Mr. Hume's Opening Address.

In 1865, Apr. 21, the charter was granted to 6 men, known as trustees of Ottawa University. There were 3 Indians and 3 white men, Tauty Jones being one of the Indians. Mr. Kallock was a Baptist minister, pastor of the church here, was also editor of a newspaper, was also promoter of a railroad through Ottawa, also another one of the trustees, and this man Hutchinson who founded the city of Hutchinson was partly responsible for Ottawa was a third member. This charter was issued through the Probate Judge's office and signed by Tallis, living east of town here. The name of Roger Williams was given first, and changed to the name of Ottawa. Charter day as a holiday came into existence in 1906. At that time Dr. Raymond Schwegler was acting president of the college, a man who had brought to this institution some ideas and one of them was to make a university and establish and develop some traditions. He proposed that a day be observed. A special chapel was held when Dr. Ward reviewed the history of Ottawa University. From that time to this it has been observed.

In early days this college had a president and also a manager. He farmed all this land around here. At one time $6000 was raised from one year's crop of trees growing around this college at the present time. It was proposed that the income from the ground would support the institution.

The year 1875 had been a big potato crop. The potatoes were stored in the basement of Old Science Hall. It was in the winter time and was cold and the care tender thought to preserve the potatoes. He had built a big fire in the stove but by a defect in the flue the fire was started and the building burned.
In 1879 there was the first graduating class. They didn't know anything about it until shortly before commencement. The capable ones were given an examination and as a result the passing ones were given teachers' certificates. That was in '79 and there were a half dozen. Dr. Parmenter, acting president of Baker University, was also in the graduating class.