In 1868 Atkinson and Sheldon spent several days examining the record and found that the claim which Atkinson had against the University was liquidated by some land that had been sold. Mr. Atkinson came here in 1868, took hold of the matter here with such vigor that the missionary society asked him to remain here and be the state missionary. In '69 I think about August or perhaps July I was asked to come here and take charge of the Academic Department of the Ottawa University. I left my family in the East. I took the train about the first of September. The railroad had just approached the town where I lived. I came by the way of Chicago, stopped over night with a friend and explored the city. Came to Kansas City and stopped over night there. The court house stood alone and I remember that fall in getting into a bus and starting for the Court House the coach got stuck in the mud. We had to get out and help it out of the mud. We came to Lawrence and down this road, reaching Ottawa where the road stopped. I saw the young city of Ottawa with its wide streets, no pavement. It reminded me of the old saying that a man couldn't recognize the city because of the width of the streets. I attended the meeting of the Baptist church and was impressed with the character of the people found here in Ottawa, the greatest class of people that I ever met. It had been advertised from Maine to Florida and all over the United States that there was a school with a large endowment which was to be established and enterprising men came here. In the Baptist Church there were 15 or 20 who had been deacons in other churches. The following year we had a pastor by the name of White. He had been a traveling man and he announced that he would take charge of the meeting Sunday night and he appointed a man to take charge of the meeting each night during the week. We had good meetings. The next Sunday he appointed others to take charge of the
Dr. Ward #2.

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following week. I found the greatest people that I ever met here in Ottawa. Many of them have passed away and some whole families have passed away.

Ottawa was limited by 7th street. Between 9th and 7th street was farm. There was a road where Cedar street now stands, and this single building stood alone.

Mr. Atkinson took hold of these affairs and I think the building had been erected up to the walls at this time. He borrowed $10,000 from one state on the basis of the future of Ottawa University. Under the supervision of a committee of people of Ottawa the building was finished in the spring of 1869. It was the most beautiful building in all this section. It was well finished inside. Folding blinds inside in the first story. Mr. Atkinson had prepared it for his own family and was living in it. There were two rooms in the basement of the building and some better rooms. In the southeast corner there was no floor. That was where they did the grafting for the trees. The first thing I did was to cut the weeds around the building. Mr. Atkinson was a very busy man.

We three teachers, Miss Hatch, Miss Barnum and myself in the building aside from the family quarters. There was an old piano in one corner and vacancy in the others. Mr. Atkinson told me that he ordered seats from Chicago and they came a few days after I came. They came in knock-down form and I helped put them up. About a week after I came here school commenced. That was the building. All over this campus and beyond to Main St. was in nursery stock. S. T. Kelsey two or three years before had been employed as a man to take charge of the farm of this school. He came here from Bloomington, Illinois, where he had been connected with a large nursery. He came here and was given free range.
Ward #4.

This was to be a mixed school, an industrial school teaching Indian children agriculture and other things. He conceived the idea how this farm with the nursery could do a good deal toward supporting the school. He enclosed the farm with hedge. In the spring of 1869 he sold $6,000 worth of stock from that nursery. In June he was dismissed and Mr. John Lester who had been in the employ of Mr. Kelsey was put in charge of this nursery and was here when I came here.

About where the gymnasium is, was the stables with two or three teams. I thought they belonged to the University and so I asked the colored man if I could take one of the horses and ride around. I found out afterwards that they were Mr. Atkinson's.

This nursery that had been so promising went to naught.

We waited for school to commence so one morning when it commenced there came up through the weeds children of different ages, perhaps a dozen or fifteen. They were of all ages. We had nothing. I bought some chalk. We had some black boards. We had no stove. It got chilly. The stove in the chapel was to be put in the north end. The stove was put up according to his orders. I didn't know anything about soft coal before this time but I soon did after the fire was started. We had the school. Our numbers increased. By the close of the term we had some 50 or 60 students. We could get no satisfaction, Mr. Atkinson was so busy. We needed apparatus. I consulted with two men in town and knew I could raise $200. I made out a list and gave the name of the party to deal with and gave it to him. I think he put it in his pocket. I never saw it again. We had hardly any chairs or tables. In January we teachers, knowing that Mr. Pratt was coming, arranged with the trustees to meet and we explained to those trustees what we absolutely needed.
Mr. Atkinson said he was so busy that he couldn't get it but things should be obtained. We did get a few things. At the close of the term we had quite an interesting time. Along in the winter I decided that I would stay in Kansas. I had left my family in the East. The child which we had adopted died in July before. I went in March to make arrangements to come to Kansas. I consulted with the trustees. They said they were satisfied and encouraged me. When I came home in the old chapel there was a young man teaching in the school. The ladies were not teaching. During my absence the trustees had got together and decided that they couldn't pay me a salary and made arrangements with the teachers to go. When I got back I found I was out of a job. I was about ready to go back but my wife had decided that she had come here to stay, so I stayed here. I made arrangements Germans and we got Turner Hall and opened a school. Ottawa University was held in Turner Hall the rest of that year because all of the students came right down there.

That great nursery stock, 71 and 2, Mr. Atkinson decided to deed to me. Mr. Atkinson decided to move out of that building and arrangements were made that I should move in. I was to have $1000 from the nursery stock besides the tuition that came from the students. I did that year's work. They came to me and ordered nursery stock but I had no authority to sell. I found that the interpretation of the contract was that the $1000 be realized from the nursery stock that year.

Deacon Holt and myself went over to Tauy Jones and found him a very sick man. He would have no physician. He relied on Indian remedies. I cared for him one night. The next day he died and was buried the following Sunday. Tauy Jones was a noble man. Mrs. Jones was a superior woman. Both of them, Mrs. Jones especially, were quaint.
Ward #6.

She had become a real Indian in her thoughts and ideas. She identified herself with Indian work. I was appointed in the place of Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Dodson in place of Deacon Nugent, and we settled that estate and turned over to the college all that we obtained from it, a little over $5000. Ottawa University has had an influence in Ottawa. Ottawa University made Ottawa what it is. Ottawa University, dead and alive, I expect is the greatest asset financially that Ottawa has. I do not except machine shops nor railroad shops because it established the character of Ottawa and made it one of the best towns in the state. Now is the time for all the people and all the old students.

The daughter of William Clark sent me a check for $25 in a beautiful letter. I received a letter from Miss Mary King from Los Angeles, California. She said she sent her small contribution and wishes it could be more.
Dr. Ward: How I found Things when I came to Ottawa.

Until Sept. 1869 I had never been west of Niagara Falls. I lived in Virginia about 3 years. I was familiar with the controversy and free soil, and with the history of Kansas, and when an opportunity was offered to me to come out to Kansas and teach in a denominational school, I embraced the opportunity. I knew Mr. Atkinson in college, knew him several years. He was sent out here in 1868 by the American Baptist Home Mission Society to look into the affairs of this institution. I. S. Collett has been a celebrated figure in Baptist history. Served in Boston, pastor in New York City. Compelled to leave both places because of scandal. Coming to Kansas, located in Manhattan, opening a law office there, afterwards appearing in a Baptist State Convention held in Atchison in 1860. When Tauy Jones suggested to the Baptists at a dinner table at the discussion as to where a Baptist School should be located, he suggested that the Ottawa Indians and the whites unite. He was the pastor of the old Baptist Church of 199 members, located in the old burying ground. In December following a contract was made with the Indians. He commenced operations here. Of course this had to be acted upon by Congress as the Indians were the wards of the Government. It took a year or two. Collett was the leader. He was the projector of the Lawrence Railroad and was president of the first organization. He was the editor of the first newspaper in Ottawa, pastor of the first Baptist church in Ottawa, helped organize. He was a man of great ability and a great orator. He had all these enterprises in mind and besides all that was buzzing in his bonnet the senatorial bee.

Five thousand acres had been sold and the institution was organized, got its charter granted and its building commenced. And then its credit was gone. He appealed to the Home Mission Society to take hold of it. 1868 Atkinson and