

n.d.

EXTRACTS FROM GENEVIEVE SHAW'S LETTER

Note: Mrs. Mary B. Welch visited her daughter, Mrs. A. B. Shaw, in Des Moines during the period when my husband, Mr. Freeman R. Conaway, and Mr. Shaw were business partners. I was impressed with her beauty and with her gracious, charming personality; she was always stylishly gowned, yet with simple, exquisite taste.

Genevieve Shaw, granddaughter of Mary B. Welch, lives in Pasadena, with her father. Extracts from a recent letter, received from Miss Shaw, gives an intimate account of Mary B. Welch.

Grandmother was nineteen, with two children, when her first husband died. Soon afterward she taught in the Detroit Female Seminary, where her brother-in-law was president. Later she married Dr. A. S. Welch and lived in Florida, where he had a large plantation. He was sent to Washington and in a short time was appointed President at Ames. Dr. Welch died in 1889, in Santa Barbara, with Grandmother and his brother, D. M. Welch, with him. At her husband's request, a few years later, she married the President's brother, D. M. Welch, a wealthy, retired wholesale grocer of New Haven, Connecticut. They always spent their winters in California where they maintained quite a pretentious home.

I am sending you some pictures and a church magazine with an article Grandmother wrote for a missionary group. It throws a new light on her many-sided character. After her last marriage she became quite active in the Methodist Church, as Mr. Welch was a member, and prominent in that denomination. Of course you know she never did anything half-way, so she entered into this with great vim, but after Grandfather's death, she returned to the Episcopal Church, as her sister was living with her and it seemed foolish for them to attend different churches and have different church activities. So she took a Sunday School Class of young men about fifteen years of age and became such an influence with them that as they grew to manhood they still stayed in her class. She entertained them frequently at her home, and they were just like her own boys or grandsons. In fact, we had a call the other day from one of the boys, who was closest to her, whose family always said he had never married because Mrs. Welch was his lady friend, and he did not need a younger one.

Besides the Sunday School Class, she became leader of the older men's group, called the St. Andrew's Brotherhood. For a number of years it met at her home once a month, with a party frequently for the wives and sweethearts. It was quite remarkable, the way those middle-aged and elderly men hung on her words when she talked of the Bible. She had such a fine collection of religious books that it gave a good start to a young clergyman when she died.

Copied from material of P. Mabel Nelson

No date given.

My dear Miss Walls:

I wish that I could tell you how deeply I appreciated all that you did for me, the day we laid my dear mother to rest. Your presence there and that of the girls, the flowers, everything, went right to my heart.

Will you tell the girls for me how much it meant to me and thank them and the faculty for

for the resolutions of sympathy.

I shall always remember my visit
to the College and your kindness
in seeing that ~~that~~ I went all
through the Home Economics Building.

Sincerely Yours -

Winifred M. Shaw

June 12th 1923 -
Coming Adams Co -
Iowa -

grad class of '76-75
did her husband

Word has been received at Ames by Mrs. F. R. Conoway, announcing the death of Mrs. A. B. Shaw, January 21st, at her home at Pasadena, Calif.. Mrs. Shaw was the former Miss Winnifred Dudley, daughter of Dr. & Mrs. A. S. Welch. Dr. Welch was the first President of Iowa State College and Mrs. Mary B. Welch founder of the department of Home Economics. Winnefred Dudley came to Ames as a little girl the summer of 1868, graduated in 1876, was an instructor in music and a member of the College faculty. She was married to Mr. A. B. Shaw, class of 1876, in 1881, in what is now known as International House, the home built by Dr. Welch south of the College Campus and named "The Gables". She was, like her mother, an attractive, alert woman, a devoted wife and mother and a lasting friend. She never ceased to love the College at Ames.

July

July 10, 1923.

Mrs. Winifred D. Shaw,
Corning, Iowa.

My dear Mrs. Shaw:

It was indeed a pleasure to have you and Mr. Shaw visit us at Ames in June. I am sure both faculty and students will always have a hearty welcome for the members of the family of President and Mrs. Welch. Personally I delighted to have had the opportunity of meeting you and considered ^{it} a real pleasure to show you the present Home Economics equipment.

I hope both you and Mr. Shaw will have a most delightful vacation period.

Yours sincerely,

Vice Dean.

FEB.

Thanks Dr. Pammel for letting us see this article. We are using it and the Leaveritt story in the ALUMNUS we are now putting on the press.

Elizabeth Tiernan.

Comment by the Editor

By Frank P. Clarkson

The other Sunday we rattled out to see our old friends, the A. B. Shaws, who live in a little paradise of their own at the foot of Mt. Wilson. Their always hospitable home stands on a mesa overlooking Pasadena Glen, the canyon running back into Mt. Wilson, where it ends in a blank wall over which there drops a waterfall. From this mesa you look across the canyon to their 22 acres of Valencia oranges from which Col. Shaw harvested 8000 boxes of fine fruit last year and 5000 this year. Just below their home and also overlooking the canyon is the home of Dr. and Mrs. Rogers, the latter being their daughter, Myra. In this home there are three grand-children, two sturdy boys and a little girl, Mary Ann, just as pretty and as sweet as her old-fashioned name.

The writer's grandfather used to say that you get out of this life just what you have put into it. The Shaws are getting a great deal out of life because they have given the world a great deal. They are the kind who all their lives have been doing things for other people.

Col. Shaw and his charming wife—a charm, by the way, she comes by naturally for her mother was one of the most cultured and at the same time most gracious and most fascinating ladies we ever had the privilege of knowing—are great lovers of flowers. Just now the colonel is particularly interested in a new gladiola he has developed. The outer petals of this gorgeous flower are cardinal and the inner petals are of gold. The odd thing about it is that Col. and Mrs. Shaw are both graduates of the great Iowa State College at Ames, and the colors of that wonderful institution are cardinal and gold. Naturally the colonel is going to call the new flower "the Iowa State College." The Shaws are not going to release any of the bulbs until they have a large stock of them on hand, and we imagine the first of them will go to Ames.

It is something to have a fine home on a mesa overlooking a canyon with a beautiful orchard just across the way, a waterfall of your own and three fine grand-children whom Raphael would have loved to paint, but when on top of that the Master touches your hand with the stroke of genius and permits you to bring forth a beautiful new flower that the public has not yet been privileged to see, your cup is running full.

Mrs. Shaw's mother, of whom we just made mention, was indeed a remarkable woman. She had a magnetic personality such as we have encountered in but very few people. If she went into a room filled with strangers, it would not be five minutes before she was the dominating personality in that room, and in half an hour those there would feel they had known her all their lives. Few women were as well read, and she had a keen mind that retained everything that she read or heard. Rather small in size, she had a marvelous smile that was constantly in use, and when she was well past her three-score-and-ten she was as vivacious as a young woman in her twenties. The art of conversation was one of her delightful characteristics and she could interest the young as well as the old. Indeed, we remember one time we took some young people to call upon her, and when we told them in advance of her age, they were inclined to shrug their shoulders and look bored, but when they had once met and talked with her, the evening passed like a half-step forward of the hour hand, and we fairly had to drag them away. Along with her other jewels of genius the little lady could write a letter that any editor or publisher would consider it a privilege to publish.

Sometimes we are not so sure but what the art of conversation and that of letter writing are soon to be numbered among the lost. At any rate we shall always treasure the memory of the gracious little grandmother who was the mistress of them both—Mrs. Mary Welch.

March 17 Is Not College Birthday Says O. H. Cessna

Iowa State college was not founded on March 17, 1869 and today is not her fifty-ninth birthday," Dr. O. H. Cessna, college chaplain and a member of the first class, and Herman Knapp, business manager, maintained this morning when asked for comment on the anniversary.

"The college had its beginning on Oct. 21, 1868 when the first students were admitted for study and I know this for two reasons" Dr. Cessna explained. "I was one
(Continued on Page Two)

MARCH 17 NOT COLLEGE BIRTHDAY SAYS CESSNA

(Continued From Page One)

of those first 'kids' myself and I have the birth certificate of the college."

Written By Welch

The "birth certificate" referred to by Dr. Cessna is an old letter recently discovered which was written by President-elect A. S. Welch on Nov. 5, 1868. It reads in part as follows:

"The institution opened on the 21st of October according to public notice and has been in operation two weeks. Sixty-one students have been admitted, 54 young men and seven young ladies.

"Dr. E. A. Foote, Dr. Townsend and Prof. Geo. W. Jones are here, employed in giving instruction. The departments of labor, boarding and study are being rapidly settled under an efficient and permanent system."

The conflict in dates comes from circumstances arising during the early months of the institution of the college, Mr. Knapp explained. "The college was first opened on Oct. 21, 1868 and we have convinced the majority of people including Prof. L. B. Schmidt, who wrote a recent history of the college, of that fact," he said.

Inaugural in March

"However, at the time when President Welch was named for his position he was a senator from the state of Georgia and was not released from his duties until after March 4, 1869 so that his formal inauguration did not come until after his arrival to take full charge of the college."

In contrast to the staff of three professors employed and the system of working in which students participated Iowa State college now employ 405 persons as full-time teachers, research and extension workers and between 150 and 200 part-time assistants and instructors, while the annual educational payroll amounts to \$1,472,000.00.

The entire college property consists of 1,984 acres of land, 125 of which are used for the college campus, on which are 70 buildings erected for the various departments the total being valued at \$8,185,189.42.

President R. M. Hughes in his radio talk last night to Iowa State alumnus commemorating the inauguration of former president Welch and the dedication of the first building said, "While the college like all living things and all living institutions is changing year to year and is now very different in faculty, students and equipment from the college of 40 or 30 or even 10 years ago, still we are trying very hard to maintain the fine spirit here which you knew in your day."

"I am deeply interested in trying to really understand the college, to grasp her traditions and to become acquainted with her relation to the people of the state," President Hughes said this morning. "We are ambitious that she may serve the students and the state a little better this year than last and a little better next year than this."

A. B. SHAW

SWASTIKA VALENCIA RANCH
AND
PASADENA GLEN TRACT

PASADENA, CALIF.
R. D. No. 3, Box 640
PHONE WAKEFIELD 8289

8/14, '29.

Hon. Herman Knapp,
I. S. C. Ames, Iowa. Dear Friend:--

My sister,

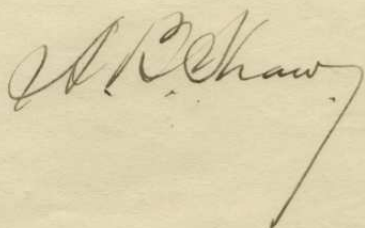
Mrs. Anna Shaw Yates of Hollywood has been
m
rumaging over old letters, and brings us some
of the enclosed. I remember Dr. Pammel was
collecting early historical matter of the col-
lege, and thought it may be interesting to
file. It is not improbable you found the same
in Prof Stanton's papers, but it will not hurt
to add this. I send it thru you as you will be
the best judge whether it will interest the
Alumni group or Mr. Pammel.

I will enclose a personal letter, also, from
Abner Hitchcock, telling of the sad finale of
our old bell-ringer classmate, Walter Woodward.
This is a more than ordinarily painful close
of life. Just had a phone from Geo. I.
Miller, who has been having trouble with one
eye and is going back to an Omaha specialist.
He and John Hungerford will be out tomorrow.
Charley Kegley is back from France, speaking
broken English, tho I hav'n't yet met him.

Isn't it about time you and your good wife were making that promised California visit?

We would be delighted to help make it pleasant for you. Part of our family are down at Balboa island for the month. I tell Geo. Miller he strained his eyes by trying to take in too much of the Beach scenery.

With kind regards, Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "A. B. Shaw". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping tail that extends downwards and to the right.

Nov. 7, 1933 *Dup*

While visiting my sister, Mrs. Mary B. Welch, the summer of the year the Iowa Agricultural College was opened, I was asked by the college Board to take the unfilled Department of Language, German and Art. I accepted for the year.

There were in the Faculty two young unmarried Professors and three women teachers, two of us in the twenties. At that time the long vacations were in the winter, the college being in session during the long hot summer. We five young teachers had a pleasant time working and playing.

The two young men held the positions of Physics and Botany, while the two younger ladies taught music and language etc. The older one was the Principal of the girl students - all the students took care of their rooms, and this duty fell to me to superintend so every Saturday afternoon, I inspected each room.

A few years ago an elderly gentleman called at the house and asked to see Miss Lily Beaumont, the maid told him there was no such person there. Mrs. Welch happened to hear, and asked the maid to call the gentlemen in and learned he was one of the first students to be examined in Language and said he wanted to see Miss Lily Beaumont, I was called. He greeted me very cordially and said he remembered me so well, and that when he entered the college after a very few questions I said that was enough. You certainly need to study how to talk and was at once put in the lowest Grammar Class.

That first year the College Board started to build an adobe house for the President and family, but Alas! as it was about finished it crumbled to peices. That was enough of an adobe so a wooden house was quickly put up, which was the Presidents home for some years. Their hospitable doors were always open, and we, especially the younger members of the faculty, spent many a pleasant time recruiting from labors at the college.

Mrs. Lily Beaumont Graham written in her ninetieth year.
The only living member of the first College Faculty

Santa Barbara, California c/o Greyson Hotel
November 7, 1933

**Mrs. Shaw, Daughter of
First President, Dies**

**Graduate of 1876, Was Mother of
3 Iowa State Alumni** 1/26/35

Mrs. A. B. Shaw, of Pasadena, Calif., who was graduated from Iowa State College in 1876, died at her home Jan. 21, according to word received here. She was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. A. S. Welch and was a faculty member after her graduation. Dr. Welch was the first president of Iowa State College and served from 1869 to 1883, and his wife, Mrs. Mary B. Welch, after whom two of the women's dormitories are named, founded the Home Economics Division here.

Mrs. Shaw was the mother of three Iowa State alumni, Genevieve Welch Shaw, '05, who made her home with her parents; Winifred Anna Shaw McDaniel, '06, who is deceased, and Ret Shaw, '07, deceased.

The Welch family was the first to occupy the Farm House, now the home of Dean Curtiss. Dr. and Mrs. Shaw were married 53 years ago in the home of President Welch, which is now International House. The wedding was attended by Herman Knapp, treasurer of Iowa State College, and Mrs. Knapp.

Mrs. Shaw was back to the campus in 1926 to receive the gold medal for her fiftieth anniversary of graduation.

deceased in or before 1925 -
— R.C. Shaw '07 - Pasadena

yno

Winifred
W. Dudley Shaw →
↓
Mrs. Anna Benj Shaw
↓
mother of 5 children.

Born Apr 16, 1859 Upsilon Mich dau Geo. E. Dudley
graduated 1876 - Q.S.C. & Mary Beaumont Dudley
Died - Jan 21, 1935 - Pasadena, after a long
period of illness
Survived by husband, one son ^{Archie} A.B. Shaw Jr. - F.B. attorney
also 2 daughters ^{Genevieve} Genevieve X'05 &
③ Myra - wife of Dr R.M. Rogers of Pasadena
Deceased were
④ Winifred Anna Shaw, Mc Daniel '06
⑥ Ret Shaw '07

m -

DR. A. B. SHAW
SWASTIKA VALENCIA RANCH
AND
PASADENA GLEN TRACT

Mch. 12, '40.

Prof. Ross:--

Dear Sir:--

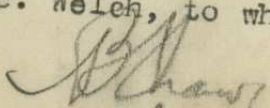
PASADENA, CALIF.

R. D. No. 1, Box 640
PHONE WAKEFIELD 7218

I appreciate very much your interest in the

early history of I. S. C.

Naturally, as my home received the papers of mother Mary E. Welch, my wife's mother, we have a mass of them. I wish you contemplated an early trip out here, to digest them. Just today, in going thru some filed papers I came across a letter of father W., written in his last year, 1889,--no, two years before, I will enclose it, asking you to return it to me. Most of it is personal, and not of interest, but it will give you a picture of his last years, in comfort, out here, after retirement from the college work. My daughter, Genevieve, recently mailed to Miss Roberts a very satisfactory photo of Pres. Welch, which I think she will have shown you. I have an old card photo-album of members of Class 1876, at al., ready to mail as soon as I learn who is to be custodian of them. Have also written classmates who like myself are not going to stay with these souvenirs many years, and Mr. A. M. Blodgett writes me from Kansas City he is sending his photos to Sec. Barron. I have the herbariums of myself and wife, 1874, ready to send to the college when I am assured that they are desired and that a safe depository exists for them. Prof. Palmel once visiting me, here, said that many of the specimens had been for many years extinct from the territory about the college. Perhaps you have other collections of that period. Your Botany man will know. I have letters from (Ret) --J. S. Clarkson, Pres't of the Board of Trustees in the early seventies, bearing on the college problems, some of which would not bear quotation in entirety, even at this late date, also articles on those early days by mother Mary E. Welch, to which you may have access already.


Hastily, A. B. Shaw

DR. A. B. SHAW
SWASTIKA VALENCIA RANCH
AND
PASADENA GLEN TRACT

May 17, '40.

Sec. Wallace E. Barron,

Alumni Ass'n, I..S. C.
Ames Iowa:--

PASADENA, CALIF.
R. D. No. 1, Box 640
PHONE WAKEFIELD 7218

My Dear friend:--

I wish, thru you, to express my sincere appreciation of the action of the Merit Award Committee of the Chicago I.S.C. Alumni Ass'n in mentioning my name in connection with Alumni activities. There were so many graduates more deserving of prominence, that I feel it is undeserved, tho many of those who come to mind have gone to a higher reward. Of course I knew all the earlier graduates, professors and trustees, and there were some virile characters among them.

It was remarkable that the few pioneers, mostly beginning farmers, headed by E. F. Gue, of Scott Co., Peter Melendy, of Dubuque, should have initiated the great educational enterprize, in 1858, -- by asking the legislature for a \$10,000 appropriation. It was at first opposed by Iowa City, until its local miller, Gov. Kirkwood, endorsed it. (It is now widely agreed that colleges should be more in number and smaller, for the best results.)

As I was born in 1857, I did not remember much of those first formative ten years: of the appointment of commissions to buy the site: to contract the first buildings: to secure a President and faculty and to crystallize Courses of study, emphasizing agricultural and Industrial subjects which had never been included seriously in an educational curriculum.

I have the letter to the Board, from Pres't Angell, of the University of Michigan, urging the presidency of Dr. Adonijah Strong Welch, a graduate of its first class, who had been the first president of Michigan State Normal, and who had successfully organized its courses of study. (By reason of the illness of his first wife, Eunice Buckingham, Mr. Welch had resigned and

(I. S. C. page 2.)
entered business in Jacksonville, Florida, where he was ^{later} elected
United States senator. His professor of Mathematics at Ypsilanti,
(State Normal), was Geo. E. Dudley, both of Jonesville, Mich,
whose wife ^{was} (nee) Mary Beaumont. Prof. Dudley died ~~and~~ leaving a
daughter, Winifred Dudley and son, George. Prof. Welch had two
sons and a daughter. About the time of his acceptance of the pres-
idency at Ames, Prof. Welch and Mrs. Dudley were married and
came on to the site of the college.

Somewhere, she who became my wife, Winifred Dudley Shaw, (my class
mate (1876) has written the story of the arrival, at the old
college farm house, of the president and family. I find a sketch
she read to a Des Moines Y. W. C. A. about the first of this centu-
ry, of the founding of the Dept. of Home Economics by her mother.
It is in pencil, as is another letter of hers, written at request
of and to Prof. Stanton, on the early college history. These are
valued by my family, but I venture to send ^{the letters} them to you, so that you
and Prof. Ross or others can copy anything pertinent, and return
to me. You doubtless have access to Josephine McMullen's article
in June 1926 "Iowa Homemaker". on "Pioneering in Home Economics".
We have much other matter, but I do not know what is wanted.

Again, with appreciation and interest, hastily,

A. B. Shaw.

I assume you have access to The Alumnus of May 1905, and the
article there printed,;-"Bits of I. S. C. History"; by Winifred D.
Shaw." By the way:-- It is misleading to talk about the annivers-
ary of the opening of the college, as other than Oct. 21, 1868.

It will, therefore celebrate its seventysecond birthday, next ~~at~~

A. E. S.

See next sheet

Oct. 21
PHONE WAKARUSA 7218
R. D. No. 1, Box 640
PASADENA, CALIF.

PASADENA GLEN TRACT
AND
SWASTIKA VALENCIA RANCH
DR. A. B. SHAW

I. S. C. pg. 3,
On rereading, I find the talk my wife gave to Y. W. C. A. in Des Moines, has very little pertinent to history, I therefore copy:-
! pg. 7, One morning in May, 1876, a committee of the I. S. C. Board of Trustees, came to my Mother, Mrs. Mary E. Welch, and told her that they contemplated establishing a Department of Domestic Economy, and asked her as a beginning of the work, if she would, during the Fall term, deliver a course of lectures on that subject to the girls of the Junior class. During the four preceding years, since the opening of the college, she had, at their request filled in an emergency, nearly every position in the college economy, from cooking in the college Dormitory, to performing the President's duties in his absence. But now she was a little startled at the idea of formal lectures on a Science, as yet not yet recognized as a science, without precedent or literature, or even many successful experiments. But, when she remonstrated, the Chairmen of the committee said: "If you will tell those girls how to keep house as you keep it, Mrs. Welch, it will be all we will ask of you." She hesitated no longer but took up the new task with interest and cheerfulness. A course of eight lectures was given that Fall, on such topics as:--Household Management, Slovenliness a Sin; Care of the Sick; Training of Children, etc. And in the Spring, a little kitchen, twelve feet square, was fitted up in a basement room; the girls divided into classes of six or eight, and there they were taught to cook, the simple wholesome food suited to the homes on Iowa farms and in the Iowa villages; the materials for which were to be found in any crossroads grocery. The little kitchen contained a charter-oak range and such cooking utensils as would be needed in any ordinary home of the time. There my mother trained her girls to go out into the Iowa homes and make good housekeepers, wives and mothers."

A. E. S.

IOWA STATE COLLEGE
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Ames, Iowa

WALLACE E. BARRON, '28
Director of Alumni Affairs

C. B. MURRAY
Treasurer

May 29, 1940

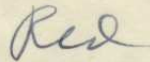
Dr. E. D. Ross
321 Beardshear
Campus

Dear Dr. Ross:

Attached is some material which came recently
from Dr. Shaw.

If there is nothing of value here, return it
to us.

Sincerely,



Wallace E. Barron

WEB:S

Att.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

DAN S. CRAIG, '09, President, Des Moines
WALTER GOEPPINGER, '33, Vice President, Boone
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ARCH CRAWFORD, Ex. '10, Philadelphia, Pa.
PETER F. HOPKINS, '16, Mason City
HARRY J. SCHMIDT, '25, Ames
CHAS. W. SHREY, '25, Waterloo
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