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WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY--LA CROSSE
GRADUATE SCHOOL

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July 1965
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107172

AN EARLY HISTORY OF GALESVILLE UNIVERSITY

A Seminar Paper

Presented to

the Faculty of the Department of

History and Social Sciences

Wisconsin State University La Crosse, Wisconsin

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of History and Social Sciences

by

June H. Ruoff

August 1965

COLLEGE FOR THE MASSES.

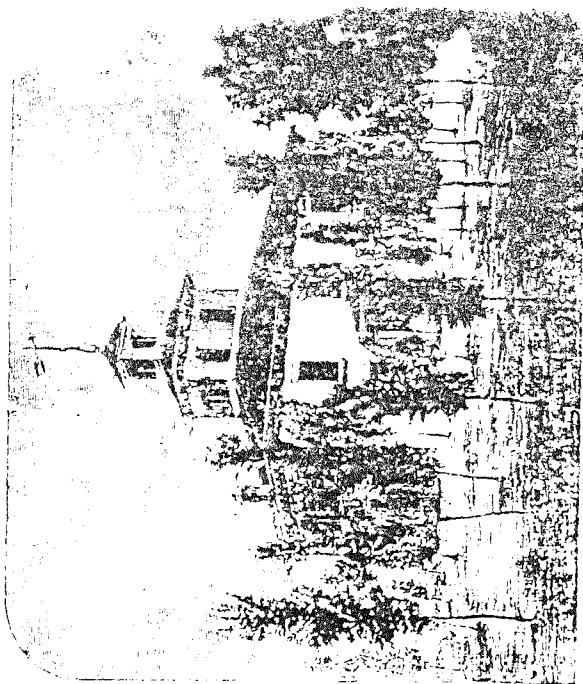
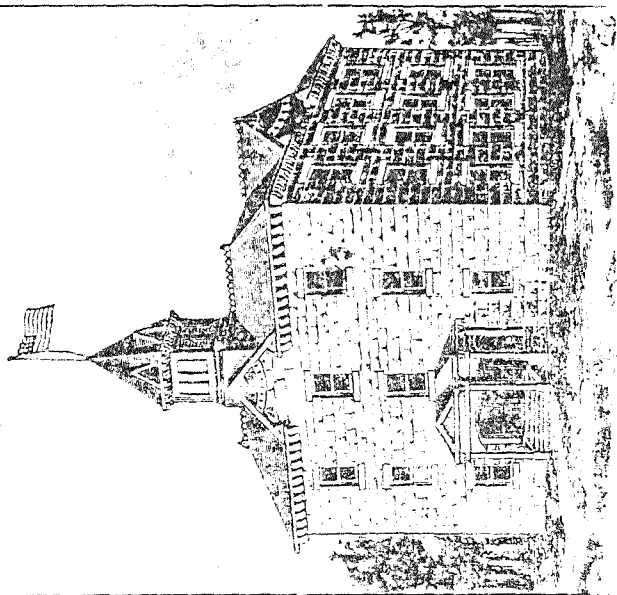


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ABSTRACT

The subject for this seminar paper is the early history of Galesville University, located in Galesville, Wisconsin. This university was chartered in 1854. The first classes met in 1858, and the first graduation was in 1865. It was closed as a college in 1939. The school was the result of the efforts of George Gale who also founded the village of Galesville. He endowed this new institution with a considerable amount of virgin land to promote the growth of his foremost ambition, an institution of higher learning for the youth of northwestern Wisconsin.

The school opened under the guidance of the Rev. Samuel Fallows just graduated from the University of Wisconsin. It was co-educational from the start, and, although without religious requirement, was under the control of the West Wisconsin Methodist Conference until 1876.

In that year the Presbyterians assumed responsibility of the university and controlled it for the next twenty-five years. In 1901 it was purchased by the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. It was finally closed for the lack of attendance and because of financial difficulties.

Although it was never a large school, Galesville University did much to keep alive the torch of learning in Wisconsin's north west.

INTRODUCTION

The charter for Galesville University was obtained in January of 1854 by George Gale. At this same time he also obtained the organization of the new county of Trempealeau, with its seat at the village of Galesville, which was to be the location of the university. It was planned as a university being authorized for departments of letters, mechanical arts, agriculture, law, medicine and theology, to which was later added military science and tactics. The building of the university, begun in 1858, was completed in 1862.

Mr. Gale induced Rev. Samuel Fallows to start classes in May of 1859 in the recently erected frame courthouse while work proceeded on the university building. In the fall of 1859 classes opened in the first completed building on the university campus.

Scholarships were issued to obtain funds for the completion of the building of the university.¹ After several years these were redeemed in exchange for lands owned by the university. Little was left for the maintenance of instruction except the farm attached to the building.

¹The scholarships were purchased by prominent persons of this area to help finance the continued building of the university. They in turn would select students to be given free tuition to attend the university. The donors would be given recognition on the certificates.

The charter gave control of the university to the Methodist Episcopal Church of Wisconsin, which assumed that control in 1859. In 1877 a change in the terms of the charter transferred the control of the university to the Presbyterian General Assembly, and in 1901 it was purchased by the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. The name was changed from Galesville University to Gale College, and it continued as a college until 1939. For the next two years the buildings remained unoccupied. Then in 1941 the buildings were sold to the Society of Mary. The Marynook novitiate was then established.

A fire in the 1880's destroyed the records of the early history of this university, therefore, the source material for this paper was obtained from secondary references: manuscripts, that were written by a historian from Galesville, Wisconsin, letters, newspaper clippings, some catalogs, and verbal reflections by the alumni of the university.

GEORGE GALE



Judge George Gale
As of Year Before Death in 1868

THE FOUNDER

George Gale was born November 30, 1816, at Burlington, Vermont. He attended common school but not college; in later life he received several honorary degrees. In the Gale Family Records, he wrote:-

The facilities for an education was a common school, a mile down the mountain, which was made available, and the children all obtained a fair common school education including Arithmetic and Grammar. Until his sixteenth year he was regarded as a dull scholar, and made no more than the ordinary advancement in his studies, but excelled in his skill in hunting the Partridge and Woodchuck with his dog and gun, and in fishing for the speckled trout in the mountain brooks, to which sports he devoted every hour which he could obtain from his ordinary employment in clearing land and farming.¹ But, in the summer of his sixteenth year, he borrowed of a neighbor, Walter's Life of Bonaparte, which he read very attentively and it had the effects of arousing his latent ambition, and he came to the very sensible conclusion that usefulness, fame and wealth was not so much an accident as an achievement reached by patient industry and talent, and that in that age of science and knowledge, the successful competitor would probably be the one best instructed in the science and knowledge of the world.

From this time hunting and fishing ceased to be his favorite sport and he devoted every leisure moment in reading approved authors in history, biography and travels, and after about two years he procured Flint's treatise on Land Surveying, and fully mastered its contents without an instructor and commenced practical surveying with success. After surveying, he took up Navigation, Chemistry, and Works on Astronomy, Mineralogy, and Geology; and at twenty-one years of age George had obtained a fair knowledge

¹In the Gale Family Records Gale wrote in the third person about himself.

of the higher mathematics and Natural History (formerly botany and zoology).²

At the age of 23, he commenced reading law, and two years later was admitted to the bar. The preceding year, 1840, he served as Postmaster of Waterbury Center, Vermont. In 1841 he migrated to Elkhorn, Walworth county, Wisconsin, and engaged in the practice of law. While living there he married Gertrude Young in 1844.³ The fall election of 1847 listed him as a delegate to the convention called to form the constitution of the new state of Wisconsin, where he served on the judiciary committee. Two years later he became State Senator, and in 1851 became a Brigadier General in the militia.⁴ This same year he moved to La Crosse and continued to practice law. At this time he also served as county judge for La Crosse and Chippewa Counties, resigning this office in June, 1854.⁵ In 1856 he won the election as judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit.

Imbued with the idea that the youth of north western Wisconsin should have educational advantages beyond that of

²George Gale, The Gale Family Record, (Galesville, Wisconsin: Leith & Gale Printers, 1886), p. 164.

³Editorial in the Galesville Republican, May 6, 1934.

⁴Editorial in the Galesville Republican, April 7, 1931.

⁵Arthur Giere, "History of Galesville University, 1854-1940" (unpublished manuscript, Galesville: 1940), p. 11.

common schools, he sought to interest La Crosse in establishing a school of higher learning. The country being new, the project did not find favor with the people, and nothing was done to carry out this worthy design.⁶ Gale, though unsuccessful in that effort, did establish a village and build a school.

Mr. Gale moved from La Crosse to a farm near Galesville in May, 1857, and from here he carried on serving as circuit judge, platted Galesville, mapped Trempealeau county, and founded Galesville University. Besides these, he was one of the first promoters of a railroad to reach La Crosse, and though it was never built under the proposed name, it was an incentive for others to later acquire rail transportation.⁷

During the Civil War Judge Gale, too old for active service in the field, and holding a commission as brigadier general in the militia, joined armies in east southern states. He served for a time as head of the United States sanitary commission depot on Morris Island, having charge during the siege of Charleston. While on duty he contracted malaria, which left him in ill health his remaining years,

⁶Daniel Steele Durrie, "Memoir of George Gale," Wisconsin Historical Collections, (Madison: Published by the Society, 1908), Volume 7, 423.

⁷The Galesville Centennial, 1854-1954, (Galesville: Centennial Committee, 1954), p. 6.

and caused his decision to resign as president of the university.⁸

After the graduation of the first university class in 1865, and his resignation from the presidency of the university, he retired to his farm where he died on April 18, 1868, just before his 52nd birthday.⁹ He was buried on the university grounds where a monument has been erected and the lot enclosed with an iron fence.

In June, 1880 a portrait of him was placed in the library of the school.¹⁰ At the bottom of this portrait is an inscription, done in Latin, which conveys the following sentiments:

We, the present custodians, accept this very fine likeness of George Gale, the benevolent founder of the university, as evidence that we, as far as we are able, will in his stead, continue and complete his work, for our country and posterity forever.

Dated this 3rd day before the Calends of July, A. D., 1880.

George Gale achieved the reputation as a person competent in many lines of work. An array of titles and accomplishments follows the mention of his name. Among his degrees were those of Master of Arts and Doctor of Law.

⁸Galesville Republican, May 6, 1934.

⁹Arthur Giere, "History of Galesville University, 1854-1940," p. 15.

¹⁰William Gale, Jr., presented the portrait of his father to the university. It had been done by an artist in Brooklyn, New York. Galesville Independent, July, 1880.

In addition to his work as a statesman and judge, he found time to continue for eleven years as head of Galesville University. As a journalist, Gale started the Western Star at Elkhorn, the first paper in Walworth County, and was a correspondent for the Galesville Transcript for five years.¹¹ One of the most active societies of Galesville University was the Upper Mississippi Historical Society which was founded at the university in 1863.¹² Gale was the organizer of this society, and he became its president. He was greatly interested in the aboriginal history of the Northwestern states, and in the State Historical Society (of which he was an honorary member, and subsequently a vice-president). He prepared a paper on the "History of the Chippewa Nation of Indians," which was read before the society.¹³ His other literary works are the Wisconsin Form Book, 1856, which was revised and passed through three editions; the Gale Family Record, 1866, and the Upper Mississippi, 1867, his last work.¹⁴

A contemporary of Georhe Gale wrote about him:

¹¹"George Gale," Biographical History of La Crosse, Trempealeau and Buffalo Counties, Wisconsin, 1892, 739.

¹²Ibid., p. 740.

¹³Daniel Steele Durie, op. cit., p. 424.

¹⁴"George Gale," op. cit., 741.

It would perhaps be proper to say that he was almost intollerant in his sense and administration of justice, either on or off the bence. Judicious lawyers understood the consequence of incurring his serious displeasure, and usually avoided that calamity. He was a strong man, with strong purposes, strong attachments, and strong aversions; and when he decided war against a man he made the fur fly. He struck boldly, and caused his friends to join in what he might term as an "anvil chorus" when he gave the truce for "music from the entire band." His devotion to the excellent educational institution at Galesville, now flourishing under the presidnecy of Professor J. W. McLaury (1877-1884), who was the first man to shake up the citizens of La Crosse to the need of greater efficiency in the public schools, did not permit any of his friends to lose an opportunity to contribute to the success of his favorite enterprise. 15

¹⁵Quoted by Giere, "History of Galesville University, 1854-1940," p. 16.

THE BUILDING OF A UNIVERSITY

In June, 1855, four years before the first classes of the university were in session, a board of trustees was organized. It consisted of fifteen members. George Gale became the president, Samuel Luce, the secretary, and Benjamin Houston, the treasure.¹ As was customary in that period, small universities and colleges were usually placed under the patronage and control of some church denomination. In April, 1857, at a meeting of the trustees of the board, George Gale and John French were authorized to offer the Galesville University to the Methodist Episcopal Church of the West Wisconsin Conference for its control and patronage.² Gale, as a charter member of the first Methodist Church organized in La Crosse, may have had some influence on the selection of the Methodist Church for the controlling body. At the meeting of the trustees of the board in July, 1858, it was reported by Gale and French that the church would accept the offer of April, 1857.³

¹Giere, "History of Galesville University, 1854-1940," p. 7.

²The trustees of Galesville University sent to this Conference an offer, accompanied with a request "for the Conference to take that institution under its supervision and control," whereupon an able committee was appointed to consider the expediency of the request, and report to the Conference at its next session, 1858.

³The committee recommended to the Conference of April, 1858, to accept the offer of the trustees and to take the institution under its patronage and control.

When the university building was commenced in 1858, there were but a few families in the village of Galesville; and the town of Gale was very sparsely settled. There were few people who could spare the time to assist Gale with his project because they were busy building their homes and cultivating the fields. Nevertheless the citizens and the Board of Trustees assisted Gale in every way they could, because they were also anxious to build a school which would afford to their children the opportunity for a liberal education.⁴

The architect and superintendent of wood work was Samuel Luce, Gale's brother in-law. John French hauled the timber, and William Cram delivered the limestone from a quarry 1½ miles west of the site. George Gale had the "general power to purchase materials and make contracts."⁵ The building was a two story structure 47½ by 57½ feet with walls 30 feet in height.

Financial help was most significant to complete the building of the university. The Board decided that the sale of scholarships would be a possible way of continuing the work. This could create a problem, because purchases could be made by persons that would not be desirable. Because of

⁴Arthur Giere, "Historical Items," (Galesville: 1942), p. 116. (Manuscript.)

⁵Giere, "History of Galesville University," p. 6.

the financial pinch, however, the plan met with approval. The majority of the scholarships were issued to Gale. The Board felt that Gale would in no way defeat the object of his ambition.⁶ Because of the sales of scholarships the building of the university continued. Two rooms were completed for use at the beginning of the fall term of 1859. By the fall term of 1862 the project was completed, and the first university catalog was issued. Assets totalled \$17,150. This figure included 1096 acres of land valued at \$10,400, three lots in La Crosse and Trempealeau valued at \$700, proceeds from the sale of scholarships which brought in \$5450, and 237 books valued at \$600.⁷

The committee on education of the Methodist Church Conference reported favorably on the condition of the institution at this time. After an examination into the financial and educational condition of the institution, the committee was convinced that it had been conducted with financial skill and on the basis of strict Christian morals. In their opinion it was worthy of the support of the church and the public.⁸

⁶Giere, "Historical Items," p. 119.

⁷Giere, "History of Galesville University," p.6.

⁸Ibid., pp. 21-22.

CONTROL AND PATRONAGE OF GALESVILLE UNIVERSITY

The school, known as the oldest in the state, was built, as has been aptly said, by George Gale. He remained president of the school until 1865, when his resignation was forced because of ill health. The first epoch in the history of the school includes the years between 1859 and 1877. It was deemed desirable to place the institution under the control of some church organization, and this was accomplished when, in 1858, the Methodist Episcopal Church accepted this trust, which remained in its charge until the year 1877. Vice-presidents serving during Gale's reign as president through the early years included Samuel Fallows, later Bishop Fallows, from 1859 to 1861; Rev. T. H. McGill, serving only two weeks;¹ Rev. J. L. Farber, 1861-1864; and Prof. Lyman Cheney, 1864-1865. In 1865, the Rev. Harrison Gilliland was elected president of the institution also president of the Board of Trustees. He served until 1877 when he resigned, and recommended that the institution be placed under the control of some religious denomination which was able to render the necessary support. The Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church accordingly passed a resolution to raise a sum of fifty thousand dollars among its members. An attempt to solicit

¹Rev. McGill and his wife took charge of the university in September, 1861, but, because of the enrollment of only 10 students, they became discouraged and resigned.

this money was made, but proved futile.³

At the close of the Gilliland presidency, the school was turned over to the Presbyterian General Assembly.⁴ In that regime changes were made in the school plan. The new trustees revised the course, ruling that the school should follow the schedules offered by the Phillips Academy of Andover, Massachusetts, instead of the regular collegiate grades before offered.⁵ In 1880 the War Department provided an instructor of military tactics and drill, and the Galesville University became a full fledged military school. Lieutenant John L. Clem, who was known in the history of the Civil War as "the drummer boy of Chickamauga," was appointed to take full charge of the military instruction at the school.⁶ In 1882 Lieutenant Clem was succeeded by Lieutenant G. N. Chase who served in this capacity until 1883, when the military department was discontinued; as it had not proven

³Notwithstanding the agreement between the university and the Conference that no pecuniary aid would ever be requested, this institution had for several years been intimating to the Conference that they needed aid in securing a suitable endowment. The pressure was made so strong that the Committee on Education recommended that the Conference (1873) pledge \$50,000 to the institution. It appeared to many as entirely unjust and impractical, but it was rushed to a vote and passed.

⁴During this year (1877), through some secret effort, the charter of this institution was annulled by an act of the State Legislature and was transferred to another church.

⁵Giere, "Historical Items," p. 124.

⁶Galesville Centennial, 1854-1954, p. 8.

practical. Presidents serving during the Presbyterian regime included Rev. John W. McLawry, 1877-1883; Rev. J. Irwin Smith, 1883-1888; Rev. J. M. Rogers, 1888-1894; Rev. J. George, 1894-1896; during the following year the school closed,⁷ but in 1897 Rev. G. James Jones was secured as president and served until 1898. Rev. W. D. Thomas took charge in 1898, serving until the transfer of the school in 1901.⁸ This denomination found itself in the financial position of having to choose between Galesville University and Carroll College, Waukesha. Carroll being the stronger won the decision. The university was sold to the Norwegian Synod Lutheran Church for the sum of \$6,500 for the title.⁹

The Lutherans took over in 1902, and for the next 37 years carried on quite successfully. The same situation as with the Presbyterians came about as the Lutheran church body had many demands upon it for support of two colleges. The elimination of some preparatory schools was deemed necessary, and Gale College closed its doors.¹⁰

⁷The university did not operate during the school year 1896-1897 because of the debt of the school having reached \$4,800. Late in 1896 a cash bequest of \$2,000 was received, and it was decided that the school could resume classes in 1897.

⁸Giere, "Historical Items," p. 127.

⁹Gale College, 1912-1913, (Galesville: 1912), p. 14.

¹⁰Galesville Centennial, 1854-1954, p. 10.

COLLEGES OF THE UNIVERSITY

Galesville University had several colleges. There was a college of liberal arts which had a scientific department where sciences from astronomy to zoology were offered. Nine foreign languages were taught in the classical department. There was a school of agriculture and mechanical sciences, with an experimental farm. This was one of the pioneer agricultural schools in the state. Gale Biblical Institute was founded in 1858 and many degrees were awarded in the department of theology. A College of Law produced many students who were admitted to law practice in the state. Another department was the University School of Medicine. The Normal and Primary school placed many of their graduates in the rural areas. The Military Academy of the early 1880's has been previously mentioned. A Conservatory of Music was a part of the university, and a Cadet Band was formed. The university also had a School of Commerce and an Institute of Fine Arts.¹

George Gale was interested in scientific farming. He was instrumental in organizing a County Agricultural Society which still functions after the passage of more than a century. He contributed much of his wealth to further this cause. On August 25, 1858, the university received from him a farm of 186 acres valued at \$5,000 as an endowment. It was donated on the condition stated "that

¹A. Giere, "Stories by Giere," (Galesville: 1964), p. 56.

said lands shall be kept and used as an annual labor farm for the agricultural and mechanical department; and provided, further, that said \$5000 shall be considered as the half endowment of a professorship of theoretical and practical agriculture and horticulture in said University."³ At this time he deeded other sections of land valued at approximately \$1000 toward the same endowment.⁴ The university catalog for 1863-1864 offered the course in agriculture in the second year of the Normal Class.

In April, 1858 the university established a department of Theology. The foundation provided that the Theological Department would be under the advisory control of the Methodist Episcopal Church and that all donations received would be with that understanding. All the professors and teachers for this department would also be nominated by the Methodist Episcopal Church Conference.⁵

George Gale endowed a professorship in the Theological Department valued at \$5000 which was also invested in real estate. Later he deeded 879 acres for the school of Theology. Ultimately he gave 1000 acres for this purpose in addition to 33 lots of city property. In July, 1859 he again donated

³Quoted by Giere, op. cit., p. 58.

⁴Ibid., p. 59.

⁵Giere, "History of Galesville College," p. 41.

15 free scholarships for this department.⁶

The Methodist Episcopal Church advisory council changed the name of the department to "The Gale Biblical Institute."⁷ Perhaps this was their way of showing their appreciation for all Gale had done for their advancement. George Gale endowed Galesville University out of his own personal estate over thirty-two thousand dollars, and from this amount some thirteen thousand dollars was designated for the Theological Department.

It was on July 1, 1858, that the Department of Law was established. In September, 1858 Gale deeded land to the university with the provision that the interest or rent from this should be applied to the payment of the salaries of the professors in the Law School.⁸ Mr. D. O. Van Slyke, author of the "Garden of Eden" story,⁹ and many others also deeded to the university sections of land for the same purpose. By 1864 this department was endowed with 1742 acres of rural lands and 11 village lots. Gale also established nine perpetual scholarships for the department.

⁶Ibid., p. 42.

⁷Ibid., p. 43.

⁸Giere, "History of Galesville University," p. 65.

⁹The Rev. D. O. Van Slyke, an early-day Methodist circuit rider, wrote a 40-page "Garden of Eden" story, in which he suggests that the plat known as Galesville could very well be the location of the garden.

The first graduate of the law school was George Y. Freeman, and George Gale Jr. finished the law course in 1865. By 1863 the Law Department already had over eleven hundred volumes in its library. The principal teacher in the law school was George Gale, who was later assisted by George Y. Freeman.¹⁰

The Civil War brought changes to the new university. Rev. Samuel Fallows organized a military company, and trained students in marching and marksmanship. He drilled recruits on the school campus until 1862, when he resigned to become chaplain of a regiment. When the war closed, this training ceased. However, Galesville University did become a military academy in June, 1879, under the leadership of Lt. John L. Clem, as a professor of Military Science and Tactics. With the approval of this establishment and the arrival of Lt. Clem also came various pieces of equipment, including a cannon, muskets, sidearms and other items listed for such schools at the time.¹¹

Two companies of cadets were organized, and daily drills were held on the campus. The appearance of the cadets on the campus and in the streets of Galesville helped in the recruitment of new students. Young Lt. Clem became popular in the social life of Galesville, and he was very well liked

¹⁰Giere, "History of Galesville College," p. 48.

¹¹Galesville Centennial, 1854-1954, p. 6.

by his young cadets.¹²

Lt. Clem received another assignment after serving Galesville University for two years. He was succeeded by Lt. G. N. Chase, who had been serving in eastern posts. To him the assignment in a western village was unfortunate and beneath his dignity.¹³ He soon found a means of being assigned elsewhere. Since government requirements were such that there had to be a certain number of cadets to be a military school, he discovered the number at Galesville to be short. He reported to Washington. The brief life of the military school ended.¹⁴

At one time, Galesville University had a school of medicine. In September, 1858 George Gale established another endowment fund of one thousand dollars to be used for a professorship in the medical department of Galesville University. This fund was invested in real estate.¹⁵ A medical school was proposed by the La Crosse County Medical Society at a meeting held in December, 1859.. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the possibility of getting the passage by the state legislature of a charter for a

¹²Ibid., p. 9.

¹³Ibid., p. 10.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 11.

¹⁵Arthur Giere, "Literary Sketches," (Galesville: 1965), p. 104.

school of medicine in the village of La Crosse. In March, 1860 the La Crosse Medical Society offered the following resolution: "If practicable and in accordance with the wishes of the trustees of Galesville University we will establish the medical department of the said university in this city."¹⁶

Gale was elected an honorary member of this society, and with his influence the trustees of the university agreed to aid to the extent of their ability in the establishing and carrying out the above mentioned resolution.¹⁷ In April, 1860 Rev. Samuel Fallows, vice-president of the university, offered the resolution that the board would locate the medical department of the university and institute a medical school at La Crosse whenever the necessary arrangements were made.¹⁸

A Doctor Young kept up the interest in this project. He Had graduated from the Chicago Medical School. Dr. Young practiced for a time in the village of La Crosse, and then he moved to Galesville in 1854. He was the brother of Mrs. George Gale. He was the first teacher of medicine in any school in the state of Wisconsin.¹⁹

The college was started in the fall of 1864, and it

¹⁶Ibid., p. 105.

¹⁷Ibid., p. 106.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 106.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 107.

continued in operation for several years. During this time several diplomas were granted.

As has been previously mentioned the Galesville University was divided into several individual departments of instruction as well as schools. Each department of generalized instruction had a definite role to play. The school catalog describes these departments as follows:

The Classical Department - The course curriculum in this department, which covers four years, is substantially like that of other institutions of the country. We hold with strict adherence to all rules. It is believed that the study of Ancient Languages is an absolute necessity for a complete education, and we encourage all students to enter this course. For those who wish to enter the Ministry, instructions will be given in Hebrew, which can be taken as an equivalent for some branch of the Higher Mathematics.

The Scientific Department - This course is intended for those who do not take the Ancient Languages, and the course of study is determined by the Board of Trustees. The students can enroll in any class they choose in any of the studies offered, provided they are academically competent. An elective course can be taken in this same manner.

The Normal Department - This department is intended for those who wish to become qualified teachers. Special attention is given to this class of students, as the course of study prescribed is determined by the Board of Normal Regents. Students completing this three year course and passing a satisfactory examination, are given a Certificate to teach. 21

²⁰ Catalog of Galesville University, 1863-1864,
(Galesville: 1863), pp. 14-15.

Any student, upon the completion of a four-year course received the degree of Bachelor of Arts. At the finish of three additional years he was entitled to the degree of Master of Arts. With the completion of the Scientific Course a Bachelor of Science degree was issued to the male students, and the women students received the Mistress of English Literature degree.²¹

At the first session of the university a School in Commerce was offered. Bookkeeping was the first commercial subject taught, and it was taught during the existence of the school. Later Shorthand and Typing, History of Commerce, Advertising, Commercial Arithmetic, Commercial Law and Machine Operating were added to the School of Commerce. In later years advanced courses led to a degree of Bachelor of Accounts.²²

From the university catalogs other information with regard to outside activities was included. Two organizations were listed as prominent throughout the history of the university. The Upper Mississippi Historical Society was organized as a part of the Scientific Course of study in the university. The object of the society was to collect, arrange and preserve a library of materials illus-

²¹Ibid., p. 16.

²²Giere, "History of Galesville University, 1854-1940," p. 98.

trative of the history of the upper Mississippi valley. The aim of this society was to promote the study of history by lectures and publications written from the material the members of the society had acquired. The library and cabinet of the society were in the university building with a room designated by the Board. This historical society also managed the large library and cabinet of the university. A fee of five dollars was charged to each member, but if a student could not pay the fee some arrangements for extra work in either of the libraries could be done. The faculty and students had access to the society's library and cabinet. They were charged a small fee each term for this privilege.²³

A second organization known as the Bronson Missionary Society was a part of the Biblical Department. The object of this society was to aid the students who wished to study for the ministry. It was through this society's efforts that funds and perpetual scholarships were obtained.²⁴ These were used as free tuition for those students who could not afford to pay their tuition. Students could become members by the payment of one dollar annually to the treasure, or become life members by payment of ten dollars. For twenty-five

²³Catalog of Galesville University, 1863-1864, p. 18; and Giere, "History of Galesville University," p. 96.

²⁴A perpetual scholarship was sold for \$200, a transferable scholarship for twenty-five years \$100, a personal nontransferable for ten years \$50.

dollars an individual could become a life member and also a director of the society.²⁵ Members of the North-West Wisconsin, West Wisconsin and Minnesota Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church were corresponding members and agents for the collection of funds for the society.²⁶

²⁵Catalog of Galesville University, 1863-1864, p. 18; and Giere, "History of Galesville University," p. 97.

²⁶Ibid., p. 19; and p. 98.

PROMINENT ASSOCIATES OF THE UNIVERSITY

Many of the people who have been connected with Galesville University have been prominent in American life. Numerous former administrators, alumni, benefactors, teachers, trustees, and the founder of the university have in the past century attained honors and fame. Some have had their names listed in the records of Who's Who in America.

From this honor roll of prominent names we find these who were closely associated with the university. The Rev. John Frothingham, a teacher at the university from 1861 to 1863, had his name in the publication, Who 's Who in America. He also served as pastor at Galesville and published some papers and is listed as a prominent educator.¹

The Rev. Samuel Fallows, first vice-president of the university, is mentioned as a nationally famed man. He became a bishop, wrote a number of books, and was an eloquent preacher.²

Charles Herried was a student at Galesville University in the late 1870's. Here is what Who Was Who in Amer-

¹Editorial in the La Crosse Tribune, July 19, 1949.

²Alice Fallows, Everybody's Bishop (New York: J. H. Sears and Company, 1927), p. 103. A grand niece of Bishop Fallows presented a portrait of him to the Marynook Society of Mary. It is placed next to that of George Gale.

ica has to say about him.

Ex-governor, born October 20, 1857, Dane county, Wisconsin. Educated at Galesville University 1882; attorney South Dakota 1883; Lt.-Governor 1892-96...Member of the Republican national committee 1898-1900...Federal Food Administrator for South Dakota October 1917-November 1919; trustee of University of S. D. Presbyterian...Author of 'Monumental Military Extravagance,' 1912, and 'The Unicameral Legislature.'"...³

Another student who earned a D. D. degree at Galesville University in 1887 was the Rev. J. L. Scott, born in 1846. He published 'Memoirs of Burns,' 'Memoirs of Tennyson,' and 'Age of Chivalry' by Bullfinch.⁴

The Rev. D. W. Moffatt received a D. D. degree from the university in 1880. He also graduated from Princeton University, and became a clergyman in New York and New Jersey.⁵

As previously mentioned Major General John Clem served in the army from the age of 10 until his retirement. He was born in 1851, and his name appeared in Who's Who for

³Who Was Who in America (Chicago: A. N. Marquis Co, 1960), Volume III, 394.

⁴La Crosse Tribune, May 19, 1949.

⁵Ibid., May, 1949.

many years. Lt. G. N. Chase was born in 1848 and was an army officer of national fame. They were both teachers at the university. These are but a few of the prominent associates in the early history of the university.

CONCLUSION

Galesville University in Galesville, Wisconsin was founded largely as a result of the determination and hard work of Mr. Gale. It was his cherished dream that northwestern Wisconsin would have an institution of higher learning for those students who wished to further their education, and it did survive for nearly a century.

The work of constructing the university building was done under adverse conditions and often discouraging circumstances. The Civil War period was difficult for the university because of the decreased enrollment which in turn lowered the financial income. The fire in 1884 which destroyed the main building was another discouraging circumstance. For a time even the fate of the school seemed dubious, but through the efforts of the friends of the institution it was rebuilt within a year.

During the existence of the university it was under the control and patronage of different boards. Hundreds of students were educated in the school, and they had a broad curriculum from which to choose. The opportunity to become a well educated person was offered to them in several professional and vocational fields of work.

Though there is no objective measure of the contributions to higher education of Galesville University, it undoubtedly stimulated the interest of many for higher education that might otherwise not have developed without the location of Galesville University in northwestern Wisconsin.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A

GALESVILLE UNIVERSITY CHARTER

The Legislature of the State of Wisconsin granted the charter for this university April 1, 1854. This record is found in chapter 296 of the proceedings for that year:

"An Act to Incorporate the Galesville University. The people of the State of Wisconsin, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. That Hiram Knowlton, Francis M. Rublee, Samuel T. Smith, George Gale, William M. Young, William J. Gibson, Benjamin Allen, George Batchelder, Benjamin F. Huston, Benjamin B. Healy, Charles Rutter, James Reed and Isaac Noys, their associates and successors, be, and they are hereby created a body corporate and politic, for educational purposes, in perpetual succession, with the name and title of "The Board of Trustees of the Galesville University" with full power to sue, and to be sued; plead, and to be impleaded; to acquire, hold and convey property, real and personal; to have and use a common seal, to alter and renew the same at pleasure, and to adopt such by-laws, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the United States or the State of Wisconsin, as they may deem necessary for the government of the University.

Section 2. The said University shall be located on the south-west quarter of the north-west quarter of section thirty-two, in township nineteen, north of range eight west, in the county of Trempealeau, and may be erected on a plan sufficiently extensive to afford instruction in literature, the sciences, and arts, in the theory and practice of elementary instruction, and in any or all of the liberal professions in such manner and at such times as the Board of Trustees may deem practicable and desirable.

Section 3. The Board of Trustees shall consist of not less than ten members, who shall have power to increase the number to fifteen, and to fill any vacancies that may occur by death, resignation or neglect of the duties of the office for more than one year. The members of the Board shall be divided

into two classes, one of which shall go out of office in one year, to be determined by the lot at the organization of the Board, and afterwards trustees shall be elected to serve two years. The first meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be held at such time and place as may be designated in a call signed by a majority of the corporate members, of which due notice shall be given, and afterwards they shall meet on their own adjournment, and in such manner as may be prescribed in the by-laws; and any five of them duly assembled shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and any less number may adjourn from time to time.

Section 4. The Board of Trustees shall have power to devise and execute measures for the establishment and prosperity of the university; to prescribe the course of study in the several departments; to appoint an executive committee, consisting of the President, Secretary, Treasurer and three Directors for the transaction of all ordinary business under the direction of the by-laws and subject to the approval of the board; to elect and inaugurate a board of instruction, consisting of a presiding officer, who shall be a member of the Board of Trustees ex-officio, and the requisite number of professors and tutors; and also to confer such degrees and to grant such diplomas as are conferred and granted by other universities.

Section 5. All funds and property received by the Board of Trustees by gift, or otherwise, shall be faithfully applied according to the best of their judgement for the benefit of the university, in purchasing grounds, erecting buildings, procuring library and apparatus, creating endowments for the support of professors and paying of salaries of agents, officers and teachers of the university; provided, that any donations or bequeaths made for particular purposes in accordance with the design of the corporation, shall be applied according to the wishes of the donors.

Section 6. The library, apparatus, cabinet and lands of the university, not exceeding forty acres, shall be exempt from taxation; Provided, that lands exempt from taxation by the provisions of this Act, shall not be used for any other than university purposes.

Section 7. No political or religious opinions

shall be required as qualifications for membership in the university, and no student shall be required to attend worship with any particular religious denomination."¹

¹Arthur Giere, "History of Galesville University, 1854-1940" (unpublished manuscript, Galesville: 1940), pp. 1-2.

APPENDIX B

GALESVILLE UNIVERSITY BY-LAWS

On February 16, 1857, the trustees of the University met at the office of the Register of deeds at which time the By-Laws of the trustees were adopted:

"Section 1. The fiscal and business year of the Board of Trustees of the Galesville University shall commence on the first day of July and terminate on the thirtieth day of June.

Section 2. The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Galesville University shall be held on the first day of July of each year, except those years in which the first day of July shall be the Sabbath, and in such years the said annual meeting shall be held on the Monday following the first day of July. The said annual meeting shall be held either at the University building or at the Court House in the Village of Galesville, commencing at two o'clock in the afternoon; but in case the annual meeting in any year shall not for any cause be held on said day, some other time shall be appointed by resolution of the Board of Trustees, at which a special meeting of the trustees shall be held for the purposes aforesaid.

Section 3. All elections held by the Board of Trustees shall be under the direction of the Board of Trustees who shall be inspectors thereof, and all Trustees may vote at any election or on any business matters of the company in person or by proxy to any other trustee who may be present at the meeting of the Board, duly authorized in writing.

Section 4. All meetings of the Board of Trustees other than annual meetings, shall be held at such time and place as shall be designated by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees.

Section 5. The offices of the Board, and of the President, Secretary and Treasurer, with the books and papers thereunto belonging, shall be kept in the village of Galesville.

Section 6. "The Board of Trustees of Galesville University" shall consist of fifteen persons; and the officers of said Board shall consist of a president, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Directors who shall together compose the executive committee, a majority of which shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business as an Executive Committee.

Section 7. The President of the Board shall be a general agent, and have a general supervision and direction subject to the order of the Board of Trustees, of the business and the affairs of the said Board; and shall preside at all meetings of the Board and Executive Committee, when present in person. In the absence of the President a President Pro tem may be appointed by the Trustees or Executive Committee, who shall discharge the duties of President at any such meeting of the Board or Executive Committee. It shall further be the duty of the President unless otherwise specially ordered to sign all certificates, or orders on the Treasurer for payment by the Board, Deed, papers, mortgages, contracts, writings obligatory, and papers of whatever kind to which the Board of Trustees is a party, under such rules and regulations as may be established by the By-Laws or from time to time adopted by Resolution or otherwise of the Board of Trustees.

Section 8. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to attend to the meetings of the Board of Trustees and of the Executive Committee, to keep a fair and accurate record of all their proceedings, make out an annual statement and balance sheet up to and including the last day of June in each year showing the financial condition of the Board of Trustees at such periods, keep an accurate account with each contractor and all persons having dealings with the Board of Trustees and an account of the whole property of the Board, in what it consists, where situated, and in whose hands intrusted and generally to keep a full account of the whole amount of the receipts and revenues of the Board of Trustees of whatever kind, and from whatever source, and of the whole amount of disbursements and expenditures of the Board for whatever purposes and lay the same before the Board at each annual meeting. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to attest all certificates (or) orders on the Treasurer, deeds, mortgages, contracts, writings obligatory and such other papers executed on behalf of the Board, as may be directed by the Board.

Section 9. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to take charge and safely keep, collect and disburse under the regulations of the Board all moneys, goods, chattles and evidences of debt of every kind belonging to the Board of Trustees coming into, or appropriately belonging to, this department. He shall deliver to the Secretary daily an abstract of all receipts given by him on the preceeding day; he shall take, keep and carefully preserve, all vouchers in support of all distributions and disbursements which he may make by order of the Board of Trustees. He shall keep no account of individuals having business with the Board. All moneys received by him shall at once be passed to the credit of the Board on his Books and the same account be charged with all warrents drawn on him, when paid; and shall also render an annual account and statement at the end of each year of all receipts and disbursements by him made during the preceeding year, and lay the same before the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting. He shall give a bond conditioned for the faithful discharge of the duties of his office with good and sufficient security to be approved by the Board in such penal sums as the Board may require, and such bond shall be increased and additional security given at any time when the Board may see proper to require.

Section 10. The Board of Trustees shall have power at any meeting of the Board by a majority of the entire Board to remove any officer or agent of its own appointment, or that may have been appointed or employed by any officer of the Board of Trustees.

Section 11. The executive Committee shall possess all the power and authority, when the Board of Trustees is not in session, that the Board of Trustees do or can possess when in session by virtue of the Act of Incorporation or these By-Laws. They shall keep a record of their transactions which shall be read at the meetings of the Board of Trustees, and the Board of Trustees at such meetings shall have the same power to disapprove, rescind and annul any act or transaction of the Executive Committee, not disapproved, rescinded or annulled, shall be deemed, held and taken to be approved and confirmed by the Board of Trustees.

Section 12. All deeds, mortgages, leases and contracts conveying or relating to real estate belonging to the Board of Trustees of the Galesville

University shall be signed by the President and attested by the Secretary with the Seal of the said Board of Trustees and when so executed under and by virtue of a resolution of the said Board of Trustees shall be effective (effectual) in Law to pass all the title in the said real estate that the said Board of Trustees have power to pass and dispose of to any person or corporation whatever.

Section 13. All disbursements shall be made on warrants drawn upon the Treasurer and signed by the President and attested by the Secretary; and no such warrants shall be drawn without the order of the Board of Trustees or the Executive Committee.

Section 14. Any By-Laws may be suspended temporarily, at any meeting of the Board of Trustees by a vote of two-thirds of all members present. Any By-Law or the whole code, may be amended or repealed at any regular meeting of the Board by a majority of the entire Board of Trustees."²

(Signed) B. F. Houston, J. C. French, William
A. Cram, Eben Batchelder, Wm. P.
Clark.

TRUSTEES

²Giere, op. cit., pp. 3-5.

APPENDIX C

COURSES OF STUDY

The university offered a Classical and Scientific Course. Under the Classical Course there were several departments namely: the Preparatory Department and the Collegiate Department. The Scientific Course listed Preparatory, Modern Languages, and a Music Course. The Galesville University Catalog for the school year of 1863-1864 describes the courses offered during this time:-

CLASSICAL COURSE

Preparatory Department.

To this Department belong the following branches which are taught every term:

Mental, Practical and University Arithmetic - Davies; English, Grammar - Clark; Geography, Political and Physical Combined - Reading - Parker and Watson; Elementary Algebra - Davies; History of the United States (Fall Term); Latin (Commencing Fall Term); Greek (Commencing Spring Term).

COLLEGIATE DEPARTMENT

Freshman Year.

First Term: Algebra - Davies' Bourdon, Virgil-Cooper, Xenophon - Owen.

Second Term: Algebra - Davies' Bourdon, Virgil-Cooper, Xenophon - Owen.

Third Term: Geometry - Davies' Legendre, Cicero's Oration - Johnson, Homer's Iliad - Owen.

Sophomore Year.

First Term: Geometry - Davies' Legendre, Livy-Lincoln, Physiology - Cutter.

Second Term: Trigonometry - Davies, Livy-Lincoln, Zoology - Agassiz and Gould.

Third Term: Thucydides - Owen, Electives: Analytical Geometry, German - Woodbury, French - Fasquelle, Botany - Wood.

Junior Year.

First Term: Thucydides - Owen, Natural Philosophy - Peck's Ganot, Mineralogy - Dana, Electives: Differential Calculus, French - De Fivas, German - Reader.

Second Term: Tacitus - Tyler, Rhetoric - Quackenbos, Chemistry - Steele, Student's Greece - Smith, Electives: Integral Calculus, French - Racine, German - Schiller.

Third Term: Logic - True, Evidence of Christianity - Nast, Political Economy - Wayland, Geology - Dana.

Senior Year.

First Term: Mental Philosophy - Haven, Astronomy - Steele, Civil Government - Alden, Student's Gibbon - Smith.

Second Term: Moral Science - Wayland, Mental Philosophy - Haven, English Literature - Shaw, Student's France.

Third Term: Butler's Analogy - Emory and Crool, Criticism - Kames, Student's Hume - Theses.

The Admission requirements were as follows:

Candidates for admission must be thoroughly acquainted with all fundamental rules and operations of written Arithmetic. Some knowledge of Geography and English Grammar are very desirable but are not required for admission. Students coming from other Institutions must present certificates of honorable dismissal, and of the studies which they have pursued.

Further Information:-

Examinations: Public examinations of all classes is held at the close of each term. Any student being unnecessarily absent from examination will not be permitted to proceed with his studies until he shall have passed the required examination.

Instruction: The matter and manner of instruction will be such as are believed will most efficiently develop the mental and moral faculties of the student. The teaching of political and sectarian principles will not be tolerated. The great aim of instruction in all Departments of the University will be to form habits of correct thinking, inculcate the necessity of moral principle and communicate useful knowledge.

Bills: All tuition bills must be settled at the opening of the term. No deduction made except in cases of protracted sickness. Disabled soldiers admitted free. Likewise all others who are incapacitated for manual labor and cannot well afford to pay tuition.

Library and Cabinet: The Library contains 1750 volumes and pamphlets, and donations are being constantly made. The Cabinet already consists of several hundred shells, minerals, maps, charts, and pictures, and is also constantly increasing.

Recitations: Each class attends three recitations or lectures daily. Exercises in composition and declamation are regularly required, and a record is kept of the daily attendance, conduct and recitation of each student.³

In the next fifteen years of the college the courses of study of the Departments did not change to any degree. A few new subjects were added in the different terms of the school year, but the overall picture remained the same. The Galesville University Catalog for the school year 1876-1877 listed the following additions to the course of study.

Preparatory Department.

The course was the same as that previously mentioned, but in the second year Greek Grammar was added for the first term, and Caesar's Commentaries for the second term.

Collegiate Department.

Bourdon was discontinued in the first year. Physiology was added to the second year course of study, in the first term; and the third year, second term and third term, added English Language. In the fourth year of study the first term added Logic and Theses; the second term, only Theses; the third term, English Literature.⁴

Other areas of improvement were found in the science course by the addition of sufficient apparatus for illustrating the fundamental principles of "Natural Philosophy

³"Galesville University Catalog," (Galesville: 1863), pp. 16-17.

⁴"Galesville University Catalog," (Galesville: 1877), pp. 12-13.

(of or pertaining to the physical universe or the study of it; physical, often in old names of sciences or the sciences), Chemistry, and Astronomy."⁵

At the beginning of the university there was one Literary Society, and one more society of the same nature and purpose was organized in the following twenty-five years. The purpose of these two societies being the affording of opportunities for improvement in declamation, essay and debate.

⁵Ibid., pp. 20-21.

APPENDIX D

TUITION - EXPENSES

Financial status seemed to be a serious problem during the regime of the university. After George Gale died, moneys did not be endowed to the university with such freedom as before his death. The following fees are for the school year of 1863-1864:⁶

Common English Branches Per Term of 14 weeks	\$ 4.50
Same Including Languages	6.50
Commercial Course	10.00
Collegiate Course	10.00
Incidental Expenses	.50

Extras

Music - Piano, Melodeon, or Guitar	\$10.00
Use of Instrument	2.00
Perspective Drawing	5.00
Oil Painting	7.00
Penmanship, Including Stationary	1.50

The following fees are for the school year of 1876-1877⁷

Preparatory Department, per term	\$ 7.00
Collegiate Department, per term	9.00
Incidental	1.00

Extras

Music - Piano, Melodeon, Organ	\$12.00
Use of Instrument	2.00
Penmanship	4.00

⁶"Galesville University Catalog, 1863-1864," (Galesville: 1863), p. 19.

⁷"Galesville University Catalog, 1876-1877," (Galesville: 1876), p.22.

The room and board could be obtained in 1863 for \$1.75-\$2.00 per week, but by 1876 it had been increased to \$3.00 per week. Students there, as today, could reduce their living cost by having rooming arrangements with cooking privileges.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

(Out of State Seal)

GALESVILLE UNIVERSITY.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

KNOW YE THAT, Cortrude Gale has paid to the Treasurer of the said Board, the sum of Two Hundred Dollars, in full for one perpetual Scholarship in the said University, commencing on the 27th day of October 1858, which said scholarship shall be used for the tuition of the owner thereof, or any one of her children for the term aforesaid, in the said University. This scholarship is assignable only upon the books of this Institution, and on the return of this Certificate a new Certificate will be issued to such assignee.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF; the President and Secretary of the Board of Trustees have signed their names, and caused the Seal of the University to be hereto affixed.

Done at Galesville, Wisconsin, this 27th day of October Anno Domini, 1858.

George Gale
PRESIDENT.

Attest, C.S. LUCE
SECRETARY.

Galesville
University
Wisconsin

seal

Dear Madam:-
Here is a copy
of a scholarship
Certificate.

Sincerely

Arthur F. Gere

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