

*Return to Ave Brando
Ames, Iowa*

THE ALUMNUS

IOWA STATE COLLEGE

Vol. XVIII

FEBRUARY, 1923

No. 5

"Member of Alumni Magazines Associated"

Mrs. Welch Wife of First President Dies

Mrs. Mary B. Welch, wife of the first president of Iowa State College, passed away peacefully at her home in Los Angeles, California, January 2, after a three days' illness, following a stroke of paralysis.

Preceding this last attack, which was the fourth, Mrs. Welch had been fairly comfortable. In company with her two sisters, Mrs.

In accord with her will, the funeral was held at her home in Los Angeles and the body cremated at Rosedale cemetery. The ashes were placed in an urn and will be brot to Ames in the spring by Dr. and Mrs. Shaw to be interred beside the body of Dr. Welch in the college cemetery. This will be in fulfillment of a promise made Dr. Welch.



Mrs. Mary B. Welch.
Picture Taken at Home of Dr. A. B. Shaw.

Graham 78 and Mrs. Murphy 92, she had spent Christmas at the ranch home of her son-in-law, Dr. A. B. Shaw '76, near Pasadena. At this time Mrs. Welch, who was 82½ years old, expressed a desire to be released from the cares of this life, a wish that was granted a week later.

To Mrs. Welch belongs the distinction of having established the first classes in "domestic science" ever taught in an established college, which were started in 1872. The difficulties she faced and how they were overcome are related in an article, "The Early Days of Domestic Science at I. S. C.," by Mrs. Welch,

which is reproduced from an earlier issue of the Alumnus. She continued to teach for 11 years.

When Mrs. Welch came to Ames in 1869 she lived with her husband in "Old Main" building, which was then used for dormitory and class room purposes. Later they occupied a home built for them on the campus just northeast across the road on the brow of the hill from the present Music Hall. This building was later used for instructional work in "domestic science" and was afterwards known as Music

Hall. In 1881 the Welch's built "The Gables," which they occupied until the death of Dr. Welch about 1890.

Mrs. Welch was a woman of exceptional ability along organizing lines. Her gentleness and strength of character and sweetness of disposition endeared her to all who knew her. These qualities of soul are fittingly recorded in the remarks of Dr. Cessna and the resolutions passed by the faculty. She left an indelible impress upon the lives of the students of the early years of the college.

The Early Days of Domestic Science at I. S. C.

By Mary B. Welch.

When a Department of Domestic Economy was first decided upon by the Board of Trustees, it became necessary to find a teacher to take charge of it. There were no schools of the kind proposed anywhere, no text-books, no trained teachers. So the Board was fairly forced to begin the experiment with such management as could be secured at home. Someone suggested my name and a committee was sent to offer me the position. With fear and trembling I finally decided to try, after telling the committee frankly that I was without experience in that sort of teaching, that there were no established precedents to guide me and no classified courses for me to follow.

Then began a search for teachers or a school where instruction could be had. We learned that Miss Juliet Corson had opened a School of Cookery in New York, and thither I took my way the winter previous to the opening of the course at Ames. The following winter vacation found me at the South Kensington School of Cookery in London, but in neither place could be secured any systematic, progressive course of study or any breadth of outlook. Many amusing incidents of that London experience might be told. The only object of the school there was to train cooks for service. It was incomprehensible to the English mind that a woman, apparently a lady, whose husband was, as my letters of introduction proved, at the head of an important institution of learning, should be anxious either to learn or to teach cooking. The question was often asked me what family I was engaged to work for when I received my certificate. But, after all, what did that matter? At the end of three months' genuine drudgery, a certificate was

conferred, which ought to have been framed and hung in the College Museum.

The work at the College began in two small basement rooms adjoining the dining room of the old Main Building. The plan was to make the work as practical as possible, which was fortunate for the teacher who had few pet theories but much actual experience in house-keeping. General Geddes, the college steward, was persuaded to measure out material for a dinner for one table in the dining room each day, the exact quality, and, as nearly as possible, the exact quantity used in the College Kitchen, the class to prepare and serve it under the instruction of the teacher. It was an ambitious way to begin, but it interested the class, gave them a definite purpose in their work and more than pleased the students who dined at the table selected. The cooking was done on a Charter Oak stove. No gas or electric appliances, or aluminum utensils were then available. This was the Freshman class course. Bread, salads, desert, cake, etc., were taught in the more advanced classes. Orders were secured from the Faculty families for bread and cake, and the classes, on occasion, prepared refreshments for special gatherings as they were ordered. The College family was much smaller then than now, so these things were feasible. Everyone was interested in the new experiment and willing to help in every way. Then came a day when it was acknowledged that Domestic Economy, as it was then called, had won a place for itself, had come to stay and deserved more room and better quarters, so it was promoted to South Hall. Then the College dinners had to be abandoned, but numerous orders for bread, pastry and salads

2 copies
School
begin
m 1874

continued to be filled.

One of, indeed the chief, of rewards for the strenuous work of those early years, has been the numerous letters from married graduates expressing gratitude for the instruction given. One, in particular, from a graduate and post-graduate, a remarkably intellectual woman, pleased me much. The writer said she felt, when required to go into the class in her Senior year, that the time was going to be wasted, but that now, being a housekeeper, she realized that no year's work had been more profitable than the year in Domestic Economy. One enthusiastic girl declared, after a successful lesson in desserts, that when she was married

she was going to live on cream-puffs and lemon jelly, but when she actually had a home of her own, wrote that she had come to the conclusion that, after all, bread and butter and properly broiled beef steak were better for a steady diet, and that her husband was glad she knew how to prepare both in first class style.

It rejoices me to know that from these primitive beginnings, a fully equipped and well manned department has developed. I offer my congratulations to all concerned in the opening of the new building, and wish for the Department a most useful and prosperous career.—
(June, 1912, *Alumnus*.)

Concerning the Death of Mrs. Mary B. Welch

Remarks by O. H. Cessna.

Let me give a concrete picture of two of those olden days as a background that I may weave in what I want to say about this elect lady so recently gone to her reward.

The announcement of the death of Mrs. Welch puts me in a reminiscent mood. I am living so much in the present-day life of this great institution that only now and then do I drop back into thinking of those olden days. Indeed, as I think of the events connected with the beginnings of the college in which I took part, I seem to be thinking of historical characters—people known only through reading about them or in hearing someone talk about them and not as known by association with them. It almost seems as if it were another existence—another life so to say—with another personality taking part in it long since left behind. Think of it! I came here as a raw country boy, a little past sixteen years of age, when on October 21, 1868, the first class-roll was ever made in this institution. I was here also March 17th at the regular opening of the College when President Welch was inaugurated. The first preliminary term started to get the machinery of this great college limbered up, was cut short by the inadequacy of our heating plant, and the cold winter froze us out. For years our vacations were held in the winter time. The years' work closed sometime in November and the new year began along in March. This plan served two purposes, it gave us boys a lot of practical work on the farm here at the college in practical agriculture in the summer time and it also gave us opportunity to

teach school in the winter time. This helped us pay our expenses. I, myself, taught a country school four months each winter while here, receiving forty dollars a month. By working at the college, mostly on the farm or campus, I was able to pay my way through the four years I was here.

It was along about the time President Welch was inaugurated in March, 1869, that I first saw President and Mrs. Welch. He had been on the campus for two or three weeks preceding the short term beginning October, 1868, but had returned to his duties in the United States Senate and Professor George W. Jones, uncle of President Pearson, was left in charge of affairs.

I well remember those days. The first work I did was to help haul out the broken concrete from two buildings that had proved failures. One was the President's home, which was later used for Botany, Veterinary Science, Home Economics and finally as Music Hall. It was located on the knoll just east of the present Music Hall, south of Agricultural Hall, and later was destroyed by fire. The other was the home of Professor Jones, where Dean Stanton later lived so many years. Both of these buildings had been made of concrete blocks 4x4x8 in. The President's house had fallen in and Professor Jones' house showed signs of failure, so both were taken down and rebuilt of brick. Our first work as students was to haul out the concrete and put it on the driveway which circled the central campus, which President Welch had laid out. The failure of these build-

ings made it necessary for the president and professors with their families all to live in the old Main building, where the students roomed. We all ate together in one common dining room and thus were like one large family. We all assembled at the meal hour and remained standing at our places until the blessing was asked and then the meal was served. We thus came into quite intimate touch with our professors.

I remember Mrs. Welch very well indeed. We felt a kind of awe of the president and his family. They came to the college with their two children, Winifred and Genevieve. Two bright, happy girls. Winifred later became Mrs. Shaw and Genevieve married Mr. Barstow and died a few years later and is buried in our little cemetery near where President Welch now lies and where Mrs. Welch's remains will be interred in the spring.

Mrs. Welch must have been about twenty-nine or thirty years of age. She was a beautiful, stately, dignified woman. Quite a bit younger, as I take it, than the president. She impressed us as refined, cultured, quiet, reserved, neat. We wanted to be clean and courteous in her presence. She seemed to be thoughtful of others, was even-tempered and held herself well in hand. I had her sister, Miss Beaumont, as my German teacher and I remember the influence of the family on my young mind. I thought of them as the ideal to be achieved if a person wished to be refined and cultivated. I had thought of them as representing the sturdy, literary, refined qualities of the historic New England families. Mrs. Welch's home was a place of refinement. Good taste was manifested everywhere. Good books and periodicals abounded. There were good pictures on the walls and there were evidences of that culture which we should aim to achieve if we wish to be educated.

I can still see in my mind's eye the picture of Mrs. Welch very clearly visualized. There must have been some striking and enduring qualities about her life and personality to thus impress us students so strongly. She was essentially feminine and refined in her bearing and as I have said was always neat and ladylike and gracious. She had certain little winning

gestures or attitudes or mannerisms that drew you to her. She was deeply interested in the students and we felt that she was unselfish and her very presence stimulated the better things in our nature. When she came into the dining room with the other ladies of the faculty, quiet prevailed and a certain decorum was the result of her presence. She was very careful in her dressing and the training of her children. She was thoughtful of others and helped us diffident country boys to find our tongues in conversation. She was a beautiful conversationalist, using almost faultless English.

That I should have such a clear visualization and memory of Mrs. Welch is all the more remarkable since I have seen very little of her since my graduation from the college in 1872. I soon after went to Evanston for further schooling and was in and about Chicago for nearly twenty-five years. I was on the campus only once or twice, I think, during that time. But I have carried in my mind the clear, definite image of Mrs. Welch's appearance and have cherished her memory as one of the bright, helpful influences of my college life here. It was my privilege to call on her three or four years ago in her home in Los Angeles, where I met an older sister, a Mrs. Murphy, and also her other sister, my old German teacher, Mrs. Graham. I found her the same refined, cultured, beautiful character, with the same modest, winning ways. Her matured personality was ripening for the great transition at the close of a long, beautiful life. Mrs. Murphy was writing an account of their experiences when Mr. Murphy was American Counselor to Frankfort, Germany. There was the same vigorous, wide-awake personality as of the olden days.

Mrs. Welch was one of those rare personalities who shed a beautiful, refining, Christian influence as the very essence of their being, the fragrance of their beautiful lives. I do not remember so much what Mrs. Welch said, but I do remember what she was. Her's is a beautiful fulfillment of the scriptural promise, "Blessed be the dead that die in the Lord, for they do rest from their labors and their works do follow them."

Memorial for Mrs. Mary B. Welch

With the death of Mrs. Mary B. Welch, on January 2, 1923, at Los Angeles, California, there was closed the career of a very remark-

able woman, versatile, a homemaker, resourceful, energetic and, above all, a woman of fine Christian qualities, all of which combined to

make her one of the outstanding characters of the Iowa State College faculty of the early days. Her range of activities extended not only to the faculty and student body at Iowa State College, but she was interested in the larger commonwealth, Iowa. Iowa State College was dear to her and because of the newness of Iowa, much hardship was endured. It is related that Dr. and Mrs. Welch had to go to Des Moines to make a plea for the college and in order to get there at the appointed time it was necessary to drive with a team on a very cold day and Mrs. Welch became chilled through, but the day was won.

Mrs. Welch was a real service to the college in that she gave to Dr. Welch many suggestions along educational lines in a field untried. She therefore helped shape the early policies of this young institution and make it what we have today. Dr. Welch could implicitly rely upon the good judgment of Mrs. Welch. She was the first home economics teacher in a Land Grant College in this country and to her the state and nation owe a debt of gratitude for planning a course in which the practical and theoretical sides of home economics were considered equally important. It was her idea that the home economics course should be so planned that a woman should have a well rounded

education, placing emphasis on the cultural side of education as well as the practical. Mrs. Welch was a cultured woman, who realized the importance of placing woman on such a footing that she could meet the problems of the day in the home and in society.

Iowa State College, therefore, appreciates not only the great service she has rendered to education, but also the quiet, dignified, Christian character of the woman in the home, church and society, and what other achievements may be accomplished by man or woman rests on the solid foundation of the home, that in the passing of this noble woman at the age of 82 there has been left a fine impress on the student body, faculty and friends of a noble, self sacrificing life. Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Iowa State College faculty tender to the bereaved family our deepest sympathy upon the death of this fine woman and that a copy of this memorial be spread on the minutes of the faculty and sent to the bereaved family: Colonel and Mrs. A. B. Shaw, Mrs. Graham (formerly Miss Beaumont) and Mrs. Murphy.

O. H. CESSNA
HERMAN KNAPP
L. H. PAMMEL
EDNA E. WALLS.

A Tribute to General Lincoln

By Col. Guy S. Brewer '97.
Armistice Day Exercises, Nov. 11, 1922.

I deeply appreciate the privilege of speaking on this occasion. General Lincoln was my friend and I feel that in his death I have lost not only a friend but also a comrade. This college and community has likewise lost a friend and comrade. His influence marked the students of this institution for nearly forty years—he believed that their most important training was their military education.

His sterling character and indomitable spirit has exerted an influence that I cannot measure by words. It is not possible to picture such a character, but those of us who came in contact with it feel its influence. It is impossible to tell of the breadth and depth of that influence. Those of us who have felt it, value it today as a priceless heritage.

Above everything else, General Lincoln was a soldier. His speech, actions and very presence more than ordinary knowledge of other

affairs, but in military subjects he was a giant. On the surface he often appeared to be a strict disciplinarian and unsympathetic, but after all he was of a kindly spirit that loved friendships and appreciated the companionship of comrades.

He was an ideal host and in camp took great enjoyment in having his officers gather at his tent, where he would discuss the campaigns of the War of the Rebellion. Seldom did he digress to consider European leaders, for he believed that for clear thinking and quick action our armies had produced the equal of the world. His officers and men were to him a personal pride and their success or failure was of more than passing interest to him. To those he loved best he was most strict, for to him it was a positive injury to see those he loved depart from paths of right. It was well known (as the military saying goes) that those he

pointed us. He fought our new piano as if it were an enemy; and some of us desired that, like Samson of old, he might be shorn of his seven locks. We will not neglect to say, however, that his "Spinning Song," by Litolf, and "La Gazelle," by Kullak, were very acceptable. Miss Marsland gave two selections with her usual artistic grace. Her second, "Dolly's Revenge," was recited with a very appropriate piano accompaniment. The audience was an appreciative one, and while every number was received with courtesy, the really meritorious were enthusiastically encored."

HYMENEAL.

Married—In Santa Barbara, Cal., March 25, 1890, MR. DWIGHT M. WELCH, of New Haven, Conn., and MRS. MARY B. WELCH, of Ames, Iowa.

Mr. Welch is a merchant and capitalist of New Haven, Conn., where he has been engaged in the grocery trade for the past forty-five years, and is president of the leading national bank and prominent in social and business affairs of that city. He is a brother of the late Dr. A. S. Welch, of the State Agricultural College, and is a gentleman of merit and worth. Mrs. Welch is known for her zealous work at the Iowa Agricultural College and her active effort in every good cause. They had a quiet wedding at the residence of Mrs. Stafford, near Santa Barbara, Cal., leaving yesterday afternoon for a tour to San Diego, San Bernardo, Los Angeles, Pasadena and other California points. They will return to Santa Barbara about the middle of May, and will remain there during the summer months, where they will be joined by relatives from Iowa and Connecticut. The *Register* joins with the many Iowa friends in sending congratulations.—*Des Moines Register*.

EXCHANGE.

The *Vidette Reporter* of April 12 contains a most interesting plan for the maintenance of a college paper. The University students are up with the times.

It is an old saying that "Vinegar won't catch flies." Some of our bright students should remember that sarcasm and ridicule never make friends.—*College Days*.

The *Iowa Wesleyan* is one of the brightest of our exchanges. It is in every respect a students' paper; full of news and in every way an

honor to the institution it represents. Its editors are evidently wide awake.

A Freshman knows everything; he has explored the universe and has proved all things. A Sophomore has the wisdom of an owl, but like that sedate bird keeps still about it. A Junior knows a little, but begins to be doubtful about it. A Senior knows nothing. This is supposed to be the explanation of the fact that so much information can be found in our colleges. The Freshman brings in a good supply of knowledge and the Senior takes none of it out.—*Ex*.

College Chips, of Lutheran College at Decora, is the only college paper in Iowa printed in two languages.

The *Dakota Collegian* for last month contains an interesting article on "Scientific Women." In general the *Collegian* is a good paper, but contains too few editorials.

The *Cornellian* has a department of fine arts. Its locals are interesting even to students of other colleges.

The *Fayette Collegian* contains a spicy account of the state contest. After severely criticizing the actions of one of Mount Pleasant's so-called professors, who seems to have made himself especially odious in the eyes of the oratorical association, it pays a high compliment to the editor of the *Wesleyan*, who was the chairman of their delegation, in the following language: "We congratulate I. W. U. on her choice of a chairman. A fairer and more honorable gentleman than W. F. Kopp would be hard to find. For once political tricksters and 'home rushers' were beaten by the honesty and ability of their own man."

Quite a number of our exchanges have expressed themselves very decidedly against examinations at the end of the college term. While there may be a few students who, by unfair means, manage thus to pass up studies which they could not from daily recitations, yet there can be much good obtained from these final examinations, if properly conducted. In studying many subjects, we take up only a part at a time, making the work more or less disconnected; the necessary review preparatory to an examination places the whole in a clear light before the mind. The *Cadet* seems to think the greatest objection to the examination system is that the same questions are used repeatedly by professors year after year, and all that is neces-

ca. 1923

Appeared in The Alumnus
February 1923

Concerning the Death of Mrs. Mary B. Welch

Remarks by O. W. Carson

Let me give a concrete picture of two of those olden days as a background that I may weave in what I want to say about this elect lady so recently gone to her reward.

The announcement of the death of Mrs. Welch puts me in a reminiscent mood. I am living so much in the present-day life of this great institution that only now and then do I drop back into thinking of those olden days. Indeed, as I think of the events connected with the beginnings of the College in which I took part, I seem to be thinking of historical characters - people known only through reading about them or in hearing someone talk about them and not as known by association with them. It almost seems as if it were another existence - another life so to say - with another personality taking part in it long since left behind. Think of it! I came here as a raw country boy, a little past sixteen years of age, when on October 21, 1868, the first class-roll was ever made in this institution. I was here also March 17th at the regular opening of the College when President Welch was inaugurated. The first preliminary term started to get the machinery of this great college limbered up, was out short by the inadequacy of our heating plant, and the cold winter froze us out. For years our vacations were held in the winter time. The year's work closed sometime in November and the new year began along in March. This plan served two purposes, it gave us boys a lot of practical work on the farm here at the College in practical agriculture in the summertime and it also gave us opportunity to teach school in the wintertime. This helped us pay our expenses. I, myself, taught a country school four months each winter while here, receiving forty dollars a month. By working at the College, mostly on the farm or campus I was able to pay my way through the four years I was here. ~~I milked six cows night and morning during my sophomore year.~~

It was along about the time President Welch was inaugurated in March 1868 that I first saw President and Mrs. Welch. He had been on the campus for two or three weeks preceding the short term beginning October 1868, but had returned to his duties in the United States Senate and Professor George W. Jones, uncle of President Pearson, was left in charge of affairs.

I well remember those days. The first work I did was to help haul out the broken concrete from two buildings that had proved failures. One was the President's home which was later used for Botany, Veterinary Science, Home Economics, and finally as Music Hall. It was located on the knole just east of the present Music Hall, south of Agricultural Hall, and later was destroyed by fire. The

South
Hall →

other was the home of Professor Jones where Dean Stanton later lived so many years. Both of these buildings had been made of concrete blocks 4x4x8 in. The President's house had fallen in and Professor Jones' house showed signs of failure so both were taken down and rebuilt of brick. Our first work, as students, was to haul out the concrete and put it on the driveway which circled the central campus which President Welch had laid out. The failure of these buildings made it necessary for the President and Professors with their families all to live in the old Main Building where the students roomed. We all ate together in one common dining room and thus were like one large family. We all assembled at the meal hour and remained standing at our places until the blessing was asked and then the meal was served. We thus came into quite intimate touch with our Professors.

I remember Mrs. Welch very well indeed. We felt a kind of awe of the President and his family. They came to the college with their two children, Winifred and Geniveve. Two bright happy girls. Winifred later became Mrs. Shaw and Geniveve married a Mr. Barstow and died a few years later and is buried in our little College cemetery near where President Welch now lies and where Mrs. Welch's remains will be interred in the spring.

Mrs. Welch must have been about twenty-nine or thirty years of age. She was a beautiful, stately, dignified woman. Quite a bit younger, as I take it, than the President. She impressed us as refined, cultured, quiet, reserved, neat. We wanted to be clean and courteous in her presence. She seemed to be thoughtful of others, was even-tempered and held herself well in hand. I had her sister, Miss Beaumont, ^(Lillie) as my German teacher and I remember the influence of the family on my young mind. I thought of them as the ideal to be achieved if a person wished to be refined and cultivated. I had thought of them as representing the sturdy, literary, refined, qualities of the historic New England families. Mrs. Welch's home was a place of refinement. ~~Good~~ Good taste was manifested everywhere. Good books and periodicals abounded. There were good pictures on the walls and there were evidences of that culture which we should aim to achieve if we wish to be educated.

I can still see in my mind's eye the picture of Mrs. Welch very clearly visualized. There must have been some striking and enduring qualities about her life and personality to thus impress us students so strongly. She was essentially feminine and refined in her bearing and as I have said was always neat and ladylike and gracious. She had certain little winning gestures or attitudes or mannerisms that drew you

you to her. She was deeply interested in the students and we felt that she was unselfish and her very presence stimulated the better things in our nature. When she came into the dining room with the other ladies of the faculty quiet prevailed and a certain decorum was the result of her presence. She was very careful in her dressing and the training of her children. She was thoughtful of others and helped us diffident country boys to find our tongues in conversation. She was a beautiful conversationalist, using almost faultless english.

That I should have such a clear visualisation and memory of Mrs. Welch is all the more remarkable since I have seen very little of ~~Mrs. Welch~~ ^{Per} since my graduation from the College in 1872. I soon after went to Evanston for further schooling and was in and about Chicago for nearly twenty-five years. I was on the campus only once or twice I think during that time. But I have carried in my mind the clear definite image of Mrs. Welch's appearance and have cherished her memory as one of the bright helpful influences of my college life here. It was my privilege to call on her three or four years ago in her home in Los Angeles where I met an older sister, a Mrs. Murphy, and also her other sister, my old German teacher, Mrs. Graham. I found her the same refined cultured, beautiful character, with the same modest, winning ways. Her matured personality was ripening for the great transition at the close of a long beautiful life. Mrs. Murphy was writing an account of their experiences when Mr. Murphy was American ^{Counselor} to Frankfort, Germany. There was the same vigorous wide-awake personality as of the olden days.

Mrs. Welch was one of those rare personalities who shed a beautiful refining christian influence as the very essence of their being, the fragrance of their beautiful lives. I do not remember so much what Mrs. Welch said but I do remember what she was. Her's is a beautiful fulfillment of the scriptural promise "Blessed by the dead that die in the Lord for they do rest from their labors and their works do follow them".

O. H. Cassna.

President Pearson:

My friends, we have come together to give proper expression to our respect and love for Mary Beaumont Welch. Probably there was no one except her husband, Dr. Welch, our first president, who knew so intimately the work, the aspiration of this college in the days of its conception and in the first days of its upbuilding, It was my privilege last fall when in the West with President Riggs of our Alumni Association, in company with Mr. Wattell, to visit Mrs. Welch. She was living in Los Angeles with her two sisters. Mrs. Shaw was there to welcome us. It was a most delightful little visit. We thought as we were there, and as we were leaving, of the beautiful life she had led and of the way in which she was maintaining her interest in things worth while, and especially of her very deep interest in things that were going on here at the old home. She asked about her old friends, whose number has decreased so much in recent years. She wanted to know about this and that, in reference to the college. Her interest was here. We are glad that members of the family have seen it fit to bring her ashes here for interment beside the remains of President Welch, where they will lie in rest forever. We who are here and those who will follow us, always will look upon this little spot of ground as a sacred shrine where we may come to find new hope, see new vision, and gain new courage in helping to carry on the policies and the purposes that President Welch, with her good help, first established.

(Song--Girl's Quartett)

It is most appropriate that the address should be given by Chaplain Cessna, a member of the first class to enter Iowa State College.

Dr. Cessna:

Dear Friends, I recognize the fitness of my speaking on this occasion, but I certainly shrink from the duty for I feel that the right word should be uttered and that proper honor and appreciation should be given to the memory of this, our friend, both because of her beautiful qualities of life and because of her distinguished service to the college and the general cause of education. Again do I miss my old friend, Dean Stanton, He spoke on these occasions again and again, but that tongue is silent forever. His body lies yonder in that grave. One needs but to look around in this cemetery and see the names which are engraved on the marble slabs to know that the generation of fellow-workers of some of us is rapidly passing, and the great tasks so fondly cherished are falling into other hands, We call their names but they do not answer, except in spirit and faithful, unselfish service. President Welch, President Knapp, President Beardshear, Dean Stanton, General Lincoln, Professor Beach, Professor Barrett, and their families, some of them, Tom Thompson of our own class, and many others lie in this college cemetery, and I myself have officiated in something over thirty interments in this little cemetery.

Some of us have been in the midst of these changes and have adjusted ourselves emotionally to their progress. Would you wonder if the old students that have not lived here and become a part of the changes, would lose interest? The very trees and shrubs have grown beyond their recognition. It certainly is not the same old place--not the same old place--but a bigger, better place where the ideals of those former days have been fulfilled. I would not for the world put things back where they were, and neither would you. It is indeed wonderful to be alive in this day of our great institutions. "Build thee more stately mansions, oh my soul, and the swift seasons roll! Leave thy low vaulted past! Let each new temple, nobler than the last, Shut thee from heaven with a dome more vast." We have been permitted to enter into the realization of some of those things that they saw in imagination. Some of you remember when they were laying out this beautiful campus, and marking where trees should be placed. How well I remember the words of President Welch: "Young men, we are building for the future. I shall not live to see it, but some of you will come back to this beautiful campus and see this dream realized", and then he went on in imagination and described to us what has become a reality. We were standing on the steps of old Main. "This" he said "will be the hub, and there will radiate out from it, as a center, the beautiful vistas carpeted with green sod, and in the distance you will catch glimpses of the stately outlines of impressive buildings," "I can understand something of what those ideals were, There people are not dead--no not dead. They still live. Those who lived are very much alive--alive in the ideals which they had while living--ideals which they inspire in others whom they have influenced. President Welch is not dead. He is still alive in the ideals which are imprinted in their beautiful campus of ours. I can look over this campus and see glimpses of what they gave us in imagination.

We must not be satisfied with things as they are. We must continue to build for the future--something that will fit into our time as theirs did into their time. They built the best they could with what they had, under their limitations. We are not to imitate them. Ours is to realize the ideals that fit into our day as theirs did in their time. So we say, "Tear down the old, and build the new." To live comfortably and effectively in this world we must have the proper attitude and be able to make readjustments to the needed changes, then fit ourselves into them for the greater future. Mrs. Welch in her own life revealed to us the real meaning of this. It was a delight even in the later days to visit with her. We never heard her complaining that old things were passing away. She did not live in the past, but in the living and growing of the future.

At the time of the dedication of the present Home Economics Building in 1912, an article written by Mrs. Welch was printed in The Alumnus, and revealed qualities which were outstanding in her whole life. It brought out clearly her faith, her vision, her courage, her generous unselfishness, her independence of judgment, her patience, her absence of jealousy, her prophetic spirit--the spirit of the true builder, It is wonderful, oftentimes, how the little things reveal character. The Master said something about a cup of cold water--one little act of kindness--revealing character. That short article was a revelation of Mrs. Welch's attitude as she seemed to us. If time permitted I should like to read the whole article. It is the message which Mrs. Welch would give you today, were she here. She revealed the spirit which would be necessary in those who were to carry on the work. (Short quotation from article read here) There was her modesty which she exhibited when the department was first decided

upon. Where duty seemed to call she did not and could not say no. Note her courage of spirit and eager desire to do her best. Note her high ideals. We find her in the only school of the kind in the country, the School of Cookery in New York City, where she went and took the work before the opening of the course at Ames. After a year, feeling the need for further preparation, we find her in South Kensington School in London England. Evidently she was seeking the best, and spared no expense in the preparation. Then came the first not of disappointment from her, and herein was revealed her true ideals and purposes. She seemed dissatisfied with present achievements, and the school of cookery was not all she had hoped for. We note her independence of judgment as she criticized the methods that were there practiced. In neither of these places--neither in New York nor in London--could be secured any systematic, progressive course of study, or any breadth of outlook. The creative spirit struck within her. Note what she says--"systematic course of study and breadth of outlook." That sentence embodies her idea and may be taken as the slogan of the department.

In her reference to some of the amusing incidents in London there is revealed her willingness to sacrifice anything that the work might succeed. Evidently the courses there were only to prepare trained cooks, and it was incomprehensible to the English mind that a young woman of her rank should be anxious to learn and teach cooking. She was often asked what family she was engaged to cook for when she had finished her course. At the end of three months of genuine drudgery, a certificate was given to her. Thus we see she did not shrink at drudgery, and had the courage to keep on in the face of any hardships. Then there was her description of the first undertakings of the work in the two small basement rooms in Old Main, and her trials and difficulties in the work they were trying to do, revealing the rare qualities of her life. In this way the Home Economics Department was born.

Hers was a prophetic spirit. She had an ideal--a vision of what ought to be--a growing ideal. She was willing to leave her "low-vaulted past." Not satisfied with present achievement she put herself wholly into the work not so anxious to achieve for herself as for the work. She gave the best that she had, and gave it lavishly. No sacrifice was too great to be made. She was willing to let her work go into the foundation that would be hidden forever from sight, and none rejoiced more than she in the success that has come. "Don't stop to praise me", she said, "but go on with the work and the future."

One of the greatest rewards for the work of those early years were words of graduates in appreciation of the work, Mrs. Welch said. One enthusiastic girl declared, after a wonder lesson in desserts, that when she was married she would live on cream puffs and lemon jelly. But afterward she said that bread and butter and broiled beef steak were better for a steady diet, and her husband was indeed glad that she was able to make any one of them beautifully. Here was Mrs. Welch's vision of the need of the great practical essentials, and here was where she put the emphasis. She was not jealous of the success of others, but turned over all that she did to the spirit of the work. "It rejoices me to know that from these primitive beginnings a fully equipped department has developed. I offer my congratulations to all concerned in the opening of the new building, and wish for the department a most beautiful and prosperous growth."

I believe that President Pearson was right in his letter to the members of the staff in referring to the fact that Mrs. Welch exercises a most important influence in the life of the college, and as a teacher of Home Economics was a pioneer in a new line of educational work, and intimated that it was an honor to the college to pay respect to this woman.

I am glad to say that it was my privilege to call on her in her beautiful home in Los Angeles. I found her the same refined, cultured, beautiful character, with the same modest, winning way. I do not remember so much what Mrs. Welch said, but I do remember what she was, and I think her life was a beautiful fulfillment of that scripture promise "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, for their works do follow them."

This is something of the spirit of Mrs. Welch, and her ideal would be not that we should imitate what she did and carry on the department on the lines she formulated, but rather that we should build to meet the needs of out time. She felt the need of the department at that time, and did not fail to criticize. She struck out on the new, and valily sought to gain the best. Picture, if you will, Mrs. Welch working in that New York School of Cookery, and then again in the school in London--working always to achieve an ideal in Home Economics. This, I say, is the prophetic spirit and attitude, and only by emulating such a spirit will this work be carried on to achieve its greatest success for this school in the Middle West.

This, then, is the message that Mrs. Welch would give to us: "Go on today developing the progressive courses of study and keep the vision of a broad outlook on the great need of today, sparing no expense or time or sacrifice in achieving those results." May the spirit of Mrs. Welch lead us on.

(Ashes deposited by Professor Knapp)

Professor Knapp:

When I met Mrs. and Mrs. Shaw this morning at the train it reminded me of that other spring morning when I met Mrs. Welch with the body of Dr. Welch. I also stood at the grave beside Genevieve.

Mrs. Welch was to me a cultured, well educated woman. She was a great help to the President. Her home was just what you would wish it to be. I carried the U. S. mail for the Ames postoffice the first two winters I was in Ames, and part of the time I called at the Welch home four times per day for the outgoing and incoming mail. I was present at Genevieve's wedding, and also Winifred's at the Gables. Many time I have been a member of their family group, and they were among the first to be at my family table.

A friend whom I have not seen for many year, who is today a successful business man, writes, "In the forty years that have elapsed since leaving Ames I have many times thought of the spirit of this woman, and what her life must have meant to those with whom she came in constant contact, If I had, when young, fully realized what she was endeavoring to do for me, my place might have been very different."

Looking backward over the span of time, both Dr. and Mrs. Welch should be granted a high place in the educational forces of the Nation.

5-

Flowers placed on bier by Vice-Dean of Home Economics Division:
"The Home Economics Faculty honors the founder of Home Economics at Iowa State College."

Student Representative:

T

The Students of Iowa State pay tribute to Mrs. Welch who made possible the type of education they are receiving.

President Pearson:

A few years ago, in special recognition of the service of Mrs. Welch for her work in Home Economics, not only at this institution but in the State Institutions, our college honored itself by awarding to her a certificate of eminent service. It is appropriate now that these flowers should be laid at this grave by representatives of the Home Economics faculty and students and her friends. (The ritual will now be read by the Chaplain.)

Ritual read by Chaplain Cessna.

Prayer offered by President Schreckengast.

Song--"Nearer My God to Thee".

Pearson

✓

HOME ECONOMICS DIVISION

May 31, 1923.

Dear President Pearson:

I am sending you a copy of the Memorial Service as the stenographer took it down. Will you please check over what you have said so that I may be sure of it's accuracy?

Sincerely yours,

*copy. Dr. Cesena
Prof. Knapp.*

HOTEL BLACKHAWK



HOTEL BLACKHAWK
400 ROOMS 400 BATHS
SERVIDOR SERVICE

MILLER HOTEL COMPANY
LESSEE AND OPERATOR

ALSO OPERATING

HOTEL FORT DES MOINES, Des Moines, Iowa
400 ROOMS 400 BATHS

HOTEL SAVERY III, Des Moines, Iowa
350 ROOMS 350 BATHS

HOTEL DAVENPORT, DAVENPORT, IOWA
175 ROOMS 100 BATHS

HOTEL HANFORD, MASON CITY, IOWA
250 ROOMS 250 BATHS

DAVENPORT, IOWA

June 30/23.

Dean Anna Richardson,
Dean of Home Economics,
Iowa State College,
Ames, Ia.

My dear Miss Richardson:

Mrs. Rose and I find ourselves in Davenport,
after a strenuous week swinging around the state. We
have happiest memories of our splendid reception and
cordial greetings at Ames.

The Executive Board of the Iowa League of Women
Voters have been asked by the Register of Des Moines to
select a list of the ten most illustrious women of Iowa.
The name of Mrs. Mary Welch, founder of the Domestic
Science Department at Ames, is one of those chosen. I
am writing to ask if you will see that I am supplied
with the most recent picture and any data available,
to use in a feature article at a very early date. The
editor is insisting that we have this material ready
for publication next Sunday. I shall appreciate greatly
any possible co-operation in carrying out his wishes.

Please mail data and picture to Miss Blanche
Wingate, care the Register, Des Moines, Ia., special
delivery.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance,
I am

Most sincerely yours,

Wellie G. Loublinson
2708-Grand Ave
Des Moines, Ia

August 13, 1923

Miss Blanche Wingate,
Des Moines Register,
Des Moines, Iowa.

My dear Miss Wingate:

I have your letter of August 7 addressed
to Miss Walls and I am acknowledging it
for her.

We shall be very glad to receive several
copies of the Register which contains the
material and pictures of Mrs. Welsh.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary.

The Des Moines Register and Des Moines

W. W. WAYMACK
MANAGING EDITOR



The Evening Tribune

FINAL

Sunday Register

W. G. HALE
ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR

DES MOINES, IOWA,

August 7

Miss Edna E walls,

Ames, Iowa

My dear Miss Walls,-

At this late date I wish to thank you for your promptness in sending me the material and pictures of Mrs. Mary B welsh sent at the request of Mrs. I.H.Tomlinson.

In the rush of summer affairs I misplaced your letter and thought for days it was lost but last evening I found it among the other material sent for the story.

I am fearful lest the time limit will be long since so many have been slow in answering but sometime this fall I will have it written.

Thank you again for the material and picture, which I will return later

Cordially yours,

Blanche Wingate
Blanche wingate

July 9, 1923.

Mrs. Nellie G. Tomlinson,
2708 Grand Ave.,
Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Miss Tomlinson:

Dean Richardson referred to this office your special delivery letter of recent date relative to material for a feature article concerning Mrs. Welch.

On the evening of July 3rd, I mailed special delivery to Miss Blanche Wingate of the Des Moines Register the material listed on the enclosed slip.

We are very glad to know that Mrs. Welch has been selected as one of the ten illustrious women of Iowa. It is a pleasure to cooperate with you and with the Register in thus honoring her.

Yours sincerely,

Vice Dean.

July 3, 1923

Miss Blanche Wingate,
% Des Moines Register
Des Moines, Iowa.

My dear Miss Wingate:

Mrs. Nellie Tomlinson of the Iowa League of Women Voters has asked this office to mail to you data which would prove helpful in preparing a feature article concerning Mrs. Mary B. Welch, formerly of Iowa State College. The material gathered is being mailed to you under separate cover.

In addition to this material you will find an article in the Des Moines Register of January 14, 1923 which contains interesting information. It has also been suggested that the Historical Society of Des Moines might have valuable material.

Will you kindly return the photographs enclosed to the addresses on the backs of the photographs.

We are very glad to know that Mrs. Welch has been chosen as one of the ten most illustrious women of Iowa. It is a pleasure to cooperate with you in honoring the founder of Home Economics at Iowa State College.

Yours sincerely,

Vice-Dean.

P.S. One of her friends suggests that Mrs. J. K. Macomber of Des Moines might provide you with additional material.

HOME ECONOMICS DIVISION

Dean's Office

LIST OF MATERIAL RELATIVE TO MRS. WELCH SENT TO
DES MOINES REGISTER

July 3, 1923.

1. Historical sketch Iowa State College
2. February 1923 Alumnus.
3. June 1923 Alumnus.
4. Typed notes from Journalism Department.
5. Articles copied from Iowa State College
Quarterly

(These are on file in College Library)

6. Pictures --

Mrs. Welch obtained from Alumni Office.
Old Main obtained from Photographic Section.
Home Economics group taken Fall 1922,
obtained from Photographic section.

Mary B. Welch 1872-1884

Mary B. Welch, wife ^{Dr.} J. P. A. Welch, the first president of Iowa State College, was the founder of the first instruction in Home Economics in any land-grant college in the country. Her ideal was to instruct girls in home-making. With this in mind, she designed the courses.

When Mrs. Welch was asked by the Board of Trustees to take charge of the department of Domestic Economy ^{in 1872} she was entirely without experience, ^{except in her own home} (after a search for a school where instruction could be had), she went to a school of Cookery in New York and also to a Maids' school in South Kensington London, but in neither place could be secured any systematic progressive course of study or any breadth of outlook.

The work at the College in 1872, began in two small basement rooms adjoining the dining room of the old Main Building. Under the guidance of Mrs. Welch the women were given three hours a week of practice in domestic science. (Mrs. Potter, the matron, planned a rotation system of work in the kitchen, dining room and laundry whereby each student received instruction). ~~Thus~~

105

the courses at the beginning were laboratory courses but soon Mrs. Welch began to supplement them by lectures.

The work developed rapidly under Mrs. Welch's guidance (and in 1875 a Department of Cookery and Household Art was established) The following year ¹⁸⁷⁶ the trustees provided for practical instruction in cookery by authorizing the establishment of an experimental kitchen for class use. This kitchen, located in the basement of the Old Main Building, was as far as known, the first of its kind provided in any college. (At each meeting the cooking of some new dish was carefully taught, the class taking notes and assisting the teacher. At the following meeting the students repeated the work unassisted by the teacher, each being responsible for the material wasted if her work failed.) (Another project they worked out was the preparation of the meal for one family table in the dining hall - with supplies measured out by the steward.) Faculty members gave orders for breads and cakes, and the classes, on occasion, prepared refreshments for special gatherings as they were ordered.)

The scope of the department was

Ask Miss Peck
what S. Hall was (Home of Pres. Welch
with W. E. in basement)

enlarged in 1877 by the addition of several new courses; care of the house, plan of the week's work, care of the sick, management of domestic help, training of children, cooking and sewing. Two years later a course in laundering was added and the girls were required to do their own laundry work.

Then came a day in 1881 when it was acknowledged that Domestic Economy, as it was called then, had won a place for itself, had come to stay and deserved more room and better quarters, so it was promoted to South Hall.

In 1884, because of failing health, Mrs. Welch resigned, having given twelve years of conscientious service to the first School of Domestic Economy.

Mrs. Welch passed away peacefully at her home in Los Angeles, California, January 2, 1923, after a three days' illness, following a stroke of paralysis.

In accordance with her will, the funeral was held at her home in Los Angeles and the body cremated at Rosedale cemetery. (The ashes were sent to Ames the following Spring and interred beside the body of Dr. Welch in the college cemetery, in fulfillment of a

promise made Dr. Welch.)

(When Mrs. Welch came to Ames in 1869 she lived with her husband in "Old Main" Building, which was then used for dormitory and class room purposes. Later they occupied a home built for them on the campus just northeast across the road on the brow of the hill from the present Music Hall. This building was later used for instructional work in "domestic science" and was afterwards known as Music Hall. In 1881 the Welch's built "The Gables", which they occupied until the death of Dr. Welch about 1890.)

Mrs. Welch was a woman of exceptional ability along organizing lines. She was a woman of refinement, culture, and grace, a pioneer leader in education, and a true homemaker. Her gentleness and strength of character, and sweetness of disposition endeared her to all who knew her. (These qualities of soul are fittingly recorded in the remarks of Dr. Esma and the resolutions passed by the faculty.) She left an indelible impress upon the lives of the students of the early years of the college.

Adella W. Bigler

4881-1881

Mary B. Welch

Report for Ammission
History -

A. B. B. B.

Mary B. Welch

n.d.

To know the spirit of the beginning of Iowa State College, one should read the following extract from the address given by Dr. Welch in his dedication address, March 17, 1869.

"In this, the people's college, dedicated to the encouragement and promotion of industry, we must aim to make labor attractive, not only to the boys who are here seeking knowledge in their department, but to the girls, who can never become accomplished and thoroly educated women, without a knowledge of conducting every household occupation, with system, intelligence and womanly grace. The most alarming feature of our present system of educating our girls is the almost total disregard of these branches, known as the useful and practical, that will prepare them for the proper discharge of the best and noblest duties of rational and intelligent women."

To carry on this plan of democracy every student was required by law to labor two and one-half hours a day, throughout the college year. For the "young ladies," the matron arranged them in squads, to work in the dining room, kitchen, laundry and bakery, rotating the duties systematically, so that every girl had some practice in each department. This paved the way for the four years' "ladies course," which included lectures on Domestic Economy given by the Preceptress. Mrs. Welch was then asked to take charge of the work in Domestic Economy. An article on training schools of cookery, by Mrs. Welch, was published in 1883 and Emma P. Ewing came to carry on the work. Miss Ewing already had a national reputation, because of her systematic plan for teaching southern women how to cook after their Negro servants had been freed. The first recognition in the United States of Home Economics was in 1886 when the degree of Master of Home Economics was conferred upon three graduates, one from Drake, one from State University of Iowa, and one from Iowa Agricultural College. In 1896, the Domestic Science department moved into rooms on the second floor of North Hall, adjoining Margaret Hall, and twenty-two girls were graduated from the ladies course. In 1900 three assistants were employed and larger quarters were necessary - six class rooms and laboratories were used in Margaret Hall. At that time two courses were offered, General and Domestic Science, and Domestic Science. In 1911 when the first Home Economics building was dedicated, there were four instructors and 136 students. In 1920 there were 38 instructors and 722 students. Home Economics Hall was dedicated in 1926.

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. Exctrcts 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 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 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.

Mrs. Mary B. Welch was the wife of the first president of Iowa State College. To Mrs. Welch belongs the distinction of having established the first classes in domestic science ever taught in any established college which was started in 1872. Mrs. Welch came to Ames with her husband in 1869. They lived in Old Main building, which was then used for dormitory and classroom purposes. In 1881 they built the Gables, now the International House.

Extracts from an article on Domestic Science at ISC written by Mary B. Welch.

When a Department of Domestic Economy was decided upon by the Board of Trustees, it became necessary to find a teacher to take charge of it. There were no schools of the kind proposed anywhere, no text books, no trained teachers. So the Board was fairly forced to begin the experiment with such management as could be secured at home. Someone suggested my name, and a committee was sent to offer me the position. With fear and trembling I finally decided to try, after telling the committee, frankly, that I was without experience in that sort of teaching, that there were no established precedents to guide me, and no classified courses for me to follow. There began a search for teachers and a school where instruction could be had. We learned that Miss Juliet Corson had opened a school of cookery in New York, and thither I took my way, in the winter previous to the opening of the course at Ames.

The following winter vacation found me at the South Kensington School of Cookery in London. But in neither place could be secured any systematic progressive course of study. Many amusing incidents of that London experience might be told. The only object of the school was to train cooks for service. It was incomprehensible to the English mind that a woman, apparently a lady whose husband was head of an important institution

of learning, should be anxious either to learn or to teach cookery. The question was often asked me, what family I was engaged to work for, when I received my certificate. But after all what did it matter? At the end of three months' actual drudgery, a certificate was conferred, which ought to have been framed and hung in the college museum. The work at the College began in two small basement rooms, adjoining the dining room in Old Main building. The plan was to make the work as practical as possible, which was fortunate for the teacher, who had few theories, but much actual experience in housekeeping.

The college steward was persuaded to measure out material for a dinner, for one table in the dining room each day; the exact quality and as nearly possible the exact quantity, used in the college kitchen, the class to prepare and serve it under the instruction of a teacher.

It was a simple way to begin, but it interested the class and gave them a definite purpose in their work, and more than pleased the students, who dined at that particular table. The cooking was done on a Charter Oak Stove - no gas, or electrical appliances or aluminum utensils were then available. This was the freshman class course, nut bread, salads, dessert. Cake was taught in the more advanced classes. Orders were secured from the faculty families for bread and cake, and the classes on occasion, prepared refreshments for special gatherings, as they were ordered. The college family was much smaller then than now so these things were possible. Everyone was interested in the new experiment, and willing to help in every way. Then came a day when it was acknowledged that Domestic Economy had won a place for itself; had come to stay; and deserved more room and better quarters so it was moved to South Hall.

Then the college dinners had to be abandoned, but numerous orders for bread, pastry and salads continued to be filled. One of the rewards for this strenuous work of those early years has been the numerous letters from married graduates, expressing gratitude for the instruction given; one in particular from a graduate and post-graduate, a remarkably intelligent woman, pleased me very much. She said she felt, when required to go into the class in her senior year, that the time was going to be wasted but that now, being a housekeeper, she realized that no year's work had been more profitable than the year in Domestic Economy. One enthusiastic girl declared after a successful lesson in desserts, that when she married she was going to live on cream puffs and lemon jelly. But when she had a home she wrote that she had come to the conclusion that, after all, bread and butter and properly broiled beefsteak were better for a steady diet, and that her husband was glad that she knew how to prepare both in first class style. It rejoices me to know that from these primitive beginnings, a fully equipped and well manned department has developed. I offer my congratulations to all concerned in the opening of the new building and wish for the department a most useful and prosperous career.

By Dr. O. H. Cessna
Class of '72 and College Chaplin for many years.

Mrs. Welch was about thirty years of age when she came to the campus, with her two children, Winifred and Genevieve. She was a beautiful, stately, dignified woman, quite a bit younger than the president. She impresses us as refined, cultured, quiet and neat. We wanted to be clean and courteous in her presence. She was thoughtful of others, was even-tempered. Mrs. Welch's home was a place of refinement. Good taste ~~ab-~~ounded was manifested everywhere; good books and periodicals ~~ab-~~ounded.

There were good pictures on the walls and there were evidences of culture which we should aim to achieve if we wish to be educated. There must have been some striking and enduring qualities about her life and personality to have impressed to students so strongly. She was essentially feminine and refined in her bearing--always neat and ladylike. She had certain little winning gestures, attitudes and mannerisms that drew one to her. She was deeply interested in the students and was most unselfish. Her very presence stimulated the better things in our nature. She was very careful in her dressing and the training of her children. She was a beautiful conversationalist, using the most faultless English. Mrs. Welch was one of those rare personalities who shed a beautiful refining Christian influence upon all with whom they come in contact.

Mrs. Welch was a real service to the College in that she gave Dr. Welch many suggestions along educational lines, in a field untried. She therefore helped to shape the early policies of this young institution and make it what we have today. The president could implicitly rely upon the good judgment of Mrs. Welch. She was the first Home Economics teacher in a Land Grant College in this country, and to her the state and nation owe a debt of gratitude for planning a course in which the practical and theoretical sides of home economics were considered equally important. It was her idea that the Home Economics course should be so planned that a woman should have a well rounded education, placing emphasis on the cultural side of education, as well as the practical. Mrs. Welch was a cultured woman who realized the importance of placing woman on such a footing that she could meet the problems of the day in the home and in society.

Interview with Mrs. Herman Knapp

A never-to-be-forgotten morning was spent with our beloved Mrs. Herman Knapp who lives on Ash Avenue. A beautiful halo seemed to surround her as she reminisced down memory lane. With her keen intellect she recalled the inspiration she received as a student in 1880 in those very same cheerful, attractive basement rooms with Mrs. Welch. The notes Mrs. Knapp took in the class room she used until they were worn out.

The only assistant Mrs. Welch has was the Norwegian girl in her home whom she taught to do everything exactly as she wanted. The girl became an invaluable assistant in the laboratory. "When I think of how little we knew of homemaking," said Mrs. Knapp, "I think of Mrs. Welch in her pioneer work, teaching domestic economy as a candle in the dark." Mrs. Knapp's eyes twinkled, and she gave a merry chuckle, as she mentioned buying meat and groceries in Ames, once in a long time, going on the Black Maria, a combination passenger and delivery covered wagon. Quite often the groceries and the kerosene can would get too close together for the good of the groceries. After this happened repeatedly, the owner of the wagon was induced to hand the kerosene can from the top, and then the passengers were liable to share the fate which the groceries had, as the roads were very rough and the can not very steady hanging from the ceiling of the bus. The Black Maria only made a trip or two a week, to and from the college to Ames.

1872
Mary B. Welch (1845-1884)

Mary B. Welch, wife of the first president of Iowa State College, Dr. S. A. Welch, was the founder of the first instruction in Home Economics in any land-grant college in the country.

When Mrs. Welch was asked by the Board of Trustees to take charge of the Department of Domestic Economy, she was entirely without experience except in her own home. She went to a school of Coopers in New York and also to a Maid's School in South Kensington, London, but in neither place could ^{she} secure any systematic progressive course of study or any breadth of outlook.

She started out, a pioneer in Home Economics work, in 1872. The work began in two small basement rooms adjoining the dining room of the old Main Building. The women were given three hours a week of practice in domestic science. These laboratories were soon ^{re}supplemented by lectures.

The work developed rapidly, and in 1876 the trustees authorized the establishment of an experimental kitchen for class use. This kitchen, in the basement of old Main Building, was, as far as known, the first of its kind provided in any college.

The scope of the department was enlarged in 1877 by the addition of several new courses: care of the house, plan of the week's work, care of the sick, management of domestic help, training of children, cooking, and sewing. Two years later a course in laundering was added and the girls were required to do their own laundry work.

Then came a day in 1881 when it was acknowledged that Domestic Economy had won a place for itself, and deserved more room and better quarters; so it was promoted to South Hall, a brick building which stood south of the campus.

In 1884, because of failing health, Mrs. Welch resigned, having given

twelve years of conscientious service to the first school of Domestic Economy. Mrs. Welch passed away peacefully at her home in Los Angeles, California, January 2, 1923 after a three days illness, following a stroke of paralysis.

Mrs. Welch ~~was a~~ ^{possessed} ~~woman of~~ exceptional ability ^{as an organizer} ~~along organizing lines~~. She was a woman of refinement, culture, and grace; a pioneer leader in education, and a true homemaker. Her gentleness ~~and~~, strength of character, and sweetness of disposition endeared her to all who knew her. She left an indelible impress upon the lives of the students of the early years of the college.

2/23/23.

Home Economics Division

MEMORIAL FOR MRS. MARY B. WELCH.

The death of Mrs. Mary B. Welch on January 2, 1923 at Los Angeles, California closed the career of one of the outstanding characters of the pioneer faculty of the Iowa State College.

Mrs. Welch, wife of the first president of Iowa State College, was the first woman to teach Home Economics in a Land Grant College in this country. Soon after ^{the} opening of Iowa State College, Mrs. Welch was asked to give to the young women practical and technical training in housekeeping. Cooking lessons were first given in the kitchen of the dormitory, but in 1875 a Department of Cooking and Household Art was established with a kitchen in the basement of the old Main Building. During her ^{the} 15 years of service, Mrs. Welch enlarged the scope of work to include lectures and laboratory work in Care of the House, House Management, Care of the Sick and Child Training. The marked success of this work did much to break down the popular prejudice that existed against Domestic Economy as part of a University Curriculum.

As a pioneer in the field of ^{Domestic Economy} ~~Household Arts~~, Mrs. Welch based these courses on her own home experience. She felt that a woman's training should be both cultural and practical. Mrs. Welch studied at the "School of Maids" in London and with ^{South Kensington School of Cookery} ~~Miss Parlea~~ in New York City. She also visited schools of cooking in the leading cities of the country.

It was Mrs. Welch who first conceived the possibility of Extension work in Home Economics and carried out her idea by conducting a class of 60 women in Des Moines.

Those who knew Mrs. Welch, spoke of her as beautiful, stately, dignified, a woman essentially feminine and refined in bearing. She was deeply interested in both men and women students and was unselfish and untiring in her efforts to stimulate them to better living.

It is therefore fitting that the Home Economics Faculty of Iowa State College, now numbering 56 pay tribute to the memory of Mrs. Mary B. Welch. Her ^{vision and} courage inspired those who laid so firmly the foundations for the department that later developed into the Home Economics Division of Iowa State College.

Committee

- Miss Anders
- Miss Stephens
- Miss Bailey. Ch.

Miss Juliet Condon

South Kensington School of Cookery

HOME ECONOMICS DIVISION
Iowa State College.

MEMORIAL FOR MRS. MARY B. WELCH.

The death of Mrs. Mary B. Welch on January 2, 1923, at Los Angeles, California closed the career of one of the outstanding characters of the pioneer faculty of the Iowa State College.

Mrs. Welch, wife of the first president of Iowa State College, was the first woman to teach Home Economics in a Land Grant College in this country. Soon after the opening of Iowa State College, Mrs. Welch was asked to give to the young women practical and technical training in housekeeping. Cooking lessons were first given in the kitchen of the dormitory, but in 1875 a Department of Cooking and Household Art was established with a kitchen in the basement of the old Main Building. During her fifteen years of service, Mrs. Welch enlarged the scope of the work to include lectures and laboratory work in Care of the House, House Management, Care of the Sick and Child Training. The marked success of this work did much to break down the popular prejudice that existed against Domestic Economy as part of a University Curriculum.

As a pioneer in the field of Domestic Economy, Mrs. Welch based these courses on her own home experience. She felt that a woman's training should be both cultural and practical. Mrs. Welch studied at the South Kensington School of Cookery in London and with Miss Juliet Corson in New York City. She also visited schools of cooking in the leading cities of the country.

It was Mrs. Welch who first conceived the possibility of Extension work in Home Economics and carried out her idea by conducting a class of sixty women in Des Moines.

Those who knew Mrs. Welch, spoke of her as beautiful, stately, dignified, a woman essentially feminine and refined in bearing. She was deeply interested in both men and women students and was unselfish and untiring in her efforts to stimulate them to better living.

It is therefore fitting that the Home Economics Faculty of Iowa State College, now numbering fifty-six pay tribute to the memory of Mrs. Mary B. Welch. Her vision and courage inspired those who laid so firmly the foundations for the department that later developed into the Home Economics Division of Iowa State College.

Committee;

N. Ruth Bailey
Marie Stephens
Ida Adelaide Anders

Jan. 15, 1923

MEMORIAL FOR MRS. MARY B. WELCH

With the death of Mrs. Mary E. Welch on January 2nd, 1923 at Los Angeles, California there was closed the career of a very remarkable woman, versatile, a homemaker, resourceful, energetic and above all a woman of fine Christian qualities, all of which combined to make her one of the outstanding characters of the Iowa State College faculty of the early days. Her range of activities extended not only to the faculty and student body at Iowa State College, but she was interested in the larger commonwealth, Iowa. Iowa State College was dear to her and because of the newness of Iowa much hardship was endured. It is related that Dr. and Mrs. Welch had to go to Des Moines to make a plea for the college and in order to get there at the appointed time it was necessary to drive with a team on a very cold day and Mrs. Welch became chilled through, but the day was won.

Mrs. Welch was a real service to the college in that she gave to Dr. Welch many suggestions along educational lines in a field untried. She therefore helped shape the early policies of this young institution and make it what we today. Dr. Welch could implicitly rely upon the good judgment of Mrs. Welch. She was the first home economics teacher in a Land Grant College in this country and to her the State and Nation owe a debt of gratitude for planning a course in which the practical and theoretical sides of home economics were considered equally important. It was her idea that the home economics course should be so planned that a woman should have a well rounded education, placing emphasis on the cultural side of education as well as the practical. Mrs. Welch was a cultured woman who realized the importance of placing woman on such a footing that she

could meet the problems of the day in the home and in society.

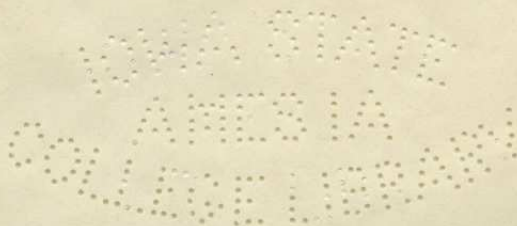
Iowa State College therefore appreciates not only the great service she has rendered to education but also the quiet dignified Christian character of the woman in the home, church, and society, and what other achievements may be accomplished by man or woman rests on the solid foundation of the home, that in the passing of this noble woman at the age of 82 there has been left a fine impress on the student body, faculty and friends of a noble self sacrificing life. Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that Iowa State College faculty tender to the bereaved family our deepest sympathy upon the death of this fine woman and that a copy of this memorial be spread on the minutes of the faculty and sent to the bereaved family: Colonel and Mrs. A. B. Shaw, Mrs. Graham (formerly Miss Beaumont) and Mrs. Murphy.

O. H. Cessna
Hermann Knapp
L. H. Pammell
Edna E. Walls

Mrs. Mary B. Welch

This article was prepared and read by Mrs. Freeman R. Conaway at an Omicron Nu meeting, and later at a Phi U meeting. Mrs. Conaway has for many years been a member of the Iowa Authors Club.



March 1936

C
F
W444c

To know the spirit of the beginning of Iowa State College, one should read the following extract from the address given by Dr. Welch in his dedication address, March 17, 1869.

"In this, the people's college, dedicated to the encouragement and promotion of industry, we must aim to make labor attractive, not only to the boys who are here seeking knowledge in their department, but to the girls, who can never become accomplished and thoroly educated women, without a knowledge of conducting every household occupation, with system, intelligence and womanly grace. The most alarming feature of our present system of educating our girls is the almost total disregard of these branches, known as the useful and practical, that will prepare them for the proper discharge of the best and noblest duties of rational and intelligent women."

To carry on this plan of democracy every student was required by law to labor two and one-half hours a day, throughout the college year. For the "young ladies," the matron arranged them in squads, to work in the dining room, kitchen, laundry and bakery, rotating the duties systematically, so that every girl had some practice in each department. This paved the way for the four years' "ladies course," which included lectures on Domestic Economy given by the Preceptress. Mrs. Welch was then asked to take charge of the work in Domestic Economy. An article on training schools of cookery, by Mrs. Welch, was published by the U. S. Bureau of Education in 1879. Mrs. Welch resigned in 1883 and Emma P. Ewing came to carry on the work. Miss Ewing already had a national reputation, because of her systematic plan for teaching southern women how to cook after their Negro servants had been freed. The first recognition in the United States of Home

Economics, was in 1886 when the degree of Master of Home Economics was conferred upon three graduates, one from Drake, one from State University of Iowa, and one from Iowa Agriculture College. In 1896, the Domestic Science department moved into rooms on the second floor of North Hall, adjoining Margaret Hall, and twenty-two girls were graduated from the ladies course. In 1900 three assistants were employed and larger quarters were necessary - six class rooms and laboratories were used in Margaret Hall. At that time two courses were offered, General and Domestic Science, and Domestic Science. In 1911 when the first Home Economics building was dedicated, there were four instructors and 136 students. In 1920 there were 38 instructors, and 722 students. Home Economics Hall was dedicated in 1926.

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.

Extracts from Genevieve Shaw's letter

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.

Mary B. Welch

Mrs. Mary B. Welch was the wife of the first president of Iowa State College. To Mrs. Welch belongs the distinction of having established the first classes in domestic science ever taught in any established college which was started in 1872. Mrs. Welch came to Ames with her husband in 1869. They lived in Old Main building, which was then used for dormitory and classroom purposes. In 1881 they built the Gables, now the International House.

Extracts from an Article on Domestic Science at I.S.C.,

written by Mary B. Welch

When a Department of Domestic Economy was decided upon by the Board of Trustees, it became necessary to find a teacher to take charge of it. There were no schools of the kind proposed anywhere, no text books, no trained teachers. So the Board was fairly forced to begin the experiment with such management as could be secured at home. Someone suggested my name, and a committee was sent to offer

me the position. With fear and trembling I finally decided to try, after telling the committee, frankly, that I was without experience in that sort of teaching, that there were no established precedents to guide me, and no classified courses for me to follow. There began a search for teachers and a school where instruction could be had. We learned that Miss Juliet Corson had opened a school of cookery in New York, and thither I took my way, in the winter previous to the opening of the course at Ames.

The following winter vacation found me at the South Kensington School of Cookery in London. But in neither place could be secured any systematic, progressive course of study. Many amusing incidents of that London experience might be told. The only object of the school was to train cooks for service. It was incomprehensible to the English mind that a woman, apparently a lady whose husband was head of an important institution of learning, should be anxious either to learn or to teach cooking. The question was often asked me, what family I was engaged to work for, when I received my certificate. But after all what did it matter? At the end of three months' actual drudgery, a certificate was conferred, which ought to have been framed and hung in the college museum. The work at the College began in two small basement rooms, adjoining the dining room in Old Main building. The plan was to make the work as practical as possible, which was fortunate for the teacher, who had few theories, but much actual experience in housekeeping.

The college steward was persuaded to measure out material for a dinner, for one table in the dining room each day; the exact quality, and as nearly as possible the exact quantity, used in the college

kitchen, the class to prepare and serve it under the instruction of a teacher.

It was a simple way to begin, but it interested the class and gave them a definite purpose in their work, and more than pleased the students, who dined at that particular table. The cooking was done on a Charter Oak Stove - no gas, or electric appliances or aluminum utensils were then available. This was the freshman class course, nut bread, salads, dessert. Cake was taught in the more advanced classes. Orders were secured from the faculty families, for bread and cake, and the classes on occasion, prepared refreshments for special gatherings, as they were ordered. The college family was much smaller then, than now, so these things were possible. Everyone was interested in the new experiment, and willing to help in every way. Then came a day when it was acknowledged, that Domestic Economy had won a place for itself; had come to stay; and deserved more room and better quarters, so it was moved to South Hall.

Then the college dinners had to be abandoned, but numerous orders for bread, pastry and salads continued to be filled. One of the rewards for this strenuous work of those early years has been the numerous letters from married graduates, expressing gratitude for the instruction given; one in particular from a graduate and post-graduate, a remarkably