1853 HISTORY 1953
One Hundred Years Of Service

By Josephine E. Thostenson

1853 - 1953

A HISTORY OF CENTRAL
Sincerely dedicated to
the friends and alumni
of Central's first
one hundred years.

PREFACE

Much of the story of Central College to date has existed as oral history. It has been told and retold and only on occasion has it become a written record. Those "who from the beginning were eyewitnesses" have passed on, and fact and legend are in danger of becoming confused. Therefore, it seemed appropriate to the Centennial Committee to have the history of Central's first one hundred years presented in a more enduring form.

Restrictions of space and time necessitated a limiting of the material to be presented. Much has had to be omitted in this concise, chronological presentation. A definitive work can be left to later historians with more space and time at their disposal. This is a brief panorama of events and personalities which have combined to produce the Central College of 1953.

Sincere thanks must be extended to the many persons who have contributed in a variety of ways to the writing of this history. To two of these individuals, Cunera van Emmerik and Leora C. Quinn, the writer feels especially indebted. They have been very generous in their assistance. Their constructive advice, and their checking and editing of the manuscript have been very helpful.

It is the hope of the writer that this history may convey the spirit of Central College to its readers, as well as present a chronology of her historic events and the people who shaped them. This spirit is Central's heritage to be carried forward with determination and confidence into her second "One Hundred Years of Service."

Josephine E. Thostenson
THE BEGINNINGS

In March, 1953, Dr. Kenneth Scott Latourette, Professor of Missions and Oriental History at Yale University, was a guest speaker on Central's campus. "I fell completely in love with the place and find myself wishing that I were forty years younger and could have the opportunity of teaching there for a lifetime." After one hundred years, a visitor wishes he could give the same kind of devotion that the early founders and faculty members gave for Central! He senses the vision, wisdom, and faith required of the founders of Central College, and of those noble bands of pioneers whose early labors gave direction and permanence to the things which are vital in a Christian civilization.

In 1834, in the Brush Creek Baptist Church in Green County, Kentucky, two young persons of humble parentage and circumstances were converted and baptized. Shortly afterward they were united in marriage as William and Hepzibah Mathes-Manly.

With the urge common to pioneers—to find a home in a new country—they came to what is today Iowa, landing on the west bank of the Mississippi where Burlington, then a mere handful of log huts, now stands. Across the river lived a Baptist minister, Elder John Logan, who was invited to preach to this little group of pioneers. On October 19, 1834, in the rude hut of Noble Hously, Elder Logan preached what is believed to be the first sermon in this part of Iowa to a congregation of white people. On the next day eleven people joined in organizing the Long Creek Baptist Church, which later became Danville Church. The articles of faith adopted were those of the Brush Creek Church in Kentucky, brought to the settlement by William and Hepzibah Mathes-Manly.

From this date onward various Baptist churches came to be organized in this territory, and many Baptist ministers came to settle here. It is a notable fact that among the early Baptist ministers of Iowa were a goodly number of educated and thoroughly well-informed men who knew the value of missionary and educational institutions. On June 5, 1847, when the State of Iowa was but a few months old, the Iowa Baptist Education Society was formed at Farmington.

These early Baptist settlers brought with them a fortitude and a Christian faith which precluded the idea of failure, even in the face of the hardships of life in a new and undeveloped country.

Nor were the Baptist settlers the only group of religious pioneers to make their way into this primitive region. The Dutch pioneers came to Pella in hopes of finding religious freedom.

After William I came to the throne of the Netherlands in 1813, irregularities in the State Church and deviations from its doctrines so alarmed the orthodox conservative party that in 1834, under the leadership of a few clergymen, scores of people seceded from the Church and formed small Separatist congregations. By the year 1845 the unfavorable political, social, economic, educational, and religious situation in the Netherlands had become critical.
Among the leaders seriously troubled by the tenor of the times was the Reverend Hendrik Peter Scholte, pastor of the Utrecht congregation of Protestants. The problem of satisfying his people's aspirations to religious and educational freedom plus the difficulty of providing life's temporal necessities was acute. Since a Christian could not easily earn his daily bread without compromising his conscience, Dominie Scholte, after earnest and prayerful consideration, concluded that emigration was necessary. After careful investigation, America was decided upon as the place for settlement.

One of Dominie Scholte's principles was that the poor were to be helped by those who were more fortunate, and that a community was to be formed in which these emigrants could find religious and educational freedom in a land where the government did not regard ecclesiastical matters as a branch of its ordinary duties.

Late in April, 1847, approximately 800 members of the emigration association containing the "flower of the Dutch immigration of that day" set sail for America.4

The voyage was long and arduous. Baltimore, where they disembarked, seemed to them a wicked city, bewildering to these men and women of simple faith. The journey inland to St. Louis was most tiring. While the colonists rested here a commission was sent out to find a location for settlement. In due time these scouts reached Fairfield, Iowa, where Dominie Scholte met the Reverend M. J. Post, a Baptist missionary. Mr. Post led the scouts to what he called "the finest tract of land in the state," on which the city of Pella now stands.5 Claims were bought within the desired tract; and when the commissioners returned to St. Louis, the news of their purchase was joyously received. On the 26th of August, 1847, the homeseekers came to Pella, a place of refuge for them by the city that by name east of the Jordan to which the Israelites fled in the year 70 A.D. when Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed by the Romans. When they came to the place, all that the Hollanders found was a shingle, nailed to the top of a hickory pole and containing the single word PELLA!6

It is not surprising that these people showed an early interest in educational and cultural matters. Many of them were drawn from the "bourgeoisie of Utrecht;" many were statesmen who compared favorably with the educated classes in any American community. Dominie Scholte, student of theology and the Bible, master of several languages, was a competent and versatile leader of men. Mr. John Nollen had been a lector in the gymnasium at Brielle. "Some of Mr. Scholte's counsellors [Mr. A. E. D. Bouguet for example] are numbered among the ablest men that have ever come from Europe."7 Socially, Pella was described as being composed of "highly refined immigrants, first class people, the best of Holland's citizens."8

One day about four and one-half years after the founding of Pella, its citizens, both Dutch and American, assembled in a house on Garden Square. "All were buoyant with hope because an opportunity had been presented for securing within their midst 'that which in its moral, literary and religious bearing upon the community would be more important than county or government seats.'8

The Baptist pioneers of Iowa, realizing the value of institutions of learning as agencies in promoting the interests of Christ's kingdom, had decided to establish a college where they could teach and to obtain most liberal donations of land and money. There followed a vigorous campaign to collect money from the citizens of Pella and vicinity. Many of the Dutch considered higher education an absolute necessity. To gain freedom in educational matters had, in fact, been one of the motivating factors in the emigration of these Hollanders. Though the Baptists were the chief promoters of the plan to establish an institution of higher learning, members of the Dutch church did not hesitate to subscribe money, land, materials, or services for the proposed college.

As early as the third annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention, a committee was appointed to look into the matter of locating and establishing a denominational university within the state. At the meeting in 1846, a motion was carried to locate such an institution at Agency City, but prior to adjournment the motion was reconsidered. In 1851, the first definite action was taken. The State Convention, in session at Burlington, appointed a committee whose duties and privileges were defined as follows:

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed whose duty it shall be to make investigations, solicit proposals, etc., with reference to the establishment of a denominational university within this state, and that this committee be authorized to call an Educational Convention at such time and place as they may deem expedient, when the whole subject may be considered in detail."9

This committee called for an Educational Convention to be held at Iowa City, April 13, 1852. Because of bad roads only a few of the appointed delegates could be present. The convention unanimously resolved:

That it is the deep and settled conviction of the Baptists of Iowa, that the time has now come when an institution of liberal and sacred learning, under the control of the Baptist denomination, should be established in this state.10

In spite of the small number of delegates, the matter of founding an institution was pushed forward with enthusiasm, and a nearly unanimous vote to locate the school at Burlington was passed. Hardly had the convention closed its sessions, however, when many of the delegates present began to feel they had erred in locating a college on the extreme border of the state.

The next meeting of the Educational Convention was held at Marion in September, 1852. The committee to which the report on educational matters was referred issued the following statement:

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After due consideration of the proceedings of the committee of five appointed at the last session of the Baptist State Convention of the State of Iowa, and the educational meeting at Iowa City in April last, your committee would recommend the passage of the following resolution:

Resolved, that this convention cannot sanction the proceedings of the educational meeting held in Iowa City, April last, in locating an institution of learning.
Report accepted and adopted.11

However, "the friends of Burlington maintained that the vote of the convention was regular and final,"12 and proceeded to open the contemplated university at Burlington on January 4, 1854.13 The institution continued to exist until 1901.14

Nevertheless, supporters of education, having accepted and adopted the previously mentioned report of the committee on educational matters, felt that the subject should be pursued until a definite result was obtained. Consequently, at this same session of the State Convention an educational meeting was held. It was claimed that the only proper method of locating an institution of learning for the entire state was to call a convention for that specific purpose.

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

The convention thus called met at Oskaloosa on November 10, 1852. Realizing the apparent hastiness and unsatisfactory action of the former convention, this group determined to be more deliberate, for we find the following resolution in their minutes:

Resolved, That in view of the inclemency of the weather, which has caused a sparse attendance of delegates from the churches, it is deemed inexpedient to make a location of the college at this time.

Resolved, that we feel a more lively interest in the cause of education than ever, therefore, we recommend the appointment of a committee of 15 (5 of whom shall constitute a quorum) whose duty it shall be to visit and examine the various points within the central portion of the State and ascertain what amount of reliable subscriptions and donations can be secured from each, carefully weighing the advantages and disadvantages connected with each point which shall offer a site and report this to a convention to be held at Pella, Marion County, Iowa, on the first Thursday in June next, at 10 o'clock a.m.

Resolved, That we earnestly solicit every Baptist church in the State in connection with our denomination to send a delegation of not less than three nor more than five with their pastor to said adjourned meeting.16

When the convention met in Pella, June 2, 1853, Dominie Scholte, Mr. A. E. D. Bouquet, and Professor I. Dwight, all of Pella, were invited to participate in the deliberations of the convention even though they were not official delegates.16

Proposals were read from both Oskaloosa and Pella for locating an institution of learning under the auspices of the Baptist denomination. Each of these propositions was carefully considered by the convention.

The question "Shall we proceed to locate?" was then taken up and the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That the interests of the denomination, the circumstances by which we are surrounded, and the wants of the rising generation of our State call loudly upon this convention to locate an institution of learning at the present time.17

The resolution was seriously considered. Before putting the question, much time was spent in prayer asking God's direction and guidance in this undertaking. The resolution was unanimously adopted.
After a further consideration of the proposals from Oskaloosa and Pella, the following resolution was made:

Resolved, That this convention do now proceed to vote by ballot upon the question before it, but before so doing, a short time be spent in prayer, Brother Burton leading.18

After examination of the ballots, the President declared the decision to be in favor of Pella, whereupon it was unanimously resolved that Pella be the place of location. Two committees were immediately appointed: one, to draft a constitution and articles of incorporation; the other, to nominate a Board of Trustees.

That the Central University of Iowa found a home among the Dutch settlers was largely due to the influence of the Reverend Hendrik Peter Scholte, who showed in this way how little significance he attached to differences of opinion regarding the formalities of religious worship. Himself a learned man and a graduate of the renowned University of Leyden, he at once approved the plan of providing higher education for the young people of his community. He fully cooperated with the Baptists, gave generously of his wealth, and at all times had the interests of the College at heart. This same spirit of cooperation was evidenced in various ways by many others of Pella's Dutch settlers. Although Central was founded by the Baptists, they and the Dutch pioneers worked for her welfare from the very beginning.

When the first Board of Trustees, consisting of thirty members, organized its executive committee, Dominie Scholte was chosen as its president; W. Nossuman, vice-president; Rev. I. C. Curtis, secretary; and J. Smeink, treasurer. Thus Central College was launched in June, 1855, and embarked on her first "One Hundred Years of Service" for Christ and the church. Her founders had a noble vision, a high purpose, and a staunch faith, together with a willingness to sacrifice for the realization of the ideals they established for the institution. Central College may ever be thankful that there existed among her founders a spirit of enterprise and a thoughtfulness for the future, as well as an earnestness of effort in laying the foundations broad and strong.

THE EARLIEST YEARS

Central College was founded in prayer. In this same spirit of prayer, plans were made at the first annual board meeting, June, 1864, for the opening of the academic department of the university in the fall of that year.

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The school was advertised to open on the 17th of September. The Reverend Emanuel H. Scarff, D.D., of Dayton, Ohio, who had been highly recommended as principal of the department with Miss Julia Tolman of the Monticello Seminary (Illinois), and Mr. Caleb Caldwell of Marietta College (Ohio), as his assistants. The citizens of Pella gave generously for the new college, and many who could not donate money freely gave their time and labor for the enterprise. The original subscription list entitled, “List of donations for the Baptist State University to be located at Pella, Iowa,” reveals the various forms in which these donations were made. Dominie Scholte’s name appears first as the donor of various tracts of land; namely, blocks 71 and 72 and blocks 81 and 82 within the town of Pella, together with 160 acres of land. Blocks 81 and 82 were designated as the site of the university and comprise the present campus from Broadway to West Second Street. Parts of block 71 are the present site of Ludwig Library, Dunn Cottage, and the site of the future Student Memorial Union. A portion of block 72 is the location of Gauss Hall and the Industries Building.

Other names follow, some indicating donations of cash, some of land, and some of services. The “services” listed included painting, carpentering, labor “in shoemaking,” masonry, tailoring, and medical attendance. “Materials” included lumber and building supplies, bricks, shingles, furniture, store-goods, and wooden shoes. One individual, in addition to his subscription, offered “to make the plan for the institution when the dimensions are given.” Another offered “two lessons daily in some of the following branches: German, music, singing, science of nature.” Still another offer was “the first year grants teaching in Greek, Latin, French, universal history, and philosophy.”

The total subscriptions as indicated by this original subscription list have been summarized as follows: in land, $3360.00; in money, $2006.00; in work, services, and materials, $2885.00. Surely all of this testifies to the Christian sincerity, devotion, and self-sacrifice on the part of the citizens of Pella, of whatever religious faith or nationality, in establishing the Baptist State University of Iowa in their midst.

Shortly after Dr. Scarff’s arrival a school room was secured four blocks west of the public square on Washington Street—a two-story brick building about 20 by 30 feet without partitions. Dr. Scarff wrote:

The school furniture was still growing in the Des Moines timber; yet in three weeks after our arrival in Pella the timber was cut, drawn to the mill, sawn into lumber, made into two-seated desks and placed in the school room. The academic department of Central University, thus supplied with teachers, school room, and furniture, was officially opened to students on October 8, 1854. Dr. Scarff presented the picture of those first days.

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First Building on Washington Street

The enrollment the first day was only 37—I quote from memory—quite a number of these were from abroad, the nine American families then in Pella gave us a few, and the Holland families the rest of our patronage. This small beginning was, however, increased almost daily, ’til at the close of the term our enrollment had attained to 73. This was one of Iowa’s most prosperous years. The crops were good, money was plentiful, and the immigration large. This last was most favorable for our infant school. About twenty of these immigrant families wintered in Pella and gave the school their patronage—there was no other American school in town that winter.

Though most of our students were young men and women, they ranged down from these classes to beginners in the common branches. In these days, school privileges were of a very inferior nature. Many teachers did not pretend to teach English grammar, and many who did make the pretense did it with the dictionary ever open before them in order to determine the part of speech a word might happen to be marked; from the dictionary there could be no appeal.
Later in 1854 the foundation was laid for “Old Central,” a three-story brick building with a stone basement. Deacon Wellington Nosseman was the first to donate and deliver on the college campus white oak lumber—the cedar of Iowa”–so he used in the building of “Old Central.” In 1856 the school was moved from its temporary quarters to the new building.22

The second annual meeting of the Board of Trustees convened on June 7, 1855. The sublime faith and courage of Central’s founders is well illustrated by the following excerpt from a report on endowment presented at this annual meeting:

The income of fifty thousand dollars, well secured and invested at ten percent, will amount to five thousand dollars a year. This sum will pay the salaries of the following teachers:
- A president at $1000.00
- Two professors at $750.00 each
- Two tutors at $500.00 each
- One female principal at $500.00
- Three female assistants at $333.33 each
- Total, $5000.00

If some prophet had arisen in this enthusiastic annual meeting and expressed the opinion that after a half century their grandchildren would still be struggling to secure the proposed $50,000.00 endowment, he would very likely have been ridiculed.

An early and staunch friend of the College was the Reverend Elihu Gunn, D.D., who at the time of its establishment was pastor of the Baptist Church at Keokuk. Among the members of his congregation was the Honorable J. K. Hornish, who, feeling a deep interest in the school and considering that his pastor was a man well fitted to assume the duties of the presidency of a college, gave to Central University the sum of $10,000.00 to endow a president’s chair with the provision that Dr. Gunn should be called to fill the position. At the annual board meeting, June, 1857, Dr. Gunn was elected president, and that same year assumed the leadership of the school. Under his administration—despite the financial distress brought on by the panic of 1857—the school carried on its work successfully and the number of students increased steadily. The endowment of the institution suffered severely from the panic. None of the money could be collected; yet, it is a noteworthy fact that while many larger and more flourishing schools were obliged to close because of hard times, Central grew steadily.

In 1858, the collegiate department was opened, and the first class was ready for graduation in 1861. The members of this class were Herman F. Bousquet, J. A. F. Hampson, Alonzo F. Kesbles, the Honorable W. J. Curtiss, the Honorable Warren Olney, and H. Kellenhanger.24

Amos N. Currier, a graduate of Dartmouth, was added to the faculty at the opening of the spring term in 1857. Professor Currier was a teacher “respected, admired, and loved by all.” From one of the boys of the class of 61 comes this tribute:

The fact that Professor Currier seems to have carried with him into his wider field of influence in the State University the same individual influence and the same personal attachment to the students, is but another proof of the good fortune of Old Central in having had him with her in her infatue days.25

He was a member of that famous triumvirate of Central’s workers, Dr. Stoddard, Dr. Scarf, and Professor Currier, who, when the Board was almost forced to close the school for lack of funds, took the institution into their own hands. They collected what tuition they could, paid the running expenses of the institution, and divided the rest among themselves. Little enough it was, but these individuals took life cheerily and enthusiastically, and gave to the young people who came to them in search of knowledge a cordial welcome and lessons in life and character of infinitely more value than anything they might have read in books.

In 1858, the Board secured the services of Mrs. I. J. Stoddard, a graduate of Troy Female Academy, New York, and a returned missionary from India, as principal of the Ladies’ Department. Dr. Scarf described this as a “master stroke of policy.” Mrs. Stoddard was a woman eminently fitted for the position she was called upon to fill. The young men and women who came to Central found in her a guide—a friend—a mother.

Tribute must also be paid to Dr. I. J. Stoddard, who was very closely connected with the administration and faculty in their heroic efforts to keep the lamp of learning shining brightly in these early days. With untiring zeal and devotion he labored for the school as friend, as secretary, as treasurer, and as financial agent, giving generously of his time and means. He heartily seconded Mrs. Stoddard in making their home a home for the student who was homesick, discouraged, and despondent. The fine spirit of Dr. Stoddard is revealed in his words of farewell to the Board:

We [alluding to Mrs. Stoddard and himself] have been but one mind in this matter, viz., that this institution of learning might become a mighty power in the earth for good.26

Dr. Gunn served as Central’s president for four years. Owing to the unprecedented financial stringency of the period, the promised endowment proved wholly unproductive. Having used his own personal fortune, and feeling that his obligations to his family required a change, Dr. Gunn resigned as president in 1861, and accepted a pastorate at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Dr. Scarf, as the oldest professor, was selected as acting-president. When urged to accept the presidency he refused with persistent modesty saying, “I am a teacher, not a presi-
dent." Yet for the next ten years, he performed all the duties pertaining to the office, filled his place in the classroom, and even served part of the time as pastor of the Baptist Church.

CIVIL WAR ERA

Even before President Gunn had resigned, a series of unpasticious national events began to develop. These threatened not only the prosperity, but the actual existence of the new college. The echo of the guns that fired on Fort Sumter had awakened in the loyal states an enthusiasm for the country which demanded that national unity be restored. Patriotic fervor spread and very soon fired the young blood of the school.

A description of the Civil War period and its effect on Central University is well given by the Reverend E. H. Scarff in his REMINISCENCES OF CENTRAL:

... The first call of the President for volunteers found a response in the college, and before the summer had passed, about twenty of our boys had enlisted. This beginning was the next season, followed by a general stampede to the front, till not a single man of age to bear arms was left, except two; the one of these had a withered hand and the other was minus an arm. It thus happened that one hundred and twenty of our boys were found on the army roll, and Prof. Currier among them ... Dozens found twenty-four of our brave boys, who fell, either on the field or died in the hospital. We thus lost in a few months two of our honored teachers, and all our young men in the school, capable of bearing arms... The teaching force had in a few months been reduced to Mrs. Stoddard and the writer, with Miss Noble, the music teacher...

Though there were many regrets in regard to the misfortune that had come to the college, there were evidently no misgivings in regard to duty with those that remained. Had the war only reduced our number and weakened our teaching force, the disaster would have been small. It took out the students doing the advanced work. Instead of classes representing all grades of college work we had a few boys in elementary Latin. Had the war not been supplemented by [the] young ladies in our hearts might have faintet at the prospect. There were few young ladies thirty-five years ago that dared to aspire to college honors. Yet there were a few. In 1868 we graduated a class of three—five in 1894 and in 1896, two...

A great evil was found in the money stringency that was upon the country and did not abate in Iowa till near the close of the war. Tuitions during all the war period continued to be paid in "chips and whetstones." The cash receipts of the school but little exceeded the incidental expenses. Some could not pay till father or brother remitted some of their army savings, which, when it came, was often so much needed at home that it could not go for tuition; others could not pay until they could qualify themselves for further teaching and earn the money. Suffice it to say that no one was deprived of school privileges who showed a willingness to arrange for any reasonable future payment...

... As a result of this state of finances this state of finances this state of finances this state of finances... R. Stoddard, the principal creditor, who lived in the state of New York, and was pushing his claim, giving him the probable outcome of the suit that he had had before. His reply contained what was interpreted as an expression of willingness to somewhat compromise the matter, provided the property could be cleared of debt, and saved to the [Baptist] denomination. The letter was shown to Rev. Stoddard and Prof. Currier. Mr. Stoddard arranged to see this New York creditor, and on his return home saw other creditors not so remote. He everywhere met with encouragement. The three individuals named above formed a combine to remove the debt... We now proposed to the Board to remove the debt without any charge upon them, on the single condition that we be permitted to keep our counsel till our work be done. This privilege was freely and gladly granted.

In carrying out these plans Rev. Stoddard took the field, and treated more than 6,000 miles, mostly in his own conveyance; he gave his time and his chief... Prof. Currier, who acted as secretary and treasurer, also gave his time and one hundred fifty dollars in money saved from his own salary. The writer in the combined served to indicate the debt points in practical workings of the trio syndicate. But so successful were the ef-
As the "struggling seventies" drew to a close and more prosperous times returned to the American nation there seemed to be a prevalent feeling of hope and confidence. The Executive Board of Central felt that the times were propitious for an appeal to patrons and friends for putting Central on a firmer financial basis. In 1879 the Board issued a circular from which I quote:

"Let the determination for a forward move be made apparent all along the line; let the confidence, which we ourselves feel, be impressed upon and conveyed to others and we need have no fears for the result. If, as we believe, that Central University was founded in the prayers of God's people, we should not doubt His willingness to bless efforts for its development. If we but make a proper use of our opportunities, God will take care of the results."

President Dunn resigned in 1881, because of advanced age and a need to secure relief from the responsibilities of leadership.

In February, 1881, the management of the university was reorganized by the choice of the Reverend George W. Gardner, D.D., as president and Mr. T. E. Balch, as chancellor, having full charge of all financial interests. It was determined to add a permanent endowment to the amount of $100,000.00. Mr. Balch took up his work the following June. Under his energetic labors, debts were paid, current expenses met, and considerable endowment secured. President Gardner had the courses of study reorganized and enlarged. New equipment was added in various departments. These things served to attract a more advanced class of students. Together President Gardner and Chancellor Balch worked strenuously to strengthen Central University and make it worthy of the patronage of the Baptist denomination. At the end of three years Dr. Gardner was compelled to surrender his work and seek rest. Mr. Balch continued his efforts a little longer, when he, too, found it necessary to resign. Both of these men did a heroic service for the College and gave a new impetus to its work.

Upon the resignation of Dr. Gardner, Professor Tripp was made acting-president for one year, and in 1885 the Reverend Daniel Reed, L.L.D., was chosen president of Central. "His coming, however, proved to be coincident with quite a statewide sentiment and movement in favor of concentrating Baptist college work at one point in the state."29

A pall was hanging over the institution. Many years before, men who could not find in Central University the place they wanted had founded in Des Moines, with the aid of real estate
promoters, a rival school which they called Des Moines University. Then they began to say that the Baptists of Iowa could not support two such institutions. The effort to merge the two reached its culmination in the spring of 1886, when a commission of fifteen voted to make the Pella University an academic feeder of the one in Des Moines. This decision was at once challenged as binding in neither law nor morals. Those who had "betrayed" Central University had been elected when only thirteen of their thirty-six trustees were present or voting.29

Unfortunately, President Reed had been drawn into this movement and seemingly gave it his assent. However, when the verdict of the Baptist State Convention favored Des Moines, he resigned.

In this trying crisis the strong arm of the law came to the rescue of the institution at Pella. At the insistence of four friends of the school, Dr. I. J. Stoddard being one of them, an injunction was obtained from the circuit court restraining the board of trustees from disposing of or transferring any of the property of said university, either real or personal, to the University of Des Moines, or to any person or corporation, and from transferring its name and good-will to said University or to another corporation, and from closing the doors of said University as a school of learning, and from dissolving said board or surrendering its franchise and from interfering in any way with the action of its executive committee in preparing for, and continuing its usual and regular terms of instruction at Pella, Iowa, as contemplated by its articles of incorporation, and from taking any action in violation of its articles of incorporation.31

Consequently, instead of closing its collegiate doors in the autumn of 1886, Central opened them wider. Old friends were relied upon and all hearts turned to Dr. Dunn, who was then recalled. Once more his judicious management restored confidence, and with renewed courage Central went on with its work.

During Dr. Dunn's second period of service the Biblical department of the College was established. He strongly felt the need of a cultured clergy for the country towns and hamlets which did not have the means to employ pastors who were educated in expensive seminaries. Dr. Dunn held his position until his death on Thanksgiving Day, 1898. The Reverend Seth J. Axtell succeeded him and, in 1900, resigned to accept a professorship in Kalamazoo College.

The Reverend John Stuart, Ph.D., who was then pastor of the Pella Baptist Church and also Professor of Mental Science and Sacred Literature in the College, was elected to the presidency. During President Stuart's first year the number of students became so large that it was essential to find increased accommodations for them. Cotton Hall, named in honor of Professor J. B. Cotton, principal of Central's music department from 1866 to 1882, was built as a dormitory for the young ladies and bore testimony to the liberality of the friends of the institution. It was opened for use in 1891 and is described as having neat rooms, "commodious and well ventilated, planned for the health and comfort of the students. This building is heated by furnace and lighted by electricity... In the management of the hall every possible effort has been made to give the young ladies a pleasant and attractive home. In the building are twenty-two rooms besides the dining-room and kitchen.... Table board is here furnished for students of both sexes. The dining-room will seat seventy-five boarders." The college catalogue for the year 1896 provides the following information:

Cotton Boarding Hall—Rooms 30 to 40 cents per week for each student, two young ladies in a room. Board in Cotton Boarding Hall, $1.75 per week.

The rooms in Cotton Hall are furnished with all necessary articles except bed clothing and towels. Boarders provide their own napkins.

At this time, according to the catalog, tuition was $8.00 per term with incidentals at $3.00. Surely the College could boast it was "The cheapest school in Iowa."

Two years after Cotton Hall was ready for use, the foundations were being laid for another building which was known as the "Y.M. and Y.W.C.A. Building," or as it was often called "The Auditorium." This building was started in 1898, but because of financial difficulties, it was not completed until 1901. It provided for a chapel, library, gymnasium, and several class rooms.

Dr. Stuart resigned in 1898, and the Reverend Arthur B. Chaffee, D.D., was then elected president. When he resigned in 1899 the Board placed Professor A. B. Bush, who had recently joined the faculty as...
teacher of Greek, in charge for one year as chairman of the faculty.

In taking the name "University" at the time of Central's incorporation, it was hoped that departments of medicine and law could be added to the collegiate and divinity departments. This did not materialize; consequently, although the school is incorporated as the "Central University of Iowa," the title "University" was dropped about 1898, and she remains popularly known as "Central College."

During the later 1890's the Baptists of Iowa were once again confronted with a crisis in their educational affairs. A committee of eleven was created to consider educational matters from the standpoint of the Baptist denomination within the state. Misunderstandings arose as to the powers and purposes of this committee and for a time it was feared that the school at Pella might be "lost" after nearly half a century of labor and sacrifice, or, if not "lost," be degraded to the rank of an academy. President Chaffee and others took the view that the committee of eleven was only empowered to act with authority to promote the welfare of both the college at Des Moines and the one at Pella, each within its proper field. Again friends rallied to the support of Central and she weathered another period of uncertainty, strengthened and inspired to go forward as a power for good.

TRANSITION

As Central College entered the twentieth century she had as her administrator one of her own alumni. Oh the retirement of Professor Bush in 1909, the Reverend Lemuel A. Garrison, D.D., a graduate of 1896, was made vice president, and after three years he became Central's president.

At the time Dr. Garrison took over as Central's administrator the institution was still feeling the effects of the latest movement for unification. Consequently, he was asked to make a statement in regard to Central's position for the friends and alumni of the school.

The Editor of THE RAY has asked me to give something as to the outlook for our College. Because of the unknown silent forces that may enter into every great undertaking, it is extremely difficult to speak definitely from present conditions regarding the future. We can only give a few facts as they rest in our mind. The effect of the negotiations for unification was to place us in a deplorable condition...[but] the citizens and friends in Pella, ever true to their pledge of 1853, rallied to the support of the College...Taken all in all, the ending of the year was much brighter than the dense darkness at its beginning would indicate as possible.

...It is useless to discuss and utter folly to dream about the ideal—if it be ideal—condition, had there been but one Baptist college in our state. We have two colleges. Both have their friends and strong adherents...Two Christian colleges of the same denomination can work side by side in the same state without trying to take each other's life blood...

True to the long cherished principle of our denomination—toleration for the views of another, the alumni of our other Baptist College declare we want our own school to exist and hence must grant the same desire to the friends and alumni of Central. We as a state are beginning to learn that the existence of two colleges is not so great a mistake as the existence of a struggle for pre-eminence between these colleges...

Judge Remley, in his toast at our last commencement banquet, said that it is not necessary for Central to go before the state and say she wants money, but simply to show what has been done amidst adversity, and friends will be ready to help. During the past year about twenty-five hundred dollars has been put into permanent improvements, the alumni endowment movement revived, and over two thousand dollars pledged upon our indebtedness. Arrangements have been made whereby our library is to be indexed. Each of our three buildings has undergone repair. The auditorium has been almost completely furnished.

Added to these local conditions is the fact that within the past year a number of our alumni have settled within the state as pastors of our churches. From other states some have pledged themselves to give from one to two months work in a canvass for endowment...Can we in this canvass attain our aim? There is not time for this question.

Our duty to God, to ourselves, to our ALMA MATER and to the coming generations of students demands success. If the pledges and plights of faith of past years can be ignored and this institution, founded amidst tears and sacrifice, left to languish and die, then who knows, but twenty years hence the gifts now being made to other institutions may be scattered to the winds...

When we remember [those who sacrificed] for Central University of Iowa Baptist education, Dr. Scarpit the faithful, unifying one, Dr. Gardner, the scholar and polished thinker, Dr. Dunn, the prince among Christian men, shall we not give
abundantly of our means for the same cause for which these men gave their lives? The time has come for action and the friends of Central will not hesitate.32

Nor did the friends of Central hesitate to act. During Dr. Garrison's administration very satisfactory advances were made in the material equipment of the College and also in her financial progress.

It is also noteworthy that in 1900, Mr. H. J. Vanden Berg became treasurer of the College, in which office he served faithfully and efficiently for forty-one years. Throughout times of plenty and times of scarcity Mr. Vanden Berg did all within his power to meet the school's obligations.

Commenting on Central's financial prospects two years after he had become the administrator, President Garrison said the following:

The movement to secure twenty-six thousand additional endowment for our college is progressing well. Only about four thousand dollars needs yet to be raised to secure the entire amount. And the places are in sight where it is believed this balance needed can be secured. Soon after commencement was over, Mr. R. R. Beard, S.S., of Pella surprised us by offering his entire observatory, including telescope, transit, spectroscope and clock, costing him nearly $4,000, on condition that we start the Normal course this fall and build a president's house within the year. The outlook for our college's future was never brighter. If the alumni and friends rally now, the future is assured.33

In 1905, Central's campus was again visited by masons and carpenters and Jordan Hall began to take shape; no sooner was Jordan Hall completed than a new president's home, "Dunn Cottage," was erected in 1906. Dunn Cottage was named for a daughter-in-law of Dr. L. A. Dunn. In the 1880's, Josie, the daughter of Deacon Chandler Jordan, a prosperous farmer residing in Jones County, Iowa, attended Central, graduated, and married John Dunn. When President Garrison interviewed her father concerning a building for the college, Josie said, "Father, if you intend to leave anything to me, give it to Central. They need it now." Consequently, Jordan Hall was erected. Later, Mrs. John Dunn gave the money to erect a home for the president. In 1948, a residence on Broadway was purchased to be used as the president's home, and Dunn Cottage is now the home of Central's dean.

The future appeared full of hope and promise for Central. The meeting of the Board of Trustees in June, 1906, was a gratifying one. Individually, the members of the Board were enthusiastic over the work being done and the record of recent achievements; unitedly, they proposed to push on to better things, and to that end new plans were laid and a definite program outlined. Nothing revolutionary was contemplated—just quiet, steady growth was desired. Mr. Andrew Carnegie had offered the College $20,000 provided Central would in turn raise an additional $40,000. This would assure the school a productive endowment of $100,000.34 It was the unanimous opinion of the Board that Mr. Carnegie's proposal must be met. Student spirit ran high at this time and a great love and loyalty for Central was manifested by her student body, when in less than an hour's time, they subscribed $1250 to help in the raising of the funds.

Indeed, the situation did appear to be bright, and the result of the Baptist State Convention meeting at Grinnell, October 26, 1907, was interpreted by many as settling the issue of the conflict between the institution at Des Moines and that at Pella. I quote the following account from THE RAY for November, 1907:

The last five years have seen a marked change come over Pella. The town is improving at a rate hardly equalled by any other town of 4,000 population in the state . . .

In this new life, the College is remembered. The Commercial Club adopted it as one of the enterprises to be pushed ... The wise, tactful, and unflagging efforts of President Garrison and Chancellor Shaw did much to reassure former friends and make new ones for our school. Dean Severn and the Glee Club reached and pleased hundreds of people over the state. The students of Central College pledged more than three times as
much money for the $100,000 endowment as had been expected of them. Finally, at the great Baptist State Convention at Grinnell, October 26, 1907, seven good men... became personally responsible to see $80,000 paid into the treasury of Central College within the next year, if the Baptist State College is located at Pella. Such devotion will stand out in the history of the school for all time.

The report of the committee of seven... was masterly. Their report had great influence with the delegates. 222 votes were cast in favor of adopting the report, and establishing the one Baptist College at Pella, and 146 against it; but 70 of the negative votes came from Des Moines, while only 16 of the affirmative votes came from Pella. This shows that the delegates from over the state were overwhelmingly in favor of Central College. A change of 12 votes would have given the two-thirds majority required.

Several things seem manifest from the remarkable record of the past year. (1) The people of Pella are warmly with the College, ready to help... (2) The Baptist people of Iowa are coming our way as never before; not only the vote, but the frank statement of leading men at Grinnell, indicated that in their judgment Central College has proved its right to live, and ought now to be recognized by the denomination and supported. Since the convention, letters are coming in to President Garrison to confirm this statement. (3) Now is the time for Pella to pledge and pay up. Pledges must be made good. Growth in attendance, in facilities for first-class college work must be apparent.

Just now the completing of the canvas that secures the $20,000 from Mr. Carnegie and adds $60,000 to the productive endowment of the College is a great cause of rejoicing.

All lovers of old Central have much reason to thank God and take courage. A new era is upon us.

The Executive Committee of the College on November 8, 1907, voted to notify Mr. Carnegie that the College had complied with his terms and was ready to receive his $20,000 gift. After securing the first $100,000 for endowment, plans were immediately made for the raising of an additional $100,000.

In 1905, a most familiar name was added to Central’s faculty roll, that of Miss Elizabeth A. Graham, a Central graduate. In 1914, she assumed the office of Dean of Women in addition to her duties as Professor of English, and won for herself a warm spot in the hearts of her friends and students. In 1922, she resigned her position as teacher and dean. Graham Hall, the women’s dormitory, stands today as a tribute to her service and memory.

The Reverend John L. Beyl, Ph.D., became acting president of Central in 1909, and president in 1911. In this year Central lost one of her outstanding friends and board members when Dr. B. E. Keables died. Dr. Keables had been a member of the Board of Trustees since Central’s founding and vice president of the institution for many of these years. This year Central College at Pella and the Reverend John William Bailey, Ph.D., who had been pastor of the Baptist Church in Pella and Professor of Biblical Literature at Central since 1910. He was destined to serve Central at one of the most critical periods of its history. He proved himself a master of the situation during the transfer to the Reformed Church.

We have noted that the friends and alumni of Central considered the outcome of the Grinnell meeting a moral victory. However, the report favoring the locating of one Baptist College at Pella lacked the necessary two-thirds majority required for adoption. Consequently, the friends of Des Moines College, in turn, considered the vote a moral victory for them. Individual supporters of each school had been quite free during the convention in expressing their opinion, that, no matter which school won the vote, the other would continue its work as usual. At any rate, no change was made in the policy of the educational program of the state at that time; each institution continued to struggle on.

Nevertheless, it remained the opinion of Baptist leaders that a union was desirable and should be effected.

On April 14, 1914, the Board of Education of the Northern Baptist Convention... brought to the Board of Trustees of Central College a proposition looking toward the unification of Baptist educational interests in Iowa. The proposition involved the transfer of the local property of Central College to the Reformed Church. In consequence of the information which it received the College Board appointed a committee of inquiry which after investigation reported that the consummation of such a proposal did not then seem possible. But the College Board advised the [Baptist] Board of Education that if at any time there was any information or recommendation which it
On the following day, October 19, a second meeting of crucial importance was held in Chicago. There were present the President and Secretary and two additional members of the Board of Education of the Northern Baptist Convention; the Reverend E. W. Thompson of New York and President James A. Vennema of Hope College, representing the Board of Education of the Reformed Church; two ministers, B. F. Brinkman and J. Wesselinck, and two laymen representing the constituency of the Reformed Church; H. J. Vanden Berg and Y. T. Van Nieuwelaan of the Board of Trustees; and J. W. Bailey, president of Central College. President Vennema stated in his discussion that it should be thoroughly understood that the Reformed Church was not soliciting a proposal from the Baptists but was receiving a proposal from them.

The historian continues:

At a special meeting November 30, 1916, the whole matter was given a very thorough consideration and the Board of Trustees voted unanimously: (1) to transfer the name, charter, grounds, buildings and equipment of Central College to the Reformed Church on condition that it maintain an accredited college in Pella; (2) to transfer the endowment (except a small part which was entailed), funds, pledges, etc., to the American Baptist Education Society to be held in trust for Baptist educational work in Iowa; (3) to cooperate in the establishment of a Baptist College in Iowa in which all Baptist educational work might be unified and in which the endowment and funds might be used.

This action of the college board was communicated to the Board of Education of the Reformed Church and the latter held a meeting in New York City, December 14, 1915, to consider the proposition. The result of the meeting was a unanimous vote by the Board approving the general proposal and tentatively accepting the offer to become responsible for the control and maintenance of the college.
On January 8, 1916, the Pella Classis officially approved the proposition to transfer the control of the college to the Reformed Church in America, and authorized a temporary board to prepare and perfect the necessary plans and details for taking over and conducting Central as a Reformed Church institution. This temporary board proceeded according to instructions and an executive committee was chosen and charged with the work of putting things into shape.

On June 20, 1916, the General Synod of the Reformed Church, by unanimous vote, heartily accepted the offer made by the Central College Board of Trustees. The report of the Board of Education of the Reformed Church to General Synod gives the following information:

Perhaps the most important matter submitted for our consideration is the offer of the Trustees of Central College of Iowa, at Pella, to transfer "to the Reformed Church in America, or to its agents or trustees" without material monetary consideration, all grounds, buildings and equipment, of said institution upon the condition and in consideration that an accredited Christian College be built up and maintained under the laws of the State of Iowa. This offer is brought to our attention by the Board of Education which has conducted the negotiations, and by overture from the Particular Synod of Chicago, urging the Synod to accept the offer...

The facts elicited [by your committee] may be thus briefly stated:

The corporate title of the institution is Central University of Iowa, but it is known as Central College. It has been a Baptist college, was authorized in 1858, the academic department having been opened in 1864, and a full quota of classes being at work by 1861...

One-third of the students are from Reformed Church families. The total enrollment in 1914 and 1915 was 166, including 37 in the summer school.

There is a faculty of 21 members, 13 men and 8 women.

The average expenses of the last five years have been just under $20,000. The income from tuition and fees has been slightly over $7,000, leaving $13,000 to be secured from endowments and contributions.

The reasons leading to the offer of the College to the Reformed Church are principally two: first, the Baptists wished to consolidate their educational interests in the state; and, secondly, located in Pella, the Reformed Church constituency has been large and is likely to increase if the control of the College were placed in Reformed Church hands.

The equipment of the College consists of a campus near the heart of Pella, of eight acres, on which are five buildings, the whole conservatively valued at $110,000. These buildings are deemed ample for the present. In case the College is accepted the pressing need would be an endowment of at least $200,000, as required by the laws of Iowa.

So strongly were the men on the field impressed with the value of this institution to the church that a temporary Board of Control was organized, January 25, of this year, and steps were taken looking to the continuance of the work during the coming year, to the securing of the required $200,000 endowment, and also of a fund of $30,000 for the maintenance of the College during the ensuing two years.

The reasons for this recommendation are so well stated in the overture of the Particular Synod of Chicago that we quote its action...

Whereas, this offer of the Baptist brethren seems a providential call to the Reformed Church in America for enlargement and expansion along educational lines;

Whereas, the Reformed churches west of the Mississippi need a college...

Whereas, the possibilities of such an institution of the Reformed Church west of the Mississippi are more than equal to any in the history of the denomination...

Whereas, in these rapidly developing regions of our land the work of church extension and the proper and wholesome Americanization of our people will demand that many of our sons and daughters become trained and equipped for leadership in every walk of life...

Whereas, Hope College, being 500 and more miles away from any part of the territory west of the Mississippi... will therefore not find its interests seriously impaired by the acceptance of Central College as an institution of the Reformed Church in America;

Therefore your committee recommends:

That the General Synod is hereby respectfully overture to accept the institution as offered by the Board of Trustees of Central College.

Since the report of the Board of Education was printed and the overture adopted events have moved rapidly. The Board of Trustees of Central College has consisted of thirty-nine men, six of whom were members of the Reformed Church and the remainder Baptists. At the regular meeting of the Board held June 6, the Articles of Incorporation were amended to provide for a Board of not less than fifteen or more than sixty-five members as provided by the laws of Iowa. Sixteen members resigned, and twenty-six members of the Reformed Church were elected to membership in the Board... The only question is, shall the General Synod, by proper action, accept the offer and provide for the continuance of the College as one of the educational institutions of the Church?

This report was adopted and the offer of the Board of Trustees of Central College was officially accepted.

Thus it was that after sixty-three years of existence under the auspices of the Baptists of Iowa, Central College came under the control of the Reformed Church in America, the oldest Protestant denomination with a continuous history in the United States. This was a gracious gift to the Reformed Church, and one gratefully received by its General
Synod. The Reverend S. C. Netting, writing on the history of Central, calls Central College a providential gift to the Reformed Church in America.41

The influence of those Christian founders, who believed that the future safety of both church and state depended upon Christian leadership, as it could be developed in the atmosphere of a Christian college, remained dominant at Central. The sacrifices of those pioneer men and women who gave that they might pass on to future generations the heritage of ideals founded upon the Word of God were not forgotten nor set aside.

When the Reformed Church accepted the gift of Central College, she was also accepting the responsibility of maintaining and furthering the Christian ideals upon which the College was founded. The school accepted a new pattern and added enthusiasm, changed its ecclesiastical relations, but continued in the same spirit and general objectives. There was very little immediate change in the actual work done. President J. W. Bailey, Dean Elizabeth A. Graham, Treasurer H. J. Vanden Berg, and several members of the faculty continued in their positions throughout the next year, and helped to blend the old with the new, and to bind the Central of the future to the Central of the past.

REACHING OUT TO THE NEW CONSTITUENCY

The College now reached out toward her new constituency of the Reformed Church, but she remained Central College. The words of President Bailey at that time are significant:

By the terms of the projected readjustments Central College will pass into the hands of those who have had a large place in its making and maintenance. It is believed by all those in touch with the situation that under the Reformed Church control Central will move forward to a new career of prominence and efficiency. She will still be Central College and her spirit and traditions will be preserved. It is expected that no radical changes are to be introduced in her policy or her curriculum. The continuity of her work is to be carefully guarded.42

However, at no time did Central limit her efforts to the serving of only one denomination. Hers has always been a venture of faith combined with the ideal of being of service to all. The Reverend B. F. Brinkman, chairman of the temporary board of control at the time of transfer, defined the intent.

We believe the future of "Old Central" to be brighter than ever because of the added strength of the new constituency ... the school will continue to be nonsectarian, but Christian in the broadest sense possible to comply with the teachings of the Mennonites. "Whoever will may come," and enjoy the blessings of a Christian institution ... We desire to perpetuate her [Central's] name and fame, and by the grace of God, to enlarge her field of operation and influence among men.43

Those who witnessed the pageant given by Central for the General Synod delegates meeting in Pella in June, 1922, saw a striking bit of symbolism in the episode depicting the transfer of the college from the Baptist to the Reformed Church. The Central spirit, represented by a young lady in radiant apparel, attended Central's last Baptist president as he came to deliver the keys to the new president. But, instead of leaving with the former president, she led the new president into the greater future which was to be.

Three of the College's present faculty members—professors emeritus at the time of the Centennial—were appointed in 1916: Dean Henry W. Pietersen to teach mathematics and physics, Professor Thomas H. Liggett to teach chemistry and biology, and Professor Frederick S. Bosch to teach German and Greek.

The courage and faith of the new sponsors was quickly put to a severe test. On the morning of February 28, 1917, the Auditorium Building, which contained the chapel, the library, and the gymnasium, was destroyed by fire. This was a great loss to Central and to the denomination which had so recently taken charge of the school. Discouraged though they were, the members of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees met in the afternoon of the same day and formulated plans to continue the regular work of the school without interruption. Faculty, students, and friends arose to the occasion. Chapel was held in Advance Hall in Old Central. The library, the 8,000 volumes of which had been saved, was located in the former chapel in Old Central. The Decker grand piano which had been rescued was housed in a room in the First Reformed Church, which was then used for concerts and recitals of the music department. The Second Reformed Church offered the use of their organs for lessons and practice. These measures were all to be temporary, however, for at this same meeting, plans were devised and committees appointed to raise funds for the construction of such a building as would meet the needs of the college.

Indeed there were many aspects which proved encouraging. President Bailey deserves the highest praise for his wise leadership during this first difficult year. Through the energetic efforts of the Reverend B. F. Brinkman, a large part of the needed endowment was pledged by the close of the year. This work was later continued by the Reverend A. M. Van Arendonk.

At the June Board meeting, 1917, the Reverend M. J. Hoffman, D.D., professor of Latin at Hope College, Holland, Michigan, was elected to the presidency. He began his work the following September.

While Central was progressing under her new leadership, she remained true to her patriotic tradition. When the United States de-
clared war on Germany, she sent 106 of her sons into the service of her country and offered her equipment to the government for the establishment of a unit of the Student Army Training Corps. Several patriotic activities were carried on by the students and faculty on the campus. Funds were raised toward relief for war prisoners, military drill became an active part of campus life in the fall of 1918, substantial contributions were made to the YMCA Student Friendship War Fund, Red Cross work was done, and the many sacrifices called for during war time were cheerfully made.

Although the year was a strenuous one for Central, it was a good one. She advanced under her new regime, friendship and harmony developed, and every phase of her work received renewed emphasis. All of this was done under a great handicap—a steady drain on her best men, including members of both the student body and the faculty.

In October, 1917, soon after Dr. Hoffman took over the presidency, a financial campaign was launched to obtain funds for the erection of two buildings—a women's dormitory and a combined gymnasium and temporary chapel. Late in the year 1918 Graham Hall (as the dormitory came to be known after the death of Miss Graham) was opened, and old Cotton Hall was turned into a barracks for the S.A.T.C., and then into a men's dormitory. After a brief time it was ruined by fire. The PELLA CHRONICLE for April 12, 1923, tells us that what remained of the hall was purchased at a public sale for $336, and the remains of the barn, for $47.46 With the sale of Cotton Hall an historic building passed out of the hands of the school, but the name, along with that of "Old Central," will remain a significant one throughout all the history of Central College.

The library, built from the ruins of the first floor of the Auditorium building, was dedicated on April 12, 1918. The previous year Miss Marie Greiner had been appointed the first full-time librarian. She served until 1939.46 The library's holdings have increased from 8,000 volumes rescued from the fire, to 29,000 volumes in 1958, with a corresponding increase in the library's value and significance to the work of the College.

The new gymnasium, with a temporary chapel upstairs at the north end and music practice rooms at the south end, was erected largely through the efforts of the Pella Chamber of Commerce and was dedicated on October 21, 1921.46

In the next year the faith and courage required from the Reformed Church in accepting the gift of Central College and carrying on its work was once again put to a crucial test. Shortly after midnight, on June 14, 1922, fire was discovered in Old Central. It had made such progress that the firemen confined their efforts to keeping the flames from spreading to the other buildings. Five pianos, office supplies, and furniture (particularly in the Adannaolian and the Philo-Alethian Halls) were destroyed along with the building. The total loss was estimated at $20,000.

This figure does not sound tremendous today, but at that time it was a severe financial loss. Furthermore, much sentiment was attached to this building—the first one to be erected on the Central College campus. Today only the bell remains mounted on a stone pedestal in the center of the campus, bearing testimony to the spirit and traditions of Central’s past while living with the students of today.

In 1887, when the Reverend Elihu H. Gunn was called as the first president of the college, this splendid old bell, cast in Troy, New York, was shipped by the water route to Keokuk, Iowa, and from there hauled to Pella by team.

For fifty-six years its duties were numerous. At 5:00 a.m. it roused the sleeper for the morning study hour; it disturbed the sluggard, prodded the inactive, and scolded the lazy. But it earned the gratitude of every student who measured time by its methodical strokes. Morally it pealed a wedding chime, and slowly and sympathetically chanted and tolled for a funeral. It cried out in despair when the days of the College seemed numbered and rang with joy when orders came to "ring on." This bell became a fine old friend of the institution, and developed a personality all its own. But on an August night in 1914 a bolt of lightning set the bellry on fire. The bell was silenced forever.
What was to be its final disposition? Was it to be sold for old iron or exchanged for another? Sacrilege! The students agreed it must be kept "in memory of ..."

Consequently, the class of 1916 had a canopy built over the bell. Later the classes of 1924 and 1925 raised funds to construct the present pedestal from some of the best foundation stones of Old Central.

Only time could assuage the emotional loss of Old Central, but the building itself had to be replaced as quickly as possible. The General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, in session in Pella at the time of the fire, had passed a resolution to expand the faculty and endowment of Central College so she could continue to carry on her work. In June of 1923 General Synod unanimously passed a similar resolution which read:

That in view of the fact that Central College is already answering a great need in our denomination and that the prospects for enlarged service are becoming brighter; and in view of the further fact that the College cannot accomplish its mission unless it is placed on a more stable financial basis; thus enabling Central to pay better salaries, enlarge the teaching staff, and replace Old Central building with a new one, the committee would recommend that General Synod endorse the efforts of the College to secure a sum of not less than $400,000 for better equipment and endowment.

Thus the Reformed Church was responding to the call for the support of her youngest educational institution.

**HOLDING THE LINE**

In 1926, at the close of the school year, President Hoffman resigned to accept a position in the New Brunswick Theological Seminary. The Reverend John Wesselink, D.D., who had been pastor of the First Reformed Church in Pella since 1913, was elected to succeed him. He was well acquainted with Central College, for he had served as secretary of the Board of Trustees and of the Executive Committee since 1917.

Each year since the fire of 1922, as the enrollment grew, the need for additional classrooms grew more acute until the new building became imperative. Attendance would either have to be limited or more room provided. Therefore, early in 1926, the Executive Committee started to campaign in earnest for $100,000 for the building.

One of the most gratifying features of the campaign was the response of the students and faculty. Their share had been set at $4,000. But, their love for the school and their power to sacrifice had been greatly underestimated, for their contributions amounted to almost $6,000.

So successful was the campaign that, at commencement time of the same year, ground was broken for "New Central." However, the difficulty of the project is illustrated by the fact that construction was suspended during the winter of 1926-27, that only the first floor was put into use in September of 1928, that in 1929 the second floor was opened for use, and not until 1930—after the depression had gripped the nation—was the third floor opened for classes, and then only at the expense of closing Jordan Hall for a year because both buildings could not be heated adequately.

In 1928, by action of the Board of Trustees, the Central Academy was discontinued. The local high schools were providing the necessary requirements for all college applicants and thus rendered the maintenance of an academy unnecessary and too costly.

The matter of increasing the endowment of Central College had been urgent ever since the transfer in 1916. By the year 1929, $200,000 had been raised, but the need was for $300,000 in addition so that Central might begin to meet the requirements for membership in the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Consequently, the Executive Committee entered upon a promotion and development program whose first aim was to secure this needed endowment.

While the bond between Central College and her alumni had always been strong, especially following the organization of the Alumni Association in June of 1873, the Board of Trustees, meeting in June, 1926, took measures to strengthen further the cooperation and loyalty between Central's alumni and the school when it voted: first, to include in its membership three alumni (elected by the Alumni Association); and second, to provide funds with which an alumni secretary, chosen by the Association, might keep open the avenues of communication between the school and its former students.

In 1932 William P. Bosch, '28, as president of the Association, started a reorganization of the Alumni Association. In 1935 he was elected Alumni Secretary. He and Mrs. Bosch carried on gratis until 1939 when Miss Martha Firth was appointed director of Alumni Relations by the administration. After her graduation from Central in 1898, she had continued at Central until 1942 except for the years 1911 to 1920; she taught in the academy, was counselor at Cotton Hall, and taught history and social studies in the college.

Central's class of 1930 has the unique distinction, if it may be termed such, of being the only class thus far to graduate with no public commencement exercises. To the class it was a bitter disappointment. The most dramatic moment of the year was perhaps
when Dean Pletenpol announced at the Dorm before breakfast that because of the smallpox quarantine all college functions except examinations must be called off. We repeat—except examinations! 61 This class and the class of 1929 left a reminder of their days at Central by presenting the “Victory Bell,” which rings each time Central wins a game. The bell itself was presented by the class of 1929 and the steel tower, forty feet high, was the gift of the class of 1930.

By 1931-32 the financial collapse which had settled upon our country was making itself felt at Central; yet her leaders viewed the future with courage and fortitude. In 1932 President Wesselinik was able to report that in the four years preceding 1931-32, “We have been living within our income and have been able even to reduce our indebtedness to very manageable proportions.” Treasurer H. J. Vanden Berg’s wise decisions were a contributing factor in the balancing of the budget. In 1931-32 “income from invested funds has been deferred,” continued Dr. Wesselinik; “churches have been unable to help us as in former years; the Board of Education has been compelled to reduce their appropriations. So the Treasurer has had to report a deficit of $5,000 in the current expense fund to the Board of Trustees at its March meeting and will no doubt have to report further shortages at the June meeting.”62

As the depression tightened its grip on the country, the Board of Trustees, meeting in its spring session in 1932, made an urgent appeal to the church for its continued support. Students and faculty alike nobly and willingly did their share, and the administration did all within its power to aid students to continue to secure an education at a minimum of expense. Government NYA contracts did much to assist new students to enroll and others to remain in school.

The depression was severe, but as Dr. Wesselinik expressed it—“Central College is not dealing in luxuries . . . We are dealing in things of permanent value for which there is always constant demand. The need of education has not ceased on account of the financial collapse. As long as there are young people in our country there will be those who need and those who support Central College as a means of training these young people.”63 With this spirit of quiet confidence Central College faced the future.

President Wesselinik resigned in 1934, after serving on the Board of Trustees since 1917, and as its president since 1925.

A GREATER CENTRAL

Mr. Irwin J. Lubbers, Ph.D., who was then teaching at Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin, was chosen to be Central’s next president. Depression days were still affecting the college and prospects were gloomy. Teachers’ salaries were low; the enrollment was small.

Nevertheless, the following September Central opened her doors with much enthusiasm. The faculty, having already taken two percent cuts in salary, now agreed to a “non-set” salary plan, accepting only their proportional share of what was received. President Lubbers aimed to make the salaries at least fifty percent of what they had been the previous year, and, at the close of the session, the Board was able to declare a bonus above this fifty percent.

Faculty members and college alike were of the opinion that the depression years were an opportunity to build a better college. The Recreation Committee organized a cooperative plan to save money on food and save the institution from paying high rents on food. They planned the use of potatoes, carrots, cabbage, eggs, milk, and other produce from the farm homes of boys and girls determined to get an education.

In spite of all difficulties, Central’s enrollment increased during the depression years. In 1917-18 the enrollment had dropped to 50, but by 1926-27 the number had risen to 200. In 1928-29 it fell again to 160. Throughout the depression years the number continued to fluctuate, but by 1936-37 Central could report the largest enrollment thus far in her history under the Reformed Church, 275 students.64

One of the principle objectives of the Central College Student Industries was to enable students to earn their way through college. The amount of work given any student was determined by his need of financial aid. After five years this project became a thriving enterprise, having started with the manufacture of “Bildertory,” an educational toy made from scrap lumber. The Industries expanded their scope to include the manufacture and assembling of storm windows, ironing boards, folding tables, spool racks, window screens, hog feeders, metal furniture and furnishings, as well as special made-to-order furniture, various sorts of millwork and cabinet making.65 The Student Industries also carried on another type of activity—the importation, growth, culture, sale, and distribution of tulip bulbs, for which Pella is widely known.

The coming of World War II and the resulting government provisions for veterans education, together with a return to national prosperity, changed conditions at Central and there was no longer the need for this type of student work program.

An increasing number of students on the campus necessitated the expansion of the religious, academic, and housing facilities of the school. To meet these needs a “Greater Central” campaign was launched early in 1937. The campaign was backed by all the institutions of the Reformed Church. One of its immediate objectives was the securing of a new chapel building. The chapel would symbolize the higher aims and ideals of Central College, and so would be a fine initial step toward the building of a “Greater Central.”

Additional campus space was needed if Central was to expand her facilities. The part of the present campus extending from West Second
to West Third Street, covering all of Block 89 and most of Block 79, was purchased in 1938. The leveling of Block 89 for an addition to the athletic field was made possible by a gift from the Kuyper children in memory of their father, Mr. A. N. Kuyper.

At commencement in 1939, the possibility of building a chapel became a reality. This progress toward a “Greater Central” was made possible by the contributions of many donors, but largely by the substantial gift of the Reverend and Mrs. R. D. Douwstra, both alumni of the school. This was only a beginning of their giving, for eventually the Douwstras gave a total of $100,000 to the school, a small part of which was entailed as an annuity.

A stipulation accompanying the original gift of the Douwstras was that construction of the chapel must commence by June 15, 1939. On May 30th ground was broken as a part of the commencement activities. Douwstra Chapel was to become a part of and an addition to Central Hall, thus signifying the unity of the two greatest powers in the world today—education and religious training.

The erection of the chapel proceeded rapidly. Since funds were not readily available for the purchase of seats, they were “sold” at ten dollars each, either individually or in series. Members of the class of 1940 pledged the purchase price of twenty-five seats as their gift, on condition that they be given the privilege of graduating from the new chapel.

Douwstra Chapel was dedicated as a part of the 1940 commencement activities. Not only had the seats been purchased and installed, but a new Steinway Grand piano was provided by the generosity of two friends of Central and of the Women’s Auxiliary of the College. Hymnals were provided by a Reformed Church family of New Jersey.

The carved rosewood pulpit furniture was a gift of Katpadi Industrial Institute of the Aroet Mission in India. Centralites in this Reformed Church Mission—the Reverend and Mrs. C. A. De Bruin, Miss Johanna De Vries, and Mr. Ben De Vries—together with Dr. B. Rottschaefer, manager of the industrial school, were instrumental in arranging for the gift; the De Bruins paid the duty on the furniture, and the Gospel Teams of the college paid the transportation.

The one thing remaining to complete Douwstra Chapel was an organ. The Women’s Auxiliary made an initial pledge of $5,000 for this purpose; a substantial gift came from the Gardner-Cowles Foundation of Des Moines, and many gifts came from friends of the college. One contribution of interest was sent by a Chinese church in Sacramento, California.

However, since the United States was once again turning her attention to war efforts, the actual acquiring of the organ became a complicated matter. The impending rise in taxes increased pressure to place the order before October 1, 1941. While the college authorities were hesitating to place the order because of insufficient funds, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Wing, both members of the college faculty at that time, offered to back the purchase with their savings, expecting payment only as funds came in. It was not necessary for them to make good on this pledge, but their offer did give the encouragement needed to assure Central of the three-manual, thirty-two rank Kimball organ.

The Central College organ, delivered in July, 1942, was one of the last to leave the factory before the OPA ordered the use of essential materials diverted to defense production.

The final chapter in the story of the organ was written at Homecoming in October, 1943, when it was dedicated at the traditional Sunday vesper service.

The CENTRAL RAY for September 20, 1940, carries this headline: “FOR SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR CENTRAL’S ENROLLMENT INCREASES.” In this seven-year period the enrollment had risen from 191 to 721 students, and the faculty had been enlarged to keep pace with the growing student body. Surely, the College was on the road to becoming a “Greater Central,” in respect to its service rendered as well as in respect to the growth of its physical plant.

In keeping with trends in other American colleges, previous to United States’ entry into World War II, Central’s administration announced that the college would sponsor a Collegiate Private Flight Training program under the supervision of the Civil Aeronautics Administration, beginning in February, 1941. This soon proved to be a very popular course, as well as an important part of the government’s defense program.

With the attack on Pearl Harbor, Central College was literally plunged into the fourth war in her history of less than one hundred years. But, as on previous occasions she proved true to her patriotic tradition and ideals. As expressed by one of Central’s outstanding alumni, Dr. John S. Nollen, in 1942, “We need not be downcast as our college is going through the fourth war in its history, even the greatest and most destructive of all wars. No war can kill the spirit, and we believe that the spirit of Christian education exemplified in Central College is immortal.”

In cooperation with the government’s “all-out” war effort the college program was accelerated and graduation date moved ahead. A Civilian Morale Service Commission was organized to coordinate all defense activities. The college was one of the institutions approved for enlistment of students in the Army Enlisted Reserve Corps with a view to preparing them for officer’s training. New courses, in as far as possible, were taught with a view to their contribution to the war effort. Varsity sports, forensics, music activities, and social life,
accepted the invitation to become the sixteenth president of Central College; the fourth since her affiliation with the Reformed Church in America. Dr. Vander Lugt was inaugurated at a special chapel service on February 18, 1946. It is the unique privilege of his administration to be at the helm of Central College as she completes her first one hundred years of Christian service. There is little doubt that much of her future success as she launches forth into a second one hundred years of service will depend directly upon the efficacy of the present program for strengthening the institution.

The Central College with which Dr. Vander Lugt became acquainted in 1946, was the product of the continual and successive, faithful striving of several generations of devoted Christian people, encompassing a ninety-three-year period. These people include the many administrative staffs, trustees, faculty members, students, townpeople, church constitutencies, and friends of Central College of these many years. Through periods of depression, rejoicing, change, and success, the status of Central College was a primary concern of all.

The initial success of being accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1942 was a triumph of President Lubbers’ “Greater Central” program. However, during the war years the major concern of the institution was of necessity that of holding her own under the conditions imposed by the “emergency.”

Released from the pressure of war-time stringency, the new administration felt that the times were propitious for launching a vigorous campaign of improvements.

When the G. I.’s descended upon the campus in the fall of 1946, more adequate student housing became urgent. The enrollment reached an all-time high of 318. Central built a temporary dormitory to house sixty men and established its Trailer Town for married G. I.’s. In 1947 the north wing of Graham Hall was completed. Early in the 1950’s the Graham Hall lounge was redecorated and refurnished.

Central has always had many loyal friends who have contributed generously to her success. It is impossible to name them all. But the service on the Board of Trustees of the late P. G. Gaas and his son, George G. Gaas of Pella, a present member of the Board of Trustees, is most noteworthy. Their combined service totals ninety-four years. From 1906 to 1938 they served together. Since the grandfather of Mrs. George Gaas, Dominie Hendrik Peter Scheels, was on the Board of

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Although not discontinued, were all de-emphasized for the duration of the emergency. A War Service Council was organized for the specific purpose of directing the war efforts of the faculty and students. Scrap drives and bond drives were fervently carried on.

In the spring of 1942, the United States Navy Department approved Central for its program. Soon Navy air cadets had almost “taken over” the campus, using classroom and offices in Jordan Hall. As the Naval program increased, Graham Hall, home of Central College women since 1918, became a Navy barracks.

This meant providing additional dormitory facilities for the girls. The cottage system was introduced for housing the women of the campus. Firth, Aschenbrenner, Draulich Stoddard, Menning, and Jennie Kuyper cottages were acquired for this purpose, and were used until the fall of 1944, when the cadets left Central’s campus.

Of the many contributions Central made in World War II none is greater nor more significant than her contribution of personnel from her student body, her faculty, and her alumni. Over six hundred Centralites are known to have participated in every branch of the service. Twenty-one of them lost their lives.

The “war years” had not been devoid of progress. In the spring of 1942, Central was notified that she merited membership in the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. This was a goal set by President Lubbers early in his administration. He searched out the school’s weaknesses; he charted the course for growth and development wherever improvement was necessary; he challenged the faculty to efforts acceptable to the North Central Association.

Through the combined efforts of the administration, faculty, and trustees, constant improvements had been made over a period of years. Reports, surveys, and exhibits were prepared and submitted to the Association as a basis for the examiners’ study.

The examiners were, in the words of their own report: “very much impressed with the fact that this [Central] is an institution which knows where it has been; it is aware of where it is; and has intelligently based plans for the future.”

The 1942 commencement was the occasion for the notable visit of Princess Juliana of the Netherlands to Central College. Her party included the late Dr. Alexander Louden, Netherlands ambassador to the United States, who delivered the commencement address. Princess Juliana came to Pella and to Central to participate in the 1942 graduation ceremonies and to be awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

After eleven years of serving Central College, Dr. Lubbers resigned in June, 1946, to accept the presidency of Central’s sister school, Hope College, at Holland, Michigan. Until a new president could be obtained, the dean of the college, Dr. H. W. Pietenpol, served as acting president, and the financial problems were in the hands of the business manager, the Reverend R. J. Vanden Berg.

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STRENGTHENING THE STAKES

In January, 1946, the Reverend Gerrit T. Vander Lugt, Ph.D., who at that time was president of Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin,
North Wing of Graham Hall

Trustees when the College was established, the service of this family may be said to span the century of Central's history. All three men have contributed generously to Central and in 1921 when the men's dormitory was dedicated it was fittingly named "Gaass Hall." It is an interesting fact that this building is located on ground which was originally given to the College by Dominie Scholte, later sold, and more recently donated to Central College by Mr. and Mrs. George Gaass. In a sense, the lot was given to Central twice by members of the same family.

Further concern for the physical welfare of the student body is evidenced by the conversion, in 1947, of Ardenhoven cottage for use as an infirmary. With a doctor employed part time and two registered nurses, each devoting half time to the work, Central's Health Service became adequate to meet the ordinary needs of the students.

Additions and changes in the physical plant have been of direct benefit to the classroom. The greenhouse, built in 1950, facilitates instruction in botany. The science laboratories have been improved: the advanced chemistry laboratory has been newly equipped and the physics department is well housed on the third floor of Central Hall.

The commencement of 1982 was unique in that, as well as honoring the graduating class, it was also honoring a faculty member, one whose life has been closely linked with Central and her destiny since she became an educational institution of the Reformed Church in 1916. We quote the words of President G. T. Vander Lugt's citation:

Dean Pietenpol's record is almost unparalleled in the history of educational institutions. He has served for thirty-six years as dean and teacher under five presidents. During many of those years this college required almost superhuman power, endless sacrifice and unflagging devotion. Dean Pietenpol never wavered but gave without thought of self that Central College might continue to serve the young men and women who came here. Some did not always see eye to eye with him. (What person does who needs discipline or rebuke or stern counsel?) But these people now rise up to call him blessed. Many alumni can thank Dean Pietenpol for his counsel that they became what they had in them to be. They are better for having faced Dean Pietenpol in his office, and they appreciate what he has done for them.

The Pietenpol Observatory, housing the Albrach-Clark telescope with a six and one-half inch lens given to the college in 1902 by the late R. R. Beard, was erected on the athletic field. Former students and friends of Dean Pietenpol contributed the funds and were happy to see it dedicated to him during Homecoming in 1982.

The administration and faculty are constantly attempting to make college study more meaningful in terms of the needs of society and of the Christian purpose of the school. To this end the divisional system of curriculum—the Humanities, the Natural Sciences, History and Social Studies, Religion and Philosophy—permits an integrated approach to Central's view of a liberal arts education.

The number of course offerings and the possible areas of major study have been increased. Now a Central student can work toward a bachelor's degree in all the usual fields included in the liberal arts program; can take pre-professional work for law, medicine, engineering, and the ministry; or teacher-education leading toward elementary or secondary certificates. To compare Central's graduates with those of other schools, as well as to facilitate their entry into advanced work, the graduate record examination has been introduced.
Continued effort is expended to provide students with worth while co-curricular activities, particularly in the fields of music, dramatics, forensics, and athletics. To this end, a significant amount of music equipment, including practice organs, pianos and other instruments, listening and recording equipment, records, choir robes, and band uniforms, has been acquired either through purchase or as gifts to augment the effectiveness of the College’s music program.

The lighting of the chapel and its stage has been extensively improved with direct benefit to the drama and music departments and to the worship services held in Douwstra Chapel. In the name of the Kuyper family, Mr. P. H. Kuyper continued to contribute to Central for the development of the athletic field. This project includes the football playing and practice fields, a cinder track, cement tennis courts, and a steel stadium seating 1,200 spectators. The erection of this stadium in 1949 climaxed the project first undertaken by the Kuyper family in 1938. The field is known as the A. M. Kuyper Field in honor of the father’s many years of service on the Board of Trustees.

The inflationary tendencies of the post-war era have not lessened the administration’s financial problems, and the operating budget has more than trebled in the past ten years. Encouragingly, the valuation of the College’s physical plant has more than doubled in the same period. The endowment has grown less rapidly, but has increased more than sixty percent in the past decade.

Two important projects remain to be mentioned: the erection of the Student Memorial Union by the alumni, and the building of the contemporary estimated addition to the Ludwig Library. Both projects, when realized, will be a further “Strengthening of the Stakes” for the College of the future.

But the administration of Dr. Vander Lugt has been marked by more than expansion of physical facilities and improvements in the curriculum.

The faculty and staff has been enlarged to meet increased demands. There has been a substantial advance in the degree training and in preparation evidenced. Salaries have advanced in keeping with modern economic trends. The teaching load and student-faculty ratio have been reduced, enabling the teacher to concentrate his instruction within smaller academic areas and with smaller classes for more effective instruction.

Student government has been strengthened to give the students increased responsibility and opportunity to develop democratic control over many campus activities.

Central College of 1953, her centennial year, is a church college which receives substantial support from the Reformed Church in America, but it is not sectarian in a narrow sense. In the membership of the faculty and students, many denominations are represented. By charter, she is to offer “equal advantages to all students having the required literary and moral qualifications irrespective of denomination or religious profession.”

Central’s aims and purposes, in 1953 as in 1853, are definitely Christian.

True to the faith of the pioneer founders of Central College, she today believes and teaches that all truth rests ultimately upon the nature of God; that the best learning is that which recognizes Him in His personal relations with men; that the highest culture reaches the heart as well as the mind; and that the noblest life is the life lived in Jesus Christ.

The Founders’ Day Convocation on June 3, 1953, commemorated the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Articles of Incorporation of Central College by the Baptists in 1853. Four presidents of Central College were on the program: Dr. J. W. Bailey, 1914-17; Dr. M. J. Hoffman, 1917-23; Dr. I. J. Lubbers, 1924-45; Dr. G. T. Vander Lugt, 1946-53. Dean William Wesselink of Buena Vista College represented his father, Dr. John Wesselink, 1925-34, who was ill.

They spoke, very appropriately, from the pulpit used by Dominie Scholtz in Utrecht, the Netherlands, as early as the 1630’s and brought to America by his granddaughters, Hanna and Sara Nollen.

Finally, in honor of Central’s Centennial, the General Synod of the Reformed Church in America met on the campus...
LOOKING FORWARD

The late Alfred North Whitehead applied to education a quality which he called "the habitual vision of greatness." Truly, the founding fathers of Central College had this "vision of greatness," and down through the century this same vision, along with the achievement of her founders, has been Central's inspiration. And so it shall continue to be as Central enters upon a second century of service, still remaining steadfast to her purpose and building upon the foundation laid by those courageous educational pioneers in 1853.

The hope of the Central College of 1953—of her president, her faculty, her staff, her students, and her alumni—is that in the years to come she may continue a forward, upward march under the direction of Christ, trusting in God's guidance for the present and the future as she has done in the past.

This faith in God's continued guidance is fittingly expressed in the "Hymn to Central Youth," written by one of her alumni, Joyce Huibregtse Kuyper, '39. With its prayerful stanzas the story of Central's first "One Hundred Years of Service" finds an appropriate close.

Our God has led us in the past
Thru' trials, storm, and stress,
For loving care and guidance sent
His holy name we bless.

God leads us still, and surely we
This leading clearly see;
As sons of Central we would share
These blessings, Lord, from Thee.

In years to come God still will lead.
This prayer to Him we make;
As Thou, O Lord, dost Central lead,
Lead us, for Thy Name's sake.

Amen.

Like the Old Bell, the spirit and traditions of Central's founders continue on her campus.

(Ludwig Library in the background.)
NOTES

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5. Cole, Cyrenus, "A Bit of Holland in America," THE MIDLAND MONTHLY, February, 1906, p. 120.
6. PELLA GAZETTE, June 7, 1856.
10. Abernathy, A. A., "A Historical Sketch of Our Educational Institutions," an address delivered to the Iowa Baptist Education Society, Marshalltown, Iowa, October 20, 1891, p. 4.
12. From an historical sketch published in THE CENTRAL RAY, January, 1892.
17. Ibid.
18. Ibid.
22. Sadler, loc. cit.
25. Ibid., p. 12.
27. THE CENTRAL RAY, May, 1892, pp. 119-120.
28. Ibid., June, 1892, pp. 138-140.
31. From a statement made by A. H. Viersen, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, to the Baptists of Iowa in 1886.
33. Ibid., June, 1902, p. 245.
35. THE CENTRAL RAY, November, 1907, p. 43.
36. Ibid., p. 43.
37. Sadler, loc. cit., p. 123.
38. Ibid., pp. 125-124.
39. Ibid., p. 125.
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43. Ibid., March 4, 1916.
44. THE PELLA CHRONICLE, April 12, 1923.
45. Ibid., September 9, 1943.
46. THE CENTRAL RAY, October 28, 1921.
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48. THE CENTRAL RAY, March 13, 1926.
49. Ibid., April 24, 1928.
50. Sadler, loc. cit., p. 126.
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52. Ibid., May 27, 1932.

53. Ibid.

54. See catalogs for those years:

55. THE DES MOINES TRIBUNE, December 11, 1940.

56. THE CENTRAL RAY, April 10, 1942.

57. Ibid., February 7, 1941.


59. THE CENTRAL RAY, April 10, 1942.

60. Ibid., March 1, 1946.

61. Much of the material which follows is based on a report submitted to the Gardner-Cowles Foundation in December, 1952.


63. CENTRAL COLLEGE BULLETIN (CATALOG), 1953.