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## THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES<sup>1</sup>

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### I. BEGINNINGS

The Morrill Act establishing the Land Grant Colleges was signed by Abraham Lincoln, July 2, 1862. The gift of public lands was accepted by the Ohio Legislature in 1864, and at the same time, the responsibility of establishing and maintaining an Agricultural and Mechanical College. Provision was made concurrently for the first Board of Trustees—twenty-one in number. They first met in the office of Governor Rutherford B. Hayes, where they discussed and pondered upon what the college should be. At a later meeting, Mr. Joseph Sullivant reiterated that he was in favor of a broad and liberal foundation, and that if the Board had the means he would teach all that was worth knowing. The difference of opinion held then gradually wore away and, to a great degree, the concept of Mr. Sullivant and others like him has prevailed throughout the school.

The college was located in Franklin County in 1870, and on the William Neil farm north of Columbus in 1871. 331.11 acres were purchased. The course of study was decided upon, January 5, 1871, and it was the same that Mr. Sullivant had proposed at an earlier session. The same day the Trustees accepted Mr. Sullivant's drawing for the Seal of the College. The contract for the building was let the following July. University Hall, as it was later called, was built just north of a spring of clear, cool water.

A faculty of seven members was elected in January and April, 1873. They were present when school opened on September 17th, and seventeen students came. Others arrived the next day, and by the end of the school year about fifty students had been accepted. Some of the young people, being considered unqualified to enter, were turned away.

#### THE FIRST FACULTY OF THE OHIO AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE 1873

Mr. Edward Orton, President, and Professor of Geology, Mining, and Metallurgy.

Mr. Thomas C. Mendenhall, Professor of Physics and Mechanics.

Dr. Sidney A. Norton, Professor of General and Applied Chemistry.

Mr. Joseph Milliken, Professor of English and Modern Language and Literature.

Dr. Norton S. Townshend, Professor of Agriculture and Botany.

Mr. John H. Wright, Assistant Professor of Ancient Languages and Literature.

Mr. Robert W. McFarland, Professor of Mathematics and Engineering.

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Subjects anticipated to be taught by Joseph Sullivant and later by the Board of Trustees were Zoology and Veterinary Science, which were introduced in 1874 and 1885 respectively, and Political Economy and Civil Polity, added in 1875. The Horticulture and Vegetable Physiology originally prescribed were apparently included in Botany at the time.

By 1878, the College had been reorganized with change in politics, three times, the changes affecting the Board of Trustees rather than the Faculty. The last time, however, the name of the institution was changed to The Ohio State University, and the Board was again reduced to seven members.

In the seventy-seven years which have passed since 1873, a gradual expanding in all the areas of learning in the University has occurred. It may be seen in the subdivision of existing departments, which has happened time and again, and in the creation of others. The foundation of each new department has usually been laid in courses already being taught, the need for the new department finally becoming evident. The expansion in biology illustrates the growth process apparent throughout the University during the years.

## II. THE EVOLUTION OF THE BIOLOGICAL DEPARTMENTS

Dr. Norton S. Townshend was Professor of Agriculture and Botany in the first faculty of 1873. The Department of Horticulture and Botany was formed in 1880, Professor A. P. Morgan, Chairman, and Professor William R. Lazenby, his successor in 1881. This department was resolved into two others in 1891, the Chair of Horticulture being retained by Professor Lazenby. The new Chair of Botany and Forestry was accepted by Professor William A. Kellerman the same year.

The forestry division was returned to the Department of Horticulture in 1894, where it remained until 1908. At that time it was set up as a separate department, the chairmanship being assumed by Professor Lazenby. The Department of Horticulture passed to the headship of Professor Wendell Paddock in 1909. Professor Lazenby died in 1916, and the next year the two departments were merged, Professor Paddock in charge.

The expanding Department of Horticulture and Forestry came under the chairmanship of Dr. J. H. Gourley in 1929 and after his death, of Dr. Freeman S. Howlett in 1947.

The Department of Botany passed to the chairmanship of Professor John H. Shaffner in 1908. It has continued to flourish under the subsequent headships of Dr. Edgar N. Transeau, 1917, and Dr. Bernard S. Meyer, 1946. The name of this department was changed in 1946 to the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology.

The Chair of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy was created in 1874 and accepted by Professor Albert H. Tuttle. He was succeeded by Professor David S. Kellicott in 1888. In 1891, this department was enlarged and divided, Professor Kellicott becoming Chairman of the Department of Zoology and Entomology and Dr. A. M. Bleile, Chairman of the Department of Anatomy and Physiology.

The Department of Zoology and Entomology has continued its growth under the headships of Drs. Herbert Osborn, 1898, Raymond C. Osburn, 1917, Laurence H. Snyder, 1942, and David F. Miller, 1947.

## III. AGENCIES IN BIOLOGY AND RELATED SCIENCES ORIGINATING AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Through the action of faculty members, ever mindful of widening opportunity and service, numerous organizations have arisen at the University which have played their part in the development of the Biological Sciences at the University and in the State. They are:

1. *The Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station.* The Station was authorized by the Ohio Legislature, April 17, 1882. Professor William R. Lazenby of the University was its sponsor and first director. It was moved from the University to

near Wooster, Ohio, in 1891, with Mr. C. E. Thorne, Director. In recent years a growing co-operation between the University and the Station has been occurring both in administration and in research. Dean Leo L. Rummell of the College of Agriculture of the University is also the Director of the Station.

2. *The Biology Club.* The club began under the name of the Biological Club of The Ohio State University and the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. Its first minutes were recorded in 1891. It continues to hold meetings throughout the school year. The most notable achievement of this club was the founding of the state Academy. Dr. W. D. Gray is the current President.

3. *The Ohio Academy of Science.* The Academy was organized in 1891 and it was incorporated, March 12, 1892. Its publication of reports and research papers began the same year and continued through 1902 in the four volumes of *Annual Reports*. The ensuing Annual Reports together with some papers, continued through 1930 in the five volumes of the *Proceedings*. The name of the Academy was shortened from the Ohio State Academy of Science in 1909.

The first volume of the *Ohio Naturalist*, official organ of the Academy, was published in 1903, and it covered the period after 1900. This volume and the next four were published by the Biological Club. The *Ohio Naturalist* became the *Ohio Journal of Science* in 1915, the official organ of the "Ohio State Scientific Society" and the Ohio Academy of Science. By 1927 the society was forgotten, and the Academy and the Journal were entirely freed of reference to their origin. The Journal contains the Annual Reports of the Academy since 1930. It is now in its fiftieth volume of the complete series. This journal has become a most valued medium of communication and exchange throughout the world.

Dr. Edward S. Thomas is currently President of the Academy, and Dr. Glenn W. Blaydes continues as Editor of the *Journal* since 1941.

4. *Franz Theodore Stone Institute of Hydrobiology.* The history of the Lake Laboratory began with an idea of Professor David H. Kellicott in 1891. His hopes were realized in 1896 when a second story was completed on the State Fish Hatchery Building at Sandusky, Ohio. It was used by him and his students that summer. This laboratory has grown in size and service, has had four different sites, and today exists as the Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory on Gibraltar Island, Put-in-Bay, Ohio. Eighty-six known papers emanating from research carried on in this laboratory had been published by 1928 when the contributions began. The story of the growth of the laboratory, written by Dr. Thomas H. Langlois, its Director, may be found in the latest *Contribution*, No. 11. This Institute was authorized in 1950.

5. *The Ohio Biological Survey.* The idea of the Survey originated with members of the Ohio Academy of Science, and it was proposed through the agency of the Academy, to the Board of Trustees of the University. The Survey was authorized in 1912, and has issued forty-one Bulletins dealing with the biology of Ohio. Dr. Herbert Osborn has continued as Director since the origin of the Survey.

6. *The Plant Institute.* The institute was organized in 1921 at the suggestion of Dr. Edgar N. Transeau, to include all the plant science departments of the College of Agriculture of the University. Reports by faculty members and graduate students of the Departments of Botany and Plant Pathology, Horticulture and Forestry, Agronomy, Agricultural Biochemistry, and more recently of Agricultural Engineering, have been presented through the years. Today the meetings are held bi-weekly throughout the school year. Invitation speakers from other institutions are occasionally sponsored by the Institute and the Graduate School. Dr. Richard A. Popham is Chairman.

7. *The Columbus Entomological Society.* This society was founded in 1936 by Dr. Frank L. Campbell and other entomologists and graduate students in the Department of Zoology and Entomology. It was organized to promote scientific and social activity among all the entomologists of the Columbus area. Monthly meetings are held during the school year. Mr. Howard Hintz is President.

8. *The Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology.* This institute was established in 1946 to facilitate the instruction of students, to promote research, and to foster closer co-operation in this field of endeavor by the University and the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. Thomas S. Sutton is Director.

9. *The Institute of Genetics.* The Genetics Seminar began at the University under the guidance of Dr. Laurence H. Snyder about 1935. It was interdepartmental, and has held weekly meetings during the school years. This seminar group is the nucleus of the Institute of Genetics which was created by the University in June, 1950. The latter will co-ordinate teaching and research in genetics, and will sponsor the programs of research in genetics carried out by the University and the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. Dr. David C. Rife is Chairman.

#### IV. THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

1949-1950

To contemplate today the open expanse of the Neil Farm as it became the home of the future Ohio State University on October 13, 1870, and to do so in the light of all that has transpired here which has made the University what it is today, is to perceive a wonder in accomplishment.

As in the sister Land Grant Colleges and Universities, the achievement has been brought to pass by the concerted efforts of devoted people, wise in the long run, some responsible for its development and others supporting it with funds and good will.

At the end of the Spring Quarter 1950 we find:

41 deans, junior deans and directors  
 1,289 members of the faculty who serve full time  
 410 members of the faculty who serve part-time  
 996 assistant instructors, assistants and graduate assistants

2,736 The Total Faculty

2,216 non-teaching Personnel  
 88 Departments of Instruction

21,691 men students registered  
 6,599 women students registered

28,290 The Student Body. Of these:  
 5,433 students registered in the Graduate School  
 5,801 Bachelor's Degrees granted during the year  
 794 Master's Degrees  
 229 Doctor of Philosophy Degrees

836,900 Books in the Library, June 9th, 1950  
 \$339,274.39 Amount of the Development Fund, 1949  
 417 acres, the Campus  
 383 acres, the University Air Port  
 295 acres, the University Golf Course  
 1,009 acres, the University Farm

2,104 The Total Acreage of the University  
 \$43,237,774.03 the value of the Physical Plant of the University

The value of the service of the University is incalculable, and to that its 80,942 Alumni would testify.

#### SOURCES

1. History of the Ohio State University, edited by Thomas C. Mendenhall. Volume I, 1920, and Volume II, 1926. The Ohio State University Press. Columbus.
2. Memory, current records and interviews.