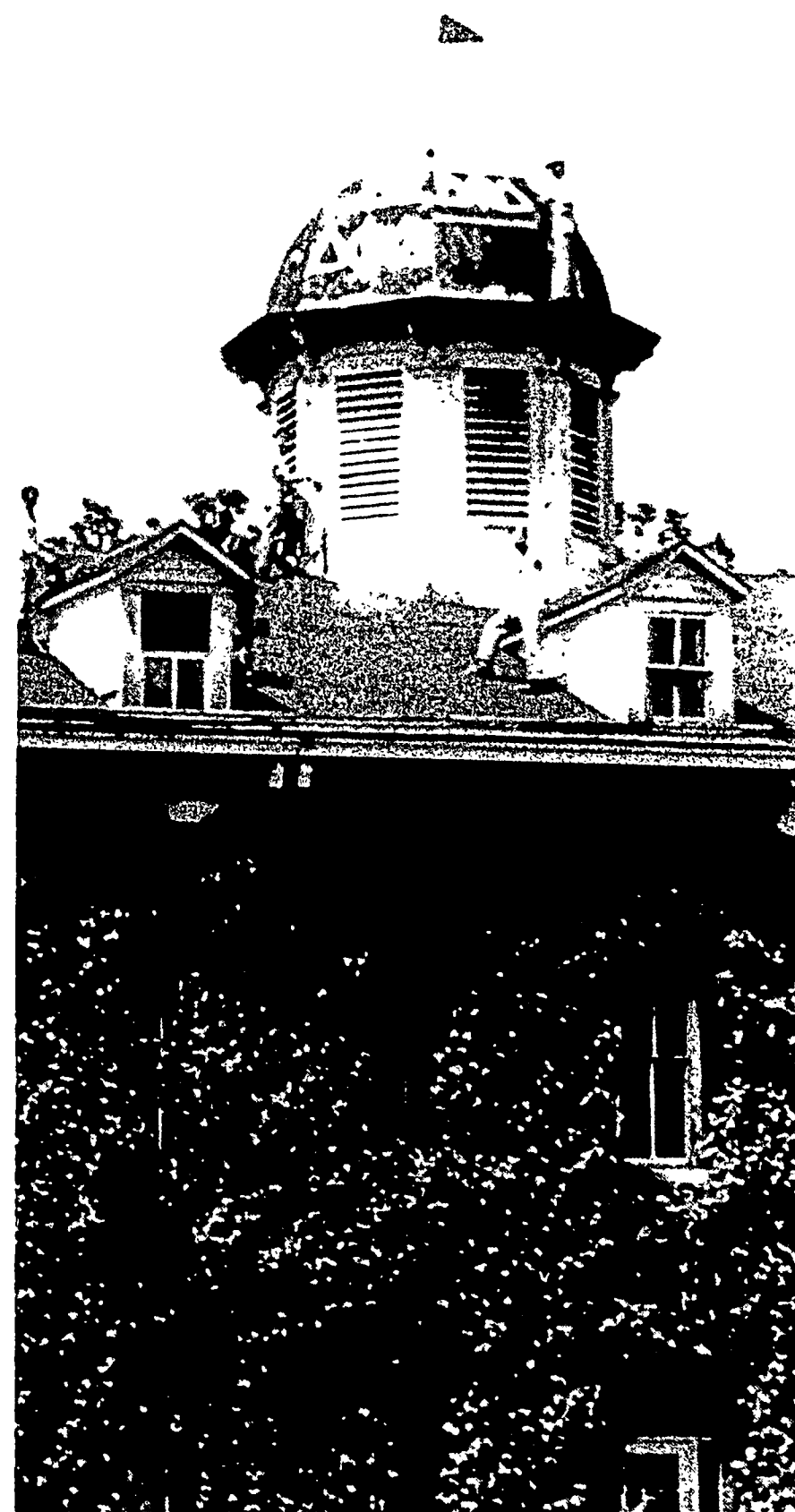


Tauy Jones Hall Survives a Hundred Years of Fires, Remodeling, Classes, Labs, Music, Thundering Storms and Painting Escapades



Painting the dome, traditional and illegal

Happy is every institution that has somewhere on its campus a building around which cluster the memories of the past and which stands as a monument to the faith, the struggles and the heroic service of those who have gone. The old hall is such a building and we must preserve it for the generations of students who will come to Ottawa University.

So said Dr. Milan L. Ward, Grand Old Man of O.U., shortly before his death at the age of 94. He was urging alumni to contribute funds for its restoration in 1923.

The building was remodeled at a cost of \$25,000, a considerable amount at the time. Originally the hall cost \$40,000.

Alumni returning to the campus have only to take a glance at Tauy Jones Hall to be assured that there is still a measure of permanence in this age of rapid change.

The beautiful old building has been here forever, or so it seems, long enough to become a much loved symbol of all that the University is and stands for. It is a personality, much more than a building to Ottawans.

The University this spring is observing the 100th anniversary of this remarkable old structure. It was authorized on November 20, 1865, only a few months after the school was chartered, and completed in April, 1869.

Until the first section of the Administration Building was opened in 1896 the hall housed the entire University. This, however, posed no space problem, for there was enough room left to permit a faculty family to live in the building. Later, men students used the third floor as a dormitory.

After the opening of the Ad building, Dr. M. L. Ward, early science teacher, converted the old building into a science hall and it served in this capacity for 25 years.

It has had its share of difficulties as well as joys. In 1875, at the ripe old age of six, it was gutted by fire. On that occasion Robert Atkinson, then business manager, reportedly said, "Men and women,

you cannot burn out a college." He was right, at least at the time. The hall was repaired and reopened in 1877.

Neglect almost claimed the building in the early 1920's. Ward Science Hall was completed in 1921 and the science departments were moved out of Tauy Jones Hall, leaving it deserted and almost forgotten. But someone came to the rescue with the idea of remodeling it into a music hall and moving the musicians from the downtown conservatory to the campus.

The idea caught on and alumni and friends gave \$25,000 to make it a reality. The building was jacked up and a new foundation to bedrock put in place. The stonework and the roof were repaired and new walks constructed. The interior was rearranged to be appropriate for the study of music and other arts.

The "new" building was ready for use in 1923. "The Campus" reported a public opening on October 20, homecoming that year. And so for the last 45 years the hall has served efficiently -- and sometimes loudly -- as a music center and as a home for speech and drama study, the KTJO-FM radio station and the student health facility.

At the notable age of 100 years the building thus is not only a beautiful and stately symbol, it is a vital part of the University plant.

While the educational uses of the

building are most important, certain activities have a vivid place.

All of the concert choirs, the orchestras and the bands, the quartets and other music groups have been organized there and sent through countless rehearsals. Debaters, too, call it home and there have built their cases and perfected their presentations.

The dignity of the old hall knows something of rowdiness. "Painting the dome" is a distinctive Ottawa traditional activity, the origin of which seems lost in antiquity. Most Ottawans at some point in their collegiate days climbed to the roof -- sharply slanting though it is -- and daringly painted remarks or numerals on the shining dome. Even Lulu Brown admits climbing upward to splash paint around at least once.

For most of the years it has been against the rule to follow this tradition, the University administration desiring to protect the lives of its students. (Senior classes may legally paint once a year.) Assistant Business Manager Walter Pankratz a few years ago had flood lights placed on the roof to illuminate the dome. That made it a beautiful night landmark, but reduced the number of illegal painting forays only slightly. So far, there have been few serious injuries, and that is sort of a miracle, considering the number of people who have been on the rooftop.

In early years, the recital hall in

the structure was often the scene of various social events and recitals. But with the coming of spacious residence hall lounges, the University Union and the University Chapel, the number of such occasions has declined sharply.

The name, Tauy Jones Hall, did not come with the building. For more than 50 years it was known as the university or college building. In 1923, at the time of its remodeling, it was named in honor of John Tecumseh (Tauy) Jones, interpreter for the Ottawa Indians and one of

the founders of the University. Half Indian and half English, born in the year 1808, he was educated in Madison University, now Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y. He died in 1873 and is buried in the Indian cemetery northeast of Ottawa.

What about the future of the hall?

Immediately, it will serve as it has in the last 45 years. When a new fine arts or music hall comes about, there will be many possible uses for Tauy Jones Hall. Faculty member Dr. Ann Greer would like to have the Department of English housed there. Others suggest that it be used as a museum. Suffice it to say that as long as it remains in its present sound structural condition it will be used happily and beneficially -- as it has been in its first century.

