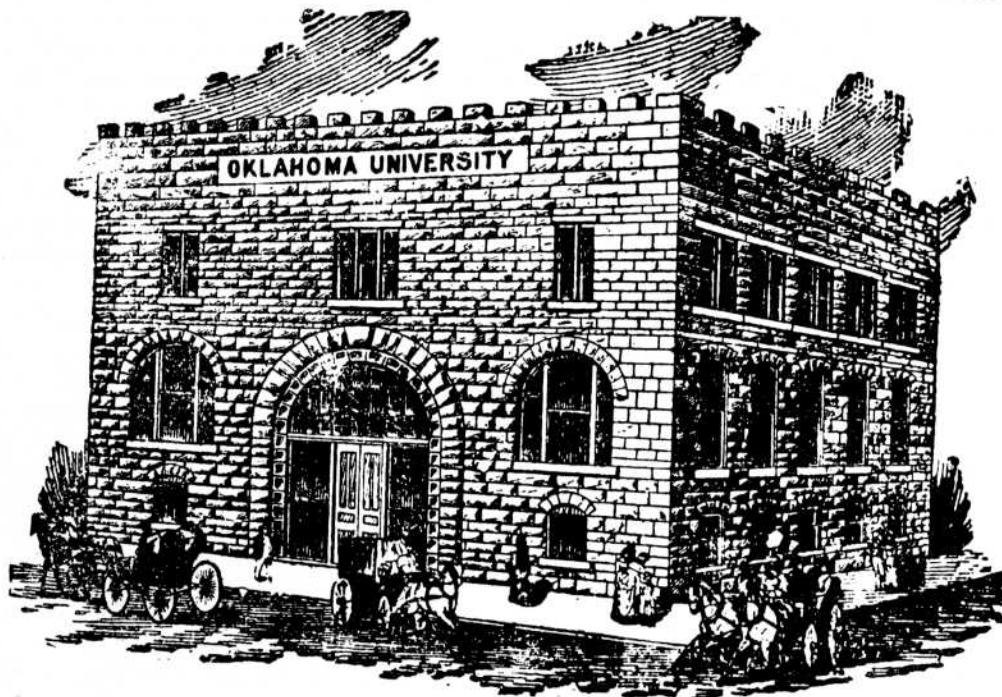


AN EDUCATION IS EVERYTHING.

COMMON BRANCHES, COLLEGE STUDIES, BUSINESS TRAINING,
NORMAL WORK AND PROFESSIONAL COURSES AT GUTHRIE.



DEPARTMENTS -- Business College, Normal School, Common English Academy, Medical College, College of Pharmacy, Dental College, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Graduate School, Conservatory of Music, College of Law, Kindergarten. The Academic year begins September 12 and continues nine months, with summer normal session extra. Tuition, \$4 to \$8.75 per quarter. Board, \$1.50 to \$3.00. Address, PRESIDENT, W. A. BUXTON, A. M.

First announcement of Guthrie's Oklahoma U. was made in '92 papers.

Oklahoma University, Guthrie, O. T.

By FRANK A. BALLYEAT, '11ba, '18ma

YES, that's right. Oklahoma University began on September 12, 1892, in its own new building at Guthrie, the capital of Oklahoma Territory, just three days before the University of Oklahoma opened in rented quarters on Main Street in Norman, O. T. Though the governor had, on December 19, 1890, signed bills authorizing three territorial colleges, at Edmond, Norman, and Stillwater, it was five months later that Cleveland County voted bonds to raise money to qualify Norman as the designated seat of the new university. In June of that year University of Oklahoma Regents were appointed, but it was not until

March 29, 1892, that they contracted for the first building, to be erected on a small campus which the people of Norman had provided. Construction, which began in April, moved slowly, was sometimes seriously interrupted, and was not completed until August, 1893.

In the meantime, the people of Guthrie were making the most of the delay. In the autumn of 1891 there arrived at the territorial capital the Reverend William Arthur Buxton, a product of New England colleges, with advanced study at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. He convinced the Board of Trade that Guthrie could get

a sufficient start on the slowly developing territorial institutions to attract and hold a significant share of college attendance in the new commonwealth. This would strengthen the city's ambition to become the territorial metropolis and tighten its hold on the capital. Encouraged by the local response, he purchased for \$540 in November, 1891, the four lots on which he planned to have his dream become a reality. These lots were at the intersection of Harrison and Broad, facing north.

He asked for a bonus of \$2,000 to aid in erecting a building. Opened by the governor, an auction was held, which raised a

little more than the stipulated amount. Articles sold were donated by wholesale companies which had customers in Guthrie. The man who proposed this auction was the territorial representative of the Pabst Brewing Company and did not have his wares among the items sold.

In the spring of 1892 Professor Buxton, as he was called, arranged with the Board of Trade for a three-story building, using local red sandstone, to be erected at the Harrison and Broad site. Work progressed rapidly, enabling the new University to open its new building in September. The advertisement, here reproduced, occupied a half-page in the Guthrie City Directory for 1892, and appeared in local papers that autumn. It shows the structure which in the months and years ahead was to have a varied and interesting history. The offerings listed indicate the ambitious programs envisioned. Classwork started on September 15, 1892, with a "fair attendance," according to Mr. Fred L. Wenner, a Guthrie pioneer to whose memory the present writer is greatly indebted for the materials and clues which provided the rather meager facts on which this story is based.

Trouble developed soon and fast. A publishing firm, with a branch in Topeka, Kansas, had the college president arrested on charges, later dismissed as completely unfounded, that he had used the United States mails to defraud. Through letters on the University stationery, he had solicited books for the new college. The charges alleged that the similarity of names was designed to confuse and deceive donors and prospective students. Unfortunately, the case was first tried in Topeka, later transferred to the Federal Court in Guthrie, where it dragged through weary and discouraging months.

Apparently the University did not operate, as such, the second semester of 1892-93. No dependable information on that semester has yet been found by this writer. Miss Sarah Bosworth opened a private school which enabled the Oklahoma University students to finish the school year and earn their credits. There is evidence that only high-school students were enrolled by the University and by her, and they mostly in the ninth grade.

Plant facilities were available for the University to resume in September, 1893, but the president spent much of the preceding summer in jail. The president of the newly organized ministerial alliance was Joel F. Smith, A.B., S.T.B., pastor of the Methodist Church. He arranged to continue the University in what was then called the "University Building," later the "Buxton Building." Apparently this was a private venture, co-operating with the Board of

Trade, which held a mortgage on the property.

Using the same picture which Professor Buxton had printed a year previous, the Reverend Mr. Smith advertised in the local papers that the University would open September 27, 1893. The advertisement stated, "Competent Professors and Teachers Will Be Employed and Thorough Work Will Be Done in All Departments. Parties desiring to patronize a first-class school will do well to correspond with the President for rates, etc."

In August and early September of that year Miss Bosworth ran the following advertisement in Guthrie papers.

MISS BOSWORTH'S
HIGH SCHOOL

for

Young Men and Young Ladies
will open

In the University Building
September 15

Full courses in Latin, Mathematics,
Science, History, and Literature.

Preparation for College and Teaching

She gave as references several local business and professional men and their wives. Later her advertisement included the statement that pupils could arrange to room in the University Building.

On October 10 President Smith changed his advertisement to one-column width and without the cut of the building. It was as follows:

OK. UNIVERSITY
GUTHRIE, Ok.

Instruction in Primary, Intermediate,
and College Courses

Departments in Music and Art
Complete Business College

Rates reasonable

Faculty of six teachers

JOEL F. SMITH, President

In the latter part of September, Miss Bos-

worth's advertisement was discontinued and President Smith included this statement in the advertisement of Oklahoma University: "Miss Bosworth has accepted a position in the University." She may have been one of the six teachers whom he mentioned.

The smaller advertisement, worded exactly as above, appeared in local papers through January 11, 1894. No references to Oklahoma University have been found in the later issues of Guthrie papers that winter. Probably the first semester enrollment did not justify continuing the second semester. The Guthrie public high school, begun the previous autumn, was caring for pupils ready for secondary study. Probably the few college students were attending elsewhere.

And so, after three semesters and one summer, and operating only two semesters, Oklahoma University ceased to exist as an educational institution. Being a private school and with no official church connections, it left no records. From February, 1894, and through that year, several advertisements and a few brief news items tell us of some of the uses made of the building.

In February the Guthrie Business College, established the previous autumn, announced that it had moved to the University Building. Mr. R. A. Gaffney, the president, advertised that Bates-Terry Type-writing and Cross Eclectic Shorthand were taught, along with other business subjects which he named.

Early in April Mrs. E. G. Hogan advertised that on April 16 she would open a "kindergarten school" or "kindergarten and school," depending on how one interprets the word-spacing. On May 4 the advertisement read that the school was "having a good atteneane." Later the word was spelled "attendeane," and later still corrected to read "attendance."

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Although Professor Frank A. Balyeat, '11ba, '18ma, first taught in the University as a Special Instructor in Education during the Summer Session of 1926, becoming Associate Professor of Secondary Education in 1927, his connection with the University goes back to 1906 when he enrolled for two years in the University Preparatory School, entering from Wellston. He received his Ph.D. from Stanford in 1927. His contributions to secondary and adult education in Oklahoma have been many and distinguished. The Quarterly is happy indeed to print this account of an Oklahoma University the existence of which few of us know anything about.



Joseph Quincy Snyder. Dissertation—"Preparation and Characterization of Heterocyclic Ketimines." Directed by Associate Professor Porter Louis Pickard.

Percival A. Wesche. Dissertation—"The Life, Theology, and Influence of Henry Clay Morrison." Directed by Associate Professor John Samuel Ezell.

Maxwell Jeffers Wilcomb, Jr. Dissertation—"A Study of Prairie Dog Burrow Systems and the Ecology of Their Arthropod Inhabitants in Central Oklahoma." Directed by Assistant Professor Cluff Hopla.

Randolph Orville Yeager. Dissertation—"Indian Enterprises of Isaac McCoy, 1817-1846." Directed by Professor Asa Kyrus Christian.

... *Anthropology in Oklahoma*

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sample such sites before they are lost altogether. A great number have already been excavated, but these represent but a few of the sites which still remain untouched.

This is but a sampling of the work now being conducted, and represents only the major projects. There are, in addition, of course, researches of smaller scope on which the departmental members and students are working.

In terms of programs with other departments in the University, joint plans are just now being made. In the graduate program, interdepartmental seminars are being prepared, and a variety of students in the several departments in social science are taking work in other departments of the same branch. This co-operation is, to some extent, being reflected in the undergraduate curriculum. It is hoped that the techniques of such fields as psychology, sociology, and geography may be applied in joint efforts, which will produce far more significant results than can be obtained by a single discipline. With an increasing awareness on the part of the people of the State of the contributions of anthropology, and other social sciences, perhaps these co-operative programs are not too far in the future.

... *Oklahoma University*

Continued from page 21

Spell it as they would, the school was making progress in the University Building.

Dr. L. Haynes Buxton, M.D., brother of Professor Buxton, invested and lost in the ill-fated effort to establish Oklahoma University. In the spring and summer of 1894 his announcement of practice, appearing in local papers, showed his residence as "the University Building, Harrison Avenue." He may have been living there as a way of recovering some of his financial loss. He was later Territorial Superintendent of Health, and continued his practice in Oklahoma City.

On November 8, 1894, appeared a news item that the Territory of Oklahoma had leased the "Buxton University Building" for the coming session of the legislature. It is probable that only one session was held in the building.

Through 1893 and the early part of 1894 the Guthrie Board of Trade strove to salvage part of its investment, having inherited the mortgage on the building. In January, 1894, the property was sold for \$1,000, this amount being credited to the "museum fund." This covered part of the interest due on the loan. After changing ownership through individual hands, the property was sold to Logan County in 1896. The former University building was used as a county court house for more than a decade. Then county bonds were voted and money made available to erect a new court house, the short-lived but historic University Building being razed to make place for the present Logan County Court House, on the same site and facing in the same direction as the "Buxton University Building."

The building fared much better than did the man who envisioned Oklahoma University. Evidently he sincerely believed, as did other loyal Guthrie boosters, that an early start would insure a fair share of college attendance. But, as the school struggled awhile for existence, he spent his time in and out of jail, rather hopelessly fighting the charges brought against him. Transferred from Topeka to Guthrie, "The trial of Professor Buxton began late this afternoon (March 4, 1893) in Commissioner Boles Court. The defense waived examination and Prof. Buxton is placed under \$15,000 bond." Early in June, availing himself of a writ of habeas corpus, he appeared again in district court. It seems that he had been in jail through the spring months. A demurrer to the fourteen points was sustained, the court ruling that no offense against the United States had been

established. However, Judge Green, on motion of the federal attorney, held the defendant for trial at the September term of the Federal Court. The new bail of \$1,000 was too much for the college president and he was remanded to jail. A news story includes the significant observation that, "The appearance of Professor Buxton showed that prison life this hot weather is showing on him."

He was finally legally cleared of any wrongdoing in promoting Oklahoma University, and Mr. Wenner remembers that the judge scored the publishing company and the federal marshal for their part in the case. Broken financially, as well as in health and spirit, the disappointed minister and educator moved "out west" where he spent his remaining years.

Oklahoma University is only one of several Oklahoma colleges that began bravely and hopefully, struggled awhile, and then succumbed, moved to another location, or merged with another institution. The University of Oklahoma entered its first building in September, 1893, and has grown steadily into what we now lovingly and proudly call "OU," even though it is not and never has been Oklahoma University.

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