



PURDUE^A_T150

A Visual History of
Student Life



David M. Hovde, Adriana Harmeyer, Neal Harmeyer, and Sammie L. Morris

Foreword by Drew and Brittany Brees

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{The Founders Series}

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Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are from the Archives and Special
Collections, 1869–2018, at the Purdue University Libraries, West Lafayette,
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Information about individuals, organizations, places, and events in photographs
has been provided to the extent that it is known.

The text of this book is set in the Centaur typeface, designed by Bruce Rogers,
Purdue Class of 1890.

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[Foreword]

With the extraordinary number of Purdue University alumni who have made their mark around the world, we are honored and humbled to share our story for *Purdue at 150*.

I'll be honest. I did not know much about Purdue when a representative came down in December of 1996 to watch one of my high school football practices. I remember my coach leaning over and whispering that the man in the black and gold jacket on the sideline was there to see me. We were preparing to play in the 5A state championship game at Texas Stadium, and despite a remarkable season, I had resigned myself to the fact that I probably would not be recruited to play college football. But Purdue saw something in me, and for that I am forever grateful.

Purdue took a chance on me, coming out of Westlake High School in Austin, Texas. Joe Tiller had been hired as the head football coach in November of 1996 and was scrambling to put together a recruiting class to sign the following February. I had suffered a torn ACL in my knee as a high school junior but came back to lead my team to an undefeated 5A state championship season as a senior. Still, the combination of my knee injury and being only six feet tall scared off many college recruiters. But not coach Tiller. He believed I could run the one-back spread offense he was about to introduce to the Big Ten Conference.

Our recruiting class was ranked dead last in the Big Ten in 1997, but we made the commitment to one another that we would turn around a program that had not seen a winning season or bowl appearance in over a decade and leave as champions. Over the next four seasons, Purdue was the talk of college football. We had so many remarkable victories, culminating in a win over rival Indiana on a bitter cold night in November 2000 to secure a Big Ten Championship and Rose Bowl berth. As the Purdue faithful rushed the field that night, as they had for wins over Michigan and Ohio State in earlier weeks at Ross Ade, the feeling of pride and gratitude set in that we had made true on our commitment to leave as champions.

Certainly, football was a huge part of our Purdue experience, but not the only part. We both received world-class educations—Drew in industrial management and Brittany in organizational leadership and supervision—and often

Waving the Purdue flag during the 2013 Homecoming game.
Photo by Charles Jischke. (*Purdue University Marketing and Media collection*)

refer to Purdue as the “Ivy League school of the Midwest.” That is why we were compelled to support the development of the Brees Academic Performance Center for Purdue Athletics in 2007.

During our time at Purdue, the composite grade point average of all the student-athletes surpassed the general student body for the first time and has continued to do so on a regular basis. That impressive distinction reinforces our belief that all Boilermakers can be successful in competition and in the classroom—win championships and earn meaningful diplomas.

Purdue also taught us the importance of giving back and using our platform as athletes to influence young people in a positive way. In addition to raising our four young children (Baylen, Bowen, Callen, and Rylen), Brittany runs the Brees Dream Foundation full-time in its mission to provide care, education, and opportunities for children and families in need, especially those suffering from the debilitating effects of cancer. The Brees Dream Foundation has contributed over \$35 million since its inception in 2003.

Leadership and personal growth development are additional qualities we learned at Purdue. We continue to be inspired by the pioneers and innovators who walked the campus before us . . . John Wooden, Neil Armstrong, and Amelia Earhart to name just a few. Their courage and commitment to excellence have set the standard and created a road map for all of us to carry forward as we make our mark on this world. From business to technology, agriculture to medicine, sports to philanthropy, Purdue continues to make Giant Leaps that move society forward with a great respect for the past.

We are so grateful for our time at Purdue. We have developed lifelong friendships and are part of a university family that extends globally. Everywhere we travel, we meet Purdue alumni, and the feeling of pride and excitement is always present. As good as the past has been, we feel like our best is yet to come.

Purdue at 150 is the definitive visual history of student life at our beloved alma mater, recalling stories through rare images and artifacts as well as words. Whether you are a long-time alum or a recent graduate, we know you will enjoy the trip down memory lane. We thank all Boilermaker fans for your ongoing support.

Boiler Up!

**Drew and Brittany Brees
New Orleans, Louisiana**

Drew and Brittany Brees
Student-Athlete Academic Center.
Photo by Rebecca Wilcox. (Purdue
University Marketing and Media collection)



DREW and BRITTANY BREES
Student-Athlete Academic Center

"Here's to our School
Dear old Purdue,
And may we ne'er forsake her.
Here's to the Spirit
That never quits,
And here's to the Boilermaker."

November, 1909.

An "Ode to Purdue" from the pages of Loretta Mae Wallace's scrapbook, 1909. (Loretta Mae Wallace scrapbook)

[Preface]

STUDENT LIFE

Each semester, Purdue students arrive in West Lafayette shortly before classes begin. They find their rooms, introduce themselves to their roommates, and learn where on campus their classes will meet. Students purchase textbooks, notebooks, and supplies and determine which places have the best food. In the subsequent evenings, they join organizations and explore the areas around campus.

Some students carried slide rules while others carried laptops. Some worked on the campus farm for agriculture credits while others developed code for computer science classes. Aspects of student life have changed over time, yet much of the student experience has remained the same for 150 years.

In this book, we hope to show you how student life has changed over time yet remained undeniably true to Purdue. Through photographs, documents, and artifacts, you will experience the lives of students throughout Purdue's history. Note the similarities that tie together all Purdue alumni while recognizing the people, places, and events that have made each era of Purdue's history unique.

The full story of Purdue would fill countless volumes. This book is limited in scope to focus on the student experience through the lens of materials in the Purdue University Archives and Special Collections. Like a student filling the pages of a scrapbook, we have surrounded ourselves with the artifacts of Purdue history and selected a small sampling of representative images to affix to these pages.

“In presenting thus in formal phrase a record . . . so unavoidably condensed, the editors are sufficiently aware that the shell is here but not the life. The victories, nay even the defeats, of bygone years still live in memories of onlookers and participants.”

—William Hepburn and Louis Martin Sears¹





DAUCH ALUMNI CENTER
PURDUE UNIVERSITY

[Acknowledgments]

This book would not have been possible without the tireless efforts of several individuals who contributed their time and expertise. First, the authors wish to thank Bryan Shaffer, Katherine Purple, and their colleagues within the Purdue University Press for their support for this project; their professionalism and commitment to their craft cannot be overstated. Our thanks to Cliff Harrison and Allen Bol, who spent hours carefully digitizing many of the photographs, postcards, documents, and artifacts found in these pages. Many staff members within Purdue University Archives and Special Collections (ASC) contributed short essays and feedback. Heartfelt thanks to our ASC colleagues Carly Dearborn, Gene Ann Fausett, Tracy Grimm, Stephanie Schmitz, Mary Sego, and graduate assistants Virginia Pleasant and Jennifer Sdunzik. In addition, a contingent of ASC student employees aided in our quest. Many thanks to Amanda Burdick, Meghan Diamond, Jon Hathaway, Sarah Kenny, Elizabeth Kriebel, Bhavika Lakhani, Molly Lynch, Heidi Shaw, Evalyn Stow, Tatum Theaman, Claire Werner, Tabitha Wyant, and Michelle Zhang. We have been thrilled to have so many current Purdue students be able to contribute their time, work, and enthusiasm toward this publication.

We must also thank William Hepburn, Louis Martin Sears, George Munro, John Norberg, Robert Topping, and all who have devoted their energies to researching and documenting the history of Purdue University. Our work would not have been possible without theirs.

Finally, thank you to every individual who has contributed to Purdue University Archives and Special Collections. Without your donations of collections and financial support we would not have been able to tell the story of Purdue through the perspectives of students past and present. The documents, photographs, and related memorabilia you have donated to the Archives have allowed us to preserve and share Purdue's history with current and future generations.

Sincerely,

**David M. Hovde, Adriana Harmeyer,
Neal Harmeyer, and Sammie L. Morris**



WARRANTY DEED.

By this Deed, *John Purdue*

of *Tipppecanoe* County in the State of *Indiana*
to the State of *Indiana*, for the use of *Purdue University of Indiana*
of *Tipppecanoe* County, in the State of *Indiana*

Convey and Warrant

for the sum of

One Dollars, the following described Real Estate, in

Tipppecanoe County, in the State of *Indiana*, to-wit: the North East quarter of the South West quarter of Section nineteen, in township twenty three North, of Range four West, containing forty acres, also Eleven & one quarter acres off the West Side of the North West quarter of the South East quarter of Section nineteen, in township twenty three, North of Range four West, said Eleven and one quarter acres being a Strip of equal width across the entire West Side of the North West quarter of the South East quarter of said Section nineteen, also the North West quarter of the South West quarter of said Section nineteen, Town 23 Range 4, containing thirty Eight Acres and three fourths, acres also ten acres off of the East Side of the North East quarter of the South East quarter of Section twenty four, in said township twenty three North of Range four West, said ten acres being a Strip of equal width across the entire East Side of said North East quarter of the South East quarter of said Section twenty four, in Consideration of the sum of one dollar to him in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and also in Consideration of the location of the *Purdue University* in said County according to the provisions of an act of the General Assembly of said State Entitled "An act accepting Certain donations from *John Purdue* and others, and locating and naming the College contemplated by the Act of Congress, Approved July 2, 1862, providing for its organization and management, adding a member to the Trustees of the *Indiana*, April 1863, and changing the Corporate name of said Trustee, and declaring said "Emergency" Approved May 16, 1869.

En Witness Whereof, The said *John Purdue*

has hereunto set his hand and seal and affixed the Government Stamp, on this *twenty second* day of *August* A. D., 1876

John Purdue



The State of *Indiana*,

Tipppecanoe

County.

Sec.

Before me *Frank M. Spencer* a Notary Public

within and for the County and State aforesaid, personally came *John Purdue* the grantor in the foregoing deed and acknowledged the execution of the above conveyance to be his act and deed for the purposes therein mentioned.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Notarial Seal, this *22nd* day of *August* A. D., 1876.

Frank M. Spencer
Notary Public



[Introduction]

A LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY

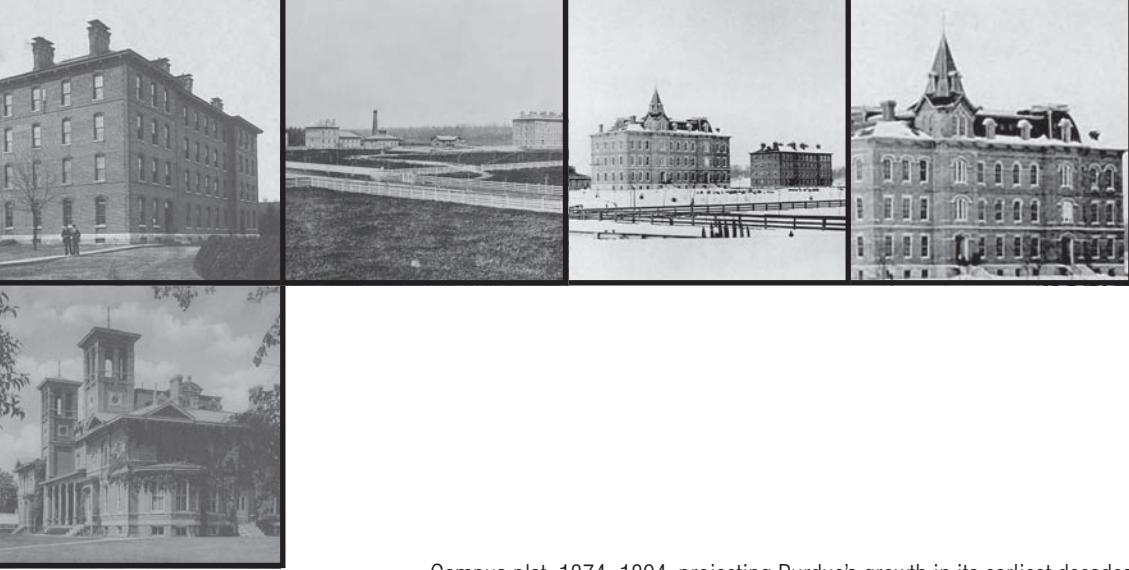


Portrait of John Purdue, circa 1870s, which hung in the Library in University Hall and for many years in the Office of the President before being transferred to the Purdue University Archives and Special Collections for display.
(Purdue University Archives and Special Collections)

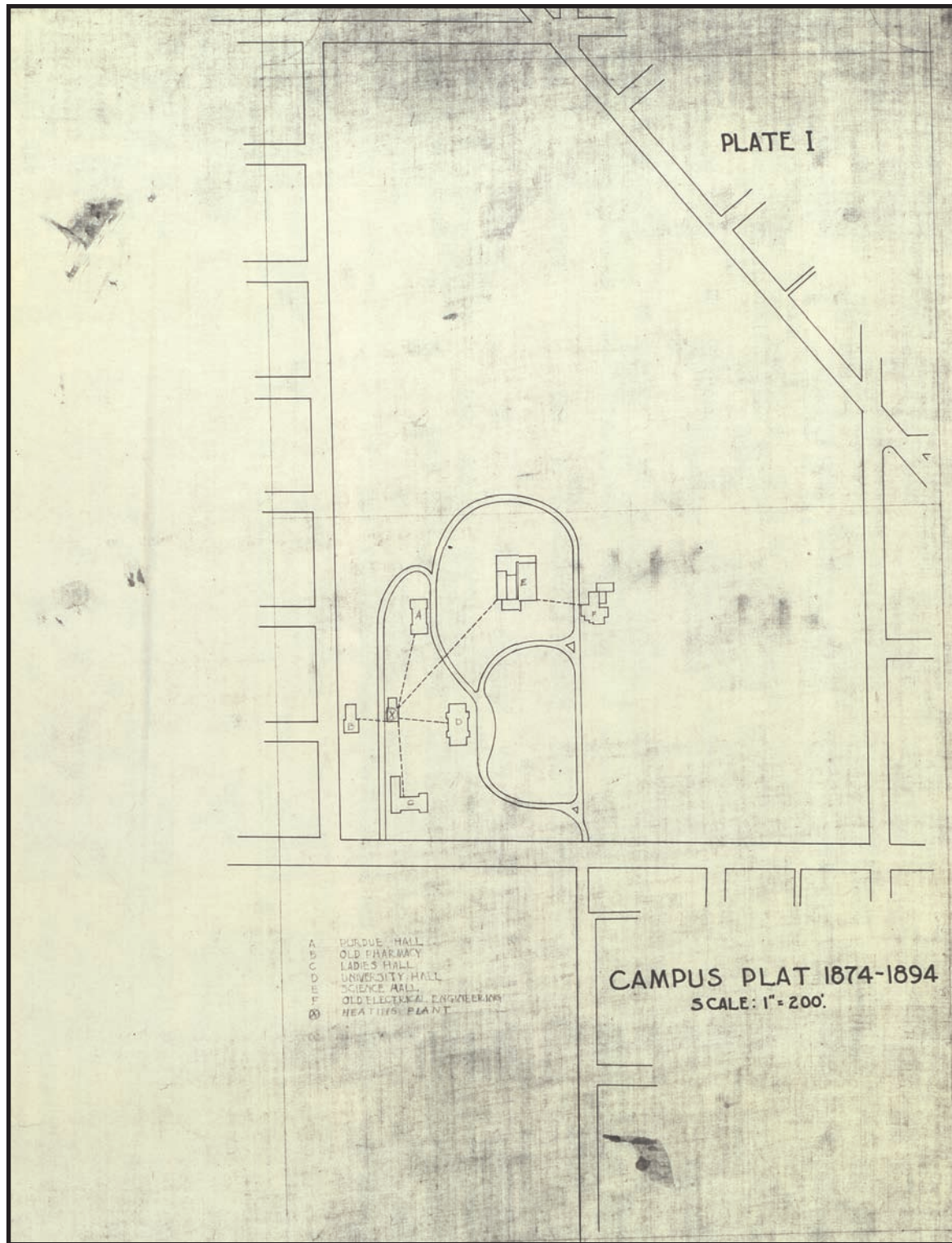
On July 2, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln changed the face of higher education in America by signing the Morrill Act into law. This act, introduced by Senator Justin Morrill of Vermont, spurred the development of a new form of publicly funded educational institution, one in each state, known as land-grant colleges. These were colleges for the children of the working classes, meant to improve the lives of each state's citizens, bring modern methods of industry and agriculture to the states, and improve the social and economic fabric of the nation.

The legislation required each state to sell thirty thousand acres of public lands and invest the proceeds in government or other safe stocks to create a perpetual fund for "the endowment, support, and maintenance of at least one college where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanical arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."¹

On March 6, 1865, Indiana formally accepted the federal grant, and later that year the trustees of the newly established Indiana Agricultural College met for the first time. Counties, towns, and existing colleges from across the state submitted proposals to host the new institution. In May of 1869, the Indiana House and Senate accepted an offer from Tippecanoe County, largely due to an additional \$100,000 pledged by local businessman John Purdue.² The next five years were spent constructing a university by establishing policies, hiring staff, and building a campus on Indiana farmland. Classes commenced in 1874. Purdue University became the fifteenth higher education institution in the state of Indiana.³



Campus plat, 1874–1894, projecting Purdue's growth in its earliest decades. Reality did not match the plans, as other structures came into existence during this period. (*Campus Maps collection*)



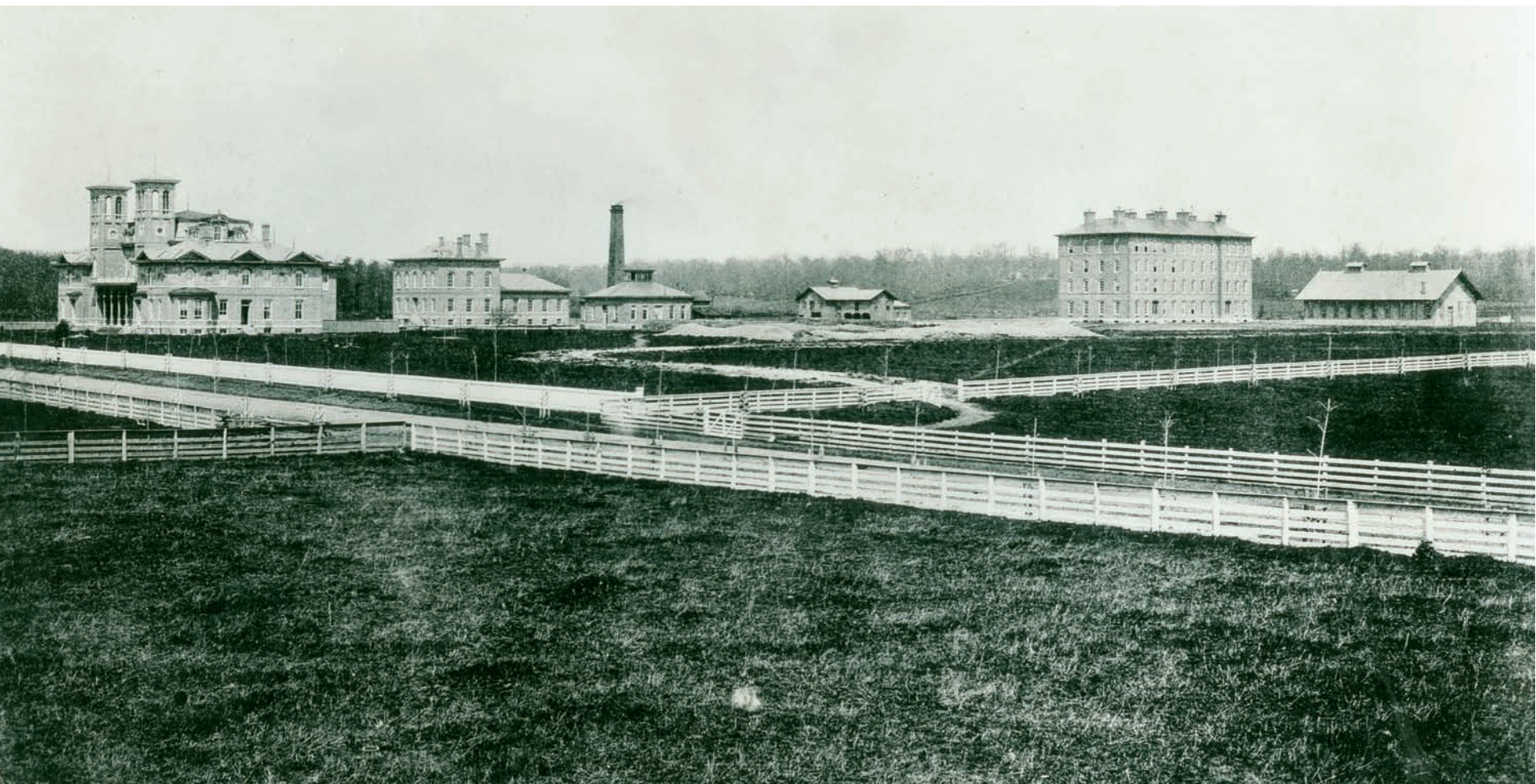
{ Enrollment in 1870: 0 students }

[The 1870s]

PURDUE ^A_T 10

“There was no organization of classes or duties. Everyone was a sort of bloc and attended all the recitations if he wished. And the faculty was as inchoate, for they taught whatever was assigned them whether in their line or not. It was a willing, facile, mobile gathering that made the beginning of Purdue and did their work perhaps better than they knew. It was the true Hoosier spirit which was to do as well as possible whatever the hand found to do.”

—Chase S. Osborne, preparatory class of 1874–1875
through freshman class of 1876–1877¹



The oldest known photograph of Purdue's campus, circa 1876, showing the Boarding House (later known as Ladies Hall), Laboratory (later known as Building Number 2), Boiler and Gas House, water closet, Men's Dormitory, and Military Hall and Gymnasium. (*Purdue University photographs*)

For the 1874–1875 academic year, tuition at Purdue was free for in-state students and \$20 for all others.

On September 16, 1874, thirty-nine students, John Purdue, the Board of Trustees, University president Abraham C. Shortridge, five faculty members and their families, and the staff awoke to begin a new adventure. The students began to arrive on campus that day, greeted by a mix of newly constructed buildings and old farm structures standing behind whitewashed wooden fences along dirt roads and pathways. Purdue's most iconic building, University Hall, was not yet built.

Students could work for two to three hours per day on the farm, the college grounds, or the vegetable garden to help pay their expenses.

The students who traveled westward to campus on foot or omnibus passed through Lafayette, across bridges over the Wabash River, and finally up a hill to Chauncey, as West Lafayette was known at the time. The town consisted of two or three stores, some houses, and a blacksmith shop.²

Trees and hedgerows were a prominent feature of the early campus, helping to distinguish the University from the fields it replaced. The one-hundred-acre university farm south of State Street was beginning to take shape; its red brick farmhouse and barn were the first buildings on campus. Eighty-six acres of campus north of State Street housed the University's main buildings. The stately Boarding House served as a residence hall for faculty and their families and a dining hall for students. The Laboratory housed shops for engineering courses and labs for scientific research. The Men's Dormitory provided accommodations for up to 120 male students. A horse barn and water closet were nearby. The Boiler and Gas House provided hot water, steam heat, and gas to the Boarding House, Laboratory, and Men's Dormitory. The Military Hall and Gymnasium, a simple wooden structure, was the most northerly building on campus.

By the time the academic year began in September, five faculty members had been hired:

Eli F. Brown, English Literature and Drawing
John S. Hougham, Physics
John Hussey, Botany and Horticulture
William B. Morgan, Mathematics
Harvey Wiley, Chemistry

Though Purdue University was originally known as the Indiana Agricultural College, none of these first professors specialized in agriculture or animal husbandry. Purdue's first president, Richard Owen, left before the University opened. Abraham C. Shortridge, the second president, joined the University in June of 1874 and was president when classes commenced.

In 1874, Purdue offered courses in agriculture, chemistry, civil engineering, physics, and mechanical engineering. Postgraduate and special courses were available in engineering, natural history, chemistry, metallurgy, and physics and were intended for transfer students from "literary college[s]" who wished to "fit themselves for professional efficiency" in those disciplines.³ By 1876, those special courses were also open to students who completed general science requirements in their first two or three years at Purdue.

In these early days, the University had two academic units. In addition to college-level coursework, Purdue also offered a Preparatory Academy for students who were not academically prepared for college-level studies. Indiana was only one generation beyond the end of its pioneer period, and Indiana's common schools—today's public schools—had not been fully developed. The Academy helped students from rural areas prepare for the university coursework that would train them for professional careers.

After an initial examination in September, one senior, two sophomores, and thirteen freshmen were deemed ready for college coursework. Twenty-six students were assigned to the Preparatory Academy, where they took courses in spelling, arithmetic, geography, and grammar. A second examination added a sophomore and a freshman to the roster. By the end of the first semester, forty-five students were enrolled at Purdue.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY,

LAFAYETTE, INDIANA.

A Rare Opportunity to Obtain a Scientific or Practical Education.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY is well organized, with an efficient Faculty and excellent facilities for scientific instruction.

The University Academy, in charge of Prof. E. E. SMITH, affords young people a fine opportunity to review the common branches and take an elementary course in Physiology, United States History, Physical Geography, Algebra, Zoology, Botany, Physics, Industrial Drawing, and Book-Keeping. Applicants for the first year's course are admitted without examination, if they have devoted sufficient attention to the common branches to indicate a fair knowledge of them. Applicants for the second year's course are examined in Reading, Writing, Spelling, Arithmetic, Geography, English Grammar, and Physiology. United States History will be accepted as a substitute for Physiology.

The regular course in the College of General Science covers a period of four years. The physical sciences, (Botany, Zoology, Chemistry, Physics, Astronomy, and Geology) constitute the leading element of the course. Applicants for admission to the Freshman class are examined in the common branches, and also in Elementary Algebra (including quadratic equations), United States History, Physical Geography, and Physiology. Their knowledge of these preparatory studies must be sufficient to entitle them to a teacher's certificate of good grade. Applicants for an elective course are also required to pass an examination in the above branches of study.

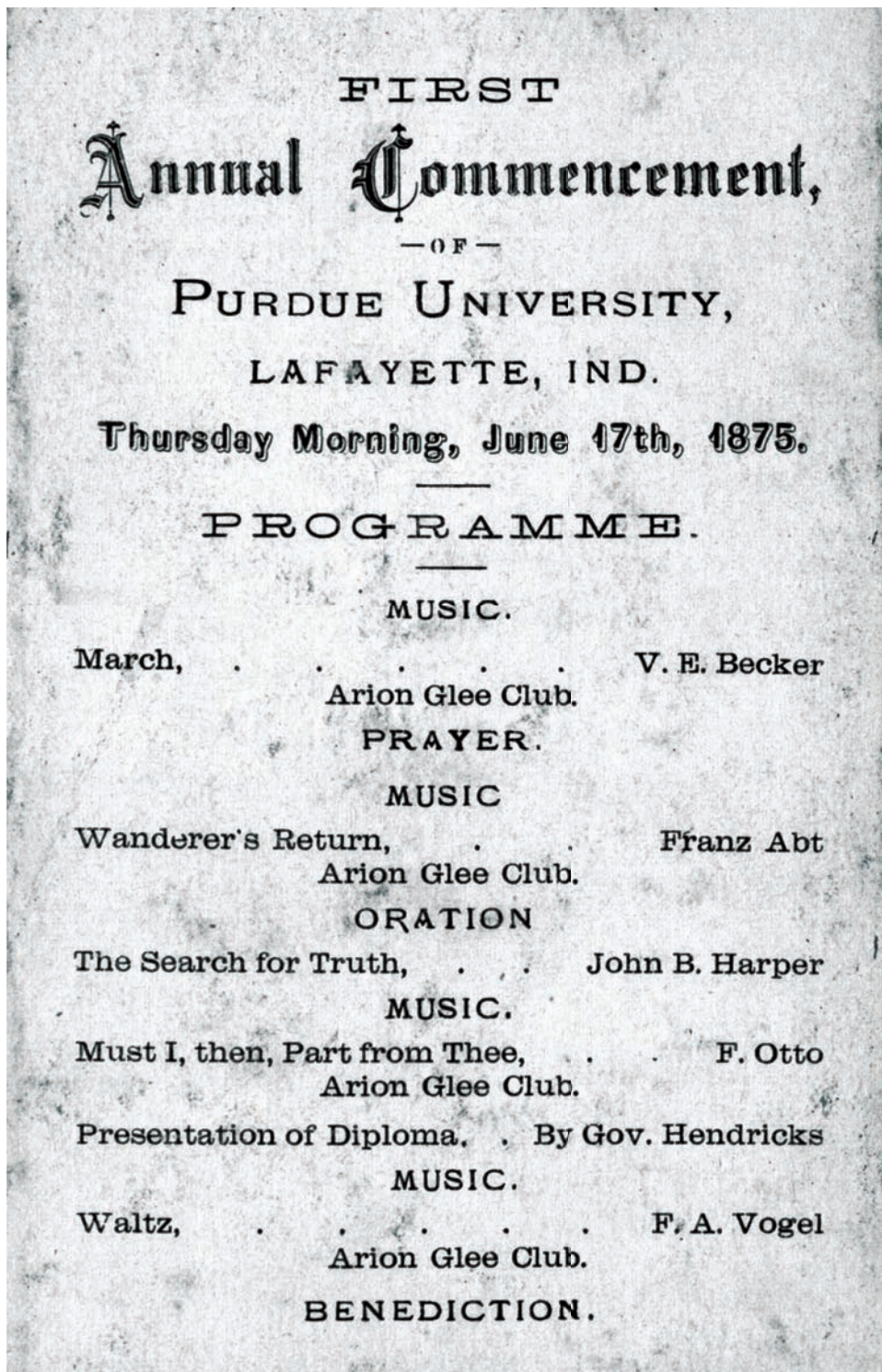
The examinations for admission to the College classes and also to the second year's course in the Academy will be held Sept. 10, beginning at 9 a. m. The Fall Term opens Wednesday, September 11, at 9 a. m.

The expenses incurred in attending Purdue University are very low. The entrance and incidental fee is only \$5 per term. The cost of board is \$3.00 per week, and of room, heat, and light, 50 cents per week. Boarding can also be obtained in private families, in Chauncey, on very favorable terms. Accommodations for self-boarding and club-boarding can be secured in Chauncey, and the expenses may thus be reduced to about \$2 per week.

Students appointed by County Commissioners are entitled to tuition, room, heat, and light without charge. Each county can thus send two students.

For further information send for a catalogue. Address,

Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana.



Program from the First Annual Commencement of Purdue University, June 17, 1875. (*Board of Trustees meeting minutes*)

During the third faculty meeting on September 8, 1874, rules were set to establish the culture of the university: "In the estimate of the faculty the use of profane language and intoxicating liquors is immoral, and the use of tobacco in any form is considered highly injurious. And that in making up the monthly standing of students in deportment and morals, the habitual use of these articles be considered against them."⁴ Students who lived on campus could not visit Lafayette in the evening without permission and were expressly forbidden to visit establishments that sold alcohol, such as a popular but off-limits cider mill on the levee along the Wabash River. On one occasion, Guilford Lawson Spencer successfully snuck to Ladies Hall in the middle of the night to deliver a pitcher of cider to Jennie Spencer and her friends.⁵

Purdue used a three-term system for many years. The first term ran from September to Christmas, followed by a two-week break. The second term ran from early January through late March, followed immediately by a third term that ended in mid-June. These terms were punctuated with field trips, including visits to local iron furnaces and a natural history trip to Mammoth Cave, Kentucky.⁶

The graduation of John Bradford Harper, the first Purdue graduate and only member of his class, took place on a rainy June 17, 1875. Various dignitaries including Indiana governor Thomas Hendricks, John Purdue, trustees, faculty, students, and local citizens assembled in the Military Hall and Gymnasium. Harper gave an address entitled "A Search for Truth," which expounded on limitless human intellect, and received his diploma from Governor Hendricks.

Purdue's Early Graduates

John Bradford Harper, the University's first graduate, earned a chemistry degree and later became a railroad and civil engineer. (Perhaps Purdue's first true boilermaker!) He is remembered for building canals and dams in the southwest.

Charles J. Bohrer, who graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 1876, wrote Purdue's first thesis, "Beer and Its Physiological Effects." He applied his findings to the family business, the Newman & Bohrer Brewery of Lafayette.

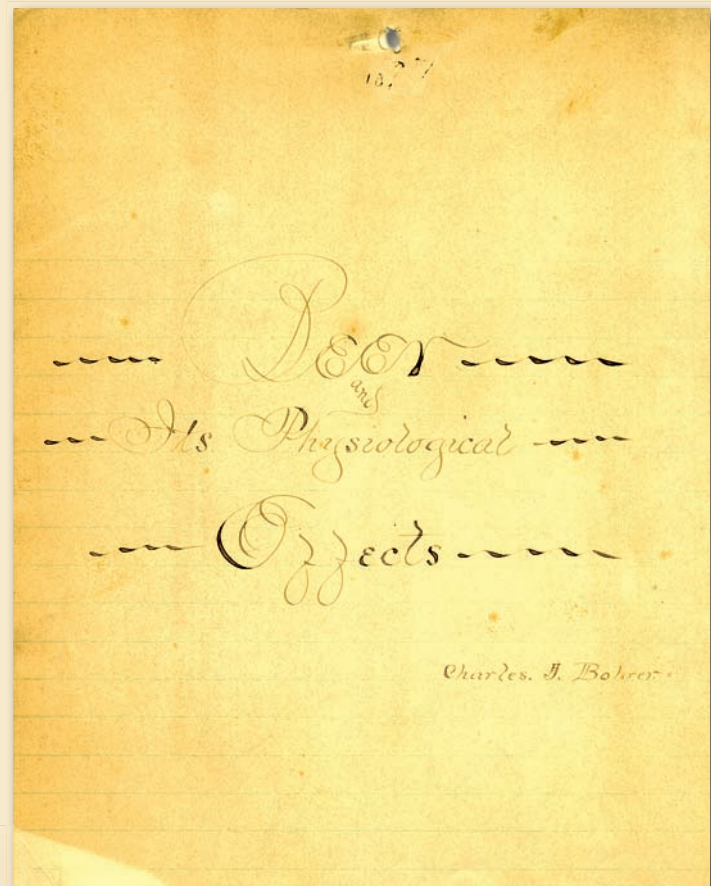
Franklin Pierce Clark graduated in 1877 with a bachelor of science degree. He also received a postgraduate degree in chemistry. A year later he became a faculty member at Purdue in chemistry. Clark operated a drugstore in North Baltimore, Ohio, for thirty-three years.

William King Eldridge graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 1877 and then completed an advanced degree in civil engineering at the University. He was Purdue's first engineering graduate and subsequently worked as a Lafayette city civil engineer, architect, and engineer for various firms.⁷

With the opening of the fall term in 1875, eight female students were admitted to the Preparatory Academy. Sarah Oren was hired that year as the first female faculty member, and her daughter, Cata Oren, was among the Preparatory Academy students. One year later, in the fall of 1876, six women were admitted into the University. Worth Reed, in his reminiscences of early Purdue life, recalled, "Young women came the second year and then things moved much better. The young men began wearing collars, blackening their boots—we all wore boots then—and fixing up generally."⁸

The first Purdue University thesis, "Beer and Its Physiological Effects," submitted by Charles J. Bohrer in 1876.

(Charles J. Bohrer thesis)



The Boarding House, renamed Ladies Hall when it began housing female students.

(Purdue University photographs)



Irving

1876.

- Exhibition -

Purdue University

Thursday evening, Dec. 21, 1876.

Invocation - - - Music

Salutatory F. P. Clark, Pres.

Essay - A Noble Purpose Lewis Owens.

Oration - A Thirst for Knowledge - F. Goodwin

Paper - Part First Geo. Jamison

- Music -

Declamation - Egyptian Ruins - W. E. Beach

Discussion - Resolved, That Co-education
should exist in our colleges &
universities.

Opp. J. C. Van Natta.

W. J. H. Blair.

Declamation - Our System of Public
Instruction should distinct
ively inculcate a love of
country. D. W. Noble

Paper Part Second - Geo. Jamison
Music

Programme
Prayer.

Opening By the President.
Addie Borum.

Music - Quartette - Drifting with the tide

Essay - Modern manias - Fannie Taylor

Declamation - "Bernardo del Carpio"
Nannie Baldridge

Music - Quite de Couer Alice McClure

Essay - Names - - - Hattie Taylor

Oration - Civil service reform - Lora Miller

Music Fantaisie Brillante - Florence Taylor
Alice McClure

Paper - - -
Declamation, "Virginia", Hattie M. Brown

Quett "La Chasse Infernale"
Hattie Taylor
Lora Miller

Quartette - "Good Night."



Above, left: Handwritten program for an exhibition of the Irving Literary Society, December 21, 1876. The exclusive, and exclusively male, society formed in January 1875 to focus on the growth and development of the mind, public speaking, research skills, and open discussion of a wide variety of topics that included religion, politics, and education. (Irving Literary Society records)

Above, right: Handwritten program for the Second Annual Exhibition of the Cereal Society of Purdue University, June 12, 1877, a group formed by female students in the Academy in the spring of 1876. In the fall of 1877, after the Cereal Society disbanded, the Philaethean society formed with a focus on dramatics and writing.⁹ (Philaethean Literary Society records)

Left: Men's Dormitory, circa 1890s. (William Chester Halstead photographs)

The Delta Delta Chapter of the Sigma Chi fraternity, an unofficial student organization, formed on campus in 1875 with seven members. Fraternities were strongly discouraged by Purdue and other universities at the time, as evidenced by the *Annual Circular of 1876–77*: “A regulation of the University forbids the organization of any society by the students, except by the consent of the Faculty.”¹⁰

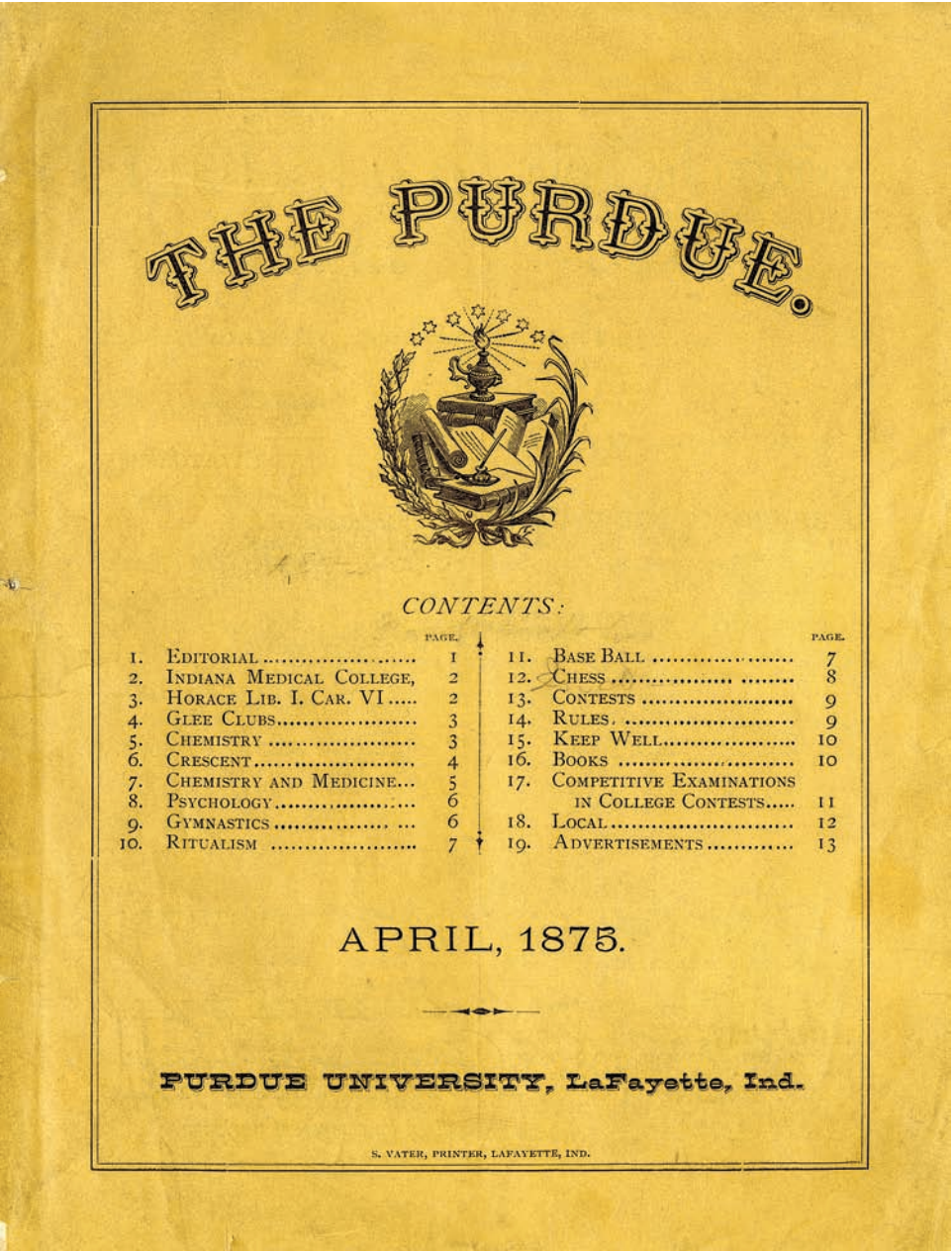
In April of 1875 the first campus newspaper appeared on the scene, *The Purdue*. John Bradford Harper and Professor Wiley led the enterprise. Articles covered such topics as note-taking, chemistry, medicine, and chess. *The Purdue* was short-lived, publishing just a few issues in the subsequent months.

Students found many ways to entertain themselves. The Military Hall and Gymnasium was furnished with a bowling alley, a trapeze, parallel bars, a punching bag, a mattress (likely for tumbling), and other exercise equipment.¹¹ In Purdue’s first year of existence, students and faculty joined together to form a baseball team, which won all four of its games that year against Lafayette area teams.¹² On one occasion, Professor Wiley pitched a ball that struck catcher John Bradford Harper in the mouth, forcing his cigar down his throat.

Military exercises were also a large part of student life. During the first years, Professor Wiley led military instruction as captain of the volunteer “Purdue Army,” as it was unofficially known. In the spring of 1876, Wiley and the cadets had their first long-range march and encampment, traveling eight miles north along the Wabash River before pitching camp. The trip included the theft of chickens from a nearby farm and a river rescue to save a nearly

drowned Wiley.¹³ The students were required to wear the regulation United States Army cap and blouse, and the unit was sworn in as part of the Indiana state militia in 1877.

In December of 1876, a nearly blind and ill President Shortridge resigned. He was replaced by Emerson White, a well-known educator who joined the University with a plan to completely reorganize the institution. The Preparatory Academy was separated from the University and the faculty consolidated. White embraced the primary mission of the institution: mechanical arts and agriculture. In his first address as president he stated, “It is better to teach a few applied sciences well than to teach many in a superficial manner.”¹⁴

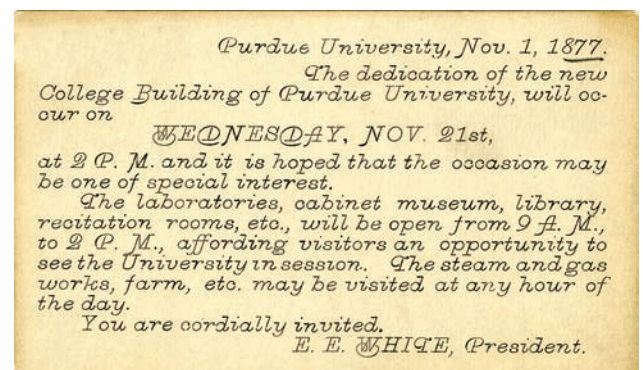


Cover of *The Purdue*, April 1875.
(*The Purdue*)

On the night before the opening day of classes for the fall of 1876, John Purdue died. Due to his importance to the community and the University, his body lay in state with a student honor guard. Purdue was buried the next day in front of what was to become University Hall.



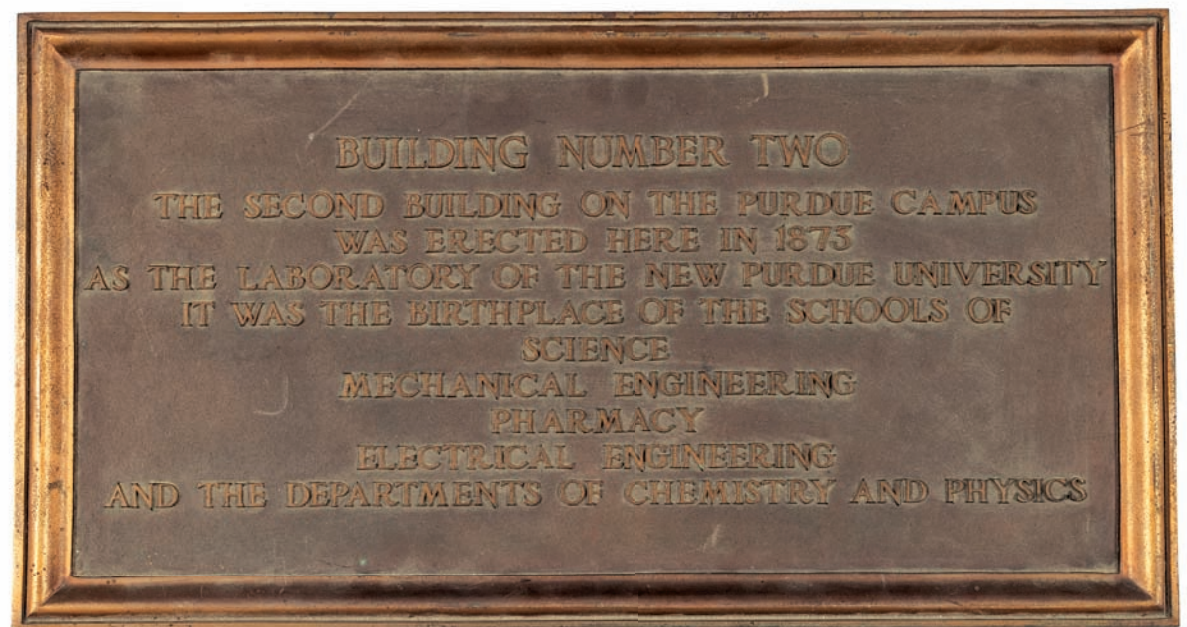
That same year, the University purchased a direct current Gramme magneto-electric machine, the first machine to produce electrical energy at a commercial scale. Professor Wiley installed it in the Laboratory Building, powered by a steam engine, then placed an arc lamp and reflector on the roof of the Laboratory and lit up the night sky. This moment marked the first electric light produced by a dynamo west of the Allegheny Mountains. Hundreds walked from Lafayette to the levee to look at this marvel. One man held his pocket watch over the dynamo to test its effects and was forced to send his watch to Boston for repairs.¹⁵ Purdue was beginning to make a name for itself in the fields of science and engineering.



Top: Snowy campus scene in 1877, the year University Hall was completed. (Purdue University Marketing and Media collection)

Right, top: Postcard invitation to the University Hall Dedication Ceremony on November 21, 1877. (University Hall records)

Right, bottom: Commemorative plaque placed outside the Laboratory in 1932 when it was renamed Building Number Two to honor its history as the second building on campus. (Purdue University Archives and Special Collections artifacts collection)



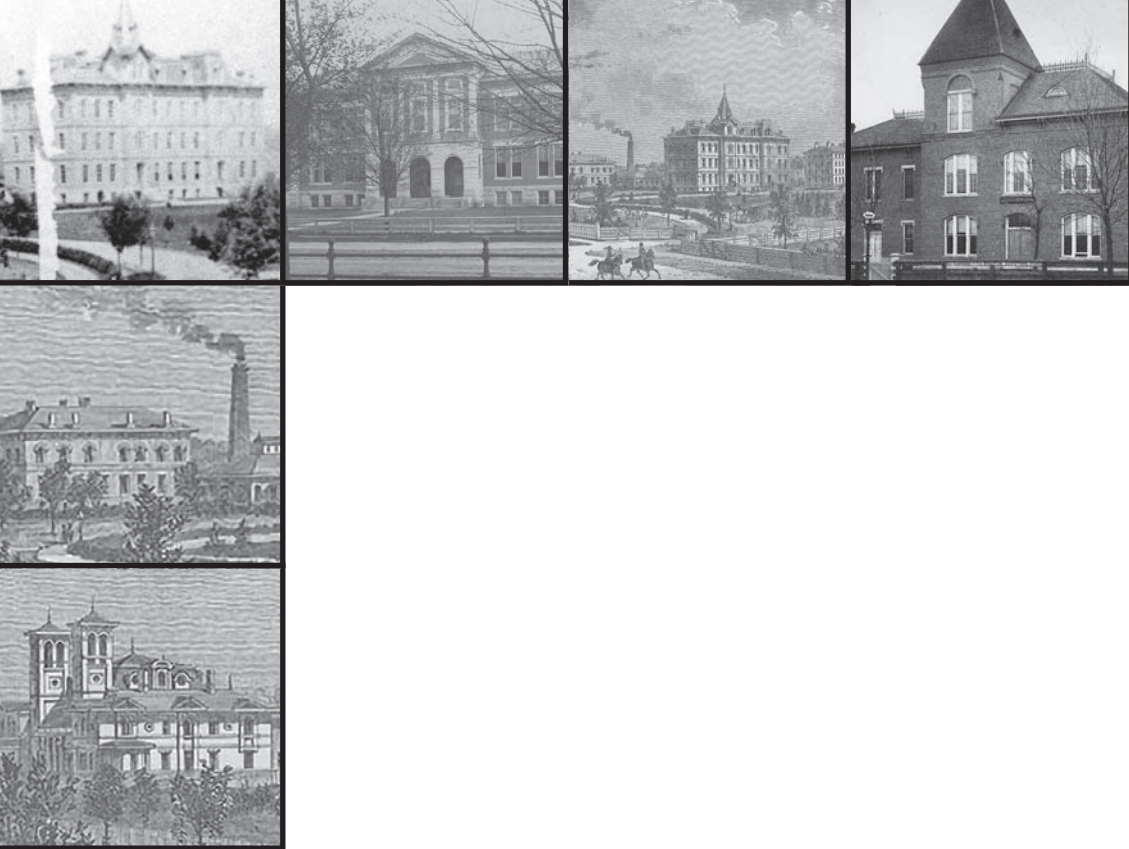
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Miller especially enjoyed surveying courses, which allowed her and her fellow students to spend time outdoors. She graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 1878, one year ahead of schedule, becoming Purdue's first female graduate. After graduation, Miller became Purdue's second librarian. In 1887 she achieved yet another first as one of twenty students to enroll in the initial year of Melvil Dewey's library instruction program at Columbia College (now University) in New York, the first of its kind in the world.¹⁶



Top: Eulora Miller's diploma, 1878.
(*Eulora Miller papers*)





Campus view, circa 1881. New campus maps were not produced during the 1880s; in their stead, this artistic rendering of the “Old Main” portion of campus was used in publications such as course catalogs to visualize the academic buildings. (*Annual Register of Purdue University*)



{ Enrollment in 1880: 254 students¹ }