

Composed by The Social Studies Classes of

LIBERTY JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

1943-1944

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WILLIAM JEWEL COLLEGE

On February 27, 1849, the governor of Missouri approved the act of endowing and building up a college under the direction of the Missouri Baptist General Association. The Baptists held a convention at Boonville on August 21, 1849. This convention was to decide on the name and location of the college. General Alexander W. Doniphan was appointed to the task of getting the interest of the Clay County people. He was praised for his great leadership and was well suited to this task. At first he was no able to arouse the interest of the people; but after further work he got the people interested and they agreed on Liberty as an ideal location for the college. During Doniphan's travels through the county he raised a large amount of money for the cause. With so great a man, so great a cause and such receptive communities it was impossible to accept failure. The people were interested and the great effort was crowned with success. The money and two delegates were sent to the Boonville Convention and the fight was on.

There was a livery competition among the six counties. Cooper County, in which Boonville is situated, made a special effort toward the situation of the college. Since the convention was held in Cooper County, the Boonville delegates had a great deal of influence. They strongly believed that it would be placed in Boonville, while each other county was sure they would win.

On August 21, 1849, a small conference between the partisans of Boonville was held in the counting house of Isaac Lionberger. It was for the cause for discussing and considering the convention. Jordon O' Bryan had journeyed from his country home to advise and consult this small meeting of delegates. At the beginning of the meeting Senator O' Bryan inquired of his colleagues of the appearance of the delegates from the other counties. The names of all those except Clay County were turned in. O' Bryan inquired as to a representative from Liberty. Some reply was that Clay County had not taken much interest in it but two distinguished gentlemen, not Baptists, had come. He was told that Liberty was a frontier town on the edge of a great area that had not as yet been explored. Senator O' Bryan patiently listened and then asked who the representatives were. They were Alexander W. Doniphan and Judge J. V. Thompson, who later gave the property for the college campus.

At the appointed hour the convention assembled. It was called to order and all formal and preliminary work was completed. The nomination concerning the location of the college was in order. Although each person knew what he wanted to say, he was silent. Doniphan saw that the time had come to take decisive action. He hesitated no longer. He rose and presented his location to the judges. He made it clear that Liberty was deeply interested in the college. He brought out the many highlights of Liberty and said that to him Liberty was the ideal place to have a college. When he had finished his offering, Boonville's cause was presented by John G. Miller. The other counties in their turns brought out their propositions. After voting was under way, Dr. William Jewell suggested a plan favorable to Cooper County, but Doniphan was very strongly against it. After much arguing and pleading, the plan was rejected. Howard County, after having practically been dropped from all chances of competition, joined Doniphan in his plan for Liberty. This made Liberty the county seat of Clay County the absolute majority. In recognition of this liberality the President of the Board of Trustees was for many years chosen from the Baptists of Howard County.

After winning Liberty as the location, Doniphan had a plan concerning the naming of the college. He knew the Dr. Jewell's honorable desire was for literary distinction, and being among those who shaped and guided the course of mighty destinies, Doniphan determined to have the new seminary baptized "William Jewell College."

He carried this resolution to Rev. William C. Ligon with instructions to offer it to the convention. He was sure his plan would be accepted because the Reverend Ligon was an affecting and sympathizing speaker. The resolution was offered and unanimously accepted. The name of William Jewell was stamped forever on the educational future of the Baptists of Missouri.

Overwhelmed with gratitude, Dr. Jewell was hardly able to thank the representatives. A few months after the convention Dr. William Jewell came to Liberty to give his services in the superintendence of the erection of the first large building. During the days of a hard Missouriian summer, he was stricken with a fever which resulted in his death.

The college was opened to students in the old Liberty Academy on January 1, 1850, with Rev. E. S. Dulin as Principal and Professor of Ancient Languages, and Rev. J. F. Locket as Professor of Mathematics. Dr. Dulin served as principal until the close of the session of 1851-52. On account of financial embarrassment, the school survived the year 1852-53 as a private enterprise.

In the meantime the foundation had been laid for the building now known as Jewell Hall. By the summer of 1853 the structure had advanced toward completion so far as to admit its occupancy and use, but was not completed until 1858. This is the building which was begun under the immediate direction of Dr. Jewell's watchful care.

In 1853, the trustees resuming full control, called to the presidency Rev. R. S. Thomas, D. D., from a professorship on the State University at Columbia. This

administration continued until the summer of 1855, when new financial trouble caused the suspension of the college for the next two years.

The college was reopened in the fall of 1857 under the presidency of Rev. William Thompson, LL.D., a graduate of the University of Edinburgh. His administration lasted until June, 1861, when it was thought wise to close the academic pursuits of the college until after the Civil War. There was, however, a school carried on in the college building during the years of war whenever it was practicable.

On September 28, 1868, the college was reopened with Rev. Thomas Rambaut of Louisville, Kentucky, as the new president. The first year of the administration was devoted to the reorganization and the increasing of endowment. The four members which made up the faculty were: R. B. Semple, Professor of Latin and French; A. J. Fleet, Professor of Greek and German; John F. Lanneau, Professor of Mathematics; James R. Eaton, Professor of Natural Science. Dr. Reambaut's administration ended in the spring of 1874 because of ill health.

The office of president remained vacant until the summer 1892. In the meantime, the affairs of the college were administered by the faculty, acting through a chairman. In 1887, the Rev. W. Pope Yeaman, D. D., was appointed Chancellor of the college and for two years succeeded in enlarging the endowment.

By June, 1892, several buildings had been erected, one of which was Ely Hall. This dormitory for boys was named in honor of Mr. Ely, financial agent and president of the Board of Trustees until his death in 1897.

In June, 1892, Dr. John Priest Green, Pastor of the Third Baptist Church of St. Louis, was elected president of the college. Under his administration the number of students greatly increased, and the Carnegie Library, with a capacity of 100,00 volumes, was erected. Two other buildings, New Ely Hall, a new modern

dormitory for men, and Marston Hall, a most excellent science building, were erected. Many new departments of instruction were added.

On January 1, 1920, Dr. Greene resigned his office, after faithfully serving for 28 years as president of an institution whose chief purpose was to train young men for Christian service. He was succeeded by Dr. David Jones Evans, who served until September 1, 1921, when he resigned to become pastor of the First Baptist Church of Kansas City, Missouri. Dr. Greene was again requested to act as president until a suitable person could be found for the place.

In 1921 William Jewell became a Co-educational institution. Some girls attended the college before this date, but in 1921, it was made official.

On March 29, 1923, the Trustees of the college elected as president, Dr. Harry Clifford Wayman of Louisville, Kentucky. He served until June 11, 1928.

On July 3, 1928, Dr. John F. Herget, an alumnus of William Jewell, was chosen for the presidency. He came to the college as its president from a pastorate of twenty-five years at Ninth Street Baptist Church, Cincinnati, Ohio.

In the spring of 1942, Dr. Herget resigned the presidency and Dr. H. I. Hester was elected as Acting President for 1942-43.

In July, 1943, Dr. Walter Pope Binns, of Roanoke, Virginia, came to fill the presidency of William Jewell, and Dr. H. I. Hester was made Vice President of the college.