8-1948

A Good Investment: the Story of Wesley College and that of the Mother Institution-Red River Valley University-- as well as the Story of Still Earlier Plans of the Methodist Church to Promote Educational Work of College Rank in North Dakota

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Recommended Citation
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Mr. John Hancock, LL.D.

I am presenting this original copy of my little history of Wesley College to you and Mrs. Hancock, as an expression of profound regard, not only because of your generous gifts to the College, but also because for twenty-five years you have honored me as a teacher of your children, first Ruth and her husband Gordon, and then Ralph. Please accept it, as I offer it. My hope is that it may strengthen the bonds already existing between us.

George A. Henry
George A. Henry, Dean Emeritus
Wesley College
August 1948
A GOOD INVESTMENT

The Story of Wesley College and that of the mother institution—Red River Valley University—as well as the story of still earlier plans of the Methodist Church to promote educational work of college rank in North Dakota.

By

George A. Henry, Dean Emeritus, Wesley College

Grand Forks, North Dakota
SOURCES

1. Minutes of the North Dakota Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, from the organization of the Conference to the present time.

2. Records of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees from the first meeting of the Board in 1891 to its Annual Meeting in 1948.

3. Files of the Wahpeton Gazette, the Fargo Forum, and the Grand Forks Herald from 1886 onward to the present.

4. Red River Valley University and Wesley College Bulletins from 1892 to 1931, and other official College papers since 1931 which took the place of the Bulletin.

5. Letters and other correspondence of the late Dr. Edward P. Robertson, president from 1899 to 1931, including casual writings and one rather inclusive work in the nature of a "Memoir".

6. Personal recollections and documents of the writer, Dr. George A. Henry, Dean Emeritus, who, in one way or another, has been connected with Red River Valley University or Wesley College since 1895.

7. Other items from the memories of certain living Trustees and Ministers of the North Dakota Conference.
This story falls into four main divisions. One division deals with the years of exploration and preparation beginning as early as 1880, when propositions were discussed looking toward the establishment of an institution of higher learning to serve the interests of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the Dakota Territory. Another division deals with definite Conference resolutions proposing the founding of such an institution. Such resolutions are never absent from the official records of the Annual Conference from its establishment in 1886 to the incorporation of Red River Valley University in 1891. A third division deals with the history and development of Red River Valley University, located in Wahpeton until its removal to Grand Forks in 1905, and affiliated with the State University under the new name of Wesley College. The fourth division deals with the story of Wesley College from its inception in the minds of President Webster Merrifield of the University and President Robertson of Red River Valley University in the winter of 1899, when looking across his own dinner table he said to Dr. Robertson, "You should be here with your college. This is where you belong", down to the present time.

Wesley College, Grand Forks, North Dakota

Office of Dean Emeritus

August, 1948
A Personal Word From the Writer to His Reader

Because all history is both the recording of events and interpretations of them, room in the recital of a story like that ahead of us must be found for records that are not inerrant and for interpretations which are not infallible. But assurance is given to the reader that source materials are extensive and trustworthy and that wherever interpretations have been required care has been taken to make them as objective as is humanly possible. Fragment by fragment the story is put together displaying the high intention of pioneer Methodist ministers and laymen in the matter of establishing somewhere in the Dakota Territory an institution of higher learning, whose governing bodies from year to year would be loyal to the fundamentals of Christian culture, especially as interpreted by the Methodist Church. Many of these pioneer ministers and laymen did not themselves hold college or university degrees, but they took pride in the fact that their Church had its inception in a University among men of University training and wide classical and literary culture. Nor were they unmindful of the well-known historic fact that Methodism, true to its origins, never failed to promote and foster institutions of learning. One of the first resolutions passed by the North Dakota Annual Conference at its first session dealt with this matter. And this resolution in its turn received support from a similar resolution first uttered, for this territory, in 1880.

These were high intentions, and like all high intentions, have not always been fully achieved. The reader should be assured that the records are clear, that the torch has never failed a hand to carry it, nor has it failed a hand to receive it. Wesley College, as the inheritor of the educational traditions of North Dakota Methodism, has never knowingly misused her inheritance. At this moment she looks into the morning of a new day with unfaltering hope, clear vision and widening horizons.
A Christian view of history does not identify history with the time-process itself. Events and their directions, their significances and outcomes, influenced by natural causes and the conflicts of men's ideals and purposes, bear Christian interpretations not indicated by any mechanical reading of history. Christian interpretations of history hold that while we see in part, we see that all, "as in some piece of art, is toil co-operant to an end." The reader familiar with Tennyson's IN MEMORIAM will add to the foregoing reference the poet's vision that it is unpalsied love, that fore-sees the course of human things, and feels assured that hope can never lose her youth. It is also assumed by a Christian view of history that every open door is an opportunity—a facing of an open port.

As an illustration of these principles, taken from our own national history, reference may be made to the Louisiana Purchase, ridiculed by many contemporaries, but now universally regarded as one of the major events in our existence as a nation.

For purposes of this history it is not necessary to recount the reasons why the French Government was willing to transfer so vast a territory for a sum of money no greater than $15,000,000. The point in view at the moment is that President Jefferson saw clearly both the danger and the advantage at stake. Danger to the young Republic in a foreign Power controlling all the territory west of the Mississippi and east of the Rocky Mountains extending from British America to the Gulf of Mexico; advantage to the Republic in taking peaceful possession of a mid-continental area larger by nearly three hundred thousand square miles than the entire United States at the time of his own inauguration. But even Jefferson, far-visioned as he was, could not see the significance of his act in the type and development of
frontier American Christianity. So well-known is the extent of this vast new territory that it seems a bit trite to mention even the names of the states which, in whole or in part, were carved out of this domain. But for the purposes of our record it is well to name them. Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, and great areas of Minnesota, Colorado, and Wyoming. This tremendous enterprise was consummated—purchased and possessed in 1803.

From the close of the Revolutionary War onward, American population was on the march—Westward-ho. Now, early in the nineteenth century with the peaceful occupation of the mid-continental area, population fairly surged forward—Westward and Northward. America became a country of an expanding frontier—one might almost say of an exploding frontier. Ever increasing armies of people braved the dangers and confronted the challenging of unknown horizons.

One of the pressing tasks, and certainly one of importance, confronting American Christianity during these crucial years was that of ministering to these mighty armies of peoples on the move. The future of the entire West largely depended on how the Christian churches faced these frontier conditions; and not only that, the future of the churches themselves was profoundly influenced by either their success or failure in meeting the new problems of this new order. History now records that those churches which faced with courage and measurably mastered these problems were destined to become the strongest American religious bodies. Because we are now primarily interested in a part of the history of one of them only, we must, without prejudice to any other, confine ourselves to that one. This brings us to that part of the Louisiana Purchase known to history as the states of Iowa and the two Dakotas.

The first permanent settlements in the present state of Iowa were established in 1833—just thirty years after President Jefferson consummated his immortal purchase. Iowa was made a separate territory in 1838, and became a state in 1846. Fourteen years after statehood was granted, a Methodist min-
ister stood up in his Conference one day in a little city in Iowa and appealed to the presiding Bishop and to his Conference brothers for the appointment of a man to serve somewhere in the vast, and largely unknown territory now comprising South and North Dakota. The Bishop saw the fire in the eye of the far-visioned Presiding Elder and heard the bell-like ring of his challenging voice. The appeal was accepted and a young man was appointed to go somewhere in Dakota. We must keep our eye on this young man, for we shall meet him again more than a quarter of a century later, in the young city of Grand Forks, attaching his name to a resolution related both historically and officially to the founding of Wesley College, through her mother institution, the Red River Valley University. Fortunately, history preserves the names of the bishop, the superintendent, and the lone missionary. Let us name them, as they deserve to be named, in that order: Bishop Osman Baker, Superintendent George Clifford and Missionary Septimus W. Ingham. History also preserves the date of this now historic appointment—the last week of September 1860. Nor is this all that history preserves, for we read that Missionary Ingham was directed to go to a hamlet of about one hundred souls named Vermillion, now grown into a beautiful little city, site of the State University of South Dakota. The mission was organized, in October, soon after Mr. Ingham's arrival. Later a church was organized, with nine charter members. The house of worship was constructed of logs, thatched with virgin prairie sods, and furnished with crude but substantial pews, pulpit, communion table, altar, and altar-pieces. The money for both the structure and the furnishings was supplied by a home missionary society of the Presbyterian church. No money could be appropriated from Conference missionary funds for the support of the work. Superintendent Clifford appealed to men of his District to voluntarily surrender percentages of their small missionary grants. They responded generously so that the sum of $130 was secured. With this as a guarantee for his first year's salary the young missionary, only twenty three years of age, went forward. To him a call
had come. He went out into dawning mornings, with youthful hopes, sustaining visions, and a creative faith. To this young man belongs the distinction, the honor, of being the first Methodist minister appointed to resident work in the continental area now included in the two Dakotas. Records of Mr. Ingham's appointments for the next twenty five years are not in available source materials; but in 1886 he was pastor of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Fargo, North Dakota, when he took a leading part in pledging his Conference to the establishing of AN INSTITUTION OF LEARNING, at the earliest possible time. Again he, with others, heard the call. And again the call was accepted. Out of these calls and in obedience to their summons, an institution of learning was founded, whose story of high intention we shall tell in due time and order.

The North Dakota Mission Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1883, and held its first Conference session the next year. At its third annual session, held in Grand Forks in 1886 it organized itself into the North Dakota Annual Conference. This action was approved by the presiding Bishop, William L. Harris. It was in accord with a provision of the preceding General Conference authorizing the Mission Conference, by majority vote, to create the Annual Conference. Thirty one members of the Mission Conference were present, twenty nine of whom voted for the organization, while two voted against it. The Bishop concurred and recognized the following named men as charter members of the North Dakota Annual Conference, their relations to the several Annual Conferences to which they hitherto belonged were by this act dissolved:

ELDERS.


David C. Planette, Thomas H. Sheckler, and Jacob A. Hovis of the Erie Conference.

Peter S. Cook and Percy A. Albright of the North Indiana Conference.
Herrison D. Brown of the Northwest Iowa Conference.

Septimus W. Ingham of the Upper Iowa Conference.

George H. Van Vliet of the Northern New York Conference.

John M. Van Every of the Detroit Conference.

DEACONS.

Henry P. Cooper, Charles A. Macnamara, William M. Spoor,
John W. Monroe and John R. Yost of the Minnesota Conference

William M. Cook of the North Indiana Conference.

PREACHERS WHO REMAINED ON TRIAL IN THE NORTH DAKOTA CONFERENCE WERE:

Levin Johnson and Jonas H. Buttleman of the Minnesota Conference.

These men came from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Ontario and from the following states of the United States: Ohio, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, Vermont, New Jersey and Wisconsin. The oldest was fifty three and the youngest twenty five. Such were the men—men of far-flung inheritances, of broad culture, of widely-scattered birthrights, who committed themselves, their Conference and the churches whose ordained leaders they were to the proposition that AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING should be established at the earliest possible time within the bounds of the Conference. To reach this goal as soon and as intelligently as possible, a Commission on Location was created. The members of the Commission were the two Superintendents, H. G. Bilbie, and D. C. Plannette, and the following pastors, S. N. Griffith of Casselton, H. D. Brown of Valley City, and Septimus W. Ingham of Fargo. The Conference gave the Commission no instructions as to a possible location, but did call attention to the fact that certain cities were already preempted; Jamestown by the Presbyterians, Valley City by the Congregationalists, Tower City by the Baptists and Grand Forks by the Territory itself as the home of its Territorial University, now the State University of North Dakota. The most favorable places
left for consideration were La Moure, Oakes, Mandan, Devils Lake and Wahpeton.

Through its regular Committee on Education, the Conference itself expressed the hope that something might be done. In a Christian order, whatever may be said in truth about any other order, hopes precede programs. So in this case. There was no well-defined program concerning the kind of institution to be established, nor its location. But there was a hope, definite and vital, that something could be done, and if it could be done then it should be done. It required years to realize this hope, but the hope itself never faltered, and finds expression again and again through the next few years in deliverences of special Commissions, as well as through the permanent Board of Education of the Conference.

We thus tie the name of Septimus W. Ingham, the courageous young man of twenty three, who in 1860 became the first resident Methodist minister to be appointed to a charge in the Territory of Dakota, into the historic web of which Wesley College is now the central feature. Through him the succession from the beginnings of organized Methodist work in North Dakota is unbroken. As pastor of the largest and most influential church in the Conference, he was outstanding in leadership. In the prime of life, with more than twenty five years of successful ministry back of him, he, along with his Conference associates, faced a new day; he confronted a new enterprise with neither fear in his heart nor falter in his step. We, inheritors of these early hopes and plans, think with gratitude of that day in September 1860, when George Clifford of the Upper Iowa Conference thrilled his associates and won the support of his Bishop by his appeal to send a man to the Territory of Dakota. And we think with equal gratitude that a young man with Septimus W. Ingham's vision heard Mr. Clifford's appeal and answered the call as it came to him that day; and we continue to think with gratitude that twenty six years later he, with others, accepted a new call, this time as pastor of the leading church of his Conference, to explore the possibilities of founding an institution of higher learning in North Dakota.
Looking backward across one hundred and forty five years of mid-continental and pioneer history we can see clearly, what the men of those initial events could not see, but through the influence of Christian outlooks could enclose within the expanding horizons of hope—this, namely, that as in some piece of art the whole series of events was co-operant to an end. We are, by no means, at the end of that co-operant toil, but we are nearer such consummation than were they. Looking backward we see in accomplishment what they could but see in hope. We know that the immortal purchase consummated by President Jefferson determined for all future ages the type of religious culture destined to dominate the great mid-continent and regions beyond. The pioneers of our story, looking forward, could but see in prospect, and that only because of a Christian view of history, what is so plain to us. This writer has no wish to give the impression that he thinks the events of the period under review were co-operant to the particular ends of our immediate programs. But he does wish to convey his conviction that those events made possible a type of religious culture in which our plans and programs find congenial homes. Between the high intentions of the pioneers and our achievements there may be, as in fact there are, wide margins. But to be true to our inheritance, we must not lower our intentions, as we think our best thought, as we plan our best plan. We must see to it, that our achievements are raised to match our intentions, to conform with our best thought.
CHAPTER TWO

THE BUGLE SUMMONS

Arthur's Round Table is falling apart. Knights who had pledged loyalty to him with hands between the King's two hands; men who had sworn to follow the King as he followed Christ to whom High God had breathed a secret thing, were now in rebellion. The very Queen had been recreant to her vows and is now in a nunnery, where Arthur comes to say his last fare-well. The Queen is prostrate on the pavement of the nunnery court. She lays her golden head on Arthur's feet. Standing there with an avowal of forgiveness on his lips and a prayer for the Queen's soul in his heart, he hears the bugle call. He must go hence, for that call is his summons to his last great battle in the West. Through the thick night his summons came, and he went out to his last great battle, where mists rolled in so that friend slew friend not knowing whom he slew, and even on Arthur confusion fell. This is the poet's picture of the end of a great and a noble king, who in twelve mighty battles drew petty princedoms under him and formed a realm and reigned.

But ministers of the Gospel pledge their loyalty to another kind of King—a King who does not wage mighty battles in order that he may form a realm and reign—a King whom no mists engulf—a King on whom confusion never falls. In this chapter the writer plans to tell the story of men who heard that King's bugle summon them, not through thick nights and into battles where friend slays friend, not knowing whom he slays, but into dawning days with new horizons expanding with every forward step. We have already seen young Septimus W. Ingham marching forward toward a great unknown in answer to his summoning bugle. He was on the Sioux City District of the Upper Iowa Conference. After his appointment was agreed upon, the presiding Bishop attached the whole Dakota Territory to that Conference. At a later date the territory now comprising North Dakota was made into a District of the Upper Iowa Conference and named the Red River District. Later still this territory was surrendered
by the Conference in Iowa and attached to the Minnesota Conference. This re-
lationship remained in force until 1883 when the Minnesota Conference gave up
its claim on the North Dakota area in order that the North Dakota Mission Con-
ference might be formed. This Mission Conference held its first session in the
city of Fargo in the month of October 1884, and its second session in Wahpeton
during the following September. The third session was held in Grand Forks from
October 14th to the 18th, 1886. This third session has very great historic
interest because the Mission Conference voted itself out of existence and
created the North Dakota Annual Conference. It was this Conference, at its
birth, which announced and embedded in its permanent records the statement:
"We are glad of the truth that Methodism originated in a university". The
resolution from which the foregoing affirmation is taken goes on to declare
that Methodism has always been true to its university origin and has always
fostered institutions of learning. The resolution then goes on to affirm the
belief of the whole Conference that steps should be taken at once in the dir-
ection of the establishment of an institution of higher learning in North Dakota.
To this end a Commission was authorized, as we have already seen. This Commission
made its initial report to the next session of the Conference, and to this
report reference must now be made.

The Conference met in session in the city of Fargo from October 19 to 24,
1887. The Commission on Location, appointed at the Grand Forks session the
previous year, reported that there were no formal propositions which should be
laid before the Conference body. Informal offers had been made, however, which
should be laid before the Conference for its consideration. Among these informal
offers two in particular were presented by the Commission for Conference consid-
eration. One of them was from the citizens of Grand Rapids, in LaMoure County,
and declared that if the Conference would establish an academy at that point,
a property including a frame building erected by the County as a Court House,
and valued at about $5,000, together with sufficient land for a campus, would
be presented as a gift to the Conference. Another informal offer came from Casselton including about fifty acres of land and a building to cost not less than $10,000. Neither of these informal offers was accepted, but expressions of good will passed between those making them and the Conference.

Through this Commission a communication from the Minnesota Conference was presented to the North Dakota Conference to which, for purposes of our record, reference should be made. The communication, dated Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 13th, 1887 was as follows:

"We recommend the appointment of a Commission of five members of our body to act in conjunction with a similar Commission from the North Dakota Conference, provided they will appoint such a Commission, to consider the whole subject with power to act, and with the understanding that it is the settled policy of the Minnesota Conference that no other College or University be projected within the bounds of our patronizing territory.

"We further recommend that in case the above named Joint Commission be created, Bishop Foss be made a member in behalf of the two Conferences".

Robert Forbes, Secretary

Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 18th, 1887
The following were elected to serve as members of the Minnesota Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church as members of the Commission called for in the report of the Committee on Education: J. H. Chaffee, S. B. Warner, Thomas McClary, H. C. Jennings, F. O. Holman.

Respectfully,
Robert Forbes, Secretary

As a response to the foregoing communication the Commission of the North Dakota Conference, charged with making recommendations as to the location of an institution of learning, reported as follows:

Resolved, 1, That we will appoint a Commission of five persons to act in conjunction with a similar Commission appointed by the Minnesota Conference, who shall have power to act, subject to the instructions subjoined in this report;

Resolved 2, That we concur with the action of the Minnesota Conference whereby the Bishop resident in Minneapolis is constituted a member of this Commission.

Resolved 3, That any member of the Commission who may be unable to attend the meetings of the Commission may be allowed to cast his vote upon the subject of location, by letter, addressed to the Secretary.
Resolved 4, That the Commission shall have power to fill any vacancies occurring in its membership until the meeting of the Conference.

Resolved 5, That it is the sense of this Conference that the projected Institute should be located within the bounds of the North Dakota Conference, and the members of the Commission hereby appointed, are instructed to use their best endeavors to secure this end.

Resolved 6, That the vote of a majority of the members of this Commission shall be necessary in order to decide the question of location.

Resolved 7, That in case the Joint Commission fail to locate an Institution within nine months from this date, the persons appointed by this Conference as a part of a Joint Commission, be authorized to act alone to locate an Institution within the bounds of the North Dakota Conference.

Resolved 8, That it is the distinct understanding of this Conference, in appointing this commission, to act in conjunction with a similar Commission from the Minnesota Conference, that this Conference notwithstanding this action, is perfectly free to establish, at any time in the future when in its judgment, the interests of Methodism demand it, an Institution of University, or any other grade, within its own bounds.

Respectfully submitted:


In addition to the foregoing report of the special Commission of Location, of the North Dakota Conference, the regular Conference Board of Education declared that a true Christian education is of vital importance to the maintenance and highest usefulness of the State, the family and the Church. Because Methodism was born in a University, education had always had a warm place in the heart of the Methodist Church, the Board further declared. It approved the recommendations of the Commission on Location; making them a part of its own recommendation that a Joint Commission be created to act with a like Commission of the Minnesota Conference. The five members of this Commission recommended by the Board and approved by the Conference were: the two Presiding Elders, Henry G. Bilbie, and David C. Plannette, and W. F. Cook, H. W. White, and S. W. McLaughlin.
The importance given to education in general and to the location of an institution of learning within the bounds of the Conference is manifest in the fact that out of a total of forty-nine pages in the official Journal of the Conference business, more than two whole pages are given to this one item. And if there ever was doubt in one's mind concerning the attitude of Conference pioneers about the establishment of an institution of higher learning in North Dakota, a reading of Resolution #8, as just quoted, will resolve that doubt. Through its Commission the Conference made it as clear as a mid-day sun in a cloudless sky that it would never surrender its fundamental right to establish within its own bounds an institution of higher learning of any rank, when in its judgment the interests of Methodism demanded the founding and maintenance of such an institution. What was actually achieved by the Joint Commission of the two Conferences, the present writer's sources of information do not show. But that not much was accomplished is evident by the fact that at the very next session of the North Dakota Conference, held in Jamestown, almost exactly one year later, the following resolution was unanimously approved:

Resolved, That we proceed to appoint a Commission of ten, consisting of the Presiding Elders of the Districts, and one elder and one layman from each District, and the Bishop residing in Minneapolis as ex-officio Chairman, whose duty it shall be to consider the subject of the location of an institution of higher learning within the bounds of this Conference, with power to act.

This resolution was introduced and approved at the afternoon session of the Conference on October 15th. It was not until the following June that the Commission authorized by resolution as adopted by the Conference could actually begin its work. But at a meeting in Fargo in June of 1889, with all ministerial members present the work of the Commission was begun. The discussion was comprehensive and intelligent. While many differing views were presented, complete harmony prevailed in the Commission's findings. The decision was reached, and a momentous one it was destined to be, that measures be taken looking toward the early establishment of an institution of college or university rank. The
Presiding Elders were instructed by the Commission, of which they were members, to bring the matter to the attention of the whole church membership throughout the state. They were also instructed to make full report at the next session of the Conference. The next meeting of the Commission was at the seat of the Conference, convened in Drayton in October. At this meeting representatives appeared before the Commission from Lisbon, Bismarck, Fargo, Hillsboro, Drayton, Mayville, Park River, and Devils Lake. Because many other localities desired to be given a hearing, but could not be ready to appear before the Commission at its Drayton meeting, during the Conference session, it was decided to hold open all requests for hearings until December, when another meeting of the Commission would be held in Fargo. It was the judgment of the Commission and was so announced through the public press and by other means, that as soon as practicable after that December meeting a decision as to location would be reached. The Commission recommended to the Drayton Conference that a Committee be appointed to carry the work forward, with full power to decide on location, to name trustees, and effect the necessary incorporation of a Board of Regents. All these recommendations of the Commission of Ten were unanimously approved by the Conference. As already indicated, the Commission held its meeting in Fargo but decided to withhold final action on location until the matter might once more be laid before the Conference. This session was already authorized to be held in Lisbon, and the date when fixed fell in the week of October 16th, 1890. We turn now to that session and its history-making action.

The Commission on Location authorized by the Drayton Conference presented its report to the Lisbon Conference at its morning session on October 18th, 1890. The report was read by the Reverend S. W. Griffith. On motion consideration of the report was made the order of the day for four o'clock that afternoon. The resolutions were read item by item, and were so discussed. The discussion was in keeping with the dignity and importance of both cause and occasion. In many ways this session of the Conference remains as one of its great and historic meetings. It was the firm conviction of the leaders of the Conference that the
time had come when the dreams and hopes of other years should be brought to early fruition. At its birth the Conference had recommended the establishment of a school at the earliest possible time. And this resolution rested on resolutions of similar nature passed by the Mission Conference at each of its sessions prior to 1886. This seems the proper place to bring to light a bit of history, embedded in the records, but as far as the present writer knows, having had but little attention given to it by succeeding generations of ministers or laymen within the bounds of the North Dakota Conference. Because of the fact that it has been impossible to weave all of the details of the story up to this date into the main stream as it has been told, a return will now be made to the beginning in order to pick up additional strands of the history.

Evidence is found that as early as 1880 men in leading positions in the organized work of the Methodist Church in this area were urging that an institution of college rank be established. At this time Methodist work in the Red River Valley was under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Conference. In 1882 provisions were made for the creation of a Board of Trustees, with authority to establish an institution. The Reverend Frank Doran, a charter member of the North Dakota Conference, and pastor of the Grand Forks church at the birth of the Conference, was elected Chairman of this Board. The Minnesota Conference instructed the Board in 1882 to go forward with the work of establishing the Institution. Their first official step was to elect a President. This step was taken in the election of the Reverend M. S. Kaufman, at that time pastor of the Grand Forks church. A name was selected for the school. It was to be called "The Red River Valley Institute". It was to be located in Fargo, and it was to open its doors for registration at the autumn of 1883. But it never actually opened its doors. In spite of these setbacks, the first Conference of the Red River Mission in 1884 endorsed the Institute. These facts were well known to the leaders of the Lisbon Conference in 1890. Many of them had lived for years with this great hope. It is true that our brave young missionary who heard the bugle summon him in 1860, and who answered its call by going to the hamlet of
Vermillion, was not a member of the Lisbon Conference. In October 1888, he closed a successful ministry of nearly thirty years. The Fargo church, which he had served for three years, gave him a great reception and presented him with many beautiful and valuable gifts. But there were others to hear bugle calls and to answer their summonses. So now, men who had been living for years with the hope of establishing an institution of college rank within the bounds of the North Dakota Conference took the final step, and ordered that as of January 1891 all requests from communities for location consideration be closed, and that not later than March first the matter of location be settled. A new Commission was created to carry forward, the hopes and dreams of many years now transformed into mandates from the Conference itself. We must now turn to the next session of the Conference to see how these mandates were obeyed. This takes us, most appropriately, to the city of Grand Forks, where the Conference was called to order on the 21st. of October, 1891, by Bishop Stephen M. Merrill.

The Chairman and Secretary of this final Commission on Location were the Reverend D. C. Plannette, and the Reverend H. P. Cooper. In their report announcement was made that soon after the adjournment of the Lisbon Conference notice had been posted throughout the state that no requests for location hearings would be received after January 20th, following the close of the Conference session. On that date, January 20th, 1891 the entire Commission met with Bishop James N. Fitzgerald in the chair. After proper organization, representatives from Larimore and Wahpeton were received, and their propositions were submitted. After full and fair consideration the Commission voted in favor of locating the institution in Wahpeton. The citizens of that city had pledged $23,000 and had offered to secure a forty acre tract adjoining the city as a campus. Articles of Incorporation, prepared by the Hon. P. J. McCumber, were presented and adopted. Following these actions a Board of Trustees was created and the institution thus founded was named RED RIVER VALLEY UNIVERSITY. Deeds for the property and $21,000 in cash were placed in the hands of the President and Secretary of the Board. Signed pledges for the remaining $2,000
were also deposited with the Board, with assurances that they would be paid in full before the end of the year. Thus the mandates of the Conference that a location for the proposed Institution should be selected not later than March, 1891 were carried out. The Commission was honorably discharged and the newly created Board of Trustees became effective. To the first report of this first Board we now turn to pick up the threads of our story as it moves towards new horizons. The report itself, signed by Mr. William H. White, of Fargo and the Reverend J. H. Keeley, occupies nearly four pages of closely printed matter in the Conference Journal for the year 1891. It is addressed to the BISHOP AND MEMBERS OF THE NORTH DAKOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE; FATHERS AND BRETHREN. A Summary of it follows herewith.

The question of a school of higher learning to be located in North Dakota engaged the attention of the pioneers who marked out the trails and opened the highways for Methodism in this vast new territory. The first Mission Conference held in 1884, as the report declares, adopted a resolution endorsing the RED RIVER VALLEY INSTITUTE, authorized to be established in Fargo some years previously. Similar action was taken in 1885, while still more emphatic language was used in 1886. A still more definite resolution was adopted in 1887, when the first Commission on Location was authorized. Indeed, this Commission was given power to act. This mandate was approved by the Lay Electoral Conference, which met that year. The laymen come into the picture officially for the first time as they pledge their hearty support of the Annual Conference in its repeated actions concerning our educational interests. Encouraged and strengthened by this hearty approval of the laymen, the Conferences of 1888 and 1889 took new forward steps. The report calls attention to the fact that every presiding Bishop from the very first session of the Mission Conference gave this enterprise unquestioned Episcopal endorsement. Thus the new Board of Trustees, under the Presidency of Mr. William H. White, one of the most widely-known and beloved laymen of North Dakota Methodism, past or present,
regards the RED RIVER VALLEY UNIVERSITY, as historically related to, if not the daughter of, all earlier dreams and hopes, resolutions and commitments, extending back through all the sessions of the Annual Conference and the Mission Conference, and beyond the Mission Conference to the years when the Red River Valley area was within the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Conference. These dreams and hopes and commitments can be traced as far back as 1880. If the birth of an institution is coterminous with the creation of its first governing Board, then the birth-year of WESLEY COLLEGE, through its mother institution—THE RED RIVER VALLEY UNIVERSITY—is 1891. But if the origin of an institution may be traced to the hopes and expectations, to the dreams and visions, to the plans and purposes, of those who first heard the bugle summon them, not into thick night but into dawning mornings, then we may push the Mother Institution's beginnings back to 1880; for evidence is not lacking that as early as that year, Methodist ministers of the Gospel were thinking in these terms, as they went up and down these broad lands as evangelists of a light that never fails. As far as the present writer knows, little attention has ever been paid to the fact that Mr. White, as President of the Board of Trustees, in the Board's first official report to the Annual Conference, definitely refers to these earlier actions and resolutions as parts of the history now entering a new era in the founding of the University in Wahpeton. This writer believes that present-day North Dakota Methodism may well claim these eleven years, from 1880 to 1891, as belonging to the educational history of the church within the bounds of the North Dakota Conference. It is now 1948. For sixty eight years this light has not failed, and under God it will not fail in the years ahead.
This chapter begins with events of February 25th, 1891. On that date Articles of Incorporation were acknowledged by the Hon. W. S. Lauder, a District Judge of North Dakota, authorizing the establishment, maintenance, and administration of an institution of learning to be known as Red River Valley University to be located in Wahpeton. The Articles are printed below with amendments subsequently adopted.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
of the
RED RIVER VALLEY UNIVERSITY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: that we the undersigned, residents of the State of North Dakota, pursuant to the provisions of the CIVIL CODE of the State of North Dakota, relating to the organization, powers and duties of private corporations, do hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of establishing, maintaining and conducting an institution of learning as hereinafter mentioned.

SEC. 1. The name of this corporation shall be RED RIVER VALLEY UNIVERSITY

SEC. 2. The purpose for which this corporation is formed, is to establish, govern and conduct an institution of learning of the rank and grade of a University, at the City of Wahpeton in said State of North Dakota; to take, receive, own and hold any real estate reasonably proper or necessary for the use and object of such institution, which may have been heretofore, or shall be hereafter, granted, conveyed, sold or donated to such corporation or institution and to own and receive by gift, bequest, devise or purchase any such real estate as may be proper or necessary for the use thereof; to erect and construct all necessary and proper buildings and structures consonant with the object and purpose of such corporation; to take, own and receive any and all other real property that may be granted, conveyed, donated, devised or bequeathed to such corporation or institution, and to dispose of the same by grant, sale or otherwise, and to convert the same into money or other personal property for the use thereof; to take, receive, hold and collect and use all subscriptions that may have been heretofore, or that shall be hereafter, made or given for the use or benefit of such corporation or institution, and apply the same or the proceeds thereof toward the purchase of lands and site for the location of such institution, the erection, construction or furnishing of buildings, therefor, or the support or maintenance thereof; to take, receive, own and hold all property of any character or kind, or any interest therein, that may be granted, devised, bequeathed or donated to such corporation or institution, in trust or for the use thereof, and to execute and carry into effect according to the terms and conditions thereof, any such trust, grant or donation; to raise and collect funds in any lawful way for conducting the said institution and
defraying the expenses thereof; to appoint and employ all officers, instructors, professors, teachers agents and other employees of such institution; to perform all other acts necessary or proper for carrying into effect the object of this corporation, or to conduct govern and maintain such institution.

SEC. 3. The place where the principal business of this corporation is to be transacted, shall be at the said city of Wahpeton, North Dakota.

SEC. 4. This corporation shall have perpetual existence.

SEC. 5. The particular branches of science, literature and arts proposed to be taught in said institution are as follows: Biology, Physiology; Botany; Chemistry; Astronomy; Geology; and all other branches of Natural Science; Natural Philosophy, or Physics; and Logic; Greek, Latin Hebrew and all other Ancient Languages; Algebra, Geometry, Civil Engineering; and all other branches of Mathematics; both pure and mixed; English Literature and Literature, and all other modern languages; Common English of the Preparatory and Advanced grades, including all instructions in business courses, telegraphy, short-hand and Type Writing; the Theory and Practice of Teaching, and all other instructions belonging to a Normal Course; Music, Vocal and Instrumental; Painting and Drawing and all other Fine Arts; Courses in Law, Medicine and Theology, Philosophy and Technology.

SEC. 6. For the purpose of instruction in said University, there shall be established as soon as practicable, Professorships, designated as follows: 1. Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy and Logic. 2. Professor of Greek language and Literature. 3. Professor of Latin language and Literature. 4. Professor of Hebrew and Biblical Literature. 5. Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy. 6. Professor of Physics. 7. Professor of Chemistry. 8. Professor of Biology. 9. Professor of Modern Language and Literature. 10. Professor of English Literature and Rhetoric. 11. Professor of Political and Social Economy. 12. Professor of History. 13. Professor of Commercial and Business instruction. 14. Professor of Normal Course. 15. Professor of Music, Vocal and Instrumental. 16. Professor of Fine Arts, painting and drawing. 17. Professor of Law. 18. Professor of Medicine and Surgery. 19. Professor of Theology. 20. Professor of Military Tactics.

In addition to the foregoing professorships, there may be employed by the Board of Trustees such other assistant Professors or Teachers as may be proper or necessary for conducting the several departments of learning in said institution, with such designations as may be fixed by said Board.

SEC. 7. This institution shall be under the patronage of the North Dakota Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and such other conference or conferences as may hereafter be connected with said conference for the purpose of such patronage, or such as may be formed out of said conference.

SEC. 8. The number of Trustees of this corporation shall be Eleven (11), and the names and residences of those who are to serve as Trustees until their successors have been elected and qualified, as as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>RESIDENCE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W. P. Adams</td>
<td>Wahpeton, N. D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P. J. McCumber</td>
<td>Wahpeton, N. D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. L. French</td>
<td>Wahpeton, N. D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. H. Keeley</td>
<td>Wahpeton, N. D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. T. Foster</td>
<td>Grand Forks, N. D.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
S. E. Ryan
J. A. Hovis
N. G. Larimore
R. B. Richardson
W. H. White
D. C. Plannette

Bismarck, N. D.
Devils Lake, N. D.
Larimore, N. D.
Drayton, N. D.
Fargo, N. D.
Fargo, N. D.

SEC. 9. The term of office of the aforesaid Trustees, shall expire on the day of the Annual meeting of said corporation in 1892.

SEC. 10. The said Conference at its last Annual session, preceding the Annual meeting of said corporation in 1892, shall elect in such manner as it may see fit not inconsistent with the laws of said state Eight (8) Trustees for such corporation, whose term of office shall commence at the expiration of the terms of office of the Trustees mentioned in SEC. 9 hereof, and terminate as follows:
One fourth of said number in one year; One fourth of said number in two years; One fourth of said number in three years; and One fourth of said number in four years, their respective terms to be designated by said Conference; and thereafter at the Annual session of such conference, in each year it shall elect in such manner as it may see fit not inconsistent with the laws of said state two Trustees for a term of four years, who shall succeed the Trustees elected by such conference whose term of office expires before its next Annual session. Of the Eight Trustees elected and continued in office by said Conference, only Four shall be members of its own body.

SEC. 11. At the Annual Meeting of said Corporation in 1892, the Trustees thereof shall elect three (3) Trustees for said Corporation whose terms of office shall commence at the expiration of the terms of office of the Trustees mentioned in SEC. 9 hereof, and terminated as follows: One of said number in one year; and One of said number in two years and one in three years, their respective terms to be designated by said Board; and thereafter at the Annual meeting of said corporation, in each year it shall elect in such manner as it may see fit not inconsistent with the laws of said state, one Trustee for a term of office of three years, to succeed that trustee whose term of office expires on the day of such annual meeting, provided always, that two thirds of the said board of trustees shall be members of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

SEC. 12. All vacancies occurring in said Board by death, removal, resignation or otherwise, shall be filled as follows: If such vacancy occurs in the membership elected by such Conference, it shall be filled by the Conference in such manner as it may see fit; and if the same occurs in the membership elected by the Board, it shall be filled by said Board in such manner as may be provided by its by-laws. Provided that non incumbent appointed or elected to fill a vacancy shall hold for a longer period than the unexpired term of the one whose place he is to fill.

SEC. 13. It shall be the duty of the said Conference, at its Annual session or sessions, to elect or appoint from its own body, a Committee of five members, to be known as a "Visiting Committee", for such length of term or terms as the said Conference may see fit, who shall attend the examination of students, look into the conditions of the institution, participate in the deliberations of the board of trustees at their annual meeting and enjoy all the privileges of trustees except to vote and make report to such Conference.

SEC. 14. The Trustees of this corporation and their successors shall be a body politic and corporate, and shall be known and styled
"Trustees of Red River Valley University", and shall as such Trustees, have full power and authority to carry into effect all purposes and objects for which this corporation is formed as specified in SEC. 2 hereof, and shall have power and authority to do and exercise all things designated in said SEC. 2 as the purpose for which this corporation is organized, and all other powers and authorities granted by the laws of the State of North Dakota. They shall have full power to acquire, hold and convey property, real, personal and mixed in all lawful ways; to have and use a common seal and to alter the same at pleasure; to make and alter from time to time such by-laws as they shall deem proper and necessary for the government of their own body and the said institution, its officers, employees and agents; to confer on such person or persons as they may deem worthy all honors and degrees as are usually conferred by Universities in the United States; to appoint and employ all officers, Professors, teachers agents and other employees for such institution, and to displace any or all of them as the interests of the institution may require; to prescribe and regulate the Course of Studies to be pursued in said institution; to fix the rate of tuition and provide for all expenses; to make rules for the regulation and conduct of students; to establish a preparatory department; to raise and collect funds; to erect buildings and appoint principals and Professors, and do all necessary acts for the establishing and maintaining of a preparatory department.

SEC. 15. Said Trustees shall faithfully apply all funds by them received or collected, according to their best judgment in erecting suitable buildings, supporting the necessary officers, instructors and agents, in procuring books and apparatus, necessary to the success of the institution. That in case any donation or bequest be made for purposes in accord with the design of the institution, and the Trustees shall receive and accept the same they shall apply such donation or bequest in conformity with the conditions or designs of the donor.

SEC. 16. At each annual meeting of said Board, if a quorum be present, and if such quorum be not present, then at the next special meeting, said Board shall elect a PRESIDENT, two VICE PRESIDENTS, a TREASURER and SECRETARY, who shall constitute an executive committee and as such committee, shall have power to execute all business of the corporation, committed to them by the by-laws of such institution, in the manner prescribed thereby. The term of such officers shall be until the next Annual meeting.

SEC. 17. The treasurer before entering upon the duties of his office shall give bond in such penal sum as the Trustees shall direct, and with such securities as they shall by vote approve, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties and the delivery to his successor at the expiration of his office, all funds and other property and papers in his possession belonging to said University; and all other officers and agents before entering upon their duties shall give like bonds if required by the board of Trustees.

SEC. 18. Within fifteen days from the date of the Certificate of incorporation, the Trustees thereof shall meet and fix the date of the Annual meeting of such corporation, and shall also elect from their number the officers mentioned in SEC. 16 hereof, who shall act as such officers until the first annual meeting of such corporation. Such meeting may be called by one or more Trustees.

SEC. 19. All Trustees and officers may qualify in the manner prescribed by the by-laws of this corporation.
SEC. 20. Special meetings may be called by the president at the request of any two or more trustees by giving ten days notice thereof in writing.

SEC. 21. Seven members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business.

SEC. 22. No religious tenet shall be required of any person to entitle him or her to all the privileges of the institution.

SEC. 23. All persons elected or appointed trustees under the provisions of these Articles shall by such election or appointment and their acceptance thereof become members of this corporation.

INTEGRATORS

Jacob A. Hovis  
Albert T. Foster  
Henry P. Cooper  
Thomas H. Sheckler  
S. N. Griffith  
C. M. Rees  
D. H. Beecher  
S. E. Ryan  
J. H. Keeley

P. J. McCumber  
W. P. Adams  
John Helsen  
D. E. Rice  
B. S. Lounsbury  
M. P. Propper  
D. C. Plannette  
D. W. Knight

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  )  
County of CASS  ) ss

Be it known that on this 25th day of February, 1891, before me a District Judge, in and for said State, personally appeared,

Jacob A. Hovis  
Albert T. Foster  
Henry T. Cooper  
Thomas H. Sheckler  
S. N. Griffith  
C. M. Rees  
D. H. Beecher  
D. W. Knight  
P. J. McCumber  
W. P. Adams  
D. E. Rice  
B. S. Lounsbury  
M. P. Propper  
D. C. Plannette  
S. E. Ryan  
J. H. Keeley

known to me to be the identical persons whose names are subscribed to and who executed the foregoing ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, and each of them acknowledged to me that he executed the same.

W. S. Lauder  
District Judge  N. D.

BE IT KNOWN, that a meeting of the members of this corporation for the election of Trustees thereof, was duly held at the City of Fargo, in the State of North Dakota, on the 25th day of February, 1891; that a majority of the members of such corporation was present and voted at such election, and that the persons mentioned in SEC. 8 of the Articles of Incorporation, were duly elected to hold the office of Trustees of this corporation as therein set forth.

D. C. Plannette, President  
Henry P. Cooper, Secretary

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  )  
County of Cass  ) ss
D. C. Plannette and Henry P. Cooper being duly sworn say that they are and were the President and Secretary of the meeting mentioned in the foregoing notice and Statement, and the officers conducting the election of trustees mentioned therein, and that the facts set forth therein are true.

D. C. Plannette
H. P. Cooper

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of February, 1891.

W. S. Lauder
Judge District Court, N. D.

Endorsement on back:

State of North Dakota
Secretary's Office
Filed for record the 2nd day of March 1891, and recorded in Vol. I. Book of Corporations, page 430. John Flittle, Secretary.

We the undersigned being and representing more than three fourths of the members of the Red River Valley University, a Corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Dakota, do hereby consent that the Articles of Incorporation of said Corporation be amended as set forth in the instrument hereto attached, and entitled "Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation of the Red River Valley University", and hereby assent to such amendments,

Dated at Wahpeton, North Dakota this 20th day of April, 1894.

A. T. Foster
Frank Lynch
E. B. Stull
N. G. Larimore
E. A. Taylor
T. H. Sheckler
P. J. McCumber
J. R. French
Eugene May

AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
of

RED RIVER VALLEY UNIVERSITY

Section 1. - The number of Trustees of this Corporation shall be twenty-one.
Section 2. - Of the number of Trustees twelve (12) thereof shall be elected by the North Dakota Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in such manner as said Conference may authorize and direct, and nine (9) thereof shall be elected by the Board
of Trustees of said Corporation at the Annual meeting of said Corpor-
oration in such manner as it may see fit, not inconsistent with the
laws of the State.

Section 3 - In addition to the number of Trustees heretofore elected
by the said Conference, under the Articles of Incorporation the said
Conference at the Annual meeting in 1894 shall elect six (6) Trustees
whose term of office shall be as follows: Three for a term of four
(4) years, one for a term of three (3) years, one for a term of two
(2) years, and one for a term of one (1) year. Thereafter at each
Annual meeting of said Conference it shall elect three members of
said Board for a term of four (4) years each.

Of the twelve (12) Trustees elected and continued in office
by said Conference only six (6) shall be members of its own body.

Section 4 - In addition to the number of Trustees heretofore
elected by said Board, under the Articles of Incorporation, the
said Board at its Annual meeting in 1894 shall elect seven (7)
Trustees whose terms of office shall be as follows: Three for a
term of three (3) years, two for a term of one (1) year. Therea-
fter at each Annual meeting of said Board it shall elect three
members of said Board for a term of three (3) years each.

Section 5 - Any portion of the Articles of Incorporation heretofore
adopted in so far as they are in conflict with these amendments are
hereby repealed.

Dated at Wahpeton, North Dakota, this 20th day
of April, 1894.

E. B. Stull, President
A. T. Foster, Secretary

State of North Dakota,

County of Richland.

We the undersigned Chairman, Secretary, and a majority of
Directors of the Red River Valley University, a Corporation
organized and existing under the laws of the State of North
Dakota do hereby certify that at a meeting of said Board held
in the City of Wahpeton in the State of North Dakota on the 20th
day of April 1894, the foregoing amendments to the Articles of
Incorporation were in writing authorized and assented to by more
than three-fourths of the members of such corporation and the
foregoing signers of said written assent constitute more than
three-fourths of the members of such Corporation.

In testimony whereof the Chairman and Secretary of said
meeting and a majority of the Directors of said Corporation do
hereunto subscribe our names this 20th day of April, 1894.

E. B. Stull President
A. T. Foster, Secretary
Frank Lynch
N. G. Larimore
E. A. Taylor
T. H. Sheckler
P. J. McCumber
J. R. French
John Miller
Eugene May
Section 2. The purpose for which this corporation is formed is to establish, govern and conduct an institution of learning of the rank and grade of a University; to take, receive, own and hold any real estate reasonably proper or necessary for the use and object of such institution, which may have been heretofore, or shall be hereafter, granted, conveyed, sold or donated to such corporation or institution and to own and receive by gift, bequest, devise or purchase any such real estate as may be proper or necessary for the use thereof; to erect and construct all necessary and proper buildings and structures consonant with the object and purpose of such corporation; to take, own and receive any and all other real property that may be granted, conveyed, donated, devised or bequeathed to such corporation or institution, and to dispose of same by grant, sale or otherwise, and to convert the same into money or other personal property for the use thereof; to take, receive, hold and collect and use all subscriptions that may have been heretofore, or that shall be hereafter, made or given for the use or benefit of such corporation or institution and apply the same or the proceeds thereof toward the purchase of lands and site for the location of such institution, the erection, construction or furnishing of buildings therefore, or the support or maintenance thereof; to take, receive, own and hold all property of any character or kind, or any interest therein, that may be granted, devised, bequeathed or donated to such corporation or institution, in trust or for the use thereof, and to execute and carry into effect according to the terms and conditions thereof, any such trust, grant or donation; to raise and collect funds in any lawful way for conducting the said institution and defraying the expenses thereof; to appoint and employ all officers, instructors, professors, teachers, agents and other employees of such institution; to perform all other acts necessary or proper for carrying into effect the object of this corporation, or to conduct, govern and maintain such institution.

SEC. 3 - The place where the principal business of this corporation is to be transacted shall be at the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

ASSENT OF MEMBERS

We the undersigned, being and constituting three-fourths of the members of the Red River Valley University, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Dakota, do hereby assent to the changing and amending of the Articles of Incorporation of said corporation in the manner more fully set forth above.
forth in the above and foregoing Articles of Amendments, and we further assent to the changing of the place where the principal business of said corporation is to be transacted from the City of Wahpeton to the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota, and we hereby authorize the directors of said corporation to make such certificate as is required by law.

Signed and dated this 14th day of October A.D. 1905

John W. Ogren
Herbert G. Leonard
E. P. Robertson
James Anderson
S. A. Danford
W. J. Robinson
J. E. Thompkins
J. M. Murchison
A. J. Sayre

Frank Lynch
N. G. Larimore
J. G. Moore
Thos. F. Waugh
Samuel Ellery
M. P. Burns
James I. Asher
Albin S. Burrows

CERTIFICATE OF DIRECTORS

We, the undersigned, Chairman, Secretary, and a majority of the directors of the Red River Valley University, a corporation, organized and existing under the laws of the State of North Dakota, do hereby certify that three-fourths of the members of the said corporation have in writing assented to the changing and amending of the Articles of Incorporation of said corporation as set forth in the above and foregoing Articles of Amendments, which are hereby made a part of this Certificate.

And we further certify that three-fourths of the members of said Red River Valley University have in writing assented to the changing of the place where the principal business of said corporation to be transacted from the City of Wahpeton to the City of Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Dated this 14th day of October A.D. 1905.

Frank Lynch, Chairman
S. A. Danford, Secretary

E. P. Robertson
Herbert G. Leonard
M. P. Burns
J. E. Thompkins
J. G. Moore
J. M. Murchison

John W. Ogren
A. J. Sayre
James Anderson
Samuel Ellery
T. F. Waugh
James I. Asher

Endorsed on back:

State of North Dakota
Secretary's Office

Filed for record the 1st day of Mar. 1906 and recorded in Vol. 7 of N. D. Corporations page 512.

E. F. Porter, Secretary
Directions given to the Locating Commission at the Lisbon Annual Conference session in the autumn of 1890 made the duties of the first Board of Trustees, to be provided for by Articles of Incorporation, "plain and urgent", to quote the words of the first President of the Board as he presented its initial report to the next session of the Annual Conference. The "duties, plain and urgent" were orders to open the Conference school at the earliest time consistent with wise planning. At the first meeting of the Board it was decided, therefore, to erect a building, and to complete enough of it to make possible the opening of the school with the beginning of the collegiate year of 1891.

Two things were kept in view to reach a decision concerning the type of building to be erected; first, the growing needs of the educational interests of the North Dakota Conference, and second, the nature and amount of the gifts of the people of Wahpeton and other donors. In line with these two points, it was decided to erect a building to cost about $30,000. It was expected that the Conference would duplicate the gifts already announced from Wahpeton and its vicinity and thus provide for furnishings, laboratory and other initial costs involved in the opening of the school.

Following a complete survey of the total situation, the Board decided unanimously that a president should be elected, and charged with the responsibility of executive decisions requiring the attention of one giving all his time to the work. In the nature of the case, no Trustee could give all his time to the work. All the members of the Board were business or professional men, and could devote but limited portions of their time to school affairs. The Presidency was offered, after several names had been under discussion, to the Reverend J. N. Fradenburgh, D.D., Ph.D., of Warren Pennsylvania, at a salary of $2,000 per year commencing on July first 1891. Dr. Fradenburgh accepted the offered position, and thus became the first President of Red River Valley University. A second meeting of the Board was held on April 15th, 1891, when it was decided to employ an architect, not only to furnish plans and specifications, but also to have general supervision of the work or
erection. Mr. H. J. Coxhead of St. Paul was employed to carry forward to completion the enterprise as outlined by the Board. Within a few weeks plans for the foundation were ready. After approval by the Board, a contract was let to Mr. Ludwig of St. Paul for the sum of $4,525. The corner stone was laid on June 4th, 1891. Bishop Fitzgerald, President-Elect Fradenburgh, members of the Board of Trustees, citizens from Wahpeton and vicinity, and a number of ministers and laymen from more distant cities and towns were present. The work of constructing the foundation went forward rapidly, and when completed, was unanimously accepted by the Board of Trustees. With assurances that construction work would be far enough along to make possible the opening of the school in October of that year, the Trustees decided on that date for the opening.

When plans for the completed building were submitted by Mr. Coxhead it became evident that the cost would be an estimated $10,000 more than the original resolutions authorized. After long deliberation, as Mr. White phrases it, it was decided to follow the plans and specifications as presented by the architect. A contract was let to the firm of Barnett and Record of Minneapolis for the sum of $36,000. According to the terms of the contract such parts of the building were to be constructed and furnished as would make possible the opening of the University in October. The whole structure was to be completed in the future as funds made the progress of the work possible. This plan involved the erection of all walls, the enclosing of the entire building, the construction of its permanent roof, and was carried out at a cost of $23,000. A brief description of the building itself follows.

As erected it was one hundred and ten feet long and eighty seven feet wide, and five stories in height, including the basement. The completed structure was planned to contain a large chapel, space for a Commercial Department, a dining room, living rooms for six faculty members, eight recitation rooms, two society halls, the President's quarters and offices, one parlor, one room suitable for a library, laboratories, one reading room, dormitories for forty students, and basement rooms for various purposes. The total outlay, in moneys already paid
at the time the report to which reference is now being made, and in careful
estimates would amount to $56,460. The items in this total are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Real estate</td>
<td>$4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation of the Building</td>
<td>$4,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superstructure of building</td>
<td>$36,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbing</td>
<td>$1,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sewer and water</td>
<td>$1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furring complete</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furnace and heating</td>
<td>$3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory and apparatus</td>
<td>$2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architects fees</td>
<td>$560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation of grounds, sidewalks, trees, etc.</td>
<td>$500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At the time Mr. White made his report to the Conference, the Board of
Trustees had paid out $21,141. Mr. White also reported that a financial agent
temporarily employed had raised $4,000 and estimated that by January first of
1892 this amount could be increased by $6,000. The Board petitioned the Confer­
ence to duplicate the gifts of the citizens of Wahpeton, and other friends,
among whom Mr. John Q. Adams was named and to request the Bishop to appoint a
permanent financial agent to represent the interests of the University through­
out the state.

The regular Conference Committee on Education, in reporting to this
session of the Conference, declared that the Committee was deeply impressed by
the conviction that the founding and maintaining of a University would prove
to be of great importance to Methodism in the state of North Dakota. To halt
or falter after the achievements already made would be both dishonorable and
disastrous. The Committee gratefully recognized the generous aid given by the
people of Wahpeton and of Mr. J. Q. Adams, and assured these donors that it
was the purpose of the Conference to build a University that would bring honor
to the city of its location and to the Conference to build a University that
would support it. Speaking for the whole Conference, the Committee on Education gave President J. N. Fradenburgh Ph. D., D.D. a most hearty welcome, and assured him that the pastors of the churches would covenant together to make special efforts to enlist the support of both ministry and laity in behalf of the University. Attention was also called to the fact that the University had been approved by the Board of Bishops and also by the Board of Education and placed on the list of beneficiary institutions to receive its relative portion of the funds of that Board. This policy was authorized to become effective with the opening of the University.

Hindering causes, beyond the control of the Board of Trustees, made it impossible to open the University as had been planned, in October 1891. This delay was regrettable, but the Committee on Education supported the decision of the Board to delay the opening for one year. The Articles of Incorporation, already approved and filed with the Secretary of State for the State of North Dakota, provided for the election of eight members of the Board of Trustees, by the Conference then in session, to enter upon the duties of the office at the annual meeting of the Board in the following June. This the Conference proceeded to do, and elected the following, ministers and laymen: President-Elect J. N. Fradenburgh, Reverend G. H. VanVliet, Reverend E. B. Stull, Reverend T. H. Sheckler, Mr. J. D. Wallace, Mr. P. J. McCumber, Mr. N. G. Larimore, Mr. W. H. White. This brings us to the close of the Conference session of 1891. Before we can take up the thread of our story telling of the opening of the University in the autumn of 1892, we must record the fact of Dr. Fradenburgh's resignation as President. For this we turn to the Secretary's report of the second Annual meeting of the Board of Trustees on June 15th, 1892.

At an evening session of the Board the Secretary read a long letter from Dr. Fradenburgh tendering his resignation to take effect as soon as his successor was elected. In his letter he expressed his belief that the educational work to the Conference just about to begin could be carried forward to successful achievements. But changes in his affairs made it quite
impossible for him to continue. A committee was appointed to draft suitable resolutions of appreciation and regret. This committee expressed high appreciation of Dr. Fradenburgh's moral worth, of his unquestionable Christian character, of his outstanding abilities, of his intellectual attainments, of his splendid scholarship, and thanked him for gifts of money and books and cabinet specimens valued at many hundreds of dollars. His resignation was accepted, but with very great and very sincere regrets. The President's resignation added to the burdens of the Board in its preparations to open the University in the following October. But the Board went forward with its announced plans, which must now include search for and election of a new president.

The Board adjourned its June 15th meeting to meet at 10 o'clock on July 6th to face the problem of selecting a new president as well as matters of pressing importance in connection with the opening of the University in the autumn. But before the Board could confront the problem involved in the resignation of President Fradenburgh, it had to act on another resignation, that of Mr. W. H. White, from membership on and the Chairmanship of the Board of Trustees. Mr. White had written a long letter from St. Augustine, Florida, where he was, presumably for health reasons, tendering his resignation. After much discussion, the Board concluded that it could not see its way clear to release Mr. White. On motion of the Hon. P. J. McCumber the Secretary was instructed to communicate with Mr. White, telling him of its decision and urging him to continue. Hoping that he could do so, the Board re-elected him as its Chairman. To complete this item, it may now be said that at a later meeting of the Board another letter from Mr. White was read in which he asked that his resignation be considered as final. The Board so considered it and proceeded to elect a new Chairman. An informal ballot was taken and the majority was in favor of the Reverend E. B. Stull, pastor in Valley City. The Board then proceeded to take a formal ballot and again Mr. Stull had a clear majority and was declared elected. The Board was now ready to face the problem of the vacant presidency of the faculty. Four names were presented and recommendations and endorsements of each were discussed. The
following are the names submitted:

Reverend Dr. J. M. Driver of Fort Wayne, Indiana
Reverend Dr. Martin Van Buren Knox of Manchester, New Hampshire
Professor Robert Rocheleau of Moorhead, Minnesota
Reverend Dr. Eugene May, Pastor in Fargo

On motion of Reverend Thomas H. Scheckler the presidency was offered to Dr. May, and the Secretary was instructed to communicate with him to ask for his acceptance or refusal at the earliest possible moment. This meant, naturally, that a president could not be elected at this meeting of the Board. Reverend J. A. Hovis, Pastor of the church in Devils Lake was elected Vice President and Professor of such subjects as the Executive Committee might temporarily order with the understanding that later he was to teach courses in Latin and Greek only. On motion of the Hon. P. J. McCumber it was ordered that immediately upon the election of a new President and acceptance by him, the Executive Committee, in consultation with him, take all necessary steps preparatory to the opening of the University in October. It may not be out of place to mention in the body of this history three conspicuous money gifts as indicating the interests of men, widely scattered as to residences, and of differing church loyalties, in the enterprise of establishing an institution of higher learning within the jurisdiction of the North Dakota Conference of the Methodist Church. There is first of all the initial gift of $10,000 by Mr. John Q. Adams, of Wahpeton and Chicago. Then follows a gift of $500 from Mr. J. J. Hill, President of the Great Northern Railway. This may have laid the foundation for later financial support on Mr. Hill's part amounting to many thousands of dollars. One other gift of $500 should be named. It was made by Mr. Samuel Smith of Freeport, Long Island. The Board met again on the 28th of July. At this meeting a letter was received from the Reverend Mr. Hovis accepting his election as Vice President and Professor. A letter was also received from the Reverend Dr. May declining the Board's offer to him of the presidency. The Board adjourned until the afternoon when the
Reverend J. H. Keeley presented telegraphic information from Dr. M. V. B. Knox, and endorsements of him from Bishop Merrill and others. It was understood that Dr. Knox would accept a call to the presidency at a salary of $1500 per year. An informal ballot was taken. There were seven members of the Board present and there were seven ballots cast for Dr. Knox. On motion the informal ballot was made formal and Dr. Knox was declared elected. On motion all members of the faculty other than Vice President Hovis were to be selected by the Executive Committee in consultation with President-Elect Knox. The next meeting of the Board was held in Devils Lake on the 15th of October, during the session of the Annual Conference of 1892. President-Elect Knox was present, was introduced to the Conference and was given a most cordial welcome. The new President was born in New York in 1841 and entered the ministry of the Methodist Church in the Vermont Conference in 1870. He later became a member of the New Hampshire Conference, from which he transferred to the North Dakota Conference, with his election to the Presidency of the University in 1892.

The University was formally opened on the 5th of October, 1892, with the following named persons constituting its first Faculty: Rev. M. V. B. Knox, Ph.D., D.D., President and Professor of History and Natural Sciences; Rev. J. A. Hovis, M.A., Vice President and Professor of Ancient Languages; Miss Sarah E. Mason, Preceptress and Professor of Mathematics; Mrs. Janette Hill Knox, M.A., Professor of English Language and Literature; Miss Ottie S. Parsons, Teacher of Music, and Mr. W. A. Pepoon, M.S., Teacher of Art. The first catalogue, issued later in the year, lists the names of eighty five students, coming from North Dakota, Minnesota, Ontario, New Hampshire, South Dakota and New Jersey. The curriculum was extensive and included courses in the following major fields: Mathematics, Physics, Physiology, Physical Geography, English, Latin, Greek, German, French, Zoology, Botany, Anthropology, Civics, General History, Constitutional Government, Entomology, Astronomy, Philosophy, Psychology, Philosophy of History, History of Education, English Bible, Economics, Christian
Evidences, Literature of France, Literature of Germany, Literature of America, Literature of England. This is by no means a complete list, but it will give the reader some idea of the scope of the work offered by the young institution. A detailed report submitted to the Conference of 1892 lists fifty-five churches making contributions to the University, twenty-eight of these ranging from $105 to $371 each. Contributions were received from the Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Jersey, New York East, and Minnesota Conferences. Individuals in St. Paul and Freeport Long Island made contributions of more than $1600. The total amount pledged that year from these sources was nearly $8,000. Added to the pledges from Wahpeton this made a grand total that year of a little more than $33,000. In its official report to the Conference the Committee on Education gave its unqualified endorsement to the work so favorably begun, and on behalf of the Conference welcomed Dr. M. V. B. Knox as an educated Christian gentleman worthy of the most hearty support and co-operation. Among the new names to appear for the first time as a trustee of the University is that of Mr. Frank Lynch. This name is so woven into the history of Wesley College and the mother institution, the Red River Valley University, that no record is complete without reference to it again and again. Without his benefactions, Wesley College could never have become what it is today.

The University continued under the presidency of Dr. Knox until June 22nd, 1899, when at a special meeting of the Board of Trustees he resigned from his position as President and Professor of History and Science and Mrs. Knox resigned from her position as Professor of English, French and German. They were both highly qualified as teachers in their fields. Dr. Knox had advanced degrees in arts, science, theology and history, while Mrs. Knox had advanced degrees in arts, literature and languages, including both the master of arts and the doctor of philosophy degrees. In accepting their resignations the Board unanimously expressed appreciation of their years of faithful and effective service and hoped for them continued success in whatever field they might choose to enter.
During Dr. Knox's Presidency, about 800 different students enrolled in all departments of the school. Of the students of college rank a fair percentage entered the ministry of the Methodist Church, one of whom is the present writer. During the years from 1892 to 1899 the references in the Conferences reports of Education as well as those contained in the annual reports of the Superintendents of the Fargo District, within whose bounds the University was then located, are all favorable both to the administration of Dr. Knox, and hopeful in their looks into the future. I quote but one as an example of many. It is taken from the Annual Report of the Reverend Henry Witham, of the Fargo District for 1898:

"The Red River Valley University, our Conference Educational Institution located at Wahpeton, is within the bounds of the Fargo District. Here splendid work is being done. The enrollment now is the largest in the history of the institution, and this year for the first time we have a graduating class. More and more ought the pocketbooks of North Dakota Methodists be emptied into the coffers of the Red River Valley University."

As indicated in the preceding paragraph, Dr. Knox's resignation was accepted at the meeting of the Board in June. At this same meeting Professor R. M. Black was elected Vice President. Professor Black had come from Ohio a few years previously to be Professor of Greek and Higher Mathematics. He resigned in 1897 to accept a position with the public schools of Hamilton, North Dakota, and is now recalled to the University to become its Vice President. The Board of Education of Hamilton very generously released him from the contract which he had already signed, and he returned to Wahpeton to begin his new duties with the opening of the University year. In the meantime the Board of Trustees under the leadership of its newly elected Chairman, Rev. W. H. Vance, pastor of the Fargo Church, began its search for a new President. The choice fell on a rather young and comparatively unknown Methodist minister of the Minnesota Conference, Edward Peter Robertson, by name. With the coming of this man a new era began in the history of Red River Valley University. This era naturally falls into two main divisions, one connected with the Institution while still located in
Wahpeton, and known as Red River Valley University; and the other connected with Wesley College, located in Grand Forks and affiliated with the University of North Dakota. To these eras we now turn to trace a story, which in some of its particulars is unique in American educational annals.
CHAPTER FOUR
"I THINK WE MUST GO AHEAD"

The quotation at the head of this chapter might well be engraved over the entrance to every Hall now standing on the campus of Wesley College, and over the entrance to every Hall to be erected in years to come. To justify this statement, it must be placed in its historic frame. Here it is.

Edward Peter Robertson was elected President of Red River Valley University on October 4th, 1899. He met with the Board of Trustees for the first time some months later. Mr. Frank Lynch was then a member of the Board, but not its Chairman. President Robertson and Mr. Lynch travelled together from Casselton to the meeting in Fargo. The subject of their conversation was the University. Mr. Lynch said he had never favored its location in Wahpeton. Its location there was against his best business judgment in the beginning and continued so to be. President Robertson replied to the effect that if that were his judgment now, and if that were in agreement with the best judgment of other leading laymen of the Conference, then a vote to close the College would be an intelligent action to take at the meeting of the Board to which they were journeying. Mr. Robertson continued the conversation saying that he was still a member of the Minnesota Conference, and because of the recent death of the Presiding Elder of the Mankato District, there should be no difficulty in giving him an adequate appointment. He would wire the Bishop that afternoon. Still holding the lead in the conversation, he offered the suggestion that perhaps he had come to North Dakota to help men like Mr. Lynch close the college in some orderly way, disposing of the property and settling all just claims. At this point Mr. Lynch interrupted with a statement that he thought they should not do that. Then the young President, still in his thirties, replied, "Well then, let us vote to go ahead. I am perfectly free and willing to go either way". Then came the now historic sentence from Mr. Lynch, here used as
a title for this chapter. Those who have known President Robertson intimately through the years will not be surprised to read his own word in reply to Mr. Lynch: "Do not decide to go ahead without taking measure of what it will mean to you financially. The measure of the past estimate is altogether too small. If you vote to go ahead it will require you and other men like you to give in sums of $5,000 and $25,000".

At the meeting of the Board that afternoon in Fargo, the first meeting of the new President with his Board, Mr. Lynch, with the morning's conversation ringing in his ears, did vote to go ahead, and did help to plan for continuing, enlarging promoting and sustaining the institution, located as it was, against his best business judgment. As our story develops we shall see that Mr. Lynch never changed his judgment on this matter of the location of the College, and that when the proposition to relocate the College in Grand Forks came up for discussion and decision, it was his judgment this time that tilted the balance in favor of the action taken.

The preceding chapter closed with favorable resolutions and references to the progress of the University under the presidency of Dr. Knox. He had been engaged for several years on a scholarly history of the religious life of the Anglo Saxon peoples. He not only needed complete command of his time, but he also needed access to the great libraries of universities and other institutions of New England. It seemed wise to all concerned that he should surrender his leadership of the institution in Wahpeton, so that he might devote all his time to his writing. At a special meeting of the Board of Trustees held in Lisbon, on June 22nd, 1899, Dr. Knox presented his resignation and also that of Mrs. Knox as Professor of Languages. After full discussion, the Trustees took the following action:

"Moved by the Reverend W. H. Vance that we accept the resignations of Dr. and Mrs. M. V. B. Knox, as President and Vice-President of the faculty of Red River Valley University and that in doing so we express to them our appreciation of the many years of faithful and effective service performed, and wish for them the greatest success in whatever field they may choose".
At this meeting of the Board Professor R. M. Black was elected Vice-President with the understanding that he would become the Acting-President until a new president was elected. Another item of historic interest in connection with this meeting was the Board's approval of a Report of a Special Committee on Education appointed by the Annual Conference at its preceding session. A part of this Report recommended that steps should be taken to institute action providing for changes in the Articles of Incorporation to permit the institution to change its name from Red River Valley University to that of a school of college grade and limitations. As far as official records show this matter was never carried forward to its final stages. The Board meeting to which reference is just made was in June 1899. Following this meeting steps were taken to look for a new president. Another meeting of the Board was held in Fargo less than two months later when progress was reported in the presidential quest. That quest was achieved on October 4th, 1899 with the election of Edward Peter Robertson of the Minnesota Conference. Those who came to know Dr. Robertson in later years learned that a strain of mysticism influenced many of his most important decisions. He was in the habit of looking for what he regarded as Providential significances mediated to him through ordinary, daily events. He accepted his call, in October 1899 to come to North Dakota in the light of this strain of mysticism. His own words are so beautiful and are so typical of the man whom many knew and loved through the years that they should be made a part of this record.

"I was called to the Presidency of the church college at Wahpeton in October 1899, from Rochester, Minnesota, where I had resided eight years, two as pastor and six years as district-superintendent.

I admit that I have long been a bit of a mystic and have looked for Providential significance of casual incidents. In the year 1898-99 I took a vacation of several weeks to visit and coach at several universities. My first visit was to the University of Wisconsin after corresponding with Richard T. Ely, eminent in political science. I had read his volume on "The Social Aspects of Christianity" and wanted the enriching experience of a personal visit. I received a cordial invitation to his home and lecture room. He was very gracious to me, a stranger, with no claim upon him, and gave me several hours in visiting as we walked about the campus. In front of the main building Dr. Ely stopped, gestured with his cain, and said: "There is something wrong here. This is the largest aggregation of young citizens in the
state, and the Church is absent. It is a great mistake for both State and Church. The students are at the age when they are taking their attitude toward life-responsibility, and religion should be included as a principal factor in the reckoning.

"I saw in a flash the significance of this remark and asked him what plan he could suggest. He replied: "I do not know; but every denomination should mother its own young people while they are at the University"--------Dr. Ely had planted in suggestion the germ of affiliation.

"A year and a half after my talk with Dr. Ely at Madison, I received the surprise call to come to North Dakota to be President of Red River Valley University at Wahpeton, founded as a typical full curriculum church college with provision in its Articles of Incorporation for possible university scope of professional education, according to the historic type. But the important state higher schools had been located in the eastern third of the state, had been richly endowed by grants of public lands, and were operating under well selected faculties confident of the future of the state and of its colleges assured of tax support.

"I was thirty nine years of age and confident of the Providential significance of my call to North Dakota. Every difficulty was to me but a challenge. I had not taken care to inquire into financial or educational prospects of the young church college. I remember distinctly that I thought of this when the call reached me at the session of the Minnesota Conference in Northfield on the Sunday morning. I answered it to myself by simply stating, in thought, "The future educational work of the Methodist Church in North Dakota must grow out of the beginning, and I might as well accept the call as to leave it to another. It is my call". So I said that I would accept".

After this brief interruption in the narrative, for the purpose of inserting in President Robertson's own words his call and interpretation of it, let us return to the narrative itself. When he visited the college for the first time, on October 10th, 1899, the new President found a small student body, a choice young faculty, a large building only partly finished, without furnace heat or adequate plumbing, an institutional debt of $23,000, $6,000 of which was due on unpaid salary accounts--accounts held by faculty members of that date, and by some who had previously resigned, including President and Mrs. Knox. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held in Fargo early that winter, the President's recommendations that these salary accounts be regarded as prior-claim obligations, were unanimously approved. The next step taken at the same meeting of the Board was to authorize the expenditure of $5,000 for a heating plant and for
work toward the completion of the building, provided the President could secure
the $5,000 and a safe margin above that amount. About the time actual solicitation-
ations began, the whole eastern third of the state suffered a drouth so severe
that farm income reached a low of almost zero. But in agreement with what the
young President regarded as a Call With Providential Significances, the marked
way ran straight ahead. And it did run out like a ribbon of light from his
feet. Within thirty days sufficient funds were in hand or in honorable pledges
to justify the letting of contracts. But solicitations for further funds did not
cease. It was not long until the amount of cash and good pledges reached the
encouraging sum of $15,000. The college advanced in confidence among its friends
and in the number of students enrolling in its courses. It will not be forgotten
that on the way to a meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Lynch said to President Robertson: "I think we must go ahead". He not only said it; he also meant
it. Among the first subscriptions to the $5,000 fund was one from him covering
one tenth of the whole amount. As progress was made, and as new confidences and
new friends arose, Mr. Lynch, a bit later, agreed to pay the last $10,000 on a
$50,000 campaign. The campaign was successful and he gladly paid the amount of
his promised word. In the meantime a $10,000 bequest had come to the college
from the estate of the late W. P. Adams. Mr. Adams had been the largest contrib-
utor among the original supporters in favor of founding the institution in
Wahpeton.

The years came and went until the college year of 1904-5 was reached. The
dark shadows — the dark, dark, shadows— had begun to drift away. R.R.V.U., as
it had begun to be called with affection and pride, had been redeemed from what,
in 1899, had seemed like inevitable bankruptcy; its standing, not in Wahpeton
alone, but in the whole state, had been advanced; its property had been improved
so as to match any college building in the state, and to be superior to many;
student enrollement, especially of college rank, had been increased; alumni
were entering some of the leading Universities of the nation, and were holding
their own with alumni from leading colleges everywhere in advance graduate studies. While these and other achievements were not due entirely to the leadership of President Robertson, the realistic fact, present in all minds familiar with the situation, was that they were taking place during his administration and were, therefore, looked upon as his accomplishments. This very success became a source of worry in his own mind, and ultimately led to one of the dreadful battles of his entire educational experience. To that battle and its causes we must now give some attention.

No one knew more definitely than did President Robertson himself that the success of the $50,000 campaign, following the smaller operations for funds with which to complete and furnish the college building in Wahpeton, aroused expectations far beyond the possibilities of ultimate educational achievements. Some of the underlying reasons for this state of affairs must now be put down, if people of this generation are to understand the struggles through which the leaders of Red River Valley University were passing, and chief among these leaders was the President himself. Among these underlying reasons must be placed the amazing development of tax-supported institutions of higher learning in the United States, in its initial stages about sixty-five or seventy years ago. From the beginnings of institutions such as Harvard and Yale, founded to guarantee an educated ministry, church supported colleges were accepted in the United States as the standard, and in some cases as the only, institutions of higher learning. In all of these colleges, religion held important, or central places in their curricula. Practically every college, from Harvard and Yale downward, was appraised by the public in terms of its academic training of religious leaders. As the public school system evolved so as to include institutions of college rank, contentions arose among leaders of church-supported and tax-supported policies. In the nature of the case, many of those who opposed tax-supported policies, did so on the grounds that there could be no religious curriculum provisions in such institutions, nor could they train religious leaders. This policy was in no way related to opposition to religion
on the part of educational leaders supporting tax-financed colleges. It was determined by the constitutional separation of State and Church. But because parents with sons and daughters of college age and preparation were members of the State, in many cases, members of the Church, desiring that religion have its rightful place in the educational training of their children, conflicts arose as to the selection of college Alma Maters. An intelligent and wide reading of the educational history of this whole movement clearly shows that the conflicts to which reference is just made, were well above the horizon about the turn of the century. Far-visioned educational leaders were looking for ways to keep unbroken the traditions of historic church-supported colleges with their curricula of religious instruction on academic levels, and at the same time to exercise their unquestioned rights as citizens to approve tax-supported colleges and universities and to enroll their children in them for work leading to all generally recognized degrees. As far as the reading of the present writer extends in this field, he has no knowledge of any responsible educational leader advocating the claim that tax-supported institutions of higher learning were founded in opposition to the teaching of courses in the cultural field of religion for credit leading to academic degrees. But because of constitutional limitations, these institutions could not include curriculum courses in religion, and to this extent they were incomplete. This lack of completeness seemed to call for some new policy which would make it possible for students so desiring to carry on work in the field of religion without loss of academic time or standing. An early attempt related to this idea was that of the resident Bishop of the Episcopal Church at the seat of the University of Michigan. Other church educational leaders, including some related to the Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, and other church bodies, adopted or adapted the plan that the Episcopal Church at the University of Michigan was operating. But none of these plans provided for academic credits for courses studied in the field of religion, and approved by the neighboring university, no matter how friendly.
its faculty and administration might be. North Dakota Methodism continued the historic tradition in the founding of its institution of higher learning. When young Edward Peter Robertson accepted, what he regarded as a distinct call, it was to the leadership of a traditional type of church related college. That was in 1899, when the policy of establishing and endowing with public moneys institutions of college and university rank, was sweeping the country. But as we have already seen, a year and a half before this, Professor Richard T. Ely of the University of Wisconsin had planted in his mind the seed of affiliation between a state university and a church college. This seed lay more or less dormant for a period of years, but it was a living seed, planted in good ground, and in due time brought forth its harvest. During the winter of 1899 and 1900 the North Dakota state educational meeting was held in Grand Forks, as the guest of the University. President Webster Merrifield was unmarried in those days and lived in bachelor quarters in one of the Halls. He entertained all the Presidents of the colleges of the state. Looking directly across the dinner table at President Robertson, he said: "This is where you should be with your college. This is where you belong". In conversation with Dr. Merrifield that evening President Robertson learned that he had just received a letter from Professor Ely presenting the idea of some sort of affiliation between the state and the church school. President Merrifield carried the conversation on a bit further and declared that he agreed with Dr. Ely that some means should be found so that courses in religion might be taught for university credit. Thus the seed planted by Professor Ely is watered. Along in these years, President Robertson had learned that the North Dakota State Constitutional Convention meeting in July 1889 had made provision for the founding of an "Academy of Science", to be located in Wahpeton, and had set aside forty thousand acres of public lands as an initial endowment. The Academy was not opened, however, until some time after Dr. Robertson had become president of Red River Valley University. At the request of leading citizens of Wahpeton, he was commissioned to go to Bismarck
and assist in the legislative action determining the type and range of courses to be taught. The act as passed by the legislature limited instruction to such sciences as are commonly taught in a standard college. It was expected that courses of an arts nature might be taught by any church college, including Red River Valley University, that might be located near the Academy. This plan did not fully materialize, but it did assist in working out the final arrangements for the affiliation of Wesley College with the University of North Dakota. That story must now claim our attention.
"This is where you belong"

As already indicated, the sentence at the head of this chapter was first uttered by President Webster Merrifield of the University of North Dakota during the progress of a dinner in Davis Hall in the winter of 1899. The occasion was a meeting of the State Educational Association. The dinner guests were the presidents of the various colleges of the state. The host was President Merrifield himself. The President to whom the sentence was addressed was Edward P. Robertson of Red River Valley University. The mystic in him flashed the suggestion that this sentence uttered in good faith, and among dinner guests at his own table, might have Providential significance because it came from the official head of a state university whose Board of Administration would be expected to follow his leadership in matters of academic character. Following the lead of his own mystic intuitions, President Robertson, that very evening, suggested to President Merrifield that he embody his ideas in an address to be given at the forth-coming session of the North Dakota Conference of the Methodist Church to be held in the city of Grand Forks. This Dr. Merrifield readily agreed to do. From time to time in the interval between the Davis Hall dinner and the Conference session the two Presidents discussed the nature and content of the proposed address. The President of a State University was to extend an official invitation to a Church College to move from the location of its establishment, to fundamentally alter its curriculum by limiting its range without changing its Articles of Incorporation, except in some minor particulars, to become affiliated with the state institution and to offer courses in the field of religion for academic credits recognized by the University. As far as both President Merrifield and President Robertson knew, no such address had ever been delivered in the United States. Something wholly new in the educational history of this country was in the making. It was of fundamental importance that both the form and the content of the address should be thought out with
very great care.

It is known that the first person of prominence in public life in this country to advocate the idea of an affiliation between a state institution of high learning and a church supported institution of religious culture, was Thomas Jefferson. There is extant a letter written by him and dated November 2, 1822, in which he not only advocated but urged the establishment of courses in religion in connection with the University of Virginia. Jefferson saw that an institution of higher learning, professing to give instruction in all useful sciences but with no provision for courses in the field of religion, was to that extent deficient. Whether or not this position of Jefferson was known to either President Merrifield of the University of North Dakota, or to President Robertson of Red River Valley University, is not clear from the records. But what is clear is that as far as either of them knew, not State University President, in this country had ever officially invited a church institution, through its official ecclesiastical body, to become affiliated with such a university. The address, herewith reproduced, was published in the Grand Forks Herald at a time subsequent to its delivery before the North Dakota Conference of the Methodist Church in the spring of 1900. President Merrifield was officially invited to appear before the Conference, at a regular session with the Presiding Bishop in the chair. The address is of such historic significance because it was the first official step in negotiations leading to the actual affiliation of Red River Valley University with the University of North Dakota, that it here made a part of this history of Wesley College.

ADDRESS OF PRESIDENT WEBSTER MERRIFIELD BEFORE THE SESSION OF THE NORTH DAKOTA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST CHURCH IN GRAND FORKS IN APRIL, 1900.

Bishop McCabe, Ladies and Gentlemen:
As I stand before you this evening my mind goes back to a picturesque valley among the foothills of the Green Mountains in southern Vermont. No picture in memory’s chamber stands out brighter or more distinct than the beautiful Sunday mornings of a new England summer in the long ago, when hand in hand with my mother and a younger sister, I used to walk from our home to the little Methodist
Church in the village near by. The glorious New England hills rising abruptly on either side, the music of our mountain stream as it dashed past on its way to the broad Connecticut, the spire of our little church pointing heavenward among the over-arching elms, the mellow peal of the church bell as it rang out, echoing and reechoing among the hills - the quiet beauty of those New England Sabbath mornings - all these things are as distinctly impressed upon my mind, as if the occurrences of yesterday, instead of nearly forty years ago. The mother and sister have long since passed from that earthly home among the hills, beautiful as it was, to a transcendentally more beautiful home, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Fortune has taken me far from the picturesque valley I have described. Time and care and disappointment have left their traces in silvered locks and furrowed brow, but that little Methodist Church among the hills is, and always will remain for me one of the hallowed spots of the earth. Therefore to the church of my adoption, the Methodist Church, in which I was reared and in whose faith my mother and sister lived and died, has always seemed to me the most like home - accordingly when President Robertson asked me a few days ago to be present tonight and speak briefly upon the state's duty in the matter of education and upon the educational outlook in this state, I realized at once that it would give me great pleasure to comply with his request. There is, possibly, a certain fitness in my speaking to you upon this theme. I believe I am the oldest worker in point of continual service in the educational field in this state, I am sure I am the oldest in the field of higher education. It is my privilege therefore, as it certainly is my very great pleasure, in behalf of the teaching fraternity of this state, to extend to President Robertson most cordial welcome to our ranks.

His stay among us has been short, but it has been long enough to make us feel that he is the sort of man we are glad to welcome. His general attitude toward educational matters, and his eminent sagacity and reasonableness in all matters, as evidenced at the recent meeting of our State Educational Association, were remarked and commended by all who met him and heard him speak on that occasion. I need not tell you that the ability to work harmoniously with one's colleagues and in some sense, one's rivals in the educational field is most valuable, and I may say an indispensable quality in a successful college president -- and this quality President Robertson seems to me to possess in an eminent degree. I feel that the Methodist Church of North Dakota has made no mistake in calling President Robertson to preside over its officially recognized institution of learning. So much in passing. A word now as to the first part of the subject which has been assigned to me - the duty of North Dakota in the matter of education.

I believe that sociologists argue that the chief function of education from the point of view of the state is to create among its subjects or citizens a strong social consciousness or consciousness like mindedness; a state being strong or weak from the point of view of sociology, according as the social consciousness is strong or weak among its members. Precisely in the degree that the people of a community possess this consciousness will they work together for the building of the community. A people devoid of conscious like mindedness can never have common ideas, and without these, can never work together harmoniously for the accomplishment of any
purpose. If this be an important function of education in any commonwealth, it is especially so in a new and heterogeneously populated commonwealth like North Dakota. Of the 182,719 inhabitants of the state in 1890 only 100,775, or slightly more than one half, were native born Americans, and of these only 37,429, or 20 percent were the children of native born parents. Forty six percent of our population were born in other countries, and 80 percent are the children of parents who, were born abroad. The records of the eleventh census show that our foreign born citizens come from 18 different countries, representing in a general way 1) different standards of living, of morals, of citizenship. It is probable that the rapid immigration movement of the past ten years has served only to accentuate and intensify the heterogenous character of our population. If North Dakotas ever to be truly a great state, it must be great no only in the number of its population and the extent and variety of its resources, but great in the loyalty of the people to common ideals of morals, of civic duty and of social well being. How, only, can this loyalty be realized? I think you will all agree that it can be realized only through the education of the rising generation in our church and public schools.

The adult immigrant does not really change his ideals, his habits of life, or his civic devotion. It is not his fault that he does not do so - it is inherently impossible that he should. It is with the rising generation that the state must deal, and mainly through the medium of our public and denominational schools. So far as pertains to the maintenance of a system of popular elementary education, I believe the community fairly realizes the duty, and while I do not underrate the supreme importance of a widely diffused elementary education as one of the great socialising agencies of our time, I believe that the secondary and higher education, even though enjoyed by a relatively small proportion of our citizens, is far more reproductive, materially and socially, than even a widely extended system of primary schools. It is even more important to have highly trained leaders of public thought and action than it is to have a low degree of intelligence widely disseminated.

The value to a commonwealth of a progressive state university like that of Michigan or Minnesota, and of a great church school like Northwestern University in Evanston, is incalculable, although not often, perhaps, susceptible of definite measurement in dollars and cents. With the low plane of political leadership, the low moral tone, and the radically unsound views of public finance and of all monetary matters prevailing in many of our commonwealths, as well as in the nation at large, is there not an urgent call, both for the state and for the great religious denominations to educate, educate, educate, unceasingly through the medium of not only the public high school and university, but also of the Church Academy and college? Each ought to cooperate with the other in such a commendable, such a vital activity. I deny that either class of schools is unnecessary or that the one is doing a worthier or a more exalted work than the other. As a citizen long connected with the state university of our own state, I should scorn to utter a word which might tend to belittle or discourage in the slightest degree the
work of the denominational colleges of my own or other states. As a communicant of one of the great religious denominations, I repudiate the imputation that our state institutions of higher learning are not religious in the best sense of the term, and that their graduates do not go out into life with as genuine a respect for Christianity, and as good a conception of what Christianity is as the students of any other institution whatever.

I hope I shall not seem to violate the proprieties of the occasion if I venture to raise the question in passing, whether in a young and comparatively poor state like ours, the state and the church colleges could not advantageously combine forces without either one's sacrificing in independence and individuality. I believe that a movement looking to a cooperation of the two, like that which has recently been inaugurated at the universities of Toronto, of Michigan and that of West Virginia, has in it the potency and promise of greatly increased results with a greatly diminished aggregate cost. The details as well as the general features of such a union would have to be carefully worked out, but in general outline it would mean, doubtless, the maintenance by the churches of church homes for their students, in the immediate neighborhood of the state university and perhaps the maintenance of certain professorships, such, for instance, as those in New Testament Greek, Biblical Literature and Church History, whose work should receive proper recognition in the way of accepted credits by the University. It will hardly be claimed that there can be a distinctively Methodist mathematics, a Presbyterian political science, or a Baptist biology. Instruction in these and other purely academic subjects may well be left to the state to furnish. I need not remind the members of this body that modern institutions of higher learning are exceedingly costly enterprises. The Universities of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and Illinois have each largely in excess of $1,000,000 invested in buildings and each spends more than a quarter of a million dollars yearly in running expenses. Even our own state university, going as it is and cramped as it is for means spent the past summer over $47,000 in betterments and will spend the coming year over $150,000 in running expenses, nearly $30,000 of this being for instruction.

Were our different church schools to group themselves about the state University their children could receive the same instruction as our own pupils without a penny cost to the several denominations and with only an insignificant increase of cost to the state. It seems to me that one of the weightiest arguments for such a movement is one rarely argued, viz., the distinctly religious influence which the churches would, in a way, bring to bear upon the great body of young people, many of them from homes not conspicuously religious, who are receiving their training in our state universities. It seems to me that no such opportunity for effective home missionary work was ever before presented to our great religious denominations, and the field is one which will be constantly and rapidly widening. The growth of the modern state universities is certainly one of the startling phenomena of our times. During the ten years from 1885 to 1895, according to statistics recently gathered, by President McLean of the Iowa State University, the eight leading colleges of New England, Amherst, Bowdoin, Brown, Dartmouth, Harvard, Yale, all founded as denominational colleges, increased their attendance 20 percent.
The eight representative colleges of the north central states, Beloit, Carleton, Cornell (Iowa), Hillsdale, Iowa College, Lawrence, Ripon and St. James—all denominational colleges,—increased their attendance 14 percent; while the eight representative state universities of California, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin, during the same time, increased their attendance by 320 percent, or from an actual attendance of 4,320 to 13,500. These statistics are cited with no invidious intent but simply to show what a magnificent opportunity our great religious denominations have to impress themselves religiously upon the young men and young women, who, in rapidly increasing numbers are thronging the halls of our great state universities. In our own commonwealth where the different denominations have large sums tied up in costly and elaborate plants, the difficulties of such a union as I have suggested are not to be underrated.

But in a new state like ours, where several of the great denominations have not yet started schools of their own, and where no denomination has, as yet, spent any considerable sum in buildings and equipment, the question I have raised is as least worthy of the most careful consideration. On behalf of the state of North Dakota, I extend to the Methodist Church and to all others in the state, a most cordial invitation to build church homes for their young people about the University and to avail themselves to whatever extent may seem desirable, of the class of instruction, library, laboratories and museums of the university. Should the Methodist Church respond to this invitation it will, I am sure, find at the University no uncongenial atmosphere. We have among us in the faculty and among the student body, active Christian workers and an earnest Christian spirit. The Y.M. and YW.C.A. both maintain active associations at the University, with prayer meetings three evenings during the week and two largely attended meetings on the Sabbath. Our professors and instructors are all Christian men and women and all but one are communicants of Christian Churches. While I am unable to give the exact proportion of our present student body who are church members, it does not, I am confident, differ materially from that prevailing in other state universities......We mean that at the University of North Dakota, the utmost freedom of scientific inquiry and the highest refinement of literary culture shall be coupled with the most positive and earnest Christian faith.

The University tries to impress upon the quickly coming and quickly passing generations of college students the all-important lesson that character is the basis of all human excellence and that no character can be vital or enduring that is not founded upon the teachings of Jesus Christ. Whether the Methodist Church shall decide to avail itself of the invitation I have extended in the best of faith, or to maintain for its university a separate existence in its present location, I hope that both its own school and the state university may ever be true to the high ideals they have hitherto cherished, and that while always ready in the truest and boldest spirit to prove all things, they may with true Christian conservatism hold fast that which is good".
President Merrifield's address was kindly received by Conference members, but no resolutions bearing upon it were introduced, and therefore, no general discussion followed. Not because there was any Conference opposition, but because there was no enthusiastic approval, President Robertson concluded that the only course before him was to spend the next few years in achieving educational standing and financial strength, so that a final decision to remain in Wahpeton or to accept the invitation of President Merrifield could be made with self-respect and confidence. The Academy of Science, authorized by the Constitutional Convention to be established in Wahpeton, had not come into existence. It seemed wise to await its founding before deciding to move from Wahpeton in accord with any plan of affiliation with the University. It might be both possible and wise to work out some plan of academic relations with the School of Science after its establishment. Or if the church school should be moved from Wahpeton, the possibility of selling its building and grounds advantageously to the Academy authorities was to be kept in view. Such were some of the considerations which helped to delay action on President Merrifield's invitation. The merits of the case, however, demanded that no step be taken which would pre-judge or in any way pre-determine a final decision. With this matter always before him as a living option, President Robertson went forward with his work. During a part of this time the writer was pastor of Robert Street Methodist Church in Fargo, and entertained Dr. Robertson many times as he passed through or stopped in the city. And he has recollections of conversations with him on this subject. The writer received the B. A. degree from Red River Valley University at its June commencement in 1900, and as an alumnus was genuinely interested in the success of his Alma Mater. On one occasion in conversation with President Robertson the discussion turned to the plan already in successful operation in the University of Toronto, concerning which both Dr. Robertson and the writer had some knowledge, because of current articles dealing with that now justly famous and highly honored institution.
In that conversation President Robertson said that if he had had knowledge of the Toronto plan, when he was commissioned by the citizens of Wahpeton to go to Bismarck and assist the committee of the Legislature in writing the act and preparing the curriculum of the Academy of Science, he might have so influenced the deliberations and decisions that a modest duplicate of the University of Toronto could have been established. But at that time he had no knowledge of the Toronto plan, nor did he then know that Thomas Jefferson's recommendations for the incorporation of courses in the field of religion into the structure of the University of Virginia were related to the plan of the ancient University of Paris. But this whole matter was never far from the forefront of President Robertson's consciousness as he went forward from one stage of success to another during the years between the North Dakota Annual Conference session of 1900 and the final decision of the Board of Trustees to move the school from Wahpeton to Grand Forks and to affiliate with the University.

During these years President Robertson worked almost beyond the strength and endurance of any man to achieve the measure of success attained. In 1904 a campaign to secure $50,000 was brought to a happy conclusion. Then a campaign of visitations to current graduates of High Schools was inaugurated for the purpose of increasing the number of students of college rank. There was little difficulty in enrolling students of less than high school graduation rank for commercial subjects or college preparatory courses. Without prejudice to this worth-while service rendered by the school, neither the college administration nor its financial supporters could be satisfied with this as the major field of service. President Robertson began to feel, more and more keenly, that it was difficult for him to urge high school graduates to pass the open doors of the state university to come to the church school, smaller in numbers, less adequately equipped, and with a more limited curriculum. He was profoundly convinced that young men studying for the ministry should have educational advantages equal to future laymen in all civic enterprises and professions. As he faced the problem of his own future and that of the
college, he began to feel that the situation he then confronted did not have the compulsion of a Call of Providence. He even thought of his resignation as the next intelligent step to take. He knew that the people of Wahpeton and other friends and supporters of the college through the state would give him a great farewell, and that his achievements would be widely acclaimed. But on the other hand he saw the surprise, the pain, the disappointment of those to whom it would seem that he was forsaking their trust and running away from the success which their confidence in his leadership and their support of enterprise had made possible. It was along these lines that he fought his battle quite along. He came at last to a decision, which he then and later regarded as final, to put the whole question of the future of the college in the hand of the Trustees, and to do it without delay and openly. He neither counseled with any individual member of the Board, nor did he seek to learn either directly or indirectly the possible reaction of any one of them. Without telling the President of the Board why he was doing so, he requested him to call a meeting of the Board to be held in Fargo, a neutral city, for Tuesday, January 10th, 1905. After taking this step, he published an open letter in the leading news paper of Wahpeton, announcing the proposed meeting of the Trustees. In this letter he stated that it was informally understood that the future of Red River Valley University would be discussed under three heads. (1) To remain in Wahpeton; (2) to remove to a more central location in the state and continue the same plan of a full college curriculum; (3) to accept the invitation of the University to remove to a site adjacent to its campus, and modify its schedule of work to conform with the new situation. Immediately after the publication of this open letter, President Merrifield of the University revived his enthusiastic interest of the former years and renewed his invitation, contained in his address to the Annual Conference of 1900. At this stage of announced plans and expectations, the Commercial Club of Grand Forks became interested, as did the congregation of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of Grand Forks, whose pastor, the Reverend A. C. Stevens, invited
President Robertson to occupy his pulpit on Sunday morning the eighth of January. Dr. Robertson was the guest of the Commercial Club, whose President had reserved for him one of the finest rooms with private bath in the Dacotah Hotel. In its edition of that Sunday morning, the Grand Forks Herald republished the Conference address of President Merrifield, delivered in the presence of Bishop Charles C. McCabe and members of the Conference nearly five years earlier. It was given a most conspicuous place in the paper with a large bold-faced type headline reading: A CORDIAL INVITATION TO R.R.V. UNIVERSITY. While Dr. Robertson had nothing to do with the Herald’s publicity, the mystic in him flashed again, as it had flashed on more than one occasion in earlier years. The congregation of First Church that winter morning filled the pews to capacity and lined about the walls of the sanctuary. As far as known there is no written manuscript or record of President Robertson’s address. Many years later in conversation the writer, he affirmed that he spoke more or less extemporaneously and in general terms. He was careful, as he recalled, to avoid all volunteer commitments before action could be taken by the Board of Trustees, scheduled to meet in Fargo on the Tuesday following the church service. President Merrifield was no longer a bachelor, and he and Mrs. Merrifield invited Dr. Robertson to have luncheon with them on Monday. He slept but little that Sunday night. He occupied a position, never before occupied, as far as he knew, by any church college president. To go forward meant to venture beyond all marked trails. There were no signs with legends on them for him to read. No one had gone this way before. Earlier correspondence with educational leaders in his own church had warned him not to go forward. At least one, then the President of a standard church college, and later the official spokesman for all the educational institutions of college or university rank within his church, and later still a bishop in that church, not only warned him against going forward, but pointed out many reasons why, as he thought, such a venture would fail. So, that winter night of the eighth of January, 1905, in his room in the Dakota Hotel, he outlined a plan to be made the subject of conversation between
himself and President Merrifield the next day during the luncheon hour. During those years of the first decade of this century, there was a good deal of contention in many of the states between defenders of traditional church colleges and advocates of state universities then beginning to contend for educational leadership. In church conferences or assemblies, synods or councils, no voice was ever raised urging church people to take citizenship interest in state universities looked upon as having come into existence to contend with, if not to replace, church colleges, so long held in reverence by both clergy and laity. With knowledge of this contention ever present in his mind, Dr. Robertson was convinced that no forward steps should be taken until all interests were protected. If, as he thought, church leaders in educational matters, tried to hinder the growth of state universities because of lack of faith in them, that would be an unfailling source of irritation. If on the other hand, leaders of education in religion gave to the state what rightfully belonged to the educational mission of the churches, it would be a betrayal of a part of the ordained ministry of the church. There must be some way to go forward without interfering with the interests and rights of either church or state. Because religion had its place in the academic structures of all the great historic colleges and universities there could be no reasonable question concerning its right to academic recognition by state universities. And because all state universities recognized church colleges of authorized standing as accredited colleges, it would be proper for the University of North Dakota to grant credits for work done in an accredited college with the curriculum limited to courses in the field of religion. And because President Merrifield and President Robertson were proposing to go ahead of the governing bodies of both institutions, it seemed wise to the latter that they should make a joint study, and if possible, a joint agreement a matter of formal record, so as to guide public discussion, sure which was to follow. In his room in the Dakotah Hotel that winter night, President Robertson formulated some statements on which, as he thought, they
could agree. Upon his arrival at President Merrifield's residence for luncheon he suggested to Dr. Merrifield what he had done. He phoned at once to his secretary to come to his residence office after luncheon. As soon as the two presidents got together with the secretary, they began to work on a MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION, probably the first document of its kind in the history of education in the United States. They stood or walked about, helping each other to think out a general social philosophy as the grounds for the co-operation between the state and the church in higher education. The initial consideration was that the statement must be comprehensive enough to exclude no religious denomination, but to welcome them all. Upon such grounds the plan for the proposed affiliation of Red River Valley University with the University of North Dakota was formulated. It was recognized by both presidents and accepted in their agreement that the primary purpose in the affiliation was to assure that the School of Religion could and would function within the University as did its own colleges. Recognizing that because of the complete separation of state and church there was an academic place unfilled, it was agreed that schools of religion might fill this place. The first school of religion to undertake this mission was Wesley College. The Memorandum of Conversation and the official steps taken toward its final adoption by the Governing Boards of the two institutions will be presented in the following chapter.
CHAPTER SIX
"THEY WILL DO US IN BRONZE"

Both President Merrifield and President Robertson faced many dark moments in the progress of negotiations looking toward final official approval of the Plan of Affiliation and of the removal of the institution from Wahpeton. One day, when the outlook was so dark that neither could see even one ray of light, Dr. Merrifield urged that both of them hold steady and continue to grope with even lame hands of faith, to find a way forward, saying, with more feeling than he was in the habit of displaying, "They will do us in bronze yet if we succeed". They did succeed. President Merrifield's prediction was fulfilled nearly twenty five years later when Dr. Robertson and Mr. John M. Hancock, LL.D. were in conference concerning the appointments of Robertson Hall, gifted by Mr. Hancock and his family to Wesley College. This was the occasion. Mr. Hancock and his family desired that the Hall should be completely furnished, offices, classrooms, seminar rooms, assembly rooms, etc. -- everything was to be furnished, with furnishings of dignity and enduring qualities. During the necessary conferences to reach conclusions concerning furnishings in keeping with the nature and purpose of the Hall, Dr. Robertson mentioned some of the dark periods through which he and President Merrifield had gone, and recalled that when the way seemed to be closing in like a valley of death, Dr. Merrifield gave utterance to the prediction, as already quoted. Without hesitation, Mr. Hancock replied, "We will do that now". He then directed that a bronze tablet should be placed in the vestibule of the new Hall, that it should have in relief the faces of both President Merrifield and President Robertson, and that it should have also in relief, the text of the MEMORANDUM, dated and subscribed with the names of the two Presidents. Mr. Hancock's directions were carried out, and the tablet is now attached to the wall opposite to the entrance door, so that all observing entrants may see it. The complete text of the MEMORANDUM, with
an interpretative note over it, just as it appears on the bronze tablet, is
printed below.

PLAN OF AFFILIATION OF CHURCH COLLEGE WITH STATE UNIVERSITY

Probably the First Document of its Kind in the History
of Education in the United States.

MEMORANDUM of a conversation held between President Merrifield of the University
of North Dakota and President Robertson of the Red River Valley University with
reference to a tentative plan of co-operation between the state university and
the educational institution of the Methodist Church in North Dakota.

Whereas, the state university is in theory the university of all the people of the
state, and is supported by the taxes of the members of the several denominations
as well as by other citizens of the state, it would seem to be appropriate and
fitting that the churches of the several denominations of the state should
avail themselves of the privileges which belong to their members as citizens
of the state and should use, to whatever extent may seem desirable in the
conduct of their educational work, the facilities afforded by the state University.

It is recognized that the state university is a civic institution and has for
its mission the training of the youth of the state for efficient service as
citizens. It is recognized, also, that the distinctive object of the church in
maintaining schools of its own is to insure trained leadership in religious
and denominational work. There is, therefore, logically, no conflict between
their respective missions for the same young people are to serve in both these
capacities. These two missions being in no sense antagonistic, but supplementary,
it would seem the part of wise economy that these two educational agencies
should avail themselves, so far as possible, of the facilities and appliances
of each other in the working out of their respective missions, keeping in view
the principle of the separation of the church and state so far as regards the
control and expenditure of the financial resources of each.

Accepting the foregoing principles as fundamentally sound, the University of North
Dakota cordially invites the people of the various denominations of the state
to the consideration of a plan under which the members of the several denominations,
while preserving their denominational identity and maintaining separate
institutions for such educational work as they may deem necessary, shall join,
as citizens, in patronage of the state university as the common agency for the
higher education of the youth of the state.

As a co-operation between the state university and the Methodist Church of the state,
the following suggestions seem practicable:

1. That the Methodist church change the name of its institution from the Red
River Valley University to Wesley College.

2. That a building or buildings be erected in near proximity to the state
university but on a separate campus to include a Guild Hall, such recitation
rooms as may be required for the work proposed, possibly dormitories for young
women, and young men, and a president's house.

3. That the course of study may be:
(a) Bible and Church History, English Bible, New Testament Greek, Hebrew
Theism, and such other subjects as the college may elect in pursuance
of its purpose.
(b) A brief course that may be designed especially to fit students to become efficient Sunday School teachers and lay workers, and upon completion of work, certificates of recognition may be granted.

(c) Instruction in music and elocution may be given if desired and appropriate certificates granted.

(d) Guild Hall Lectures.

4. That the state university grant for work done in subjects included under (a) above, such credits toward the B. A. degree as it gives to technical work done in its own professional schools and to work done in other colleges of reputable standing. Likewise Wesley College shall give credit for work done at the state university in a similar manner as preparation for any degree or certificate it may offer.

5. Each institution shall have full control of the discipline of students upon its own grounds.

6. It shall be deemed proper for students to take degrees from both institutions if they desire to do so.

Dated, Grand Forks, N. D., January 9, 1905.

Webster Merrifield
Edward P. Robertson

The MEMORANDUM was phrased in terms of an optional agreement to become effective if and when the governing bodies of the contracting institutions should record their approval. This accounts for the term "may" in relation to the educational specifications in the case of Wesley College. The term, as here used and interpreted, did not mean that the University of North Dakota was assuming to give nothing more than permission to the proposed Wesley College to locate on its own campus adjacent to the campus of the University. It meant that the University extended an option and that the College assumed an option. It further meant that this option, extended by one party and accepted by the other party, would become a contract to be made effective by official approval of the constituted authorities. It was recognized by both negotiating parties that social institutions must respond to new developments. This left the way open for future adaptations as might be made necessary by new conditions. It seemed to be the part of wise leadership to surround the initial steps with such official sanctions as would become matters of permanent record. For the University this meant formal approval by the faculty, and by the trustees,
as members of the governing board were then called. For the church college the procedure was more complex and more difficult. This added complexity and difficulty related themselves to the fact, that the College, after affiliation, would find its relationship changed in the official listing of recognized colleges of the Methodist Church. Without that standing Wesley College would become an orphan among Methodist institutions of college rank, and might have no valid grounds on which to appeal to the church at large for either financial or ecclesiastical support. Let us now trace the steps leading toward official action on the part of the governing bodies of the two institutions.

Before the luncheon hour on Monday, January the 9th, President Robertson had an interview with Mr. R. B. Griffith, President and chief owner of the R. B. Griffith Company department store, then President of the Grand Forks Commercial Club, concerning the probable financial support that might be expected from the Grand Forks community. Dr. Robertson knew very well that he could not in good conscience ask the Trustees of Red River Valley University to surrender their property in Wahpeton, then valued at $60,000, without a reasonable guarantee of a fair initial support from Grand Forks. He named $25,000 as the minimum. Mr. Griffith agreed that this was reasonable and became an ardent advocate in furthering its acceptance. The Commercial Club was scheduled to meet that evening. At this meeting both President Merrifield and President Robertson were invited to present the whole matter to the Club for its consideration. They used the Memorandum, written that day and mutually accepted by the two presidents. The Club voted to support the movement and appointed a committee of four to go to Fargo the next day to second and support President Merrifield in his presentation of the University's invitation, already presented to the Annual Conference and widely publicised by the Grand Forks Herald. The committee was composed of Mr. E. J. Lander, Mr. R. B. Griffith, Mr. Sidney Clarke, and Mr. Alvin Robertson. At that meeting in Fargo the Trustees voted to continue study of the proposal. As a part of the procedure, the Trustees decided to ask each Methodist
in the state to select one lay commissioner to attend a meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held in Fargo on February 21st, 1905. At that meeting thirty-five laymen presented credentials of election from thirty-five churches. These commissioners were widely representative of the whole church membership within the state. They were asked to serve as a sort of trial jury, with the understanding that their vote was to be advisory only. It was definitely understood that final official authority rested with the Trustees and with the members of the Annual Conference. This joint conference, with Bishop Isaac Joyce, resident in Minneapolis, in the chair lasted throughout the day. The entire matter was fully and freely and frankly presented and discussed. When the vote was taken twenty-six were found to be in favor of removal from Wahpeton and nine were opposed to removal. The Trustees, who had been present during the day then went into session, and by majority vote decided in favor of removal. But at that meeting they went no further. They did, however, vote to hold an open session in Fargo on May 17th, following, when proposals for the future of the College would be received and fully considered. This session was held in Fargo on the designated date. During the progress of the meeting feelings became intense and emotions deeply stirred. During the day many motions were made, one to remain in Wahpeton, one to locate in Fargo, one to locate in Bismarck, and one to affiliate with the University. In discussing these, and other motions, a few statements were made which did not represent sound judgment because they were too highly colored by the emotional, as well as other stresses and strains of the occasion. Mr. Frank Lynch was in the chair. He took no part in the debates and discussions, so profoundly engaging the minds of the men speaking from the floor. Late in the afternoon he suggested taking a short recess. This was done. He and all others present were weary in both mind and body. So many contrary opinions, some of them rather heatedly expressed, were producing confusion, if not bitterness. The session having resumed after the recess, Mr. Lynch, in later years Dr. Lynch, spoke from the chair. Quietly, as was
his habit, but with force and dignity, he announced that after listening to the entire debate during the day, he was of the opinion that they should accept the invitation of the University, to relocate in Grand Forks, and to enter into an affiliation in agreement with the tentative plan already written by President Merrifield and President Robertson, and subscribed by them. His decision was accepted by a majority of the Board and became its official action. After this action was taken, the Board voted to deed to the Wahpeton Chamber of Commerce 55 of the 80 acres donated by the city of Wahpeton for campus purposes, to offer the State School of Science the building and its campus for $20,000, and to return to the people of Wahpeton and vicinity all unpaid portions of subscription notes held by the college. This liberal action of the Board of Trustees made so complete a restitution to the community of Wahpeton, that no reasonable criticism of the business ethics of the transaction could be brought forward. Criticism was brought forward, but in the minds of all fair-minded people it was not held to be reasonable. The final official action was reserved for the North Dakota Annual Conference of the Methodist Church. When the Conference rendered its decision it did so by unanimous vote at its annual session in the city of Fargo on the fourteenth of October, 1905. The Presiding Bishop was William H. Warren. He assented to the action of the Conference. The Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church, Dr. William H. Anderson, later Bishop Anderson, had visited the University in Grand Forks, and looked into the whole plan of affiliation, and had consented thereto. Thus the officers of Red River Valley University had taken time and had exercised care to invoke every constitutional authority of the Methodist Church so as to make altogether valid every step in the corporate procedure of affiliation with the University of North Dakota. Later experience with church educational policies proved the wisdom of the solicitude with which the official standing of Red River Valley University under its new name of Wesley College was guaranteed. In the official list of educational institutions within the
ecclesiastical bounds of the Methodist Church, Wesley College comes under a special classification designated as an "Affiliated College". This brings to an end the official actions of all Church authorities in connection with the removal of the college from Wahpeton and its affiliation with the University in Grand Forks, but it by no means brings to an end all the dark paths yet to be followed, especially by the Presidents of the two institutions, as we shall see. Indeed, the darkest path of all is yet to come, the one within whose shadows President Merrifield uttered his now historic prophecy, "They will do us in bronze yet if we succeed in this venture".

In due time and in proper form, President Merrifield presented the "Memorandum" to the members of his faculty for their consideration. It was accepted by unanimous vote. A maximum of 32 semester hours credit toward an A.B. degree from the University was approved for Wesley College courses in the field of religion. This was regarded, and justly so, as generous recognition of courses in religion. At that time there was no suggestion of academic work in music or elocution, because it was not then customary for colleges to accord curriculum credit toward arts degrees for work done in either of these fields. It was several years after this before the University of North Dakota gave academic rating to any courses in the field of music, and the first courses to receive such recognition were courses dealing with the history and theory of music.

Having received unanimous faculty approval of the plan of affiliation, President Merrifield thought there would be no difficulty in securing approval from the governing board of the University. But in this matter he was given a rude surprise. When he presented it to the Board, one member declared that there would be bloodshed in the state if it were approved, or even attempted. Dr. Merrifield reported his failure to get Board approval in a letter to Dr. Robertson, a part of that letter is as follows:
"You have doubtless learned through the press that our Trustees at their meeting Thursday declined to consider the recommendation of the faculty that the Trustees approve in form the Memorandum of conversation between yourself and me in January. While members of the Board were opposed to extending a formal invitation to the Methodist Church, they conceded your right to locate near the University and take advantage of any facilities which the University had to offer. The faculty unanimously approve of the plan and may always be counted upon to co-operate along the lines suggested in the Memorandum. I still see no reason why the Methodist college should not locate near the University. Every reason which was cogent before is just as cogent now."

But President Robertson had very serious doubts about such a procedure and replied by letter to that effect. He saw very plainly that without official approval of the governing board, recognizing that affiliation, the College would have no way of protecting itself against future university policies which might be unfriendly or prejudicial to its interests. He felt that he could not justify the church college in taking such a hazard. He was compelled to inform President Merrifield that he could not go forward with further plans for affiliation along these lines, and that he must seek some other way to promote the future of the institution of which he was the official head. President Merrifield was depressed, and discouraged; but he was not defeated. It was at this point he gave utterance to the matter of their being done in bronze if they should succeed. He would not, therefore allow negotiations to come to an end. And a way was found. Wherever one's mind is as clear on any matter as was Dr. Merrifield's on this matter, a way will be found. An executive session of the Grand Forks Commercial Club was called for the purpose of hearing Dr. Merrifield and Dr. Robertson present the whole matter to them. The Memorandum and the intent and purpose of the affiliation were presented in great detail. Many questions were asked and fully answered. The members of the Club, behind closed doors and in executive session, after full and frank debate, declared unanimously that they could see no valid reason why the University should not proceed officially to enter into an operating agreement with the proposed Wesley College. A committee was appointed therefore, to bring about a special meeting of the University Board of Trustees, and to urge that official approval be given to the negotiations. A special meeting was called to consider the
one matter, and only the one matter, of the "Memorandum", and the proposed affiliation outlined in it. This time the Board gave the matter full and intelligent consideration, and took the following action:

"Resolved that the Board of Trustees of the University of North Dakota extend to all educational agencies within the state a cordial invitation to avail themselves to whatever extent may seem desirable of the facilities and appliances afforded by the University for the working out of their several educational purposes".

Thus the governing board of the University made possible the last step in a journey that began more than five years before when President Merrifield looking across his own dinner table at one of his guests, a young man only lately come to North Dakota as a president of a small church school in a little city in the extreme south eastern corner of the state, said, "This is where you belong with your school". Our story now moves along into a new era, in which a unique educational experiment was begun in North Dakota.
CHAPTER SEVEN

"I WILL CALL IT A GOOD INVESTMENT"

After removal of Red River Valley University from Wahpeton to Grand Forks, and affiliation under the new name of Wesley College with the University of North Dakota had been made matters of record by all constituted Boards and other bodies of official authority, it was decided to declare the academic year of 1905-06 a holiday. Students of college rank in the church school were transferred to the University and were received on their college credits without loss of standing. During the summer of 1905 President Robertson moved with his family to Grand Forks and began the definite, and one may now say, the difficult task of changing an independent institution of full college curriculum into an affiliated college limiting its curriculum to courses in the field of religion, and a bit later the broadening of that curriculum to include courses in music.

In the early spring of 1906 Wesley College purchased from Mr. William Budge an eighty acre tract of land lying north of the University campus, and separated from it by University Avenue. In due time this tract was plotted and named University Place. Dr. Robertson was given authority to name the streets running through University Place from north to south, beginning at University Avenue. He chose names of well-known universities and colleges—Cornell, Hamline, Cambridge, Harvard, Oxford and Princeton. A public road, marking the limits of the city on the west and University Place on the east, he named Columbia Road. The northern terminus of this Road at the present time is Highway Number 2, running west from the city of Grand Forks.

The problems of sewer connection and heat gave rise to the first dealings of the officers of Wesley College with the University Trustees. The problem of the sewer had to do with the necessity of providing a trunk sanitary sewer to connect with a city tunnel. At the time of which we write the University campus and the eighty acre tract recently purchased by Wesley College and now plotted as University Place, were outside of the city limits. The trunk sewer, to be
jointly used by the University and the College, had to be constructed in and through leased ground from Columbia Road to its connections with the city tunnel. At first the problem presented some factors which were regarded as serious, and for a time, it seemed as though the University and the College might be confronting a situation which would make impossible all further progress toward complete affiliation. The major difficulties were not academic, but had to do with nothing higher in the educational world than a trench in the ground at whose bottom sewer pipes were to lie to drain off waste matters as well as a surplus surface waters. Even the Governor of the State, his Excellency Mr. John Burke, had to be appealed to. In line with his well-known wisdom, he made a suggestion, adopted as it was by both the University and the College authorities, which opened the way for a happy ending to the difficulties. The second problem, that of heat, was not so difficult to solve for the reason that at the time of which we write state institutions were not authorized to enter into commercial agreements with private parties. It should be said, however, in the interests of complete historic verity, that the Trustees of the University were willing to do everything within their constituted authority to make the way as easy as possible for the College to become firmly established. And this has been the unfailing attitude of the governing body through all the years since the beginning of the affiliation. Like all similar bodies, the personnel of the Board has been subject to change throughout the years, but a continuing sense of responsibility to the original policy of affiliation has never waned.

The School of Religion of Wesley College was opened during the academic year of 1905-06. The faculty consisted of two highly trained men, — Samuel F. Halfyard, Ph.D., and Wallace W. Stearnes, Ph. D. Dr. Halfyard and the writer were classmates in the days of their graduate study in Boston University. He won one of the most highly honored scholarships in the gift of his University, and spent two years in Germany, where most of his work was done leading to his doctor's degree. At the time of this writing, June 28th, 1948, Dr. Halfyard is living in retirement in the lovely little city of Larimore. His health
is not good and he is confined entirely to his own home. Of the later history of Dr. Stearns, the writer has no knowledge. From the beginning, following the standards erected by these two gifted and highly trained men, under the leadership of President Robertson, himself, the aim of Wesley College School of Religion has been to teach every course in its field with courteous regard for all incidental differences in denominational creeds and practices. It has followed quite naturally that students of all denominations have felt at home in the classrooms of Wesley College, who have found congenial surroundings and fellowships in emphasis upon common ideals of personal character and social attitudes. As an index of the regard in which university students have held courses in religion as taught by the College, it may not be out of place to say that as many as two hundred and seventy three have enrolled during one academic year. The College is not now, and never has been a theological seminary functioning in the professional training of ministers. It is primarily an undergraduate school of religion, working to promote religious intelligence in all students, no matter what calling or profession the student may have in view. But at the same time it does afford opportunities for future religious leaders to acquire some knowledge in basic courses leading to specialized graduate studies in the field of religion. As an example of this one case may be brought forward, and it could be matched by many others. Some years ago a gifted young man graduated from both the University and Wesley College. Soon after his graduation he enrolled in one of the most noted Schools of Theology in America. At the end of each semester of his three years of graduate work, he wrote to the writer, who had been his major professor in Wesley College: "My dear Dr.: I have not found it necessary to unlearn anything you taught me in Wesley College. On the contrary, I have found myself out in front as compared with those who have had their academic training in the traditional college, or the standard university. Many of the courses in the Seminary are but graduate extensions of the courses in Wesley, so I say, in my case, Thank God for Wesley College,
and for the fact that I came within its horizon at the beginning of my junior year in the University". This man is now a distinguished and successful ordained minister in the church of choice, which by the way is neither the church which sponsors Wesley College, nor the graduate Seminary where he spent three years of advanced work, and laid the foundations of later degrees. After this little excursus dealing with the teaching function of the College, we must return to the narrative itself, for this, at the moment, is our major task.

After the sale of the property in Wahpeton and the completion of all affairs in the business of ending the independent existence of Red River Valley University there, the Treasurer of the Board reported a bank balance of $41,000. On motion of President Robertson the Board of Trustees ordered that no building or teaching operations should begin at the University until $50,000 has been pledged in trustworthy new subscriptions. This amount was to include the initial $25,000 guaranteed by the Commercial Club and citizens of Grand Forks. In this effort the goal was exceeded by $15,000. In addition to the pledge of Mr. A. J. Sayre, to which further reference will be made a little later on, mention should be made of a $5,000 contribution by Mr. James J. Hill, President of the Great Northern Railway Company. A drainage convention was held in Grand Forks that summer. It was of such significance that Mr. Hill attended, having travelled in his private car accompanied by a number of Great Northern officials of high rank. Dr. Robertson felt that there was an opportunity to press the claims of the College upon the attentions of Mr. Hill. It will be remembered that years before this Mr. Hill had contributed to the work of the school when it was located in Wahpeton. Dr. Robertson assumed that he would not have forgotten the school, and that he might be interested in the new venture of affiliation with the University. His assumptions were well founded, and after some difficulty he did interview Mr. Hill in his private car, and did secure from him the amount already named. But the major contribution was made by Mr. A. J. Sayre, and because its history is so typical of Dr. Robertson's manner of approach to men of ample means, the story may be told in some detail.
The two men met for the first time in Harvey in the earlier days of the development of that now growing and prosperous little city of North Dakota. There was quite a large rural population in Harvey and its vicinity, people with whom Mr. Sayre established many contacts which later ripened into fellowships and friendships of enduring qualities. He had little financial capital, but he had energy, judgment, vision and was trusted because of his character—a character which kept him far above any kind of double dealing. He prospered in Harvey and in the very early years of Dr. Robertson's administration of college affairs, and along with Mr. Frank Lynch, became one of the most generous supporters of the work. By the year 1905 he had moved to Calgary, Alberta. There he engaged in very extensive real estate enterprises, at an opportune moment, and prospered accordingly. Following up his earlier associations with Mr. Sayre in Harvey, Dr. Robertson wrote to him and asked for $10,000 as part payment toward the erection of a hall for men students, to be enrolled in both Wesley College and the University. He responded with an invitation to go to Calgary for a week end in order that the whole matter might be fully and intelligently presented and discussed. When Dr. Robertson reached Calgary on a Friday morning and saw the volume of business already responding to his host's initiative, judgment and leadership, he concluded that his askings were not adequate. He raised the amount in his own mind to $25,000, and communicated this to Mrs. Sayre. She was quite in sympathy with the revised figures. Her words are worthy of record here: "When a man is making money, I think he should give in proportion to his making". From the Friday morning of Dr. Robertson's arrival no word concerning his mission passed between him and his host, until after church services on Sunday morning. After luncheon Mr. Sayre sat in his favorite easy chair and looking at his guest steadily for a moment or two said, "Well, you want $10,000, do you?" "No, I don't" was the reply. "I find I made a mistake. I did not have an adequate measure of your business prospects here. I want $25,000." When the full import of this reply dawned upon him, he leaned
back in his chair for a moment or two then broke out in a hearty laugh; he bent forward and again looking his guest full in the eye, he said: "That is all right. If you never ask for big sums you will never get them." So far as college affairs were concerned, that ended conversation for the day. He wanted to take time-- a good deal of time-- to think it through, so that whatever conclusion he came to would represent his best judgment-- a judgment which need never be regretted. The next night, shortly before Dr. Robertson was due to board the train for his return journey to Grand Forks, the two men, alone in a hotel room, agreed that the sum was to be $25,000. Mr. Sayre signed the documents making his pledge legal and binding on him or his heirs. Handing the document to Dr. Robertson, who took hold of one end of it while the other was still in Mr. Sayre's grasp, the two men faced each other for a moment to give time to say and receive a word, which for many years was known only by themselves. It may be, and should be, made public now, and particularly as Dr. Robertson himself records it in some of his own personal writings which are in the possession of the writer. The reader will recognize one phrase from this word as the caption of this chapter. Here is the full statement as uttered by Mr. Sayre more than forty three years ago. It is a voice from "out our bourne of Time and Place".

"I can make money, but I cannot personally supervise the benevolent spending of it. I want you to know that I have full confidence that under your supervision every dollar will be made to do as good service as it would if I had personal supervision of its use. Neither of us can predict the future of Wesley College. If it should ultimately fail and this money seem to you to be lost, do not allow yourself any personal regret over getting it from me; for if this $25,000 helps to enlist the active interest of the Church in the situation at state universities, I will count it a good investment, whatever may happen to Wesley College".

At the request of President Robertson, Mr. Sayre stipulated that his contribution should be used for the erection of a residence hall of men students. It was so used and the money was paid over to the treasurer of Wesley College while Sayre Hall was being built during the year 1907-8. From the completion of Sayre Hall onward until the end of the academic year of 1920-21, it was
listed in all the official publications of the College under the name of its donor, Mr. A. J. Sayre. In the Bulletin of June, 1921 it appears under the name of Harold Sayre Hall. Harold was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Sayre. He went overseas in the United States military forces with the rank of Lieutenant and was killed in action. It was fitting, therefore, that the Hall, given by his father and bearing his name, should now be renamed, and should henceforth bear the name of the son who made the supreme sacrifice. Lieutenant Sayre's portrait hangs, properly inscribed, on one of the walls of the lounge on the main floor of the Hall.

Next followed the building of Larimore Hall for women, made possible by the generosity of Mr. N. C. Larimore and family, on whose beautiful and extensive farm lands the city of Larimore is located and for whom it is named. Along with the building of Larimore Hall the erection of Corwin Hall was carried forward, so that the two enterprises became one unit. The total cost of the two buildings was $65,000. The initial contribution toward Larimore Hall was $25,000, while the initial contribution of Mr. Corwin toward the cost of Corwin Hall, was $10,000. Later contributions from the Larimore family and from Mr. Corwin made up the total cost of the two structures. Larimore Hall was opened for student residents during the second semester of the academic year of 1909-10. Corwin Hall, home of the Conservatory of Music, was dedicated in the spring of 1910. The dedication address was delivered by Dr. Thomas Nicholson, then Secretary of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church, and later a Bishop of the Methodist Church. To carry the narrative forward so as to trace the successful completion of a campaign to secure $150,000 in permanent endowment, we must return to Mr. Hill of the Great Northern Railway.

As has already been indicated Mr. Hill made a contribution of $5,000 in the spring of 1905, when he was in Grand Forks for the purpose of attending a drainage conference held in the city. As he talked with Dr. Robertson about the affiliation plan he gave it his hearty endorsement, and told him
that when he was ready to campaign for larger sums to come back to him and that he would help. This Dr. Robertson did but failed, on several occasions, to even see Mr. Hill. Losing confidence in his abilities to get results, he appealed to Mr. Larimore, a very good friend of Mr. Hill, to interview him in behalf of the College. Mr. Larimore did so, but met with a positive refusal to do anything more for any educational institution in the state of North Dakota, whose legislature was actively hostile to the Great Northern. This report of Mr. Larimore would have settled the matter for the average man, but in this matter of securing funds for the cause that lay so close to the center of his heart, it did not settle matters for Dr. Robertson. He spent the month of May, 1908 in Baltimore, where he was a delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Church. He was elected Chairman of one of the important committees of the Conference, and had to defend the actions of his committee on the floor of the Conference, before seven hundred delegates. He was also a member of a small group of Chairmen of committees appointed as a sifting committee to determine what measures should have the right of way in the closing hours of a long and difficult Conference. Here, in a new way, he learned both self-discipline and self-confidence. So, on his way home he decided to stop over in St. Paul and win through with Mr. Hill. In time, and after overcoming not a few difficulties, he found himself in Mr. Hill's private office. After learning the nature of the call, his very first sentence was an emphatic refusal to do anything. To this Dr. Robertson replied: "But, Mr. Hill, you told me to come back to you when I was ready to campaign for larger amounts". In an instant his whole attitude changed to one of kindly solicitude. In the voice of a father talking with a long absent son, he said "Well, how have you been getting along, anyway?". Within a few minutes, for he was busy and important men were waiting to see him, he pledged $25,000 toward a sum of $150,000. This goal was reached and Mr. Hill paid the full amount of his pledge. At the inauguration of Dr. Frank McVey, as President of the University of North Dakota in 1910, Mr. Hill was an honored
guest. During the evening banquet, Dr. Robertson made his way to his chair to speak in person with him. He both recognized President Robertson and greeted him most cordially. "You are doing well here", he said. "I have been making inquiries. But you need more money. Come and see me. I will help you some more". He did go to see him, and secured another $25,000 pledge toward a total of $200,000. But that amount was not reached before Mr. Hill’s death, and because his promise was verbal, not written, no claim could be filed against his estate.

In this last interview he said to Dr. Robertson, "Do not try to persuade students to leave one church to go to another, for they are not likely thereafter to be of much account to either". Dr. Robertson records that he was happy to tell this great industrial empire builder that it was the avowed and accepted policy of Wesley College to hold instruction to fundamental ideals and history in the field of religion, and to cultivate among students a deep loyalty to the churches of their own affiliations. Mr. Hill’s genuine approval of the plan of affiliation after his penetrating and comprehensive inquiries into both its program and ultimate purpose, strengthened the faith of many who had approved the plan. And there was added confidence in the fact that he was a generous patron of other colleges, both within his own Roman Catholic communion and other church bodies.

In one of many cordial conversations with Dr. Robertson, he said, "It will be a sad day for the nation when religion is not an important part of education".
The caption of this chapter is the word of a very gracious woman, Mrs. John M. Hancock. It was her proposal concerning the condition in which Robertson Hall should be when it was turned over to the Trustees of the College, and it was heartily approved by Mr. Hancock, and their children, Ruth and Ralph, for they all shared in the gift. Both Ruth and Ralph were in the classes of the writer during their undergraduate days in the University and Wesley College. Ralph sat in the writer’s classes for three years, and would have been in his classes during his senior year, if he had not met death so tragically as he was on his way from his home in New York to enter upon his final Year’s work. It seems to this writer that it is not out of place to put into this record a word from Ralph, which has never before been written. One day a few months after the completion and dedication of Robertson Hall, the writer stood with him in the President’s office where they were together reading his father’s letter gifting the Hall to the college, and said to him, "It was a lovely and generous thing for your father and your family to do, to gift this beautiful Hall to the College". His response was as quick as a flash, "Yes, but I would have done the same thing, if I had had the money". The writer trusts that both Mr. and Mrs. Hancock will accept this little gift offered to the memory of their gifted son, for it is so typical of him. If he had lived and prospered, as beyond all doubt he would have done, he too would have matched his father’s gift, when circumstances made that matching both intelligent and possible. The story back of the history of Robertson Hall is woven of threads as intimate and as personal as the threads of any similar story of which this writer has knowledge, and that is why he feels justified in giving it a chapter of its own, under the heading— "Furnished and ready for use". To write this story truly, and with some dramatic realism, there must be some intimate touches.
If it be true that history is the extension in time and events of great personalities, as some men of literature like to tell us, then indeed the history of Robertson Hall is the extension of some gracious personalities.

Mr. John M. Hancock, now Dr. John M. Hancock, for his University honored itself some years ago by conferring upon him the degree of LL.D., graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1903. This date, as is now well known, comes before the removal of Red River Valley University from Wahpeton and its affiliation as Wesley College with the university. From his graduation until the winter of 1922, no opportunity presented itself for any contact between him and Dr. Robertson. Their first meeting was in the winter of 1922 when President Robertson accepted an invitation from the North Dakota University Alumni Club of Chicago to be the Club's anniversary speaker. Upon arriving in Chicago he went at once to the law offices of Mr. John W. Ogren, who had lived for some years in Grand Forks and for most of those years had been Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Wesley College. Mr. Ogren told Dr. Robertson of Mr. Hancock's election as President of the Jewel Tea Company with offices in Chicago. He also told him of his notable success as Chief Purchasing Agent of the Navy in the World War with the rank of Commander, a service which brought him to the attention of the Lehman brothers, industrial bankers of New York, through whom his selection for the presidency of the Jewel Tea Company took place. When it came time for Dr. Robertson to go to Mr. Hancock's office he did so, and found him just clearing his desk for the day. It was not long before they were in conversation about the University and President Merrifield, for whom Mr. Hancock had very great admiration. In the course of the conversation he said that sometime he wanted to do something for the university, and indicated that his desire to do something was definitely related to his love for President Merrifield and the debt of gratitude he felt toward a man who had meant so much to him during his student years. Dr. Robertson directed the conversation toward Wesley College, for whose affiliation Dr. Merrifield had worked and sacrificed, and which he regarded as the crowning achievement of his educational career in
North Dakota. Mr. Hancock invited Dr. Robertson to be the guest of himself and Mrs. Hancock that night after the Alumni banquet and address. Dr. Robertson records that that was a most delightful evening. Mrs. Hancock had grown to womanhood in Grand Forks, and he knew many of her social and church friends as well as members of her family. Ruth and Ralph were in early youth, and took pleasure in helping to entertain their distinguished guest from their mother's home city.

The next morning on the way to the railroad station, as Mr. Hancock and his guest sat in the back seat of the car, the latter said he would be happy if he could sell Wesley College to his host. Mr. Hancock replied that he had already succeeded in doing so, or at least he was sold on the President of the College. Those who have known Dr. Robertson through the years will register no surprise when they read his reply to Mr. Hancock's admission that he was sold, at least in part, on the College and altogether sold on its President. That reply was "What evidence have I?" Mr. Hancock was not slow in taking the hint, nor in formulating his own reply. "You must not expect too much from me. I am just beginning in business. But I can do something. I will plan to send you a thousand dollars in June, if that will help you any." The check came in June as promised, and was the first of the Hancock gifts to the College, which by 1948 had reached a very large figure.

For years both Mr. Lynch and Dr. Robertson shared the belief that Wesley College should have an adequate home for its Conservatory of Music with a chapel - auditorium large enough for large music audiences and also religious assemblies, including chapel lectures by distinguished ministers and religious leaders of national note. From time to time, as Dr. Robertson was a guest in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hancock, this matter was often a subject for conversation. On one of these occasions they suggested that if Dr. Robertson could find someone to donate the Chapel, they would furnish the organ, which they assured him, would rank with the finest pipe organs in the state. After Mr. Hancock had been offered a most important executive position with the
Lehman Brothers Industrial banking firm in New York City, and had accepted, he and his family moved to Hartsdale, a suburb of New York City. Many times Dr. Robertson was a guest in their new home. One evening at dinner Mr. Hancock said that he and his family would like to do something more substantial for the College than to furnish a pipe organ for a chapel, and suggested a building to provide a home for the School of Religion. As he and Dr. Robertson began to work on plans it was not long until Robertson Hall took shape in their joint thinking. In one of their many conferences concerning the building and its furnishings, Mrs. Hancock gave expression to the sentence appearing at the head of this chapter-- "It must be furnished, ready for use". The Buckingham Brothers Builders and Contractors, Mrs. Hancock's own brothers were to be the builders, and Dr. Robertson the accepted official for the College in conferences with the Buckinghams in all matters requiring such conferences.

Mr. Hancock's letter of gift, with its appropriate heading prepared by Dr. Robertson, is printed below. The original letter is framed and hangs in the President's office. Because this story of Robertson Hall is here presented in a frame so intimate, it may not be out of place to relate the writer's part in the selection of the title for the letter. One day Dr. Robertson came to him saying he had had a sleepless night trying to formulate an appropriate heading for Mr. Hancock's letter. One phrase after another came into his mind, only to be cast aside. He was in such distress of mind that he quite frankly appealed to the writer for help, saying, "You have spent a good deal of time in Scotland, where there must be many halls given to cities or institutions. Can you think of one whose inscription might suggest an appropriate word for John's letter of gift". Yes, he could. In his travels about Scotland in connection with his war and post-war service, he had been a guest speaker in many halls of gift, and on the memorial tablets of not a few of them the following phrase was inscribed -- "this Hall gifted by -----------" Dr. Robertson at once adopted it and with pad and pencil in hand, wrote the heading as it now appears over the
letter and in the College records. Dr. Robertson has quoted parts of the letter in some of his writings, but as far as the writer knows, this is the first time the entire letter of gift has been published.

**THE DONORS' LETTER GIFTING ROBERTSON HALL**

Lehman Brothers  
16-22 William Street  
New York.  
12/21/28

My dear Dr. Robertson,

On behalf of my family I will provide a fund for an additional building for Wesley College including the necessary equipment and furnishings at an estimated cost of forty thousand dollars, conditional upon the securing of other gifts of sixty thousand dollars, to be set aside as an Endowment Fund for Wesley College. I understand the unit to be built will be a duplicate of Corwin Hall and in accordance with the plans of Wesley College is to be placed at the south end of Sayre Hall to serve as a recitation hall for the School of Religion and other purposes as may serve the general purpose and work of Wesley College.

It is the wish of myself and family that the building be named Robertson Hall. We would like to have your name linked in a material way with Wesley College, the University of North Dakota and the State of North Dakota itself. We know you have been a unifying influence among the students of past years—regardless of denomination—and so we are hopeful that this new building unit will further the cause of religious idealism among the increasing student bodies of the years ahead.

If it should meet with the approval of your Trustees—and I hope it will—I desire to have a bronze panel mounted near the entrance of the building and bearing for all time the memorandum of January 5, 1905, jointly worded by President Webster Merrifield, of the University, and yourself on behalf of Wesley College, and was later adopted by the two institutions as the basis of affiliation—tested now by its wisdom, proven by almost a quarter century of operation. I believe it would be worth while to have that memorandum in a permanent form where it can be conveniently seen by all who have occasion to enter the building. During the six years of my life as a student at the University I came directly under the influence of President Merrifield and I know some of the things which were close to his heart. He would have approved the placing of such a panel and I am confident Mrs. Merrifield will now approve it.

Realizing the definite need for this building at Wesley College I hope you will have no difficulty in securing the additional Endowment Fund which I have mentioned as a condition of my offer. It would be particularly fine if the building could be started this spring and finished in time to permit of its use at the start of the next college year. If so finished it would be a matter of added interest that the building should become available in the thirtieth year of your work in North Dakota.

Mrs. Hancock, Ruth and Ralph join me in the hope that the building of Robertson Hall and securing of the endowment referred to will initiate a new
era of growth and progress for Wesley College. I know it isn't necessary for me to mention the regard we have for you and your work as the principal reason for this offer. If we haven't shown both by our actions over the years, there wouldn't be any reason for you to believe such a statement now.

Sincerely,

(signed) John M. Hancock

Dr. E. F. Robertson, President
Wesley College
University Station
Grand Forks, North Dakota

Ground was broken for the Hall on the second of April, 1929. Elaborate outdoor exercises had been prepared, made notable by the fact that His Excellency, Governor George Shafer, and the justly famed flier, Colonel Ben Eilson, renowned for his flights in both the Arctic and the Antarctic regions, were present to participate in the proceedings. In addition to these distinguished men, a large company of campus and city representatives stood about the site of the proposed building. The Hancock family was represented at the ground-breaking ceremonies by Ralph, then a student in the University and Wesley College. President Robertson introduced those who took part in the ground-breaking exercises. A complete record of the program, with quotations from all who spoke, is on file but it is too long to include in full; only the names of the participants will be mentioned, along with a few words from the addresses of Governor Shafer and Colonel Eilson, and President Kane of the University. In addition to the three just named those who took part were the following: Dean Emeritus Joseph Kennedy, of the School of Education of the University, Dean E. F. Chandler of the School of Engineering, Dean Vernon P. Squires of the College of Arts, Literature and Science, Dr. A. G. Leonard, Professor of Geology, and Dr. O. G. Libby, Professor of American History. All of these men had served the University as members of its faculties for twenty five or more years. Wesley College itself was represented by Dr. George A. Henry, Professor of History and Philosophy of Religion, Dr. Isaac S. Corn, Professor of Biblical Literature, and W. M. Edmunds, Vice-
President of the Board of Trustees. Mr. E. J. Lander, President of the Grand Forks Commercial Club in 1905, when the affiliation of the two institutions was authorized and W. A. McIntyre, Vice-President of the Club at the time of the ground-breaking, represented that organization. W. P. Davies, LL.D., represented the Grand Forks Herald, which through all the years had been an ardent advocate for an supporter of the plan of affiliation. The Honorable Joseph A. Kitchin represented the State Board of Administration. Very brief words from the addresses of Governor Shafer, Colonel Eilson and President Kane follow in the order just named. "The State of North Dakota and the University have received another dividend upon the investment which was made years ago in the education of John M. Hancock. For many years this outstanding North Dakotan has lived, labored, and achieved brilliant success in the business world far removed from here, but his recent contribution to Wesley College is abundant evidence that his heart has always remained in and is forever dedicated to the welfare of his native state and its educational institutions."-------"I am happy to be present at this ceremony for several reasons. First, because during my freshman year I lived in Sayre Hall of Wesley College, second I admire the spirit of the donor of the building--a North Dakota boy who has never gotten too far away from his home nor too busy to have interests in the youth of his old home state. Then I am glad because this building is to be called Robertson Hall in honor of a man whom all of the old Sayre Hall boys have learned to love and respect".-------

"This Ceremony of breaking ground for Robertson Hall is one of marked significance. It means that the affiliation of a church school with a state university meets with the approval of thoughtful people. It means that religious education is to be kept on a part with other academic training. It means that the liberal attitude of Wesley College beyond denominational lines is approved. We cannot attend this ceremony; either, without thinking of the donor who has made this building possible, Mr. John Hancock, of the University class of 1903. He, perhaps, is the most conspicuous of all the University graduates up to this time, for his
achievements in the business world... His business has not mastered him; he is master of his business... He remembers the institutions and the men who helped prepare him for his work in life... His greatest ambition after all is to make the world better through his success. Perhaps this part of the story of the beginnings of Robertson Hall should be closed with just one sentence from the short address of Ralph Hancock, who represented his family at the time.

"My father, in his letter of gift, was good enough to mention my sister Ruth and me by name. She and I are of the large number of students who can speak from experience of the fine service rendered by Wesley College school of Religion. To Ruth as well as to myself, the erection of this building represents the culmination of a wish that has been ever so close to my father's heart for many years."

The construction of the Hall went forward during the summer and the early autumn months of 1929 so that it was possible to set the date of dedication on the third of October. The University joined with the College and the speaking parts of the total program were held in the Armory as an all-University Convocation. President Thomas F. Kane, of the University, presided and gave expression to the voice of the University in the following well-chosen words:

"This arrangement gives us opportunity to express our good will and good wishes to Wesley College, helps us to acknowledge our indebtedness to the donor of Robertson Hall and to the donor of Corwin Hall, who is here this morning. We appreciate all this because as a State University we could not expect to provide for work of this kind made direct by the University. This Convocation program reveals in a peculiar way the close and intimate relations of the University with Wesley College."

President Kane then introduced President Robertson, who from that point on became master of ceremonies. The guest speaker of the day was Chancellor Melvin A. Brannon, of Montana, for many years Professor of Biology and Dean in the University of North Dakota. He was a faculty member of the University during the undergraduate years of Mr. Hancock and heartily supported President Merrifield in his advocacy of the plan of affiliation. Throughout his entire career as a teacher and administrator, Dr. Brannon's leadership in the field of religion was as distinguished as was his work in the field of science. Among all the
former teachers of Mr. Hancock, Dean Brannon held a place both conspicuous and beloved. It was most fitting, therefore, that he should be the guest speaker on such an occasion. A complete copy of his address is on file in the College archives, but a few quotations from it are most appropriate here. He made the Memorandum of Conversation between President Merrifield and President Robertson the text of his address and used it in setting forth his exposition of the unity of all truth, which he regarded as fundamental in the idea of an affiliation between a state university and a church school of religion. Speaking at length and with very great earnestness Chancellor Brannon uttered in part the following sentiments:

"Among the qualities symbolized by the shrine dedicated this day are un-failing devotion to truth and righteousness, and unwavering faith in a progressive philosophy of life which includes love of beauty, goodness, and ultimate emancipation from all error. These three attributes are inclusive and may be regarded as the primary components of a great religion, pure and undefiled—

What is truth, the love of which was the primal attribute of the men who labored to establish a new educational freedom, in church and state? It is a quality of fidelity, of constancy. It means veracity in thought, word, deed and judgment——

Robertson Hall will be valuable for its material service; but it will be many times more valuable for its glorification of the things of eternal worth, the things close to the heart of the thinker and doer of this and every age——

Grateful thanks to you, son of this University, because you have seen the vision revealed by the seers of affiliated church and state education. May your gift of this shrine inspire many another to join in making this great new and industrial and social age a beneficent minister to the material and spiritual welfare of all men, everywhere."

Mr. Hancock, Mr. Stephen S. Corwin of Jamestown, who gifted Corwin Hall to the College, Former Governor L. E. Hanna, long time friend and business associate of Mr. Frank Lynch, Bishop Wallace B. Brown, of the Methodist Church and
resident in Helena, Montana, were seated on the platform along with President Kane and President Robertson. Dr. Robertson introduced Mr. Corwin who arose and received prolonged applause as one of the outstanding benefactors of Wesley College. Mr. Hancock was then introduced by the master of ceremonies as a "Gentleman, hard of head and irresistible in business achievement, but defenseless of heart and easy to conquer". A few sentences from one paragraph will indicate how completely Mr. Hancock had accepted the fundamental validity of the affiliated relation between the two institutions.

"The interest my family and I have had in this institution has arisen from just one thing. If Wesley College were off doing its present work at another point from this University it would not be a matter of interest to us. I do not think of Wesley College as apart from the University. I am not, never have been, a Methodist......I am not, in spite of all the papers have said, a graduate of Wesley College, so it is not any boyhood sentiment that prompted my interest in Wesley College. As far as sentiment is concerned it gathers about the actual work of Wesley College".

As Mr. Hancock arose to speak he was received with prolonged applause. At the conclusion of his address the applause was no less prolonged. Indeed, as the writer recalls, practically the whole great audience which filled every sitting in the Armory, arose as one person to continue its applause and to give expression to its agreement with the sentiment voiced by the speaker in these closing sentences of his closing paragraph.

One of the happy features of the program, although only indirectly related to the dedication of a new Hall, was the conferring of the degree of Doctor of Laws on Mr. Frank Lynch without whom there might never have been a Wesley College in an affiliated relation with the University of North Dakota. The degree was conferred in absentia. For many years Mr. Lynch had lived in San Diego, California, and his health would not permit him to take the long journey from his home to North Dakota. Former Governor L. E. Hanna, friend of Mr. Lynch for many years and business partner for years, acted as representative for Mr. Lynch. In presenting him Dr. Robertson spoke as follows:

"Frank Lynch came to this state with a young man's vision, a vision clarified and exalted by ideals to which he has held loyally through all the years."
By a rare art of business achieving and a rare magic of translating gold and silver into human values he has always been a generous patron of churches and schools: When invitation came from the University of North Dakota to affiliate he was President of the Board of Trustees of the church institution. And when, finally, the question of affiliation with the University was decided by the Board of Trustees, after an all-day meeting, it was his voice that carried the decision; and through all the years since then he has been a constant strength in the supporting constituency of Wesley College. He has been the largest contributor to the support of the College. So upon Frank Lynch, sturdy pioneer, with a philosophy of life that has exalted the Kingdom of God and his righteousness, I am authorized by Faculty recommendation and the approving vote of the Board of Trustees of Wesley College to confer upon him, in absentia, the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws.

"I now have the honor and direction of Mr. Lynch to call upon the Honorable L. B. Hanna, former Governor of North Dakota, highly honored citizen of state and nation, to represent Mr. Lynch upon this occasion.

"Mr. Hanna, I place upon your arm this hood, the insignia of this honorable degree, also this parchment properly signed, and beg that you convey them to Mr. Lynch. Convey to Mr. Lynch and to Mrs. Lynch assurance of the high honor in which they are held and of the affection we have for them."

Mr. Hanna arose and while holding the hood and the parchment in his hand spoke as follows:

"I am very glad, in the absence of my old friend, to appear and accept this hood and parchment for Mr. Lynch. He and I settled in North Dakota as neighbors fifty years ago, and through all these years we have been friends. These later twenty years, Mr. Lynch has been in San Diego, California, partly on account of his own health and the health of his wife. In spite of these years, I believe his heart has at all times been back in North Dakota. In looking back through the fifty years I have known him I have known about his inner life. I know that all through these years he has been a friend of education. I do not know how many young men and young women individually he has helped here in North Dakota, and out in California, that they might have the opportunity to have an education. Nor do I know how much he has done collectively at this institution and other places as well. I want to say to you as well as to the faculty of Wesley College I believe that in placing this honor upon Mr. Lynch it has been worthily bestowed. He is in every way qualified for this consideration.

"In all this work of Mr. Lynch's and at all times in that which he has done for young people he has had the active and hearty co-operation of Mrs. Lynch. I will feel very proud to go to California to present Mr. Lynch with these insignia, but I also have in mind that Dr. Robertson goes to see Mr. Lynch and many other people from North Dakota. It seems to me, Dr. Robertson, that it would be a good thing and it would give you an excuse to go to California this winter, I could return this hood and this parchment to you and ask you to go to California and gather together the students of Wesley College and friends of Mr. Lynch out in California, and present them to him. I will try to be there also, Dr. Robertson, I want to ask you to do this. I know it will be something which Mr. Lynch and his wife will appreciate."
Mr. Hanna's request was carried out some months later, when both he and Dr. Robertson completed the formal ceremony of conferring the degree on Mr. Lynch, in his own beautiful and spacious home in San Diego, in the presence of a large company of invited friends, many of them from North Dakota. Upon receiving the hood and the parchment, Mr. Lynch, now Doctor Lynch, responded in these words:

"I am deeply moved by this act of the President, Faculty, and Trustees of Wesley College. I feel that this is too great an honor for the measure of service I have been able to render; but I am made so much more thankful to have been brought this far along the way of Christian stewardship. In whatever I have tried to do Mrs. Lynch has been full partner through the years.

"By reason of our pioneer experience and extended residence in North Dakota, my early and long-continued official connection with Wesley College, and faith in the work of Christian education to which it is dedicated, we have chosen Wesley College as an agency through which a large share of our benevolent contributions might best serve the youth of North Dakota. We feel confident that young men and women trained in Wesley College will carry the ideals and spirit of Christian service out into the several fields of their life work, and so serve the larger world."

At the conclusion of this beautiful, and in some ways unique ceremony, all those present were taken by Dr. and Mrs. Lynch to the dining room of one of San Diego's well-known hotels where dinner was served. Thus Dr. Lynch brought to a happy conclusion an event, which took high rank in his relations with the institution of his love and gifts-- love that had extended through many years and gifts which at that time had amounted to very large sums of money.

The story of Wesley College, daughter of Red River Valley University, has been traced from the high intentions, the bugle calls, the summonses, visions the resolutions, the mandates of earlier days to the completion and dedication of the last of the four Halls which now adorn her campus. Something has been said to memorialize her chief benefactors-- Frank Lynch, M. G. Larimore, A. J. Sayre, S. F. Corwin, James J. Hill, John M. Hancock. Mention should be made of others -- men like R. E. Griffith, W. F. Murphy, George B. Winship, T. L. Hazlett, William Preston Davies, LL.D., Andrew Robbie, the late Mark I. Forkner, the late Dr. Fawcett, of Starkweather. Others almost without number should be
included in a complete honor roll. But now we must turn our attention to the organization and work of the College through the years. The remaining chapters will be devoted to these matters and to the work of the Wesley Foundation under the Leadership of its Director, Professor Royer H. Woodburn.
CHAPTER NINE
"A NEW NAME"

The mother institution was named Red River Valley University. The daughter was named Wesley College. The new name was decided upon before the act of affiliation took place. As a matter of fact it was written into the MEMORANDUM of the conversation between President Merrifield and President Robertson on the ninth of January, 1905, and there appears as the first of the six original suggestions, which, after the official adoption of the MEMORANDUM, became the fundamental propositions underlying the whole structure of the affiliation. Up to this point our story has had but little to say concerning the academic organization and work of the college. That story must now be presented under the egis of a new name.

The Twelfth Annual Catalogue of Red River Valley University bears the date of 1904-5, and the first college Bulletin under the new name of Wesley College carries the date of 1906-7. Between these two dates the name of the mother institution disappears, except in those transactions which require the signatures of the Officers of the Corporation, whose original articles have never been surrendered, but amended only so as to conform with the new location for the transaction of official business. Wesley College, under its new name, devoted the academic year of 1905-6 to the work of transition, which included the transfer of students of college rank from the mother institution to the University, without loss of standing; the purchase of an adequate campus location—eighty acres of land directly north of the University campus, with University Avenue between; the securing of funds additional to the sales price of the campus and building in Wahpeton and to the original $25,000 pledged by the Commercial Club and citizens of Grand Forks, and many other items. In spite of all these barriers, the College resumed its academic work in the fall of 1906, and reported a net total of 124 students for the year.
Wesley College has never surrendered its incorporated right to teach all subjects within a complete college curriculum. But it has never exercised that right. And unless the historic and traditional policy of the College should be changed by properly constituted authorities in the future, it never will claim that right. Wesley College by voluntary action confines its work to teaching courses which the university, because of constitutional or other limitations may not offer.

Wesley College is not a school of theology. It is true that about forty years ago there was a plan in operation in many leading schools of theology according to which undergraduate courses in theology might be taken which could be counted toward a degree in theology. In the beginning of its affiliated life with the University, Wesley College did offer such courses. But this plan no longer holds with the leading institutions of this country. Courses in theology leading to divinity degrees are now quite generally graduate courses, and may be taken for credit only by students who already have bachelor degrees. While it is true that Wesley College is not an institution in which advance courses may be taken leading to degrees in theology, it is true that students may take, and many have taken, courses in the field of religion leading to the degree of master of arts, thus further qualifying them for both lay and professional activities in the field of religious service and leadership. Wesley College courses in religion are neither planned nor taught as if they represented separate fields of human interest. On the contrary, it is held that religion is at the center of all worthy human living. It follows, therefore, that all courses in religion as prepared and taught in the College are designed to survey, and if possible, unify all fields of study in terms of motives, attitudes, values and ends. The College does not recognize the reality of a conflict between science and religion. All its teaching is on a level above any such alleged conflict. Nor does the College compare creed with creed to the disadvantage of any. When it becomes necessary to make such comparisons they are made for historical or
cultural purposes. Students of all religious denominations feel at home because the central emphases are on the fundamental principles and ideals of religion which have commanded and now command universal loyalties of men of good will. From the beginning it has been the unchanging policy of every administration to employ as members of the College faculty only men fully equipped in both spirit and scholarship to teach religion with commanding and sympathetic recognition of the academic standards of the University. That this has been accomplished through the years there is ample proof. A single quotation from an address by Dean Emeritus Joseph Kennedy of the University School of Education, nearly twenty five years after Wesley College was given its new name, may not be out of place at this point.

"Dr. Robertson has always been a good judge of men and women; he has always selected the finest types of instructors in his institution. To such an extent has this been the case that the University has never had any feeling of disappointment on this score. Wesley College was accredited in its work when it came, and it has continued an accredited institution from that day to this."

Nearly five years before Dean Kennedy delivered the address from which the quotation above is taken, the University set the seal of its approval on both the affiliation and the standards maintained by the College in a most dramatic manner—the conferring of its highest honorary degree on President Robertson. This was done in connection with the Founders Day Celebration, on February 22, 1925. The Committee in charge invited Wesley College to prepare and present the Convocation program, and also authorized the extension of the usual hour to two hour's time. In the absence of President Kane, Dean Vernon P. Squires presided. The audience filled the Armory to capacity. At the conclusion of the formal program, and without previous intimation of what was planned, Dr. Squires called upon Dean Kennedy to step to the speaker's desk. Well-known for his bubbling sense of humor and sparkling wit, the Dean was at his best as he presented his good friend of more than twenty five year's fellowship—a friend who loved to refer to him as "Saint Joseph"—for the high honor awaiting him.
Speaking with the authority of the Board of Administration, and on behalf of President Kane and at his request, Dean Squires declared that the honorary degree of doctor of laws was bestowed upon President Robertson because of his demonstrated ability as an administrator, his broad scholarship, his vision and leadership in education and in religion, as well as in everything pertaining to the higher life of the state and nation. This was a high moment in the history of the College, because the University in this dramatic manner set the seal of its official approval on the structure and administration of the affiliation, after almost a quarter century associated experience. And this was fore-mintioned by President Merrifield many years earlier in his farewell address on retiring from the presidency of the University. Speaking at a Wesley College luncheon at which both he and Mrs. Merrifield were guests of the College, he declared that of the educational movements which his long connection with public education in North Dakota had enabled him to inaugurate and promote he looked upon the one of affiliation of schools of religion with the University as, far and away, the one fraught with the greatest, the farthest reaching and the most beneficent results, and the one with which his own name would be longest remembered. And if there were no other reason, this avowed and expressed expectation of Dr. Merrifield would provide ample grounds for embodying it in this historic record. But there are other reasons, some of which already appear on earlier pages of this work. The affiliation of the College under its new name with the University of North Dakota soon had borne fruits in many states of the Union. As far back as the days of its inception in the minds and visions of men like Robertson and Merrifield, extant letters show that wide correspondence was being carried on by educational leaders, concerning this pioneer movement in the young state of North Dakota. President Edmund J. James, of the University of Illinois, wrote that he was as much interested in every move which brought the affiliation a step nearer as if it were one of his own enterprises. The two Presidents forwarded to him a copy of the now famous MEMORANDUM.
He acknowledged its receipt, saying that he was delighted with it, and expressed his belief that it was in line with one of the most valuable and important educational developments of the time. In the farewell address of President Merrifield, to which reference has already been made, he is on record as saying that the plan of affiliation as put into operation in North Dakota had received very wide recognition in educational circles throughout the country, and that up to the hour of his address he had not heard one single comment that was unfavorable. He further declared that the National Association of State Universities had informally put the stamp of its approval upon it through the position taken by many of the foremost university presidents of the country.

In the light of testimony of this sort and with such approval on the part of leading educators in many states of the nation, it is not a matter of surprise that since the College has received its new name the output of graduates of the University of North Dakota and Wesley College entering the ordained ministry in different Protestant communions has reached quite impressive figures. During the eighteen years of the University's history prior to the date of its affiliation with Wesley College, only one University graduate entered the ordained ministry of any communion. Making due allowance for annual increases in enrollments, it is plain that at this rate very few men would have entered the ministry as a life profession from the University of North Dakota. But because of affiliation with the College, not less than seventy five graduates, from one or both institutions, with bachelors, or masters, or doctors degrees have become ordained ministers in several different communions. Two have become rabbis of the Jewish communion, while a third rabbi is now a student in Wesley College. Of the two who have graduated, one was born in Russia and one in Jerusalem. One of these led his congregation a few years ago in the erection of a beautiful new temple of worship, and on the authority of his Board of Governors, invited the writer, in whose classes he was a student for four years, to deliver the dedication address. Many of these men, either graduates of the College, or having been
enrolled in its courses in religion, have been or are now in positions of leadership in widely scattered parts of the world. College presidencies, deanships, professorships, pastorates of great churches, official ratings of high rank in both the United States army and navy, executive positions with great business corporations, doctors of medicine, writers on the staffs of metropolitan dailies, missionaries, officers of national church bodies, attorneys at law, and many other professions and types of business are represented.

These graduates, leaders as they are in their chosen fields, are representatives, but only representatives, of a great army of more than twenty two thousand who have been related to and have benefitted by the service rendered by Wesley College. And if those who graduated from or were students in the mother institution in Wahpeton be added, the grand total is not less than twenty-five thousand. One wonders if any of those, who in the early days, heard the bugle summon them, and who, answering the summons, ever imagined that any one of them would live long enough to see so great a procession of students passing through the friendly portals of the institution they first visioned and then established. And looking forward, many now living may, with confidence, expect to see still more impressive generations of students in whose lives the College will continue to be a creative influence in both culture and character. This seems to be the appropriate time at which to record proposals to extend the work of the College to educational centers in the state other than Grand Forks. Attention will now be given to this story.

The first proposal of this nature was laid before the Board of Trustees in 1909. Reverend Dr. James Anderson, then living in Valley City, petitioned the Board to grant authority to President Robertson and his Executive Committee to enter into conversations with President George A. McFarland, of the Valley City State Teachers College, looking toward the establishment of an affiliated work in that institution. Conversations and correspondence were begun. A letter from Dr. McFarland dated January 18th, 1910 is on record, reporting that his
faculty looked with favor upon the establishment of such work, and that out of a total of sixty credit units allowed by law to his institution, six credit units would be granted to courses in religion taught under the auspices of Wesley College. Progress was made in the negotiations until Dr. Robertson was authorized by his Board to employ a teacher for the work in Valley City, which was to be known as Wesley Normal at Valley City. Later that year a special meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in Valley City, during the session of the Annual Conference, at which both President McFarland and Bishop Luccock, presiding over the Conference, were present and spoke in favor of the proposed work. Property was secured, and a special committee was appointed of which F. W. Heidle of Valley City was chairman. At a later meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Heidle reported that Wesley Normal was providing living quarters and board for eighteen girl students of the State College. The Matron was efficient and greatly loved by her girls. Still no teacher could be supplied because of lack of funds. Some years later, however, when Professor Edward R. Lewis was elected to succeed Professor Plato E. Shaw, resigned, Dr. Robertson was given authority to assign him to either Wesley College in Grand Forks, or to Wesley Normal in Valley City. Assignment was made to the College, and the records show no further attempts to place a teacher in Valley City. The property was sold, on contract and later the mortgage had to be foreclosed because the purchaser was long in default of his payments. With the final settlement of the property, Wesley College closed this chapter of her honest and honorable attempt to meet the cordial and unanimous invitation of President McFarland and his advisers to establish an affiliation with the State Teachers College in Valley City. Attention must now be turned to the Agricultural College in Fargo where the story has a different ending.

At the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees in 1919 a new policy for the College was adopted. It was then decided to establish a Department of Rural Church and Community Welfare. The President and his Executive Committee were
instructed to secure a Professor of recognized training for this work on condition that the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church would make an appropriation of general missionary funds to match the funds supplied by Wesley College. At the next meeting of the Board, Dr. Robertson reported that the Department of Rural Work of the Home Missions Board had agreed to appropriate $1,500 per year for this work and asked for authority to secure a man for the ensuing academic year. This was done. At a later meeting of the Board President Robertson nominated the Reverend Walter Lee Airheart as Director of Rural Work, and recommended that he be located in Fargo at the State Agricultural College. The President's nomination and recommendation were approved. This was the beginning of a work, which through the intervening years has grown into a well-established and very popular School of Religion.

This work was sponsored and financed by Wesley College for about ten years, and Professor Airheart's name appeared in the College Bulletins as a regular member of the College faculty. Professor Airheart held the degrees of B.A., M.A., B.D., D.D., and Ph.D. He died suddenly a few years ago, highly honored, not only as a successful teacher in the field of religious education, but as a citizen of Fargo where many honors, both civic and fraternal, were conferred upon him. About ten years after the establishment of the work by Wesley College, it seemed wise to change the relationship so as to establish a School of Religion, to be incorporated as the Fargo School of Religious Education. This was done, and a group of Fargo business men took over the responsibility for the support of the School. The Corporation is composed of twenty five representative citizens of Fargo representing several religious communions. The affiliation of the School with the State College is modeled after the affiliation of Wesley College with the University. The success of the work while it was under the auspices of Wesley College is indicated by the fact that in some years the enrollment of the two schools reached the impressive total of five hundred. This statistical
fact is mentioned to show that the reason for the withdrawal of Wesley College from the active control of the School was not due to failure to attract students. New factors in the total situation, arising through the course of the years, pointed in the direction of a local institution for which a Fargo Corporation would be financially responsible. And the success of the School in recent years would seem to indicate that the policy finally adopted was both wise and reasonable. The School now has beautiful property directly across the street from one of the main entrances to the campus of the State College, and as far as records are at hand it is clear that the property is wholly unencumbered. If Wesley College had not undertaken the pioneer work, it does not follow of necessity that no school of religion would now be affiliated with the State College in Fargo. But the historic fact is that Wesley College did undertake and did carry out the pioneer work with conspicuous success.

This record might well devote a long chapter to the place of the Conservatory of Music in the administration of the plan of affiliation with the University. That in this field, as in others, the College has made good through all the years in the administration of its part in the original contract with the University, is well-known to every one familiar with the facts. Within the scope of this work what is written will be limited to the recital of simple historic facts and narratives, necessary to the completion of the story as a living whole.

One of the suggestions in the Memorandum signed by President Merrifield and President Robertson is to the effect that music and elocution may be given if desired and that appropriate certificates may be granted. In an early conversation between the two Presidents, Dr. Robertson informed Dr. Merrifield that the institution in Wahpeton provided instruction in music and asked if he should recommend to his Board that such instruction be eliminated from the proposed affiliation or made a part of it. Dr. Merrifield replied that the University had experimented with a Conservatory of Music some years before
and had discontinued it. He gave assurances that if Wesley College wanted to include a Conservatory of Music it would be a service, heartily welcomed by the University, because he did not foresee a time when the University would make plans to re-enter that field. He himself did not regard music as a part of the constitutional purposes of the University. In further conversations it was agreed that if Wesley College should establish a Conservatory and engage a Director, the University would pay a percentage of his salary so that he might direct its band and orchestra, for at that time these were very modest organizations. Both Presidents knew a man well qualified for such double service.

He was then in Germany on leave of absence studying violin, piano, and conducting. His wife was with him studying piano and organ. They agreed that here were the very people they should have—Professor and Mrs. George A. Stout of the Fargo College Conservatory. Dr. Robertson corresponded with them. As a result of the exchange of letters an offer was made to them which they accepted. Mr. Stout was to teach violin and piano in Wesley College Conservatory and was to direct the University band and orchestra. Mrs. Stout was to teach organ and piano in the College Conservatory. Professor Stout was also under contract to organize and direct a May Music Festival for the city of Grand Forks. This arrangement was welcomed by all concerned—the University, the College and the city. On their arrival, Professor and Mrs. Stout were given an enthusiastic welcome.

The Conservatory was opened in rented studios in the city for the beginning of the academic year of 1906-7, and enrolled one hundred and six students that year. Also during that first year one hundred and twenty five young people were organized and trained for the May Music Festival under Professor Stout's leadership and with the assistance of Mrs. Stout who was his faithful and highly trained accompanist. The Festival was held on the sixteenth and seventeenth days of May, 1907 with the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra and a quartet of well-known singers as added attractions. "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast" and "The Messiah" were the offerings, with both chorus and orchestra under the direction of Professor Stout. This was the first music event of its kind and
quality ever held in the city of Grand Forks. Older people remember it and speak of it to this day—more than forty one years later—as one of the memorable occasions of an artistic nature in the entire history of the city. It brought credit and wide publicity to both Wesley College and the University, without whose joint co-operation it would not have been possible. The Festival was so well received that a group of fifteen leading business and professional men of the city organized themselves into the "Grand Forks Oratorio Society", each one underwriting $100 to adequately finance the Festival and provide for a possible deficit. This arrangement continued for 1908, 1909 and 1910, but the guarantors were not called upon for any part of the guarantee. There was serious difficulty in securing an adequate auditorium for the 1910 Festival. To meet this crisis an auditorium was planned and erected, almost with the speed of Aladdin's "slave of the lamp". It is now thirty eight years later and the Auditorium still stands, known as the City Auditorium, and is still in daily or nightly use. If its intimate story were written in all its details it would present a picture of human life, as life is lived on the planes both high and low. During the year of 1910, Professor Stout accepted a call from his "alma mater", Knox College. The University brought Professor W.W. Norton to its faculty. He took charge of the musical organizations of the University, and also became Director of the chorus. Wesley College also sponsored an artist course during those earlier years, providing for four or five recitals by eminent artists representing the several branches of music taught in the College Conservatory. It will thus be seen that the College accepted its share of responsibility in the matter of providing for the people of Grand Forks and its supposing communities the best music available for cities of moderate size and wealth.

On the basis of the agreement formulated by President Merrifield and President Robertson, Wesley College assumed the responsibility of establishing a Conservatory as a "School of Music" for the total student body of both the
College and the University, considered as one institution on one campus. This
is the underlying reason why the College undertook a program comprehensive
enough to promote and sustain an adequate music education as well as to provide
for the public ministry of music. It was in agreement with these formulations
that Dr. Robertson undertook to secure the erection of a music building on the
campus of Wesley College. With this in mind he turned to Mr. S. F. Corwin of
Jamestown whose daughter Lucille was then a student in Northwestern University
School of Music. The opportunity to render a continuing service in music for
the young people of his state and at the front door of the state's only University
appealed to Mr. and Mrs. Corwin and to their daughter. When it became known that
Mr. Corwin was contemplating a gift to Wesley College sufficient for the erection
and equipment of a hall of music, pressure was brought to bear upon the College
administration to locate the building, not on the campus, but at some strategic
point in the city itself. In the discussion which followed it became evident
that if the College was to accept the responsibility of providing adequate
training in music for both college and university students, in harmony with
the formulations of the two Presidents, then the new Music Hall should be
located on the campus. That this was the decision reached; the presence of
Corwin Hall on the College campus is undeniable evidence. But the call of
the city was not allowed to go unheeded. A Junior Department of the Conserv-
atory was opened in rented quarters down town in 1910, and continues to the
present day, its service to the boys and girls of the city. That this music
ministry of Wesley College has been gladly received by both town and gown,
is evidenced by the fact that for many years the total registration in
both senior and junior departments of the one conservatory have averaged more
than four hundred annually, while this year, 1949, the total semester
enrollments are 622. And it should be kept in mind that there is no money
profit to the College in this service. Including the cost of the music hall,
known as Corwin Hall, its equipment and maintenance, as well as many minor
items of expense, Wesley College has invested in its ministry of music to
campus and city, more than $50,000 above all tuitions and other kinds of income.
The College authorities have done this through the years in spite of the fact
that the teaching of music and speech has never been in a class with the teaching
of religion as of the essence of a church institution's teaching ministry. But
Wesley College has always regarded the conditions of affiliation with the
University as carrying with them an obligation to provide its share in total
service not otherwise provided.

During the three remaining years of President Merrifield's administration
after the affiliation went into effect, there were no adjustments between the
two institutions. But in the later years adjustments were inevitable. The
natural growth of the University resulting in more and more complex organizations
as well as changes in curricula to conform with changing university and education
al standards and requirements - these and many other factors, have quite naturally
led to adjustments from time to time. During the administration of President
McVey--1909-1917--the growth of the University was such that many new problems
came forward for solution. Some of these had to do with the whole question of
the University's service in the field of music. In a letter to Dr. Robertson
under date of January 20, 1913, Dr. McVey declares that this question becomes
more and more pressing each year and he asks him if he can make some suggestions
relative to a plan of co-operation by which the University and Wesley College
can work together in the development of a larger Conservatory of Music. To
this letter Dr. Robertson replied with suggestions for a proposed plan to
unify the faculties of music and to revise the work of instruction. President
McVey accepted some of the suggestions, but unexpected practical difficulties
arose to delay action. In the meantime he was called to the Presidency of the
University of Kentucky. One result of this call and its acceptance was the
termination of all conversations looking toward a uniting of the University
Department of Music and the Conservatory of Wesley College into one School
of Music ranking with other Schools within the University. Between the close of President McVey's administration and the opening of that of Dr. Thomas F. Kane, Professor Earl G. Babcock, senior Dean of the University, acted as its President for one year. From the very beginning of the affiliation, Dr. Babcock was an ardent admirer and a loyal supporter. But because he was an ad interim Acting-President for one year only, naturally he could not take up the negotiations of this nature of his predecessor where he laid them down at the time of his resignation. Negotiations of this nature would have to be revived, if at all, by a president installed for a term of years. Dr. Kane became President in 1918, and from the beginning of his administration to its termination fifteen years later, was in complete agreement with the plan of affiliation as related to the School of Religion of the College. One occasion he demonstrated this in a most practical manner. Curriculum revisions undertaken by department heads seemed to be making it increasingly difficult for students desiring to do so to take courses for credit in Wesley College. President Kane supported the appointment of a special committee to study the whole problem with a view of giving students more freedom in the selection of free electives in the field of religion in Wesley College, the only institution at that time offering courses for credit in the University. Dr. W. G. Bok, now Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, was made chairman of the committee. Under his chairmanship the committee acted with excellent results in line with President Kane's position in the matter. But during Dr. Kane's administration the University music Department took on several new courses of instruction with corresponding increases in its faculty. These changes did effect the Conservatory of Music of the College, but that story is no part of this history. This narration must end with the statement that the Conservatory of Music of Wesley College was never more widely recognized and supported than it is this year of 1948, with a total of six hundred and twenty two enrollments in both its Senior and Junior Divisions. Unless the terms of the original agreement with the University are changed by the consent of the governing authorities of both the University and
Wesley College, it follows as a matter of honor that the University and the College must continue jointly to furnish a music education for students who come here believing that the courses as published in the University Catalogue and as advertised by Wesley College will be offered.

Not long after the establishment of the College in its affiliated relations with the University, requests began to come to President Robertson to consider the wisdom of including in its scope a studio for applied instruction in the art of speech, then generally called elocution. The University because of constitutional limitations could no more offer applied instruction in speech, than in music. As these requests became more numerous and pressing, and as intelligent consideration of them matured into convictions and convictions ripened into policies, it became evident that a Department of Speech should become a curriculum feature. The Department of Expression, as it was named, was authorized to be opened in 1911. It was opened that year and has continued in an unbroken service down to the present time. Applied instruction in this Department is recognized for University credit to a total of eight semester hours. After the erection of Corwin Hall space was allocated in that Hall for both class instruction and speech recitals. But the plans of Robertson Hall provided for two beautiful studies and a combined recital hall and auditorium, with an adequate stage and necessary appointments. The Department is located in these ample quarters in Robertson Hall. For a time during the late war, when the United States army occupied all Wesley College space, except small quarters in Corwin Hall, the Department of Speech was allocated quarters in the city studios of the Junior Conservatory of Music. The quality of the work carried on has justified wide-spread recognition, both local and national.

In the light of the foregoing narration, it will be seen that Wesley College limits its academic activities to three fields: Religion, Music and Speech. This limitation is voluntary. The College has never surrendered its incorporated right to offer courses in all fields required of a complete four-year curriculum college. Nor has it surrendered its incorporate right
to confer any degree offered by any standard college of accredited recognition. In this matter, as in its teaching ministry, the College has limited the granting of degrees to the earned academic degrees of B.A. and M.A., and to the honorary degrees of LL.D., LLD., and D.D. In granting of these honorary degrees the policy of successive administrations of the College has been one of intelligent conservatism, not one of emotional liberalism. In the case of its academic degrees, the most rigorous academic procedures have always been observed. It follows, therefore, as a matter of necessity, that any degree from Wesley College carries with it all the honors that rightfully belong to that degree. That the College has brought honor to its own name is not open to debate among those who know the quality of her service through the years, or of those who know the character, the abilities, the academic training and fitness of those through whom that service has been rendered.

While the story here written is that of an institution of actual historic existence, other stories of plans and hopes closely related to it, but never actualized in incorporated institutions, should be narrated in order that this record may be complete. The following story is of this nature. It will be the recital of a plan, commendable in its fundamental outlines, but as one looks back upon it in the light of broader experiences, too ambitious to be achieved in a state with the then limited Methodist constituency and financial resources of North Dakota. The first official reference to the ambitious plan to be hereafter related, is in the Annual Conference Minutes for the 1911. This Conference laid on the table that part of the report of the Committee on Education presenting the plan to the Conference for discussion. All the details of that plan are not now known, except as they may linger in the minds of men now living who helped to formulate them or to discuss them within the bar of the Conference. But one thing is clear. While the Committee on Education was reaffirming its loyalty to Wesley College, it was favoring the founding of a new college in the western part of the state. This was the part of the plan laid on the table by the
Conference. But the next year the Conference supported a resolution declaring that it looked with favor upon the founding of another Methodist school to meet the needs of the Methodist people in the western part of the state and asked for the appointment of a Commission to study the matter and report at the next session of the Conference. A Commission was appointed. What follows in the remaining part of this chapter, is a brief recital of what took place concerning this matter until its official disappearance from all Conference reports after the year 1915.

The Commission studied that problem from every angle, and made a long report to the 1913 session of the Annual Conference. A brief summary of that report is here given. After commending the work of Wesley College and pledging continued support in its current campaign to raise a fund of $200,000, to which the Conference was already pledged, the Commission looked with favor upon the establishment of a college in Bismarck, but stipulated that an initial fund of $300,000 should be secured and that a large part of this should come from Bismarck. The Commission declared that if this campaign for a total of $500,000 failed of completion by the end of 1916, it did not mean that work toward the goal would cease. Work should go forward until successfully completed. The ultimate goal, as the Commission saw it, meant that not less than $750,000, more likely $1,000,000, would be needed to carry the whole plan to a successful termination. The Commission also recommended that to unify the entire educational program of the Methodist Church in North Dakota, a new Board be authorized and incorporated, to replace the current Red River Valley University Corporation. The Commission recommended the appointment of an enlarged Commission to report at the 1914 session of the Conference. The representative character of this Commission will be seen by a glance at the names of its personnel. Bishop Naphthali Luccock, Dr. Thomas Nicholson, Corresponding Secretary of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church, Dr. W. P. Robertson, President of Wesley
College, B. F. Spaulding, Frank Lynch, A. J. Sayre, Rev. Dr. C. E. Vermilya, Rev. Dr. T. A. Olsen, Rev. J. G. Morrison, Rev. James Anderson, C. B. Little, Clyde R. Young, Charles E. Stinson, Richard Hayward, A. L. Shute. During the year this new Commission held two long meetings, one in Fargo and one in Jamestown. A comprehensive and an intelligent study was made and embodied in the Commission's report to the next session of the Annual Conference, held in Carryington from October 14th to the 18th, 1914. This report approved nearly all the previous findings and recommendations, including the recommendations that a new Board be incorporated to replace all Boards then existing. This new Board was to be called the "Wesleyean Board of Education". In order that this new Board might be properly related to the business of the transition period, it was recommended that both the new and the old Boards should together transact and approve all matters of administration that would of necessity come before the Board of Trustees of Wesley College at its annual meeting in the spring of 1915. It was further recommended that both Boards should make a joint report of their work at the session of the Annual Conference to meet that autumn. The annual meeting of the Wesley College Board was held at the College on June 14, 1915. On motion of President Robertson and by unanimous action of the Board, members of the Wesleyan Board of Education, who were then present, were granted the courtesy of sitting with the College Board, but without voting power. It may be worthy of note that only three members of the Wesleyan Board were present. The 1915 session of the Annual Conference met in Fargo on the 13th of October. The Commission made its final report to the Conference on Saturday morning, October 16th and asked to be relieved from all further responsibility in the case. This request was granted, and the Commission was honorably discharged. Two items of the Commission's report have historic significance--the statement that the incorporation of the Wesleyan Board of Education had been authorized, and the announcement that the Board was called to meet at the seat of the Conference for purposes of effecting its organization. The
notation of the presence of three members of the Wesleyan Board of Education at
the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the College, on June 14th, 1915,
and the notation of the final report of the Commission to the Annual Conference
at its 1915 session in October, are the last official minutes of the College.
What happened to or in the meeting of the Wesleyan Board, called for purposes
of organization during the Annual Conference session in Fargo, no one seems to
know. There is no record on file and recollections of the meeting are not in
agreement. It may be assumed that the Board never completed its organization,
or at least that it did not go forward with new enterprises of 1915, for only
three of its members appeared at the annual meeting of the College Board in
June; this, notwithstanding the fact that the two Boards had a mandate from
the Annual Conference to meet jointly for official business at the time of the
annual meeting of the College Board. This Board met, as provided by its Articles
of Incorporation, but it was not a joint meeting of the two Boards, because a
quorum of the Wesleyan Board was not present. The foregoing assumption is
further strengthened by the fact that a joint report of the work of the
year by both Boards was not made to the Conference in the autumn of 1915, as
provided by the adoption of the report of the Educational Commission to the
Conference of 1914. The intentions, the motives, the purposes, the plans of
those who led this movement to establish an over-all Board to have final
administrative authority in all educational matters within the bounds of the
North Dakota Conference of the Methodist Church, have never been seriously
challenged. It was a great ambition, and was carried in the hearts of many
good men and women for years as a living hope, but it simply could not be
achieved at the time, and so the curtain was lowered by act of the Annual
Conference of 1915 when the Commission was honorably discharged at their own
request and a continuing Commission was neither asked for nor even suggested.
CHAPTER TEN

"THIS IS THE BEST PLACE..."

Late in the last century both church and educational leaders began to think in terms of organized religious work for students from church homes in tax-supported institutions of higher learning. One of these pioneers was Professor Richard T. Ely of the University of Wisconsin. In an earlier chapter of this work reference is made to conversations between him and the late Dr. Robertson as early as 1898. As these ideas began to take definite form within the next few years in the minds of a good many men, two general lines of approach appeared—one line was the development of activities of religious and social character under the control of religious organizations, but having no curriculum or academic relationship to the university on or near whose campus such activities might be carried forward. This is known by leaders in this field as the "extra-curricular activity approach". The other line of development was that inaugurated by the joint leadership of President Merrifield of the University of North Dakota and President Robertson of Red River Valley University, a Methodist Church School of traditional type located in Wahpeton, N. D. This is the "curricular approach" and is related quite definitely to the tax-supported university in which by comity agreement academic credits toward university degrees are recognized in the fields of religion, applied music and applied speech. For many years this was the only approach in operation in North Dakota. In recent years the other approach has been organized and is now in successful operation under the name of the "Wesley Foundation at the University of North Dakota and Wesley College". It is popularly known, both on and off the campus as, "Wesley Foundation." This chapter tells the story of its beginnings and of its progress to this date, with preliminary paragraphs tracing the roots common to both types of approach. Reverend Royer H. Woodburn, Director of the Foundation's program and Associate Professor of Religion in Wesley College, made available all the files in his office, carried forward most of the research for this chapter, and wrote the major part of it. It is here presented as an essential part of the activities of Wesley College, in whose Robertson Hall its Foundation home is established.
The growing desire for a wider outreach among the students at the University was the chief factor that entered into the planning of a broader program and the establishing of a Wesley Foundation as a part of North Dakota Methodism's educational program at the State University. However, before we look at the immediate steps taken toward this end it will be well to get a more basic view of the common roots of these two types of approach to students on state university and college campuses, namely, the curricular approach and the extra-curricular activity approach.

Coincident in time with the move to affiliate North Dakota Methodism's institution of higher learning with the State University, a parallel movement was under way at some other state universities looking toward the possibility of the church providing better service for its students who were now attending state schools in ever-increasing numbers. Some of the early leaders who began to see that the church must follow its students to the state schools, in addition to the leadership expressed in North Dakota, were President Abram Harris of the University of Maine, (1892-1901), the Rev. Willard Nathan Tobie who became pastor of the church near the University of Illinois campus at Urbana, his successor the Rev. James C. Baker (now Bishop Baker), the Rev. Arthur Stalker at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and the Rev. E. W. Blakeman at the University of Wisconsin, as well as other church leaders. These men were searching for a way to extend a ministry from the church near the campus to students attending state schools.

President Harris, lifting a prophetic voice in his section of the country, saw great possibilities in a closer relationship between the churches and tax-supported educational institutions, but he developed no plan. President J. W. Bashford of Ohio Wesleyan University (later Bishop Bashford), in an address before the Convention of the Religious Education Association in 1903, called attention to the possibility of state schools offering service toward the
solution of the religious education problem even though they could not teach the creed of any church. The Rev. Arthur Stalker began his Ann Arbor pastorate of more than a quarter of a century in 1905, and built on the Wesley Guild idea of slightly earlier origin, which is mentioned in an earlier chapter. It was essentially an association of Methodist students. The Rev. E. W. Blakeman at the University of Wisconsin began a seventeen year pastorate in 1908 which developed a significant program.

The development at the University of Illinois is generally conceded to have been the real beginning not only of the Wesley Foundation movement in the Methodist Church but also of similar foundation movements in other denominations. The Rev. Willard Nathan Tobie was appointed to Parks Chapel near the campus in Urbana in 1900. Becoming acquainted with students and faculty, he saw a great opportunity and began to formulate plans for a program that would reach the students. His initial work was successful, but he faced the problem of support for such a large-scale program. After much thoughtful consideration and earnest searching for a solution he gained the answer in a flash of insight— that the Methodists of the entire state had a responsibility for the program. He succeeded in getting the Illinois Annual Conference at its 1902 session to recognize this principle and to grant some support. The other Annual Conferences in the state (Rock River and Southern Illinois) were invited to do likewise.

The program envisioned at Urbana was five-fold: (1) instruction in religious subjects, (2) lectures by leaders of the church, (3) education of Methodist students in their church principles and policy, (4) a daily program of student activities and (5) interdenominational cooperation in student work. Tobie also devised the plan of affiliate membership for students while in attendance at the University after some pastors in the state objected to outright transfer of membership.

Mention has already been made of correspondence between President Edmund J. James of the University of Illinois (1904–1920) and President E. P. Robertson
during the initial stages of affiliation of Wesley College and the University of North Dakota. Further development of the common roots and of the approaches to students at these two centers of learning is seen in the fact that President James, after this correspondence, held an informal meeting in the spring of 1906 with Tobie, Prof. Charles Wesley Rolfe, and the presiding elder, the Rev. Charles B. Taylor. At this meeting he advanced the idea of a separate organization for the student work and advocated the giving of University credit for courses in religion. At the Quarterly Conference held on May 7, 1906, after much discussion, Trinity College was projected and a Board of Control chosen (the name of the church had been changed in 1905 from Parks Chapel to Trinity Church). The records do not show why the project never was carried through to actual reality. Tobie regarded the dedication of a new church building as the completion of his work and asked to be moved early in 1907.

The Rev. James Chamberlain Baker, successor to Tobie and outstanding pastor of this church near the campus for more than two decades, until his election as bishop in 1928, made many very significant contributions to the total pattern of student work and to the plan of a foundation program. Among these were his vigorous leadership in organization and in planning the scope of the program, his ecclesiastical statesmanship in organizing in the supporting Annual Conferences "Commissions for Work Among Methodist Students at the State University", his challenge to the growing philosophical doubt and agnosticism among faculty and students, his vision of a social center-dormitory group of buildings for the housing of the work among students, and his keen ability to develop the work and to bring it to the attention of the church.

The Illinois Annual Conference at its session in 1909 adopted the report of the above-mentioned Commission containing Dr. Baker's idea of a social center-dormitory group of buildings: "The local church will care for its own expenses, the support of its pastor, its music, etc. But the furnishing of special workers among the young men and young women, the provision of a social center, dormitory
accommodations, etc., must be cared for by the Methodism of the State".

The life activity program directed by Dr. Baker and the large numbers of students he brought into the church began to be recognized throughout the denomination and church leaders began to look upon this approach as a very fruitful one for a church-wide pattern of work with students at state schools. Perhaps the fact that church-related colleges had been so well established by the church worked in favor of the spread of the foundation type program at state schools rather than that of curriculum and affiliation.

With this background of common rootage the establishing of a Wesley Foundation at the University of North Dakota in cooperation with Wesley College can be appreciated better as a completing of the Church's approach to students on a state educational institution campus.

The first formal proposal to the North Dakota Annual Conference for the establishment of a Wesley Foundation at Grand Forks was made in the report of the Board of Education at the session in October 1938, recommending that the First Methodist Church at Grand Forks as well as the First Methodist Church at Fargo be recognized as units of the Wesley Foundation. At the 1937 session, Dr. T. Ross Hicks, then pastor at Grand Forks and later Wesley College President, had revealed his interest in the Wesley Foundation approach by proposing that a committee on the Wesley Foundation, with the Fargo pastor, H. L. Weiss, as chairman, be nominated by the Board of Education and elected by the Annual Conference to supervise the work of the Wesley Foundation in the Conference (presumably at Fargo). Although this was passed, the Minutes of the following years do not show that it was actually done except that for one year a subcommittee did have under its oversight Wesley Foundation, Institutes and Epworth League.

Furthermore, some uncertainty existed with regard to the Wesley Foundation at Fargo even in the Board of Education of the Annual Conference, for the 1939 report stated that a Wesley Foundation had been organized at Fargo with the
new pastor, the Rev. John O. Irwin, acting as director of student work. The Board further reported that "plans for the establishment of a Wesley Foundation at Grand Forks, in connection with the State University, are in process as previously recommended by this conference". The Board also urged the establishment of Wesley Foundation work wherever possible at all the state educational institutions.

Dr. Irwin as President of the Annual Conference Board of Education and Dr. Hicks, as President of Wesley College, having begun his work in that office in January of 1940, followed through with their interest in a Wesley Foundation at Grand Forks, and in 1942 the Board recommended "the expansion of the College program as rapidly as possible to provide an activity program of the Wesley Foundation type for all Methodist students on the University campus in addition to the present academic program". The Conference also ordered the appointment of a Joint Committee on Program and Policy representing the Annual Conference Board of Education and the Wesley College trustees, to counsel with President Hicks on matters of program, attendance and support.

This committee held two meetings during the year and thoroughly canvassed the situation. In the area of program, the committee arranged a meeting with Bishop Ralph S. Cushman, Dr. H. D. Bollinger, head of the Department of Student Work of the general Board of Education, "and other interested parties". "A proposal to provide a Wesley Foundation program at our state university was developed and submitted to the college trustees. The trustees in turn approved the recommendation", the Board of Education therefore submitted a resolution calling for the employment of a Director and the establishment of a Wesley Foundation at the University of North Dakota as a part of the program of Wesley College. An appropriation for the work was to be a preferred claim on conference benevolences, and a sub-committee on Wesley Foundation and Student Activities was to be set up. The annual Conference approved this resolution at its session at Minot in May of 1943.

The next step was to secure a Director with special training and experience
in student work who would provide leadership to bring into reality this projected program. On recommendation of Dr. Bollinger contact was made with the Rev. Royer H. Woodburn, then Director of the Wesley Foundation at Emporia, State Teachers College and Assistant Pastor of First Methodist Church, Emporia, Kansas. He was a graduate of DePauw University with the A.B. degree and of Boston University School of Theology with the S.T.B. and S.T.M. degrees, and had taken work at Garrett Biblical Institute in a summer session specializing in student work and counseling. In Boston/School of Theology he also had become well acquainted with Homer R. Elford, who was now pastor at Grand Forks. He met Dr. Hicks in Kansas City in July for an interview concerning the new program to be undertaken at the University of North Dakota, and arrangements were made for the new Director to come to Grand Forks in September to begin the Wesley Foundation program and in addition to do some teaching in Wesley College. The work was to be known as the Wesley Foundation at the University of North Dakota and Wesley College.

The program was started "from scratch" for there was no actual activity program upon which to build except as students had been in the Methodist Youth Fellowship of the First Methodist Church. Since it was in the middle of World War II the civilian registration of the University was at a record low of between five and six hundred, most of the men having joined the Armed Forces. There were seven hundred fifty Air Corps men, four hundred A.S.T.P. Engineers, and fifty Medics in uniform on the campus, but the rigid time schedule of these men made it very difficult to engage them in a program. Furthermore, the only space available on the campus, in view of the use of Robertson Hall by the Air Corps as its headquarters, was a very small office in Corwin Hall. Arrangements were made to hold the Sunday evening meetings in Epworth Hall at the First Methodist Church downtown two miles from the campus, the church contributing space for recreation, worship and discussion, and kitchen facilities for students to prepare their Sunday evening fellowship suppers. Other activities were to be directed from the tiny campus office which served as office for the Director,
counseling quarters, planning room for the Wesley Foundation Student Council, and headquarters for all the activities during the week.

In spite of these handicaps the students responded to the leadership of the new Director, though in small numbers because of the low civilian registration, and before many months the new Wesley Foundation has made a place for itself among the Methodist students in the University and in the thinking of the entire student body, the faculty, the administration, the Grand Forks community and the North Dakota Annual Conference. An attempt was made to meet the needs of the students and to present through attractive publicity and constant contact a well-rounded program of religious and social activities. The fact that Mr. Woodburn was asked in January of 1944 to become Conference Director of Youth Work (as an additional responsibility) not only revealed the appreciation and acceptability of his work but also gave him invaluable opportunities to contact the high school young people who soon would be going to college, many to the University and Wesley College, where they would become participants in the Wesley Foundation program.

Typical of the early and continuous outreach and broader training program of the Foundation was the attendance by the Director and two students in the spring of that first year at the National Conference on Religious Drama held on the University of Illinois campus at the Urbana Wesley Foundation, and by one student at the Student Volunteer Movement Conference at Wooster, Ohio. Also during the first year the first annual state conference of the Methodist Student Movement was held at Fargo under the direction of Dr. John C. Irwin and Mr. Woodburn, with students present from Grand Forks, Fargo, Jamestown, Dilendale, and Valley City student groups. Mr. Woodburn was made State Director of Student Work and continued to guide the state-wide activities of the Methodist Student Movement and to secure participation of North Dakota students in national and regional conferences and meetings.

During the second year it became evident that a student center was needed on the campus. The Director envisioned a student center similar to that of
other Wesley Foundations, and the students were unanimous in their opinion that
the two-mile distance to the church was too far to go twice a Sunday. The students
attended the morning worship services of the church, and appreciated the contrib-
ution the church was making in providing facilities for the Sunday evening meetings,
but they wanted a student center of their own.

This was made possible when the Air Corps finished its work at the University
and relinquished the use of Robertson Hall. The Director and the Wesley Foundation
Student Council planned the Student Center and submitted the plan to Dr. Hicks
and the Executive Committee of the Trustees of Wesley College. With their approval
 gained, Mr. Woodburn and the students began in November the work of setting up the
Student Center and of raising fifteen hundred dollars outside the regular Wesley
Foundation budget to pay for equipment and installation. Several persons interested
in student work made substantial contributions. Some of these were from outside the
state, such as Mr. J. R. Jackson of Freeport, Ill. Bishop Cushman was most helpful
in his enthusiastic support of the project and in making available a considerable
amount from the Area Fund for Camp and Defense Activities. Since many veterans
were now returning to campuses this was regarded as a worthy use of this money.

Mr. Woodburn designed an altar and reading stand for the Chapel and had them
made locally. The Chapel occupies a former classroom on the second floor and
provides a worshipful atmosphere for the Sunday evening Chapel service and a place
for private meditations and personal devotions. A wine-colored dossal curtain was
hung back of the altar, a cross and candlesticks were donated by a
Wesley College trustee, and the First Methodist Church gave a small parlor organ
for the Chapel. The entire third floor is occupied by Student Center facilities.
The homelike Lounge and Reading Room has a wine-colored rug, davenport, chairs,
floor lamps, radio-phonograph, and books and magazines. Here students feel at home.
The Recreation Room is popular, with its pingpong table, dart board, table games,
piano and "coke" machine. The Kitchenette is well equipped for the preparation
of Sunday evening fellowship suppers and refreshments for parties. The Counseling
Office, which serves as office for the Director, and interview room is comfortable and roomy. In addition, a study room, office for the weekly newsheet, and other rooms complete these quarters for the Wesley Foundation program. It makes a fine student center, but the attendance at many meetings overflows from the rooms out into the halls. Students helped select draperies and other appointments for the rooms, and participated enthusiastically in outfitting this place which was to be their own Student Center.

Open House was held on January 17, 1945. Invitations were sent to the faculty and student body of the University, to the College trustees, to the Official Board of the First Methodist Church of Grand Forks, to members of the North Dakota Annual Conference, and to others who would be interested in the New Student Center. According to the Grand Forks Herald more than five hundred people attended the open house that evening and all were quite expressive of their delight with such fine quarters for the Wesley Foundation program.

George Harper of Alabama, then in school at Evanston, Ill., was present to represent the National Conference of Methodist Youth. An attractively printed folder set forth the purpose of the Wesley Foundation and carried greetings and messages from President John C. West of the University of North Dakota and of the National Association of State Universities, Dr. M. D. Bollinger of the Department of Student Work of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church, President T. Ross Hicks of Wesley College, Joyce Morrow, President of the Wesley Foundation Student Council, Neyland Hester, president of the National Conference of Methodist Youth, Dr. Homer J. R. Elford, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Grand Forks, and "Chapel Meditation", a poem by Bishop Ralph Spaulding Cushman.

The new Wesley Foundation was now at home in its new quarters. The students felt a pride in this "home away from home", the Director felt a sense of accomplishment, new students were especially attracted by the friendly atmosphere, the home-like appearance and comfort of the Student Center. Indeed, one student, attending a Wesley Foundation meeting, and feeling the spirit of fellowship
in the group and the comfort of the home-like Lounge, remarked with real feeling, "This is the best place I've found since I left home".

This feeling of at-homeness together with genuine enthusiasm for the fellowship and sincere participation in the projects, mark the student attitude and response to the Wesley Foundation. The activity program also has had considerable influence upon students in the direction of their taking courses in the Wesley College School of Religion. Likewise, the Wesley Foundation has helped to make a difference in the religious atmosphere of the campus. Its leadership contributed largely to the making of a successful Inter-Faith group on the campus. Now participating in the University Religious Council are Methodist students through the Wesley Foundation, Lutherans through the Lutheran Student Association, Roman Catholics through the Newman Club, Jewish students through the Hillel Club, Presbyterians through the Westminster Club, Episcopalians through the Canterbury Club, Baptists and Congregationalists through the Federated Student Group, and the YMCA and YWCA organizations whose students are drawn from various churches.

Two projects which the Wesley Foundation was instrumental in getting the Religious Council to sponsor are the All-University Church Night at the beginning of each semester and the observance of the World's Student Christian Federation Day of Prayer. This Council also sponsors Religious Emphasis Week annually and coordinates religious activities on the campus. Mrs. Bertha M. Johnston of the University English Department represents the administration as Coordinator of Religious Activities and has given many years service as Counselor to the YWCA organization on the campus.

With the establishment of the Wesley Foundation Student Center in Robertson Hall a weekly newsheet was projected at the mid-year retreat of the Wesley Foundation Student Council in January of 1945. After consideration of several names the students unanimously chose "CENTER" as the title for the masthead of the publication. The Director asked Professor Paul E. Barr, head of the University Art Department, for suggestions on a style of heading. He suggested that a reverse
linoleum block be made and volunteered to make it himself. After a period of
thought he said, "The most important thing over there at the Student Center is
the cross on the altar in the Chapel". He therefore designed the cross with rays
of light streaming out from it, and "Wesley Foundation CENTER" in beautiful and
attractive style for the heading of this paper. Mr. Woodburn then added the sub-
title "Religion is at the Center of Life", and usually at the beginning of each
school year writes an article describing campus activities as spokes in a wheel,
with religion as the hub which should give all others their meaning. With a
student editor and circulation manager the paper involves several students in its
publication, while the director acts as advisor. Even the "gossip" column has a
distinctive name, "Tangents", with the definition of Tangents being "sparks that
fly off the whirl around the Center".

Drama occupies a prominent place in the activities of Wesley Foundation. From
the first year the group has presented at least two major productions in Epworth
Hall for the church and community at Christmas and Easter. Gradually the drama
interest group began to hold regular meetings and at the close of the fifth year,
June 1948, Beta Alpha Chapter of the National Society of Wesley Players was in-
stalled with seventeen charter members. The Director acts as faculty sponsor of
the chapter.

It would be an injustice to the hundreds of students who have participated
in the Wesley Foundation program and to the scores who have worked faithfully
and enthusiastically on the Wesley Foundation Student Council to name a few and
leave others unnamed, but we feel that this story should contain at least the
names of the Student Presidents who have borne responsibility along with the
Director in keeping the program a student program and in getting the fullest
participation of the students. The Student Presidents during the first six years
have been: Marietta Babcock of Grand Forks and Madeline Cooley of Minot each of
whom served one semester, Joyce Morrow of Park River, Delpha Duncan of Grand Forks,
William Cape of Grand Forks, Everett Hatz of Burt, and David Knecht of Wimbledon.
The Grand Forks church has produced many good leaders to whom the Wesley Foundation
has given additional training in leadership. However, one of the outstanding characteristics of the group is the truly state-wide representation. For example, the eighteen students on the 1948-49 Wesley Foundation Student Council represent fourteen cities and towns, and of course the entire student group represents a large number of localities and churches.

Among the emphases which the program makes each year are Christian vocation in both its broad and church-related aspects, churchmanship, world Christian community, personal religion and belief, social action areas, world peace, to name a few. One of the students, Alice Russell of Grand Forks, participated in an international work camp at Bievres, France, in the summer of 1947. A considerable number of students in the group have entered or are training for vocations in the church, among which are the ministry, missionary work, religious education, religious journalism, youth and student work, and social work.

To broaden the outlook of students, to provide rich Christian fellowship, to counsel them in their problems, to help them find and develop a vital Christian faith, to provide opportunities for creative experiences of worship, to guide them into vocational choices of constructive service, to provide a background out of which they will develop Christian homes and contribute to church and community leadership—these are the aims of the Wesley Foundation and the reasons why Methodism of North Dakota provides a Student Center of which students can say, "This is the best place".
CHAPTER ELEVEN
"THE ROLL IS CALLED"

This chapter will be a kind of roll-call. It will exhibit names, dates, records of transactions, reference to academic degrees, honorary degrees, courses of study, and other items and matters of historic interest embedded in secretarial minutes, reports, bulletins, reports of committees and commissions, and so on, covering a period of more than fifty seven years. To begin with, then, the beginning.

The following list contains the names of the Incorporators of Red River Valley University.

Jacob A. Hovis
Albert T. Foster
Henry P. Cooper
Thomas H. Sheckler
S. H. Griffith
C. M. Rees
D. H. Beecher
S. E. Ryan
J. H. Keeley

P. J. McCumber
W. P. Adams
John Nelsen
D. E. Rice
B. S. Lounsbury
M. P. Propper
D. C. Plannette
D. W. Knight

For some reason not shown by the records, John Nelsen, whose name is listed above, did not appear before Judge W. S. Lauder, District Judge, on the 25th of February, 1891, the date on which the ARTICLES of INCORPORATION were officially acknowledged by the Court over which Judge Lauder presided.

The names and addresses of the first Board of Trustees appear as follows:

W. P. Adams
P. J. McCumber
T. L. French
J. H. Keeley
A. T. Foster
S. E. Ryan
J. A. Hovis
N. G. Larimore
R. E. Richardson
W. H. White
D. C. Plannette

Wahpeton, N. D.
Wahpeton, N. D.
Wahpeton, N. D.
Wahpeton, N. D.
Grand Forks, N. D.
Bismarck, N. D.
Devils Lake, N. D.
Larimore, N. D.
Fargo, N. D.
Fargo, N. D.

In accordance with the Call issued by the Incorporators, the Board met in Wahpeton on the seventeenth of March, 1891, and organized by electing Mr. W. H. White of Fargo, President, Rev. D. C. Plannette of Fargo, First Vice President,
Mr. N. G. Larimore of Larimore, Second Vice President, and Rev. J. H. Keeley, secretary. This first meeting of the Board had several sessions, extending over the seventeenth and the eighteenth. At the afternoon session on the seventeenth, Reverend J. N. Fradenburgh, B.A. B.D., M.A., D.D., Ph.D., of Warren, Pennsylvania, was unanimously elected President of the institution, as yet existing only in the minds of the founding fathers. Dr. Fradenburgh accepted the call as he regarded it, to come to the great new northwest to help in the establishment of an institution of higher learning to be known as Red River Valley University. For a little more than one year he rendered valuable service in the preliminary and often difficult steps awaiting him and his Board of Trustees. He resigned in June of the following year, just about five months before the University was to be ready to open its doors for the enrollment of students. The Trustees are on record as declaring that Dr. Fradenburgh was a man of great intellectual and moral standing and a splendid scholar. His resignation, caused by unexpected changes in his private affairs, was accepted with profound regret.

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees on June third, 1891, among reports presented by various Committees, one from the Building Committee has two items of historic interest which should be mentioned here. The first contract let in connection with the erection of the structure was for foundation work at the figure of $4,100, and was signed on the eleventh of May, 1891. On the following day, May 12, 1891 the grounds were laid out, stakes for the building were set, and ground was broken. Suitable ceremonies were observed in the presence of a large number of interested spectators.

At a meeting of the Board on July sixth, 1892, the presidency of the institution was offered to the Reverend Dr. Eugene May, pastor of the First Methodist Church of Fargo. The Secretary was instructed to communicate with Dr. May concerning this matter. This was done, and a reply was received and communicated to the Board at a meeting on the 28th of July. For what he regarded as adequate reasons, Dr. May graciously declined the offered position. At the
same meeting of the Board a letter was received from the Reverend J. A. Hovis, M.A., accepting his previous election to the Vice-Presidency at a salary of $300 per year and satisfactory living quarters for himself and family. Some months before this meeting of the Board, its President, Mr. W. H. White had presented his resignation, which on motion of the Hon. P. J. McCumber had not been accepted. Now a letter was read by the Secretary requesting that his resignation be regarded as final. Mr. White's request was granted and E. W. Stull was elected his successor. After Dr. May had declined to accept the invitation extended to him by the Board, correspondence was entered into with the Reverend Martin Van Buren Knox, B.A., M.A., D.D., Ph.D., of Manchester, New Hampshire. At this July 2nd meeting, 1892, a telegram was received from Dr. Knox accepting the Presidency at a salary of $1500 per year. The Board confirmed the official correspondence and elected him to the Presidency at the figure named in the telegram. He thus became the second President, but in actual administration of the institution its first President, for its doors were not opened for student enrollment until October fifth, 1892. The Annual Conference held its session in Devils Lake that year. Dr. Knox was present as the newly elected President of the University and was given a most hearty welcome, the Conference pledging him its full support in his great new work. Other members of the faculty, besides President Knox and Vice-President Hovis, were Mrs. Janette Hill Knox, M.A., Professor of English Language and Literature, Miss Sarah E. Mason, Preceptress and Professor of Mathematics, Miss Ottie S. Parsons, Teacher of Music, and W. A. Pepoon, M.S., Teacher of Art. A new name appearing on the list of Trustees beside that of the Reverend E. B. Stull, is that of the Honorable John Miller, former Governor of the State.

As older men were passing forward the torch to younger men, a good many changes appear in the trustee lists from year to year. Within the next few years after Dr. Knox began his administration the following new names appear in the lists. Reverend Alexander McGregor, later a very distinguished Congregational
minister in Minneapolis, Reverend Arny Witham, pastor in Grand Forks, and later Presiding Elder of the Fargo District, C. H. Honey, of Park River, E. H. Carter of Wahpeton, C. H. Shiles of Fargo, Rev. W. M. Spoor, Rev. Dr. Eugene May, Harley S. Grover of Lisbon, later and for many years an outstanding layman of the North Dakota Conference, Frank Lynch, whose name is so interwoven with the name of Wesley College, that it would be quite impossible to separate them, Rev. William Love, John Nelson, the Rev. C. E. Brownell, F. J. Young, J. D. Wallace, the Rev. W. H. Vance, A. S. Elford, M. H. Morrill, S. B. Clarey, the Rev. James Anderson, the Rev. J. A. Strachan,—these are the new names that carry the story forward to 1900. New faculty names appearing during these years are, Ryland M. Black, Greek and Higher mathematics, who later became President of the State School in Ellendale, Professor W. G. Phelps, also of the chair of Greek and Higher Mathematics, John S. McIntosh, Professor of Greek, Nettie C. Rand, niece of President Knox, assigned to tutorial work, Miss Bertha A. Beeman, Music. With the resignation of President Knox in 1899, and the election of the Rev. Edward Peter Robertson later that year, a new era began in the history of Red River Valley University. So much of that story has already been told in previous pages that what is put down here will be in keeping with the spirit of this roll call.

M.A., D.D., Professor of Mental and Moral Science, Ryland M. Black, B.A., Professor of History and Science, Reinhardt Thiessen, Ph.B., Professor of Mathematics, John S. McIntosh, B.A., Professor of Greek and German, Miss Sarah E. Mason, Professor of Latin and French, May C. Payne, B.L., Preceptress and Professor of English, Frederick A. Douglass, Principal of the Commercial Department, Miss Bertha A. Beeman, Instructor in Voice Culture, Piano and Organ. Requirements for admission to the Freshman class included certificates or examinations covering the following subjects: English, Geography, History, Mathematics, Latin and Greek, Natural Science, Physiology, Civil Government, and German. The total enrollments for that year were 209, while the total number of individual students was 152.

For the next few years there were few changes, either in personnel or in curriculum. Because of his later support and leadership, it is worthy of note that Mr. Frank Lynch became President of the Board of Trustees in 1902, an office to which he was annually and unanimously reelected until his death in 1939, when he was succeeded by the late Mark Fornker, who attained high distinction in the State of North Dakota, and whose name was known in many circles beyond its borders. New names appearing on the teaching staff for the college year of 1903-04 include those of Professor William Pitt McVey, brother of one of the distinguished presidents of the University of North Dakota, and later an outstanding minister of the Methodist Church in North Dakota and Illinois, Professor William A. Pringle, B.A., of the Chair of History and along with Assistant Professor William J. Medland, the first of the University's graduates to join the faculty. An item of interest appearing in the Catalogue for the academic year of 1904-05 is the announcement of the organization of an Alumni Association, of which this writer, Professor George A. Henry, Dean Emeritus of Wesley College in the year of 1948 was Secretary. The President of the association was the Reverend R. S. McArthur, now the Reverend Doctor McArthur, a retired member of the California Conference with many years of outstanding leadership in that large Conference. The Treasurer was the Reverend W.L. Plaxton, now Reverend Doctor Plaxton, and for years a member of the New England Southern Conference. Like Dr. McArthur, he is now retired. The
year of 1905-06 was one of transition, one of re-birth, one of renaming, one of re-locating. It was in the autumn of 1906 that Wesley College began its career of affiliation with the University of North Dakota, which has borne fruits at home and abroad, beyond the expectations of even the men who brought it to pass. Names of great distinction appearing in the catalogue for the first time are those of Samuel Follet Halfyard, Ph.D., Professor of Philosophy and Theology, Wallace Nelson Stearns, Ph.D., Professor of Biblical Languages and Literature, George Abeel Stout, Director of the Conservatory of Music and Professor of Violin, Ruby Redmond Stout, Teacher of Piano, and Lena Lee Leonard, Teacher of Voice Culture. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas L. Hazlett of Valley City made it possible for Wesley College to establish a Lectureship whose aim it was to promote knowledge in the fields of religion and philosophy. For twenty years, the College brought to the campus and to the city of Grand Forks men of distinction, leadership and scholarship, unsurpassed in the history of educational enterprise in North Dakota. An intelligent reading of the following list will sustain both the truth and the modesty of the assertion just made.

1907
Borden P. Bowne, D.D. LL.D. Ph.D. 
Religion and Philosophical Ideals

1908
Robert W. Rogers, D.D., LL.D., Ph.D., F.R.G.S. 
The Story of Creation

1909
Robert W. Rogers, D.D., LL.D., Ph.D., F.R.G.S. 
The Story of the Israelites

1910
Francis J. McComell, D.D., Ph.D., LL.D. 
Religious Fundamentals

1911
Luther Freeman, D.D., LL.D. 
Positive Religious Ideals
1912
Harris Franklin Bell, Ph.D., D.D., LL.D.
The Social Significance of Religion

1913
Allen Hosten, Ph.D.
The Religious Education of Boys

1914
Edwin Diller Starbuck, Ph.D.
The Psychological Basis of Religious Education

1915
Harry F. Ward, M.A., D.D.
Christianizing the Social Order

1916
Lynn Harold Hough, D.D., LL.D.
The Imperial Religion

1917
Albert C. Knudsen, Ph.D., D.D., LL.D.
The Message of the Old Testament Prophets

1918
Charles Wesley Burns, D.D.
The Church and the Changing Order

1919
Isaac Taylor Headland, Ph.D., D.D.
Missions in China

1920
Frederick Carl Biselen, Ph.D., D.D., LL.D.
The Prophet and the Modern World

1921
William F. McDowell, D.D. LL.D.
The Christian Philosophy of Life

1922
Shailer Mathews, Ph.D., LL.D., D.D.
The Validity of American Ideals

1923
Charles Horswell, Ph.D., D.D.
The Genius of Israel
1924
Ernest Freemont Tittle, D.D. LL.D.
The Modern Man and God

1925
John J. Cornelius, M.A. S.T.P.
The Religion of India

1926
Lucius H. Bugbee, D.D., LL.D.
Religion and Life

It was nothing less than tragedy that adverse circumstances made it eventually impossible for the generous founders of the lectureship to continue its support. It has been the writer's hope for years, and it is still his hope, that some one with adequate financial reserves may see that here is an opportunity to render year by year a service through Wesley College to its community, both academic and civic, comparable with the service made possible by the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Hazlett.

Beginning about 1911 the College Conservatory of Music established an Artists Course, and for a period of years brought annually to the city of Grand Forks, as well as to the affiliated campus, some of the most renowned musicians of the world. The list is a long one, but the following may very well be named:

Violinists:
Maude Powell, Florence Austin, J. Kocian, Mischa Elman, Albert Spaulding.

String Quartets:
The Czernonky, the Flonzaley for two seasons and the Zoellner, and the cellist, Van Vliet.

Pianists:
Augusta Gottlow, Alfred Calzin, Adams Buell, Harold Bauer, Josef Lhevinne, Sturkow-Ryder, Mme. Carreno, Cessip Gabrilowitsch.

Singers:
Mme. Langendorff, Mme. Melba, Marion Green, George Hamlin, Christine Miller, Gustav Holmquist, Mm. Gadski, Mme. Shumann-Heink, Oscar Seagle.
Years came and went and with their passage came inevitable changes in personnel, both of officers of the Corporation and of teachers in the College. All these changes need not be named, but some notations should be made in order that this record may be reasonably complete. It should be noted that death removed the name of Mr. W. G. Laramore in November 1913. But he still lives through his achievements, nor will he be forgotten—Laramore Hall is an enduring monument.

A name appearing for the first time in the College Bulletin in 1913 is that of Karl Stolz, B.D., Ph.D. Dr. Stolz came to succeed Professor Chester Charlton McCown, resigned. Both of these men attained renown in their chosen fields. At the time of his death a few years ago, Dr. Stolz was Dean of one of the outstanding Schools of Religious Education in this country, while Dr. McCown is now a scholar and executive of great distinction. By 1921 Plato Ernest Shaw had joined the College staff as Professor of the History of Christian Thought and Progress. During this year Walter Lee Airheart became Director of Rural Work and Community Welfare, stationed at the Agricultural College in Fargo.

From 1920 onward to his resignation as President of the College in 1940 the name of Charles L. Wallace, D.D., is never absent from the lists. It is not an interruption at this point to record that for twenty-five years the Conference Summer School of Ministerial Training was conducted in the Halls and class-rooms of the College, and for most of that time under the joint direction of Dr. Wallace as Dean, Dr. Henry as Chairman of the Board. During these years many distinguished leaders of the religious life of this country were guest lecturers in this School, under the generous patronage of Wesley College. Because all of them cannot be named, it may not be in good taste to name anyone. Yet at the risk of being open to criticism, because of the pre-eminent distinction and achievements of Dr. Edgar J. Goodspeed, of the University of Chicago, his name is here recorded. Another name may be put down without prejudice to any of his un-named colleagues—the name of Dr. George A. Abbott, head of the Department of Chemistry of the University of North Dakota, who year after year led the
men of the School, as well as many visitors, into the secret chambers of the
current knowledge of chemistry. And this Dr. Abbott did as a labor of love,
ever having accepted an honorarium of any kind. And let the reader keep in
mind that a ministry of this quality is not rooted in chance, nor does it
continue year after year by accident. Dr. Charles L. Wallace was the Dean who
raised the standard, and in a very real sense Wesley College was the host pro-
viding the congenial atmosphere. In 1921 the writer became pastor of the First
Methodist Church of Grand Forks, and his name appears among the names of the
Trustees in the College Bulletin of 1922. From that time to the date of this
writing, July, 1948, his name is never absent from the records, as Trustee, as
faculty member, active or on leave, as Chairman of the Faculties, as Acting-
President, as Dean and then Dean-Emeritus. It may not be out of place to mention
the fact that Professor Henry was selected as the speaker for the College
Commencement in 1925, when he was honored with the degree of doctor of divinity.
He chose as the theme of his address, "The Christian Use of the New Knowledge".
The College Bulletin of 1926 carried the name of Miss Helen Asher, M.A., as
Assistant to the Faculty of Religion, with special assignment to Professor Henry,
whose class enrollments that year were unusually large. The significance of Miss
Asher's appointment, is in the fact that she is the daughter of the Reverend Dr.
James I. Asher who along with Miss Nettie Oliver-Rand, niece of President M.B.V.
Knox, graduated in the first class of Red River Valley University. Dr. Asher was
for years a leader in the ministry and the educational work of the Methodist
Church in North Dakota. After overseas service in Europe during the first world
war, he settled in St. Paul, where he completed his active ministry as a member
of the Minnesota Conference. He is now retired and lives in St. Paul. The daughter
Helen is in Rio de Janeiro connected with social service work in that city under
American auspices. Professor Edward Rust Lewis, was called to the professorship
of "History and Philosophy of Religion" in 1922. As already noted, the extension
of the work of the College in Valley City was still in progress and President
Robertson was given authority to assign Professor Lewis either to Valley City or to the College in Grand Forks, as he deemed wise. Assignment was made to the College. During the summer of 1923 Professor Lewis carried forward his graduate work in Boston University leading to the degree of doctor of philosophy. He made such an impression on the Dean of the Graduate School that he was offered a lectureship in philosophy, with sufficient remuneration to make it possible for him to live there with his family while he was completing his doctoral studies. He therefore, asked to be released from his contract with Wesley College. At a special meeting of the Executive Committee, of which the writer was a member, Professor Lewis was granted his release. A few weeks later Dr. Robertson made a tentative offer of the vacant position to the writer. His exact words were: "I am offering you the position made vacant by the resignation of Professor Lewis, but today I will receive neither your acceptance nor your refusal. I shall give you exactly one month to think about it. One month from this date I must have your word". The writer began his teaching ministry in Wesley College as Professor of the History and Philosophy of Religion with the opening of the College and the University in 1923. Professor Isaac S. Corn was added to the faculty in 1924 to succeed Dr. Stolz, who resigned to accept a position with the Young Men's Christian Association College in Chicago. Dr. Corn remained with the College for ten years, and then resigned to accept a professorship with Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Ill.

In earlier parts of this story mention has been made of outstanding benefactors of Wesley College in matters of finance. Mention must now be made of one, who from the first mention of a possible affiliation of the church school with the University, down to the time of his death a few years ago, was the chief interpreter of it to the reading public in the territory covered by the Grand Forks Herald. In years of service, in wealth of information transmitted through his editorial pages, in public and private speech, William Preston Davies, ranks as Dean of all unofficial educators who have passed this way in many, many, years.
It was fitting, therefore, that he should be nominated for and that he should receive the highest honorary degree in the gift of Wesley College. And this writer will long remember with pride, that he first made the suggestion to President Robertson that the degree of doctor of laws be conferred upon him, and that it became his official duty to present him for that degree at the College Commencement on June 10th, 1929, when in Corwin Hall before an audience that filled that lovely little auditorium to its utmost capacity, with an audience of distinguished "town and gown" representatives, William Preston Davies received the degree of Doctor of Laws. Later Dr. Davies received both from this country and from abroad hundreds of letters and telegrams congratulating him and commending the wisdom displayed by the officers of the College which not so much honored him as itself in conferring its highest degree upon him. The degree came as a surprise to him as did the gift of a complete academic garb from the Herald Company. Dr. Davies was robed, hooded, and capped that day to the delight of all who witnessed the ceremony and of all who read of it afterward.

Record must now be made of the retirement of the man without whom, in all human probability, there would never have been a Wesley College affiliated with the University of North Dakota. Edward Peter Robertson went to the presidency of Red River Valley University in October 1899. In 1905 the institution was moved to Grand Forks and began its affiliated mission. In 1931 Dr. Robertson was seventy years old. In October of that year his presidential service for the College would have extended over a period of thirty-two years. He was, in both age and years of service the oldest President among the Methodist institutions of higher learning in the United States. He has made record of his gratitude to the Trustees, first of Red River Valley University and then of Wesley College, through all the years of his presidency. His decision to retire was fully matured before he presented it to his Board. No one had even hinted that it was time for him to go. He stated, quite simply that when the invitation came to him that Sunday morning so long ago in Rochester, he accepted in the nature of a Call; now another Call had come to
him, and as he had accepted the first, so now he must accept the second. It was not to be a matter of either counsel or debate. The time had come for him to step aside for a younger man. And the younger man was already on the horizon.--The Reverend Dr. Charles L. Wallace, soon to complete his full term as District Superintendent of the Fargo District of the North Dakota Conference. By unanimous vote he was elected President of the College at a meeting of the Board of Trustees, on May 23rd, 1931, to enter upon the duties of his office on October first of that year. At the same meeting of the Board, Dr. Robertson was elected President-Emeritus, without fixed duties, and he was to receive an honorarium of $1300 per year. He was also given title to the Ree car owned by the College, for use or disposal as he might wish. At a later meeting of the Board he was given title to a lot on Hamline Street, where he and Mrs. Robertson built a modest, but very comfortable home, occupied by them at the time of his death. Mrs. Robertson continued to occupy the home for a considerable time after her husband's death but later sold it, and moved to Eugene, Oregon, to be near her son and daughter, Mrs. Charles Hunt, wife of Doctor Hunt, a physician and surgeon in that city.

The plan of this story does not include lengthy appraisals of the men who have been its chief actors. But because the writer of the story has known intimately all the Presidents of the college, except Dr. Fradenburgh, a few words may not be out of place. The writer first met Dr. Robertson in September, 1899, at the seat of the Northern Minnesota Conference, within whose bounds he was then supplying a church as a student in the University in Wahpeton. Dr. Robertson was visiting that session of the Conference. Reverend Dr. W. H. Vance, pastor of First Church, Fargo, was President of the Board of Trustees. He too was at that session of the Northern Minnesota Conference. He was then, by authority of the Board, in search of a man to whom he would recommend for the presidency. He came to the writer to say that he thought he had found his man. He named him saying that he was visiting the Conference, and asked the writer, student as he was, to make arrangements to meet him, to have a talk with him and then to report concerning his impressions. All of this was done and the writer has recollections
of telling Dr. Vance that his impressions were favorable. From that day onward
the writer knew Dr. Robertson intimately, as Conference colleague, as his pastor,
as a member of the Board of Trustees of which he was the executive leader, as a
member of the faculty over which he presided, as neighbor and friend after his
retirement, and in it all through all the years, he can say with utter truth,
that of all the men he has known, Edward Peter Robertson stands forth in clear
outlines in abilities, in the essentials of culture, in devotion to what he
regarded as his duty mediated to him through a call, in long-range plans, in
sacrificial services and benevolences, in the fundamentals of leadership, in
loyalty to his religious convictions, in catholicity of life's attitudes, religi-
ungous, social, scientific,— in a word, nothing was foreign to him if it were
essential to worthy human living. He was human, — very human,— and therefore had
limitations and weaknesses but they were never masters in any situation demanding
character and intelligence of superior qualities. His wit was keen; it had a
cutting edge like that of a surgeon's scalpel, but it was never used ruthlessly,
nor for the pleasure of displaying skill untempered by the ethics of the occasion.
Beyond all dispute, such a man will have critics and antagonists, not to say
enemies. But likewise beyond dispute, he will have friends and supporters, not
to say disciples. That Dr. Robertson gathered them all about him, no one who knows
his story will question. It may be considered a matter of record that the late
President Robertson's friends, supporters and disciples, far outnumber his critics,
antagonists and enemies. We leave him with his life and its achievements in the
belief that Mr. John Hancock, LL.D., and Mrs. Hancock, and their children, Ruth
and Ralph, followed a profoundly true insight in naming Robertson Hall, for
Edward Peter Robertson.

As already noted, Dr. Charles L. Wallace took up the duties and responsibilities
of his new position in October, 1931, following the resignation of Dr. Robertson.
Some of the reasons for his resignation have already been named, but not all of
them. It seems wise to state the fact, as far as known never before made public,
that one reason for Dr. Robertson's resignation was his desire to open the way
for Dr. Wallace's election. At the October session of the Annual Conference he would complete his full term as Superintendent of the Fargo District. If he accepted a new pastoral appointment it might not be easy, nor might it be desirable, to transfer him from that appointment to the presidency of the College within a year or two. Dr. Robertson knew that members of the Board of Trustees had had Dr. Wallace in mind for some years as successor to himself. Dr. Wallace came to the presidency of the College during a period of depression and drouth. The deficit showing on the books of the College Treasurer had begun to look serious. Dr. Robertson's hope of long standing that he might turn the College over to his successor well-founded and free from all encumbrances could not now be realized. All of these facts were well known to Dr. Robertson and were recognized by him as bearing upon the situation which the new president would have to face. To protect him from the embarrassment of reporting to his Board of Trustees a large debt immediately after taking office, Dr. Robertson, himself, reported to the Board, and made public through the Grand Forks Herald the fact that by the end of the school year of 1931-32, there would be a large deficit. For the next few years the deficit increased. Factors working together to bring this about were beyond any one's control. The sinking of resources through the really terrible depression of the period, the recession of business prosperity, the long-continued period of drouth, the falling off of benevolences—these were only some of the factors which made it impossible to reduce the deficit, and made it equally impossible to prevent its rise. From the beginning of Dr. Wallace's administration in 1931 to its close at the end of 1939, the general financial situation was the kind that tries the fortitude of men, not a few of whom cannot endure such trials, and surrender to the forces of defeat. Dr. Wallace belongs to the group of those who endure.

A number of changes in the College personnel during these years should be noted. During the academic year of 1933-34, Professor Henry asked for leave of absence in order that he might accept the Directorship of Federal Relief in the
city of Fargo. This position was held for two years and was followed by a four-year pastorate of the St. Thomas Circuit including the churches in Glassston and Hamilton. The Board of Trustees graciously extended his leave from year to year until his retirement from the Circuit. He then returned to the College for part time teaching service. Later this relationship was changed to full time work, still in effect at the time of this writing, the summer of 1948. In 1935 Professor Corn resigned to accept an attractive offer from Illinois Wesleyan University. With Dr. Corn's retirement from the faculty, Assistant Professor Eugene S. Tanner was advanced to the rank of Associate Professor. Note should be made of the fact that Dr. and Mrs. Corn made a gift of $1,000 to the College, to be used as the Executive Committee might designate. At a special meeting of the Board during the summer of 1935, Assistant Professor Eugene N. Adams was also advanced to the rank of Associate Professor. Believing that the time had come for a new and general rally to free the College of debt, Mr. Frank Lynch made a provisional pledge of $25,000 toward a total sum of $100,000. But because conditions did not make it possible to meet the terms of Mr. Lynch the total draft upon him could not be drawn. At a meeting of the Executive Committee on September 11th, 1939, President Wallace announced that he had engaged Dr. Russell John Compton as Professor of Religion. Dr. Compton is a gifted young man of recognized scholarship in his field. He remained but one year, when he went to take another position. He is now on the staff of Hamline University, St. Paul, as Professor of Religion and Philosophy. Dr. Wallace's administration closed with the end of the calendar year of 1939.

Because President Wallace had submitted his resignation some months earlier to take effect as of December 31st, 1939, there had been considerable discussion concerning his successor. Several names were placed before the Board and at least one man actually appeared before the Board and also before the Annual Conference in session in Devils Lake. There was also some discussion about electing a Dean to carry on until a President could be found. For a time the Board considered a plan to enter into negotiations with the First Methodist Church of Grand Forks
for part time release of its pastor, Dr. T. Ross Hicks to become part time President of the College. After months of careful consideration, the Board of Trustees, at an adjourned meeting on December 13rd, 1939, unanimously elected Dr. T. Ross Hicks President of the College on a full time basis, on condition that his church release him so that he could begin his new duties not later than the 15th of January, 1940. As already noted Professor Compton had resigned, his resignation to take effect at the end of the university year. At a special meeting of the Executive Committee in August of that summer, President Hicks recommended the employment, on a part time basis, of three local clergymen, his own successor as pastor of First Church, Reverend Homer J. R. Elford, Reverend James Robertson, Minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Forks, and Reverend R. B. Million, pastor of the Baptist Church of Grand Forks. Dr. Henry had already retired from active Conference work, and Dr. Hicks recommended that he be returned to active College duties. These recommendations were all approved, and President Hicks was authorized to make satisfactory arrangements for these men to enter upon their College duties with the opening of the academic year of 1940-41.

Within a little more than one year after President Hicks took office, black clouds of war settled down covering the nation as they had already covered other vast portions of the earth. The attack on Pearl Harbor rocked this entire country to its foundation on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, and from that on to the war's end, and beyond, ordinary civilian affairs in every walk of life were effected. Perhaps nowhere was the effect more apparent, or more nearly universal than in the field of college and university education. The enrollment in the University of North Dakota dropped to about 500. This falling off in the number of university students quite inevitably reacted upon the enrollment in Wesley College. Later when the army Air Corps, the A.S.T.P. and the Medical Corps took over all Wesley College buildings, except Corwin Hall, as well as all available University Halls, there were as many as twelve hundred men in uniform on the campus; as men finished training and were moved out others took their places. All the grounds
of Wesley College were under military control, so that members of the College staff were required to show passes, signed by proper military officers, to enter, even the grounds of their College. Both residence Halls were occupied as soldier barracks while Robertson Hall became officers headquarters, with every room turned into an office, and in the case of the larger rooms, several offices. In circumstances like these it was not easy to carry on the regular functions of a college. But classes, small as they were, continued. Naturally there were gains of a financial nature to the College. It should here be noted that for several years the heating plant of the College had been deteriorating so rapidly that either a new plant would have to be installed at the cost of many thousands of dollars, or a contract made with the University to purchase steam from that source. This plan was adopted and beginning with the autumn of 1941 the College has purchased its steam for the College buildings, including the President's house, from the University. As an item of historic interest appearing in the official Minutes of the Secretary under date of April 15, 1943, is the record of the sale of 46 lots in blocks 7, 8, and 9 of University Place Addition to Mr. Paul Owens, to be developed into green-house properties. Another item of importance during this time has to do with final settlement of the Sayre Estate note of $50,000—a note given by Mr. A. J. Sayre to the College a good many years before his death. The value of the estate at the time of settlement was much less than Mr. Sayre had any reason to believe it ever would be, so that the College had to accept a sum very much less than the face value of the note. About this time settlement was also made for some farm lands belonging to the Sayre estate in Canada on which the College had claims. Somewhat later the College sold to the University of North Dakota the block of land directly west of the College campus.

One of the most important changes in the personnel of the teaching staff during Dr. Hicks' administration, was the addition of Dr. Arthur William Munk, as Associate Professor of Religion, in 1946. Dr. Munk is a native of Texas and holds the degree of B.A. from Southwestern University of Georgetown, Texas, and
the degree of B.D. from Southern Methodist University School of Theology in Dallas. In 1945 Mr. Munk received the degree of Ph. D. from Boston University, with a major in philosophy, under the well-known American Philosopher, Professor Edgar S. Brightman, Ph.D. Soon after receiving his degree, Dr. Munk became pastor of the Methodist Church in Northampton, Massachusetts, a position he held at the time of his call to Wesley College.

While Dr. Hicks came to the pastorate of the Methodist Church in Grand Forks from Missouri, he is a New England man, and for some time had in mind to return there to complete his active ministry. The opportunity to do so came when Dr. Arthur Munk was called to a professorship in Wesley College, from the pastorate of the Methodist Church in Northampton, Massachusetts, and President Hicks was invited by that Church to become its pastor. These transfers became effective during the summer of 1946, Dr. Hicks having resigned from the presidency effective with the conclusion of the session of the Annual Conference in the spring. He was continued as Acting-President until the end of the College-University summer session when Dr. Henry became Acting-President under the official title of Chairman-of-the-Faculties. He continued in that capacity until August 1st, 1947, when Rev. Marcus J. Birrell was installed, to be inaugurated some months later, an event to which a concluding section will be given.

The names of all members of the Board of Trustees as constituted in 1891, and new names as they were added from time to time to replace those which, for one reason or another, were removed from the roll, are inscribed on the official records of the College from that date to the present time. The plan of this work does not include the transcription of all these names. It has been deemed wise, however, to include in this record the names of the Presidents and Secretaries of the Board, with notations of years in office:

Mr. W. H. White, President, 1891-92; Rev. J. H. Keeley, Secretary, 1891-93; Rev. E. B. Stull, President, 1892-94; Rev. A. T. Foster, Secretary, 1893-99; Rev. Dr. Eugene May, President, 1894-98; Mr. Frank J. Young, President, 1898; Mr. M. H.
Morrill, Secretary, 1899-1901; Rev. W. H. Vance, President, 1899-1901; Mr. George Wallace, Secretary, 1902-05; Mr. Frank Lynch, President, 1902-- 1939; Rev. S. A. Danford, Secretary, 1905.

In 1905 the Board of Trustees ordered the closing of Red River Valley University in Wahpeton and its removal to Grand Forks to resume academic operation in affiliation with the University of North Dakota. The Articles of Incorporation were amended so as to make legal the business transacted in Grand Forks. At a special meeting of the Board on April 25, 1906 on motion of the Rev. Dr. Leonard pastor of the First Methodist Church in Fargo, it was ordered that an educational institution be conducted in Grand Forks under the name of Wesley College. The name of Mr. John W. Ogren appears in the minutes of this meeting as Secretary of the Board of Trustees; and his name is attached as Secretary to every official record of the Board until 1917, when he moved to Chicago to establish a legal practice in that city. Mr. Ogren's business as an attorney at law has prospered in the intervening years, but through President Robertson, through this writer, and more recently through President Birrell, he has kept in communication with the College whose interests were so close to his heart through out his years of residence in Grand Forks. The Rev. Thomas H. Gallagher, pastor of the Methodist Church in Grand Forks, succeeded Mr. Ogren as Secretary of the Board until he in turn was followed by Mr. Frank W. Reinoehl, of Larimore, in 1920. Mr. Reinoehl continued as Secretary of the Board until June 1930, when his resignation was made necessary by his removal to Winnipeg where he had accepted a most important position in connection with vast land holdings related to Canadian railways and insurance companies. He was succeeded in the Secretaryship by Mr. John Hesketh of Grand Forks, who, in his turn, was followed in 1936 by the Secretary now in office, Professor E. D. Coon, Ph. D., of the Department of Chemistry of the University of North Dakota. The notation has already been made that Mr. Frank Lynch continued in the Presidency of the Board from his first election in 1902 until his death in 1939. Mr. Mark Forkner of Langdon and Bismarck followed Mr.
Lynch as President and continued in office until pressure of business and other
duties as well as failing health compelled him to submit his resignation in
1942. Mr. Farkner was followed by Mr. Carroll E. Day, the eighth President of
the Board. It will be seen from this survey that since in constitution in 1891,
50 seven years ago, the Board of Trustees has had eight Presidents and nine
Secretaries.

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees for the year 1947 was held on
May 15th, in the Auditorium of Expression in Robertson Hall. At this meeting
Marcus John Birrell was unanimously elected President of the College. His
induction into office was set for August, two and one half months later. It
was some months before a date was fixed upon for his inauguration. This ceremony
took place on May 13th, 1948. During the intervening months President Birrell
entered upon his new duties with commanding intelligence and ardent zeal. The
program of the inauguration, printed below, will present a better picture of
the ceremonies than would pages of verbal description.

THE INAUGURATION OF MARCUS JOHN BIRRELL AS SIXTH PRESIDENT OF WESLEY COLLEGE.

President John C. West of the University of North Dakota presiding.

Organ Selections..........................Mrs. L. C. Harrington

The Academic Procession: "Marche Romaine"........Gounod
Brass Quartet - William Pond, Lawrence Meyer, Harold Kepler and
Norbert Auer.
Organist - Mrs. L. C. Harrington

The Hymn: "America the Beautiful" (Audience standing)

The Invocation........The Reverend Doctor Arthur W. Munk

The Solo: "Cavatina" from "The Barber of Seville"........Rossini
Miss Silvia Bagley
Accompanied by Mrs. George G. Finlay

The Induction..............The Honorable Carroll E. Day, President of the
Board of Trustees of Wesley College.

The Prayer of Consecration....The Reverend Hubert N. Dukas

The Inaugural Address............President Marcus John Birrell

The Benediction..............The Reverend Doctor George A. Henry
THE INAUGURAL CEREMONIES - Thursday, May 13, 1948

9:30 A.M. - The Inauguration. In the University of North Dakota Armory, President John G. West of the University of North Dakota presiding.

2:30 P.M. - The Educational Forum. In Corwin Hall, Wesley College campus. The Reverend Hubert N. Dukes presiding.

The History of Wesley College - The Reverend Doctor George A. Henry

The Purpose of Wesley College - The Reverend Royer H. Woodburn and the Reverend Doctor Arthur W. Munk.

The Plans of Wesley College - The Honorable Carroll E. Day, and President Marcus J. Birrell.


President Howard J. Bell, Jr. of Jamestown College, Speaker.

Reception following for President and Mrs. Birrell.

TRUSTEES

Carroll E. Day, President
E. J. Buckingham, 1st Vice-Pres.
W. M. Edmunns, 2nd Vice-Pres.
E. D. Coon, Secretary
Bernt S. Helgaas, Treas.
C. Maxwell Brown
Kenneth Dale
Arthur E. Holt
Lloyd Stone
Arthur W. Tweet
Lloyd G. Thompson

Ralph S. Cushman
Andrew Robbie
Henry J. Gernhardt, Jr.
Earl O. Grunstead
John Halcrow
John M. Hancock
N. Everett Hanson
Roland G. Hohn
Frederic G. Norris
George O. Parish

ADMINISTRATION

Birrell, Marcus J., A.B., S.T.B., President
Woodburn, Royer H., A.B., S.T.B., S.T.M., Director of Wesley Foundation
Fry, Mrs. Esther R., A.B., Registrar-Bookkeeper
-- Brown, Mrs. Beatrice, Secretary to the President
Cape, Alice, part-time secretary

SCHOOL OF RELIGION FACULTY

Munk, Arthur W., A.B., B.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Religion
Woodburn, Royer H., A.B., S.T.B., S.T.M., Addiicate Professor of Religion
Dukes, Hubert N., A.B., M.A., B.D., Part-time Associate Professor of Religion
CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC FACULTY

Bagley, Silvia R., A.B., M.Mus., Associate Professor of Voice
Canan, Clara Thompson, (Mrs. E.B.) Instructor in Voice
French, Mary Margaret, A.B., M.A., Instructor in Piano
Harrington, Alberta A., (Mrs. L.O.), Graduate of New England Conservatory of Music, Associate Professor of Organ and Piano.

DEPARTMENT OF EXPRESSION FACULTY

Wickard, Mrs. Laura," B. Or., Associate Professor of Speech.

JUNIOR CONSERVATORY FACULTY

Atwood, Margaret (Mrs. E.T.) Instructor in piano
Johnson, Eleanor, B.Mus., Instructor in Piano and Voice
McLaughlin, Ruth Elaine, (Mrs. John) A.B., B.Mus., Instructor in Piano
Vickers, Jean (Mrs. Wm.) B.A., Part-time instructor in piano
Wickard, Mrs. Laura, B. Or., Instructor of Expression
Hansan, Delores, Secretary

HOUSE MOTHERS

JANITORIAL STAFF

House, Mrs. Sarah, Larimore Hall Pallasch, Mrs. Emma, Janitress
Millard, Mrs. Margaret, Sayre Hall Wiken, Mr. Melvin, Caretaker

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES REPRESENTED

School Represented | Date founded | Name
--- | --- | ---
Albion College | 1835 | Paul Airheart
DePauw University | 1837 | Royer H. Woodburn
Boston University | 1839 | Royer H. Woodburn
Ohio Wesleyan University | 1841 | Ralph A. Trubey
Minnesota University | 1851 | A. V. Overn
Northwestern University | 1851 | H. E. French
Cornell College | 1852 | Mrs. Howard Simpson
Hamline University | 1854 | Homer J. R. Elford
Garrett Biblical Institute | 1855 | John Irwin
University of Denver | 1864 | Mrs. Peter Kasowan
Cornell University | 1865 | Richard Beck
Carleton College | 1866 | Mrs. E. T. Towne
Drew University | 1867 | C. Maxwell Brown
Simpson College | 1867 | Alfred H. Lawton
St. Olaf College | 1874 | Adolph M. Rovelstad
Yankton College | 1881 | E. D. Schonberger
University of North Dakota | 1883 | John C. West
Jamestown College | 1883 | Howard J. Bell, Jr.
Macalester College | 1885 | Stewart T. Robertson
Morningside College | 1889 | Mary F. Wedgewood
Mayville State Teachers College | 1889 | C. P. Lura
Valley City State Teachers College | 1890 | R. L. Lokken
Montana State College | 1893 | A. M. Cooley
Bismarck College | 1899 | J. R. C. Evans
Minot State Teachers College | 1913 | William Bublitz

*On leave of absence*
This completes the calling of the roll, beginning with the names of the incorporators in 1891 and ending with the inauguration of Marcus John Birrell in 1948, almost fifty seven and one half years later. It also completes the story of four epochs in the History of Wesley College. But the story here told is only one chapter in a longer story which shall be told as time and circumstance reveal its designs. As at the beginning of this recital the writer offered his pream, so now at its conclusion he offers his l'envoi. As the first word was written for the reader, the last word shall be written for those, who, under the leadership of the youthful President, will make the designs of the story yet to be told.
L'Envoy

Marcus John Birrell, you have been called to the leadership of Wesley College at the beginning of a new era. With few exceptions, every member of your Board of Trustees, every member of your Administrative and Teaching Staffs is of your own generation. The writer of this L'Envoy is the last person now living and connected with the administration of the College whose own history is woven into its web from the beginning. And he now stands related to the administration as one with the rank of emeritus. We have made mistakes, but we avow—they have been of the head, not of the heart. You, and those who follow your leadership, will make mistakes; but we trust that, like ours, they too will be of the head and not of the heart. The older order is changing. A new day is at the dawning. We pass on to you and to your colleagues an ancient word of inspiration—let your love be a real thing with a bent for what is good. Let your ideals be to do the day's work well, to act the Golden Rule as far as in you lies, to cultivate such a measure of equanimity as will enable you to bear success with humility, to hold the affection of friends with pride, and to be prepared when the day of sorrow and grief comes to meet it with courage befitting your high calling. We hold it true that men may grow, not alone in power and knowledge, but in reverence and in charity. In this faith we say L'Envoy to you, commissioned, as you are, to carry forward into its new day, the traditions represented by Wesley College, with points of light already appearing here and there on its expanding horizon.