

## History



JOHN TECUMSEH JONES

French and English, to be a counselor and chief to them. They offered the position to the future founder of Ottawa University, who, in 1833, accepted it, and the westward movement began.

"Tauy" Jones was always a friend of education. When, in 1860, therefore, the Baptist Convention of the new State of Kansas chartered Roger Williams University and looked for a place to locate, he suggested to the Indians that they give 20,000 acres of land as an endowment, if the university were located at Ottawa. The Baptists accepted the offer, and the university opened its doors to Indian children alone early in the sixties, in a building somewhere on what is now Hickory Street. After a few years the Indians withdrew, after making a settlement with the whites, by which the university kept 640 acres of land; the charter was changed, and Ottawa University was incorporated on April 21, 1865, and started on her long journey.

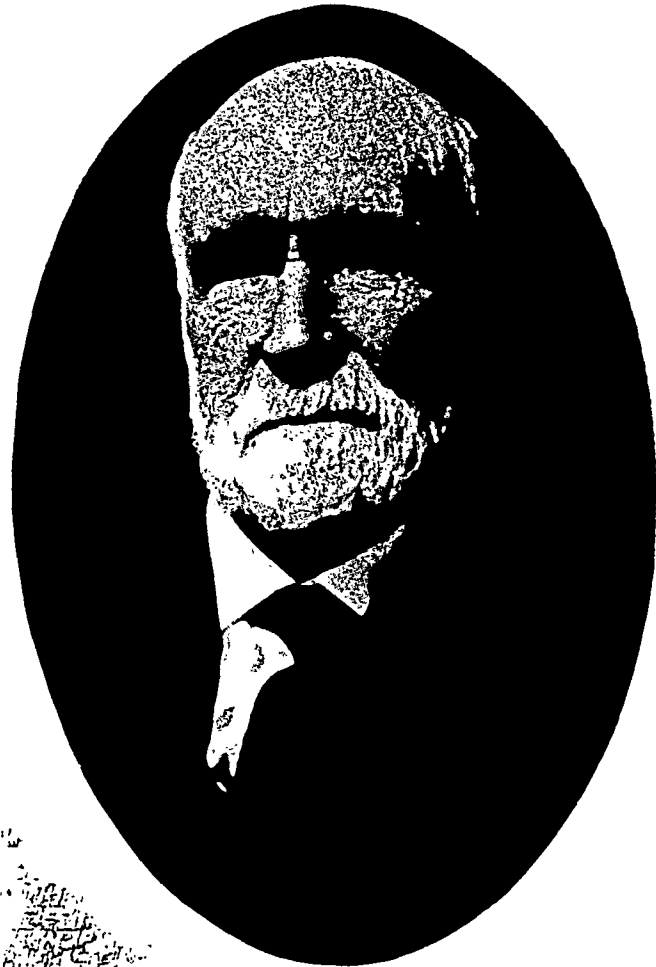
In May, 1869, the university opened as an academy, with three teachers, and Dr. Philetus Phales as principal, in the Science Hall, which cost \$40,000.00. Within a year, however, the school was practically on the rocks, financially, and it did not seem as though it could continue to exist. Under such conditions, in the fall of 1870, Dr. Milan L. Ward was called to the presidency from the Delaware Literary Institute.

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The history of any educational institution may be traced in the biographies of two or three men. There are always others who have done much, but two or three stand out like mountain peaks above the foothills. This is especially so of a small denominational college, and Ottawa University is no exception to the general rule.

Three men are outstanding in the history of Ottawa. They are John Tecumseh Jones, the founder; Milan L. Ward, "the grand old man" of Ottawa University; and Silas Eber Price, the present president. There have been other presidents, but their terms have been but transition periods.

John Tecumseh Jones was born in Canada, among the Chippewa Indians, in 1808. The Baptists were already engaged in missionary work among these Indians, and, at the age of 16, "Tauy" Jones, as he was called, went to a Baptist Academy in Michigan, where he received his secondary education. He finished his education at Madison (now Colgate) University, graduating in 1832. Just at this time, the Ottawa Indians were being moved from their home in northern New York to their new reservation, in Franklin County, Kansas. The Government was looking for some educated man, who spoke both



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