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### Prof. Wilson Delves Into Pioneer Times In Article On 'Early Builders Of O. U.'

The history of an institution of learning in the west may be written from the life stories of a few men. Money is an important factor in the growth of colleges and universities. It is still true that men count more than means. No one would deny that in the case of Mark Hopkins and the say log naturally the emphasis would be on Mark Hopkins, but all the millions of the University of Chicago were not sufficient to submerge the personality of William Rainey Harper and most of us will place him first when we think of the early history of that great school.

Around the lives of a very few men have revolved the movements that have made Ottawa—John Tecumseh Jones, Robert Atkinson, P. J. Williams, M. L. Ward and Franklin Johnson are some of the names that will forever stand out in the headlines of the early annals of O. U.

The material which I shall present in this brief sketch has been gathered from many personal interviews, from the college catalogs, Minutes of the board of trustees, annuals, certain personal correspondence of early settlers here, and especially from a sketch prepared by Doctor M. L. Ward which he addressed to the future historian of O. U. In rearranging this material I have used whatever ability in the line of historical criticism I may possess.

Ottawa University is the result of Christian missionary effort among the Indian tribe known as the Ottawas. This work began while the Indians were living in Canada and continued during their migration to Ohio and finally about 1837 to Kansas where a great reservation was in waiting for them. In this migration Rev. Jotham Meeker and his good wife came with the Indians and settled with them on what is now Ottawa territory. Mr. Meeker became a veritable prophet to these aborigines. He guided and instructed the youth, nursed the sick, comforted the bereaved, and preached the gospel of purity and righteousness to these simple children of the prairie. With this migration came also this young man destined to be known as the founder of O. U.—John Tecumseh Jones (commonly known as Tauty Jones.)

Tauty Jones was born in Canada, 1809. He was a half breed Potawatomi Indian. It seems he had the advantage of a primitive Christian home and was early converted to the Christian faith. His preliminary training was in the Carey Mission School across the Canadian line in Michigan. Later he was graduated from Madison, now Colgate University, New York. It is said he with some other Indian boys rode ponies all the way from Carey Mission, Michigan, to Madison, N. Y. Almost immediately on receiving his degree he was appointed by the United States government as a special agent to help establish the Ottawa Indians on their Kansas reservation. Accordingly in 1833 he migrated with the Indians from Mackinaw Straits to Ohio and then to the territory of Kansas. With the Ottawa Indians he settled this Ottawa territory. (Of course there was no such town in existence then, about 1850.) All this region was only a wild prairie reservation. Jotham Meeker established a mission by the little stream now known as Tauty creek, not far from the Woodlief station. The old Indian burying ground five miles northeast was the exact site. Tauty Jones, interpreter at first, later followed Jotham Meeker as a sort of spiritual leader among the Indians and, together with white missionaries, did a noble work in Christianizing them. Among these missionaries was Miss Jane Kelly, a well educated eastern girl who came west to give her life in the uplift of the red men. Tauty Jones fell in love with her, wooed and was married to her in 1845. This union seems to have been a happy one in every way, and contributed much to Tauty Jones' success as a leader in that early day.

Mr. Jones seems to have been a man of keen vision and comprehensive plans, and with it all he was possessed a philanthropic spirit. He built for his family a magnificent home now known as the Woodlief place on Tauty creek, seven miles northeast of Ottawa. Here in the early troublous days of Kansas history the Jones lived and entertained many American notables. It is said Abraham Lincoln and Horace Greeley were among the guests who enjoyed the hospitality of this home. Certain it is Mr. and Mrs. Jones were people of

commanding culture and would be at home in the company of educated leaders of their day. It is recorded that Tauty Jones attended the first Baptist state convention ever held in Kansas. This meeting convened with the first church in Atchison in 1860. Here Baptist leaders were discussing the possibility of denominational college for Kansas. The burning question was how can such a school be financed. Mr. Jones gave form and faith to the project by proposing that the whites and Indians combine, locate a school on the Ottawa reservation. In a flash of practical common sense he declared—the whites have the educated leaders and teachers—the Indians have plenty of land out of which to create endowment. The proposition met instant favor and then and there was born in the minds of these Christian leaders our college. It was to be known as Rodger Williams University. In 1862 in a conference of whites with the Indian council final arrangements were made. Through Mr. Jones' influence and the help of white leaders U. S. congress was induced to set aside 20,000 acres of land in the Ottawa reservation to be used for the establishment of the college. A charter was secured in 1865 but the name Ottawa University was substituted for Rodger Williams University.

The first meeting of the board of trustees bears the date August 20, 1862. There were present John T. Jones, James Wind, William Hurr, Joseph King (Indians) and John W. Young and C. C. Hutchinson, U. S. Indian agent for the Ottawa (whites). I find no further record until 1864 when the trustees met again. This time I. S. Kallach (white) was president of the board and Joseph King (Indian) secretary. John W. Young bought at this time 5,000 acres of the Indian school land at \$1.25 an acre. Land was a sort of burden then and the Ottawa Indian bartered away their holdings in this community rapidly. Soon they migrated to their final stamping grounds in Indian Territory, leaving the new university project to the whites. The affairs of the institution became badly muddled partly on account of the Civil war and particularly because of the crooked dealings of designing men who wanted the Indian lands and did not hesitate as to methods of securing them.

It will interest all, I am sure, to know that I. S. Kallach, president of the board at the second meeting, was a brilliant eastern preacher, who came west to escape scandal in the east. He was not only an early builder of the college but he helped build the railroad from Lawrence to Ottawa and was superintendent of the road. Many Ottawa citizens have related incidents of his eloquent public addresses. One of the early members of the First Baptist church wrote of him—"Mr. Kallach was called the Beecher of the west." Many deeds to land in Ottawa and vicinity bear the name of I. S. Kallach. Leaving Kansas, Mr. Kallach went to California where he became mayor of San Francisco and a leader in politics. The first class room work conducted under the name of Ottawa University was directed by Mr. Kallach, although he probably did not give instruction himself. The minutes of September 20, 1864, show that a small building downtown was secured. On May 26, 1865, the board directed its president Mr. Kallach to establish the Academic Department of O. U., fix tuition, and employ teachers.

I am in receipt of a letter from Miss Lucy Hatch now of Pomona, California, the first teacher in O. U. Academy. (Miss Hatch is now in her 91st year.) In her letter she refers to the fact that she was the only teacher when she opened school in a building on Main street and shortly afterward Mr. Philatus Fales was employed.

"The attendance was large, made up of young ladies and young gentlemen of the town," she says, "Rev. I. S. Kallach, C. C. Hutchinson and Tauty Jones were the trustees. The Indian school was cared for by Mrs. Ruth Mahem and Miss Fannie Thomas. As soon as the building on the campus was completed the school was moved from town. Mr. M. L. Ward and I, with Miss Farnum and Miss Topping, made up the faculty and all except Miss Thomas dwelt in the building. Rev. Mr. Atkinson was manager of affairs at that time. The first year of the school was very successful. I think it's a mistake that Mr. Ward came in 1869

for we worked together for several years, and my connection with the school ended in 1868, if remember rightly. The memory of one 91 years of age and the many things crowded into her life since that may be lacking in full detail, but they are all pleasant."—Yours very truly, Lucy H. Hatch.

We see from this letter Miss Hatch taught the white children and Misses Hayhew and Thomas taught the Indians at first (1864). The Indians received some sort of instruction before this but not under the name of Ottawa University or the Academy. Prof. P. Fales came in later.

Herewith is a clipping from the Ottawa Republican, April 18, 1890, in which Mayor J. P. Harris is referred to as having given the paper a program of the first school entertainment held in Ottawa, 23 years prior to April 18, 1890. The program is published as the first exhibition of the Academy under the direction of Prof. P. Fales, A. M., for the benefit of the poor, at Pickrell Hall, Ottawa, Saturday evening, March 30, 1867. Among those who appear on the program are G. B. Jenness, E. H. Paramore, I. M. Kallach, Miss Carrie Lothrop, Cash Paramore, L. H. Holt, A. C. Dow, Hugh Johnson, Miss Mattie Emerson, H. Dimick, S. Parks, R. S. Hawkins, D. Grimes, Jennie Whetstone, J. B. Johnson, Belle Paramore, Lizzie Ward, Dave Miller, Curtis Ricksecker, George Cobb, Jennie Alexander.

When the charter was granted the college in 1865, 640 acres of land (the section joining Ottawa on the south) was set aside for a campus. By this we see large plans were in the minds of the early builders. Ottawa University was to be an agricultural and industrial school as well as a classical college. About this time there appeared in Ottawa a practical nurseryman by the name of S. T. Kelsey. This man was employed in the big Bloomington, Ill., nurseries. His name appears in the U. S. Agricultural Report in 1865-66. His health having failed him, Mr. Kelsey came further west and on invitation of the board established a nursery on the campus here. The records show he was to receive a salary of \$1,200 to be paid out of receipts of the O. U. nursery. He soon found the school had no money but he showed his faith in the cause by going to the bank and borrowing enough to live on and start the

nursery. He planted hedges and extensive plots of trees. The walnut grove on 15th and Cedar was his planting, also that near the gas stations south of town on the Princeton road. During the year 1867-8 he sold \$6,000 worth of nursery stock including fruit and shade trees. The ground where the President's home now stands was in the heart of this nursery. The minutes of the board under date of July 6, 1869, state that Mr. Kelsey was dismissed as the institution could employ him no further. Doctor Ward in his memoirs says he had an interview with Mr. Kelsey in 1907 at which time he learned many things about Mr. Kelsey's work in Ottawa and Kansas. It seems in company with John H. Whetstone he, Mr. Kelsey, laid out the town of Pomona, encouraged citizens to plant orchards and timber areas. Then he became forester for the Santa Fe Railway company and settled in Hutchinson, Kan., which was established by an O. U. trustee, C. C. Hutchinson, by name. Mr. Hutchinson was U. S. Indian agent for the Chippewas and Ottawas. Mr. Kelsey claimed to have introduced alfalfa into Kansas and discovered and introduced to the Kansas public F. D. Coburn, who for many years was our honored State Secretary of Agriculture. Time will not permit me to relate the many more interesting details about S. T. Kelsey and C. C. Hutchinson and their relation to O. U. Some of these details do not appear to reflect credit upon the actors.

In May, 1869 the building on the campus now known as Tauty Jones Hall was finished and school was opened with four teachers, M. L. Ward, Lucy Hatch, and Misses Topping and Farnor. Dr. Ward served as head of the faculty 1869-1873, when he accepted a call to the agricultural college at Manhattan where he remained 10 years, then returning to Ottawa University. Rev. Robt. Atkinson was sent out that year by the Home Mission society to become financial agent of the school, to straighten out its tangled affairs and put it on a business basis. According to accounts he was a man of sterling business ability, inflexible will, and one who could command attention wherever he went. As long as he lived he was probably the most influential man in Kansas Baptist affairs. When he stood to speak on the convention floor all conceded his leadership. Mr. Atkinson at least did two bits of real service for Ottawa

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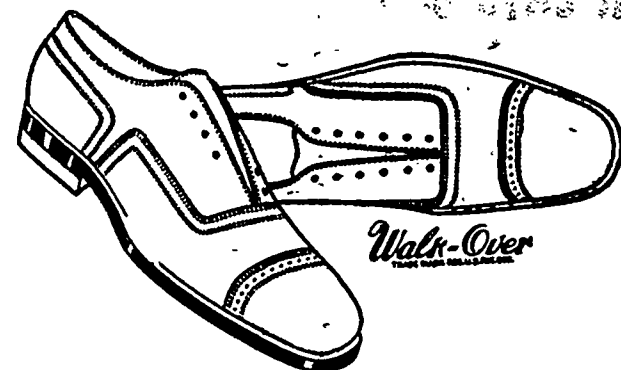
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# PIONEER DAYS OF O.U.

(Continued from Page 3)

University. On one occasion when he returned from a long stay in the east he learned that the trustees in his absence had received an attractive offer from the Episcopal denomination to transfer the school to that organization. With characteristic firmness and dogged determination Mr. Atkinson set to work the very day of his return to squelch the deal. It required weeks of vexing effort to straighten things out again and save the school for the Baptists. Few persons seemed to have any faith in the college then and its financial secretary was compelled to show his confidence in the future by assuming all its financial obligations.

Again when the Ottawa Indians went to their new home in Indian Territory some designing men who wanted to get their hands on some of the Indian lands persuaded the Ottawas to permit an act of Congress ostensibly in the interest of the Indians, but in reality to enable them to barter away for a pittance that which they had tried to bequeath to Ottawa University. Mr. Atkinson went in person to the capitol at Washington, secured an interview with President U. S. Grant, and so impressed him with the injustice of the act that the President immediately called a cabinet meeting and passed a resolution suspending the act until Congress met again. The matter was finally settled by a Board of Congress, securing a legal title to the land for Ottawa. This was in 1872.

On the ninth of January, 1875 Taub Jones Hall was completely gutted by fire. The insurance, unfortunately, had been allowed to lapse, and again dire disaster stared the under-paid faculty and struggling trustees in the face. Here Robt. Atkinson's stern face and iron will saved the day. He said, "Men and brethren, never mind, a college CANNOT BE BURNED OUT." Citizens of Ottawa under his leadership strengthened the old walls, put on a new roof, rebuilt the basement and finished the attic for a student dormitory and the work went on again. During the re-building period school was kept down town in a rented building, presided over by Rev. E. C. Anderson, who was President, who was also acting pastor of the First Baptist church.

In August, 1876, Prof. P. J. Williams, D.D., was elected President. His compensation was to be use of the college farm, tuition of all students, and \$1,200 to pay the teachers and meet expenses. Dr. Williams was a member of the board also which had been enlarged to 24 members a year or two before. The first catalog of O. U. was published by him. In an academic sense he was the greatest man ever connected with O. U. in a pioneer period. In fact, he was pronounced the best teacher in Kansas in his day. He gave the school immediate recognition as a teacher training institution. A number of prominent educators were produced here during the Williams regime among whom may be mentioned Vice-president Parmenter of Baker University, now deceased, and Dr. A. S. Olin of Kansas University. I have interviewed many students of Dr. Williams and all declare he was a remarkable instructor. Students went from his lectures under the spell of a mighty personality whose influence inspired them to try to do something and be somebody. Dr. Ward once said of him, "He was a rare man against whom no hint of criticism or charge of selfish interest was ever publicly made." But Dr. Williams could not be held in a school with so small resources and in 1881 he was made Dean of the School of Education in Kansas University.

It is a matter of regret to us all that some one of that early period did not recount clearly what became of all the land O. U. secured from the Indians for in the early seventies the original grant of 70,000 acres had dwindled to 1,280 acres. I presume we shall never know as the chief actors of that formative period have all passed away. Following Dr. Williams administration came Prof. T. M. Stewart, a Brown University man, who came to bleeding Kansas with the eastern notions of what a college should be. His chief effort was in the direction of a curriculum standardization so that graduates here might enter eastern universities. He published a catalogue for 1881 and '82. The trustees this same year voted to launch a movement to raise \$50,000 half of which was to be in hand by December 1, 1883. Rev. E. C. Manley was appointed financial agent. In one year he secured \$7,000 in pledges but his sickness and death brought an end to the entire campaign. Dr. Manley seems to have been a good, earnest

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