

Pittsburg State University

Pittsburg State University Digital Commons

William Aaron Brandenburg Documents

William Aaron Brandenburg Collection

2016-12-01

Article, "'Prexy' Dies in St. Louis"

Pittsburg Headlight

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/brandenburg_history

Recommended Citation

Pittsburg Headlight, "Article, "'Prexy' Dies in St. Louis"" (2016). *William Aaron Brandenburg Documents*. 40.
https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/brandenburg_history/40

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the William Aaron Brandenburg Collection at Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in William Aaron Brandenburg Documents by an authorized administrator of Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@pittstate.edu.

114
Pittsburg, Kansas, Tuesday Evening, October 29, 1940.

COLLEGE HEAD DIES TODAY



PRESIDENT W. A. BRANDENBURG

Headlight Oct 29 40

'PREXY' DIES IN ST. LOUIS

Headlight Oct 29 40
W. A. BRANDENBURG SUC-
CUMBS IN HOSPITAL
EARLY TODAY.

BODY ARRIVES HERE LATE
TODAY; ILL SINCE EARLY FALL

VETERAN EDUCATOR, 71, FAILS
TO RALLY AFTER RELAPSE;
HERE 27 YEARS.

Long Prominent in National Edu-
cational Circles; Devoted to
Civic Work; Pittsburgers Pay
Tribute to Life Here.

Dr. William A. Branden-
burg, 71, president of the
College since 1913 and widely
known educator, died at 1:45
o'clock this morning in St.
Mary's hospital in St. Louis
after having been critically ill
for several days.

Stricken with complications
while recovering from an at-
tack of colitis at the home of
his daughter, Mrs. H. K. Leed-
ham, in Webster Grove, St.
Louis suburb, he was taken
to the hospital where he died
this morning. The relapse, due
to influenza and kidney
trouble, came last Thursday.
Dr. Brandenburg went to St.
Louis for treatment several
weeks ago.

Mrs. Brandenburg and other
members of the family had been
with him.

Born in Iowa.

Survivors include the widow,
three daughters, Mrs. Glen Halli-
day of Pittsburg, Mrs. Leedham of

'PREXY' DIES

(Continued From Page One)

RATNER COMMENT.

Governor Payne H. Ratner received the news of the death of President W. A. Brandenburg of the College here this morning just before he left Pittsburg for Kansas City. Governor Ratner said:

"Kansas has sustained a great loss in the death of President Brandenburg, and education one of its real leaders. I have lost a long time personal friend. What President Brandenburg did for the Pittsburg College and the cause of education could hardly be overestimated. His passing saddens us all but there is consolation in his achievements, both as an educator and an executive of one of our great schools. In addition to his career as an educator, he always took his part as an active and conscientious citizen. He was an outstanding example of one who, busy as he was with his chosen profession, always assumed fully all the obligations and responsibilities of good citizenship.

Webster Grove, Mo., and Mrs. Lyle Carney of Gallup, N. M., and two sons, Harold of Columbus and Dr. William A. Brandenburg, jr., of William Woods College, Fulton, Mo.

Born Oct. 10, 1869, in Volga, Ia., Dr. Brandenburg was graduated from Drake University and later taught at Capital Park in Des Moines, and was superintendent of schools at Mason City, Ia., and Oklahoma City. He came to the College as president in March, 1913. He held an honorary LL.D. degree from Monmouth, Ill., College.

Dr. Brandenburg was president of the American Association of Teachers Colleges, and had held many other high positions in the educational world.

Prominent in civic affairs and Masonry, he was president of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce in 1927, director of the board for fourteen years, director of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce for several years, served as illustrious potentate of Mirza Temple of the Shrine in 1928 and had charge of the seventeenth degree of Scottish Rite Masonry in Fort Scott for many years.

Reputation as Builder.

Dr. Brandenburg was a member of the First Christian church.

While his reputation as a builder and educator grew as the College here developed rapidly from a small beginning, Dr. Brandenburg became well known as a speaker, and addressed conventions and educational gatherings throughout the nation.

Long associated with the development of education in Kansas, Dr. Brandenburg was president of the Kansas State Teachers Association in 1938 and served five years as a member of the committee on accrediting and classification of the American Association of Teachers Colleges.

Dr. Brandenburg served as a member of the state board of education, the state textbook commission and as president of the Schoolmasters Club of Kansas.

Only Two Buildings.

When he came to the College in 1913 there were only two buildings on the campus. The school's growth was steady and ten addi-

tional buildings were constructed during his tenure.

A popular, beloved figure on the College campus, Dr. Brandenburg, even when busy with administrative duties has been as accessible to students as to members of his faculty. His office door has always been open to students and he has always had time to help them with their difficulties. When the enrollment of the College was smaller than it is today, he took pride in knowing nearly every student.

Industry Necessary.

Dr. Brandenburg's career exemplified two truths: 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. He has always been a hard worker and he knew in his early years the hardships of getting an education without cash reserves for that purpose. He grew up on a farm in Clayton County in Iowa, and attended high school at the neighboring town of Volga before enrolling at Drake University.

Dr. O. P. Dellinger, dean of the College, and Miss Belle Provorse, private secretary to the president and financial secretary of the College, have been in charge of College administration during the president's illness, and will continue in that capacity until notice from the state board of regents.

Dr. Dellinger said today that a special assembly has been called for 10 o'clock tomorrow morning at which time a silent hour will be observed by the students in tribute to Dr. Brandenburg. It will not be a memorial assembly, but just a special recognition in honor of the president.

May Be Thursday.

No arrangements have been made as yet for funeral services, but probably will be held Thursday afternoon.

The body of the College's president for the past 27 years is being brought here and members of the family, who were with him at the time of his death, are enroute here. The body will arrive late today and will be taken to the Brenner chapel.

Dr. Dellinger indicated that plans for the homecoming celebration at the College this week will be changed, but added that no definite announcement could be made until funeral arrangements are completed.

Cancel Social Events.

Social affairs, such as the homecoming party scheduled for Saturday night after the homecoming football game, will not be held. A series of Pittsburg Teachers College reunion dinners are scheduled at the various sectional meetings of the Kansas State Teachers Association Friday, and some action will be taken later in regard to plans for these events.

Pittsburgers who long have been associated with President Brandenburg in his civic and school work here, today paid tributes to his accomplishments. Some of the comments include:

Jay N. Patmor: "It was a great shock to learn of Dr. Brandenburg's passing. He was a great booster for Pittsburg. He will be greatly missed throughout Pittsburg as well as on the College campus."

Outstanding Citizen.

R. E. Mangrum: "Dr. Brandenburg was a most successful president."

L. M. Gibson: "He was undoubtedly one of the most outstanding citizens of Pittsburg. He has done as much for Pittsburg as anyone."

C. O. Davis: "Pittsburg has lost a great man. He was always willing to do more than his share for Pittsburg and the community."

Potentate Robert S. Lemon: "The Shrine feels it has suffered a great loss of a faithful and reliable member and past potentate. The entire organization joins in an expression of sympathy to Mrs. Brandenburg and the family."

Friend of City.

George B. Weeks: "He was one of the best friends I had, and one of the Chamber of Commerce's best friends. He was the most sincere, civic-minded worker with any chamber of commerce or for any city, anywhere."

M. M. Rose: "Education has lost one of its greatest friends in the passing of Dr. Brandenburg. He was one of the nation's outstanding leaders, a great friend to education and to youth."

T. J. McNally: "Pittsburg has suffered one of its greatest losses in years. The institution has suffered an irreparable loss. Mr. Brandenburg will be a hard man to replace."

Prexy Dies (cont.)

Paul Crowell: "Mr. Brandenburg was a vital factor in the building of the College. His association with the business men was pleasant and his work with the Chamber of Commerce invaluable. He will be missed for his leadership. So few men will so much of their time and energy to the community as Mr. Brandenburg did."

I. D. Gray: "Mr. Brandenburg was a wonderful man."

Great Educator.

J. F. Schlanger: "Mr. Brandenburg was one of the greatest builders of education in this part of the country. He gave his time to help build Pittsburg to a first class city and was always a booster for the city. He will be missed very much by the community."

H. A. Holzer: "This loss is irreparable to the community. It will take a long time for us to get adjusted to get along without Mr. Brandenburg. He was a mighty fine man socially, in business and in civic affairs."

F. W. Brinkerhoff, president of the Chamber of Commerce: "For more than a quarter of a century and up to the day he left Pittsburg, never to return, President Brandenburg was an aggressive, enthusiastic and effective member of the Chamber of Commerce. He served as president and as director and as chairman of committees. There is a big vacancy for someone to fill."

NATIVE OF IOWA.

Although Dr. Brandenburg's activities were long associated with

the educational growth of Kansas, he was an Iowan both by birth and education. He was born Oct. 10, 1869, at Volga, Ia. He took his first degree at Drake University in Des Moines and he was superintendent of the Capital Park schools at Des Moines from 1900 to 1905.

From there he went to Mason City, Ia., as superintendent until 1910, when he went to Oklahoma City, where he was superintendent until 1913 when he came to the College.

To make the change from the Oklahoma City post to the Pittsburg Teachers College, then a struggling little state normal, with a small faculty and a small student body, required considerable faith in himself. Nevertheless, Dr. Brandenburg made the change. He came to Kansas to the Normal, which then was an auxiliary to the Emporia State Normal. There were only two buildings on the campus.

Lost One Building.

One year later, one of the two buildings, Russ Hall, caught fire, on June 29, 1914, when lightning struck the building. The fire cost the life of Rex R. Tanner, an alumnus, who was aiding in fighting the blaze.

President Brandenburg was one of the first on the scene. For hours he aided firemen and he worked until noon the next day, when others finally persuaded him to return home for food and dry clothing.

Undaunted, President Brandenburg was one of the leaders in the campaign that raised funds to rebuild Russ Hall within 48 hours after the disaster. The rebuilding of Russ Hall was really the first step in the program that brought the College to its present size. Citizens gave more than \$100,000 to erect the present Russ Hall. The next legislature paid back the money to the citizens.

Other buildings were added as follows: Heating plant, 1914; mine rescue building, 1917; Carney Hall, 1918-19; cafeteria, 1921; gymnasium, 1922; Frances Willard Hall, 1923; Porter Library, 1926; Horace Mann training school, 1927; Mechanics Arts building, 1927; Music Hall, 1928. The Industrial Arts building is the only structure remaining on the campus that was built when Dr. Brandenburg came to Pittsburg, but at that time it was unequipped.

Reputation Grew.

Dr. Brandenburg's reputation as a builder and educator grew through the years. He made frequent appearances on platforms all over the country, addressing conventions and educational gatherings throughout the nation.

In 1921 Dr. Brandenburg became a member of the state board of education by virtue of his office at the College. When the board was reorganized in 1933, he was appointed by the governor to serve on the new board.

In 1925 he was awarded an LL.D. from Monmouth College in Monmouth, Ill. He was a member of Phi Beta Kappa from Drake.

Dr. Brandenburg served five years as a member of the committee on accrediting and classification of the American Association of Teachers Colleges. He inspected teachers colleges and was asked to present the graduate status in the teachers colleges to the organization. He was elected president this year of the American Association of Teachers Colleges, and he regarded that honor as the climax of his career as an educator. He also was a member of the executive committee of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools from 1935 to 1937. He was president of the Kansas State Teachers Association in 1938.

Active in Civic Affairs.

In addition to his long list of educational achievements, Dr. Brandenburg was prominent in civic affairs. He was active in Masonry and he served as illustrious potentate of Mirza Temple of the Shrine in 1928. He had charge of the seventeenth degree Scottish Rite Masonry of Fort Scott for many years.

In 1927 he was president of the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce and he was director of the board for fourteen years. He also was a director of the Kansas Chamber of Commerce several years.

He also was a member of the state textbook commission and president of the Schoolmasters Club of Kansas.

Silver Jubilee.

Dr. Brandenburg was a member of the First Christian church and prominent in its affairs.

Dr. Brandenburg's 25th anniversary of his coming to the Pittsburg Teachers College was celebrated March 18, 1938, with a special program at which Governor Walter A. Huxman, who was in the statehouse at that time, and three former governors, Jonathan M. Davis, Ben S. Paulen and Clyde M. Reed, appeared to pay tribute. Greetings were extended by all prominent educators of the state and throughout the nation.

Headlight Oct 30 1940
PREXY.

There are residents of Pittsburg, maybe not many but a few, who recall the William A. Brandenburg who came to Pittsburg in the summer of 1913. He was comparatively a young man, just a few years past 40. The state board of administration, then in charge of the state's big schools, had discovered him in the superintendency of the public schools of Oklahoma City. Attention had been attracted to him by distinguished work there. The announcement of his election to be the first president of the College, at that time officially known as the State Manual Training Normal, was unheralded. The Oklahoma City educator, whose previous educational work had been in Iowa, gave the impression of youthful enthusiasm as he looked over the little school housed in two buildings at the southern edge of Pittsburg. He had seen in the school not the meager equipment it had, nor the small faculty and student body. He might have been interested in the history of its founding and the story of its fight for survival against odds. But it was obvious to those to whom he talked that what the new administrator saw was a large institution in the future. On that summer now nearly three decades in the past, the newcomer must have dreamed of a great achievement in education that would in large measure be his handiwork as an executive.

See article 'Prexy' in Collegis Section