



1924

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Recommended Citation

Abbott, Alden H., "The History in Brief of the College of the Pacific" (1924). *University of the Pacific Individual Histories*. 14.
<https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/ua-histories/14>

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THE HISTORY IN BRIEF OF THE COLLEGE OF THE PACIFIC

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The College of the Pacific has had a long and interesting history. Its beginning goes back seventy-three years to the July following the admission of California as the thirty-first state in the Union. The College or University of the Pacific as it was first called was the result of the missionary enterprise of the Methodist Church, which saw the need of Christian preaching and of Christian teaching to combat the disorderly influences that were present in California life following the gold rush. The man who deserves chief credit, however, for the founding of this institution was Issac Owen, who was called "Father" Owen by his friends and neighbors of the Santa Clara Mission. William Taylor later famous Missionary Bishop of Africa and Edward Bannister and others gave Issac Owen indispensable support and assistance.

The California Wesleyan College was chartered by authorization of the State Supreme Court under July 10th, 1851. It became the first institution of learning in the Golden State. The name was changed the following Spring to the University of the Pacific; but in 1911 the more appropriate name that the institution now bears was authorized by court action.

Like most other American colleges and universities, the College of the Pacific got under way slowly and had a great many difficulties during the early years. Indeed, the academy, which was discontinued when the college moved to its permanent location in Stockton, was organized before the college proper. Co-education which is so thoroughly accepted by Pacific now seemed at first too radical an innovation, accordingly the young ladies whose interests were present in the minds of the founders were taught separately in a Female Institution.

The college was first located, after some debate, at Santa Clara. In 1871 the Trustees purchased land about a mile and a half away just outside of the City of San Jose. Eighteen acres were reserved for the campus while the remainder of the tract was sold for residences. The College was therefore located at San Jose from 1871 to 1924.

The Trustees and President and members of the Faculty and the great body of loyal supporters of the institution deserve a great deal of credit for their unselfish efforts and for their courage in meeting the great problems that confronted the struggling institution during most of the later part of the nineteenth century. At one time the financial situation was so desperate that the institution had to close its doors for a short period. Nevertheless, somehow buildings were provided, professors were engaged, and paid, --sometimes rather tardily,--and the various other obligations were met. Despite every effort, nevertheless, debts of staggering dimensions, sometimes accumulated, only to be wiped out as a result of strenuous money raising activities. All the while students were coming and going and during their stay were interested in studies and various other things, as students are today. While outside activities were fewer than they are now, just as life was simpler in almost every respect, there were a good many ways in which students found vent for their surplus energy and in which they expressed their initiative and love of achievement.

The opening of Stanford University in 1891 with its unlimited wealth of endowment and with the beginning of its magnificent groups of buildings came at

the time when the University of the Pacific was seething with internal troubles. The upshot was that the University at San Jose lost most of its students to the rival institution as it was then; the outlook during the next few years at the University of the Pacific was particularly disheartening.

But things picked up, debt was paid for and the University had a great celebration in 1901 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of its founder. President McClish may well have looked forward during the festivities of this happy occasion to the road that was much smoother to travel than the road which had been gone over during the preceding half century.

There was still a struggle, however, and difficult tasks remained or came up for those who were largely responsible for carrying on the administration of the University. The College of Liberal Arts declined in numbers and the great majority of students in these first few years of the present century were enrolled in the Conservatory or in the Academy. There was also a commercial department that numbered quite a few students. After the first decade, however, the College of Liberal Arts attained a position of leadership so far as numbers were concerned, with the Conservatory second in size; and it was somewhat later decided that it would be better for the institution to discontinue the academy all together.

During this period of almost three quarter's of the century the College of the Pacific made many contributions to the life of San Jose and the Santa Clara Valley and to the State as a whole, in fact many of the students came from a distance, or even from beyond the seas, and then returned to Japan or China or the Philippines to help introduce Western ways or ideas into the life of the Orient.

Some of the graduates obtained positions of prominence in the ministry and other professions, and in a great number of walks of life. Not least among these in importance is home making and Pacific has helped to hold high the ideals in many Christian homes. In her last commencement at San Jose the institution honored herself, and at the same time three of her distinguished alumni, Dr. A.C. Bane, preached the Baccalaureate Sermon; Professor Frank W. Blackmar, well known Sociologist of the University of Kansas gave the commencement address, and Judge John E. Richards of the State Supreme Court, together with Dr. Blackmar received honorary degree of L.L.D. Dr. Bane had been granted the honorary degree of D.D. sometime previously. The Pacific Conservatory has during the years contributed much to the musical life of the people of San Jose and the surrounding community. Her recitals, oratorios, her reading and dramatic production and the touch of her graduates have counted much for the cultivation of the aesthetic side of life.

But perhaps Pacific has meant most to California by reason of her emphasis of Christian ideals. Like other colleges and universities she has of course given due attention to the turning of the mind to the scholarly things of life. In addition to this and to the cultivation of the social side of life the college has emphasized the religious side as perhaps only the Christian college can do. Thus it is not meant that there has been any narrow sectarian spirit. On the contrary young men and women of all faiths and no religious profession at all have been welcome and have been given the best that Pacific has been able to offer.

The College of the Pacific comes to Stockton at the close of a year that saw the largest attendance in her history and the number of graduate students to receive the Bachelor of Arts. The year that has just passed has been one of the best that this well known college has experienced. Pacific looks forward to the achievement more resplendent of the past.