1940

University of Maine 1865 - 1940: Seventy-fifth Founders' Day Anniversary

University of Maine - Main

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Campus: In early days the chief buildings on the Campus of the Maine State College were, left to right, Oak Hall and Commons, White Hall, Fernald Hall, engineering shops.
... The Presidents ...

Charles Frederick Allen
President 1871 - 1879

Merritt Caldwell Fernald
Acting President 1868 - 1871
President 1879 - 1893

Abram Winegardner Harris
President 1893 - 1901

George Emory Fellows
President 1902 - 1910

Robert Judson Aley
President 1910 - 1921

Clarence Cook Little
President 1922 - 1925

Harold Sherburne Boardman
Acting President 1925 - 1926
President 1926 - 1934

Arthur Andrew Hauck
President 1934 -
From These Beginnings

ON February 25, 1865, Samuel Cony, Governor of Maine, signed the Legislative Act which created the Maine State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts. A product of the so-called Morrill Act of the Federal Government, the new College was an experiment in education. Doubters were many, finances limited, the future uncertain. The Founding Act was a venture in faith resulting from the vision and effort of a group of staunch friends.

The three persons pictured above are, like all the illustrations in this brief historical survey, representative of many others. The Honorable Phineas Barnes, of Portland, a strong advocate of the new College in the uncertain days before its actual creation, introduced into the State Legislature the Organic Act which founded the State College as a separate, independent institution. Subsequently he became the first Treasurer of the institution. The Honorable Hannibal Hamlin of Bangor, a famous statesman and one time vice-president of the United States, served as first President of the Board of Trustees of the College. His faith in the College and his unfailing support through the early years were of inestimable value.

The Honorable Lyndon Oak of Garland is representative of the services of the Trustees of the College and the University. Appointed in 1867 a member of the Board, later chosen its President, he served through most of his life in that capacity, holding the longest record of service of any Trustee—twenty-two years. Mr. Oak was particularly proud of the fact that he never in all that time missed a meeting of the Trustees. For his interest, his service, and his leadership, he is well fitted to stand for the Trustees, past and present, whose wise guidance has done so much to direct the development of the University in sound paths of progress.

From these beginnings, through the efforts and vision of many men and women has come the University of Maine of today. In celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the University, it has seemed particularly appropriate to present a pictorial survey of University history. For in speaking of Founders' Day, the University interprets that phrase in the broadest possible way and would pay tribute to each one of the many men and women who during the years have made that history possible. In a most real sense all of the persons named in this historical survey, and a great many more unnamed because there is not space to record here their services, are the true Founders of the University. The processes of history are unceasing, and no time has the sole, unshared responsibility for what was, is, or shall be the University of Maine. The men and women of today have an equal responsibility with those of yesterday and those of tomorrow for the progress of the University; they are Founders, all.
Teachers: Responsibility for the educational ideals and accomplishments of the University has rested always with those who teach. The faculty members pictured above are some who have terminated particularly long and noteworthy periods of service; they are representative of the many others, too many to be named here, who have helped to maintain the high standards of Maine.


Pioneers: The six members of the first graduating class of the Maine State College as they received their diplomas in 1872: Upper Row: Benjamin F. Gould, George E. Hammond, George O. Weston; Second Row: Eber S. Thomas, Heddle Hilliard, Edwin J. Haskell.
Two farm houses, one wooden building, twelve students, and two faculty members: this was the Maine State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at its opening in 1868. Twenty-nine years later in 1897, the name was changed to its present form.

Today: a UNIVERSITY . . .

Agriculture: Winslow Hall, constructed in 1908, is headquarters for the College of Agriculture and the closely related Extension Service. William D. Hurd, first Dean of the College, served from 1905 to 1909; the present Dean, Arthur L. Deering '12, was appointed in 1933. In addition to instruction in the various agricultural fields, the college has offered since 1903 work in Forestry, since 1909, Home Economics.

Arts and Sciences: Stevens Hall, built in 1924 and enlarged in 1933, is the home of the College of Arts and Sciences. The modern building bears appropriately the name of the first Dean of the College, James S. Stevens who served in that office from 1905 to 1932. The present Dean, Edward J. Allen, took office in 1936.

Engineering: The College of Technology has its headquarters in Wingate Hall, built in 1892, on the site of the first college building constructed on the Campus, White Hall. From its tower sounds still the traditional bell calling students to and from classes. Harold S. Boardman, first Dean of the College, served from 1910 to 1926, was followed by the present Dean, Paul Cloke.
PHARMACY: The University conducted a College of Pharmacy from 1898 to 1911 under the direction of Wilbur F. Jackman.

EDUCATION: In South Stevens the School of Education is centered. It was established in 1930 as a separate division of the University, after several years as a department. It has been since its beginning under the leadership of Dean Olin S. Lutes.

RESEARCH: Holmes Hall, headquarters of the Agricultural Experiment Station, is representative of the University's varied important research activities. Named in honor of Ezekiel Holmes, long editor of The Maine Farmer, a leading agriculturist, and a staunch advocate of the State College in its early days, the building was erected in 1888, enlarged in 1904. Its work is supplemented by two experimental farms. The first Director of the station was Whitman H. Jordan '75, 1888 to 1896. Fred Griffiee, present Director was appointed in 1931.

LAW: Stewart Hall in Bangor was the former home of the Law School of the University which was founded in 1898 and continued until 1920. At first under the direction of Dean George E. Gardner from 1898 to 1902, it was headed by Dean William E. Walz from 1902 to 1918.

PHI KAPPA PHI: One of the memorable dates in the history of the University was the founding at Maine of this general honorary scholastic fraternity in 1897 by a group of students. Filling a real need in the educational world by recognition of scholastic merit in all collegiate fields of study, Phi Kappa Phi has grown into a national fraternity with 49 chapters.
What of Tomorrow?

The history of the University of Maine is the result of the cooperative efforts of many men and women working together toward a great end. Only the faith, the endeavors, and the generosity of countless individuals through the years have made its splendid progress possible. Thus the University of today is largely due to those who in the past have recognized its needs and believed in its future. All those who have ever attended the University have in one form or another benefitted from the contributions of those who have made possible its development. At the same time they have accepted from them also the inescapable obligation to preserve this tradition and to guarantee continued sound progress for the future.

The University is today faced with a grave problem, the need for more adequate Library facilities. The present Library building, more than thirty years old, is no longer sufficient to provide the necessary books, services, and study space essential to maintain the high standards of the institution.

It has seemed suitable to the Alumni Association, therefore, that at this significant anniversary in the history of Maine, tribute should be paid to the leaders of the past not in words alone. The only real and adequate tribute in their honor is a re-dedication of the University to the needs of tomorrow. Thus, as a Seventy-fifth Anniversary Gift, alumni, faculty, students, and friends will offer to the University their assistance in the construction of the new Library.

Through united effort, carried out in the traditions of the past, this gift can be made. Already a total of $50,000 has been pledged by alumni and friends towards this great goal. Every alumnus, aware of the need and the lasting value of this undertaking, and conscious of the part each individual plays in maintaining the standards of the University, will be asked to assist in this Seventy-fifth Anniversary Gift. By cooperative effort, loyalty, and faith in the future the continued progress of the University can be assured.

Gift: The projected new Library of the University. A share of its cost will be the Seventy-fifth Anniversary Gift of alumni, faculty, students, and friends.
An Important Development

The Maine State College was made co-educational by legislative act in 1872. The first woman student to attend the College was Miss Louise Hammond Ramsdell of Atkinson, who graduated with the Class of 1874, setting a tradition of scholarship and loyalty maintained by her successors ever since. Growing with the progress of the institution, co-education plays today an important part in the life of the University.

Residence: First home for women students on the Campus, Mt. Vernon House was opened in 1898. Occupying the site of one of the original farmhouses, now the site of Sigma Chi fraternity, the building was in use until its destruction by fire in 1933.

Registrar: Mrs. Elizabeth Abbott Balentine served the University from 1894 until her death in 1913 as Secretary to the President, Secretary of the University, and Registrar. A loyal friend of both men and women students, her name is perpetuated in Balentine Hall.

Home Economics: A noteworthy advance in women's education was the establishment of Home Economics courses in 1909. In 1931 they were housed in Merrill Hall, named appropriately for Dean Leon S. Merrill (insert). For many years Dean of the College of Agriculture, he was in many ways responsible for the sound development of this work.

Co-op: A new step in University history was marked in 1935 by the opening of South Hall, in Orono, former University Inn, as the first co-operative self-help dormitory for women students.
Benefactors have played an important part in the progress of the University since its beginning. The citizens of the towns of Orono and Old Town contributed $11,000 for the original purchase of the lands on which the college was located; citizens of Bangor donated $14,000 to its early development. During the first years other donations were received of money, books, equipment. One of the first benefactors was Governor Abner Coburn who in addition to many hundreds of dollars donated to the College Library, left a bequest of $100,000 at his death. Many other donors, represented by those named below, have made progress possible.

Benefactors: Three noteworthy donors to the University, typical of many others, are pictured above. Frederick W. Hill, at the left, contributed the sum of over $500,000 toward University progress. Dr. Thomas U. Coe, in the center, left the Coe Fund of $100,000, which is being used to promote investigations in various fields of research. At the right is alumnus Oliver Crosby '76, whose gift of $100,000 made possible the construction of the great mechanical laboratory building bearing his name.

Alumni: The early interest of alumni and faculty is evidenced in Alumni Hall, constructed partly by donated funds in 1901. In like manner, Alumni Field was made possible by alumni contributions.

Laboratory: A modern, complete mechanical laboratory was made possible in 1928 by gift from alumnus Oliver Crosby, '76.
LIBRARY: In 1906 the Library Building was made possible by donation from Andrew Carnegie of $55,000.

ACHIEVEMENT: The construction of the Alumni Memorial Gymnasium with its great field house, armory, and equipment, was a notable achievement through the cooperative efforts of over 5,000 alumni, faculty, students, and friends who contributed $500,000. A memorial to the Maine men who served in the World War, it stands as a magnificent tribute to the loyalty of all.

CONSTRUCTION: Opportunities for the future will be available to more women students on completion of this new dormitory to house 160 women. Under construction now, the building is expected to be in service for next year.

CABINS: A notable accomplishment in the University history was the building in 1937 of the first group of University Cabins for needy students. Made possible by gifts from interested friends, the Cabins offer an opportunity for the low cost housing needed by many.
Athletic s

First: Pictured at left above is the Varsity Football team of 1901, first University team to win the State Championship, setting the pace for many later teams.

Snowbirds: Winter sports are rapidly growing in importance. The 1939 team, pictured below, won the intermediate championship in the I.S.U.

Champs: Cross-country runners have twice brought National Championships to Maine. In 1915 the team at the left won the varsity championship against the country's best; in 1939, the freshmen below, repeated the great performance in the freshman race.

Girls: Girls' athletics play their part also in University life. Interclass and tournament competition in field hockey, basketball, tennis, and other sports keep women students active.

Winners: First of a long series of State Track Champions was this team of 1902. Victory in State and New England Meets has come often through the years to track men of Maine.
Soldiers: Above, the Co­burn Cadets of early years have become the crack R.O.T.C. soldiers of today. Drill, the Encampment, Military Ball are fond memories of many, young and old.

Contrast: Class rivalries often centered around the power house, (above) in former days. Today energies have been diverted into organized athletics and cooperative campus improvement during Maine Day, (above right.)

Frats: Fraternities grew from the founding of Q.T.V. in 1874, later Phi Gamma Delta. First fraternity house, at right, was built by Q.T.V. on the present site of Co­burn Hall in 1876.

Band: At left, the University Band forms the traditional M. With a history nearly as old as the University itself, the Band today is appropriately a first-class, efficient unit.

Culture: Many cultural activities have grown up at the University. Pictured below at left is a dramatic group in *As You Like It*, produced in 1907, first production of the Dramatic Club, forerunner of the successful Maine Masque. At the right is the editorial board of *The Cadet* for 1895. This monthly magazine, founded in 1885, became *The Campus* in 1899, still an important interpreter of student life today.