

WILBERFORCE UNIVERSITY.

The history of Wilberforce University dates back for more than sixty years, and during the years of its existence it has been the means of educating thousands of colored people. The idea which gave rise to this institution dates back just twenty-two years earlier. The efforts culminated eventually in the projection of Union Seminary by the Ohio conference of the African Methodist Episcopal church in 1844 and of Wilberforce University by the Cincinnati conference of the Methodist Episcopal church in 1853. These two projects, outgrowth of a common idea, were merged into one institution, Wilberforce University, March 10, 1863.

In 1833, at the session of the Ohio annual conference of the African Methodist Episcopal church, the following resolution offered by Rev. Lewis Woodson, was adopted:

Resolved as the sense of this house, that common schools, Sunday schools and temperance societies are of the highest importance to all people, but more especially to our people.

Resolved that it shall be the duty of every member of this conference to do all in his power to promote and establish these institutions among our people.

Every succeeding annual conference of the African Methodist Episcopal church gave notice and took some steps toward actualizing this idea. In 1841

a committee was appointed to inquire how far the preachers were carrying out the spirit of the resolutions of preceding conferences.

On September 17, 1844, the committee reported the selection of a site twelve miles west of Columbus, containing one hundred and seventy-two acres, obtainable for one thousand seven hundred and twenty dollars or ten dollars an acre, payable in installments. The committee stated that it had been prevented by lack of funds for traveling expenses from selecting a site in Michigan as directed by the conference, thus the first school for the higher education of the negro found lodgment on Ohio soil. The plan called for organizing a seminary of learning on the manual labor plan for instruction of youth in the various branches of literature, science, agriculture and mechanic arts, also for those who wish to prepare their minds for the work of the ministry. In 1847 Union Seminary opened its doors with Rev. J. M. Brown, principal, assisted by the subsequently well known Frances Ellen Watkins Harper. Reverend Brown was succeeded by Rev. Ed. D. Davis, who remained in charge till this school was merged with Wilberforce University.

Wilberforce was the second substantial result springing from the same set of influences. The initial steps for the organization of Wilberforce were taken at the Cincinnati conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, held at Hillsboro, September 28, 1853. A committee of seven was appointed to determine the best means to promote the welfare of the colored people. On August 9, 1854, the committee met and formulated plans contemplating the establishment of a literary institution of higher order for education generally and for the purpose of preparing teachers. The committee further recommended that attempt be made by the Methodist Episcopal church to co-operate with the African Methodist Episcopal church in promoting intellectual improvement among the colored people. J. F. Wright was appointed agent to carry forward the project. October 31, 1855, the agent was authorized to negotiate for the purchase of Tawawa Springs, near Xenia. The purchase was made on May 24, 1856, through the efforts of J. F. Wright and M. French. On August 30, 1856, articles of incorporation were executed in due form establishing a body corporate under the name of "The Wilberforce University." The name was given in honor of the great English statesman and philanthropist, William Wilberforce.

Among the original board of twenty-four trustees were Gov. Salmon P. Chase, R. S. Rust, John F. Wright, Ishmael Keith, Alfred Anderson, Bishop Daniel A. Payne and Lewis Woodson, the last two of whom were active in the early efforts for Union Seminary and served on the board of both institutions, thus linking them together. The organization took place in the law office of Moses D. Gatch at Xenia. Dedication took place in October, 1856, Rev. Edward Thompson, then president of Ohio Wesleyan University, offi-

ciating. Rev. M. P. Gaddis, Jr., became the first principal, serving till June, 1857. He was succeeded by James K. Parker who served till July, 1858. On June 30, 1858, Rev. Richard S. Rust, of New Hampshire, was elected president, remaining until the spring of 1862. The catalogue of 1859-60 shows an enrollment of two hundred and seven students, probably the highest registration reached.

Changes Effected by Civil War.—The Civil War brought about a very radical change in the history of the school. Up to that time the chief support of the school had been Southern planters, who had been maintaining their natural children in the school. With the opening of the war their support was entirely withdrawn, and this so affected the prosperity of the school that by the close of the school year of 1861-62 it was found impossible to continue it. At this time it had about one hundred students in attendance, among whom was R. H. Cain, later a member of Congress from the state of South Carolina. The institution was closed during the summer, fall and winter of 1862-1863. There was no question during this time that it had entirely lost all the support which it had hitherto received from the Southern planters, and this fact necessitated a radical change in the management of the school. Starting out as a school for both white and colored students, it had been used solely by the latter and for this reason it was apparent that if the school were to continue it would have to look for its support to the colored race.

The next step in the history of the school was taken on March 10, 1863, at which time Bishop D. A. Payne purchased the institution, together with the fifty-two acres which surrounded the building, the whole plant being bought for ten thousand dollars. Bishop Payne was acting in behalf of the African Methodist Episcopal church, of which denomination he had been a bishop for a number of years. The buildings at this time included one main building, three stories high, containing the recitation rooms and dormitory quarters for the students; twelve cottages, nine of which belonged to the trustees, three being private houses; and a barn of sufficient size to accommodate twenty horses. The first payment was to be made on June 11, 1863, and this payment of two thousand five hundred dollars was made possible by collections from colored churches throughout the North. The title to the property was vested in the African Methodist Episcopal church, with J. A. Shorter, John G. Mitchell and D. A. Payne as trustees. Since that year the control of the school has been in the hands of the colored race, its charter specifying that two-thirds of its board of trustees must be members of the African Methodist Episcopal church, but also stipulating that no distinction must be made in officers, faculty or students because of race, sex, or creed.

The school was reopened on July 3, 1863, but only twelve students were in attendance. Bishop Payne was installed as president and John G. Mitchell

became the first principal. In the spring of 1864 two new teachers were added, Mrs. J. G. Mitchell and Esther T. Maltby, the latter serving as female principal. The winter of 1864-1865 saw the school prospering, and with the closing of the Civil War it was felt that the school would quickly attract scores and even hundreds of students from the colored race. But on the day that President Lincoln was assassinated the main building was burned to the ground. It seemed for the time being that the school was going to be doomed, but its friends came to its rescue, and temporary quarters were provided pending the raising of money for the erection of a new building. On May 3, 1865, the board of trustees determined to build a stone and brick structure to replace the one destroyed, the brick to be burned on the ground. On June 28, 1866, the corner stone of the new building, "Shorter Hall," was laid. The records of the board show that the building was not occupied till 1867 and was then in an unfinished condition, being "unplastered and unpainted." The first catalogue was issued in 1867 and showed an enrollment of fifty-eight students.

The sad plight of the university seems to have raised up friends. In April, 1867, the trustees of the Avery estate tendered \$10,000. In December, 1867, Antioch College loaned the services of two professors. The Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West voted aid to the amount of \$3,600. In 1868 the American Unitarian Association voted \$500 per annum to 1875. Hon. Gerrit Smith gave \$500 and Chief Justice Chase bequeathed \$10,000; in 1869, through Gene Howard, from the Freedman's bureau, \$3,000; largely through the efforts of John Cousins and Bishop Daniel Payne, Congress, 1870, gave \$25,000 from the Freedman's bureau. These donations re-established the university on a firm basis. The curriculum has been widened from time to time, departments created and new courses of study added. The theological department was opened in 1865; the classical and scientific department in 1867, the normal department in 1872; the combined normal and industrial department, 1887, reorganized 1896; the military department in 1894, and the academy in 1916.

Departmental Work.—The Payne Theological Seminary dates from June 18, 1891, although religious instruction had been given since 1865. Bishop Payne was the first dean of the seminary, being followed by Dr. John G. Mitchell. Bishop B. T. Tanner became dean in 1900, and was followed two years later by Rev. Geo. F. Woodson, a graduate of Drew Theological Seminary, who is still at the head of the seminary.

The normal department began its work in 1872. On March 19, 1887, through the efforts of President S. T. Mitchell, the Ohio Legislature, recognizing the importance of preparing competent teachers for the colored people in this state and elsewhere, was influenced to make an appropriation for the

maintenance of normal and industrial work at Wilberforce. The trustees met on July 17, 1888, and organized what was destined to become a most important branch of Wilberforce University. At this time the operations of Wilberforce University were still confined to one main building and several cottages mostly occupied by the instructors. There were fewer than two hundred students of all grades taught by six professors with the assistance of some student instructors.

In 1890 O'Neill Hall was erected as the first of the state buildings. This was followed by several frame buildings of a more or less temporary character, constructed to house the infant industries. At this time the president of Wilberforce University acted as superintendent of the combined normal and industrial department.

In 1896 Governor Bushnell became interested in the progress of the department and as a result of recommended legislation the Legislature then in session completely reorganized the Combined Normal and Industrial Department, giving it an independent board of nine trustees, the majority of whom must be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate. The department was also placed upon a permanent financial basis similar to the other state educational institutions. The board was given exclusive control and empowered to prescribe courses, elect officers and teachers, and expend the funds appropriated for its use free from interference of any and all other influences.

Prof. J. P. Shorter served as superintendent from 1896 to 1910. During that period five buildings were added to the department, viz.: Arnett hall, girls' dormitory; Howells hall; a light, heat and power plant; Poindexter hall, housing the printing and drawing departments; and Galloway hall, the largest and handsomest building on the grounds, equipped as administration building and auditorium. The vacancy left by the death of J. P. Shorter in 1910 was filled by the appointment of William A. Joiner, the present superintendent. When Professor Joiner took up the work in 1910 he found the department facing a deficit, but he soon had the department in good shape and has since been making it one of the most valued features of the university. During the seven years that he has had charge of the department it has received more than six hundred thousand dollars from the state, and this amount has enabled him to build up the department to a point where it is the peer of any similar department in the colored schools of the United States.

In 1912 S. T. Mitchell hall was erected as a model home for the senior girls; 1914, Mechanic Arts building, to house the carpentry department; blacksmithing and machine shops; 1915-16, five modern cottages, constructed by the students; 1916, Tawawa hospital, pronounced one of the most complete little hospitals in the state; 1917-18, a recitation building, Bundy hall, and

Beacom gymnasium. These with a complete water system and softening plant constitute the structural improvements made since 1910 under the combined normal and industrial department. These improvements with current expenses have called for an expenditure of about six hundred and fifty thousand dollars, which the state has willingly appropriated. The valuation of the combined normal and industrial department is now nearly three-quarters of a million dollars. There are twenty-three instructors and three hundred and thirty-seven students. Under this department the first summer normal was organized and much valuable extension work is being done.

The trustees of the Combined Normal and Industrial Department are as follows: Dr. W. A. Galloway, president, Xenia; J. H. Jones, vice-president, Wilberforce; J. S. Jackson, secretary, Cleveland; M. W. Beacom, Cleveland; E. C. Berry, Athens; Charles Bundy, Toledo; Clarence Gardner, Springfield; George W. Hays, Cincinnati; William S. Scarborough, Wilberforce. President Galloway has been a member of the board of trustees practically all the time since the department has been in existence, and has always been very active in his support of the school. One of the buildings is named in his honor.

The school has shown its largest growth since 1910. During this period its instructors have increased from 20 to 41, the students from 290 to 600, and the buildings from 11 to 24. Students are now enrolled from every corner of the United States, from Canada, South America, Africa, the Bermuda Islands and the West Indies. The growth has been due in the main to the efforts of President W. S. Scarborough, Hallie Q. Brown and others in securing gifts from philanthropists like Andrew Carnegie and Kezia Emery, to the growing interest and increased aid of the state of Ohio, and to the administration of W. A. Joiner, superintendent of the Combined Normal and Industrial Department, whose work since 1910 has more than doubled the value of the buildings and equipment of that department. The total value of the institution is now about \$850,000. Its land holdings amount to 200 acres of excellent land. The buildings on the grounds number 24, of which 14 are used for school purposes, either for instruction or as dormitories, while 10 others are occupied as private residences.

Other Features.—Wilberforce has had a military department since 1894. On January 9 of that year President Cleveland detailed Lieut. John H. Alexander to organize a military department at the university and become identified with the institution as instructor in military science and tactics. Wilberforce was the first colored school in the United States to receive such recognition at the hands of the government, and is still the only one receiving such government recognition. The war department has supplied arms, cannon and equipment to the university to the value of four thousand dollars. Since the military department was established in 1894 the following officers

of the regular army have been detailed to the school: Lieut. John H. Alexander, 1894; Lieut. Charles Young and Lieut. B. O. Davis, Tenth Cavalry, 1905-1909; Lieut. John E. Green, Twenty-fifth Infantry, 1909-1913; Capt. B. O. Davis, since 1913. The university has entered into an agreement with the war department whereby the school is to be recognized as a military training station. It is worthy of note that nineteen men from the school attended officers' training camps in 1917 and received commissions, while a number of other students who had had military training in the school joined the service in some capacity. Twelve received commissions at the camp at Des Moines in the spring of 1918.

From the beginning of the school it has been necessary to give elementary schooling to some of the students, and the work of the academic department was closely allied with the college department up to the summer of 1916. Nearly all the college teachers also taught in the academic department, and at times some of the elementary classes were in charge of advanced students of the college department. The need for a regularly organized academic department, however, became recognized, and on June 14, 1916, the board of trustees voted to establish a separate department to be known as the Academy. A principal was placed in charge of the newly organized department, the work being outlined to cover the course as provided by the first-grade high schools of Ohio. A diploma is granted to students completing the full course.

Faculty.—The members of the faculty of the college of liberal arts is as follow: William Sanders Scarborough, president; Theophilus Gould Stewart, vice-president and professor of history; Gilbert H. Jones, dean and professor of philosophy; Bruce Henry Green, professor of chemistry and physics; George W. Henderson, professor of Latin and instructor in German; Amos J. White, professor of Greek; Dudley W. Woodard, professor of mathematics; Ida Francis Horton, instructor in instrumental music.

The faculty of the Payne Theological Seminary includes the following members: William S. Scarborough, professor of philosophy and Greek literature; Rev. George F. Woodson, dean and professor of systematic theology and New Testament Greek; Rev. A. W. Thomas, professor of Hebrew and archaeology; Rev. P. S. Hill, professor of historical theology and moral philosophy; Rev. Thomas H. Jackson, professor of Biblical introduction and practical theology.

The faculty of the Combined Normal and Industrial Department, which includes more members than all the other departments combined, is constituted as follows: William A. Joiner, superintendent; Hugh M. Browne, director of vocational training; Sarah C. Bierce Scarborough, English and methods; George Thompson Simpson, instructor in theory of music and voice culture; Charles Henry Johnson, instructor in drawing; William Madison Hunnicut, instructor in shoemaking; Charles Shelton Smith, instructor

in shorthand and typewriting; Julia Carmen Gee, instructor in plain sewing and dressmaking; Frederick Alphonso McGinnis, instructor in printing; Jesse Edward Ormes, instructor in bookkeeping and business practice; George R. Thompkins, Samuel J. Richards, instructor in carpentry and cabinet work; Sadie E. Overton, director of secondary training; Mary S. Booth, instructor in nurse training; A. C. Ginn, instructor in blacksmithing; William M. Berry, instructor in agriculture; Ethel M. Jones, instructor in millinery; Leanora Carrington, instructor in primary methods; George Ewing, instructor in plumbing and sanitary engineer; Lucinda Cook, director of elementary training; Anna O. H. Williamson, critic teacher; Charles P. Blackburn, instructor in physical training; Jane M. Hunley, instructor in cooking; L. F. Palmer, instructor in library economy; J. D. Newsom, instructor in stationary engineering.

The faculty of the academic department is as follows: Lutrelle F. Palmer, instructor in Latin; Hallie Q. Brown, instructor in English; Bernice Sanders, instructor in mathematics; and four others connected with the faculty of the Combined Industrial and Normal Department, namely: Sadie Overton, history and civics; Amos J. White, German; William M. Berry, agriculture; George T. Simpson, vocal music; Charles H. Johnson, drawing.

Cross-Sectional View of Wilberforce University.—The following summary of Wilberforce University sets forth in a brief and comprehensive manner a bird's-eye view of the institution as it stands today. The dates following the various buildings are the years of their erection:

<i>Arts and Sciences, Classical Department.</i>	<i>Theological Seminary.</i>	<i>Combined Normal and Industrial Department.</i>
Kezia Emery Hall, 1913.....		Arnett Hall, 1901 E. T. Mitchell Hall, 1912
Shorter Hall, 1867.....	J. G. Mitchell Hall, 1891.	O'Neill Hall, 1890
Shorter Hall, 1867..... Carnegie Library, 1907.....	J. G. Mitchell Hall.....	Model School, 1889 Arnett Hall, 1901 O'Neill Hall, 1890 Howell's Hall, 1900 Light, Heat and Power Plant, 1904 Poindexter Hall, 1904 Galloway Hall, 1905 Mechanic Arts, 1914 Tawawa Hospital, 1916 Bundy Hall, 1917 Beacom Gymnasium, 1918
Faculty: 11 members.....	4 members.....	23 members
Departments: Three	Two	Twelve
Students: 202	32	337

Dormitories for girls are maintained in Kezia Emery, Arnett and E. T. Mitchell halls; for boys in Shorter, J. G. Mitchell and O'Neill halls. Two of these halls—Kezia Emery and E. T. Mitchell—are used exclusively for dormitory purposes, the other four also containing class rooms.