

Summer Collegian

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TUESDAY, JULY 25, 1922

EDWIN ERLE SPARKS

A Tribute
BY WILLIAM DAY CROCKETT

(Reprinted from The Penn State La Vie, 1921)

Edwin Erle Sparks was born near Newark, Ohio, July 16, 1860, the only child of Edwin F. Sparks and Jane Erle Dodd, both of whom were descended from the first families that settled Virginia. The son of a farmer, he received his earliest education at a district school three miles distant from his home. At the age of ten he removed with his parents to London, Ohio, where, in the Graded School, and later in the High School, he completed his elementary education. But not without interruption, for circumstances rendering necessary self help by his own hands, he worked for a while in a printing establishment, gaining a kind of knowledge that was to stand him in good stead, as he further pursued his studies.

In 1879, at the age of nineteen, he entered the Preparatory Department of the Ohio Wesleyan University, and the next year he became a member of the Freshman Class of that institution. In 1881, that he might the better work his way through college, he entered the Sophomore Class of the Ohio State University, where he was graduated with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1884. The quality of his scholarship as an undergraduate is best attested by the fact that seventeen years later, on the establishment of a chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa at Ohio State University, Edwin Sparks was one of the few alumni elected to membership.

On his graduation from the Ohio State University he entered upon his career as an educator, although for two years previous to his graduation he had taught history in the Preparatory Department of the University. Then successively and successfully, he became Instructor in History and English Literature in the High School of Portsmouth, Ohio; Principal of this School, Superintendent of the Public Schools of Martin's Ferry, Ohio.

In 1890, Superintendent Sparks became Principal of the Preparatory Department of this College, and here he remained until 1895, when he entered the University Extension Department of Chicago University. Here he continued his extensive work in the Department of American History, which work had already been begun in a Summer Session at Harvard University and was continued in libraries in Washington, in Baltimore, in Boston. As lecturer in the Extension Department of Chicago University, later as Professor of American History and Dean of the University College, having taken his doctorate in Philosophy in 1900, he came to fill a large place in the University life.

In 1890, a little before his coming for his first period of service here, Doctor Sparks was married to Miss Katherine Cotton, daughter of the late D. B. Cotton, M.D., of Portsmouth, Ohio, who was descended from a long line of ancestors prominent in early New England history. They have one daughter—Miss Ethel, who was graduated from this College with the class of 1916.

For the last dozen years administrative duties and public speaking have occupied Doctor Sparks' time and energies, but there were years during his residence in Chicago when he gave promise of resting his principal claim to fame on his success as historian and author. In rapid succession there issued from his facile pen, "The Expansion of the American People," 1899, "The Man Who Made the Nation," 1900, "Formative Incidents in American Diplomacy," 1902, "The United States of America," in two volumes, 1904, "The Capture of William Johnson," 1905; "The National Development from 1877 to 1885," 1907, and "English Settlements in Illinois," 1908.

By the death of Dr. Atherton in June, 1905, the Pennsylvania State College was left without a President. After an interregnum of almost two years, the Trustees unanimously called to the position Dr. Sparks, then Professor of American History in the University of Chicago. The twelve years that lie between those days and these may well be termed the era of expansion in the history of this institution. He has seen his faculty grow from 120 to over 500, the number of students in the regular college courses from 900 to approximately 3,200. To him is due the founding of the Annual Conference of High School Principals, the Board of Examiners, of whom for years he was Chairman, the Annual Conference of Rural Preachers, the Inter-University Council, and the Publicity Department of the College. He was for a while the Acting Dean of the School of Liberal Arts, after its formation in 1909. He has watched the growth of the College-plant in the erection of many substantial departmental buildings. But it is doubtless in the foundation and successful growth of the Summer Session that he has most largely stamped his impress upon the College. From an initial enrollment in 1910 of 153 students, he has watched it develop to a normal average enrollment of 1,000.

Successful as a teacher, versatile as an author, popular as a lecturer, untiring as an administrator, Doctor Sparks will take with him as he retires from the presidency the good wishes of his boys and girls of a dozen classes and more, and the hope of all connected with the institution that long years of usefulness may yet be his in the emeritus position upon which he enters.



Dr. Edwin Erle Sparks

DR. SPARKS CELEBRATES SIXTY-SECOND BIRTHDAY

(Continued from first page)

City of Chicago, president Pennsylvania State College since June 14, 1903. Member executive council American History Association, member University and College Council of Pennsylvania, Pennsylvania Library Commission, Pennsylvania State Board of Agriculture, member Pennsylvania Committee of Public Safety and Food Supply, director Pennsylvania State Chamber of Commerce.

"President general of Phi Kappa Phi, member Chi Phi
"Author "Expansion of the American People," 1899, "The Man Who Made the Nation," 1900, "Formative Incidents in American Diplomacy," 1902, "The United States of America" (2 vols.), 1904, "Foundations of National Development," 1907, "The Lincoln-Douglas Debates of 1858," 1908
"Contributor serials and essays on historical and college administrative topics to periodicals and journals"

MR. ROGER HERB

Mr. Carl F. Berger, representing Farn Bros. Company, of Allentown, is in charge of a special display of the very newest of smart summer footwear for men and women, which is being held today and tomorrow at the State College Hotel.

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CANDYLAND

are specializing in work in education, with history, chemistry, english and physics following in popularity. It is expected that more than 100 graduate students will be enrolled in the school during the winter session

PENN STATE GRADUATE SCHOOL IS CROWDED

The newly established Graduate School of the Pennsylvania State College is functioning for the first time during the present summer session of the college. According to announcement just made by Dean Frank D. Korn, there are 65 graduate students enrolled for summer work and of that number, 40 are new students at Penn State. The Graduate School was created by the board of trustees just three weeks before the opening of the summer term, and the enrollment indicates that the action was warranted. Of those taking graduate work this summer, 19 are graduates of Penn State while 21 are graduates of other Pennsylvania colleges. The majority

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FULL SUPPORT EXPECTED FOR SUMMER CAMPAIGN

(Continued from first page)

time before the end of this year and the subsequent payments may also be indicated on the subscription blank.

"Thus far, the reports show that the Summer School students are responding generously, both in amount and in numbers. It is extremely desirable that all of us endeavor to bring the response for the Summer Session students as close to 100 per cent as possible. This is important, not only as a demonstration of the Summer School sympathy with the purposes of this great campaign, but because of the assistance that such unanimity will give to the general work of the College Campaign Committee. It must be understood that the canvass among the summer students is only one of the many activities of the campaign. There are other campaigns, progressing in every county.

"The College Campaign Committee plans to send publicity, telling of the response, to every county, so that the example of the Summer Session students may serve as an inspiration throughout the State.

"As a final word I would like to say that where alumni or regular session students are included in the lists furnished to County Chairmen they are not to be canvassed, as special campaigns will be conducted later in the year for both of these groups. The County Chairmen will credit them as responding and this will assist toward the ideal of 100 per cent participation.

EDUCATIONAL MEASUREMENTS COURSE ENDED LAST SATURDAY

The two weeks' intensive course in educational measurements came to a close last Friday, and those taking it expressed themselves well satisfied with what had been accomplished. There were about fifty enrolled in the course, which was under the direction of Mr. Freeman Guay, Director of Research and Measurements in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. Certain phases of the work were handled by Professor A. L. Rhison of the Department of Education at the college. The course comprised the testing of intelligence, the testing of achievement, diagnosis, and remedial measures.

The Letter Box

State College, Pa., July 19, 1922.

Editor "Summer Collegian," State College, Pa.

Dear Sir—

"Two weeks books here—form a line" "Receive books here—form a line" And so we form a line, and wait patiently like children in a kindergarten.

Is there not some way, pray, by which a better system can be introduced into the Library? Not only do we suffer much inconvenience, but much time is wasted that could otherwise be utilized. Especially is this true when the line consists of from ten to fifteen or even more students. I realize that it is not the fault of the Library employees, but of the system now in force. But why can that system not be changed?

May I suggest a system that is in use in many public libraries of the state, and in some college libraries, especially where the stacks are closed to the public? The study desks in the main reading room are all numbered. When a person desires a book, she puts in a call card, and in addition to her name

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