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COLLEGE OF THE PACIFIC

[Ellen Deering?]

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH

The distinction of being the first chartered co-educational College of Liberal Arts in California and among the first on the Pacific Coast belongs to the College of the Pacific. Likewise, the first course in Medical instruction on the coast was given by the College of the Pacific. Since it occupied this unique position in the education of California, a brief historical sketch may be of general interest.

In 1848 the Reverend Isaac Owen, a man of fine training and great personal power, a native of Indiana, was appointed missionary to California by the Board of Home Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church. His assistant was the Reverend William Taylor, who later became famous. In 1850 they were joined by three additional missionaries, the Reverend S. D. Simons, the Reverend M. C. Briggs, and Professor Edward Bannister.

In spite of the primitive conditions prevailing in California, the almost prohibitive high prices, the scanty funds available, and the limited number of people who could be relied upon for aid, these men of courage and faith began to plan for the founding of a college or university. At the call of Isaac Owen, a convention consisting of an equal number of preachers and laymen met at San Jose, January 6, 1851. This convention recommended "the founding of an institution of the grade of a University" and appointed suitable committees to apply for a charter and to consider questions of location, organization, and funds.

At a meeting held in San Francisco, May, 1851, a Board of Trustees was appointed. Shortly afterward Santa Clara was chosen as the location, and on July 10, 1851, a charter was issued to the new institution to be known as the "California Wesleyan College"—a name which proved to unsatisfactory and was changed the next year to the University of the Pacific.

Early in 1851 instruction was begun under Professor and Mrs. Edward Bannister in a building later known as the "What Cheer House" on the corner of Second and San Fernando Streets, San Jose. On the completion of the buildings in Santa Clara, one called the female institute and the other the male department; full courses leading to the Bachelor degrees were organized and a faculty, remarkably well trained for that day, was provided.

The first regular graduation occurred in 1858 when five young men and five young women completed the courses in their respective departments. Their names are as follows:

Brickell, Emeline.....	B.S.
Hamer, Joseph C.....	B.S.
Hook, Elijah.....	B.S.
Hughes, Martha J.....	B.S.
Laine, Hon. Thos. H.....	A.B.
McDonald, Mary A.....	B.S.
Miller, Mary A.....	B.S.
Owen, John W.....	A.B.
Smith, Mary E.....	B.S.
Vestal, DeWitt Clinton.....	B.S.

In that same notable year Methodism again proved itself to be a pioneer in education. The University organized a Medical department and in the following May began the first regular course in Medical instruction given on the coast. This department later became the Cooper Medical College.

The Civil War and ensuing hard times involved the University in serious financial difficulties. When the suspension of instruction, and at least the temporary closing of the institution seemed necessary, the Reverend G. R. Baker, a man of great energy and business ability, proposed that a tract of land, about 435 acres, lying between San Jose and Santa Clara, be purchased, and except twenty acres reserved for a campus, be divided into lots and sold for the benefit of the University. The plan was approved and carried out. It is interesting to note that the cross Streets in College Park now bear the names of Bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Asbury, Emory, and Hedding. A new building known as West Hall was erected on the site chosen for the campus and in the fall of 1871 the University formally transferred to the new location. There it remained for over fifty years.

In 1896 Napa College, which had been organized by the Methodists in 1870, was consolidated with the College of the Pacific, and its graduates were admitted to the Alumni Association of the University, which then became the only educational institution under the control of the California Conference. For some years it has been the only Protestant Christian College of full collegiate rank in Northern California. Following this, Pacific again struggled for growth and recognition.

The Conservatory of Music of the College was organized in 1878. Since that time it has added greatly not only to the cultural life of the College but of that of Northern California. It has been recommending students for certification for the teaching of music in the High Schools of the State since 1916.

The institution does not aim or profess to be a University, and in recognition of that fact changed its name to the College of the Pacific in 1911. The years following 1911 were important ones for the College. Within a year, both Central and West Halls, including the library, were destroyed by fire. Central Hall was replaced by a new and attractive Commons. In the face of discouragement, fires, and almost certain failure, a firmer structure than Pacific had had for many years was wrought. Then followed the World War and all the uncertainties attending those years.

For years there had been whispers of a relocation of the College to a place where it would not be over-shadowed by other colleges and universities, and where Pacific might have a more adequate campus. In 1921 the Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, by unanimous vote, requested the Trustees of the College to relocate the College on a tract of land in or near the city of Stockton, located at the confluence of the great Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. Here was considered the logical place for an educational institution, as there was no other of collegiate grade between Fresno on the south, and Chico on the north, a distance of approximately 250 miles. The J. C. Smith company offered a forty acre tract adjoining the city of Stockton to be used for a campus, and to be known as the Harriet M. Smith Memorial Campus. This offer was accepted and to this the College has added ten acres by purchase. The citizens of Stockton and vicinity led by the Chamber of Commerce, subscribed the sum of \$750,000 to be used in the erection of buildings for the new home of the College. There are now located on this campus ten beautiful buildings of Collegiate Gothic style of architecture, of red brick, terra cotta facings, and black slate roofs, as follows:

Administration, Weber Memorial Science, Conservatory, West Memorial Infirmary, Women's Hall, Men's Hall, Anderson Dining and Social Hall, Power House, Gymnasium and the President's Home.

The Infirmary, the gift of a Trustee, Mrs. Charles M. Jackson in memory of her parents, George and Ellen K. West, and her brother, Frank Allen West, is a class A. Building completely equipped to care for the health of the students. It has a beautiful setting among the redwoods, the trees, shrubs, etc., which surrounds it also being the gift of Mrs. Jackson.

Baxter Stadium, the gift of the president of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Thomas F. Baxter, is also located on the campus. It has a seating capacity at the present time, 1938, of ten thousand and is one of the best equipped in this section, having an up-to-date lighting system for night football and track, and a permanently installed public-address system.

The work of the College of the Pacific is recognized by the California State Board of Education for high school teaching credentials. It is on the accredited list of the Association of American Universities and of the American Association of University Women.

Since the removal of the College from San Jose to Stockton in 1924, the student body has grown from 467 to 913. The A.B. degrees in 1924 numbered 45; and in 1934 they numbered 105. The total number of A.B. degree graduates since 1858 is 1608. Of this number, 880 have received the A.B. degree since 1924, over one-half the entire group.

As an indication of the incentive given by Pacific to its graduates for pursuing advanced work, the following statistics are given:

"No. of A.B. degrees granted from 1858 to 1910-----	465
" " " " " " " 1910 to 1924 inc.-----	263
" " " " " " " 1925 to 1935 inc.-----	880
(College moved to Stockton summer of 1924)	

"No. of Mus.B.degrees granted from 1858 to 1935 inc.-----	419
" " " M. " " " " " " " "-----	4
" " A.M. " " " " " " " "-----	<u>216</u>
Total degrees granted from 1858 to 1935 inc.-----	2247

No. who have pursued graduate work in institutions of high rank from 1910 to 1930 inc.-----303
(Figures have not been computed since 1930)

Percentage of A.B. graduates who have pursued graduate work in institutions approved by the Association of American Universities from 1910 to 1930 inc.----- 45%"

No historical sketch, however brief, of the College of the Pacific could fail to name some of the men whose generosity and devotion to the cause of Christian Education in the earlier days made its existence possible. Much should be said of the splendid work of the founders of the College, particularly, Isaac Owen, M. C. Briggs, and Edward Bannister, the latter being the first head of the institution. During the last generation the Board of Trustees has been under the leadership of Rolla V. Watt and Thomas F. Baxter. The list of presidents of the institution since its founding is as follows:

Edward Bannister	1852-54
M. C. Briggs	1854-56
William J. Maclay	1856-57
A. E. Gibbons	1857-59
Edward Bannister	1859-67
Thomas H. Sinex	1867-72
A. S. Gibbons	1872-77
C. S. Stratton	1877-87
A. H. Hirst	1887-91
Isaac Crook	1891-93
W. C. Sawyer (Acting Pres.)	1893-94
J. N. Beard	1894-96
Eli McClish	1896-1906
M. S. Cross	1906-1908
W. W. Guth	1908-1913
B. J. Morris	1913-1914
John L. Seaton	1914-1919
Tully C. Knoles	1919-