

CHESTER TIMES – June 7, 1911

SPROUL OBSERVATORY AT SWARTHMORE DEDICATED – Value of Astronomical Gift to College Explained by Professor Miller Who Stated That the Telescope Was Perfect and Powerful – Event Was Feature of Alumni Day

Alumni Day at Swarthmore College yesterday was in part given over to State Senator William C. Sproul's gift observatory, the exercises being in charge of the class of 1891, of which the donor was a member.

The procession, led by President Swain, of the college, and the prominent members of the alumni, at noon marched to the site of the new observatory, where the dedicatory addresses were made. The formal dedication address was made by Congressman E. Mitchell Palmer, an alumnus who spoke on the influence of Swarthmore training on the lives of its graduates.

Dr. John A. Miller, professor in astronomy, also spoke, explaining the value of the gift, and stating that the telescope ranked among the most perfect and powerful of its kind in America. He promised that the installation would be completed early in August.

Miss Dorothy Wallace Sproul, daughter of Senator Sproul, who was introduced as "the baby of the class of '91," unveiled the tablet in the wall of the new building dedicatory to her father, amid the cheers of the spectators.

The inscription on the tablet is: "Out of gratitude to his alma mater and in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the class of 1891, this observatory and equipment are dedicated to Swarthmore College by William Cameron Sproul of Chester, June 6, 1911. Non Dicere Sed Facere."

THE OBSERVATION OUTFIT – Professor J. Russell Hayes, librarian of the college, read the dedication poem: The outfit dedicated comprises a 24-inch telescope, a photographic telescope and other paraphernalia of a modern observatory. The observatory where the telescope is housed is the re-constructed home of former presidents of the college, and has long enjoyed the reputation of being one of the ancient landmarks of Swarthmore.

The Alumni Association elected E. Lawrence Fell, '88, president and Charles A. Bunting, '83, secretary.

The alumni luncheon took place in the college dining room during the afternoon, preceding the baseball game with Franklin and Marshall on Whittier Field. The senior play, "The Winter's Tale," was repeated in the large tent erected on the campus. The alumni banquet took place at 6:30 o'clock in the William J. Hall Gymnasium.

An important feature of the commencement of Swarthmore College this morning was the conferring of three honorary degrees. Swarthmore has been very conservative in the conferring of honorary degrees, in that only eleven have been conferred in her history. The authorities of the college feel that this high standard will be maintained by conferring the degree of Doctor of Laws upon Justices D. Newlin Fell and William P. Potter of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania; and the degree of Master of Arts on John A. Shrigley, president of the Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades. Justice Fell will be presented to President Swain for this honorary degree by Howard Cooper Johnson, of the class of '96. Justice Potter will be presented by Morris L. Clothier of the class of '90 and Mr. Shrigley by Senator William C. Sproul, of the class of '91.

RAISED ENDOWMENT – On the eve of the commencement exercises the dedication of the observatory vied in interest with the campaign to secure a half million

dollar endowment fund. When the members of the Alumni Association filed into the William J. Hall gymnasium shortly after dusk fall for their annual dinner, the hands on the big dial on Parrish Hall indicated that just \$4,000 was needed to complete the fund.

And it was of much significance that the mall brought many letters to President Swain in the course of the afternoon. The president, after his assistant, Mr. Alexander, had assorted misgives, beamed with smiles.

"We've raised the \$500,000 all right," shouted sedate alumnus and student alike, but President Swain said nothing.

It is no secret that many of the "grads" are of the opinion that the total collections will heavily overbalance the sum strived for, so therefore the announcements of the president at the commencement exercises will be followed with the greatest attention.

Swarthmore now has an endowment fund of \$1,700,000, a fact which gives the Delaware County institution precedence in the college world. Of the half million dollars Swarthmore was compelled to raise on \$425,000. A nucleus of \$75,000 was provided by the General Education Board founded by John D. Rockefeller. The offer was made just two years ago. Since then there was not been a graduate of Swarthmore or a student wearing the garnet colors of the college who has been idle when the endowment fund was mentioned.

KEITH LOCKHART COLLECTION