

1932

Wesley Hall Reveals Record of Past

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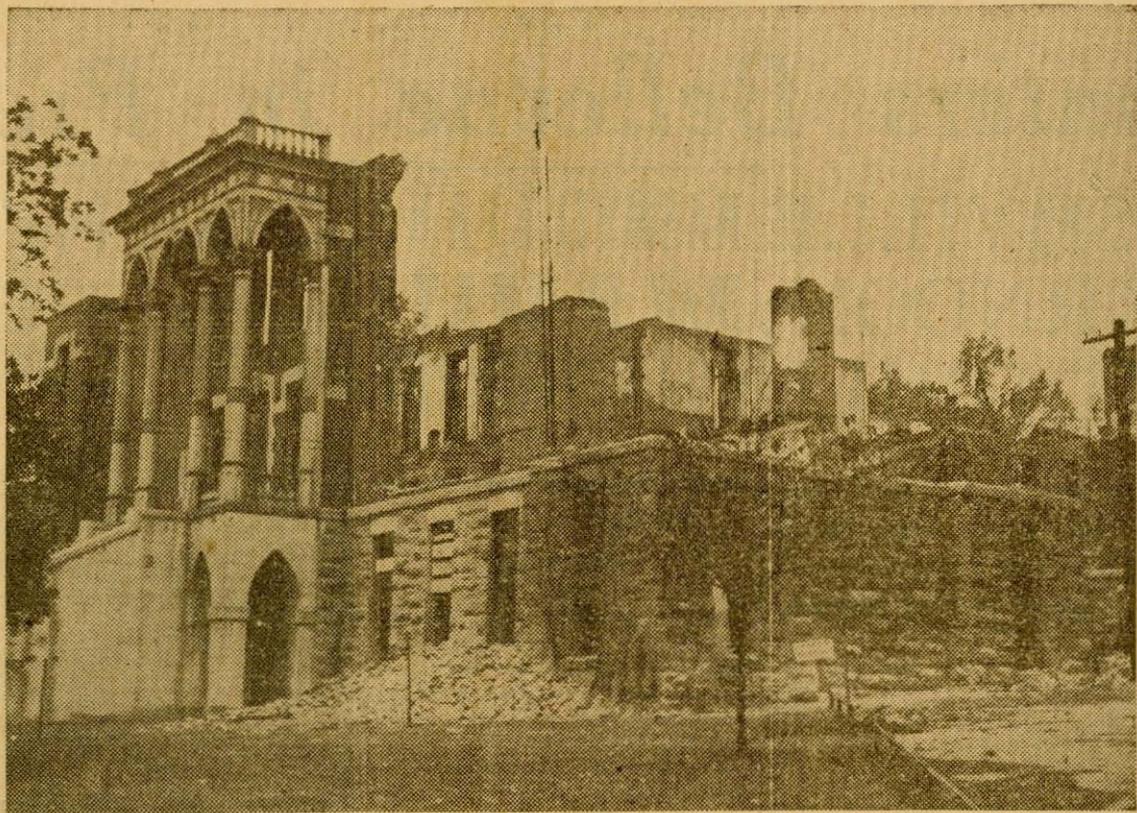
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Wesley Hall Reveals Record of Past



Workmen this week were tearing down Wesley Hall on Vanderbilt campus, completing the job wrought by fire February 19, 1932. Since then the building's walls have been standing, the windows boarded up.

Recollections of the Gilded Age of 1880, when Vanderbilt was only five years old, were brought to members of the faculty Wednesday night as they examined contents of the box inside the Wesley Hall cornerstone, laid May 4, 1880.

That was the year Nashville celebrated its 100th anniversary, and among the 57-year-old relics were documents relating to the celebration, placed in the cornerstone at the ceremony by the governor of Tennessee.

It was probably the first time it had occurred to many Vanderbilt professors that Nashville had had a centennial celebration, so much was this event obscured by the more spectacular Tennessee Centennial Exposition seventeen years later.

There were other mementoes, dating back to the Rutherford Hayes administration, in the metal receptacle. Placed there by Vanderbilt's first chancellor, Dr. Landon Cabell Garland, were four pictures, engravings of Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt and his wife and their son, William H. Vanderbilt and his wife and their son, William H. Vanderbilt, and Mrs. Vanderbilt.

Also in the box were found registers of the student body, the alumni society and the literary societies of the university, and because Vanderbilt was then an institution of the Methodist Episcopal Church and more particularly because Wesley Hall was, from the first until its destruction, the headquarters of the School of Religion,

there was a Bible, a Methodist Discipline, catechism and hymn book as well as reports of the Methodist Women's Missionary Society Board of Missions and Publishing House and copies of Methodist periodicals.

The box was opened at a smoker of the Vanderbilt Faculty Club. Dr. W. J. Hayes, president of the club, presided, and the guests of honor new members of the faculty, were presented by the deans of their respective colleges.