



PRESIDENTS OF CENTENARY COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA
COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA
JACKSON, LOUISIANA
1825 - 1845

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. REV. JEREMIAH CHAMBERLAIN | 1826-1828 |
| 2. LT. H. H. CIRD | 1829-1834 |
| 3. REV. JAMES SHANNON | 1834-1840 |
| 4. REV. WILLIAM D. LACEY | 1840-1843 |

CENTENARY COLLEGE, CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI - 1841
BRANDON SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI 1841-1845

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 5. T. C. THORNTON | 1841-1844 |
| 6. WILLIAM WINANS (PRO-TEM) | 1844-1845 |

CENTENARY COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA
JACKSON, LOUISIANA
1846 - 1907

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| 7. JUDGE D. O. SHATTUCK | 1846-1848 |
| 8. JUDGE A. B. LONGSTREET | 1848-1849 |
| 9. REV. H. H. RIVERS | 1849-1854 |
| 10. DR. HENRY C. THWEATT | 1854 - |
| 11. DR. JOHN C. MILLER | 1855-1865 |
| 12. W. H. WATKINS | 1866-1870 |
| 13. DR. CHARLES C. ANDREWS | 1870-1882 |
| 14. DR. D. M. RUSH | 1883-1885 |
| 15. DR. T. A. S. ADAMS | 1885-1887 |
| 16. DR. GEORGE H. WILEY (PRO-TEM) | 1887-1888 |
| 17. REV. W. L. C. HUNNICUTT | 1888-1894 |
| 18. DR. C. W. CARTER | 1894-1898 |
| 19. DR. I. W. COOPER | 1898-1902 |
| 20. DR. HENRY BEACH CARRÉ | 1902-1903 |
| 21. REV. C. C. MILLER | 1903-1906 |

CENTENARY COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA
SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA
1908

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 22. WILLIAM LANDER WEBER | 1908-1910 |
| 23. DR. FELIX R. HILL | 1910-1913 |
| 24. DR. ROBERT H. WYNN | 1913-1918 |
| 25. R. W. BOURNE | 1919-1920 |
| 26. DR. R. E. SMITH (PRO-TEM) | 1920-1921 |
| 27. DR. GEORGE S. SEXTON | 1921-1932 |
| 28. DR. W. ANGIE SMITH (PRO-TEM) | 1932-1933 |
| 29. DR. PIERCE CLINE | 1933-1943 |
| 30. DR. JOE J. MICKLE | 1945-1964 |
| 31. DR. JACK S. WILKES | 1964 - |

To begin its celebration of the sesquicentennial of the College, the Centenary Alumni Association presents for its thousands of members and friends this pictorial survey of its history. Though few now living can recall the Jackson years, most Centenary people still are strangely drawn to this source where the life and spirit of the College were born. It is with this era, the Age of Andrew Jackson as well as the town of Jackson, that we begin.

This rendition of Centenary College of Louisiana was published in New York to commemorate the undertaking of the great Center Building in 1856. The West Wing, at left, still stands.



The College

Centenary College of Louisiana is the direct descendant of two institutions of higher learning, one public and one private. The State of Louisiana issued a charter establishing the College of Louisiana in Jackson as a state institution in 1825, and, with modifications, this charter remains in effect. In 1839, in celebration of the centennial of Methodism, the Conference of Mississippi and Louisiana founded a college named Centenary at Clinton, Mississippi. It was moved to Brandon Springs, Mississippi, in 1840, and graduated its first class in 1844. Both colleges were located in isolated rural areas in accordance with educational policy of the period, and as a result had to struggle for funds and for students. The trustees of the state college, faced with the closing of the institution for want of support, in 1845 agreed to transfer its charter to the Methodist Conference, provided only that "Christian instruction and discipline" be always offered on a non-sectarian basis. The merged institutions, under the name "Centenary College of Louisiana," occupied the campus at Jackson until 1906.

Centenary flourished until the Civil War, with an excellent physical plant, a fine faculty, and a large student body. Its annual commencement brought crowds of thousands to the small town to enjoy several days of academic festivities, and taxed the capacity of its auditorium, the largest in the state. Closed during the Civil War, the College failed to recover fully from the economic distress of the Reconstruction period, the bypassing of Jackson by the post-war railroad builders, and the competition of new, better-located, state-supported colleges. Toward the end of the century, the richer Mississippi Methodist Conferences withdrew support from Centenary to found their own institution in Jackson, Mississippi. Now forced to seek ways to attract sufficient students and financial support from Louisiana alone, Centenary admitted women to its classes, and turned more and more toward emphasizing the religious aspects of its program and its relationship to the Methodist Church. But the student body continued to dwindle, and the magnificent physical plant deteriorated despite the heroic efforts of dedicated supporters.

In 1906, a group of public spirited citizens of Shreveport determined to establish a college in the booming North Louisiana city. The Methodists there, convinced that Centenary must move from Jackson or die, persuaded these civic leaders to bid to become the new home for the old college. The city agreed, and the Methodist Conference, fully aware of the necessity for the move, gratefully accepted a gift of a campus site and substantial financial support for the relocation. Centenary abandoned the ghostly halls in Jackson for the more vigorous atmosphere of Shreveport in 1908.

Even this transplantation failed to restore the College to full health. Plagued by limited financial resources and a weak academic program, Centenary appeared doomed in 1921 when Dr. George Sexton assumed the presidency to make a last ditch fight for its survival. With full civic and church support, he began to revitalize it, emphasizing a stronger and more attractive academic program, the creation of an endowment of respectable size, and a football team which brought nationwide attention to the College. The football team died, a victim of World War II, but the modern physical plant, the rich academic program, and the endowment envisioned by Dr. Sexton were brought into reality during the presidencies of Pierce Cline, Joe J. Mickle and Jack S. Wilkes.

The mass of temporary structures constructed to meet the rapidly rising enrollments of the post war years gave way to permanent Georgian style brick buildings as the College created a virtually new physical plant. The size of the student body severely taxed even these buildings until 1970 when the nation's population growth slowed, and the costs of private education rose, hindering continued expansion.

Now under President John Horton Allen, with a stabilized student population, Centenary stands ready for the future, firmly rooted in its historic past, yet with a youthful spirit of adventure and innovation. As the oldest chartered higher educational institution west of the Mississippi River, its present status justifies the faith and sacrifices of the thousands who have given it 150 years of life.



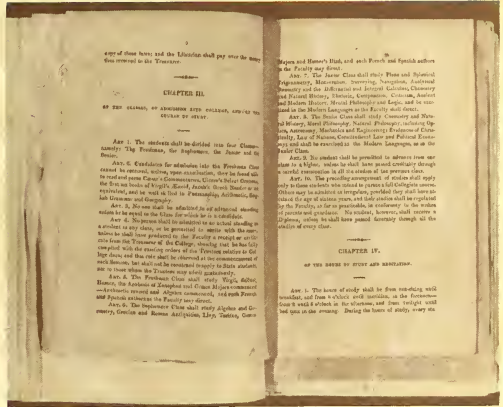
Dr. William Marbury Carpenter attended the College of Louisiana, was professor of natural history there from 1837 to 1843, and later professor of materia medica at the University of Louisiana.

Although the governments of the Territory of Orleans and the State of Louisiana early in the American period provided generously for higher education, their efforts by 1825 had come to little. The College of Orleans, the only remnant of the ambitiously planned University of Orleans, had failed to please the new English-speaking settlers pouring into Louisiana. The Legislature determined to create a new college in the American dominated West Florida area, leaving the College of Orleans to survive primarily on gambling house license sale revenues and private donations.

In an Act approved February 18, 1825, the State granted a charter, created a Board of Trustees, provided financial resources, and spelled out the curriculum for a new institution to be located at Jackson and called the College of Louisiana. The Charter required that the curriculum include "the English, French, Greek and Latin languages, Logic, Rhetoric, Ancient and Modern History, Mathematics, Natural, Moral and Political Philosophy." The American slant of the Legislature's intent can be seen in that of the twenty-eight private citizen trustees appointed in the Act, twenty were of English descent.

The initial state appropriation of \$5,000 plus additional revenues previously given to public schools in the Feliciana seems beggarly today, but the founders considered it quite adequate as an annual operating fund, especially after friends

The College of Louisiana



The first compilation of the College curriculum and student and faculty regulations in 1839 placed rigid restrictions on entrance and discipline of students, which help to explain the small enrollment.

of the College pledged sums totaling \$70,000 to defray opening expenses.

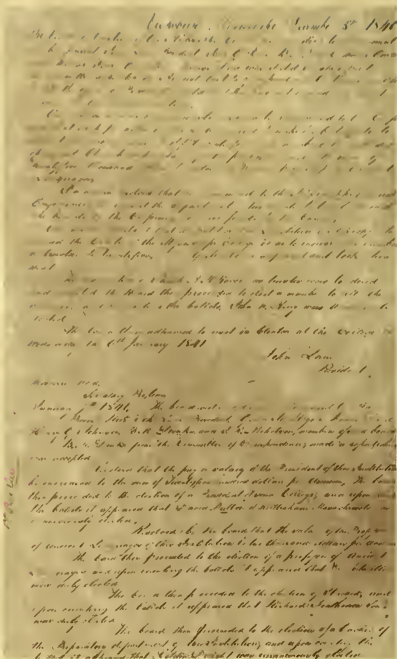
The inaugural session of the Board at Jackson on May 2, 1825, fell heir to the Feliciana Parish Courthouse, no longer needed for governmental purposes, rented buildings for student housing to supplement the courthouse space, and hired a president and a faculty. The College soon constructed several frame buildings to replace the unsuitable courthouse quarters, and later moved to a permanent campus nearby.

Wrangling among the faculty, disputes between Board and president, a dearth of students, misapplication of funds, and inconsistent state policies kept the College in turmoil during the twenty years it operated as a state institution. No more than 80 students ever enrolled at one time, and most of these were preparatory students. The rigid academic requirements for entrance simply could not be met by any sizeable number of Louisianians, and the College had to prepare its own freshman class.

Discouraged by the apparent failure of the College despite what it considered generous state appropriations, the Legislature in Act 74, 1845, authorized the closing of the institution, the public auction of its properties, and the annulling of its charter. About the only permanent legacy of the state years was a beautiful brick building which still stands today.

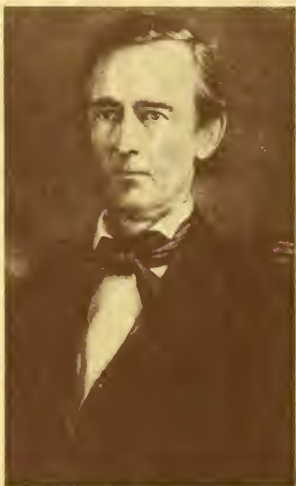
Centenary
College
1839-
1845

The first page of the Minute Book of the Board of Trustees of Centenary College, dated December 5, 1840, shows the indecision as to the final location of the campus.



The Methodists of the United States in 1839 staged a variety of celebrations of the one hundredth anniversary of Methodism. The most permanent result of the round of ceremonies was the decision of the Mississippi Conference, which then also encompassed churches in Louisiana, to create a college to be called Centenary in honor of the occasion. Struggles to gather the necessary funding, disputes over the choice of site, difficulties in acquiring property, and civic competition delayed until 1841 the opening at the final selected place, Brandon Springs, Mississippi.

The properties utilized by the College had been developed originally as a resort built around reputedly healthful mineral springs, but financially unprofitable because of its isolation from the nearest population center, Jackson, Mississippi. Like the College of Louisiana, Centenary concentrated on the classics, attracted only a few students, suffered from poor planning, and soon fell into desuetude. Though it graduated its first class in 1844, its future appeared to be in jeopardy. Collections of pledges for College support fell alarmingly, and authorities complained that the itinerant Methodist ministers, not yet known for their erudition, failed to appreciate the importance of the institution.



The Reverend Benjamin M. Drake of Mississippi served many years on the Board of Trustees, and as its President, and in 1854 for a short period as President *pro tem* of the college.



Judge Edward McGehee signed the promissory note with which the Methodists purchased the College of Louisiana, and generously supported Centenary through its early years.



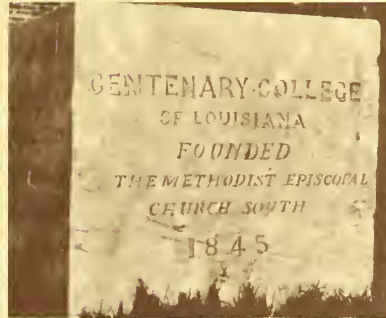
William Winans, a pioneer Methodist minister in Mississippi and Louisiana, served as President *pro tem* of Centenary College in 1844 and presided over the first meeting of the Board of Trustees of Centenary College of Louisiana in 1845.

The failure of the College of Louisiana in 1845, together with the early decrepitude of Centenary College combined to create a fortunate opportunity to fuse two failures into one stable institution. Led by Judge Edward McGehee of Woodville, Mississippi, the Methodists determined to purchase the plant of the College of Louisiana, move Centenary there, and thus perpetuate their higher educational hopes. Judge McGehee was the only bidder for the Jackson property, and as the agent for the Mississippi Conference signed a note for \$10,000, the minimum price the State would accept. He advanced in cash the sum of \$166.66, the only payment ever made for the property, as the State never received payment of the debt.

The union of the two institutions into Centenary College of Louisiana almost immediately proved efficacious, both in enrollment and quality. As the largest college in the two-state area, Centenary prided itself in rivaling even Harvard's enrollment as nearly 300 students appeared for some sessions, although a large proportion of these were preparatory students. The College added a new dormitory wing, identical to the original constructed in 1833, and in 1856 opened a huge "Center Building," which included a variety of classrooms, laboratories, a library, and debating society headquarters as well as a 3,000 capacity auditorium.

The only major curriculum change made by the College allowed "in peculiar cases" the substitution of two modern languages for the requirement of proficiency in Latin and Greek. To emphasize the view of the Board and the faculty that such a program was less demanding than the Arts curriculum, they called the new arrangement the "Scientific Course," and worded the diploma awarded for completing it in English rather than Latin. Less than ten percent of the graduates pursued the Scientific Course.

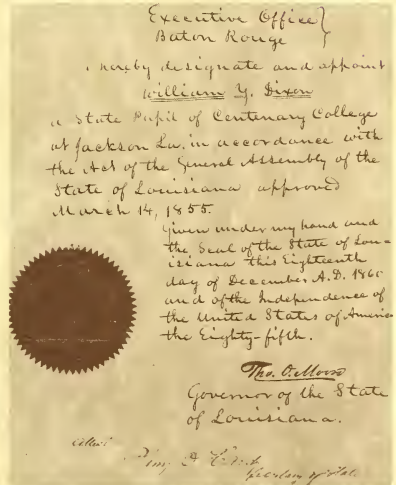
Centenary College of Louisiana 1845-1861



The cornerstone of the Center Building, constructed in 1856, noted on one face the Methodist relationship, and on another the State funding in 1825. Brought to the Shreveport campus when the Jackson building was demolished in the 1930's, its present location is unknown.



The massive Center Building, flanked by two identical dormitory wings, was designed by the architect G. W. A. Simpson. The acoustics in the large auditorium left much to be desired until the interior dome was sealed off about 1880.



In exchange for the agreement of the State to forego payment for the campus, the College agreed to accept annually ten State-nominated scholars without charge for tuition. The quota was seldom filled.

While only a single photograph from Centenary before 1861 is available in the College Archives, the written records of its activities abound in the Minute Books of the Board of Trustees and the faculty and area newspapers.

The faculty met weekly, and devoted the major portion of its meeting time to disciplinary problems. Most of the students were sons of planters and professional men, and had been accustomed to an easy way of life, with hunting, horse racing, dancing, and traveling shows to ease the rigor of preparatory studies, and with servants to attend their physical needs. The transition to the rigidly regulated life of the College, where the amenities were prohibited, and the academic day was scheduled from dawn through nine p.m. proved so exasperating to many of the young gentlemen that they engaged in repeated episodes of hi-jinks, ill-temper, fistcuffs, and rule-breaking.

The catalog for the 1857-58 session gives the College policy toward student discipline:

The government is mild and parental, but consistent and firm; if a student is found to be incorrigibly vicious or idle, he is at once dismissed. The punishments consist of demerit marks, private reproof, public reproof, and suspension. The rewards consist of merit marks, and public honors on the day of Commencement. So that by every incentive — by appeals to all the nobler principles of . . . nature — by affectionate entreaty and friendly counsel — by the hope of distinction and the fear of disgrace — the Faculty endeavor to maintain order and the purest morality.

Portions of the Faculty Minutes recounting disciplinary epi-

sodes indicate the type of problem dealt with in faculty meetings.

P. Keary having remained in the College, notwithstanding the direction given him by the faculty to depart, and having committed an assault upon the President by presenting a pistol at him, and otherwise misbehaved, the Faculty agreed that the Steward and the Janitor should be asked to cooperate with the Faculty by refusing Mr. Keary accommodation in the College. (1833)

Mr. John Keller was reported for getting drunk, and molesting the citizens of Jackson, and especially for use of the most improper and indecent language such as is too obscene to be written on this Record. . . (1854)

Joseph Johnson, John Lane, and Calvin Roberts were indefinitely suspended for being out at night at an improper hour and throwing brickbats at members of the faculty. (1854)

With the records replete with such incidents, one might wonder what became of the graduates. Of the 209 graduated through 1861, seventy became lawyers, twenty-seven doctors, thirty-three planters, seven teachers, and thirteen ministers. The destinies of the other graduates cannot be found in the official records of the College.

The small number of ministers provided to the Church by the College in ante bellum days indicates the rigid adherence of the Methodist Church to its agreement with the state that no sectarian dogmas should be taught, nor efforts at proselytism used.

Graduation Ceremonies

Although the town of Jackson was small, each year at commencement it accommodated thousands of visitors who gathered to camp out on the College grounds and attend the several days of festivities. It was not unusual for the governors of both Louisiana and Mississippi, together with supreme court members of both states to be in attendance, for the ceremonies were the cultural peak of the year for the two states. For five days the air would resound with oration, declamation, sermon, and song as each of the graduates was exhibited in performance, and many of the visitors made formal addresses of an hour or so. As many as fifty formal addresses would be given during the week, some of them in Latin, to which the throng listened attentively lest their inattention mark them as ignorant. Professor J. C. Miller holds the record for length of speech, a six-hour Baccalaureate in 1854, with the Rev. C. K. Marshall holding another record, nine formal speeches at one ceremony, the Commencement of 1856, which was also the occasion for laying the cornerstone of the Center Building.

A usual feature of the ceremonies was the granting of honorary degrees. The College made no prior announcement of such awards to audience or recipient, and the usual re-

Student Life

GRAND
CONCERT
AT THE
CHAPEL,
BY THE
COLLEGE BRASS BAND,

Under direction of Profs: KROLL & HERBESTREY.
WEDNESDAY, July 25th. 1855.

PART FIRST

1. Centenary College March. : : : by HERBESTREY.
2. Grand Solo, for Cornet a Piston, by HERBESTREY.
3. Mass: in the Cold Ground.
4. Love Nut: Quickstep.
5. Grand Solo. : : : : : by KROLL & HORGES.
6. Jackson Lady's Waltz. : : : : : by HERBESTREY.
7. Grand Solo for Flute & Guitar, by B. MOSES & BRO.
8. Elmer Quickstep. : : : : : by HERBESTREY.
9. Jordan. : : : : : by

PART SECOND

10. Katy Darling. : : : : : by HERBESTREY.
11. Quickstep. : : : : : do. do.
12. Grand Solo for Clarionette, by KROLL.
13. Baton Rouge Polka. : : : : : by HERBESTREY.
14. Quickstep. : : : : : do. do.
15. Grand Solo for Flute & Guitar by MOSES & BRO.
16. Quickstep. : : : : : by HERBESTREY.
17. Matilda Waltz. : : : : : do. do.
18. Similia Polka. : : : : : by
19. Hall Columbia and Yankee Doodle.

TO CONCLUDE WITH FIREWORKS.

Doors open at 6 o'clock. Performance in Commence at 8 o'clock & Tickets of Admission, 50 CENTS.

TICKETS to be had at the Post Office, and at Mrs. WILSON'S.

Printed & Published by G. W. KROLL.

An Experiment in Student Government

Shortly after the merger in Jackson, in a burst of optimism and faith in human nature, the Board of Trustees voted to institute a new system for drafting "laws for the government of the students." Admittedly "startling" in its innovative ideas, the plan created the Board as the "Senatorial Branch of the Legislature," a twenty-one member student-elected "Representative Branch," while the faculty served as the "Executive." A veto by the faculty could be overridden by a simple majority of both houses.

Put into effect in 1846, the plan soon tested the sanguinity of the Board. The first bill adopted by the students would have eliminated the requirement of the calculus for all students. The Board tabled the bill. Later, despite faculty protest, the Student-Board Legislature required faculty attendance at all College functions including the compulsory early morning and late evening prayers, chapel and church services and student debates. The act required the President to report to the Board the name of any faculty member who neglected this duty. The Board, however, failed to approve a student resolution to abolish morning and evening prayers on Saturday and Sunday. The College abandoned this system of government after it had so frustrated two Presidents that they resigned their positions as untenable.

In the 70. hours of the Sem.
 Southern
 Most common of
 the present where class passing several hours
 of many and multiphase classes would require
 with the attention of your students being to our
 under the a altogether impossible in the case
 of affairs for us to do, not in the case of our
 studies but even a way for an address, particularly
 we have time of our resolutions may be to be
 hoping you will extend the justice of which
 an arrangement and make a general one to
 our complaint
 We are gentlemen
 Yours very respectfully
 W. C. Lewis
 J. C. Lewis
 J. C. Lewis
 J. C. Lewis
 J. C. Lewis
 J. C. Lewis
 J. C. Lewis
 J. C. Lewis
 J. C. Lewis
 J. C. Lewis

Daily classes in both Greek and Latin burdened the Centenary students in 1859, and they sought relief. The Faculty refused their request for a schedule change.

tion of the new degree-holder was either a blessed silence or an attack of garrulity. Charles Gayarre, honored in 1852 with a Master of Arts degree, responded with a one hour impromptu address of appreciation. All graduates of the College were eligible for a Master's degree three years after achieving Bachelor of Arts, if the graduate had performed well in his chosen career and applied for the additional recognition.

One newspaper editor in 1852 found especial enjoyment in the music for the occasion:

The solemn charm of the occasion was not even broken by the "music." Usually at Commencements the first note of the scraping bow quite dissipates the moral and the intellectual. Four or five red faces and greasy fiddles . . . have, time out of mind, constituted the sauce of these literary feasts. On this occasion the exercises were relieved alternately by a choir of ladies and students, an orchestra, and a brass band, both composed exclusively of College students, under the conduct of Mr. A. E. Blackmar. The orchestra consisted of nine violins, four flutes, and a clarinet; the brass band of twelve horns, a piccolo and drum . . . The music was of admirable time and expression, though the students have been practicing only since February last.

Apparently, the wonder of the occasion was not that the students played well, but that they could play at all.

ORDER OF EXERCISES.	ORDER OF EXERCISES.
MUSIC.	OUR NATIONAL GLORY—ITS PROGRESS
PRAYER.	W. H. KNIGHT, Ferrisburgh, Va.
MUSIC.	... MUSIC ...
MIND—ITS PRESENT AND ULTIMATE	OBEDIENCE—THE RAINBOW OF THE UNIVERSE
JAMES C STAFFORD, Williams Co., Miss.	G. SPENCER MAYO, Cambridge, Va.
MENTAL DEVELOPMENT.	NATURE—HER OWN HISTORICAL
* J. W. HARROW, Montgomery, Ala.	ROBERT J. YERKISS, Thoburn, Va.
POETRY—ITS MISSION.	THE ANGLI-SAXON RACE—ITS PROGRESS AND DESTINY.
J. S. BULLI, Lenoir Co., Va.	CHARLES M. PILCHER, Carroll, Va.
REPUBLICANISM—ITS FINAL TRIUMPH.	... MUSIC ...
K. A. CROSS, Jackson, La.	WE ARE ALL SLAVES
... MUSIC ...	W. G. RICHARDSON, Livingston, La.
YOUTH A BLENDED, RANBROOD A STRUGGLE, OLD AGE A BROTHER.	LAW—ITS MISSION AND EFFICACY
* T. P. CALLOCK, Thoburn, Va.	J. HARVEY BRIGHAN, Mechanics, Va.
THE MYSTERY OF THE FUTUR—A SOURCE OF HAPPINESS.	POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE
* R. L. BURN, Yano Co., Miss.	J. B. YARLOS, St. Mary's, Va.
... MUSIC MUSIC ...
FREEDOM OF DISCUSSION IS THE PUBLIC OF LETTERS.	VALENTINE ADDRESSES.
A. S. DRAKE, Jefferson Co., Miss.	To the Public and Trustees, (14 Hours)
THE NOBLEST END—THE PUBLIC GOOD.	T. P. CLINTON, St. Edm., Va.
JAMES M. FLY, Norfolk, Va.	To the Faculty, Students and Chorus (14 Hours)
... MUSIC ...	T. WELLS COOPER, Yorktown, Va.
THE CRUSADES	... MUSIC ...
JAMES E. GIBSON, St. Louis, Mo.	... MUSIC ...
POETICAL GENIUS—ITS SUPERBILITY.	... MUSIC ...
J. C. GREIFER, East Town, Va.	... MUSIC ...
	BENEDICTION.
	* EXTER.

This program for the Commencement exercises on July 30, 1856, is typical of the ceremonies at Jackson. The College Band, orchestra and chorus interspersed occasional numbers to break the lengthy parade of addresses. They were wildly applauded.

Secret Societies



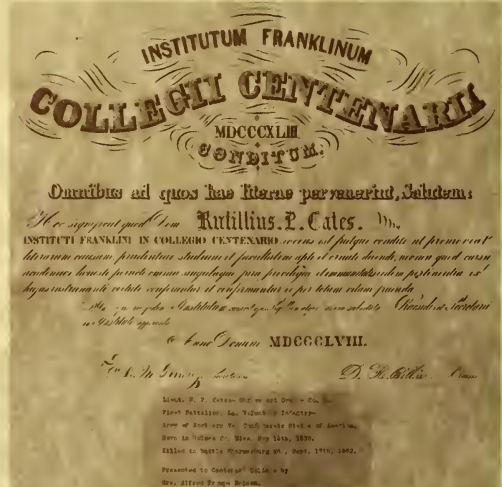
The "Temple of the Wreath" chapter of the Mystic Seven was founded at Centenary in 1849 by Daniel Martindale, professor of natural history, and an initiate of the order while a student at Wesleyan University. These three Centenary students holding regalia of the order are George Mayo, Harrisonburg, La., Thomas W. Compton, Vicksburg, Miss., and Robert J. Perkins, Thibodaux, La. All three graduated in 1856.

It is not surprising to find that secret societies existed at Centenary, nor is it surprising that little about them can be found in official records. The Board Minutes of 1859 indicate that, though the College officially recognized the existence of only two societies, the "Mystics" and the "Palladians," other rival orders were multiplying among the students. The Board found this growth to be "an evil calculated to engender dissatisfaction among the members of the Literary Societies and otherwise impair the usefulness of the College." Its threat to ban such societies was never carried out by the Board, indicating that the problems alluded to were satisfactorily settled.

One authority states that the Mystics, Palladians, Delta Kappa Epsilon, Chi Phi, and Phi Kappa Sigma disbanded in 1861, not to be reorganized after the Civil War. New organizations, however, rose to take their places, and included Kappa Alpha, Kappa Sigma, and Pi Kappa Alpha. Numerous other orders for men have existed at one time or another in Shreveport besides the last mentioned which were transferred to the new campus, but all the women's societies were Shreveport-born.



The Franklin Institute debaters of 1882. Standing, C. C. Miller (later President of Centenary), and Charles McDonald. Seated, B. J. Jones and R. H. McGimsey.

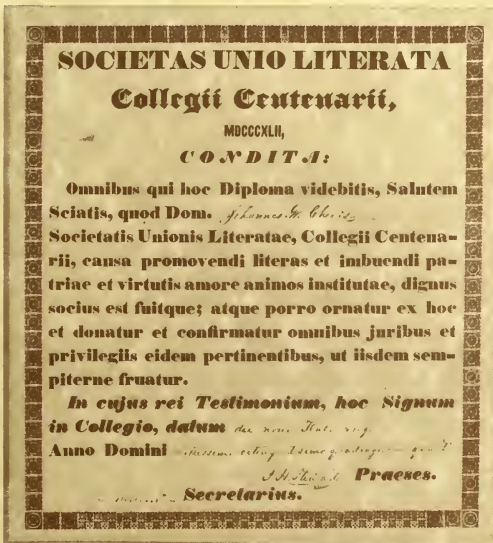
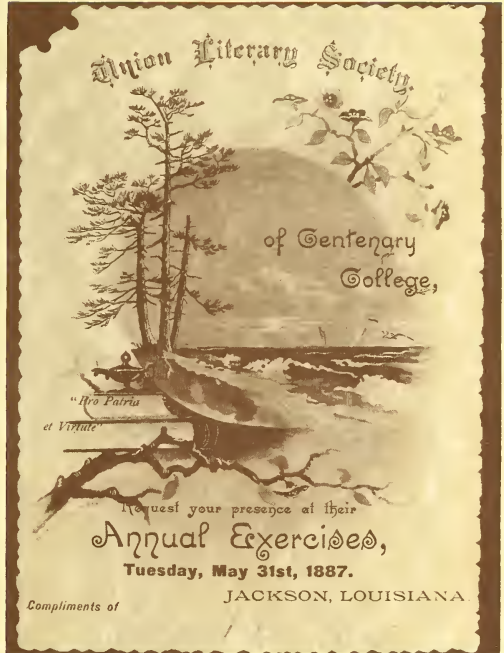


The certificate of membership in the Franklin Institute issued to Rutillius P. Cates.



The Union Literary Society debaters of 1882. Standing, S. J. Davies and M. A. Bell. Seated, James H. Fore and C. F. Smith.

Literary Societies



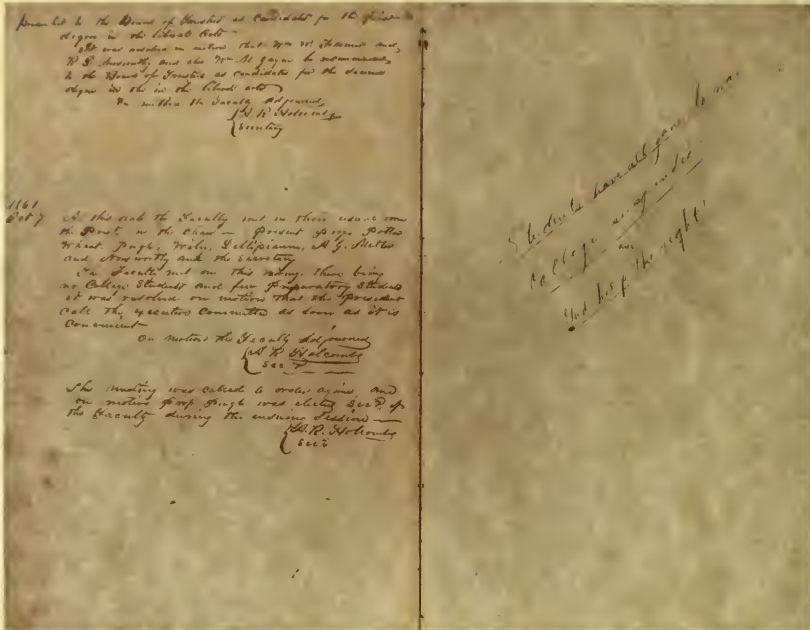
The certificate of membership in the Union Literary Society issued to Johannes W. Chevis.

Literary societies flourished on most American campuses during the nineteenth century. Primarily organized to give members experience in oratory and debate, they served as social clubs as well. Like political parties in the United States, only two could flourish at one time, for intense rivalry was a part of their mystique.

The two societies at Centenary were the Union Literary Society, founded 1842, and the Franklin Institute, founded 1843. In the 1850's when a dissident group formed the Lafayette Society to promote debate in the French language, the older organizations combined to root out the upstarts.

Both societies maintained extensive libraries, had their own private quarters in the Center Building, and competed with each other in debate, oratory, and athletic contests. The College assigned one day of commencement week to each society, when each could "exhibit" its best orators and present a guest orator, usually an alumnus of the group. No intersociety debate took place because of the need to avoid possible public rioting.

These organizations continued to function into the 1920's in Shreveport, and the Centenary Library today contains hundreds of volumes bearing the book plates of the two societies.



The dwindling enrollment in 1861 recorded on the left side of the Faculty Minutes prompted the statement on the right.

The Disruption of War

In 1861, after Louisiana seceded from the Union, the student body and faculty melted away. Perhaps the most widely known page of Faculty Minutes is that inscribed in a bold hand, "Students have all gone to war. College suspended. And God help the right!"

An old legend, recounted many times in factual and fictional accounts of the War, states that the entire senior class marched away together, and all died in combat. That time and again the legend has been proved false does not dim its popularity. It is true that most of the alumni served the Confederacy, and it is true also that at least one alumnus died in a battle fought in 1863 on the College grounds, but many survived the long ordeal.

The College came perilously close to destruction during the War. Neglected, captured and recaptured, the buildings and equipment fell into disrepair. No direct battle damage seems to have occurred, though a cemetery on the old grounds today contains the graves of those, both Union and Confederate, who died in battle on the campus. More devastating than the damage done by five years of neglect was the loss of all endowment, and the impoverishment of the area and the College clientele.

The Last 40 Years at Jackson

When the College announced on August 22, 1866, that it would reopen for the upcoming term, the announcement did not hint of the desperate conditions — that virtually all the former faculty no longer were with the College, that the buildings and furniture which remained were badly damaged, that the library, museum, and laboratory equipment were virtually unusable, and that operating funds were non-existent.

Never again in its remaining stay in Jackson did the enrollment approach that of ante bellum days. By ones and twos, students did appear, however, and creakingly, the institution began to function. Bishop J. C. Keener of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, served as President of the Board of Trustees for those years, and it was only his faith, work, and support that kept the College alive.

Often unable to pay the faculty, isolated from population centers, and unable to match the low tuition of the tax-supported state university which moved to Baton Rouge, the College flickered and struggled for life. It tended more and more to concentrate on producing educated ministers for the Methodist Church. The need for trained preachers was great, and, though the Methodist Church had not in its early days cared much about ministerial training, it was beginning to change. Still, plea after plea of the College to the Church for more sustenance so that it might do its job went unanswered.

The College could find no major donors to produce the nec-

essary funds, though the faculty often prayed for a Rockefeller or a Carnegie, and the College presidents were almost constantly on the road, seeking money from city and country churches.

In 1880, so desperate was the financial situation that at commencement the President took up a collection from the attending crowd to reimburse the faculty whose personal funds had paid for repairing the roof. They collected \$9.87. The College lowered its tuition as the size of the student body dwindled, but to no avail. At one time the total cost of a year at Centenary, including room, board, fuel for a fireplace in the bedroom, laundry, tuition and books totaled \$125. Even so, there were too few who could afford it. Enrollment ebbed and flowed, but even at best the student population rattled about the huge old buildings.

Bishop J. C. Keener never lost faith, however, and continued to raise money, send students, find presidents, and give them advice. To one new president, he wrote in 1896:

It has come to my attention that some of the young gentlemen are stabling and feeding their horses in the rooms of the West Dormitory. This will cease summarily.

The rumored closing of the College further depressed attendance and spirits at Centenary early in the twentieth century.

CENTENARY COLLEGE OF LOUISIANA.

This Institution, located at Jackson, La., was established by the State of Louisiana in 1825, and transferred to the Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1845. It is now under the joint patronage of the Mississippi and Louisiana Conferences.

The College exercises were necessarily suspended during the war; but were regularly resumed, after reorganization, on the first Monday in October, 1865. The approaching session will open on the first Monday of October next.

Tuition, \$75 per annum, payable semi-annually, in advance.

Boarding can be obtained at from \$20 to \$25 per month.

The Buildings, Libraries, Apparatus, Laboratory, and Society Hall, the location in point of beauty, health, ease of access and good society, are all unsurpassed by those of any institution in the Southern States.

The past history of the College is the pledge of its future prosperity.

The Board and Faculty promise the public that nothing shall be wanting on their part to secure the thorough education of the young men committed to their care, in both Preparatory and Collegiate Departments.

The old students, alumni, and friends of the Institution, are requested to give publicity to the full reorganization and opening of the College, as stated above.

JACKSON, La., August 22d, 1866.

WM. H. WATKINS,
President.

G. H. WILEY,
Secretary of the Faculty.



Bishop J. C. Keener from 1866 until his death in 1906 made Centenary College a prime concern.

Centenary College was closed during the Civil War and the campus was occupied by Northern troops during the latter days of the war. When the College opened its doors again in 1866, this notice was sent to prospective students.



Centenary admitted women to its classes in the 1890's, but did not grant them degrees. Carrie and Willie Schwing, members of the class shown above, received "Certificates of Completion" in 1900, and were awarded degrees in 1947.



The fence in the 1898 photograph above was built on the orders of Bishop Keener to keep free-roaming livestock out of the College buildings. Only the college mule, "Balaam," had quarters within the fence.



Tennis was popular in 1899, but the formal attire seems strange today. The college prohibited the wear-

Resolved, that the Trustees of Centenary College, Louisiana, do hereby recommend to the Board of Trustees of the College of Louisiana, that they should accept of the same, and should have the same put at once to vote. May the blessing of God rest upon you, as you are the only institution you represent.

Yours very truly
T. W. Foster

On motion of Mr. W. S. ...
Resolved, that the Trustees of Centenary College, Louisiana, do hereby recommend to the Board of Trustees of the College of Louisiana, that they should accept of the same, and should have the same put at once to vote.

The following resolutions were read and adopted by the Trustees of Centenary College, Louisiana, on the 6th day of June, 1906:

Resolved, that the Trustees of Centenary College, Louisiana, do hereby recommend to the Board of Trustees of the College of Louisiana, that they should accept of the same, and should have the same put at once to vote.

The following resolutions of the Trustees were read and adopted by the Trustees of Centenary College, Louisiana, on the 6th day of June, 1906:

Resolved, that the Trustees of Centenary College, Louisiana, do hereby recommend to the Board of Trustees of the College of Louisiana, that they should accept of the same, and should have the same put at once to vote.

These Trustees Minutes of June 6, 1906, marked the end of the Jackson period.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
—OF—
Centenary College
—OF—
LOUISIANA.
At Jackson, Louisiana,
JULY 11, 1877.

MUSIC
—PRAYER—
MUSIC
LATIN SALUTATORY ... T. W. Foster, DeSoto Parish, La.
MUSIC
ORATION—State of Higher ... Isaac DeSoto W. C. Clinton, La.
MUSIC
ORATION—Lauds of the Withered Parrot and Belding Parrot, Why's Good over Owen, Jackson, Miss.
MUSIC
ORATION—The End of Job, or, The Dying of Man ... T. W. Foster, DeSoto Parish, La.
MUSIC
VALEDICTORY ADDRESS—First Honor—Isaac DeSoto W. C. Clinton, La.
MUSIC
CONFERRING OF THE DEGREES
MUSIC
CAPITAL ORATEUR by President C. G. ANDREWS
MUSIC

Tiff Foster was one of the students at Centenary during Reconstruction. Born in DeSoto Parish, son of a poor farmer, at age twenty he was called to the ministry. He then went to Centenary, and took eight years to progress through the preparatory program to a degree in 1877. The subject of his graduation oration, shown in this program, seems prophetic. At the next Annual Conference, the Church assigned him to Moreau Street Church, New Orleans. In 1878 a great yellow fever epidemic struck the city, and he was advised to flee for his life. He stayed, ministering to the sick of his congregation and the city, only to die in agony. He represents the true embodiment of the spirit of Centenary of the dark years.



ing of leather and heeled shoes after the court was damaged.



Sharp eyes may detect a tennis racquet, a baseball bat, and an open Bible in the hands of the Centenary gentlemen posed on the columns of the Center Building.

The Beginnings in Shreveport



Bayou Pierre had a country aspect before the advent of Centenary. Here it appears sleepy and almost silvery.



The Rev. Albert Lutz, a Centenary graduate of 1899, received this M.A. degree in 1912 at the first graduation held in Shreveport.



When Centenary moved to Shreveport it occupied this developing property.

Jackson Hall in its first incarnation. This was the first building constructed on the Shreveport campus, completed in 1908. Major repairs saved the poorly-built structure once, but in 1940 the city condemned it as unsafe. The three top stories were demolished and the present structure erected on the stone basement.



Agitation to move the College to Shreveport began in 1903, evoked bitter resentment in the people of Jackson, and badly split the Board of Trustees. Bishop Keener sought to have the courts declare the transfer illegal, but his death in 1906 weakened the Jacksonians. The Church determined to move.

The Board met for a final session in Jackson in June, 1906, to attend the commencement of the last two graduates there and to end its internal struggle over the transfer. President C. C. Miller and all Board members who had fought the decision resigned before adjourning *sine die*, thus creating vacancies which could be filled with Shreveporters. They left the College with liquid assets of \$118.11.

In Shreveport, the Rutherford-Atkins Realty Company donated a forty-acre site south of the city for the new campus. It was difficult of access until the local transit company built a trolley line to connect the institution with the downtown area, and the city paved the newly-named Centenary Boulevard which reached to the campus. Many business firms and individuals in the city agreed to pay a voluntary millage property tax to Centenary for its maintenance during the readjustment period, and honored this arrangement though it was not legally enforceable.

If the struggle in Jackson had been to the death, prospects in Shreveport seemed almost as inauspicious. As the Jackson property rotted away, a new underfinanced Jackson Hall began to go up on the Shreveport campus at a contract price of \$29,200. This three-story and basement building was designed to house the students, the faculty, provide classrooms, laboratories, library facilities, kitchen, and dining hall — all in one. Construction delays forced postponement of the opening until the fall of 1908. Even then the building was more primitive than those abandoned in Jackson, lacking electricity, running water, and heat. In Jackson, at least, there were fireplaces in each room. It was years before these defects were remedied.

The faculty remained small. The announcements for 1918 listed only nine members, including President Wynn, a summer school instructor, the librarian, the registrar, and two preparatory school instructors. Only forty-three students enrolled in 1921. It was obvious to all that a major effort at revitalization must be made.



Students and faculty about 1920 pose before the only campus building.



Neatness obviously counted with the student body of Centenary College, the faculty, and the preparatory students, pictured by Jackson Hall in 1915. The baby held by the nurse near the center is not identified.



Prompted by World War I, Centenary organized its first summer school in 1918. Many of the students participated in military training and wore uniforms to class. President Wynn can be seen at left, next to the well-armed cook.



The Centenary ladies of 1920 pose before Jackson Hall.



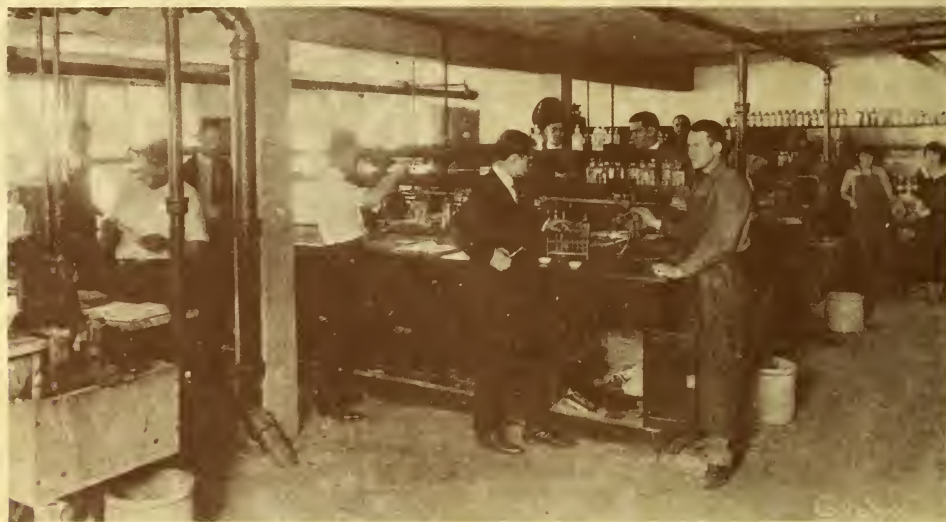
The proper way to celebrate a victory in the early days was to organize a "snake dance" on the field.



The Centenary Quartet of 1921-22 appears ready for a performance, with B. C. Taylor, 1st tenor, sporting the highest collar to go with the highest voice.



It seems that to field a band in 1921-22, the College had to recruit from the preparatory school ranks.



The chemistry laboratories in the basement of Jackson Hall produced no Nobel laureates, though one did visit there.

The Sexton Years



Centenary's first stadium was located near Centenary Boulevard. The watery area was a baseball diamond. The new chapel, almost completed is at left and a corner of Jackson Hall is visible at the far right.



As part of Dr. Sexton's early building program, the new chapel at right and Colonial Hall at left are shown under construction. Each went through several metamorphoses before being replaced. The chapel became the Playhouse. Colonial Hall, built for classes, became a women's dormitory before it was replaced by James Dormitory.



Texas Street in Shreveport appears much busier in this early 1920's photograph than it does today.



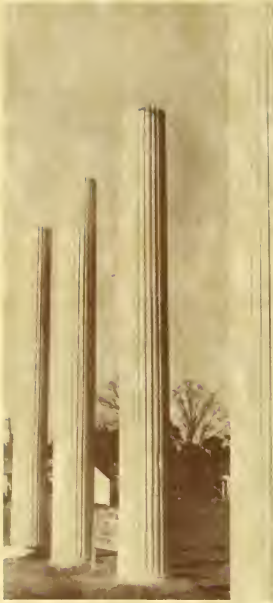
Moving the dining hall and kitchen to a wooden building made available much needed space for classes and dormitory rooms in the rapidly deteriorating Jackson Hall.

Though the Board of Trustees, the President, and the faculty were utterly dedicated to their tasks in the early years in Shreveport, they had failed to give Centenary the dynamic, attention-getting leadership it required. The Board in a mood almost of panic in 1921 persuaded Dr. George S. Sexton, a remarkably successful clergyman and pastor of the First Methodist Church in Shreveport, to assume — at least temporarily — the Presidency of the College. He accepted, and gave the remainder of his life to the College.

His accomplishments are legend. He greatly expanded the offerings of the College both quantitatively and qualitatively. Enrollment jumped almost geometrically year by year. For the first time, the College achieved a respectable endowment. In 1925 the Southern Association officially accredited Centenary. The campus sprouted new buildings almost overnight. Most were temporary structures, but they served their purpose.

The magic factor in the transformation was publicity — publicity which stemmed from a remarkably successful football team, at first financed, not by the College, but by "interested citizens" of Shreveport. The ambitious and loosely-governed football program alarmed the accrediting associations, causing one prominent educator to say, "Centenary cannot hope to associate with decent folk, so long as those in authority there uphold the sort of thing that has made her name anathema in the world of college athletics."

Sexton worked frantically to clear up the athletic deficiencies, and with proper, rule-conscious direction, the team became not only respectable, but a terror among football powers. With this problem under control, the horizon seemed unlimited. Then came the Depression, and in 1932 Dr. Sexton retired.



As part of a program to reconcile the die-hard Jackson supporters, and to reawaken the sense of continuity between the old and new campuses, Centenary brought these columns to Shreveport from the old Center Building when it was demolished in 1935. They were destroyed when a tornado hit the campus.



The King and Queen of the "Y" Carnival Parade in 1925 were not amused by this less royal couple in the same parade.



Centenary organized a night law class in 1925 which operated for many years. Several of the members of the first class shown at right were admitted to the bar.



The ketchup seen on the tables of the old Centenary dining hall was probably a necessary amenity.



The Centenary Glee Club, formed in 1922, was an all-male group. The lady in the center is the accompanist.



Colonial Hall, built in the 1920's expansion program, was first known as the College Building. It became a women's dormitory, and was located on the site where James Dormitory now stands.



With this grassy performance of Rostand's "Romancers," the Centenary students honored the alumni and graduates in June, 1925.



Some Greek organizations did not survive the transplantation from Jackson to Shreveport. This 1924 local fraternity posing on the steps of Jackson Hall eventually won a recharter of Kappa Sigma.

Centenary Academy,
Mr. C. M. Hughes, Headmaster,
City.

Shreveport, La. April 11, 1925

Gentlemen:

I want to thank you for the great interest that you have taken in my two boys, Ollie and Zebunier. At the time of enrolling them with you they were quite backward in their studies and efforts, needing some personal, properly directed interest to bring them out of this, and you certainly have accomplished results. I wish that you could get every parent to appreciate the value of your services as I do.

Wishing you success, I am
Yours sincerely,

O. L. BIEDEHART,
Secretary-Treas. Coca-Cola Bottling Co.

Shreveport, La. April 13, 1925.

Mr. C. M. Hughes, Headmaster,
Centenary Academy,
Shreveport, Louisiana.

Dear Mr. Hughes:

I am glad to have this opportunity of telling you that we are greatly pleased with the progress that Jack is making in his school work this year.

He is now in the grades and at the age that we have feared he would fall short, but you have managed to keep him interested and working and as far as I can judge, he is doing fine. I assure you that you have our full appreciation and that if the full merit of your institution was known by all who have boys and girls here, it would be filled to overflowing.

Yours very sincerely,

J. P. TOWERY,
President Central Lumber Company

JPT:h

Shreveport, La. April 11, 1925.

Mr. C. M. Hughes,
Centenary Academy,
Shreveport, Louisiana.

My dear Mr. Hughes:

My son, Charlie Moore, has been a student in Centenary Academy for the past year. To you, Mr. Hughes, as Headmaster, I want to acknowledge my appreciation of the benefit my son has received as a student, and also to mention the uplift in the manly attributes so necessary for a boy's character.

With best wishes, I am,

Yours truly,

C. M. HUTCHINSON,
Merchant and Planter.

Letters of prominent Shreveporters were printed to entice parents to send their children to the Centenary Academy, an adjunct of the College, in 1925.



Unlike modern U.S. Presidents who use many pens to sign important legislation, Dr. Pierce Cline, Bishop Hoyt M. Dobbs, and Dr. George Sexton are armed with just one apiece for this ceremony.



The scrip system developed by Centenary to tide it and its faculty through the cashless days of the depression is symbolized by these scrip stamps which became a medium of exchange with cooperating business firms, banks, and the College community.



Faculty Marshalls, such as George Reynolds, shown at left ready to lead the graduation procession of 1932, traditionally carried a shepherd's crook as a symbol of office in earlier years.

The Crisis of the Depression

The Great Depression of 1929-33 threatened to abort the progress the College had made in the 1920's. Enrollment declined as Centenary students found it difficult to meet even the modest tuition charges. The College began accepting unsalable bales of cotton in lieu of cash. Bond issues necessitated by the expansion program could not be paid off, and even the interest was burdensome. The *New Orleans Christian Advocate* charged fiscal mismanagement and hinted at scandal in the College financial affairs, for which it later apologized.

Dr. Pierce Cline, Professor of History, assumed the Presidency, and guided the College through the morass of problems, helped every step of the way by the counsel of Paul M. Brown, Jr., Secretary-treasurer of the Board, and Bishop Hoyt M. Dobbs, Board Chairman, who made Centenary almost their full-time concern during the years of crisis. The faculty, strong academically, was even stronger in its faith in the College. Paid in scrip redeemable in goods at cooperating stores, and with the use of campus housing, they survived.

Perhaps partially in gratitude for the faculty's dedicated service, and certainly also because of a strong tradition, the Board and the College Administration stood united in support of academic freedom for students and faculty. Never has the College wavered on this issue.

Through frugality, wise management, generous donors, and public confidence in its leadership, the College came out of the Depression stronger than ever, poised for new greatness.



Kollege Kapers, a project of Dr. S. D. Morehead, brought a Centenary student variety show to many a large and small town in the Ark-La-Tex during the depression years.

Centenary and World War II

The Second World War saw Centenary enlist — if an institution can do so — turning its strength, courage, and tradition to the nation's service. The College files overflow with personal stories of its graduates who served with distinction, and the roll of those who died is sobering. Regular academic work continued, but superimposed on the curriculum were many war service programs. Most evident of these was the Aviation Cadet Pre-Flight Program through which thousands of young men got at least a short taste of Centenary. Most of the cadet activities were housed in the newly acquired satellite campus, the former Dodd College, purchased and donated to Centenary by the Haynes family in 1943.

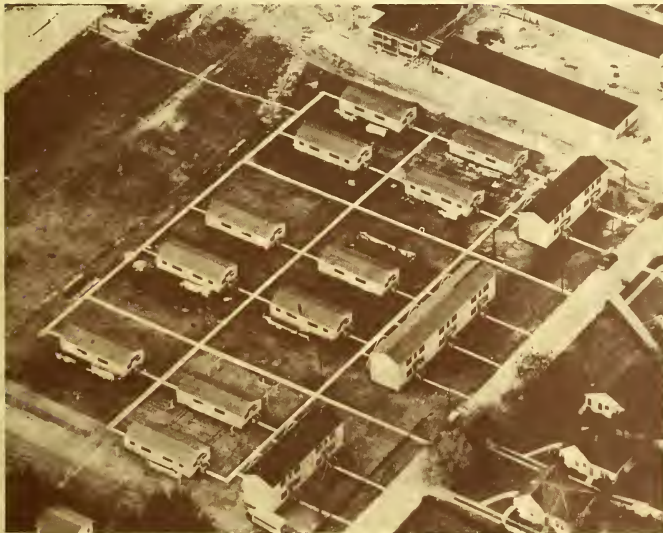
Though getting through the war years was the primary College concern, vital planning for the uncertain future never ceased. The unexpected death of President Cline in 1943 thus made finding a capable successor a critical task for the Board and Paul M. Brown, Jr., its chairman since 1941.



A Centenary alumnus marries a nurse on New Guinea in 1944.



The Dodd College property, the main building seen above, a Baptist Junior College for girls, was purchased by the Haynes family for Centenary in 1943. It was used for the Aviation Cadet Pre-Flight Program during World War II, and later as an auxiliary campus for Centenary. It is now the site of First Baptist Church.



This group of buildings, Vets Villa, was one of Centenary's heritages from World War II. These surplus buildings were moved to the campus to house returning veterans who entered the college.



Centenary's most honored athlete, Paul Geisler was named to virtually every All-American team in 1933. Geisler played end for Centenary in 1931, '32, and '33. He died in a plane crash in World War II.



A panoramic view of Centenary football stadium in 1932 where Centenary won over L.S.U. in an undefeated season which included victories over Texas, Ole Miss, SMU, Texas A&M, and a tie with Arkansas. Like the gymnasium, the stadium was the gift of Mr. Arch Haynes, an avid sports fan. It was located just south of the present Gold Dome.



Manning Smith, Centenary's quarterback in its glory years of 1931-32-33, runs against Texas A&M in a 20-0 Gentlemen victory.



Homer H. Norton, right, was one of the coaches of the last "pre-McMillan" team in 1921. He stayed as an assistant to "Bo" to help with the "Gentlemen," as the team was rechristened by Dr. Sexton from their former name, "Ironsides." He produced back-to-back unbeaten squads in 1932 and 1933, after which he left for the top coaching position at Texas A&M.



Dr. Sexton and Coach Norton exhort the 1922 Gentlemen.



An action shot of the Centenary-Texas A&M game at Beaumont in 1934. The Gentlemen won 13-0. It was not unusual for the daring to play without helmets, or to accidentally lose them as this ball carrier has done.



Bishop Keener, President of the Board of Trustees in the Jackson period, strongly opposed organized sports. Student attempts to play schedules of intercollegiate football and baseball ceased abruptly in 1898 when the Trustees resolved "that we will not countenance or permit students of this college or any professor to engage in any intercollegiate contests of baseball or football, or in any physical games outside of the college campus." The students had to be content with intramural games, and even these were hampered by a Board edict against "any ball play within a hundred yards of any building."

In Shreveport, faculty and students early joined to play against high school and area amateur teams, and as sports enthusiasm grew, the College officially fielded football, basketball, and baseball teams. As strong a supporter of intercollegiate athletics as Bishop Keener had been an opponent, Dr. Sexton led the College into an unprecedented era of athletics. The College had teams in all basic sports, but emphasized football. Warmly supported by the community both with funds and attendance, the Gentlemen, as the teams were christened by Dr. Sexton, brought national attention to the College.

Centenary football especially was blessed for nearly two decades with outstanding coaches such as Homer Norton and Curtis Parker, outstanding players such as Paul Geisler and Manning Smith, supporters such as Arch Haynes and Bonneau Peters, and a hex on teams from the Southwest Conference.

World War II and soaring costs ended the intercollegiate football program, but the College continues to play a major college schedule in many sports. Most interest is focused on baseball and basketball. The new Gold Dome athletic center is now the home for the Gentlemen, while Haynes Gymnasium is primarily used for intramural sports.

Sports at Centenary



"Bo" McMillan, top left, persuaded Centenary to establish the "Mena Summer School" in 1922, where his team spent the summer in practice. This photograph shows Dean R. E. Smith seated left, Dr. Sexton at right and the 1923 team at "Camp Standing Rock" near Mena, Arkansas. This type of off-campus activity was part of the reason why the Southern Association in 1924 delayed accreditation to Centenary.



There are seldom any unoccupied seats when the Gentlemen play in the Gold Dome.



Each class fielded a basketball team in 1925. These are the sophomores.



Styles of dress may change, but the enthusiasm of cheerleaders does not.



Homer Norton coached basketball as well as football. He stands with the 1922 team.



The "new" gymnasium was one of Dr. Sexton's wooden wonders. It was replaced by Haynes Gymnasium, which in turn has been superseded by the Gold Dome.



Heating facilities in the wooden gym were primitive, as these Centenary athletes show in 1937.

The Builders

The post-war veteran boom brought a spectacular surge in enrollment to Centenary, taxing every facility, crowding every classroom, overloading every professor, and forcing the erection of dozens of pre-fabricated structures on the campus, temporarily giving it the appearance of an army post. Then began the task of raising massive sums for endowment and permanent construction — dormitories, a cafeteria, a science center, a religious education center, a chapel, an expanded student center, a new library, a theater and a music building. Master plans were devised, revised, and revised again. Yet, while the construction continued, the endowment grew, and the faculty expanded and developed. Excellence in instruction, long the tradition of Centenary, became even more deeply engrained.

When President Mickle retired and Board chairman Brown turned over his position to George D. Nelson in 1964, they had transformed the campus from a rather dowdy, temporary-appearing place into an efficient, modern plant of unusual beauty. Never was Centenary stronger.

Dr. Joe J. Mickle, who succeeded Dr. Cline, was destined to hold the office longer than any Centenary president. Deep dedication to Methodism, administrative experience in a Methodist college in Japan, and a reputation as a scholar in international affairs were only his most obvious qualifications.



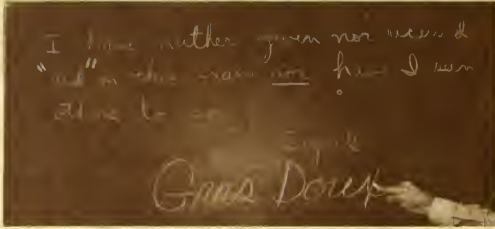
Destruction precedes construction, and appears to be more fun.



Dr. and Mrs. Joe J. Mickle saw more Centenary alumni graduate than did any other presidential couple.



The Science Building, shown underway in 1949, was the first major post-war project. It now bears the name Mickle Hall.



The Honor System is one of the proudest traditions of the Centenary student body.



Mrs. T. L. James marks the spot for a new dormitory.



Valuable and rare College volumes in the 1950's had to be stored in the attic of Rotary Hall because the library in the old Arts building could not house them. Today over 3,000 of these volumes from the old Jackson Centenary collection, including many books from the libraries of the Union and Franklin societies are housed in the new Centenary Library along with a collection of over 120,000 volumes.





With the construction of Mickle Hall, the campus turned its face toward Woodlawn Avenue and began to take on an entirely new aspect.



Impressively lined up on Woodlawn Avenue are the College buildings most visited by the public.



The mud pit between the tug-of-war teams was to be avoided at all cost.



R.O.T.C. had a short and controversial life on the campus in the 1950's.

Building continued at Centenary under Presidents Jack S. Wilkes and John Horton Allen as the College prepared for its 150th anniversary. Expanded dormitory and cafeteria facilities, a modern physical education center and an impressive administration building filled long-felt needs.

Yet, unnerving crises developed as 1970 neared. New state higher educational facilities opened in Shreveport and drew off some enrollment which formerly could be counted on for Centenary. The population boom which inflated enrollments in the 1960's eased. Tuition had to be increased to meet new costs, and, to protect students caught by the increase, scholarships had to be expanded. Many students were no longer content to live in college-supervised facilities, and left some of the new dormitory rooms vacant though the costs continued. Inflation was boosting costs while other factors were reducing income — a universal problem which higher education has yet to solve. The fall of 1974, however, saw the first enrollment increase in three years, innovative new programs proved popular, and annual giving through the Great Teachers-Scholars Fund drive set a new record for any year.

For 150 years, Centenary College of Louisiana has been committed to its role as an undergraduate institution emphasizing the liberal arts. Its commitment remains firm.

The Most Recent Decade



Founders Day meant political speeches in Crumley Gardens in the 1960's.



Some College traditions die slowly but inevitably. Freshman hazing could not survive the 1960's. Present-day students can hardly believe the docility with which their predecessors accepted the indignities heaped upon them.





The thirty-second president of the College in 150 years, John Horton Allen and students ponder the future.



Paul M. Brown, Jr., a third-generation alumnus, congratulates his grandson, a fifth generation graduate.



After a wad from one shot of the KA cannon knocked loose the doors of James Dormitory and almost decapitated the housemother, and another round fragmented the windows in the automobile of the President of the Wesleyan Service Guild, the college ordered the cannon chained down.



Most students agree that registration is designed to discourage even the most dedicated scholar.

The College, the Public, and the Arts



The Marjorie Lyons Playhouse gave greater scope to drama than did the old Playhouse.



The Centenary College Choir whose musicianship and showmanship have made it an international favorite was born in the old music building, shown above.



The most obvious relationship of Centenary to the public is the College's continued emphasis on public performances by its students and staff, both on campus and off. The traditions of good theater year-round in the Marjorie Lyons Playhouse, band and summer band concerts in Hargrove Ampitheater, vocal and instrumental performances in the Hurley Concert Hall and Brown Chapel, and exhibitions of permanent and traveling art collections in the Library Gallery are only a few of the ways the public is served by the College. Most artistic groups in the city have strong historic ties with Centenary, from the Shreveport Symphony which has its permanent quarters on the campus to the Art Guild which regularly meets there.



The late Jean Despujol's works on Southeast Asia form the solid center of the College's permanent art collection.

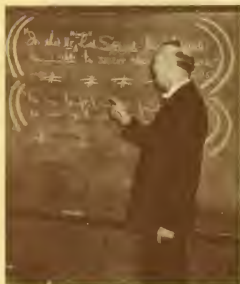


Sighs of relief and cries of joy from graduates, parents and faculty punctuate the spring air following Baccalaureate services. Brown Memorial Chapel symbolizes the 135-year relationship of the College and the Methodist Church.



For 150 years, the Board of Trustees has been a vital, ever-renewed bulwark for the College. Not only have the members given direction and guidance to the institution, but the members have ever been the most generous financial contributors to its support. Shown at left is the Board of 1968, in many ways typical of those which have served so well. The family names of many of its members appear on campus buildings and sites, and date far back into the history of the College, for membership on the Board has become a family tradition, passed on to succeeding generations, not so much as a privilege but as a deeply felt obligation. Churchmen, bankers, lawyers, doctors, businessmen, alumni, civic leaders, and just plain citizens give generously of their time, talent, and worldly goods to perpetuate the ideals of Centenary College, oftentimes without public recognition. To account specifically in a work of this type for the generosity of donors, both on and off the Board, is impossible, but to ignore their contributions would be unforgivable.

Perhaps it was one of these teachers who set you on your course in life.



Dean R. E. Smith
Religion



Dr. John B. Entrikin
Chemistry



Dr. Mary Warters
Biology



Dr. Bryant Davidson
History

Text by Walter M. Lowrey, layout design by Margaret Fischer and Cindi Rush, and photography by Lawrence Lea and William B. Grahill. Special appreciation is expressed to Albert Lutz, Jr., Dr. J. Henry Bowden, Mrs. Della Upton Law, the staff of the Centenary College Library, and the late Mrs. Kathleen Marshall Owens. Published by the Centenary College Alumni Association, Shreveport, Louisiana, 1975.



The editor and the managing editor of the *Conglomerate* in 1969, now respectively a Methodist minister and a State Department foreign service officer.



The 1968 Maroon Jackets include two college professors, one a linguist teaching in Korea, several Masters degree holders, and all are active in their family and community life.



From this group of 1958 officers of Sigma Gamma Epsilon, geological society, have come two professional geologists, two Ph.D. geology professors, and an executive of a major trucking firm.

Centenary exists to serve society, and its alumni provide the measure of its success. The four groups below, photographed for the *Yoncopin* while students, typify the paths taken by the Centenary alumni.



Dr. John L. Scales, an 1892 alumnus, maintained his deep interest in Centenary until his death in 1969 at the age of 97. He served almost fifty years on the Board of Trustees.



The faculty advisors and the officers of Alpha Epsilon Delta, honorary pre-medical fraternity, pose for the 1958 *Yoncopin*. The students are all now practicing physicians.

