

A History of
IOWA STATE COLLEGE

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A HISTORY OF IOWA STATE COLLEGE

By EARLE DUDLEY ROSS

Page

106, last line: for "xplained" read "explained"

181, 196, 442: for John D. Grant" read James B. Grant"

253, line 8: for "1908" read "1905"

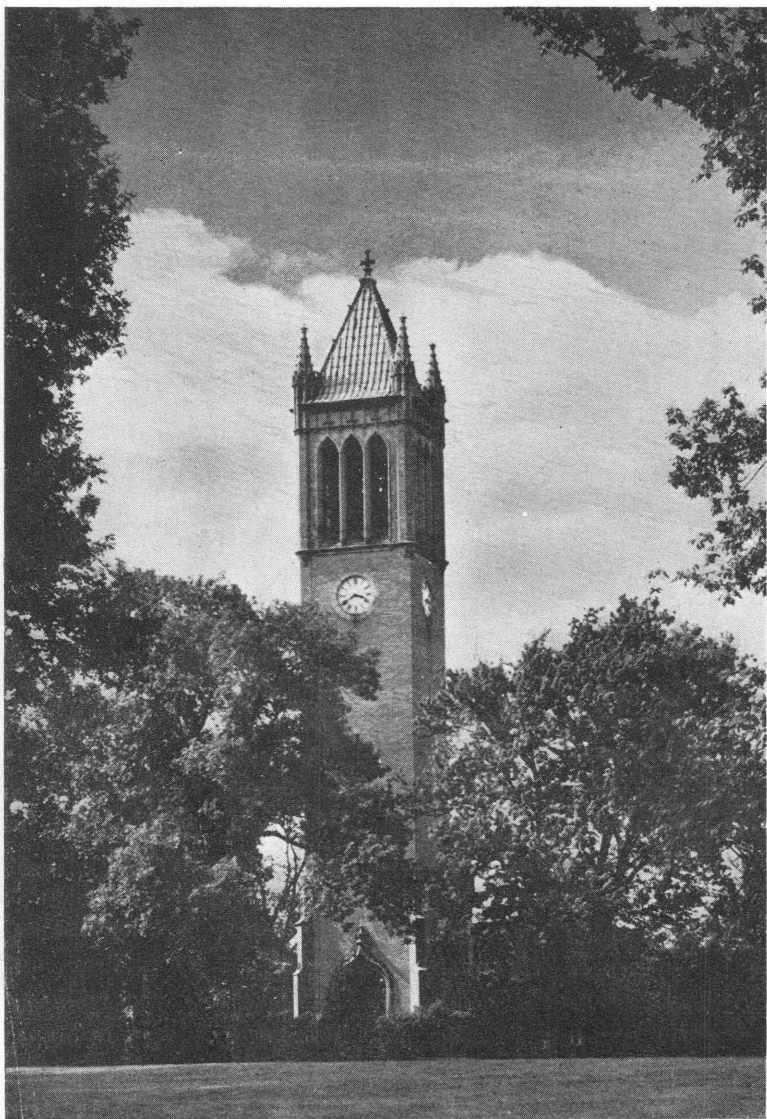
282, line 3: for "soil bacteriology" read "agronomy" and add to the sentence "and Frank A. Hays in genetics."

329, last paragraph, line 2: for "1929" read "1924"

330, line 1: for "1922" read "1919"

346, first paragraph, line 14: for "returin" read "returning"

352, last paragraph, line 3: for "1920" read "1925"

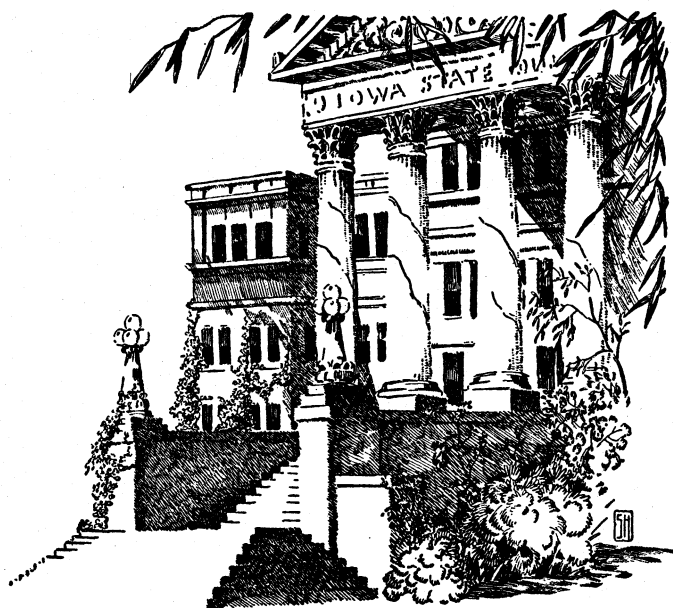


True and Valiant Like the Bells of Iowa State

A History of
**THE IOWA STATE COLLEGE
OF AGRICULTURE AND MECHANIC ARTS**

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BY EARLE D. ROSS, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE
ON HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE



1942

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FOREWORD

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On July 2, 1862, in the midst of one of the darkest periods in our national history, Abraham Lincoln turned aside from the overwhelming problems confronting him to sign a bill which was fraught with incalculable potentialities and opportunities for good in the nation's intellectual, social, and industrial life. This bill is known in educational history as the Land Grant Act of 1862. Its author and untiring champion through five years of debate and struggle in Congress was Senator Justin S. Morrill of Vermont. The Land Grant Act of 1862 brought into being the great system of Land Grant Colleges and Universities, developed on a cooperative basis between the Federal government and the several states; it also brought into existence a new philosophy of education, national in scope, progressive in outlook, and peculiarly applicable to the important new trends in American civilization which were taking form and substance by the middle of the nineteenth century.

Senator Morrill was not a college graduate. However, he recognized the limitations in scope and outlook of the prevailing classical college, and he was convinced that it did not meet the nation's educational needs. He foresaw that the warfare of the future would be fundamentally industrial and commercial and that the nation which would secure and maintain supremacy in this competition must be adequately trained for the work.

No clearer or more convincing statement of the philosophy of this new education and its place in our educational system

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FOREWORD

can be found than in Senator Morrill's addresses in Congress during his fight for the passage of the Land Grant Act, and in his later utterances. He did not desire that the classical college be superseded or in any sense retarded. His interest was centered on a progressive, reasonable, and practical extension of the educational facilities of the nation.

Speaking at the Massachusetts Agricultural College in 1875, Morrill said:

"These Colleges were founded on the idea that a higher and broader education should be placed in every State within the reach of those who may choose industrial vocations where the wealth of nations is produced. The design was to open the door to a liberal education for this large class, and to offer not only sound literary instruction but something more applicable to the productive employments of life. The colleges were established on a sure foundation, accessible to every one, where all the sciences needful for the practical vocations of life may be taught, and where agriculture, the basis of present and future prosperity, may find troops of loyal and earnest friends studying its familiar and recondite economies and at last elevating it to the highest standards of intellectual attainment."

In harmony with the philosophy and clear intent of the Land Grant Act under which it was established, the Iowa State College has for seventy-five years dedicated herself to the thesis that the education of young men and women in the pure and applied sciences and in the humanities is the most effective means whereby modern science may become the constructive instrument of man. Specifically, the College has devoted her thought, talents, and energies to the advancement of the agricultural, industrial, social, and spiritual resources of the Commonwealth of Iowa; holding steadily to her distinctive role and refusing to allow that role to become ill-defined.

Doctor Ross has portrayed in vivid and scholarly lines the growth and progress of the Iowa State College, its origin, its

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early struggles, its place in the State and in the intellectual world. The book is much more than the history of a single institution of higher learning. It is in essence the fascinating story of one of the most significant and far-reaching educational movements of modern times.

CHARLES E. FRILEY

PRESIDENT OF THE IOWA STATE COLLEGE

AMES, IOWA

OCTOBER 1, 1942

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



The first definite move to prepare a history of the Iowa State College was made in connection with the semi-centennial celebration in 1920 by a committee headed by Dean E. W. Stanton. The correspondence preliminary to the committee's work was one of the last of the Dean's life-long services for his college, and the strain that the project involved for him is indicated in his letter to Herbert Osborn, February 17, 1920, "It will take time, energy and pull heavily on the nerves but love for the dear old college may lighten the burden somewhat." Following the Dean's physical breakdown shortly afterward, Professor L. B. Schmidt became acting chairman of the committee which prepared a brief historical sketch for the occasion. This committee was the forerunner of the standing committee on the History of the College which under the devoted efforts of Professors Pammel, Knapp, Noble, and Schmidt brought together from widely scattered sources the "College History Collection."

In 1935 Mr. John Boyd Hungerford, '77, for fifteen years a member of the board of trustees, undertook the preparation of a series of intimate "Sketches of Iowa State College," one of which is printed in the appendix. Mrs. Olive Stevens Damon, '97, has contributed valuable information which she has collected in preparation for a story of the early graduates. Dr. Alvin B. Shaw, '76, has furnished letters and reminiscences bearing on the administration of President Welch. Theses by Mrs. Johanna Fedson Kirkman on educational land grants and by Weldon J. Brown on military training in land-grant colleges have been of direct service.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Monographs on the development of certain divisions and departments have been written. Among these are the late Dean C. H. Stange's *History of Veterinary Medicine in Iowa State College*, Dr. Barton Morgan's *History of the Extension Service of Iowa State College*, and Dr. J. F. Edwards' "History of the Health Service of Iowa State College."

In the preparation of the book, the reference resources of the College Library, facilities for research, and the clerical assistance of N.Y.A. workers were provided by Librarian Charles Harvey Brown and Assistant Librarians Robert W. Orr and Eugene H. Wilson. Mr. Orr prepared a preliminary check-list of the serial publications of the College. Files of local newspapers were consulted in the Ames City Library.

Business Manager H. C. Gregg, Treasurer C. B. Murray, Accountant J. F. Hall, Registrar J. R. Sage, Dean M. D. Helser, of the Junior College, and Mr. M. J. Ross, secretary of the Department of Physical Education for Men facilitated the examination of records in their respective offices.

The Alumni Office through its director, Mr. Wallace E. Barron, and his assistant, Miss Elizabeth Tiernan, has aided in locating records about the campus and has continued to serve as an agency for the receipt of college publications, personal documents, and pictures from the alumni.

The complete and carefully arranged files of the State Board of Education were examined with the courteous assistance of Secretary M. R. Pierson. The information there secured was supplemented and interpreted by interviews with Mr. W. R. Boyd, who has served continuously as a member of the Finance Committee, Mr. Roger Leavitt, a member of the original Board, and Mr. W. H. Gemmill, '94, the former efficient secretary of the Board and now the Superintendent of Documents at the College.

Mr. Gemmill's contribution to the enterprise, in fact, has been that of a direct and effective collaborator. He prepared classified and analytical lists of the publications of the Experi-

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ment Stations and Extension Services and gave many hours in interviews on educational movements and leaders in the College and the state.

The resources of the State Department of History and Archives have been opened freely for the research. Mr. Kenneth E. Colton, head of the division of manuscripts and publications, was especially helpful in securing rare photographs.

The State Historical Society at Iowa City has been equally generous with reference materials and with the helpful advice of the staff, especially that of the editor, Dr. John Ely Briggs.

Essential information and interpretative suggestions have been secured from numerous members of the staff, alumni, and local residents. Special mention should be made of the aid given by Deans R. E. Buchanan, C. F. Curtiss, and Anson Marston; and by Professors W. F. Coover, J. C. Cunningham, A. T. Erwin, Annie Fleming, W. I. Griffith, Ada Hayden, L. B. Schmidt, L. B. Spinney, and W. H. Stevenson. Among the numerous alumni consulted, in some cases many times, by interview or letter have been C. R. Ball, H. F. Brown, Esther Crawford, B. H. Hibbard, E. S. Guthrie, C. E. Miller, M. L. Mosher, the late J. H. Shepperd, H. C. Taylor, J. G. Tilden, and L. C. Tilden.

Mr. John C. Prall has given first-hand information on the beginnings of organized Y.M.C.A. work and intercollegiate athletics.

Colonel Harold E. Pride, director of the Memorial Union, has checked many points and raised many questions on men and measures in the annals of the College.

In the preliminary work of classifying and organizing materials and of preparing the first draft of the manuscript, Miss Lucile M. Neff, '42, was a patient, accurate, and understanding assistant.

The manuscript was read critically and helpfully by the late Professor Guy S. Greene of the Department of English

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

and Speech and by Mrs. Florence Willey Nichols, '15. Professor Charles E. Rogers of the Department of Technical Journalism, chairman of the publication committee, and Mr. Harold E. Ingle, manager of the College Press, have provided the technical editorial supervision and been responsible for the format. Professor Richard W. Beckman of Technical Journalism has advised on the illustrations.

Finally, the continued interest, support, and encouragement of President Charles E. Friley and Dean Harold V. Gaskill have made possible the carrying through of the project as planned.

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