

Traces of the Past

Tucked away in corners of campus and even in an office across town, the past year has yielded treasures that give glimpses of our history.



A Window into Time

A past prank of bygone students surfaced on Aug. 25, 2005, when workers for Bigelow Glass Inc. replaced the windows in Ritz Auditorium. The updated windows are much more energy efficient, but a bit of history passed with their removal. The demi-round at the top of the most western window on the north side of the auditorium was found to have a listing of student names etched into the glass. Accessed from the balcony, the graffiti went largely unnoticed over the years. How they etched their names is unknown. Nevertheless, the Junior Class of 1897 of Findlay College proudly left their marks as: E. (Ed. S.) Arnold, R. (Ralph D.) Cole, Miss I. (Imogene) Hull, O.S. Steiner, J.I. Carper, E. (Edwin T.) Paul, C. (Chloe) Hull, G. (George) Waltermire, W. (Walter) Scott, (illegible) Bolton, Miss G. Davis, D.E. (Dudley) Kagy, F.S. Beard, F.G. Carnahan, W. (William) Avey, J. (Jacob) Line, F.M. Case, H.K. (Holmes) Powell and J.F. Burkett.



Steps to Yesteryear

Renovations in August 2005 to the former Renninger Gymnasium, now housing the Environmental Resource Training Center, turned up a historical find.

In rebuilding the entryway knee wall next to the stairs of the main entrance, a time capsule was discovered. A note was included that explained, "This packet of material covering some of Findlay College's areas of concern and services in 1979-80 was placed here by Alumni Director John C. Hutson, Aug. 19, 1980."

Included were Findlay College catalogs, the 1979 Annual Report, Parents' Weekend invitations, issues of The Findlay College Alumnus newsletter and other materials.

The Homecoming brochure for 1979 had the theme of "Let's Get Together for Homecoming," and listed the football team as playing against Earlham College. The Homecoming Committee that year was chaired by Michael Smythe '65 and included Kenneth Curry '68, Sally (Fritch) Dolmayer '54, Leslie Miller '64, Larry Musser '74, '05, Charles Parker '72 and Jerry Savoy '66.

Registration for a Parents' Weekend offered bargain prices for participation, with meals ranging from \$1 for breakfast to \$2.50 for the Saturday evening barbecue. Thanks to the foresight of the late John Hutson '48, we can appreciate the people and events that help make up The University of Findlay's history.



A Good Deed, Indeed!

As the institution prepares to celebrate its 125th anniversary in 2007, a truly serendipitous event occurred that supplies more information about the establishment of Findlay College.

Albert Wilmsmeyer recently presented to Dr. DeBow Freed a packet of deeds that included the transfer of land to Findlay College.

Wilmsmeyer, who was retiring after 23 years with the Findlay Police, spent the last years of his career in charge of the property and evidence room at the police station. He came across the packet of deeds as he was preparing for his departure on July 28, 2006.

According to Wilmsmeyer, the deeds were handed over to the city police in 1995 by a person who had discovered them while cleaning out an old house. If not for this anonymous person's good "deed," the documents may have been lost forever.

The packet records transfers of land ownership pertaining to the area of the original Findlay College campus beginning in 1882.

On July 25, 1882, Samuel and Elizabeth Howard transferred two-thirds of the block on which Old Main now stands to David J. Cory and William Marvin. On the same day, the three of them transferred the entire block to Findlay College. The transaction was recorded as "Samuel Howard and Elizabeth his wife, David J. Cory and Annie W. Cory his wife and William Marvin and Matilda I. Marvin his wife conveyed to Findlay College, a corporation located at Findlay, Ohio, a certain piece or parcel of land." The gift of the land, along with \$20,000 from the citizens of Findlay, comprised the agreement with the Churches of God Eldership to establish a college in Findlay.

The land transfer included eight lots that were bounded by North Main Street on the east, an alley that was to become Frazer Street on the south, Cory Street on the west and an alley that would later be named College Street on the north.



Albert Wilmsmeyer presents Dr. Freed with a document that contains the original deed to the land that Findlay College was built upon.

Furthermore, at Findlay College's first board of trustees meeting, held on Feb. 8, 1882, both Howard, who was addressed as "Captain" in acknowledgement of his Civil War service, and Cory were elected as trustees.

Although their roles in founding Findlay College have been obscured over the years, their names have not been forgotten. The Howards' extensive section of property on the north side of Findlay is still known as the Howard Addition. Their name also is the origin for nearby Howard Street. Cory Street is named in honor of David Cory's family; his father was among the first settlers in Findlay. Cory served on the board a single year from 1882-83, while Howard stayed until 1887.

If not for the generosity of the Howards, Corys and Marvin's, Findlay College instead may have been located in Smithville, Ohio, near Wooster, whose citizens also had competed for the Churches of God college.

- Charlene Hankinson

