomas1916-1917
Jonathan Rigdon1917-1929
Waldo Emerson Wood ..1929-1936
Carl H. Griffey1936-

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
CENTRAL NORMAL COLLEGE
1903-1939

Name	Date	No. Yrs.
T. J. Coffey	.....1903-1909	6
G. T. Pattison	.....1903-1925	22
Townsend Cope	.....1903-1907	4
I. N. Estep	.....1903-1904	1
Jonathan Rigdon	..1903-1904	1
C. L. Hollowell	.....1903-1905	2
C. A. Hargrave	.....1903-1918	15
O. E. Gulley	.....1904-	36
J. D. Hogate	.....1904-1933	29
W. C. Osborne	.....1906-1920	14
Mord Carter	.....1908-1921	13
Dr. W. T. Lawson	..1910-	25
J. W. Nichols	.....1919-1927	8
Allen J. Wilson	.....1922-	17
C. W. Gaston	.....1924-	15
John Taylor	.....1928-	11
Frank Roberts	.....1928-	11
Robert H. King	.....1937-	2