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First Taught in Log Cabin; Headed College 27 Years

Dr. Brandenburg's Life Story Shows
American Boy Climbing Up By Hard
Work And Pluck To Place Of Distinction

Dr. Brandenburg exemplified two truths that have been exemplified over and over again in America: that a boyhood on the farm teaches the industry necessary to success elsewhere, and that it is no handicap to be born into humble circumstances.

Dr. Brandenburg was always an exceedingly hard worker. He knew in his early years, just as thousands of eminent Americans have known, the hardships of getting an education without cash reserves for that purpose.

Dr. Brandenburg grew up on a farm in Clayton county, Iowa. Until he was seventeen years old, his education was confined wholly to the rural schools. He then attended high school in the little Iowa town of Volga. He began his career as an educator at the age of 21 by teaching in a rural school house twelve by fourteen feet long. His next teaching was in the rural school he had attended. From there he was called to Volga, where he was made assistant principal and served for three years. After that he made up his mind it was time to go to Drake University. All of his advanced education was had after marriage.

He was graduated from Drake University, Des Moines, in 1903, where he also later received the degree of master of arts. The honorary degree of doctor of laws was bestowed upon him in 1924 by Monmouth College, after he had become influential in the academic world.

Dr. Brandenburg had about 42 years to his credit as an educational executive, fifteen of these before he came to Kansas. He was a superintendent of public schools for more than thirteen years—five years at Capitol Park, Des Moines, five at Mason City, Iowa, and three and one-half at Oklahoma City. It was his pioneering at Oklahoma City in giving industrial training its due place in the school program that brought him into prominence.

The former Iowa educator was chosen as president of the College in Pittsburg in 1913. He took charge just after a legislative storm in regard to state educational policies had cleared the air.

The Pittsburg and the Hays colleges had been from their beginnings branches of the State Normal School at Emporia. The advocates of their academic independence had been defeated in 1911, and R. S. Russ, the principal at the Pittsburg school, had been discharged that same year for standing with them.

But two years later the independence movement was victorious at Topeka, and Dr. George E. Myers, Russ's successor, had to go in his turn. The newly created Board of Administration then went outside the state to choose for the State Manual Training Normal School, as the Pittsburg college was then called, a man who was free from all connection with the controversy.

The growth of K. S. T. C. under Dr. Brandenburg's administration has been remarkable. The school, only ten years old when he took charge, had only two buildings; now it has fifteen. It then had 40 instructors and 450 students; now it has a faculty of 140 and 1350 regular college students besides a training school of 350 pupils. Its curriculum has so broadened

and intensified and it has become so favorably known that it ranks, in plant, faculty, and enrollment, among the most important colleges in the United States and is fully accredited by the university and college accrediting agencies.

The College was founded in 1903 as a special training school for teachers of manual arts and home economics, but it had already outgrown in part these limitations when Dr. Brandenburg became president. So, when the name of the College was changed in 1922 from State Manual Training Normal to Kansas State Teachers College of Pittsburg, the change of name merely marked a change in

emphasis that, under President Brandenburg's leadership, had taken place several years in the past.

Dr. Brandenburg did not shut himself up in his office and issue notice that he would confer with no one but department heads. He was, when busy, even more accessible to students than to teachers, and in the summer time his office door often stood wide open. When the enrollment was smaller than it is today, he took pride in knowing personally nearly every student.

It was under President Brandenburg's direction that the College established in 1929 the Graduate Division with a year's course leading to the master of science degree. President Brandenburg pioneered both in Kansas and, through his influence in the American Association of Teachers Colleges, in other states as well for thus raising the level of teacher training over the country.

Distinguished in any gathering, President Brandenburg was a familiar figure in the educational circles of Kansas and the United States. For nineteen years he was a member of the state board of education, in the

last six years by special appointment of the governor. He was a former president of the Schoolmaster's Club of Kansas.

His most recent recognition in things educational was his election last winter to the presidency of the American Association of Teachers Colleges, on an important committee of which, that on accrediting and classification, he had served for several years. His death is a distinct interruption to the work of that organization this year.

President Brandenburg also served as president of the Kansas State Teachers Association through 1938. He was elected to this honor at the same time he was rounding out his twenty-fifth year in the presidency here. In 1935-37 he was on the ex-

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The First School He Taught

ecutive committee of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

A week of festivities at the College in March of 1938 marked the institution's celebration of his twenty-fifth year in the presidency. Eminent educators from various parts of the country, members of the board of regents, and state leaders, including Governor Walter Huxman, and alumni, participated in the various programs.

The President's interests were not confined to professional matters. For more than twenty-two years he

served as director of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce and was president of the chamber in 1927. For many years he had charge of the 17th degree of the Scottish Rite Masonry. In 1929 he was potentate of the Mirza Shrine of Pittsburg.

A member of the Christian church, he formerly taught for a number of years a Bible class in the Pittsburg church. He was always in much demand as a speaker for special educational occasions, particularly teacher's conventions and high school and college commencements.

The Highest Degree

A cherished honor that came to President Brandenburg Dec. 18, 1939, was the conferring on him at Wichita of the thirty-third and last degree in Masonry. Last year was the first year that it had ever been conferred outside of Washington, D. C. The presiding officer was John H. Cowles, Grand Commander, the Supreme Council of the Thirty-third and Last Degree, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Free-Masonry, Southern Jurisdiction, U. S. A.