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UA1B2/1 Ogden College 1877-1966 History in Brief

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Ogden Timeline

- 1873 Robert W. Ogden bequeathed \$50,000 for school for men or women
- 1877 Ogden College accepted first 100 students
- March 8, 1878 Formal Charter
- 1883 Wightman will left \$50,000 only half made to Ogden
- 1902-1905 college level work suspended due to poor enrollment
- 1905 Ogden students incase Prof.'s dog in black modeling clay, dog dies
- 1918 peak enrollment of 162 men
- 1922 Perry N. Snell donates \$85,000 for new building
- 1924 Perry N. Snell Hall opens
- Nov 19, 1927 contract to lease Ogden campus given to Ogden regents by the W.K.S.N.S
- Jan 2, 1928 Ogden regents accepted, Ogden then became Ogden dept. of Science
- 1928-1960 Ogden released in ten year increments
- 1958 Lease set to expire, no action to renew due to integration of scholarship money
- July 16, 1960 Law suit filled at Warren Circuit Court to test legality of Lease and keeping true to Ogden's will
- July 28, 1960 Warren Circuit Court Upholds lease and Western Wins
- 1960 Ninety nine year lease of Ogden College drawn up
- 1960 Ogden Hall demolished to make way for new science building
- Ogden dept of Science becomes Ogden College of Science
(1990-present WKU ignoring Snell Hall to allow building to deteriorate)

Ogden College

The Ogden College was created by the will of the late Major Robert M. Ogden. In his will, Major Ogden left a grand total of \$50,000 for the creation of a college that would bear his name. In the year 2004, young men and women of all races can appreciate the creation of this college. However, the Ogden College went through a transformation throughout the years to get to this point.

In 1877, Ogden College opened its doors to the young men. The college was set up to provide a free education for the young men of Warren County. Ogden College offered its students the opportunity to receive a well-balanced education with an arts and science curriculum, but Ogden stressed to its men "to be neat in appearance, gentlemanly in conduct, and above all to stand on his feet and speak his views." In 1883, a prosperous man by the name of Wightman left in his will a donation of \$50,000 to Ogden College, but his heirs contested the will and only \$25,000 ever made it to Ogden College.

Ogden College was a world to itself in Bowling Green, Kentucky, having its own paper (The Cardinal), yearbook (The Cardinal), athletics, and various clubs. Some of the most popular were the Bench and Porch Clubs. (Link to Campus Organizations page) Ogden had football, basketball, and baseball for its young men to demonstrate the athletic ability of the Ogden male. Ogden College had a 50-year rivalry with Bethel College in

which the 1917 team ended their season with a 65-0 win. The Ogden College with its athletics, extra-curricular clubs and the education benefits created a bond among the students. When viewing the only three surviving Cardinal Yearbooks, the strong bonds between the young men become apparent, with all the men having their pictures name, biography, and pet names in the annual.

Perry Snell Hall, which opened in 1924, was the site of many debates and speaking contests that were a major source of intellectual entertainment for the young men and faculty of Ogden. When the men of Ogden were looking for fun, they were entertained by plays like "Smilin' Through" which was herald by the Cardinal as being the best Ogden play ever. Comedies were big hits on campus and one popular play was titled "Captain Racquet." In 1905, a group of Ogdenites used poor judgement while looking for fun when they decided to encase the snow-white poodle of Professor McClosky, in black clay that hardened with some very unpleasant results for the poodle. After the incident Professor McClosky returned to his native New York "all in a huff."

In the mid 1920's, Ogden College was faced with financial difficulties, trouble getting accreditation, and competition with Western Kentucky State Normal School. All of these events made it impossible to continue the operation of the Ogden College as it had done in the past. It was time for a new future. In November of 1927, the Board of Regents at Western made a proposal for Ogden to merge into Western as the Ogden Department of Science. In January of 1928, Ogden College signed a ten-year lease of the campus and facilities to Western. The contract was renewed in ten-year intervals until the 1958 contract.

In 1958, Western planned a 99-year lease of all of Ogden. In the original Ogden's will that gave the money to start the college, Robert Ogden placed a clause that stated "that the benefits of this fund, be confined to the children of native born white American citizens." Western was set to integrate in the fall of 1958, and when Western asked Ogden to remove that clause from the scholarship funds, Ogden College then filled a lawsuit on July 16, 1960 to test the lease between the two. Judge Parker Duncan was summonsed to mediate the two parties, and in July 28th of 1960, the judge found in favor of Western Kentucky University. In 1960, Ogden College, then the Ogden department of Science merged with Western Kentucky University and became the Ogden College of Science. ([Link to Ogden College Page](#))

Throughout the years, the buildings, methodology, and principles have changed with Ogden College. Originally, Ogden College occupied the State Street side of the Hill with several buildings and a small teaching farm; the most known buildings being Ogden Hall. The facilities on Ogden College greatly improved in 1924 with the opening of Perry Snell Hall. Ogden Hall was the oldest building on Campus until 1960 when it was demolished for the construction of the new science complex. Today the Ogden College of Science has additional buildings including Thompson North and Central Wing, Science and Technology Hall, Environmental Science and Technology, as well as the Perry Snell Hall. Western Kentucky University students will experience yet another transformation

of the Ogden College as they eagerly await the completion of the new Science and Engineering Replacement Building slated to open in fall of 2004.

Works Cited:

Department of Library Special Collections, Ogden College

<http://www.wku.edu/Library/dlsc/ua/ogdencol.htm>

Western Kentucky University

By: Harrison, Lowell Hayes

The Kentucky Library

Bowling Green, KY

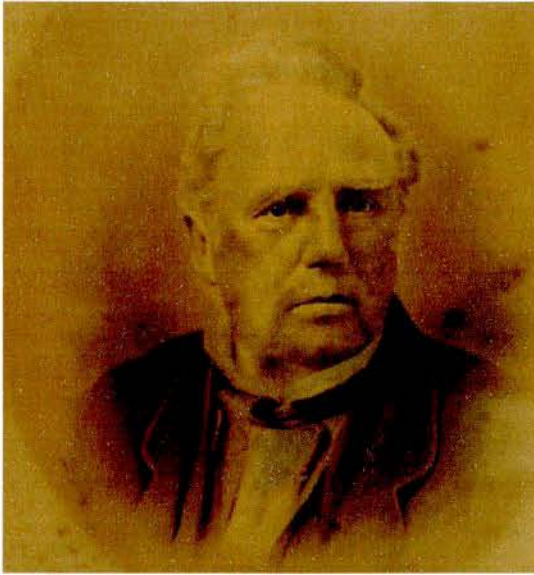
The University Archives

Bowling Green, KY

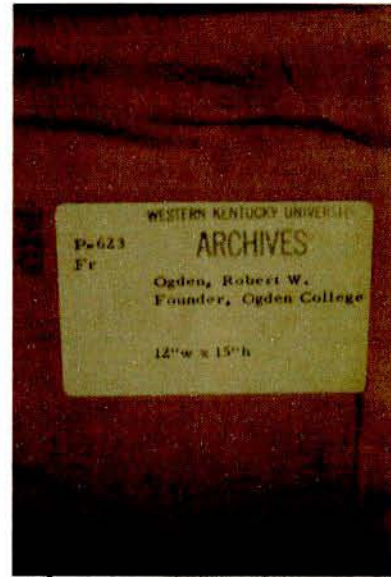
**Note to Dr. McMichael, the people at Ogden College “requests” that we link the history of Ogden page to there main page, <http://www.wku.edu/Dept/Academic/Ogden/>, it more of a statement more than a request.

Other pics are on disk under misc pics.
Misc pics are the pre-edited pics.

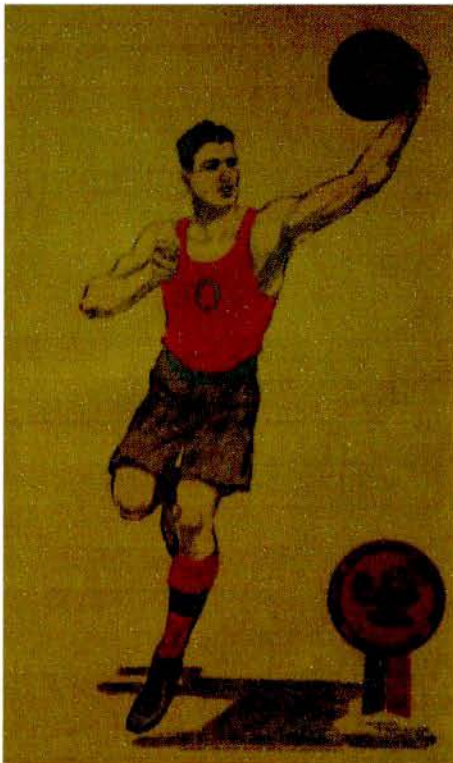
~~Ogden, Robert W. (1862-1922) (jpg)~~



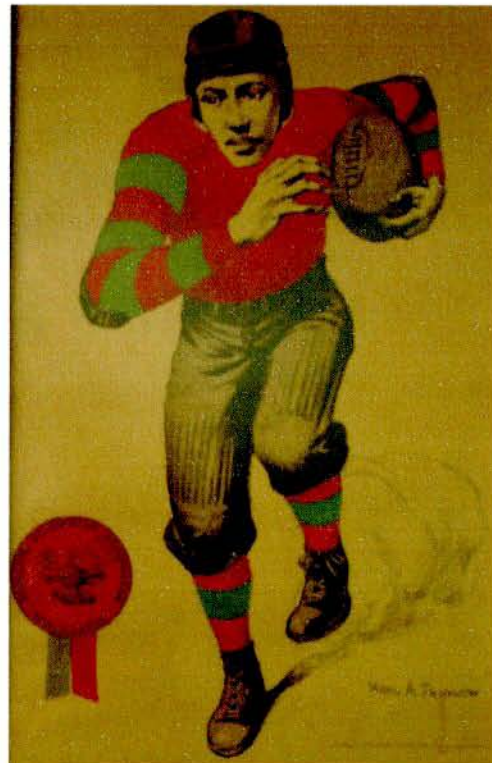
Maj. Robert W. Ogden



Archive information
of Ogden



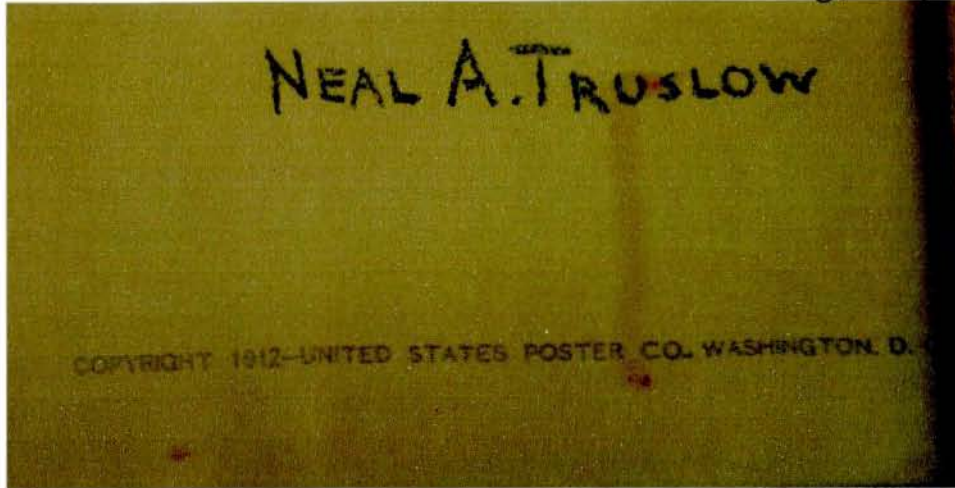
Basket Ball



F. Ball

of 000001.jpg (5268x1146x941.jpg)

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Copy rights
of pictures
of Football
and basket
ball players
Same person.



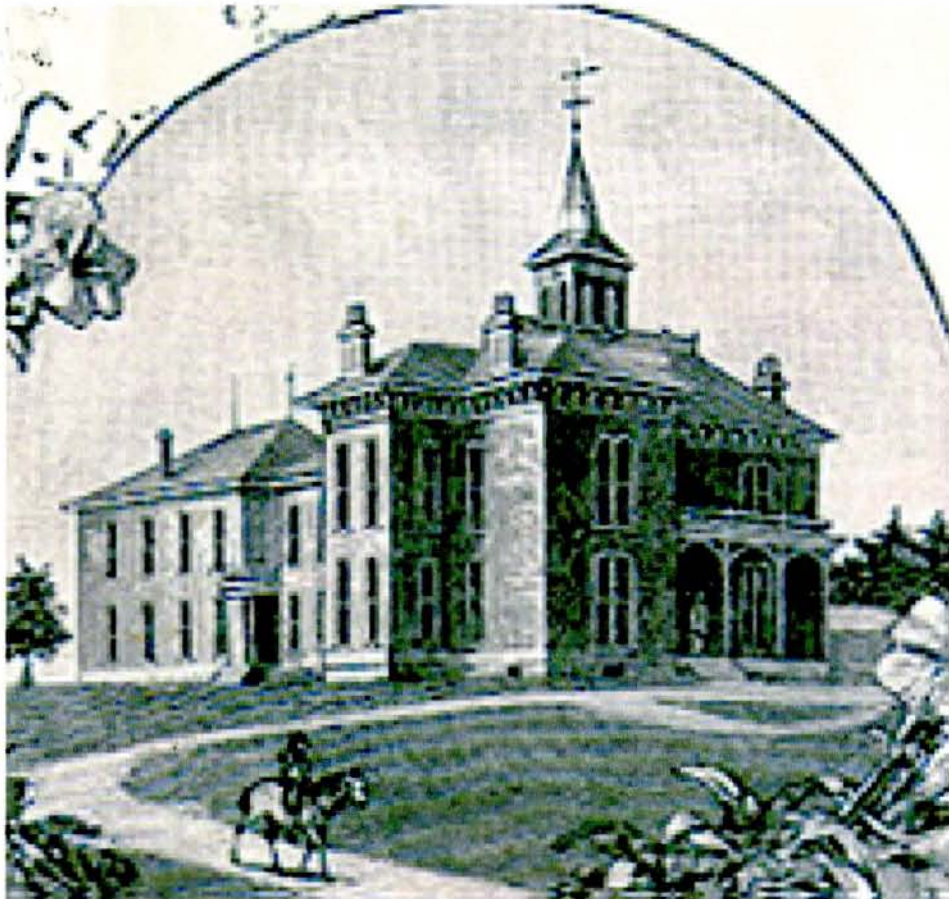
Seal 1



Seal 2



Seal 3



Ogden Hall From website on Ogden
in KY library
online
address
in sources cited page

Ogden College

1877-1966

History in Brief

Materials and Methods

- The University Archives
- W.K.U. website
- W.K.U. by Lowell Harrison
- The Cardinal
- The Park City Daily News

Problems

- Information would lead to dead ends
- Large volume of unimportant data
- Many hours needed to find the “diamonds”
- Source documents were difficult to read
- Some documents were “flavored”

History

- Founder was Major Robert W. Ogden
- Bequeathed \$50,000 for creation of school
- Could have been for men or women
- Wanted school to be for males of KY
- Left endowment for white American males
- 1883 Wightman left \$25,000 for Ogden
- P. Snell gave \$85,000 for completion of Snell Hall

History Continued

- Ogden was strong in Sciences since its founding
- Ogden had a life all its own, and had its own community
- Students then much like today's students
- Had many campus clubs and sports teams
- Had a football rivalry with Bethel College for more than 50 years

In the end

- 1928 Ogden campus leased to W.K.N.S.
- Leased for 10 years at a time, renewed many times
- In late 1950's lease was contested
- Integration of the endowment was problem
- W.K.U. won the court battle with Ogden
- Ogden College became W.K.U. College of Science in 1966