THE FOUNDATION OF FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE

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THE FOUNDATION OF FAIRMOUNT COLLEGE

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It is my opinion that few people of this vicinity know of the great struggle and courageous sacrifices made by the founders of Vicksburg College, now the University of Vicksburg. Very few notes or material has been collected, and very little has been done toward the compilation of this work. It has, therefore, been my purpose to write about the beginnings of Vicksburg College. I believe the story of University should be preserved, and in this work I have made a beginning by writing the history of the school to the year 1907. This period includes the plans for starting the school, creating a building, and the administration of Dr. H. J. Morrison, the first college president.

I wish to express my appreciation to Miss Mary Glaugh, the first teacher at Vicksburg, for permission to use the material which she has collected. Also, I wish to thank Miss Alice Sisley, Miss Belle Goodman, and Dr. J. F. Hill for assistance. Miss Sisley was very generous in giving her time and in guiding me in valuable material. The school owes her a debt of gratitude for collecting much of this material and keeping it in a file at the Vicksburg University Library. I also wish to thank the Vicksburg Beacon for permission to use their files.
PREFACE

It is my opinion that few people of this vicinity know of the great struggle and courageous sacrifices made by the founders of Fairmount College, now the University of Wichita. Thus far some material has been collected, but very little has been done toward the compilation of this work. It has, therefore, been my purpose to write about the beginning of Fairmount College. I believe that the story of Fairmount should be preserved, and in this work, I have made a beginning by writing the history of the school to the year 1907. This period includes the plans for starting the school, erecting a building, and the administration of Dr. N. J. Morrison, the first college president.

I wish to express my appreciation to Miss Flora Clough, the first Dean of Women, for permission to use the material which she had collected. Also, I wish to thank Miss Alice Isely, Miss Rea Woodman, and Mrs. J. F. Hill for interviews. Miss Alice Isely was very gracious in giving her time and in guiding me to valuable material. The school owes her a debt of gratitude for collecting much of this material and keeping it in a file at the Wichita University Library. I also wish to thank the Wichita Beacon for permission to use their files.
I especially wish to express my sincerest appreciation to Dr. John Rydjord. Without his valuable criticisms, suggestions, and encouragement, I could not have completed this work. He was always willing to give freely of his time. For the encouragement which he gave when I so often needed it, I am deeply grateful.

Johnetta Losh McNew
# Table of Contents

**Preface** ........................................................................................................... 111  
**Chapter** ............................................................................................................. 1  
**I. THE WICHITA LADIES' COLLEGE** ............................................................ 1  
**II. "FAIRMOUNT, THE BEAUTIFUL"** ............................................................ 11  
**III. FAIRMOUNT INSTITUTE** ........................................................................... 17  
**IV. THE FACULTY AND CURRICULUM** ....................................................... 24  
**V. FROM INSTITUTE TO COLLEGE** ............................................................ 32  
**VI. FAIRMOUNT LIBRARY** .............................................................................. 41  
**VII. DR. MORRISON, FIRST PRESIDENT** ................................................... 58  
**VIII. DR. MORRISON'S ADMINISTRATION** ................................................ 73  
**IX. ACTIVITIES AT FAIRMOUNT** ................................................................. 89  
**Bibliography** ...................................................................................................... 105
CHAPTER I

THE WICHITA LADIES' COLLEGE

Wichita, one of the largest of the new western towns, was among the first to feel the effects of the great boom which swept over this part of the country. It was especially felt in Wichita between the years 1885-1887. Among the many enterprises set on foot by Eastern capital, none had more lasting results than college building. The promoters of Wichita and the Eastern capitalists were determined to make Wichita the metropolis of the West.¹

The rapid growth of Wichita resulted in real estate speculation which in turn proved to be a factor in the college movement. Perhaps higher motives moved men to be liberal in this time when money seemed plentiful. Also, there existed the belief in the material greatness of Wichita, and a determination that this "beloved city lack no opportunities for growth of culture and refinement."²

Religious denominations were rapidly locating in the West, and Wichita with its rapid growth offered gifts of both land and money to encourage the founding of religious institutions. By 1893, seventeen denominations were represented with two hundred forty-six colleges and schools in Kansas, of which twenty-one were colleges, twenty were

¹Arnold Lau, Community Life and Development, p. 24.
academies, and two hundred five were parochial schools. In Wichita there were two universities. There were also three academies, Fairmount, a Congregational institution; Lewis, a Presbyterian school; and All Hallows, a Catholic institution. There was no race or sex distinction, with the exceptions of Catholic colleges which were for men, and the Catholic academies which were for ladies.¹

The early founders of Wichita had visions of Wichita not only as a great commercial center, but also as an intellectual center. The first schoolhouse was built in 1871, which by 1887, had grown into a high school, and there was an increase of nine elementary schools. By this date Garfield University had been built at a cost of $200,000, and Wichita was the site of the Wichita University of the Reformed Church of America, the Judson University under Baptist sponsorship, and the John Bright University, a Presbyterian College.²

"In a peculiar sense Wichita is a 'college town.' No other city of its age and size can probably boast of having been the seat of so many universities and colleges. During the boom period--1886-1887--five college or university enterprises in different

¹Columbian History of Education in Kansas, compiled by Kansas Educators, p. 82.

²Andrew P. Solandt, "History of Fairmount College," O. H. Bentley, ed., History of Wichita and Sedgwick County, Kansas, I., 35.
sections of the city were set on foot, three of them issuing in the erection of costly buildings and the inauguration of promising schools of learning. Of these attempts at college founding, Fairmount alone survives.\

In 1886, Rev. J. H. Parker, minister of the Plymouth Congregational Church, not wishing to be outdone by other denominations, proposed plans for a school for young ladies which would become the "Vassar of the West." Rev. Parker interested some business men in his proposal. On December 8, 1886, a meeting was held to select a board of directors who were to organize a young ladies' school under the supervision of the Congregational Church. Although the school was to be under the supervision of the Congregational Church, it was to be non-sectarian, and its aims were to "impart a broad and liberal education to the students who may attend." This school was to be "more than a female seminary, for there will be instruction in all the higher sciences and arts." The plans had already

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1 Fairmount College Bulletin, 1895-6, p. 8.
2 Solandt, op. cit., p. 351.
4 "Young Ladies' School," The Wichita Daily Eagle, December 8, 1886, p. 4.
5 Ibid.
been laid before many prominent business men of the city, and had received assurances of their support for the project.

At the time when the plans were first being organized, Wichita was not definitely fixed as a site for the college. Representatives from Arkansas City attended the first meeting. Other sites were also mentioned as probable locations, but the *Wichita Eagle* stated in 1886, that "the present prominence of Wichita as a commercial and railroad center, with the number of colleges and higher grade schools now in course of construction, and its prospectively bright future as an educational center makes Wichita the favored place."¹

In the attempt to arouse more interest in the construction of the Ladies' College, the *Wichita Beacon* wrote, "It behooves our citizens to bestir themselves, if they wish to secure this enterprise which will do much for the city, for many offers are being made from our neighboring cities of Wellington, Arkansas City and others, and the company will naturally accept the best proposition laid before it."²

Educators, both here and in the East, claimed recognition of the need for such an institution, and "Wichita,  

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¹"Young Ladies' School," *The Wichita Daily Eagle*, December 8, 1886, p. 4.  
the metropolis, "stated the Wichita Eagle, "can secure its location, with all the attendant advantages by acting promptly and liberally."¹

In 1886, the Wichita Eagle stated that Wichita would be canvassed to feel the public pulse, and if there be any encouragement, another educational institution will be added to Wichita, and parents in western states would have a school to whose care they may "entrust the higher education of their daughters with the expectation of finding in it an institution as able to do its work as many in the older Eastern states."² Rev. Parker believed that such an institution as he contemplated would be a success. His belief was based on his faith in the continued growth in Wichita, and that if such an institution as he was planning did not materialize, the generations to come "would be compelled to seek educational advantages from Vassar, Mt. Holyoke or other eastern institutions... The West should be able to educate its own daughters, and in fact the health of many was injured by going to a less healthful climate seeking educational advantages."³ For these reasons

² Ibid., December 8, 1886, p. 1.
³ Ibid., January 30, 1887, p. 4.
Rev. Parker believed his school would be a great success.

Another factor which pointed toward success was that the few institutions in the West afforded limited advantages. They were run on the "Boarding-hall" plan where students were massed together in uncomfortable, cold and dingy halls.¹

The plans for organizing the institution were completed by the board, and preparations were made to receive donations which would be acceptable in the form of either land or money. It was emphasized that there was to be no partiality in selecting a location for the building. Only the desirability and the value of the donations were to be taken into consideration in choosing the site. All communications and donations were to be addressed to Rev. J. H. Parker. All bids² were to be sealed and handed in by January 15, 1887. The point was repeatedly stressed that both land and money were acceptable.³

Eight bids for the building were received, all of which were very liberal. The bids were under contemplation several days. Final action was taken January 29, 1887. The

¹ "Female College," The Wichita Daily Eagle, January 30, 1887, p. 4.
² The term "bids" may be somewhat confusing, but it meant about the same as donation. The various sections of the city were donating land and money, and thereby bidding for the college.
³ "Female College," The Wichita Daily Eagle, January 30, 1887, p. 4.
one accepted by the board was from the northeast part of
Wichita. The donation consisted of about 350 acres of land
and $32,000 in cash. The value of the land was estimated
at $1,000 an acre.¹

It was planned that the college building be located
near the corner of Seventeenth Street and Hillside. The
location was considered extremely desirable. A fine view
of the great Arkansas Valley could be seen from the brow
of this hill. The entire city of Wichita "with its in-
umerable spires and display of architecture was in full
view....The location acts as an inspiration to the re-
ceptive soul."²

Twenty acres were to be reserved for the building and
the campus. The Frisco road was to give a station near
Seventeenth Street. Seventeenth Street was to be opened
one hundred feet wide and parked on each side. Hillside,
also was to be parked.³

Several architects set to work making sketches for a
building to present to the board. The first expenditure
for the building was estimated at $100,000.

Mr. Proudfoot and Mr. Bird were selected as architects

¹"Female College," The Wichita Daily Eagle, January 30,
1887, p. 4.
²Ibid.
³Ibid.
for the female college. They drew up plans for a massive three-story limestone edifice of the Romanesque style of architecture. It was to have sandstone trim. The building was to be one hundred feet across the front and extend one hundred feet to the back. A Beacon reporter was shown the plans drawn up by the architects for the female college March 4, 1887, and he stated that the building would give the city a structure which would be an "immense gain to our public buildings." The front of the building was to face the west, and there was to be a massive stone elliptical archway entrance. Above the archway would be a large bay window ornamented with terra cotta.

The conspicuous feature of the building would be an observatory tower. It was to be one hundred feet in height and be equipped with a powerful telescope. A spiral stairway was to lead to the tower, as well as an elevator. At seventy feet would be a balcony "from which nearly the whole country" would be visible. The tower would be roofed with brass, and the effect of the sun on it would be "very dazzling and attractive." On certain days each week the public would be admitted to the tower and be allowed to view

1 "Fairmount," The Wichita Daily Beacon, January 12, 1887, p. 4.
2 Ibid., March 4, 1887, p. 1.
3 Ibid., February 8, 1887, p. 1.
the country-side with the telescope.  

The classrooms were to be located in the northeast part on the first floor. Eight music rooms would be provided for in the basement. The gymnasium would take up all of the north wing on the third floor. There, also, would be the instructor's room and the bath and dressing rooms.

It was planned that a building for a boarding house and laundry would be built east of the college building. Here, also would be located the boilers for the heating system. Later on, south of the college a music conservatory would be built, and a library would be on the north.

Besides the main building, one cottage would be erected at an estimated cost of $5,000. Other cottages would be added as the demands grew. Each cottage would contain fifteen rooms and accommodate thirty students. Each place would be under the care and supervision of a lady teacher.

The desirable location of the school was repeatedly stressed. The Wichita Eagle wrote, "The busy metropolis

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1 The Wichita Daily Beacon, February 8, 1887, p. 1.
2 "Fairmount College," The Wichita Daily Eagle, March 27, 1887, p. 4.
3 Ibid.
5 Ibid.
and the great Arkansas Valley lend an inspiration that will certainly have no injurious effect upon the weary students."
CHAPTER II
"FAIRMOUNT, THE BEAUTIFUL"

The directors of the Wichita Ladies' College met February 7, 1887, and determined to change the name of that institution to Fairmount College. The reason for this change in name was the beautiful location of the college. The directors believed that since the building which would be the center of attraction had a high elevation, and because of the beautiful view of the Arkansas Valley from the college the name of Fairmount would be more appropriate. During this same meeting the board of directors was increased from five to fifteen, ten of whom were to be Wichita residents and "five from abroad."

W. J. Corner and H. A. Clifford were appointed on the committee to arrange for the plotting of the college location of the buildings. They visited the college grounds with the surveyor and determined that the main building should be on the brow of the hill, fronting west on Hillside Avenue with Seventeenth Street on the South.


The Wichita Daily Beacon, February 8, 1887, p. 1.
Because of the generous donations and the apparent success of the enterprise, it was decided that a larger building than was first planned should be erected. Enough funds were in hand to take care of this increase in size, and the architects were notified of the change.¹

The board of directors made arrangements to place some of their land on the market. Letters arrived from the East containing inquiries about the institution and about locations for residences near the college.²

On February 15, Mr. Strong filed an addition of eighty acres which was to be called Fairmount Addition and was near to the college. The addition contained 700 to 800 lots. Mr. Atkins also filed an addition of eighty acres near Mr. Strong's addition, and it was called Fairmount Addition Number Two.³

Mr. Strong, one of the directors, donated $1,000 for the observatory on top of the building, and he set a paper in circulation asking each signer to donate $200 for the tower. The telescope to be put in the tower was to be large enough to be of scientific use and would be the best in the west.⁴

¹ "Fairmount College," The Wichita Daily Eagle, February 16, 1887, p. 4.
² Ibid.
³ Ibid.
⁴ Ibid.
On the evening of February 19, the directors met in the office of Attorney Clifford to adopt plans for excavating which was soon to start. A committee on material was appointed. Another committee was appointed to go to the East for the purpose of securing all modern appliances. Several other committees were chosen. The committee for laying the corner stone consisted of W. J. Corner, Hon. J. J. Ingalls, Hon. H. M. Ide, M. W. Levy and A. Munson. The important committee on faculty and prospectus was made up of Rev. J. H. Parker, Hon. T. D. Thatcher, Rev. Joel Harper, W. J. Corner, and Dr. F. F. Dickman.

The directors appointed C. F. Mannel as superintendent of construction. Immediately after his appointment, he left for Carthage and Warrensburg to contract for brick and stone. The board selected a building committee, and the members included H. H. Richards, H. G. Stark, and H. A. Clifford.

On April 7, Mr. N. S. Patton of the Patton and Fisher Architect Firm of Chicago arrived for the purpose of conferring with the building committee and the superintendent

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1 "Meeting of Directors," The Wichita Daily Eagle, February 20, 1887, p. 4.


3 "Fairmount College," The Wichita Daily Eagle, March 17, 1887, p. 4.

4 Ibid.
of construction. He expressed the opinion that the location for the building was ideal.\(^1\)

In May the material for the foundation was arriving from Augusta and being conveyed from the Frisco road on a switch to the building site. At first it was decided to use trimming of Carthage limestone, but later the question arose whether to use that or sandstone from Colorado.\(^2\)

By May 25, 1887, the walls of the basement had been built to the surface of the ground. By June 16, the foundation was completed to the top of the ground. Mr. Mathewson, who put in the foundation was given the contract for the brick work.\(^3\)

The board of directors announced that they would have a very important meeting the first of June for the purpose of appointing a president. Some of the directors were in favor of a lady president, while others favored a gentleman.\(^4\)

At this meeting of June 1, the board voted in favor of a man for president of the college. In March 1889, the board appointed Rev. Matthews to be president. For some

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\(^1\) "Fairmount College," The Wichita Daily Eagle, April 8, 1887.

\(^2\) Ibid., May 12, 1887.

\(^3\) Ibid., June 16, 1887, p. 4.

\(^4\) Ibid., May 25, 1887, p. 4.
time Rev. Matthews was a minister of the Congregational Church in the south part of the city. He had come to Wichita from Portland, Connecticut. He came with very high recommendations from the educational institutions with which he had been associated. The trustees planned that Rev. Matthews should travel in the East in the interest of the school.\(^1\)

The directors hoped that the college should open not later than the first week in January, 1888.\(^2\) But this was impossible because of the slow progress on the building. In October 1888, it was announced that work on the building had been delayed because the pressed brick had not arrived, and a second delay was caused by the lack of other materials. The brick work was then only three feet from the roof, and about ninety feet of the tower had been completed.\(^3\)

The Wichita Eagle printed this description of Fairmount,

"The most magnificent stretch of landscape, the most delightful glimpse of city and valley, of fields and of streams, the grandest reach of unobstructed distance and imcomparable horizon to be seen from any spot in Kansas, if not upon this earth, is the

\(^1\)"College President Elected," The Wichita Daily Eagle, March 13, 1889, p. 4.

\(^2\)Ibid., June 2, 1887, p. 4.

\(^3\)"Fairmount College," Ibid., October 12, 1888, p. 4.
view afforded by the elevation east of this city which has been named Fairmount for the beautiful college whose building graces its brow."¹

By the time the president was elected in 1889, the building had been roofed, but considerable inside work remained to be done.² Also, by that time the "bubble had burst" and Wichita was a wreck. Property sold for taxes. Many properties sold at sheriffs' sales and mortgages were foreclosed. The Fairmount College building was not completed because of lack of money and for five years the building was threatened through foreclosure of a mechanics' lien.³

¹"Fairmount the Beautiful," The Wichita Daily Eagle, September 25, 1887, p. 4.
³"That Fairmount Matter," Ibid., September 13, 1892, p. 5.
CHAPTER III

FAIRMOUNT INSTITUTE

After the plans for the Wichita Ladies' College failed, "for five years the beautiful edifice, externally complete, stood out conspicuously on the prairie landscape, lonely and unoccupied." ¹

Some friends of the institution, who still wishing to make the project a success, appealed to the American College and Education Society and to friends in the East in an effort to secure the necessary amount for payment of the mechanics' lien and for refunding the mortgage. They secured aid on the basis that the school be made coeducational rather than a school for ladies only. ²

On February 17, 1892, the building and campus sold under a foreclosure of a mechanics' lien of $2500 to Mr. H. W. Erving,³ trustee for the bondholders under the mortgage. ⁴ On February 24, a charter was filed with the secretary of the state of Kansas, incorporating the Fairmount Institute. After its transfer to a new board of trustees, plans were made for opening the institute on

³ Mr. Solandt reported that the property was sold to D. B. Wesson, "History of Fairmount College," op. cit., pp. 351-3.
⁴ "Fairmount College," The Wichita Daily Eagle, July 6, 1892, p. 5.
September 15, 1892.¹

The Institute was to be conducted under the auspices of the Congregational Church, but would not in any sense be sectarian. Pupils of all denominations would be received "upon terms of perfect equality."² Both sexes were to be admitted to the school. Requirements for admission into the Institute are of particular interest. Rev. Tunnell wrote in the Prospectus,

"Applicants should not be less than twelve years of age, and should be able to read any ordinary book with ease and expression; spell words in ordinary use; write a legible hand; be able to analyze simple sentences, give the parts of speech and their properties; and have a knowledge of Elementary Arithmetic as far as percentage."³

In exceptional cases those under twelve could be admitted with the approval of the faculty.⁴ Those not able to meet the other requirements could be admitted with the consent of the principal. For admission to a higher class in the Institute a student had to bring a certificate of standing from an accredited school or

¹ "Fairmount College," The Wichita Daily Eagle, July 6, 1892, p. 5.
² Ibid.
³ R. M. Tunnell, Prospectus of Fairmount Institute, Sedgwick County, Kansas, for the year ending June 15, 1893, p. 10.
⁴ "Fairmount Institute," The Wichita Daily Eagle, July 6, 1892, p. 5.
pass an examination.¹

It was the purpose of the "institute to prepare pupils for the leading colleges and universities of the United States, and fit for the duties of life those pupils who cannot or do not wish, to go to college."²

The aim of the founders of Fairmount Institute in the words of Rev. Tunnell, the principal, was as follows:

"to establish a school that shall rank as high for classical scholarship as far famed Phillips Academies at Andover, Mass. and Exeter, N. H., and which shall be broader than those schools in two respects, namely; first, it is a coeducational school, girls have the right to the same privileges in the school as boys; and second, the courses of study of the Institute are arranged with a view to equip such of its graduates who cannot continue their studies in the College, University, or Professional School, for the active duties of life."³

In a letter to the Wichita Eagle, September 10, 1892, Professor Tunnell outlined the plans and purposes of Fairmount Institute as follows:

"The object of the institute is not to make money. While it is the aim to have a school whose scholarship shall be so broad, full and thorough that it will meet the wants of the time, we have higher aims in view than mere intellectual training. Pure morals and Christian character are of infinitely greater importance than scholarship. It will, therefore, be the aim of the principal and his associates to make the Institute a refined Christian school from which young men and young women shall go forth pure, strong, manly, womanly...

¹Tunnell, Prospectus, p. 10.
²"Fairmount Institute," The Wichita Daily Eagle, July 6, 1892, p. 5.
³Tunnell, Prospectus, p. 7.
while it is the aim to develop manly and womanly character, its privileges are not for the depraved and vicious. It is not a reformatory institution.... Endeavor will be made to govern through reason, the conscience, the affection forces. Yet obedience will be insisted upon, and the disobedient and incorrigible, idle and indolent will be dismissed."

From the contents of this letter it appears that moral training would be paramount over the intellectual. No doubt the emphasis placed on obedience and the strict rules of the school found their roots in traditional New England Puritanism.

Miss Rea Woodman, who was on the faculty through January 1894 to 1895, reported that the rules were too strict and therefore were frequently broken.2

On September 15, 1892, the Wichita Eagle stated that "the last coat of oil has been put upon the woodwork, the windows have been cleaned, and the building is ready for occupancy."3 School opened on the fifteenth as scheduled. Preparation was made for the formal opening of Fairmount Institute which was held September 16, 1892. At nine o'clock in the morning a number of friends gathered in the Chapel, and Principal Tunnell called the meeting to order. A hymn was sung, followed by Scripture reading and prayer.

1"Fairmount Institute," The Wichita Daily Eagle, September 10, 1892, p. 5.

2 Miss Woodman was in charge of a boarding house as well as a member of the faculty, and she tells many amusing stories of some of the students escapades.

3"Fairmount Institute Notes," The Wichita Daily Eagle, September 15, 1892, p. 5.
Mr. Tunnell gave the opening address in which he gave his conception of a Christian education as broad, comprehensive and spiritual.

The president of the board of trustees, Mr. W. J. Corner, was introduced and disclaimed any intention of giving a speech, "and then went on to make a good one." He referred to the consumation of Fairmount which friends had so long and devotedly wished for was about to be realized.

The dedication ceremony of the Institute was held on the evening of October 4, 1892. The Wichita Eagle recorded that

"The attendance was remarkably large, and it would be a very hard matter to find an audience anywhere representing a greater average of intelligence. Nobody without an interest in intellectual matters will go four miles to witness plain dedication ceremonies, hence, the high average of intelligence referred to."  

It was estimated that only one street car could be needed, but such a crowd had collected on the corner of Main and Douglas that the conductor had to call for three more cars to be put on. Then there was such a load on each car that there was not sufficient power to drive up the steep hill to the Institute.

1 "Opening of Fairmount Institute," The Wichita Daily Eagle, September 17, 1892, p. 5.
2 "Fairmount Institute," Ibid., October 5, 1892, p. 1.
3 Ibid.
After the devotions Rev. Tunnell gave the welcoming address. Dr. Gordley of the state university gave the dedicatory address. He remarked on the "age of haste." He said that people did not take time for adequate preparation for life work. The mission of institutions of higher learning is to resist this spirit of haste. He said that education involves growth, and growth requires time. Time spent in preparation is not time wasted. Shouts and applause followed the long speech. Then a solo "When Day is Done" was presented by Mrs. Garst.

The trustees were invited to take places on the platform. Mr. Clifford who had done most along the financial line of getting Fairmount launched gave a history of the trials and tribulations in the following poetical line:

"One half, or more, has passed of this decade,
Since these foundation stones were firmly laid.
By slow degrees, and not with rapid bound,
The basement walls came peeping from the ground,
Until, at last, their even surface bore
The timbers which support this new laid floor.
Through days and weeks the massive structure grew
Until the second floor was brought to view.
Then came a pause. With treasury deplete
And land and lots a drug upon the streets,
All source of revenue was swept away,
And here, in mute appeal, day after day,
Stood half-built walls of costly brick and stone
In storm and sun, the prey of elements alone.
In wise deliberation's calmest mood
The trustees there the situation viewed,
And then resolved in reason, not in haste,
To save the structure from impending waste.
And so, with such good purpose firmly set,
To roof it in, they covered it with debt.
Thenceforth they struggled on through hope and fear,
The debt accumulating year by year."
Till this grand house, and site whereon it stands
Seemed doomed to pass to unknown alien hands.
And in the days when this proud state was young,
And Freedom here was in the balance hung,
New England sent her sons, both brave and bold,
And filled their hands with greatly needed gold,
So here, on Education's holy shrine,
With heart and hand, she lays her gifts divine.
The old Bay State, most generous of all,
Responded first to Fairmount's needy call.
Then came Connecticut with lib'ral hand,
And poured her oil of gladness o'er the land.
To these alone our grateful praise is due
For all that now appears before our view.
They who preserve what others have begun,
Or carry forward what they've left undone,
Are benefactors of their brother man,
No less than those who first conceived the plan.
O Lamp of Knowledge lighted here tonight,
Shine thou, henceforth, a beacon from this height.
Direct the youth upon the mental sea,
To where the deepest, richest water be,
And guide them all past unseen rock or shoal
Until they anchor at the distant goal.  

1"Dedication of Fairmount Institute," The Wichita Daily Eagle, October 5, 1892, p. 8.
CHAPTER IV
THE FACULTY AND CURRICULUM

In 1892, the faculty of Fairmount Institute consisted of Rev. R. M. Tunnell, the principal, Miss Harriet Pease, and Miss Marie Mathis. Miss Pease had been preceptress of Mason Academy, Massachusetts, and she held the same position at Fairmount. Miss Mathis had studied in Paris and was placed in charge of modern languages.¹

The school year was divided into three terms. The first term commenced September 27 and closed December 22, 1893. The second term dated from January 3 to March 27, 1894. The third term started March 30 and closed June 14, 1894.² The curriculum consisted of the Bible, which was to be thoroughly studied, English, ancient and modern languages, and mathematics.³ In the Prospectus Mr. Tunnell said that English had the place of prime importance. He believed that books read and instruction given should give students "tolerable mastery of our mother tongue" and of our literature, "the Bible will, therefore, be studied as an incomparable text book of literature as well as a guide to morals."⁴

In mathematics the aim will not be to spend time on

³Solandt, *op. cit.*., p. 353.
"arithmetical problems that are simply difficult puzzles," but rather to give students a thorough foundation in the principles of arithmetic.¹ Other sciences were to be taught, especially, physics, physiology, and botany.

Strenuous attacks had been and were being made on the ancient classics in an effort to drive them out of schools, but Mr. Tunnell wrote, "they have their place in every good school." The study of the "ancient classics is an aid to mental discipline and an aid in acquisition of the English language," and in "preparation for scientific studies."² French and German were to be taught by Miss Mathis who had been educated in Paris and Oberlin.

A normal department would provide special advantages for teachers and aspiring teachers. "Psychology with reference to the teacher's work will be taught, also the history of education, and Methods of Teaching and School Management."³ This normal course would lead to a State Teacher's Diploma.

Arrangements could be made for vocal and instrumental instruction in music. Bookkeeping, typing and stenography would be taught if a sufficient number of students applied for instruction.⁴

¹R. M. Tunnell, Prospectus, p. 8.
²Ibid., p. 9.
³Ibid., pp. 9-10.
⁴Ibid., p. 10.
In the classical department the Bible was studied twice a week and spelling once a week. In the Literary and Scientific Departments there was a Bible lesson once a week and spelling once a week.¹

In comparison with the cost of education now, the cost at Fairmount was extremely slight. Board could be secured with families near the Institute at a price of two dollars and fifty-cents to three dollars and fifty-cents a week. Rooms could be rented, and students could board themselves at a total price of one dollar and fifty-cents to two dollars a week.

Tuition in the English Department was six dollars per term. In Mathematics, Language, and Science the tuition was eight dollars per term. A fee of fifty-cents was charged to each student for incidental expenses.²

Principal Tunnell always insisted upon the aim of the school as being one of character and moral development. He wrote in 1893,

"The aim of the school is not to make money, not to propagate any ism, religious or educational....Its aim is to give all possible aid to the formation of right character. Use will be made of all truth suitable to this end. The Bible will have its place in the course of study as well as the older bible,

¹R. M. Tunnell, Prospectus, p. 15.
²Ibid., p. 10.
the book of nature.

The Institute is founded in the conviction that the test of education is use... It will be the constant endeavor of the faculty of the Institute to make its students not only good scholars, good men and women, but good for a great deal; to equip them for the work and warfare of the twentieth century. To this end the course of study will be changed and extended as times demand and the special wants of students will always be considered.  

When the Garfield University closed, as did many other educational institutions at the close of the "boom," Fairmount Institute gained four instructors and a number of students. More students came to Fairmount from Garfield than were attending Fairmount.  

Miss Rea Woodman was one of the instructors who went to Fairmount from Garfield. Another instructor from Garfield was Mr. Cristie. Miss Woodman said that Mr. Cristie was the man who died and did not die. He disappeared, and everyone thought he had died, and for some reason friends in Wichita had not been notified. Miss Woodman was put in charge of conducting a memorial service for Mr. Cristie. She spent a great deal of time and effort in planning quite an elaborate affair. A chair was draped on the platform with black and gold ribbons. Black and gold were the colors of Fairmount. Much time was spent gathering flowers with which to deck the platform. Two ladies came to the

1 Tunnell, Prospectus, p. 8.
2 Rea Woodman, Interview, June 28, 1948.
service, both dressed in mourning. Both ladies claimed to be betrothed to Mr. Cristie. A few days after the ceremony, a telegram arrived from Mr. Cristie saying, "The report I am dead is false as hell. I'll be there." However, Mr. Cristie did not return.¹

Miss Woodman taught English literature, and in one class she had four boys. The class rooms were heated with coal heating stoves. To keep warm, Miss Woodman said that she and the boys sat with their feet on the railing around the stove. When Miss Woodman asked a question which a student could not answer he would get up and poke the fire. By the time the smoke had cleared away and everyone could see again, Miss Woodman had forgotten all about the question.²

In 1893, the faculty consisted of Rev. R. M. Tunnell, A. M., principal and teacher of mathematics and science; Miss Della Smoke, A. M., preceptress and teacher of English, Latin and Greek; Miss Marie Mathis, teacher of history, French and German; and G. H. Hoss, L. L. D., special teacher of elocution and oratory.³

The Fairmount Seminary founded by Rev. R. S. Marsh and Rev. C. N. Severance united with Fairmount Institute

¹Rea Woodman, Interview, June 28, 1948.
³Tunnell, Prospectus, p. 6.
in 1893. The Seminary had offered a three-year course "for those expecting to devote their lives to Christian work as preachers, Y.M.C.A. secretaries, or home or foreign missionaries."\(^1\)

The Columbian History of Education in Kansas recorded in 1893 that the founders of Fairmount Institute had

"faith in Kansas—faith in the boundless resources... freedom...culture and intelligence...and in the world-wide mission of her young men and young women. The primary object of Christian education is the formation of right character. The Institute is founded in the belief that a school which, true to the genius of American institutions and the spirit of our fore-fathers, founds such education on the Bible, will be welcomed and fostered by the high-minded people of our beloved State."\(^2\)

Perhaps something should be said about the first Commencement at Fairmount Institute. Since it was the first one for the Hill people, it is of more interest and of greater importance than some of the later Commencements. No doubt the eventful week that marked the first Commencement at Fairmount back in 1894, was a week of great excitement and preparation as it is for all graduates. On Sunday afternoon June 10, the baccalaureate services were held in the Chapel, and a large number of friends and relatives were present. The sermon was given by Principal Tunnell. The two literary societies held a joint meeting

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\(^1\)Tunnell, *The Fairmount Institute*, Wichita, Kansas, 1893.

\(^2\)Columbian History of Education in Kansas, p. 85.
in the Chapel Monday evening. Rev. and Mrs. Tunnell gave a reception for the teachers and students in their home. Then came the big event—the Commencement which occurred on Wednesday June 13, 1894, at 10:00 in the morning in the Institute Chapel.¹

In this memorable graduating class were ten members. Those graduating from the Classical course were Laura Wellman, Iva Johnston, Charles Fay, Eugene Arnett, and Willie Meyers. Mary Hyde, Lucile Hendryx, Mary Wilson, Anna Corner, and Homer Hamilton were the graduates from the Literary course.²

The Commencement program must have been quite a long and impressive one, and most of the participants were students. In those days the students had the principal roles, and the numbers usually consisted of original orations and essays of the students. The following is a list of the numbers on the first Commencement program taken from one of the printed programs:

Programme

1. Chorus-March. "We Bring Bright Flowers"
2. Invocation
3. Piano Duet. Misses Lottie and Sadie Ellis

¹ "On Fairmount," The Wichita Daily Beacon, June 2, 1894, p. 4.
² Ibid., May 23, 1894.
4. Oration "The Solitude of Great Minds" 
   Eugene Arnett, Wichita.

5. Essay "Cobwebs" 
   Annie L. Corner, Wichita.

6. Essay "The Brighter Side" 
   Mary E. Wilson, Wichita.

7. Piano Solo "Minute De Bergame" 
   Elizabeth Tunnell.

8. Oration "Room at the Top" 
   Charles L. Fay, Bayneville.

9. Oration "George's Mollie" 
   Lucile Hendryx, Wichita.

10. Oration "The Text Book" 
    Mary Hyde, Sunnydale.

11. Oration "Victor Hugo" 
    Iva Johnson, Wichita.

12. Chorus "The Haymakers Glee" 
    School

13. Oration "The True Foundation of Government" 
    Willis Meyers, El Dorado.

14. Oration "Sowing to the Wind" 
    Laura I. Wellman, Wichita.

15. Oration "Put Money in Thy Pocket" 
    Homer Hamilton, El Dorado.

16. Piano Solo Selected 
    Mrs. McCoy and Mrs. George Strong

17. Conferring of Diplomas

18. Benediction

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1First Annual Commencement, Fairmount Institute, Wichita, Kansas, June 15, 1894.
CHAPTER V
FROM INSTITUTE TO COLLEGE

The founders of Fairmount Institute aimed for good academy work, but after two years the Institute resulted in failure.\(^1\) During the winter of 1894, it became increasingly evident that it was mere folly to try to conduct a preparatory school so far from the heart of the city and without adequate equipment. Although Wichita was the largest town in the Southwest and had excellent transportation facilities which gave it the possibility of becoming the commercial center of the Southwest, it had no school of higher education. The need of a college in Wichita was very apparent.

Dr. Walter Graves, one of the trustees, wrote that he did not know who first suggested the idea "of taking on college work by easy stages, of advancing a senior prep class to a Freshman College class and adding a class each year until the full curriculum was achieved."\(^2\) Perhaps the idea was in the air, but at any rate the trustees were all of one notion on it. The question was how to accomplish this.

The desire to convert the Institute into a College was accomplished, through a very painful procedure. Heated

\(^1\) N. J. Morrison, *Fairmount College at the Beginning of Second Year*, 1896, p. 4.

discussions which went on for months and caused a great
deal of personal enmity and bitterness. Finally it even
led to the resignations of Rev. Tunnell, several trustees,
and Rev. Gould, pastor of Plymouth Church. It is perhaps
well to believe that time, the great healer, erased part
of this bitterness as it did for Dr. Walter Graves. In
writing about Rev. Tunnell, Dr. Graves said,

"The choice of Mr. Tunnell for the Principalship
of the infant school was most unfortunate. He
was essentially a man of the study—the cloister....
His was a fertile but illogical genius, and
system was not in his mental equipment....As I
look back over those years...I can only deplore
his choice as a grave injustice to him, as well
as a serious misfortune to Fairmount."

During 1894, and 1895, there was a slight increase in
students but the teaching force diminished. Only Rev.
Tunnell, Miss Della Smoke, and William Henry Isely re­
mained. There was lack of funds to pay the meager sala­
ries of the instructors. Late in the fall of 1894, Rev.
Tunnell, vigorously opposing the change from Institute
to college, resigned. Professor Isely became acting
principal. He refused to accept the position permanently
when it was offered to him.

In the fall of 1894, the Wichita Association of Congre­
gational Churches met in Newton, Kansas. Dr. Graves was
the delegate to this meeting, and J. M. Knapp, another

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1Graves, op. cit., p. 10.
trustee, accompanied Dr. Graves as a visitor. In one of the meetings Dr. Graves introduced a resolution that the State Association give its approval and endorse the college program of Fairmount. Rev. D. D. DeLong from Arkansas City supported the resolution. Dr. Broad, Superintendent of Home Missions and a member of the board of trustees of Washburn College, leaned over and whispered, "Washburn will fight you."¹ Washburn College at Topeka was the only Congregational college in Kansas. During lunch Mr. Knapp and Dr. Graves tried to convince Dr. Broad that there was no reason why the schools should clash.

In an interview with Rev. McVicker, President of Washburn College, Dr. Graves attempted to point out that there was a serious lack of schools of higher education in Kansas, and that everyone should be happy in the opportunity of having one more college bringing Christian education to the youth of Kansas. Besides this, Fairmount would not be a competitor of Washburn, for at that time only two of Washburn's students came from within fifty miles of Wichita. Many students were going East for educational purposes. Wichita, the largest city in the southern half of Kansas and "destined to be much larger," had many young people who would attend college if they could

¹Graves, op. cit., p. 13.
do so at home. But in spite of all his excellent reasoning, Dr. Graves did not get much response from Rev. McVicker.

After Dr. Graves returned from the Newton meeting, the Board of Trustees held a meeting at which Dr. Graves was dismayed to learn that in making the resolution he had acted without authority. The other members had a good laugh at his expense, but they voted to approve his action. He wrote years later, "I have never had occasion to regret the informality of my action." 

In the following spring the Association held its convention in Wichita. At this meeting the Wichita delegates withdrew the part of Dr. Graves' resolution which referred the Fairmount question to the State Association for approval. The Wichita Congregationalists decided that this was not a state matter but one that concerned Wichita and the Congregational Education Society. Perhaps, there was also the feeling that there might be too much opposition. Dr. Graves, at first declined to be the delegate, because Rev. Gould opposed both Dr. Graves and Fairmount College. William Hinman was chosen as delegate, but declared it was impossible for him to go. The alternate,

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2 Ibid., p. 16.
Mrs. Hull, did not wish to become mixed up in any unpleasantness and refused to go. Meanwhile, Dr. Graves was hourly becoming more concerned about the opposition to Fairmount and felt it more and more his duty to be present. Almost at the last minute his credentials were prepared for him to attend the meeting as the delegate.¹

This State Association meeting was one that tried the tempers of many who were present. Rev. Tunnell, former principal of Fairmount, made a sharp attack on Fairmount, and mentioned the fact that even a Methodist, J. M. Knapp, was on the Board of Trustees. This was too much for Dr. Graves who was on his feet before Rev. Tunnell finished and informed the Association that Fairmount was a legally organized institution under Kansas laws and under the approval of the Wichita Association of Congregational Churches, and any censure of Fairmount "was purely gratuitous and out of order." Congregationalism, he went on to say, had, "swept aside denominational barriers in the matter of Christian education, and that instead of deploring the presence of a Methodist on the Board of Trustees, we might well congratulate ourselves that a gentleman of another denomination was so broad-minded as to give freely of his time and money in the support of a Congregational school."²

²Ibid., p. 17.
During the course of the meeting Dr. Graves met George M. Herrick, the Western Secretary of the Education Society. He asked about Fairmount College, and Dr. Graves, delighted to find one person friendly toward Fairmount, unburdened himself. Mr. Herrick suggested that he might go to Wichita and look the field over. Of course, Dr. Graves urged him to go. Mr. Herrick did visit Wichita and while looking over Fairmount decided to climb the tower. When he came down he said, "A few days ago I saw what I thought was the most beautiful view in Kansas from Mount Oread...but this beats Mount Oread."¹ The result of this visit to Fairmount was a letter from Mr. Herrick to the Education Society urging the support of Fairmount College.

A few weeks later Mr. Herrick was elected to the presidency of Washburn College, and Dr. Graves was elated to think that a friend of Fairmount would be president of Washburn. But Professor Isely's prediction that this would not end the rivalry proved to correct.²

On September 3, 1895, the Wichita Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers resolved in a meeting at Sedgwick, Kansas, to "heartily endorse the movement of establishing Fairmount College at Wichita, Kansas," and

¹Graves, op. cit., p. 24.
²Ibid., p. 25.
pledged their hearty co-operation.\footnote{Resolution of the Wichita Association of Congregational Churches, September 3, 1895, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.}

In an important meeting of the Board of Trustees March 30, 1896, the trustees voted to modify the charter and re-organize Fairmount Institute into Fairmount College. April 30, 1896, the Secretary of the State of Kansas issued a new charter "granting full college and university rights and privileges to Fairmount College of Wichita."\footnote{First Annual Catalogue, 1896, p. 9.} Besides substituting the word college for institute in the title of the school, the trustees voted to empower the new corporation to confer all academic degrees of a full university. The board of trustees was increased in membership from fifteen to twenty-one.\footnote{The new board members included Messrs. Davidson, Walker, Cohn, Sluss, Corbett and Lewelling, all business men from Wichita. The Wichita Daily Beacon, April 10, 1896, p. 5.} In June of the same year the Directors of the Congregational Education Society, meeting in Boston approved of this action,\footnote{First Annual Catalogue, 1896, p. 9.} thus Fairmount College was officially launched but the storm was by no means over.

Dr. N. J. Morrison, first president of Fairmount College, came to Wichita in 1895, but left almost immediately to travel in the East in the interests of the school.
As time went on, the campaign against Fairmount by Washburn became increasingly evident. Both Dr. Morrison and Dr. Herrick were working the same field in the East, each for his respective school, and often Dr. Morrison found that someone had been before him hammering away at Fairmount. He also heard that Rev. Gould, opposed Fairmount. Many people whom Dr. Morrison met could not understand why Wichita kept a Congregational pastor who opposed their college. ¹

Articles began appearing in The Congregationalist criticizing the Educational Society for making Fairmount the exception to the rule of assisting only one college in one state. Since Frank L. Ferguson, president of the Education Society, had been active in securing aid for Fairmount, much of the attack centered on him. He did not pay much attention to the criticisms until his honor was impugned, he then published the letter ² which Dr. Herrick had written to the Education Society recommending its support of Fairmount as a college. ³ This had the desired effect of greatly diminishing that trouble spot, but Rev. Gould’s opposition loomed bigger and bigger.

From the beginning Rev. Gould had opposed Fairmount

¹Graves, op. cit., p. 25.
²Supra, p. 34.
³Graves, op. cit., p. 35.
as a college, but later he admitted to Dr. Graves that he had had a change of heart and endorsed Fairmount College. Then Dr. Morrison sent a letter to Dr. Graves in which he bitterly complained of opposition in the East from Dr. Gould. Dr. Graves took the matter up with Rev. Gould, and the latter said he had had another change of mind about Fairmount, but he had given no one authority to represent him. He suggested they wait awhile and something would develop. Weeks went by and nothing happened. Dr. Morrison complained more and more about Rev. Gould's influence in the East. Finally, Dr. Graves decided that the matter should be brought out into the open and told William Hinman who in turn passed the information on. By the next morning Plymouth Church was buzzing with excitement. The church people had little idea of what had been going on. Rev. Gould promised an explanation, but the explanation proved to be a tirade of abuse against Fairmount, and then he offered his resignation which was accepted without one dissenting vote.¹

And so Fairmount College had weathered another storm, but the struggle was only beginning, for there was daily the pressing need of money and more money. But the question was ever the same—where was it coming?

CHAPTER VI

FAIRMOUNT LIBRARY

More appropriate words can not be found with which to begin this chapter than those of A. P. Solandt when he wrote, "A feature of Fairmount college which is almost as famous as Wichita itself, is the Fairmount library." ²

The W. H. Isely family was an important addition to the Hill community when they arrived in September 1894, where Mr. Isely was to take up his duties as instructor of history and mathematics at Fairmount Institute. ² One afternoon soon after their arrival Mrs. Minnie Babb and Mrs. Walter Graves called on Mrs. Isely and asked if she would be interested in helping to organize a club ³ to do things for the school and in particular to secure books for a library. The school had no library—not even a book case. ⁴

In October 1894, the Fairmount Library Club was formally organized with ten charter members. These members were Mrs. W. H. Isely, Mrs. Minnie Babb, Mrs. Walter Graves, etc.

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¹ Solandt, op. cit., p. 359.


³ Dr. Graves wrote that after a social at the school Mrs. Graves suggested that a club be organized for the purpose of building a library, and that her idea was enthusiastically adopted. Graves. op. cit., p. 5.

Mrs. Isabella Clough, Mrs. Della Smoke, Mrs. R. C. Bailey, Mrs. Ella Ellis, and Mrs. E. I. Spencer. Mrs. Walter Graves was elected the first president of this Library Club. The primary purpose of this organization was service—service in any way but especially by earning money with which to buy books to start a library. It was of this Club Dr. Morrison spoke when he said, "Its very existence was a powerful influence in drawing him to Wichita, for it was entirely in harmony with his own conviction that a library is a most necessary equipment for college work." In one of Dr. Morrison's first public addresses in Wichita he said in referring to the Club, "The Fairmount Library Club has given me courage to go on with the work."

Every week the Club took up donations of nickels and dimes, and occasionally a quarter, until one day the following summer Mrs. Graves and Mrs. Smoke took the total

1 Mrs. Isabella Clough was no relation to Miss Flora Clough, first Dean of Women at Fairmount College. The Wichita Daily Eagle, January 19, 1932.

2 Miss Rea Woodman obtained much of her information from an article, "Early Memories of Fairmount," by Mrs. Lucilla Hall. This manuscript was not available.


4 Graves, op. cit., p. 5.

amount of seven or eight dollars to town. From the second-hand book store of Ora McKinney located on East Douglas they "bought the first consignment of books that ever came to Fairmount Library.\textsuperscript{1} The money bought quite a large number of books since many of the volumes cost only ten or fifteen cents a copy, and the ladies carried the books back to the school in a market basket.\textsuperscript{2} These books were placed on a shelf in Professor Isely's class room because there was not even one room for a library or a reading room.\textsuperscript{3}

According to Mrs. Lucilla Hall these books did not constitute the very first library at Fairmount Institute. Previously, there was a very small collection of books, but there was no bookcase in which to keep them. They were stolen from the Institute during the second summer.\textsuperscript{4}

The second purchase made by the Library Club was a necessity, a bookcase. This case had a lock on it, and the

\textsuperscript{1} Graves, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 6.

\textsuperscript{2} Rea Woodman, \textit{The Wichita Daily Eagle}, February 20, 1932.

\textsuperscript{3} Alice Isely, \textit{Fairmount Library(MS)}, 1939, p. 1, Wichita University Library.

lock worked. Mrs. C. B. Wells\(^1\) said, "Then, sometimes, the Club met at the College around the bookcase."\(^2\)

The Club made a third purchase which was a major need at the school. The ladies bought a hanging lamp and had it installed at a total cost of one dollar and fifty-cents. Mrs. Hall wrote in her *Early Memories of Fairmount*, "We got a hanging lamp, such as they used in stores, fifty to one hundred candle power. That helped some, for it was always there."\(^3\) Before the lamp was purchased, whenever an entertainment, social, or meeting was held at night, the Fairmount ladies had to take their lamps with them.

The story of the Ladies Library Club is one of true heroism. The members struggled and sacrificed always in the service of the college. Their ingenuity for raising money was practically unlimited. The Club gave socials, festivals, suppers, sold lemonade, apples, candy, fancy work, flags for football games, and did almost anything that could be done to raise money. The *Ladies' Library*

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\(^1\)Mrs. Wells was the former Francis Isely, wife of W. H. Isely. Professor Isely died in 1907 and later Mrs. Isely married Clayton E. Wells. *Interview, Mrs. J. F. Hill, January 8, 1949*. Mrs. Hill is present secretary of the Library Club.


\(^3\)Ibid.
Club Treasurer's Book, which covers the period from 1898-1931, gives the picture of how hard this Club worked to raise money and how practically all the money it accumulated was used for the college.

Before Fairmount had a church the Library Club gave its money-making meals in the college. The usual price for the meals was twenty-five cents. The work necessary to prepare these meals would have daunted anything but pioneer courage. Lamps, dishes, trays, linen, silver, food, cooking utensils, tea towels, dish pans, and any other articles used had to be carried up the hill to the school, and after it was all over the women had to carry all these articles back down the hill in the dark.¹

One of the very successful entertainments given by the Club was a Maize Festival given November 19, 1898. The Chapel was decorated with corn-shocks, jack-o-lanterns, and candles set in Osage oranges (hedge-balls). There was a candy and pop corn booth. A substantial supper was served and at the close of the entertainment, an old-fashioned Husking Bee was held in the basement. The proceeds from this festival were used to help erect a main stairway in the college. Building this stairway was the major undertaking of the Club that year.² The Club

received a total of thirty seven dollars and seventy-four cents from the festival. The supper netted thirteen dollars and eighty-one cents, the candy sale eight dollars, photographs three dollars and ten cents, and the sale of fancy-work and eggs brought six dollars and eighty-three cents.\(^1\) The Club paid out a total of $228.25 for building this stairway; the first one completed in the college.

It is impossible to list all the things the Library Club did for the school, but in looking through the Treasurer's Book it can be seen that almost all their money went for the school. In 1900, they equipped a Domestic Science Department. In 1903, they furnished the president's office. A very valuable improvement the Club paid for in 1906, was a sidewalk from the corner of Seventeenth Street and Fairmount Avenue to the College. In 1907, they salvaged the Palestine Collection which was stranded at Kansas City. The Library Club paid $140.80 freight charges to send it on to Wichita, and the next year it spent eighty one dollars and sixty-nine cents for labor, locks, cases, and labels to put the Collection in order.\(^2\) These are only a very few of the expenditures for

\(^1\) The Ladies' Library Club Treasurer's Book, 1898-1931, p. 6.

the school. While the Club was working on these projects it did not neglect the library. It purchased books, furniture for the library, files and shelves.

The Library Club aided in advertising the college by sending out printed letter forms and pamphlets. These were circulated especially in the East. They usually gave a brief history of the school. Always the strategic location of the college was pointed out. Then the need for a large library was stressed. One letter stated,

"The Ladies' Library Association...appeals to all friends of education and learning everywhere to aid them in their good and great work of building up Fairmount College Library. We want money with which to complete and furnish a large basement room in the College building for the joint use of the Library and the Museum. We want books and pamphlets, new and old of every kind. Remember that even the rubbish of the present generation may prove the riches of the next."

They also asked for things for the museum and for donations with which to buy books.

In 1895, Professor Roulet, instructor in French and mathematics, assumed the task of the first college librarian. As the library grew the task became too large for one person and Theodore Morrison, President Morrison's son, was chosen assistant librarian in 1897.  

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1 Letter, signed by officers of the Library Club, n. d, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.

2 Graves, op. cit., p. 40.
In 1895, Professor Reulet prepared a poster to be circulated, both locally and in the East. He appealed for 20,000 books plus magazines and pamphlets. Dr. Morrison advertised the library through notices, posters, and personal contact. When he made public addresses he always asked that the library be remembered by books or money.

In the East he called on owners of railroads to obtain free transportation for books sent from New England to Wichita. He called on many publishers asking for books. In this he was very successful. He was even able to secure a set of Edward E. Hale's autographed books.

The growth of the library was a marvel to all. The Sunflower was very faithful in reporting all news of its progress. It is impossible to note the many hundreds who by their liberal donations contributed to the growth of the library. But a few of them should be mentioned. The first individual donor was Mrs. Lewis who contributed the Harpers Weekly and the Literary Digest. Mrs. Douglas Putnam, mother of Mrs. N. J. Morrison, sent 300 volumes in 1896. She became a constant donor to the library. Dr. Isely, Fairmount Library, p. 1.

1Ibid., p. 3.
2Alice Isely, Interview, July 22, 1948.
3Isely, Fairmount Library, p. 1.
4The Sunflower, I, 6, January, 1896.
and Mrs. Walter Graves contributed 600 books from their own library. Miss Rea Woodman gave thirty-one quarterly volumes of the Congressional Globe. Mrs. N. J. Morrison gave an unabridged dictionary which was greatly needed. Among the many contributors were also Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Isely, Hypatia Club, Miss Flora Clough, Mrs. L. S. Carter, Rev. W. A. Bosworth, Professor Roulet, Mrs. Minnie Babb, the Beacon Office, Miss Della Smoke, and Professor F. B. Buck. R. P. Murdock gave bound files of the *Wichita Eagle* beginning with 1872 up to the fall of 1899. Suitable cases were to be placed in the library to shelve this valuable addition.¹

During the years 1895, and 1896, the large northwest room of the college was fitted up with book cases and tables to serve as a library and reading room. By then the library contained 2,550 bound volumes and 1,500 magazines and pamphlets.²

It was decided that the library should contain Kansas publications. An appeal was made, and the Secretary of the State of Kansas sent state documents. F. G. Adams sent the reports of the State Historical Society, and this was

¹These files of the *Eagle* have been continued on down through the years to the present time. Isely, Fairmount Library, p. 2, and *The Sunflower*, IV, 8, October 1898.

²First Annual Catalogue, 1896, p. 12.
the beginning of the Kansas Collection. Through Dr. Morrison's influence Senator W. A. Peffer and Senator C. I. Long became interested in the library and sent many government documents and the library became a Government Depository.

During September 1896, the shelves in the library were more than doubled, and even then they were almost full. The Sunflower reported that 3927 volumes were recorded, and there were enough on hand to bring them up to 4000. The publishing firms of Ginn and Company; Leach, Schewell and Sanborn; D. C. Heath and Company; the American Book Company; and the Macmillan Company contributed several hundred volumes. The books kept coming in great numbers. In 1897, twenty-six boxes and two barrels of books arrived. One of the boxes weighed 556 pounds. In that shipment were about 9500 volumes.

The Fairmount Library Club held a fair on the campus in 1897. The supper, art gallery, gypsy camp, and candy stand drew the largest crowds. The net receipts for the evening amounted to fifty dollars, and the money was turned

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1 Isely, Fairmount Library, p. 3.

2 Ibid., and The Sunflower, I, 7-9, March 1896.

3 The Sunflower, II, 9, October 1896.

4 The Wichita Daily Beacon, October 11, 1897.
over to the library. 1

The Sunflower of April 1897, published excerpts of letters from well-known men to Dr. Morrison commending the work being done in promoting the library. N. M. Butler, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and Education, Columbia University, wrote, "It gives me the greatest pleasure to endorse most cordially the plans that you have set on foot for the building up of a library for Fairmount College." 2

During 1896, and 1897, Professor Roulet and Theodore Morrison spent long hours in the library sorting out, indexing, classifying and arranging the ever increasing number of books, periodicals, and pamphlets. The latest card system was used. 3 This was an arduous task for only two people. During the summer of 1898, three new stacks were added. This same year R. E. Murdock presented the library with a valuable gift of a set of Standard Dictionaries in two Morocco bound volumes. The Ladies' Library Club decided to equip a reading room. 4

In spite of the growth and rapid progress of the library there were difficult times. The books and other

1 The Sunflower, II,53, April, 1897.
2 Ibid., p. 50.
3 The Wichita Daily Beacon, March 6, 1897.
4 The Sunflower, IV,8, October, 1898.
material came in so rapidly that it was very difficult for two men to take care of it. *The Sunflower* reported that the east room was the library kennel in which everything was "topsy-turvy" but it was being put in order. There was lack of money to buy shelves and cases and to provide for general improvements. Boxes were arranged for shelves around the four sides of the room.¹ The lack of heating facilities limited the benefit of the library during winter months.²

By 1900, the library had grown until it contained about 18,000 books and was composed of two large rooms with eight double stacks, seven shelves high, and eight small cases, ten shelves high. A partial catalogue had been made covering about 3000 important books and containing about 15,000 cards. The library was then being completely re-classified and re-arranged. The Cutter System was being used and it was reported that the library had been increased in efficiency by fifty per cent.³

Some valuable volumes were acquired in 1901. An article entitled "Among the Books" printed in *The Sunflower* in November 1901, told of the addition of 1000 books. Among


² *The Wichita Daily Beacon*, February 12, 1898, p. 5.

³ *The Sunflower*, V, 11, September, 1900.
these was the autographed ten volume set of Edward Everett Hale which was previously mentioned in this chapter, the deluxe edition of Robert Browning, the Dickens’ set which was a limited edition, and a valuable set by James Russel Lowell.¹

Professor Paul Roulet died in February 1903. It has already been noted that Professor Roulet taught mathematics and French in addition to filling the capacity of librarian. "He had worked continuously and without reserve for the accumulation of the library, seconding every effort made by Dr. Morrison, as well as initiating many plans himself for the upbuilding of the library."² Theodore Morrison became the librarian in 1903, and held that position until 1912.

The library had grown to such a size that the trustees felt warranted to apply to Andrew Carnegie of New York for money to build a library building.³ In November 1904, Dr. Morrison wrote to James Bertram, Mr. Carnegie’s private secretary, asking to renew the application for $50,000 for a library building made earlier in the year by the board

¹The Sunflower, VII, 7, November, 1901.
²Isely, Fairmount Library, pp. 5-6.
³Solandt, op. cit., p. 356.
of trustees. He pointed out several things which he believed should be taken into consideration, such as the vigorous growth of the college, the extensive "field" of the college which included Kansas, Indian territory, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico, and the growth and progress of Wichita with its healthful climate. The college library, second largest in the state and accessible to both student and citizen, was the only important one in a radius of 150 miles and had been designated by national authority to receive government publications. He also gave some idea of the type of building needed. He wrote that it should be a two-story, fire proof building with a basement. It should have a capacity for 100,000 books besides offices of administration, a reference room, seminar rooms and study rooms. Plans should be made for easy enlargement in the rear for additional stack rooms.¹

The March Sunflower of 1905, carried one story on the front page entitled "A Library Building." On the evening of February 21, 1905, a telegram arrived from Dr. Morrison which told the story causing much hilarity on Fairmount Hill. Andrew Carnegie promised $40,000 for a library building² provided Fairmount could raise the same amount

¹Dr. Morrison to James Bertram, Wichita, November 7, 1904. Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.

²This was the only library to which Mr. Carnegie did not specify that it be named for him. Alice Isely, Interview, July 22, 1948.
by February 17, 1906, for a permanent endowment. The Sunflower recorded the celebration which occurred following the arrival of Dr. Morrison's telegram. No one expected this favorable result so soon. The news spread rapidly and a general jubilation ensued. Miss Clough sent a note to the Websters who were then in session. This august body, upon reading the communication, jumped on the chairs, the tables, the piano, and celebrated. They then adjourned, marched the streets giving their 'rack-a-whack,' for Dr. Morrison, for Carnegie and all others concerned."

After the news came of Mr. Carnegie's offer, then begin the arduous task of raising more money. This was an all-out campaign, and everyone worked to make it a success. At the first annual mid-summer reunion of Fairmount students which was held on the campus August 15, 1905, the Carnegie proposition was presented. Those present\(^2\) voted to ask every student ever enrolled in Fairmount to help. Dean Isely was put in charge of raising money and all subscriptions were to be sent to him or to the treasurer of the board of trustees, R. L. Holmes.\(^3\) Intensive work was carried on to raise the money, and "January 11, 1906,

\(^1\)"A Library Building," The Sunflower, X, 3, March 1905.

\(^2\)About 200 attended this first reunion and represented all the classes since 1892, the opening year of the school as an institute. Letter, by Alumni Association, August 21, 1905, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.

\(^3\)The Sunflower, XI, 15, October, 1905.
President Morrison announced that $31,500 had been subscribed,\(^1\) and the rest had to be raised by February 22.\(^1\)

Albert R. Ross, the architect, presented the plans for the building to the advisory board in 1907. It was to be two stories high and have a basement work room. The general design would be Grecian with huge Corinthian columns. The main floor would be cement. The stack room in the rear would be large enough to hold seven stacks and built so that more rooms could be added. As planned by President Morrison the library would be the central feature of the campus and would face south at the head of Fairmount Avenue.\(^2\) The contract for the building was given to Carl A. Wilson. According to the contract the work was to be completed within 250 days unless some unavoidable event should occur. The sum to be paid to the contractor would be $36,341.\(^3\)

Deciding the exact location of the library building was the last work of President Morrison for the college. There was some difference of opinion among the trustees as to the site of the building. This matter was not decided

\(^1\)Isely, *Fairmount Library*, p. 7.


\(^3\)Contract for building the library, November 7, 1907.
until Dr. Morrison returned from New York and was able to settle it. Three days later he died from pneumonia.\(^1\) The plans for the building had been made, the money raised, and the location chosen. Another phase in the long struggle was complete.

Graves, op. cit., p. 40.
CHAPTER VII

DR. MORRISON, FIRST PRESIDENT

"The life and work of Dr. Morrison is a chapter in the history of the educational and literary life of this country,"¹ the Wichita Eagle stated. The board of trustees announced in 1895, that in the fall Fairmount college would open and a freshman class be organized. The main problem then was finding the right man for the presidency.² When the trustees started the college campaign, which has already been discussed, they asked Frank L. Ferguson to be the first college president. He could not see his way to accept, but told them he would recommend a man.³ Through Mr. Ferguson the Education Society recommended Dr. Nathan J. Morrison to be president of Fairmount.

Dr. Morrison had the highest of qualifications for the great task of college building. Not only was he qualified educationally, but he also possessed the experience necessary for the work. Dr. Morrison was a native of Franklin, New Hampshire. He received his education from Meriden Academy, Dartmouth College, and Oberlin Theological Seminary.⁴ He was graduated from Dartmouth College in

¹The Wichita Daily Eagle, April 13, 1907.
³Graves, op. cit., p. 7.
⁴The Sunflower, I,4, March, 1896.
1853, ranking seventh in a class of fifty. From 1854-1857, he was a student of theology at Oberlin. In 1858, he was ordained pastor of a Congregational church in Rochester, Michigan. Dr. Morrison became the professor of Latin and Greek in Olivet College, Michigan, in 1859, and was made president of that institution in 1865. Eight years later he led the work of establishing Drury College in Springfield, Missouri. He became the first president and remained there until 1888, when he resigned and moved to Marietta, Ohio. Dr. Morrison accepted the position of professor of psychology and philosophy in Marietta College and remained there until 1895. Then the Education Society of Boston invited him to visit Wichita to investigate the possibility of developing Fairmount Institute into Fairmount College.¹

June 12, 1895, the secretary of the board of trustees wrote to Dr. Morrison informing him that on June 11, the board elected him president of Fairmount Institute.² Dr. Morrison with Professor Roulet visited Fairmount in the summer of 1895, and after his visit wrote to Dr. Wilcox of the Education Society that he believed Fairmount had an

¹Biographical Record of Leading Citizens of Sedgwick County, Kansas, pp. 259-62.

²R. S. Holmes to Dr. Morrison, Wichita, June 12, 1895, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.
ample field for a college, and the site was exceptionally favorable. He wrote, "The field for Fairmount is certainly...more inviting than I found Springfield, Missouri to be when I went there to plant Drury College in 1873." The chief obstacle to the work was the unfriendly attitude of Washburn, but wrote Dr. Morrison, "granted that there will be sometime a Congregational college at Wichita, it is plain that now is the time to begin," because at the time the field was vacant and the Institute "can not grow." An energetic college would lead the people of Wichita to its support. Dr. Morrison wrote that he was prepared to go to Wichita and take charge of the college movement if the College Society would support him on the following conditions:

1. Appropriate $3000 for the current expenses of the school for the next year.

2. Permit me as its president to go among friends in the East, personal friends and friends secured while I was acting for Drury College to gather money for the endowment of my chair.

3. Allow apart of the $3000, or an additional sum, to cover my personal expenses while canvassing for students and superintending the work of preparation for the fall term during this summer and when canvassing in the East later on. The items can be provided by canvass, if preferred. I will ask no salary from college or society, only personal traveling expenses....

1 Dr. Morrison to Dr. Wilcox, July, 1895, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.
Notification from you that I may go ahead on these terms, and I shall leave here for Kansas to do organizing work all summer....If I go to Wichita, Professor Roulet is likely to go with me. He is an admirable business man as well as a good teacher.  

M. J. Corner, one of the trustees, was authorized to wire acceptance of Dr. Morrison's terms and suggestions. Dr. Morrison then sent a telegram accepting the presidency of Fairmount College. The trustees gave Dr. Morrison authority to engage Professor Roulet at $1000 to $1200. However, they expressed belief that he should be satisfied with $1000 the first year. He was also advised to engage a professor of Greek and Latin at $800 to $1000, but the trustees felt that his salary should not exceed $900, and they favored raising Professor Isely's salary to $1000 "in view of the heroic work he did last winter and is doing now."  

Dr. Morrison arrived in Wichita late in the summer of 1895, and Dr. Walter Graves wrote, "At once we felt the influence of the master mind--of one who knew what was to be done, and how to get it done." His first task was to

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1 Dr. Morrison to Dr. Wilcox, July, 1895, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.

2 Mr. Corner to Dr. Morrison, Wichita, July 7, 1895, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.

3 W. H. Graves to Dr. Morrison, Wichita, July 14, 1895, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.

4 Graves, Reminiscences of Fairmount College, p. 20.
secure a competent faculty. Professor Roulet had visited Fairmount with Dr. Morrison, and the trustees had given Dr. Morrison permission to hire Professor Roulet as instructor of Mathematics and French. W. H. Isely who had been serving as acting principal of the Institute became Professor of Physical Science and Acting Principal of the Academy. Miss Della M. Smoke, who like W. H. Isely was already associated with Fairmount, was made Professor of Latin and an Instructor in the Academy. The trustees authorized Dr. Morrison to hire a Professor of Greek. He wrote to George M. Chase, Ocean Park, Maine, and asked him to accept the chair of Latin, Greek, and German. Mr. Chase was very enthusiastic in his acceptance of the position and expressed an aim to devote himself "to usefulness" in the young college.¹ When Miss Smoke found that Mr. Chase was to teach Latin, she expressed her belief to the trustees that she was entitled to that department, otherwise, she refused to continue with Fairmount. The trustees decided that Miss Smoke should be given the Latin Department and Professor Chase the Greek and German.²

Professor Isely asked that his department be changed

¹George M. Chase to Dr. Morrison, Ocean Park, Maine, July 20, 1895, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.

²W. H. Isely to Dr. Morrison, Wichita, July 30, 1895, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.
to Professor of History and Economics and Acting Professor of Physical Sciences. Under Professor Tunnell there had been an understanding that Professor Isely should eventually have the History and Economics Department. But he wrote to Dr. Morrison that he was willing to follow his leadership and work for the benefit of Fairmount College, so that matter was left for his approval.¹

English Language and Literature was divided among Professors Isely, Chase, and Smoke. Dr. Morrison taught Philosophy.² A. W. Sickner gave instrumental music and Jennie E. McClung, vocal music, but they were not considered as part of the main faculty at that time.³ Miss Smoke was given general supervision over the young ladies.

By the following year, 1896, the faculty had increased considerably. According to the First Annual Catalogue, the faculty for that year included Dr. Morrison, Flora C. Clough, Paul Roulet, W. H. Isely, G. M. Chase, John Barlow, Benjamin F. Buck, A. N. Leonard, A. W. Sickner, William Adam, Ernest Kramer, Mabel Millison, and Mrs. Howarth Beaumont. There has been some disagreement over the exact

¹W. H. Isely to Dr. Morrison, Wichita, July 30, 1895, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.

²Announcements for the College Year 1895-6, Wichita, Kansas.

³Ibid.
number\(^1\) on the faculty, but whether it was ten or thirteen, this was quite an increase over four instructors of the preceding year.

W. H. Isely's work in the founding of Fairmount was invaluable, and something about it and his life should be told here. In an old newspaper clipping it was written that in some respects N. J. Morrison and W. H. Isely may be thought of as the "Washington and Lincoln of Fairmount." Dr. Morrison was the "far-off and heroic tradition," while Professor Isely was a fellow student and like Lincoln "fell when everything seemed to depend upon him."\(^2\) Professor Isely was born in St. Joseph, Missouri. He was reared in Kansas and attended a country school. He was a graduate of Ottawa University where he worked as a janitor in order to attend school. He taught there one year and then attended Harvard one year. He taught in a Baptist school in Grand Island, Nebraska. Professor Isely came to Wichita and served on the faculty of Fairmount Institute under Rev. Tunnell. When the latter resigned, Mr. Isely became the


\(^2\)Newspaper clipping, n.d., n. p., Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.
acting principal until Dr. Morrison arrived and became the first president of the college.

Professor Isely and Dr. Morrison worked as a unit for Fairmount. During Dr. Morrison's many absences while touring the East in the interest of the college, Professor Isely was practically the head of the college. He was in closer touch with the student body, because he was always there. One of his chief aims was to keep the college always in the public eye. He was very careful to give the newspapers all items which would arouse interest in the school. At a meeting of the board of trustees January 25, 1900, Professor Isely was elected Dean of the College. He had practically been Dean since the beginning of the college but was not formally elected to that post until 1900. In 1901, he was elected to the city council which added prestige to Fairmount and gave Dean Isely better opportunity for greater influence. While in the city council one of the projects he worked for was the much

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1 Miss Alice Isely, Interview, July 22, 1948.
2 A. J. Hoare, Dr. Morrison and Dean Isely (MS), Wichita, 1907, Wichita University Library.
3 Graves, op. cit., pp. 44-5.
4 Ibid.
5 The Sunflower, VI, 2, June, 1901.
needed improvement in transportation facilities to Fairmount.\textsuperscript{1}

On September 1, 1896, Miss Flora C. Clough arrived in Wichita to become the first Dean of Women at Fairmount and Professor of English Literature. She is also regarded as one of the founders of Fairmount College.\textsuperscript{2} Mrs. Eugene Stanley who as Margaret Long attended Fairmount wrote of Miss Clough, "Out of the pioneer days of Fairmount rises the salient figure of Flora Clough. Her indomitable spirit pulled the 'College on the Hill' through the lean hard days—the days of purpose and vision but of little reward."\textsuperscript{3}

Besides serving as Dean and instructor in English Literature, Miss Clough presided over Putnam Cottage, the Ladies' Dormitory.\textsuperscript{4}

It has already been noted that the first college freshman class was organized in 1895, with thirteen members. Candidates for admission to the freshman class were required to pass an examination attaining a grade of seventy per cent on a scale of one hundred in the classical,

\textsuperscript{1}Miss Alice Isely, \textit{Interview}, July 22, 1948.

\textsuperscript{2}\textit{The Wichita Daily Eagle}, December 12, 1913.

\textsuperscript{3}Clipping from a newspaper, probably the \textit{Wichita Daily Eagle}, near 1931, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.

\textsuperscript{4}Solandt, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 354.
literary, and scientific courses. Graduates from the Academy were admitted without examination. Students from other colleges were admitted on certificates of standing from the schools attended.  

No attempt was made to organize above a freshman class in 1895. Dr. Morrison planned that the first college senior class would graduate in 1899, and then the college classes would be completed.² The curriculum was composed of three courses of study, each leading to the "appropriate degree." The three courses were Classical, Literary and Normal, and Scientific.³ The degrees given were Bachelor of Arts in the Classical course, Bachelor of Science in the Scientific course, and Bachelor of Literature in the Literary course. Master's Degrees corresponding to each of the above were conferred on graduates of the college or other colleges when the usual amount of scholastic work required by the best American colleges was completed.⁴

The school year was divided into three terms. The fall term opened September 11, 1895, and terminated at the

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¹First Annual Catalogue, Wichita 1895, pp. 15-6.
²Fairmount College Announcement for the College Year 1895-6, Wichita.
³Ibid.
⁴First Annual Catalogue, p. 20.
close of fifteen weeks. The winter and spring terms consisted of eleven weeks each. Commencement began June 10, 1896.¹

One of the aims of Fairmount College was to inculcate in the students the fundamentals principles and duties of religion as given in the Bible. The instructors believed that a religious atmosphere "should pervade the school." Students and teachers met each morning for devotions. Students were expected to attend public worship once each Sunday during a term. Weekly Bible study was held for all students. Exemption from this study could be obtained only by the parent, guardian, or by application to the president on conscientious grounds.²

The students had but few specific rules to observe. All were expected to be exemplary in morals and manners. Each was placed on his own responsibility. Anything which hindered mental and moral culture was prohibited. There were two specific rules. One rule was that no students was allowed to visit the room of a student of the opposite sex, and the other was that all "Sabbath and evening

¹ Fairmount College Announcement for the College Year 1895-6.
² First Annual Catalogue, p. 11.
association" between sexes was prohibited except by special permission.¹

Women enjoyed the same advantages as the men. They had similar liberty in choice of studies. The same regulations applied to them, and they could attain the same honors. It was preferred that the young ladies reside with the Dean of Women at Putnam Cottage located at the corner of Fifteenth and Fairmount Avenue. The cost of residing there, including heat and light, did not exceed $3.50 a week.²

Dr. Morrison was a Greek and Latin student and was interested in building up a classical department. He and the Fairmount Library Club took immediate steps to collect a library. When he came to Fairmount he said, "In order to have a college you must have a library."³ Douglas Morrison wrote, "...we children were surprised to find on looking through the library books, there were many which had come out of our own individual collection."⁴

Dr. Morrison was a Dartmouth man and was interested

²Ibid., p. 34.
³Alice Isely, Interview, July 22, 1948.
⁴Douglas P. Morrison, Notes on the Life of N. J. Morrison(MS), in a letter to Miss Flora Clough, n. d., p. 3., Wichita University Library.
in bringing Dartmouth's ideas and standards to Fairmount. He even brought elms here from Dartmouth to plant on the barren campus, and he brought cedars from Daniel Webster's birth place. The elms were planted on either side of the walk from the Commons down to Hillside. Originally there were twenty-two trees. They were planted when Dr. Morrison first came to Fairmount. The evergreens from Webster's birth place were planted south of the president's residence on the campus, but they did not live. About 1900, more evergreens were brought and planted. They are the ones on the campus south of the president's home. 2

Dr. Morrison worked untiringly for his beloved Fairmount. He worked along every line to get students. He tried to bring them from far regions as well as locally. He appealed to churches to send students, asked those already in school to bring others, and wrote letters to everyone who might be at all interested. He had former students go out as emissaries for the school. This type of work was doubly difficult because of poor transportation facilities. 3

A campaign to increase enrollment was started in 1897.

1 Daniel Webster was a Dartmouth man.

2 Alice Isely, Interview, July 22, 1948.

3 Ibid.
That year the Sophomore class totaled thirteen, the freshman class thirteen. The total enrollment of college and preparatory classes was 147 which was an increase of eighty per cent over the previous year.\(^1\) R. S. Kimble, brother of one of the students, arrived from New England to enroll in Fairmount. The hope was expressed that all citizens of Wichita who had friends or relatives desiring college work would follow E. D. Kimble's example and urge them to enroll in Fairmount.\(^2\) Professor Buck visited the high schools of Newton, Sedgwick, Augusta, and El Dorado in the attempt to interest students in Fairmount. Professor Roulet journeyed to Winfield and Great Bend, and Professor Isely to Kingman for the same purpose.\(^3\)

The year of 1899, was an event in the life of Fairmount College for that year marked the first college graduating class from Fairmount. This Commencement of the class was held at the Crawford Opera House June 7, 1899. A march was played by Miss Mamie Thompson as the class took its place on the stage. Dr. Graves, Dr. Lewis, Rev. Thayer, J. M. Knapp, C. E. Potts, Mr. Darling, the faculty, Superintendent Dyer of the city schools, Rev. Bosworth, and Professor Sickner were already on the stage. The stage

\(^1\) The Sunflower, V,62, June, 1897.

\(^2\) The Wichita Daily Beacon, January 16, 1897, p. 6.

\(^3\) Ibid., May 24, 1897, p. 5.
was decorated with palms and red and white bunting. Above the stage was the class motto, "A Posse ad Esse." The program opened with a song by the college chorus. Rev. Thayer gave the Invocation. Following the orations by the graduates, Dr. Morrison presented the diplomas to the first class to have completed a college course in Wichita.\(^1\) The members of this class were Ella Miller, Alle Miller, Eva Hall, F. B. Isely, E. W. Kramer, G. W. Jackson, W. S. Fleming, and Matile Roulet.\(^2\) In conferring the degrees Dr. Morrison said that the day marked an epoch in the lives of each in the class. Each would take up the responsibility of a life's work, and each would be a representative of the college. After the program and the conferring of the degrees, Rev. Bosworth gave the benediction\(^3\) closing the memorable event.

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\(^1\)The Wichita Daily Beacon, June 7, 1899, p. 5.

\(^2\)The Sunflower, IV, 92-3, May, 1899.

\(^3\)The Wichita Daily Beacon, June 7, 1899, p. 5.
CHAPTER VIII
DR. MORRISON'S ADMINISTRATION

The cost of education at Fairmount was extremely low and could not begin to cover the necessary operating expenses besides taking care of the many needed improvements. The tuition for the first term was twelve dollars, and nine dollars each for the second and third terms. If the tuition was paid in full on the day of entrance, the cost for the full year was twenty five dollars. There were no extra fees except a chemistry fee of one dollar and fifty-cents. Total expenses for the full year at the lowest estimation were $113 and included tuition, board, rent, heat, light, laundry, and books. The highest estimation was $167. The living expenses were also very low. Board and room in homes near the college cost from two dollars and fifty-cents to three dollars and fifty-cents a week. Table board at the college boarding hall was two dollars. Unfurnished rooms rented for one dollar to one dollar and fifty-cents per week. The Congregational Education Society of Boston gave aid to the extent of seventy five dollars a year to candidates for the ministry beginning the Sophomore year. Children of ministers of all denominations were given a fifty per cent discount on tuition.

1 Fairmount College Announcement for College Year 1895-6.
2 Ibid.
Those students of intellectual "promise and high character in straitened circumstances" were aided in their tuition payment.¹

The young college was always in great need of money. Dr. Morrison had a large number of friends in the East and made many trips there to appeal for the little college. On his many trips he was not given any money other than traveling expenses.² Many times he was carried over "a specially straitened period by the pawning of the Springfield testimonial gold watch which found its way thus to the pawn shop many many times."³ Dr. Morrison's son, Douglas, wrote that he had visited his father in a New York hotel and had "seen in the room a basket of grapes, which he confessed had formed nearly his entire diet for several days."⁴ Mrs. Sarah Putnam, Dr. Morrison's mother-in-law, was a lady of means and often sent him money to use for his own necessities. When he was without an overcoat, she sent him money for one, but in his travels it was more often in the pawn shop than in his personal use.⁵

¹First Annual Catalogue, p. 13.
²Alice Isely, Interview, July 22, 1948.
³D. P. Morrison, op. cit., p. 4.
⁴Ibid.
⁵Alice Isely, Interview, July 22, 1948.
One of the first improvements Dr. Morrison wished to complete was the installation of a steam heating system. Work was started on this project in October 1895. The trustees estimated that the system would cost about $2000. The citizens of Wichita were expected to raise this amount. Each contributor of $100 received a free scholarship in tuition for five years. Each one who donated twenty-five dollars received a one-year scholarship. All scholarships were good and transferable until 1905.1

Besides the steam heating system, several other improvements were started and completed in 1895. About $1000 were spent on completing new recitation rooms and on general repairs. The Ladies' Library Club started a campaign for raising money to fit up a large basement room for a library and museum. A platform built across the front of the Chapel was a convenience for holding public exercises.2

By May 1896, five additional class rooms had been completed, the boiler house had been erected, and heating apparatus installed. The campus was graded and seeded in blue grass, trees planted, city water supply installed, and valuable additions in equipment made. Under the supervision of Professor Sickner the Musical Department

1The Wichita Daily Beacon, November 9, 1895, p. 5.
2Ibid.
developed along several branches. Through his generosity two pianos were placed in the building. By 1897, besides the heating plant, other improvements had been added totaling $4000. The citizens of Wichita raised the money for these improvements. A large basement room was completed and fitted for a chemical and biological apparatus was purchased.

In December 1896, Dr. Morrison wrote a letter to the faculty and students in which he explained that the pressing financial needs of the college kept him away longer than he expected, but the reports of perfect loyalty of students and faculty, and the harmony and enthusiasm which prevailed cheered him greatly. "All are willing to endure hardship and privation for the sake of the college," he wrote, and this gave him great encouragement in his "arduous and almost impossible task." He reported that his work was more difficult than he had anticipated. The work, he explained, was mostly preparatory, making acquaintances, getting benevolent people interested in a part of the country little known to them and a "college

1 The Sunflower, I, 8, May 1896.

2 Ibid., V, 31-7, February 1897.

3 The Sunflower, II, 62, June, 1897.
wholly unknown."¹

During 1897, aside from tuition, the college received
in donations and subscriptions $15,200. Dr. Morrison
worked most of the time in the East while the trustees and
faculty undertook in January to raise $10,000 in Wichita.
This work in Wichita was started by a gift of $2000 from
Mrs. Sarah D. Putnam on condition that the citizens of
Wichita make it $10,000. Friends, faculty, and trustees
started a vigorous campaign to raise this amount. J. M.
Knapp, S. H. Hall, and R. S. Holmes started the campaign
with a donation of $500 each.² The purpose of this cam-
paign was to supply funds for expenses for three or four
years so the president would be unhampered in his work
of securing a permanent endowment. The last of the $10,000
was pledged May 5, 1897.³

Proper accommodation for women students was a keenly
felt need. During the summer of 1897, the college authori-
ties purchased a residence on the corner of Sixteenth
Street and Holyoke. It was used as a home for young ladies
and was presided over by the Dean of Women. The residence
was named Holyoke Cottage, and the rooms were furnished by

¹The Sunflower, V, 31-7, February, 1897.
²Ibid., II, 62, June, 1897.
³Ibid.
the college and friends. Mrs. L. S. Carter furnished the northwest room on the second floor and named it the "Carter room." The southwest room on the same floor was furnished by Dr. and Mrs. Graves and was called the "Eleanor Brooks" room. The people of Plymouth Church also furnished a room, and named it the "Plymouth" room.\(^1\) Open house was held August 31, 1897. All were urged to come and bring basket lunches for a picnic and furniture for the cottage.\(^2\)

The cost of living at Holyoke Cottage has already been noted. The young ladies were recommended to reside either there or in Hutchinson Cottage nearby where they would be under close supervision. It was also suggested that spending money for the young women be placed in the Dean's hands. She would see that it was properly spent.\(^3\)

In the October issue of The Sunflower in 1898, Dr. Morrison gave a brief outline of the improvements and growth of the school since its beginning in 1895, and he had a letter published which he had received from D. K. Pearsons of Chicago. Dr. Pearsons' letter was dated August 19, 1898, and read, "I will give Fairmount College $50,000 when the friends of the College raise $150,000,  

\(^1\)The Sunflower, III, 5, October, 1897.  
\(^2\)The Wichita Daily Beacon, August 23, 1897, p. 8.  
\(^3\)The Second Annual Catalogue, 1896-7, pp. 39-40.
and pay off its indebtedness. The amount is to be raised by July 1, 1900, and it must be in cash."¹ Dr. Morrison wrote that the task of raising $150,000 was no easy one but "there is inspiration for the workers, and strength of achievement in the thought of the largeness of the work."²

The trustees and faculty started an all-out campaign to accomplish the almost impossible task of raising the large amount of money. Dr. Morrison worked with tireless energy in the field in the East. His work was difficult and very discouraging but The Sunflower stated, "Our President has pushed the work with heroic patience."³ The board of trustees held a special meeting January 25, 1900, to plan the campaign for raising $200,000 the endowment. Several Eastern men attended the meeting besides two representatives from the Education Society. They planned to carry on the canvass in the West as well as the East. The goal set for Wichita and adjacent territory was $30,000.⁴

At this meeting Dr. Morrison gave a special report to

¹The Sunflower, IV, 6, October, 1898.
²Ibid.
³Ibid.
⁴Ibid.
the trustees. He gave a very complete one beginning with 
the history of the Institute and the organization of the 
college, growth of the Library, faculty and enrollment. 
Of the faculty he said, "As earnest, united, enthusiastic, 
self-sacrificing and competent teachers as any...college 
ever had, have toiled early and late for the school...."1 
He said that the school had been "hampered at every step 
with great poverty and beset with local difficulties."2 
Poverty was handicapping further progress and "now immedi­
ate success in securing the Pearsons' endowment of 
$200,000 will give Fairmount an annual clientage of eager 
students...equal to that of Dartmouth...or that of 
Williams...."3 If the endowment could be secured Dr. 
Morrison assured the trustees that the college would ex­
pand in every direction. The question was how to attain 
this gift in the shortest and surest route.4 He gave a 
report on his five months canvass in the East. The follow­
ing month he left again for the East to take up his

1 N. J. Morrison, Report to a Special Session of the 
Board of Trustees (MS), Wichita, January 25, 1900, pp. 3-6, 
Wichita University Library.

2 Morrison, Report to the Special Session of the Board of 
Trustees, pp. 3-6.

3 Ibid., p. 9.

arduous task and spent the entire summer pushing the work of raising money for the endowment.¹

Dr. Pearsons agreed to bring the total endowment to $100,000 if Fairmount raised $75,000 by January 1, 1901. In the East Dr. Morrison set his goal for $45,000 and had almost succeeded in this by December 1900, but in Wichita only $20,000 had been raised. Professor Isely expressed hope for extension of time if necessary. Everyone put forth every possible effort to raise money.² Dr. Theodore Clifton, Western Secretary of the Congregational Education Society, raised about $7000. Professor Isely was in charge of raising money in Wichita. S. E. Winne of Wichita subscribed $2500. Students, alumni, faculty—all helped and gave sums from five dollars up. Then on January 1, 1903, came the gratifying news that the money had been raised and Dr. Pearsons had turned over his great gift to Fairmount and the college was placed on a substantial basis.³

The music department has been an important part of Fairmount since its beginning. In 1895, Professor Sickner taught music there. He also had a Music Conservatory in downtown Wichita. In 1896, the boys organized a ten piece

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¹The Wichita Daily Beacon, September 10, 1900, p. 6.
²Ibid., December 20, 1900, p. 5.
³The Sunflower, VIII,5, February, 1903.
orchestra. E. W. Kramer was given the credit of being the "leading spirit" of this organization.\(^1\) The same year Professor Sickner and his assistances gave a concert at the Sedgwick Music Hall for the benefit of the college biological laboratory.\(^2\)

In the February issue of *The Sunflower* an article was printed urging the formation of a Fairmount Glee Club. It was pointed out that many colleges had them, and Fairmount had the ability for a good Glee Club. Students also possessed an unusually good opportunity for special training under Professor Sickner.\(^3\)

In 1905, the Women's Glee Club made its first tour, and it was a decided success. The Club consisted of twenty-one members.\(^4\) It was organized and trained by Professor Ellenberger. Professor Hoering was the violinist.\(^5\) E. M. Leach, Field Secretary, accompanied the group as Manager and Advance Agent. Mrs. Ellenberger was the chaperone. Concerts were given in Sedgwick, Newton, Hutchinson, Partridge, Nickerson, Great Bend, and Sterling.

\(^1\) *The Sunflower*, I,9, March, 1896.

\(^2\) Ibid.

\(^3\) Ibid., II,39, February, 1897.

\(^4\) Ibid., X,6, March, 1905.

\(^5\) Ibid., X,13, January, 1905.
The Glee Club gave a special concert in Great Bend in order to accommodate the large audiences.\(^1\)

By 1906, a Fairmount band had become a reality. Professors Powers and Keeler offered their services in directing and training the band which assured proper concert music. Some new instruments were purchased. Regular meetings for rehearsal were held once a week. The group organized and elected the following officers: J. H. Enns, president; A. B. Solter, vice-president; L. S. Daring, secretary; F. E. Dodge, Treasurer; and F. H. Wiegand, librarian.\(^2\)

The Alumni Association was born January 3, 1900 at a meeting held in Professor Roulet's home. F. B. Isely who had been president of the class of '99 presided at the meeting. E. W. Kramer was elected president of the Association. Other officers included Eva Hall McGinnis, vice-president; G. W. Jackson, secretary; and Matile Roulet, treasurer.\(^3\) By 1901, the Alumni numbered eighteen.\(^4\)

\(^1\) *The Sunflower*, X, 6, March, 1905.


\(^3\) *The Wichita Daily Beacon*, January 8, 1900, p. 6.

\(^4\) This did not include the graduates for 1901. *The Sunflower*, VI, 16, June 1901.
By 1904, the trustees decided that someone should be appointed whose duty would be to bring the college before the people of Wichita and vicinity. The trustees chose Edgar M. Leach,¹ and he was given the title of Field Secretary. He was not actually a faculty member, but the purpose of his work was to "advertise the college, to secure funds and students...and to aid its general welfare in any possible way."² The amount and variety of his work was surprising. He solicited money for the library and college expenses, visited prospective students, sent bulletins of all who were interested, arranged tours for the Glee Clubs, and organized Sunday schools.³ A special feature of his work was holding Sunday services in churches all over Kansas.⁴ It is impossible to list all the activities he engaged in while advertising Fairmount. But one of the very important ones was his organization of the Arkansas Valley Interscholastic Meet. All high schools for miles around visited Fairmount annually and sent the best athletes, orators and readers to compete in the contests.

¹Solandt, op. cit., p. 356.
²The Sunflower, X,14, January, 1905.
³The Sunflower, XII,3, March 23, 1907.
⁴Ibid., XII,14, January, 1905.
Attendance several times reached the 2000 mark. This was one of the best methods of publicizing Fairmount.

The same year that Mr. Leach was appointed Field Secretary, Mrs. Fiske who had come to the Fairmount community from Boston gave $2500 to start a fund for a boys' dormitory. Fiske Hall was the name given to the new building. Laying the corner stone was accompanied by an impressive ceremony performed by the Grand Lodge of the Masons of the State of Kansas and officers of the Albert Pike Masonic Lodge. The ceremony began with a procession-al march from the main building. After the spectators were seated, the corner stone was laid under Masonic direction. In the stone was placed a copy of the first and last catalogue, a photograph of cutting the soil for the building, photographs of the main building and of Dr. Morrison, and copies of the *Wichita Daily Eagle* and the *Wichita Daily Beacon*. After the stone was in place Dr. Morrison stated the plan and purpose of the new building. It was planned to accommodate seventy men, the supervisor's family, and servants. At the close all joined in singing the official college song, "Fair Fairmount."

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1 Solandt, *op. cit.*, p. 356.

2 Ibid.

3 *The Sunflower*, X, 4-5, November, 1904.
The building was ready for occupancy in 1906. The structure cost $30,000. The dining room was in the south part of the basement. A large reception room and three suites of rooms and two large single rooms were on the main floor. Kerosene lamps provided light, but an electric plant was later installed. The building was four stories high. Fiske Hall was dedicated June 6, 1906, with songs, an acceptance speech, dedication speech, student plans, and college songs. About forty boarders had moved into the new dormitory by September. They were under the supervision of Professor and Mrs. Clark.

In 1907, Dr. Morrison made his last trip to the East in the interest of Fairmount. The trip was made for the purpose of meeting people who had promised to help the college. He returned in April and called for Dean Isely and told the Dean that he would not get well from his illness. He informed Dean Isely of what he wanted done. Dean Isely was the chief executive during Dr. Morrison's many absences and knew more about what was to be done than

1Fairmount College Bulletin, April, 1906.
2Programme of Dedication of Men's Dormitory, 1906.
anyone else.1 A few days later, April 12, Dr. Morrison died from pneumonia. It was written in The Sunflower that "the three colleges to which he gave the untiring and unselfish devotion of his long life shall stand as a fitting monument to his labors."2

"Dr. Morrison looked upon Fairmount College as by far the most important work of his life," and he wished to be buried near the school. In accordance with this wish, internment was made in Maple Grove Cemetery. His grave is marked by a great boulder of granite which his wife had brought from his native state. Affixed to the boulder is a bronze tablet which reads, "Nathan Jackson Morrison 1828-1907. Olivet 1861-1873. Drury 1873-1888. Fairmount 1895-1907."3

Unfortunately Dr. Morrison is not generally known in Kansas because his activities were mainly centered in the East to create interest there in Fairmount. Not only was he a man of learning "but he was shoulder to shoulder with the substantial men of affairs in the city and those qualities were recognized by the capitalists in the East

1The Wichita Daily Eagle, April 12, 1907.
2Ibid.
3Graves, op. cit., p. 44, and Alice Isely, Interview, July 22, 1948.
whose support was required for the educational projects fostered by him."¹

One evening in 1907, Dr. Graves and Dean Isely were walking over the campus deploring the death of "the great builder" on the eve of what seemed his success. Dean Isely said to Dr. Graves, "His spirit remains. He has so thoroughly impressed the present Faculty of Fairmount with his devotion and ideals that his spirit must be handed down to succeeding Faculties, so that his influence will never die."²

The following August Dean Isely died. The loss of these two great leaders within a few months of each other was a serious blow for the small college. One of the last things Dean Isely did for the school was to work for better street car service. As a member of the city council he had been working on this for some time. While he was in the hospital the council passed an ordinance for the street car to go down Fairmount Avenue. Word of this was taken to Dean Isely and he turned his face to the wall with these words, "There's nothing more to fight for."³ His last thoughts and words were for his beloved Fairmount.

¹The Wichita Daily Eagle, April 13, 1907.
²Graves, op. cit., p. 43.
³Alice Isely, Interview, July 22, 1948.
CHAPTER IX

ACTIVITIES AT FAIRMOUNT

The Sunflower, a school periodical, afforded extra activity for the early Fairmounters. The first record of this paper was found in the Wichita Beacon when it was announced on November 23, 1895, that The Sunflower, a school paper, would be started.¹ There is a legend about how The Sunflower received its name. One bright August morning a gentleman was walking along a "sunflower girdled path on the 'Hill' and heard a meadowlark" singing.² The bird was perched on the highest and largest sunflower. The caroling lark and the flower in the bright morning sun made such an impression on the gentleman that when school opened, and it was suggested that a college paper was needed, he spoke up and said, "We will call it The Meadow Lark or The Sunflower."³

The first copy of the paper contained an article setting forth its purpose. "The Sunflower," it stated, "will endeavor to become a thoroughly representative college journal, to present to its readers the purpose and interests of Fairmount College, and to reflect the life,

¹The Wichita Daily Beacon, November 23, 1895, p. 5.
²The Sunflower, V,55, January, 1900.
³Ibid.
deeds, and sentiments of Fairmount students.¹ Those who established the paper believed that sufficient reason for its existence was found in the fact that its underlying purpose was the up-building of a college.² W. H. Isely, editor-in-chief, wrote that The Sunflower would be a journal devoted to the interests of Fairmount College.³

At first the paper was published bi-monthly during the college year from the office of The Mirror, Wichita, Kansas. The first editor-in-chief was W. H. Isely. F. B. Isely was the advertising agent and W. S. Fleming, the circulating agent. There were four associate editors. Each one was in charge of a department of the paper. These departments were College and Town, Personals, Exchange, and Society Notes.⁴ The faculty planned that as soon as possible the complete production of the paper would be turned over to the students. The subscription for a year was fifty cents or ten cents for a single copy. The editor announced that contributions would be gladly accepted.⁵

¹The Sunflower, V, 55, January, 1900.
²Ibid.
³The Sunflower, I, 1, January, 1896.
⁴Ibid.
⁵Ibid.
Beginning in October, 1897, The Sunflower was issued every month during the school year.\(^1\) By 1898, the paper was placed in the hands of the senior class with W. S. Fleming, editor-in-chief. Editors from the college and academy assisted him.\(^2\) When The Sunflower was turned over to the student body, the faculty voted the following rules as a guide for the management of the paper:

"1. The name of this journal shall be styled The Sunflower.

2. The Sunflower shall be published monthly....

3. It shall be the purpose...to faithfully represent all the interests of Fairmount College....

4. While to the president and faculty is reserved general control, the immediate management...is vested in...an editor-in-chief, five assistant editors, a business manager, and an assistant business manager...."\(^3\)

By looking through The Sunflower one can readily see how thoroughly the editors and assistants lived up to the purpose of the paper as stated in the first issue. The progress of all phases of the college was faithfully recorded. Many, many times students, faculty, and friends were asked to back various projects of the school and to

\(^1\) The Sunflower, III,6, October, 1897.

\(^2\) The Wichita Daily Beacon, October 15, 1898, p. 6.

\(^3\) The Sunflower, IV,6, October, 1898.
support it financially. The *Sunflower*\(^1\) endeavored to bring the college before the public.

In 1906, *The Sunflower* became a weekly publication. The subscription rate was increased to one dollar a year or five cents per copy. The editors expressed the belief that a weekly paper was more fitting since Fairmount had grown so much. It was a step forward in keeping pace with Fairmount's progress.\(^2\)

All through the early issues *The Sunflower* carried articles urging students to join the societies. These societies at Fairmount were literary organizations. The students were encouraged to join them because of the importance of cultivating ability in extemporaneous speaking. Through the literary societies they were afforded a good opportunity to practice speaking before the public.\(^3\)

In January, 1896, *The Sunflower* stated that Fairmount had excellent literary societies, but the majority of students had not joined. In urging the students to become members of the societies, the paper stated that, "A year's

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\(^1\) Miss Alice Isely is responsible for the first binding of *The Sunflower*. She interested some friends in the project, and using much of her own money had the papers bound from the first issue in 1895 to 1920. Alice Isely, *Interview*, December 30, 1948.

\(^2\) *The Sunflower*, XI, 2, September 22, 1906.

faithful practice in a good literary society is equal to the same amount of time devoted to any one study."¹ Work in the literary society was practical and gave the students opportunity to apply knowledge acquired in classes.

The earliest record found of a society was that of the Athenian Literary Society organized in 1892, when Fairmount was an Institute. The preamble to its constitution stated that the purpose of the society was to cultivate the arts, talents, and graces which aid oratory.² Every person of good character and all students of the Institute were eligible to membership. Those who were not students could become members by a vote of the society. The regular programs consisted of one oration, one essay, one declamation, a regular debate, and a miscellaneous debate. Anyone who refused to take part in the program was fined fifteen cents.³

In November 1893, a new society called the Zetosophian was organized for young ladies. The group met every two

¹ *The Sunflower*, 1,1, January, 1896.

² *The Secretary's Book of the Athenian Society of Fairmount Institute*, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.

³ Ibid., pp. 6-7.
weeks on Friday afternoon. At each meeting the roll was called, and it was usually answered by quotations from famous literary men, such as Shakespeare, Longfellow, Lowell, Whittier, or others.

The First Annual Catalogue, 1895, stated that the college had two societies for the students, the Zetosophian for ladies and Webster for the men. But in 1896, the Zetosophian Society disbanded. The Second Annual Catalogue, 1896, recorded that three prosperous literary societies were maintained by the students. Sorosis was the one for the college women and Philomathean for the Academy girls. Webster was for the men of both the college and Academy. All the societies held weekly meetings for presentation of original productions, discussions, debates, and public exhibitions. Occasionally the societies held joint meetings. Each one had a public meeting once a year.

In the fall of 1895, about twelve Fairmount boys met

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1 The Secretary's Book of the Athenian Society of Fairmount Institute, p. 82. Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.

2 Ibid., p. 84.

3 The Sunflower, II, 29, December, 1896.

for the purpose of forming a debating club. Members of the faculty and student body made speeches presenting arguments in favor of debating. Those present than decided that a debating club was necessary. They appointed a committee to write a constitution. Matile Roulet, a student, suggested the name Webster for the new society, and the others accepted it.

The third term that year the boys agreed that the club needed a rest. The Zetos believing that Webster was dead, unveiled a monument as a memorial to Webster at their annual barbecue. But in the fall of 1896, the club took a new lease on life and began to grow. During the same year the Zetos disbanded, and the Websters were called upon to "mourn the death of their older sister."

Sorosis, the literary society for college women, was organized in 1896, after the Zetos disbanded. All the societies were similar in many ways such as their organization, rules for membership, purposes, and type of programs. In 1897, Sorosis made several ladies honorary.

1 Matile Roulet, son of Professor Paul Roulet, wrote that the society was inspired by Fred Isely. Matile Roulet to Miss Flora Clough, Amarillo, Texas, August 7, 1937, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.

2 Ibid.

3 The Sunflower, III, 69, March, 1898.
members. Miss Flora Clough, Dean of Women, was among these members.\(^1\) By 1899, Sorosis had twenty-five members.\(^2\)

In May, 1897, the Y.W.C.A. was organized as a result of a visit of Miss Agnes Radford, State Secretary of the Y.W.C.A. More than half of the girls became members.\(^3\) Any Christian woman who was a resident of Kansas was eligible to membership. The dues amounted to one dollar a year. In 1898, the Y.W. made plans for Bible classes and regular devotional meetings.\(^4\)

There were other clubs organized of which little could be found and some of them did not exist long. Some of these were the Classical Club, the Gun Club, the German Society, and the Musical Club.

One of the main activities carried on by the literary societies was debating. Webster Society made arrangements for a debate between Fairmount College and Winfield College. This was the beginning of a series of annual meets between the two colleges. Each college was represented by three debaters. Each speaker was allowed fifteen

\(^1\)The Sunflower, V,53, April, 1897.
\(^2\)Ibid., V,11, October, 1899.
\(^3\)The Secretary's Record, Fairmount Collection, Wichita University Library.
\(^4\)The Sunflower, III,44, January, 1898.
minutes. Fairmount proposed three questions from which Winfield selected one for debate. Three judges were chosen. Each college appointed one, and the third was a non-resident of both towns, elected by the two schools.\(^1\)

The subject chosen for this first debate was "Resolved: That Hawaii should be speedily annexed to the United States."\(^2\) The debate was held in Wichita, April 8, 1898, in the Crawford Opera House. It was the first intercollegiate debate ever held in Wichita.\(^3\) Before the program started, thirty minutes were devoted to giving college yells. Then the Fairmount Chorus opened the program with the "Spring Song." After the debate the judges gave their decision of two to one in favor of Winfield. In this first college debate Fairmount was represented by F. B. Isely, W. S. Fleming, and Mary L. Stewart. Following the debate Fairmount entertained the visitors in Steffen's Ice Cream Parlor.\(^4\)

The annual debates in the succeeding years followed much the same pattern. One school proposed three questions, and the other selected one for debate. The debate was held

\(^1\) The Sunflower, III, 42, January, 1898.

\(^2\) Ibid.

\(^3\) Ibid., III, 83, April, 1898.

\(^4\) Ibid.
In Wichita one year and Winfield the next.

In 1905, Fairmount College and Drury College of Springfield, Missouri, began a series of three debates. The school which won two of the three debates won a cup. The first one was held in Springfield, May 28, 1905.\(^1\) The Fairmount team consisted of Overton Glenn and Claude Nelson. Fairmount was victorious by a two to one decision.\(^2\) In 1906, the debate was held in Wichita, and Drury won. The third and last in the series was held May 14, 1907, at Drury. Drury won the final debate.\(^3\)

Another project which The Sunflower supported was the development of athletics. Beginning in 1896, the periodical began printing articles urging students to take part in athletics. One of these "The Value of Athletics" by Theodore Morrison contended that young men and women go to college to acquire knowledge, and academic classes are a means to that end, but not the only means. A strong argument set forth was that a good education is of little use to one whose health is poor. Mr. Morrison wrote, "Physical vigor and intellectual vitality are co-ordinates. . . . Time taken from studies for athletics is not time

\(^1\)The Sunflower, III,83, April, 1898.

\(^2\)Ibid., X,18, May, 1905.

\(^3\)Ibid., XII,1, Saturday, May 18, 1907.
In 1890, the Athletic Association of Fairmount College was organized. Its purpose was to promote the physical culture of all the students. All students were eligible to become members upon payment of twenty-five cents a year. F. B. Isely was elected president, Matile Roulet, the secretary-treasurer, and H. H. Dowd, football manager. Those interested in athletics came to believe that an athletic field for Fairmount was imperative. They expressed belief that steps should be taken to secure such grounds, and that a good location would be the ten-acre plot east of the college. However, nothing was done at the time. Then in 1900, The Sunflower printed a letter from Sam W. Hess, Wichita, in which he pledged $100.00 for an athletic field for Fairmount. He also promised to give fifty dollars a year to keep the grounds in good condition.


2 The Charter of the Athletic Association, Wichita University Library.

3 The Sunflower, I, 8, January, 1896.

4 Ibid.
By 1901, the long hoped for athletic ground was a reality. It was located at the corner of First and Ash and was 375 feet by 340 feet. A committee was chosen to raise an additional $400.00 to pay for enclosing the field. The street car company made the first donation of fifty dollars.

Regular practice in football under the direction of Professor Clark was started in 1897. However, few students put forth much effort in working for a real team. The Sunflower in an attempt to goad the students into more activity stated, "It is suggested that all young men...who do not play football because their papas or mammas will not permit them, or because they are 'afraid for their faces,' join the Croquet Club...."

By 1898, a little more interest had been created, and Friends University and Fairmount College met for the first time on the Fairmount gridiron in November, 1898. The Quakers defeated the Fairmounters by a score of 5-0. This was

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1 The Sunflower, VI,13, December, 1900.

2 Ibid., VI,9, April and May, 1901.

3 The Wichita Daily Beacon, October 11, 1897.

4 The Sunflower, V,6, October, 1897.

5 The Wichita Daily Beacon, November 21, 1898.
the beginning of keen rivalry between the two schools which lasted for years.

Plans for the '98 and '99 football season started early. A mass meeting was held April 13, 1898, to make arrangements for the coming season. Theodore Morrison was elected coach. The manager, W. H. Isely, proceeded to arrange for games with various schools in the state.¹

By 1904, Fairmount had the first football team in Wichita to compete successfully outside of Southern Kansas. Out of nine games played, they won five.² The same year they played Drury College and also a team in Arkansas. The Sunflower gave a good account of Fairmount winning the game with Drury. However, no mention was made of who won the game with the Arkansas team. The Sunflower did report that the Arkansas team had much larger men.³

One of the most interesting games played in Wichita was the first night football game, and it was the first played in Kansas. R. H. Kirk, manager of the Fairmount team, originated the idea of a night game. He was also the first to advertise his team as the Wheatshockers.

¹ The Sunflower, III, 85, April, 1898.
² Ibid., X, 12-3, December 1904.
³ Ibid.
This game was played October 8, 1905, at the Association Park in South Wichita. Fairmount and Cooper College of Sterling played. The field was not lighted by electricity because of the lack of electric wiring. Gasoline lamps with reflectors were hung along each side of the field. This did not give sufficient light, and as a result a player "could carry his headgear under his arm and make the defense believe he had a football....Perk Bates was adept at such pranks. With loud yells he would charge down the field, headgear in arms, with half the Cooper team after him, while another player with the ball would make a substantial gain."¹ After this first attempt at night football the idea was abandoned. The crowd was not large enough to pay the expenses of the lights, and the sports editors disapproved.²

E. M. Leach, Field Secretary of Fairmount, originated the Arkansas Valley Interscholastic Meet. This was a combination track meet and oratory contest for the high schools and academies in this section. Schools were divided into classes according to enrollment. Fifteen high

²Ibid.
schools entered the first meet and the number grew steadily. After two years Oklahoma schools entered the contest but were later excluded. The track and field events were under the Intercollegiate Association's rules.¹

Bliss Isely was manager of the first A.V.I. meet. It was held May 13, 1905.² The purpose of these meets was to develop friendship and to stimulate appreciation of sports.³ They also helped to advertise Fairmount by bringing to the campus hundreds of high school students. The A.V.I.M. was a part of Mr. Leach's program to keep Fairmount before the eyes of the public and to encourage youths to enroll in Fairmount.

All the activities at Fairmount were concentrated toward one general goal, that of helping to build up Fairmount College. The Sunflower, one of the first and most important activities, had as its underlying purpose the growth and development of Fairmount. In working toward this end The Sunflower backed all other activities which benefited Fairmount. The Sunflower, literary societies, glee clubs, debates, athletics, and the A.V.I.M.

¹J. B. Graham, A.V.I.M., Wichita, 1913, Wichita University Library.


³Fairmount College Bulletin, Wichita, April, 1905.
were all used as a means of advertising Fairmount in a favorable light and inducing students to enroll. All activities existed not only as a benefit to students, but as stepping stones to lead to the establishment of a strong college whose purpose was to bring Christian education to the greatest possible number of young people.
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