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### Article, "Last Tribute for 'Prexy'"

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# LAST TRIBUTE FOR 'PREXY'

IMPRESSIVE RITES HELD AT  
COLLEGE AUDITORIUM  
THIS AFTERNOON.

*Headlight Oct 31 1940*  
PRAISE FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
OF LATE EDUCATOR HERE

F. W. BRINKERHOFF AND DR.  
DELLINGER SPEAKERS AT  
FUNERAL.

Hundreds of Co-workers and Friends  
From Over State Here for  
Brandenburg Rites; Burial  
in Highland Park.

Pittsburg and the College, as well as many of his associates in the field of education over the state, joined today in last rites for Dr. William A. Brandenburg, president of the College for more than a quarter of a century, who was laid to rest in Highland Park cemetery this afternoon following services in College auditorium.

Students, faculty and townspeople filed past the bier of the president in College auditorium before the time of the funeral, and College department heads and students stood at the head of the casket while the procession passed. The body was taken to the auditorium from the home at 10 o'clock this morning.

Speakers at the funeral services were Dr. O. P. Dellinger, dean of the College and acting president, and F. W. Brinkerhoff. Scripture reading was by G. W. Trout, former dean of the College, and prayer by Rev. V. G. Nalley, pastor of the Christian church.

### Scripture by Trout.

Dean Trout read from the fourteenth chapter of John, verses one to three, "Let not your hearts be troubled. You believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go, I will come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am there you may be also."

He also read from Romans, eighth chapter, verses 37 and 39, which has to do with the triumph of the believer, from Second Corinthians, fourteenth chapter, and Second Timothy, fourth chapter, verses six and eight, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith, henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day, and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

### Kindly Leader.

Tribute was paid to President Brandenburg as a kindly leader, a friend of those in all stations of life, a bulwark with vision and the ability to accomplish his high aims.

Dean Dellinger spoke of the president's democratic spirit in leading the College to a high place among educational institutions of the nation, and said that because of his kindly, friendly advice and the help he has given to students and faculty, he is living today and will continue to live in the lives of 70,000 students who have been enrolled in the College since he became president.

Mr. Brinkerhoff told of the recognition in his profession which came to President Brandenburg in the state and nation, his characteristic enthusiasm, his unyielding earnestness and the wisdom gained in long years of successful experience in the profession.

### Unselfish Service.

"Those who are familiar with the history of this institution know of the unselfish service of members of the faculty, of the long hours that many of them worked in the earlier years, of the nights of traveling and teaching and of the lack of financial remuneration for them," Mr. Brinkerhoff said. "President Brandenburg was appreciative of this demonstration of loyalty and enthusiasm and he was proud to be able to serve in this line of duty with them."

"The qualities of a leader are revealed most truly in the manner in which he exercises a sympathetic interest in those he leads. This institution is a monument, not only to the great leader who has fallen, but to those who served under his

inspiring leadership. And President Brandenburg, in his unselfish devotion to the College and his appreciation of his associates, were he able to speak today, would be the first to approve this statement."

Music for the services included

an organ prelude, "Funeral March," (Chopin), by Miss Rose Buchmann; "The Twenty-third Psalm" (Schubert), sung by the Polymnia Club with Miss Gabriella Campbell as director; violin solo by Miss Rhetia Hesselberg with Miss Ruth Stamm as accompanist, and "Lead Kindly Light" (Dykes), sung by Prof. Claude Newcomb.

### City Schools Close.

City offices and the public schools joined the College in closing today for the funeral of the distinguished educator and civic leader. Many of his colleagues in the field of education came from a distance for the services.

"Nothing could be more appropriate or fitting than that we should take leave of our friend here at the scene of the trials that tested his resourcefulness, his industry, his courage and his sublime faith in the justice of his cause, and of triumphs that tested the character of his leadership," Mr. Brinkerhoff said. "Here he performed the duties of the administrator, carried the heavy burden of the executive, supplied the virile inspiration for faculty and student body alike, and saw the campus receive structure after structure in response to his proposals."

### Monument in Life.

"Here and nearby he presided over the ceremonies that climaxed each of 27 years of work. Here he was happy in the achievement of great success. Here is the material monument to the life and labors of William A. Brandenburg."

"And the thousands of men and women who took from his hand here the awards they had won comprise a living memorial. And so it is well that we should choose these scenes so familiar to him for our final parting."

"President Brandenburg assumed the responsibilities of his post in Pittsburg when the institution had few students, a small faculty and facilities that were very meagre. But he brought unbounded enthusiasm for his job and full confidence in the future of the institution. That enthusiasm he never lost. But it took more than enthusiasm to accomplish what was accomplished. It took ambition, it took ability, it took learning, it took judgment, it took courage, it took leadership. All of these President Brandenburg possessed."

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**LAST TRIBUTE**

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"There is no occasion to review the progress of the institution under his guidance. Here it stands, offering unimpeachable evidence of competent direction with wisdom and vision.

#### Quotes From Inaugural.

"On March 27, 1914, the state, through its board of administration, formally committed the care of this institution to President Brandenburg. In his inaugural address, in which he outlined his views of education comprehensively, the new president said:

"There is but one thing greater in this world than being a great teacher. That one thing is being a truly worthy teacher of teachers."

"To that statement President Brandenburg adhered rigidly. He appreciated that he was a teacher of teachers and that those who were to work with him were to be teachers. He never lost sight of his guiding principle nor neglected his central responsibility. A teacher of teachers he remained to the end.

#### Wide Recognition.

"Recognition in his profession came to President Brandenburg in the state and in the nation. He received the highest honors of the teachers of Kansas. He had served for many years on the state board of education. He was an active and important member of organizations covering more than his own state. And this year he had risen to the presidency of the national organization of teachers' colleges, a summit of recognition in his field of labor.

"To all of these assignments he carried his characteristic enthusiasm, his unyielding earnestness and the wisdom gained in his long years of successful experience in the profession. President Brandenburg was a hard worker. Hours meant nothing to him. When there was work to do, he insisted on doing it.

"The hardships of travel to many and far places he considered a justified sacrifice in behalf of the institution and the profession he represented.

"The presidency of this institution, or of any educational institution, makes tremendous demands on the executive. He deals not only with the problems of business management, but with the problems of human relations as embodied in a large staff of assistants and in a group of young men and women known as the student body.

If a president were so disposed, he would have plenty to do without leaving the campus or even his office. But President Brandenburg conceived it to be his duty not only to administer the affairs of this College but to represent the College on the outside.

#### Widely Known.

"Graduates, in a far-flung circle of professional service, inevitably called to him for visits. There were commencements and other occasions where his platform services were sought. Only the limitations of time were allowed to interfere with his responses to these calls. Consequently, President Brandenburg became one of the best-known Kansans of this day. In hundreds of communities throughout the state, and year after year, he appeared to accommodate some graduate or some other friend of the College. This involved sacrifice of comfort, a drain on his health and often a personal expense. Uniformly, if admonished to reduce such activities, his answer was that he was doing what this College was entitled to have done for it.

"My first view of President Brandenburg was in the summer of 1913 when he first came to Pittsburg, the president-elect of this institution. He was filled with enthusiasm. He believed there was a magnificent

future for the school. He planned to build and build and build. And he did.

"My last chance to see him was across the way a few weeks ago. The freshmen were being initiated. President Brandenburg, plainly stricken with illness, stood there in the coolness of a September night and held the flaming torch from which each freshman lighted a torch.

#### Perfect Finale.

"For nearly 30 years he had been lighting the torches of learning and of opportunity through learning for his freshmen.

"If there had to be a final view of this great man, a view that symbolizes his career, this was perfect.

"To William A. Brandenburg, Christian gentleman, husband, father, citizen, executive, administrator and man among men, farewell." Mr. Brinkerhoff concluded.

"Dr. Brandenburg came here in 1913 as the first president of the College," Dean Dellinger said. "He brought to the College, although we did not know it at the time, all the qualities of a great president.

"The College needed, when he came, prestige, peace, friendship and support of the people of the community and the state. It needed a faculty and student body. As the years went on he brought to the College these things.

#### School Is Monument.

"Today the College, a living monument to this great man's devotion, courage and ambition, is recognized in the state as one of the leading educational institutions and throughout the nation as one of the two or three outstanding teacher training institutions.

"Gradually the College has come to have the friendship of the men and women and all the educational institutions of the state. Only a few weeks ago one of the men high up in education said, 'I believe your president has brought to your institution a feeling of friendship, confidence and support of the educational fraternity of the state accorded few institutions.'

"He selected his faculty carefully and gave them every support after he selected them. He was loyal to a fault. They loved him and gave him, because of his untiring support of them, their best efforts at all times.

#### Loyal and Untiring.

"He will live in the lives of the present faculty as a president who was loyal and untiring in his efforts in their behalf, kind, friendly, lovable. But above all, self-sacrificing, even to his own detriment at times, in their behalf.

"Probably his greatest interest was the student body. He loved them because there were so many more of them. Whether they were brilliant, efficient students, or rascals, he loved them. It made no difference whether they were well dressed or in overalls, they had access to his office and to him at all times. He had a belief that education was not for the few, but that there was education for each boy and girl who desired it. The only qualification he asked of a student was that he have a hunger and thirst after education.

#### Democratic Leader.

"Dr. Brandenburg's government of the College was most democratic. After employing a faculty member, the teacher was allowed the greatest freedom and was encouraged to develop to the fullest extent of his own capacity.

"The only rule he ever gave the students was that they should do what they thought was right and proper at all times.

"I believe the two greatest pleasures of his life were the success and high places reached by students of this institution, and the saving of students who might be on the wrong track.

#### Help for Students.

"President Brandenburg, because of his kindly, friendly advice, and the help that he has given to students and faculty, is living today and will continue to live in the lives of 70,000 students who

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Last Tribute (cont.)

have been enrolled in this institution since he has been president and in the lives of more than 18,000 students on whom he has conferred credentials."

Active pallbearers were: Dr. Ernest Mahan, Dr. Paul Murphy, Dr. Ralph Smith, Prof. William Matthews, Dr. Ralph Wells, Prof. Leroy Brewington, Prof. J. U. Massey and Prof. Frank German, all of the College.

Honorary pallbearers included these professors at the College: Prof. L. A. Guthridge, Dr. Samuel J. Pease, Prof. G. W. Weede, Prentice Gudgen, John Lance, C. H. Morgan, Dr. W. T. Bawden, Prof. George Braley, Prof. R. W. Hart, Prof. R. G. Smith, Dr. Walter McCray, Dr. L. C. Heckert, Dr. C. B. Pyle, Prof. O. F. Grubbs, Dr. J. R. Pelsma, Prof. J. A. G. Shirk, Dr. H. H. Hall, Dr. Walter S. Lyerla, Prof. Russell B. Meyers and Prof. Ernest Bennett.

**Several Visitors.**

Business men included J. T. Moore, George Weeks, H. A. Holzer, O. L. Stamm, Thomas McNally, Max Frohlich, J. B. Towner, C. F. Spencer, M. M. Rose, I. D. Gray, M. G. Vincent, Robert S. Lemon, Joe Scott, Ira Clemens, Lawrence Gibson, Maynard Angwin, L. M. Resler, Dr. Herbert Smith, John A. Fenimore, C. O. Davis, E. R. Caskey, E. D. Henneberry, Fred B. Holden, George K. Mackie, Jay N. Patmor, Paul Crowell, J. A. Gibson, J. J. Nesch and Charles H. Howe.

Visiting pallbearers included Dr. Claude Young, Don Williams, Rex Walls, K. W. Snyder and Herbert Conins, all of Fort Scott; President E. C. Rarick of the Fort Hays State college; President Thomas Butcher of the Emporia Teachers college; B. H. Johnson, C. M. Miller and W. T. Markham, all of Topeka; Drew McLaughlin of Paola; Superintendent of Schools K. W. McFarland of Coffeyville and President Roy Ellis of the Southwestern Teachers college at Springfield, representing the American Association of Teachers Colleges.

**PAY TRIBUTES TO  
BRANDENBURG IN  
RITES YESTERDAY**  
*Pittsburg Sun*  
*Nov. 1, 1940*  
**Dellinger and Brinkerhoff Speak; National Figures at Funeral.**

Pittsburg, the College and state and national figures in the educational world joined in tribute yesterday afternoon to Dr. William A. Brandenburg. Flowers, banking the entire front of the auditorium, were from students, organizations and friends who had known him through his more than 27 years as president of the College.

Before services in crowded College auditorium in Science Hall, students, faculty, townspeople and visitors passed the bier. Department heads and students guarded the casket. The body was taken to the auditorium in the morning, to lie in state until time for services.

Burial was in Highland Park cemetery.

Speakers at the funeral services were Dr. O. P. Dellinger, dean of the College and acting president, and F. W. Brinkerhoff. Scripture reading was by G. W. Trout, former dean of the College, and prayer by Rev. V. G. Nalley, pastor of the Christian church.

*Same article  
under "Last  
Tribute".*