



Special Collections and Archives

INDIANA NORMAL SCHOOL OF PENNA.:
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

EST. 3RD DAY OF APRIL, 1872
RECORD GROUP #3

AMANDA K. PIPER, TRANSCRIBER
INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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[BACK ROW] MR. PURRINGTON, MRS. WHITE, MR. STEWART, MRS. J. W. SUTTON, JUDGE SILAS M. CLARK, MR. TIFFANY, MR. JACK, MRS. PORTER, MR. HOOD, & MR. WILSON

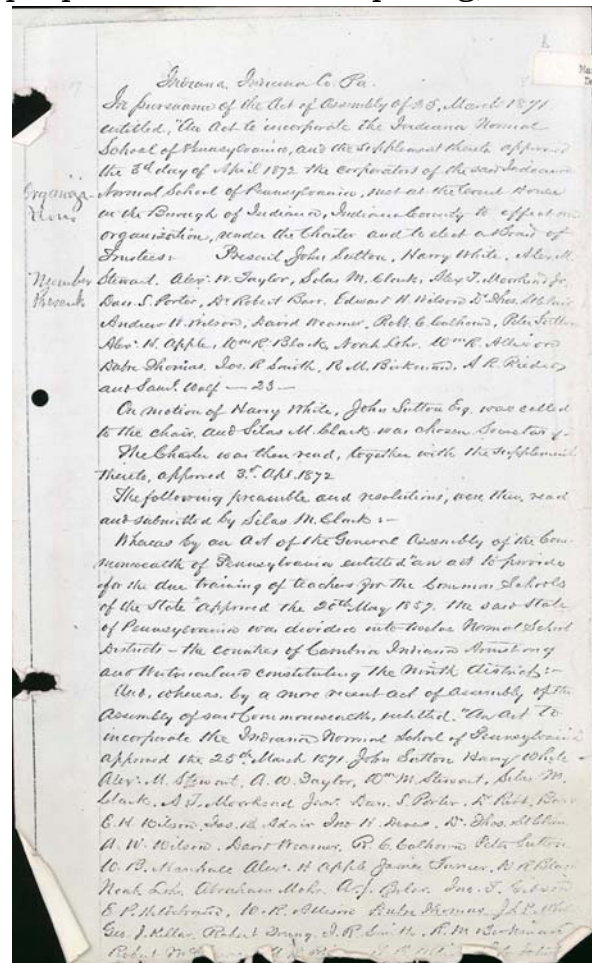
[MIDDLE ROW] MRS. PURRINGTON, MR. THOMAS SUTTON, MRS. CLARK, JUDGE HARRY S. WHITE, MRS. TIFFANY, MR. MCWILLIAMS, MR. J. W. SUTTON, & MRS. WILSON

[FRONT ROW] MRS. THOS. SUTTON, MRS. JACK, MRS. E. R. SUTTON, MR. E. R. SUTTON

EDITOR'S NOTE ON TRANSCRIPTION

Featured on the Indiana University of Pennsylvania's Special Collection website is the meeting minute notes of the Indiana Normal School of Indiana, Pennsylvania, Board of Trustees. Each page is formatted to resemble the original notes, including: all marginalia, purposeful word-line spacing, name abbreviations, as well as preserving the number of words per line. The original manuscript was handwritten in a legal-sized notebook, and in order to replicate the original pages, line breaks have been added to the finished manuscript.

As with any transcription process, some errors may have occurred; however, each manuscript page was rigorously verified against the original. Any and all original spelling and/or punctuation errors were left uncorrected during the manuscript transcription, and a few



minor punctuation modifications were silently corrected by this editor. In the original manuscript, the right gutter margin was used by the scribe (Silas M. Clark) as both end punctuation (commas, periods, etc.) and line breaks. In this instance, this editor has added, where appropriate, commas and periods to aid

in the reading of this manuscript. In the case of W. B. Hildebrand, second Secretary of the Board of Trustees, he added dashes on the end of words that did not fill up the margin. This editor added these lines, where appropriate, to simulate the look of the original.

The first scribe, Silas M. Clark, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, alternated between using first name abbreviations, initials, and full names, and this editor transcribed the same without alteration. Because the right gutter margin was used as line end points, this editor hypothesizes that the abbreviations were used by Clark to assist in the composition to fill each line to the margin, along with preventing names from being split between lines, as well as saving the scribe time and ink. For that reason, names may appear in multiple forms; for example, Robert C. Calhoun's name is noted throughout the manuscript as both, R. C. Calhoun and Robt. C. Calhoun. Explanatory footnotes were added to clarify name abbreviations when appropriate.

As with any transcription process, some names were indecipherable due to damaged pages, water and/or ink blots, as well as illegible handwriting. This editor used brackets and questions marks [?] to indicate such word or words that could not be transcribed. When applicable, this editor made note of such in footnotes, along with suggestions of possible letters or names that are likely to resemble the missing information.

Faithfully transcribed by:

Amanda Kristine Piper
Indiana Univ. of Pa.

BRIEF HISTORY OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES:
FOUNDERS OF OUR UNIVERSITY

The Founding Fathers:

The Indiana Normal School of Pennsylvania started as a “Normal School Association” comprised of prominent members of Indiana society, including



doctors, lawyers, judges, senators, businessmen and other professionals. John Sutton (pictured at left), future President of the Board of Trustees, was elected President of the Association, and Silas M. Clark (pictured at right), future Secretary and later President of the Board of Trustees, was



elected Vice President of the Normal School Association.

Other members of great influence involved in the Normal School Association included Andrew W. Wilson,

Harry White, J. H. Lichtenberger, and Samuel McCreary, all of whom became Board Members and founding Trustees.

The Normal School Act:

In order for the Association to succeed in establishing a Normal School in Indiana, PA, the Association would need to meet the following requirements of the Normal School Act of 1857, which required any Normal School to be:

a private corporation free of religious tests with 'at least thirteen contributors or share holders ... at least ten acres of ground in a single tract ... a building with a hall sufficient to seat comfortably 1,000 adults; classroom, lodging and refectory for at least 300 students; ventilation, heating and lighting for comfort and healthfulness; and a space for physical exercise in inclement weather ... a library, and also display cases and apparatus for the sciences ... at least six professors ... a principal' and 'a Model School of not less than 100 pupils in which to do practice teaching (Juliette 12).

Furthermore, the Normal School Association had to raise a minimum of \$50,000.00 in subscriptions, which it accomplished (and exceeded) by January 1872. While the Association was soliciting funds, State Senator Harry White introduced a bill in Pennsylvania's General Assembly to incorporate the Indiana Normal School of Pennsylvania, which was passed in March 1871. The Trustees Minutes begin with a reference to White's bill:

In pursuance of the Act of Assembly of 25 March 1871 entitled, "An Act to incorporate the Indiana Normal School of Pennsylvania, and the supplement thereto approved the 3rd day of April 1872" the corporators of the said Indiana Normal School of Pennsylvania, met at the Court House in the Borough of Indiana, Indiana Country to effect an organization, under the Charter and to elect a Board of Trustees (1872, 1).

Another stipulation of the Normal School Act was the limitation of funding to only one Normal School per district. Due to Indiana's central location in District 9, along with its "accessibility to inexpensive transportation" (Merryman 37), namely the railroads, which connected Indiana to other towns such as Blacklick, Ebensburg, Vintondale, Blairsville, and even Butler, Indiana was an ideal location for the establishment of a new Normal School.

Troubled Beginnings:

Even though Indiana was the decided location, among Indiana's elite there was a dispute over where to build the new school, on a plot of land offered for sale by John Sutton or on land offered by Joseph R. Carter. The decision on where to build created a fissure in the newly organized Board of Trustees. The following is excerpted from the June 11, 1872 Trustees Minutes:

Dr. Thomas St. Clair moved that we now proceed to vote viva voce for a suitable site for the Indiana Normal School Buildings—carried—

Considerable discussion being had of the advantages & disadvantages of the several locations proposed—the vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Dr. Thomas St. Clair, Joseph R. Smith, Geo. W. Bodenhammer, Peter Sutton, and Saml. McCartney voted in favor of the site upon lands of John Sutton, in the Borough of West Indiana, adjoining lands of the heirs of James Sutton, dec^d, the Indiana Bch. of Penna. R. R. lands of the Indiana Agricultural Society and others containing about twelve acres offered at \$7,000—

S. M. Clark and G. S. Christy voted in favor of the site on the lands of Jos. R. Carter, in White Township on west side of borough said, containing ten acres, offered at \$2,000—

John Sutton & Harry White, refusing to vote—
The first named site was thereupon declared as the site selected and the Secretary was instructed by the Board to prepare the necessary papers to secure the title thereto

The Secretary of the board was further instructed to notify the State Sup't of Com Schools of the selection of the site by the board, requesting his approval of the same (1872, 8).

John Sutton's lands only exceeded Carter's lands by just over two acres and yet the purchase price was \$5,000.00 more, which seemed to cause some resentment among several members of the Board. The following excerpt is

from the June 20, 1872 minutes, wherein the location of the school was debated for a second time:

Samuel M^cCartney moved to reconsider the motion selecting the grounds of John Sutton, as the location of the Normal School Building, the motion was seconded by Harry White, the question being considered and that the following persons voted aye. Samuel M^cCartney, Harry White, G. S. Christy and S. M. Clark (4) and the following persons voted no. Peter Sutton, John Sutton, Thos. St. Clair, Jos. R. Smith & Geo. Bodenhammer (5) and the motion was lost. Whereupon Mr. Harry White retired—

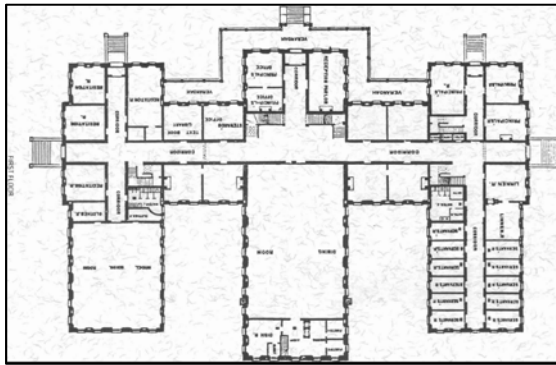
The voting seemed rather skewed considering that two Suttons, Peter and John, were voting in favor of their own land proposal. Because Harry White (pictured at right) left the meeting before adjournment and did not participate as frequently in the Board thereafter, it could be theorized that hard feelings resulted over this decision.



Furthermore, the land dispute was not the only issue to split the Board of Trustees. Harry White and James Turner had pledged the most money of any one subscriber—\$5,000.00 each—however, when the Board passed a resolution on July 15, 1872 that would require those who pledged money to pay ten percent of their pledge to the Board, White stormed out of the meeting. Not only that, but he refused to pay the appeasement of 10 percent, and a lawsuit resulted: *The Indiana Normal School v. Harry White and James Turner*. The matter was eventually settled in favor of ISNS, and White promised to pay the assessment in 1874.

Brighter Beginnings:

Eventually an architecture firm, Voris, Haigh & Gregg, was selected by the Board of Trustees for the construction of what is now, John Sutton Hall (see original 1875 floor plans for the first floor below). The Board of Trustees was highly involved in the planning of the main Normal School building. Apart



from general supervision of the project, the Board also voted on the type of woodwork and tile to be used for the project. Unfortunately, money was always an issue for the Trustees in the early years, and Board members would

oftentimes act as guarantors for loans needed for the Normal School. When the time came to select teachers, a committee was formed to oversee the selection



process as well as to decide on salaries.

Even after the school was completed and the first principal elected, Dr. Edmund B. Fairfield (pictured at left), the Trustees continued to play a prominent role in the daily running of the school. Committees were formed to oversee teachers, discipline, supplies, etc. Once even, a “Committee on Cows” was created to oversee the purchase of three dairy cows. On various occasions, the Board of Trustees would hear concerns from students regarding tuition fees, boarding costs, and even once they lent money to a student who had lost his pocketbook and tuition money on the way to

school. The student was granted a small loan to cover his tuition, room and board, some pocket money and books, which did not have to be repaid for two years, interest free (1878, 130). On many occasions, the Board would grant reductions in tuition costs and/or boarding fees to students who either could not afford the total cost, or in one case in particular, the student traveled home every weekend; therefore, the Board granted a reduction on his room and board bill. Similarly, the Board voted to grant more laundry allotment (items without charge) upon the request of the female boarders. Throughout the early years of the Normal School, the Board of Trustees were highly involved in the hiring and firing of professors, as well as overseeing the concerns of the faculty and students.

Conclusions:

The Indiana Normal School of Pennsylvania's Board of Trustees continues to reign over the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. The meeting minutes are now computerized, and the university is no longer contained in one building, yet the governance of the original Board can still be seen today in buildings such as John Sutton Hall (named after First Board President), Clark Hall (named after Second Board President), and Wilson Hall (named after Third Board President).



NOTE ON THE TEXT, TRUSTEE MINUTES

Ideally, I would like to pursue this project to its finish. A complete set of transcribed Normal School Trustee meeting minutes would not only benefit the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, adding to the accessibility of its history, but it would also give new perspective to historians researching the transition from private educational programs into state schools during the late 1800s.

In order for that reality to materialize, thousands of hours of dedication would be required of any person (or persons) undertaking such a lofty task, not only in the transcription, editing and verification process but also in research relating to names and events. Speaking ideally again, were this to expand into a finished publication, footnotes would be required to provide historical information on every board member. I included as much information relevant (and available), but I recognize that much more would be required.

This transcription and editing project has enlightened me to the difficulties and rewards of turning scribble into legible, readable text. This process definitely requires a high level of commitment and passion. One cannot work on transcription without feeling a sense of duty both to the text and to future readers. I felt as though I needed to decipher every word and every name, and it was becoming an act of passion and insanity. Ideally, I would love to reexamine the text and figure out every last letter, but alas, time is not on my side.

This process has definitely given me an appreciation for all the hard work that goes into any publication—large or small. By taking on a role as editor, you are accepting a high level of accountability. Misrepresenting facts, names or events, can have larger repercussions than just saving a few minutes of time during the process. Readers rely on printed texts to provide accurate information, and it was in that spirit that I transcribed this manuscript. I took great care in deciphering the text, and I hope that the finished, or rather the beginning, of this immense project is worthy of any reader's attention and trust.



[Standing] Mrs. Sutton and Mr. Edward H. Wilson

[Seated] Mrs. Clark, Judge Silas M. Clark, Mrs. Wilson and Thomas Sutton

ABOUT THE EDITOR:

AMANDA KRISTINE PIPER

Amanda Kristine Piper graduated from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania May 2005 with a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature. She continued her studies at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, in the field of English, receiving her Master's Degree May 2007. She is a member of *Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society*, *Delta Epsilon Iota Honor Society*, and *Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society*.

Amanda K. Piper began working in Stapleton Library's Special Collections during summer 2006. She first started work with the Indiana Normal School Trustees Minutes during spring term 2006 for a Bibliographic Methods course. What started as a class project soon became an academic obsession. She continued work over the summer transcribing the meeting minutes, and eventually, she made the Trustees Minutes the focus of an internship during spring term 2007.

While originally aspiring to teach English Literature, the exposure to transcription and work in Special Collections has inspired Amanda K. Piper to apply to Ph.D. programs in the field of Library Science and Archives. She hopes one day to continue work on the Indiana Normal School Trustees Minutes.

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