THE
BEGINNING:
of
DRAKE UNIVERSITY

by
IRA W. ANDERSON
Note:

The following typed copy is from a fragile original copy in the Drake University Archives. The original contains photographs of George A. Jewett, Hill M. Bell, Charles S. Medbury, and Ira W. Anderson. A small portion of the text has been lost, but nothing that remains has been omitted from the typed copy. Collation of the original: title page and 16 unnumbered pages, 12 x 24 cm. The original should be consulted only if absolutely necessary.
THE BEGINNING OF DRAKE UNIVERSITY

by Ira W. Anderson

The first words ever written or spoken concerning what
is now Drake University was a letter written by the writer to
the late Chancellor Carpenter and his answer thereto. These
letters were written in the month of March, 1881. I wrote
the following letter from Des Moines, Iowa, where I had then
resided about three years, to Professor George T. Carpenter at
Oskaloosa:

"Des Moines, Iowa, March 12, 1881. --Professor
George T. Carpenter, president of Oskaloosa
college. --My Dear Professor: I have an ideal
place picked out here for the location of a
college. My plan is to remove Oskaloosa
college here and you head the enterprise. You
may work at Oskaloosa college until you are
old as Methuselah and then not accomplish what
you can here in three years. Come up— it is
too good to keep long. Wire or write at once.
Yours truly,

Ira W. Anderson."

The next day I received the following answer:

"Oskaloosa, Iowa, March 13, 1881. --Ira W.
Anderson, Des Moines, Iowa. --Dear Mr. Anderson:
Your brief letter received and to say that I
am elated over its contents is putting it mildly.
I have for years thought that a great college
or university centrally located would be most
liberally patronized by the Christian church
and to even be instrumental in aiding such an
enterprise would be considered a great favor,
.... Mrs. Carpenter joins in regards to
self and family. Sincerely,

George T. Carpenter."

P.S.—If the Christian church people have no
regular preacher, if they desire, I will preach
for them Saturday night and Lord's day morning
and evening, and you can so announce.

G.T.C.
As the Central church had no regular pastor, the announcement was made that Professor Carpenter, president of Oskaloosa college, would preach at the Christian church at Seventh and Locust streets on Saturday night and Sunday morning and evening. The membership was small; and the life displayed by the attending members much reminded and thrilled me as during years afterward, when I passed the old vacated church, when it was used as a tombstone factory. Three powerful sermons were delivered by Professor Carpenter, which I think materially aided us in the enterprise then in hand.

The college site that I had to show to the professor and which I had mentioned in my letter was none other than the fifty-three acres of land on which Drake University buildings are now located. This tract belonged to Dr. Turner, the pioneer street railway man of Des Moines. Dr. Turner had given me an option for ten days on the tract of land and the price was $10,000 cash for the fifty-three acres. We visited this tract on Saturday, twice on Sunday and once on Monday, going around and across it many times. No mention however, of our enterprise had we made to any one. We had built and located our college and were wrought up to a great enthusiasm over the scheme known we would do. There was not at this time a
street west or north from Twenty-second and Cottage Grove avenue except the old state road and on Twenty-second street north. At this time a person, with a horse and buggy, could not enter the fifty-three acres at any place except where the new bank block is now located at Twenty-fourth and University avenue. On Sunday afternoon, while we were going through this tract of land, about one rod east of the east side of the main building of Drake University as now located, Professor Carpenter climbed a tree about twenty feet and called to me that he could plainly see the state capitol building. That was a most beautiful spring day, and as we were about to leave the timber for home, being a few steps ahead of Professor Carpenter, I looked back and there stood that great and good man with bared head, praying for help from the Most High that at some future day our hopes and aspirations might be realized and that some great educational institution might be established at this location. I went back to him, took him by the hand, but we neither spoke a word.

Before returning to church that Sunday night we had pledged our all to buy this land and build a college. On Monday about 2 o'clock p.m. we met Dr. Turner in the streets of Des Moines and I paid him $500 on the purchase price of the land.

C. E. Fuller at that time was considered one of the
principal men of the Christian church of Des Moines, and was also at the head of the Iowa Loan & Trust company, the largest financial institution in Iowa. We decided to place before him our plan, which was to discontinue Oskaloosa college, remove the assets to Des Moines, and buy this fifty-three acres and build a great college at the capital of Iowa, and Professor Carpenter would become its president if agreeable. I would pay for the land, and out of the sale of lots would repay myself first costs, and the balance of proceeds to go to the new institution.

With considerable warmth and oratory we presented our new scheme to the great financier. When I had finished I thought my argument was enough to convince anyone, and expected instant a new convert.

When I took my seat, the conservative man slowly and lowly said: "Young man, you have a very nice theory, but, in my judgment, it is wholly impracticable and in fact visionary. Theory and wind will not build a college; it takes money and muscle. Besides this is not the proper location. The Christian church at Oskaloosa is now and has at all times been three times as strong, both financially and in members as our church here, and if Oskaloosa college fails to make a success at that place, what could your new college do here? I am unable to give you any encouragement."
I was right down mad, to think a man of such pretense knew so little. I glanced around to see how the professor was taking it. He had slipped down so low in his chair that I could scarcely see him above the table. He was really hurt—so disappointed.

We thanked Mr. Fuller for his time and went. We had cooled off considerably. I felt that up to me, and finally I said: "Professor, could have known better than to go to He knows nothing but interest and

If we had brought in a trainload of students with interest coupons attached to each, Mr. Fuller would be our man, and in fact I am greater enthused now than ever before. Come, we will now go and see George A. Jewett." Mr. Jewett at that time was manager of the Getchell Lumber company, the firm of Ewing & Jewett not then being in existence. We were quietly, quickly and very nicely turned down again. We then went to E. N. Curl, of the firm of Carter, Hussey & Curl, printers and book manufacturers. We took about twenty minutes of his time. Naturally Mr. Curl was a man of very few words, and after hearing our plans and questioning us a little, he arose, took Professor Carpenter by the hand and said: "Your aspirations are noble, liberal and practicable. Whatever I
can do to aid you I will most gladly do—keep me posted as to future developments."

Before Professor Carpenter went home Monday night it was planned that the matter should be laid before the trustees of Oskaloosa college, and he should write to friends over the state and consult with the faculty of Oskaloosa college and report to me results as soon as he could. The reports from the trustees were unanimously in favor of the movement. Every professor of Oskaloosa college faculty pledged himself to follow Professor Carpenter to Des Moines.

The newspapers now got hold of the plan, and it was announced that the Turner land had been bought for a new college.

In about two weeks Professor Carpenter returned to Des Moines. How different was his reception. On his first visit I had him all the time at my house; the second I could hardly get to see him. The next man to come into the field at Des Moines with enthusiasm was that great preacher, lawyer and editor, D. R. Lucas. He was a power in the new enterprise.

Before Professor Carpenter had spent three days in Des Moines on his second trip, C. E. Fuller, H. A. Coffin, E. N. Curl, Adam Howell, D. R. Lucas and E. J. Ingersoll and others were holding regular meetings, and were at work in my law office preparing articles of incorporation for the new university, we now called it. A meeting of the trustees of
Oskaloosa college had been called for an early date at Oskaloosa, to legally pass on the question of removal of Oskaloosa college to Des Moines. As attorney, I had all the notes and mortgages belonging to Oskaloosa college in my hands for collection. If the question of removal was carried, we proposed to sell the buildings and grounds at Oskaloosa, and with all the faculty, and assets worth then $40,000, move at once to Des Moines. By this time there had been added to our fifty-three acre tract, purchased of T. E. Brown, forty acres directly east at $400 per acre, and forty acres south of Cottage Grove avenue west of Twenty-fourth street at $500 per acre, and sixteen acres of the Sibley estate at $500 per acre, which is now the land between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth streets between Drake University's main building and Cottage Grove avenue. By this time we had formed what we called the University Land company, to buy and own the 149 acres of land, D. R. Lucas, Professor Carpenter and myself acted for the new (not yet named) university, and our demand was acceded to by the Un that our new university

college campus, five acres, and then one-fourth of all the remaining lots of the 149 acres. We gave the new university the five acres and 180 lots free and clear of all liens or
claims of others, an absolute donation, as the University Land company paid for the entire tract of land, and was at the expense of laying it out in lots.

At a meeting of the promoters at this time it was suggested by some one that the name of our institution should be worth something to us. At this meeting E. N. Curl was president and D. R. Lucas was secretary. Finally the secretary was directed to wire or write such parties as might be suggested, to ascertain what, if anything, it was worth to us. Very soon responses came in offering one, five and ten thousand dollars if such and such a name was inserted in the blank, but generally with conditions as to success. Finally, at a special meeting of the company, the secretary, D. R. Lucas, not having mentioned the fact to any of us before, drew from his pocket a telegram that he had received, dated at New York, and to my best recollection read thus: "I appreciate your consideration. If the promoters of the new university desire to fill that blank with my name, they are authorized to draw on me for $20,000." Signed, "F. M. Drake."

I am unable to now express to you our great joy and enthusiasm on hearing that news. We pounded the tables, threw books at Lucas and unanimously ordered him then and there to fill that blank with the word "Drake," which he did. For real joy, Professor Carpenter cried. By this time, however, clouds with but very little silver lining were coming up. The
citizens of Oskaloosa had in an early day made donations toward the building of Oskaloosa college and they were proposing to give us a fight on our attempt to remove Oskaloosa college to Des Moines. Professor Carpenter was slandered and it was even published in the papers that we were attempting to steal the college and its assets, remove them to Des Moines and divide the spoils.

These new "friends" of Oskaloosa college had prior to this time done what they could to discourage the promoters and real friends of Oskaloosa college and failed (as some of the pretended best friends of Drake university now do), to patronize the college, but send their boys and girls to remote states for schooling.

The day for the meeting of the trustees of Oskaloosa college was near at hand. There was a big legal battle on. A very large majority of the trustees of Oskaloosa college were with us. Des Moines friends of the new or prospective university on the one side, citizens of Oskaloosa on the other. I was appointed to manage the Des Moines side, and Judge Crookham and Congressman John F. Lacey were the leaders of the Oskaloosa citizens.

After looking our side up closely and consulting C. A. Dudley and Judge Barcroft, lawyers, I called our committee together and gave it as my opinion, backed by these lawyers, that we could not force the removal of the Oskaloosa college
without paying back the donations made by Oskaloosa citizens
now making claim to same, and to do this it would take $2,500
which Governor Merrill, then president of the Citizens National
bank, would gladly loan us, and I advised that
and at once. My antagonist
R. Lucas, who most strenuously
opposed me, showing the committee that the very men now making
this trouble at Oskaloosa were holders of the old Oskaloosa
college scholarship notes and were now making their claim
solely to force us to pay them this money, but not as real
friends of the college or of Oskaloosa. Generally, you take
the combined oratory and make up of a lawyer, preacher and
editor, he can carry any point that he undertakes. Lucas
carried his point before our committee and the word was now
to fight it out. The first bad blood in our crowd was shown
in this meeting. I asked that D. R. Lucas be substituted in
my place to lead the Des Moines crowd, as he had the utmost
faith in its success and I had none. After several
suggestions my request was granted and Lucas was made the
leader of the Des Moines crowd.

The day came; the contestants met at Oskaloosa college
building at 10 a.m. April 6, 1881. The battle was on. The
trustees of Oskaloosa college were almost a unit with us.
We had the president of the board, secretary of the board and
all the records.
About the only member of the trustees favorable to citizens of Oskaloosa when order was called moved that all persons holding scholarship notes of Oskaloosa college be permitted to vote on this question of removal to Des Moines. The president, if he had been properly advised, should have declared the motion out of order, but instead, he put the motion, and as the house was filled principally by Oskaloosa citizens, all voted "aye" with such a volume that the poor president declared the motion carried. Now the crisis was at hand. All looked to Lucas, and his first utterance was his "Waterloo." He said, "All friends of the Des Moines enterprise and those favoring the removal of Oskaloosa college to Des Moines follow me in the west room of the college," and some twenty of the friends followed him into the remote part of the building. The lukewarm trustees and those that were disgusted with Lucas remained. Lucas and his crowd passed some resolutions and adjourned.

The other crowd organized again, passed resolutions as Oskaloosa college, employed in the name of the college trustees attorneys to enjoin Lucas and his crowd from attempting in any manner to remove Oskaloosa college or its assets to Des Moines or to any other place, and on the same day filed their petition and obtained from the circuit court judge a
restraining order, and on final hearing it was decreed and
adjudged by the court November 12, 1881, Judge Lewis
presiding, that for all time all persons were enjoined
from in any manner attempting to remove Oskaloosa college
to Des Moines or to any other place, and for all time it will
be impossible legally to remove Oskaloosa college to Des
Moiines or to any other place. Lucas was to wire me results,
but to a late hour that day I got no word. I surmised the
outcome. A sicker looking crowd than returned to Des Moines
the next day is seldom met.

I shall never forget my great sorrow on meeting
Professor Carpenter after the defeat. He was broken down.
He said he was a ruined man and would be compelled to remove
to some remote state, leaving associations and friends that
he held so dear. I had about resolved, when Lucas was put
in to manage the Des Moines end of the fight, to wash my hands
of the entire business, providing he failed, as I was sure
he would; but in this first meeting with Professor Carpenter
after the defeat, to help him partly out of his great sorrow,
I made some flattering promises to him. I went so far as to
claim that the seeming defeat was but a victory; that he had
given fifteen years of his best talent and industry to
Oskaloosa college and the Christian Evangelist and made them
what they were—everybody knew this, and instead of being a
ruined man, if he would come to Des Moines that we would build a college yet. He thought it impossible. I must confess that I felt grave doubts.

The inception of the university was with that great and good man alone for the next week. Every friend that we had made was willing to quit. I was offered $5,000 for my bargain in the Turner land, and in spite of myself, especially when I thought of Lucas' action at Oskaloosa, I was quite willing to quit.

Professor Carpenter spent most of his time for the next week at my office, and by chance there met an architect, a Mr. Bartlett, and got into conversation about the new enterprise in building a college, and Mr. Bartlett suggested the idea of building a temporary building, and invited the professor to his office.

In about two days Professor Carpenter came to me with a drawing of a four-story forty-three room frame building, which he said the architect claimed could be built for $6,000. I gave it as my judgment at once that the plan was practicable. It would accommodate 100 students easily. Friends were dispatched to see General Drake to see if the general would forward the $6,000 to erect the building, but to our great disappointment he absolutely refused, and added a condition
to his $20,000 donation that it should not become due until the main college building was built and paid for. We tried for several days to raise the money, and finally E. N. Curl, R. T. C. Lord, D. R. Lucas and Professor Carpenter and a few others waited upon me and requested me to build the temporary building, own it and lease it to Drake university for a period of years. Professor Carpenter's claims were that I had first proposed the move to him; at my request every one of the faculty of Oskaloosa college had agreed to come to Des Moines; he had been summarily discharged as president of Oskaloosa college, and all his old faculty were out of a job. The pressure was getting heavy on my shoulders about then. I would rather owe two legal debts than one moral debt. "I will take your plans, Professor Carpenter, and give you an answer tomorrow morning," was all I said. The next morning by 8 o'clock I was at my desk and Professor Carpenter was there, and said he had been waiting one hour. My proposition was, "I will build and have ready for the opening of the first term of Drake university the building you denominate the Student's Home, seven weeks from next Monday morning."

I have never told any one of Professor Carpenter's acts when I made that announcement to him; nor of the blessings he pronounced upon me at that time. I was to furnish the building at actual cost and own same until we could pay for it. Contracts were signed up immediately, articles of incorporation filed of Drake university, and University Land Company's
addition platted and filed within twenty-four hours I had a contract with E. D. Smith to put in the foundation, and R. A. West to do the carpenter work of the "Student's Home," and within two days the work was commenced. Professor Carpenter was busy getting out a catalogue and making his announcements for the opening of Drake university in September, and for the next few weeks he certainly was the busiest and happiest man in Iowa.

In starting the first work it came under the contract of Mr. Smith to excavate a five foot cellar. We had a little ceremony. Smith got a new spade and was to have the honor of throwing the first dirt ever moved in University Place; we met at 6 o'clock a.m. for the start. Smith had his spade down, took out a spadeful of dirt, and while we were having a little ceremony, we looked and the hole made by the spadeful of dirt being taken out was half full of water. At this time there was not a foot of sewer nor a yard of paving in the city of Des Moines. How we were to have a five foot cellar in such a place was a circumstance not easily met. This grieved the professor greatly; and he was anxious to see me privately to see what I thought we could do. I did not know yet, but said to him when alone: "Professor, it seems to me that from the very beginning of our college enterprise the Lord has been on our side, and in nothing does it seem so clear to me as finding this water on top of the ground in July in these woods." He could not see it in that
way and desired an explanation. "You know," said I, "from the
days of Alexander Campbell, his followers, and we are all
Campbellites, have had the reputation at least of being
very free users of water, and here it is found without even
digging. Tell everybody."

I changed my contract with Smith to dig but eighteen
inches, put the balance of the foundation above the ground,
which gave us in fact a five-story building instead of a four-
story.

We were now on the royal highway of success and glory—
everything went our way. Lots that had cost but $35.00
were now selling for from $200 to $400 apiece. Fifty houses
were commenced within five weeks after the "Student's
Home" was started. Our nearest street car at that time was
West Ninth and Locust streets, and a hack was put on to run
between Student's Home and the terminus of the street railway
by the University Land company. There was not a gas or
water main within a mile. Every professor of "Oskaloosa
college," except one, kept faith with us to remove to Des
Moles, they being Professors Dunshee, Carpenter, Bottenfield,
Macy, Sheppard, Given and Wright.
The Central Christian church attendance tripled in one month. At that time there was not another Christian church congregation in Des Moines. During the building of the Student's Home I was continually bothered and written to by Oskaloosa college fellows; they would write me that Drake would never pay his donation, and all kinds of discouraging tales. I finally found out from C. E. Fuller that a telegram was the only written evidence we had from General Drake as to his donation, and I demanded that it be put in writing, and fixed up in a business way, as I really wanted its name to be "Carpenter University." I was really backed by Fuller in this, but General Drake absolutely refused to put up the money or security or change the terms in any way from his verbal terms made to Lucas, that he would pay the donation when the main college building was completed and paid for.

When Student's Home was about one-half completed, one Saturday I took off all the men from the work to stay off until General Drake should either pay or secure his $20,000 donation. The land company, Drake university and all new friends of the enterprise were on me now, and such a storm I never was in before. I hired men to guard the half completed building to save it from being torn down. Professor Carpenter begged of me to put the men on and have the building finished or we would yet fail. "We will not fail," said I, "it will
not hurt General Drake to put up the money or security. You know, however, so do I, that he will do just as he agreed to, but our enemies are circulating that he will not. I hold the key to the situation, and the money must be put up or secured before another nail is driven in the Student's Home." Sorrow and trouble again for the good man.

How many letters and telegrams were sent to General Drake in the next few days I do not know, but in about three days he called on me at my office and asked, "What do you want me to do?" "I want you to go to C. E. Fuller, treasurer of Drake university, and pay or secure $20,000, to be turned over to Drake university when the main building is completed and paid for," I answered. "I will do that," he said, "with pleasure," and he did. These were the only words passed between us.

The fact of the payment of the $20,000 by General Drake was sent broadcast, and how University Place did boom. Everybody wanted lots in University Place. Dr. Turner commenced at once the extension of the street car line and soon had it completed to Twenty-fourth street and Cottage Grove avenue.

Many amusing and interesting incidents transpired during the seven weeks we were building the Student's Home. We had many visitors every day. We finished each story of the building as we went up; before the roof was on the three lower stories were fully completed, and Professor Bottenfield and his family had moved in and everything was working in harmony. I often thought on Saturdays (pay day) of what
Mr. Fuller said to us on our first visit, that colleges could not be built on "theory and wind," but that it did actually take money and muscle. My head contractor, Mr. West, said to me one day, "How is it?" Must I be bossed and ordered around by all the former residents of Oskaloosa? It seems that they are all here, and I am getting tired of their free advice and suggestions. Who is that 'reuben' there figuring?" referring to a rather "seedy" looking young man nearby. I told him to treat all courteously, as they were all our friends and interested in us, but to go according to the plans and specifications and obey orders only from the man from whom he got his pay. As to that young man there, said I, you should be careful how you speak—that is the professor of mathematics of Drake university and one of the most renowned instructors in the west. It was our then old bachelor professor, and none other than our now honored and most beloved Professor Shepherd of Drake university.

Professor Macy, a few inches above six feet in his stockings, not having shaved apparently since Lucas got cleaned out at Oskaloosa, and not having drawn his last year's salary from Oskaloosa college, applied for work on the Student's Home. Mr. West, contractor, agreed to use him for what he was worth. I took the professor out where all the workmen, about twenty-five of them, were "nooning" in the shade, and introduced him to them all at once, and said, "Gentlemen, I
introduce to you W. P. Macy, late of Oskaloosa college, but now professor of Botany of Drake university, who from now on will be a co-laborer with you." They all arose from the grass plot and took off their hats, bowed nearly to the ground, and the only words spoken were by the funny man of the force, which were, "And Jonah swallowed the whale also." I did not then, nor do I now know the meaning of those words, but we all had a big laugh, in which Professor Macy joined heartily. Much credit should be given Professor M. P. Given of the commercial department for our early starting, and to go in those days to the Central Christian church on a Sunday with Professor Given as a leader in singing, and the Dunshees, Bottenfields, Carpenters, Lords, Macys, Whites, Mershons, and many others, it did look like Oskaloosa had moved up to Des Moines in force. We finished the building of the Student's Home in seven weeks and Drake university was in fact a reality.

Within two years C. E. Fuller came into my office one day and handed me a bag of gold, saying, "There is your $6,000 for the Student's Home." Long before it was actually due, General Drake had not only paid his $20,000 donation, but had more than doubled it, and the real funny part of it was that he wouldn't stop giving. God bless him; such noble men are but few with us.

The first mention of the Christian church at University
Place was made by Professor Carpenter. He selected the location; he was the moving spirit in building the church building; he made substantially all the contracts for the main college building, and in some way managed to pay for it. He had several auction sales of town lots, and at all times Drake university got the whole benefit. During some of the building, hard times coming on, his enterprise would have suffered greatly had not the wealthy and generous friend of Drake university, the lumber firm of Ewing & Jewett, come to his rescue, which they did, and carried the young university for many thousand dollars for several years.

Many noble enterprises were headed by Professor Carpenter before his final rest was taken.

Just when George T. Carpenter became chancellor I do not know. There was no honor, however, that he had not earned.

Friends and students of Drake university, when moving through the halls of your great college—while wandering through those native groves, all of which Professor Carpenter loved so much, I want you to realize what this departed friend really did for you; while I would not if I could detract one iota of honor from any one for the part that they have taken in making Drake university what it now is, I say, have always said that the real founder of Drake university was Chancellor Carpenter.
Before I close I desire to move all friends of Drake university, all citizens of Des Moines, and friends of real, true manhood everywhere to erect at an early date a suitable monument to this generous true Christian man, George Thomas Carpenter.

*This article appeared in the Iowa State Register on June 3, 1906, being the 25th anniversary of the founding of Drake university.—Editor.

At the request of the editor of the Christian News, Mr. Anderson is writing an additional article or more giving the history of the university down to the present. We think our readers will agree that these articles are interesting and altogether worth while, and we are fortunate to have one who was so intimately associated with the founders of the university and whose interest is still sympathetic and enthusiastic to continue the history of the school which he was instrumental as a business man in helping to establish. We are personally grateful to Mr. Anderson for this history.—Editor.

My article written ten years ago on the quarter century anniversary of the founding of Drake University was concluded in last week's issue of the Christian News. I have consented to write two more articles, bringing the history of Drake University, in a general way, down to the present time and the same as continued will be concluded next week.
The temporary building, "Student's Home," having been fully completed on September 22, 1881, by pre-arrangement Drake University's first day of actual college work commenced. The night before my men worked all night putting on the finishing touches and arranging the seating.

At 9 a.m. Professor Carpenter marched over from his home, then located one block east of "Student's Home," followed by the attendants on that first day, as they all met for the start at Professor Carpenter's home. My recollection is there were thirty in that procession.

As they marched up to enter their new university building, "Student's Home," having myself arrived a short time before, with my men, we all marched out as the procession, headed by Professor Carpenter, passed us, and as they did so we bared our heads to them.

It was a most interesting event and my head carpenter, Mr. West, stated that the witnessing of such devotion and that one event more than paid him for all his work in building the "Student's Home," had he not received his regular salary.

In a few minutes we were all called in to attend the first chapel exercises, and under the circumstances, not only was it very sacred, but was such as to fill all with enthusiasm and a determination to continue their work for Drake University.
About this time we wished certain of our streets graded never before having been worked by anyone. I visited, with Professor Carpenter, our city council, and we petitioned them for this street improvement. Drake University at this time was very weak and its friends were very few.

Our city council, as then made up, was very much different from future councils. The majority then was of one nationality and religion and apparently unfriendly to us. Professor Carpenter was an old and enthusiastic advocate of prohibition and also publicly and privately insisted that it was far better and also that it was his desire that all his students should be non-users of tobacco.

At this very time one of the city councilmen held in his pocket the resignation of the then mayor, with the understanding that if the mayor got drunk again the resignation was to be acted upon by the council. Not many weeks passed until the resignation was handed in and accepted.

The sentiment built up by the Drake University neighborhood would not now approve of reducing a public officer in rank to apparently punish him for drunkenness, but would demand an immediate and absolute discharge.

While I was advocating these road improvements, one of the aldermen interrupted me and stated that he was opposed to using the people's money to work those streets on the outskirts of the city for the private accommodation of a "handful," as it were, "of Campbellites." In answer I stated
to the alderman and the council, against the approval of Professor Carpenter and with considerable apparent feeling, that Drake University was that day worth to the city of Des Moines', as a financial consideration, more than one million dollars and as far as that "handful is concerned I expect--streets worked or not--that through Drake University and its friends the complexion of this council will soon be changed and politically and especially on any moral questions, we will before three years, Alderman Grady, outvote your church."

Alderman King then being chairman of the streets and alleys, rather as a peacemaker between Alderman Grady and myself made a nice speech, apologized for both of us and then, turning to me, stated that his men and teams would be at University Place the next morning by 8 o'clock to grade those streets as we desired--and they were so graded.

The only building that Drake University owned on this 22nd day of September, 1881, was the "Student's Home," valued at $6,000.

The fair value of the nine buildings now owned by Drake University and in one cluster on those wooded lands, the beauty and pride of not only Drake University, but the entire city and state of Iowa is fairly worth the sum of one and one-half million dollars.
University Place since its existence, being noted for its good citizenship, great schools, public and private, and the value of its property, has been on a steady increase and even during the hardest financial times never passes from one owner to another except on a fair cash basis.

The growth of Drake University, other than in a financial way during its short existence, has been most wonderful and has far surpassed the expectations of its most enthusiastic founders.

The enrollment for the first year in all the departments was but two hundred and seventy. Take the greatest enrollment for any one future year since its foundation and the increase shows seven hundred per cent.

The full enrollment since its foundation, commencing on that bright September morning—September 22, 1881—when those thirty devoted students marched into the little temporary building, has been a great army—more than forty thousand, five hundred.

Now to take one further view of what Drake University has done during its short existence, I call your attention to the gratifying fact that it has sent out as full graduates with their diplomas to battle for what is best for mankind the vast number of nine thousand, four hundred and forty.
This official signature of George A. Jewett has probably been used more in both an educational and business way during the existence of Drake University than any other one name. Out of the 9,440 diplomas granted, this official signature, as the secretary of Drake University, has appeared on all of them except one. It is cherished and held as sacred, almost, as the diploma itself. Mr. George A. Jewett became, within three months after the foundation of Drake University, and at the earnest solicitation and personal request of General Drake, Chancellor Carpenter and other immediate founders of Drake University, secretary of Drake University, and he has continued to act as such secretary to the present time. His business ability, integrity and fair dealing with all of Drake University's founders, official boards, officers and the great army of enrolled students of over forty thousand, five hundred, have so endeared him to them that under no circumstances will he ever cease to be secretary of Drake University with their approval.

Mr. Jewett is also an honor graduate of Drake University, and of the thirty-five years he has been secretary of Drake University, no business of any serious importance has been transacted without his aid.

Chancellor Carpenter continued as the head of Drake University until his death in 1893.
For a time Barton O. Aylesworth, after the death of Chancellor Carpenter, was head of Drake University until his resignation in 1897, when William Bayard Craig was elected chancellor, and acted in said capacity until his retirement from the university in 1902.

Both of these men were noted for their learning and devotion to the interest of Drake University and they have ever been held in the highest esteem by all of Drake University's immediate friends and attendants, and by the public at large and the great work that they accomplished will never be forgotten.

Upon the retirement of Chancellor Craig a new man, Dr. Hill McClelland Bell, much younger in years, acted as chancellor from June, 1902, until the office of president of the university was created, in March, 1903, at which time by the unanimous call of the friends and officers of Drake University, he became Drake University's president and has continued to so act up to the present time, with the approval of the vast numbers of friends of Drake University. President Bell is loved by all his acquaintances and is admired by lovers of learning wherever known throughout the United States.

His admiration has been such and the high degree of accuracy demanded by him from all his graduates, that of any one of his graduates desiring to teach in the state of Iowa and many other states, the only requirement of competency is the exhibition of
their diploma having been executed and delivered, with the approval of President Bell.

As is well known by the general public, Drake University was organized, and to this time has been run under the auspices of the Christian church of the state of Iowa.

As before stated in these articles, the immediate founders of Drake University were as certain at its original inception that the success of Drake University would also result in the success of the Christian church extension in the state of Iowa and the west, but more particularly in the city of Des Moines. While at the time of the foundation of Drake University there was but one Christian church organization in Des Moines with about two hundred and fifty members. The number now has increased to twelve church organizations, including one located at Valley Junction, with the great membership of over twelve thousand.

There is now also of the same organization in Polk county, outside of the above reference, eleven churches with a membership exceeding twelve hundred.

It is safe to state that the general membership in the state of the Christian church has more than doubled since the foundation of Drake University and a great percent of that increase is the direct result of the sentiment going out from Drake University.
The original founders of Drake University were more particular about the future control of the university than any other one thing, except the changing of the name. The articles of incorporation from which Drake university obtained its first legal existence provided: "This board of trustees shall be perpetual as follows: First—The delegates of the Church of Christ in Iowa assembled in their annual state missionary convention in A.D. 1881 and annually thereafter shall elect four trustees to serve for three years, making twelve in all to be elected by said convention. It is also provided that said convention may at any regular meeting increase this number to any extent necessary to maintain a two-thirds church membership in the board."

The board of trustees at first was composed of eighteen members, and by the provisions of the articles of incorporation twelve of that number should at all times be members of the Christian church. I am sorry to state that there has been a material change in this article.

Professor Carpenter from the very foundation of Drake University insisted that a new church organization be formed and a building for their accommodation be located near Drake University. This was opposed by many and my main reason for opposing it, as I argued with the professor, was that
"in union there is strength," and to build up one strong, powerful congregation, the Central would be the better. The professor claimed that within a year after the foundation of Drake University there were fully five hundred persons, including students, who should attend church, and to go down to the city was not only expensive, but inconvenient, and many would not attend, when if the church was located near the University they would. The presenting of these matters to me reminded me of the visits Professor Carpenter and I made to Mr. Fuller, president of the Iowa Loan and Trust Co., when we were presenting to him our first argument in favor of the founding of Drake University.

When visiting the location that he desired with him, which is the one where the original University Place church was built, in his positive and enthusiastic manner he stated to me that if I would aid him in getting that location, he firmly expected during his life to see the church building second to none in the city of Des Moines and with a membership of five hundred. As soon as I could after this statement was made by the professor to me, while we were there in that unsettled part of the town alone, I admitted to him that his arguments had converted me and that I would aid him in obtaining the location that he desired and would hope that his expectation might be carried out.
That very location was secured within a few days, his church organization started, the building soon completed, and not only did he live to see the church organization there with five hundred members, but before his final rest, membership tripled his expectations.

Many of the most famous and able ministers of the Christian Brotherhood have acted as pastors of the University Place church, but more than a dozen years ago that congregation organized as it was, and in plain sight of Drake University was fortunate to induce the present pastor, the Rev. Charles S. Medbury, to become its pastor.

To give a general idea of the great growth of the Christian church since the foundation of Drake University, I will state that at present this one church—University Place Church of Christ—has a working membership of three thousand, one hundred and sixty-seven. Its enrolled members since its organization is the great multitude, as it were, of eight thousand, two hundred and sixty-seven and during the ministry of the Rev. Medbury the additions to that one church alone have been four thousand, five hundred and one.

I have investigated with considerable care and I find that there are not to exceed three Protestant congregations in the United States that equals the membership of the University Place Church of Christ at this time. Another most remarkable fact
about the University Place Church of Christ is the great number of regular attendants, and I feel perfectly safe in making the assertion that there is no Protestant church in the world that exceeds the regular attendance of the University Place Church of Christ year in and year out.

There is no department of Drake University that has not made unprecedented success in its particular line, but as to the maintaining of the dignity and the upbuilding of Drake University and its maintenance, in my judgment there is none, under all the circumstances, equals the College of the Bible, which was organized at the opening of the school in 1861. It has had since its organization as teachers and deans Geo. T. Carpenter, Norman Dunshee, B. J. Radford, D. R. Dungan, Alvin L. Hobbs, Robert T. Mathews, Harvey W. Everest, Alfred M. Haggard, Sherman Kirk, and in December, 1915 President Jesse Cobb Caldwell of Atlantic Christian college was elected dean and assumed the duties of that office in September, 1916.

This department has sent out as graduates and ordained ministers and missionaries a total of one thousand, two hundred and ninety-four.

In my judgment this department should, and I verily believe will, in all its working conditions, be more than triple in the next ten years. I expect to see the building of this department more than four times its present capacity and
the worthy young men and young women taking advantage of this department studying for the ministry and missionary fields, should, and I believe will in the near future increase more than five times its present number.

My desire, made ten years ago at the quarter century anniversary of the founding of Drake University, was that a suitable monument be erected to the memory of Chancellor Carpenter, which I now renew. I think the time has now been reached, and I firmly believe that within a short time such a suitable monument will be dedicated to his memory, as a slight token of the esteem and appreciation of his many friends for what he has done for mankind.