**THE OTTAWA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT LIST**

Original list created from B. Smith Haworth’s *OU: Its history and its spirit.*

***List on PDR wall***

Kalloch, Isaac S. 1866-1868

Kalloch, Isaac S. 1866-1868 Williams, Philo J. 1877-1881

Anderson, E. C. 1873-1875? Stewart, T. M. 1881-1883

Williams, Philo J. 1877-1881 Ward, Milan L. 1883-1887

Stewart, T. M. 1881-1883 Sutherland, George 1887-1890

Ward, Milan L. 1883-1887 Johnson, Franklin O. 1890-1892

Sutherland, George L. 1887-1890 Colegrove, Frederick W.1892-1895

Johnson, Franklin O. 1890-1891 Riggs, John D.S. 1896-1905

Colegrove, Frederick W. 1891-1895 Price, Silas E. 1906-1924

Riggs, J.D.S. 1896-1905 Smith, F. Erdmann 1924-1931

Schwegler, R A. (acting) 1905-1906 Behan, W. P. (acting) 1931-1935

Price, Silas E. 1906-1924 Martin, Andrew B. 1935-1967

Smith, F. Erdmann 1924-1931 Armacost, Peter H. 1967-1977

Behan, W. P. (acting) 1931-1935 Froyd, Milton (interim)1977-1978

Martin, Andrew B. 1935-1967 Shaw, Robert E. 1978-1983

Armacost, Peter H. 1967-1977 Wheaton, Wilbur D. 1983-1992

Froyd, Milton (interim) 1977-1978 Germer, Harold D. 1992-2000

Shaw, Robert E. 1978-1983 Neal, John E. 2000-2005

Wheaton, Wilbur D. 1983-1992 Billick, James C. (interim) 2005-06

Germer, Harold D. 1992-2000 Snow, Frederick R. 2006-2007

Neal, John E. 2000-2005 Zook, Frederic 2007 -2008

Billick, James C. (interim) 2005-2006 Eichner, Kevin C. 2008-

Snow, Frederick R. 2006-2007

Zook, Frederic 2007 -2008

Eichner, Kevin C. 2008-

**THE OTTAWA UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS**

**Isaac S. Kalloch** – (1866-1868) was one of the founding fathers of Ottawa, Kansas. He was the first president of Ottawa University. He was given almost unlimited authority to run the school. The first building on campus was begun in 1866 but due to financial problems wasn’t completed until 1869. Originally called the University building it has also been known as Science Hall, Old Science Hall, and now Tauy Jones Hall. It was the only building on campus until 1893.2 He was also the first minister of the 2nd Baptist Church (now the 1st Baptist Church), editor of the first newspaper in Ottawa, and responsible for getting the first railroad to Ottawa. He was and still is a very controversial character in American history.

**(Photo RG4.032.02)**

**Anderson (1874-1876)**. (He was “in charge” – not enough evidence he was president)

In January, 1875 the interior of the only building on campus was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt by the citizens of Ottawa in only 90 days.4 Classes were held at city hall until the repair was finished

**Philo, J. Williams - (**1877-1881) was a Dartmouth-educated preacher and preached for several years in western New York. He was superintendent of the public schools at Leavenworth, Kansas, for six years.6, 7 His compensation package at OU included the proceeds from the college farm, all tuition received, and $1200. Out of these he was to meet all expenses for the school. His first year there was a $600 deficit in the president’s salary. During his tenure the majority of the 23 courses offered were in the fields of Latin, Greek, and mathematics. In 1879 the first catalogue was published. Williams developed a strong normal department at OU.6 The institution at this point was a university in name only and offered an “academy” course.

**T. M. Stewart** - (1881-1883) was a graduate of Shurtleff College and an experienced teacher.8 There were only four faculty members, including Stewart, listed in the catalog. The first literary societies as well as a Y.M.C.A. were formed during his tenure. “Rhetoricals” were emphasized as they would be for the next thirty or forty years. Tuition was $25 a year if paid in advance and there were 54 students enrolled5.

**Milan L. Ward** - (1883-1887) was the beloved “grand old man of Ottawa University.” He taught at OU for several years before going to the agricultural college at Manhattan. When he returned to Ottawa “all land south of Seventh street was unimproved. There was a high hedge fence all along Ninth street in front of the Campus, and one entered it through a hole cut in the fence and a large wooden gate. The Campus was a mess of weeds, old nursery stock, trees, etc…”4 He was president when the first collegiate graduate, Joseph W. Stocks, received his degree in 1886. The *Ottawa Campus* was started during Ward’s tenure. Ward was a strong believer in abstinence and for at least 35 years carried a book to gather temperance pledges. **(Photo OU RG4.045.195).**

**George L. Sutherland** - (1887-1890) taught Greek, grammar, arithmetic, geography and physiology at OU in 1884. He raised funds to lay the foundation for the second building (Administration building) on campus. In 1887 the trustees borrowed money to pay the arrears in teachers’ salaries. Six students were expelled. When one of the trustees suggested they reinstate some of the boys he was told “if all the trustees would get down on their knees before us and ask us to take those boys back, we would not do it.”3 There were 265 students enrolled at the end of Sutherland’s tenure.8

**Franklin O. Johnson** - (1890-1892) is best remembered for composing the alma mater *My Ottawa*. By now the enrollment is several hundred. Charlton Cottage, a residence for women students, was built in 1891. One historical account says that when Johnson became president “All were ready to turn the perplexing problem of Bible study over to the new President. They did so, with the result that neither Bible study nor the vexed question concerning it were ever heard of again.”3 The senior class was given permission to plant ivy around the new building. This tradition lasted for many years.

**Frederick W. Colegrove -** (1892-1895) was a Colgate University graduate and taught Latin there8. He was cited as an “intellectual man with worldwide interests. “ The first gymnasium on campus was begun in 1895 due to his efforts. In 1895 enrolment was 401.5 More than 20 students were expelled after refusing to comply with Colegrove’s request in regard to the time their class social was held. They were later reinstated.9

**John D. S. Riggs** - (1896-1905) was president when fire hit the central part of the administration building which meant the loss of the chapel, offices, classrooms and the library. Riggs led a successful campaign to rebuild. In 1898 the faculty voted to offer free tuition to the highest graduate of Ottawa High School.9 OU was a charter member of the Kansas Inter-Collegiate Athletic Conference. Riggs suggested both a plan for student self-government and the awarding of the “O” for athletic excellence.13

**R. A. Schwegler** (acting) - (1905-1906)14, 12, 15, 18 was a professor of philosophy and Greek when asked to be acting president. He later became the head of the Department of Education at the University of Kansas. **(Photo, 1905 Ottawa Campus faculty near front)**

**Silas E. Price** - (1906-1924) was born in Ohio and educated at Denison University and Baptist Union Theological Seminary. He was pastor at 1st Baptist church in Ottawa before being called to be OU’s president. During his long tenure a new gym and Ward Science Hall were built, Cook Athletic Field was completed and Tauy Jones Hall was remodeled. The Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. were very strong on campus. Chapel attendance was still required. Oratory and speech activities were dominant in student activities. Pi Kappa Delta was organized by OU student John Shields. During Price’s tenure Ottawa University became a member in good standing of the North Central Association.

**F. Erdmann Smith** - (1924-1931) came to OU from William Jewell College. OU was operating at a deficit when he took office and he staged a successful campaign to raise money. The U.S. depression made it difficult to collect the pledges, though. The Academy was closed in 1925. By 1930 college enrollment decreased to about 225 students. His tenure has been described as “one of educational growth” as well as a period of financial over-spending.10

**Warren P. Behan (acting) -** (1931-1935) – had been part of the OU staff since 1922. He was popular with staff and students and was described as “immensely human.” His efforts were focused on collecting the unpaid pledges from the Smith campaign, making the endowment funds more productive, and increasing enrollment. The alumni organization was reorganized and the Ottawa Foundation was started to encourage alumni to support the school financially. Only 73% of faculty wages were actually paid.

**Andrew B. Martin -**  (1935-1967) was OU’s longest serving president. He was a proud Irishman with degrees from Colgate University, Northern Baptist Seminary, and Marquette University. He promoted progressive education. Martin believed college was to serve the whole person.

The first health plan for students was offered during Martin’s tenure. It became the policy that the school not incur an operating deficit rather than borrow for current expenses. He initiated the social club system. A number of buildings were built under his tenure including the field house, the union, the chapel, and several dorms.

**Peter H. Armacost** – (1967-1977) had been a professor of psychology and dean of students at Augsburg College before becoming Program Director of the Association of American Colleges. At Ottawa University he established the College Without Campus program with the OUKC site and three years later a site in Phoenix. He provided leadership for the “New Plan of Education, “ an innovative curriculum. Computer-assisted instruction was also begun during his tenure. At the end of his term there was a large deficit and staff was cut by 20 percent.

**Milton Froyd (interim)-** (1977-1978) was a Baptist pastor and spent 21 years with Colgate Rochester Divinity School. Being president of Ottawa University was one of several interim positions he undertook after retirement from CRDS. Even though he was at OU for less than one year the faculty adopted a resolution saying “At a critical and difficult time in the history of the University, his courageous, inspirational leadership renewed our faith, lifted our hearts and revitalized our energies as we worked together to help the University.”

**Robert E. Shaw** – (1978-1983)was a Baptist pastor who had also served in various national offices of the denomination. Before being named president he was on the Board of Trustees for several years. He felt convicted to revive the “OU Spirit” among alumni, friends, and the American Baptist Church.

**Wilbur D. Wheaton-** (1983-1992) was the first Ottawa University graduate to assume the role of president. In fact he and his wife met and married while students at OU. He was superintendent of the Fresno, California, school district before becoming president of Ottawa University. He balanced the budget for 9 consecutive years. His goal as president was to stabilize OU.

**Harold D. Germer –** (1992-2000) established the Milwaukee campus and the International Program .Many buildings on campus received major renovations including Atkinson, Tauy Jones, Martin Hall, Mabee Center, and Wilson Field House.17

**John E. Neal –**(2000-2005) was educated in Tennessee and came to OU from Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri. Before becoming president he was OU’s Vice President for Adult & Professional Studies. He was a native of New Castle, Indiana. He established the Jeffersonville, Indiana campus.

**James C. Billick (interim)**–(2005-2006) came out of retirement to serve as interim President. He had previously served Ottawa University as Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Provost of OUKC, and political science professor.

**Frederick R. Snow –** (2006-2007)came to OU from Norwich University where he was the Vice President. His focus as president was to increase enrollment. He left to work on his dream of developing an international university.16

**Frederic B. Zook (interim)–** had been dean of students and provost at OU’s Arizona site before becoming president of Ottawa University. He built OU’s first fully online degree program.

**Kevin C. Eichner –** (2008- )was another OU graduate chosen to lead the school. He was director of admissions at OU for two years before getting an MBA from Harvard. He founded and led financial & consulting institutions before coming back to OU. He developed the Vision 2020 plan to enlarge the school’s finances, enrollment, and buildings. In his first year he signed an agreement with the Chief of the Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma to renew the providing of free education for members of the tribe.

SOURCES

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13Riggs, J.D.S., “A suggestion or two”, *Ottawa Campus,*v. 20., Nos. 9 & 10, May & June, 1904.

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16 *Ottawa Campus,* v. 122, #6, April 27, 2006*.*

*17Ottawa Campus,* v. 115, #1, Sept. 15, 2000.

18 *Ottawa Campus,* September 1, 1906, p. 18.