



03.1995.1 Hartsville College
Bartholomew County
Marker Text Review Report
06/30/2011

Marker Text

Original site of coeducational United Brethren school founded 1850 as Hartsville Academy by public act of Indiana General Assembly. Campus moved four blocks south, circa 1865; destroyed by fire, January 1898. Many graduates became distinguished citizens in their communities throughout the state and nation.

Report

While the text of the Hartsville College marker is correct, much important information is missing, making some statements misleading for a reader. This is true for the founding and naming of the school. This report will also provide additional information about female students, the effect of the Civil War, the split within the Brethren church which led to the closing of Hartsville College, and the continuation of its legacy at Huntington College.

The marker text's claim that the school was founded in 1850 by the United Brethren may be only part of the story of the school's founding. According to an *Indiana Magazine of History* article (1915) and a *Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction* (1917), the school was established by a vote of Haw Creek Township citizens on April 3, 1847, and work was begun on the two-story building.¹ According to the *History of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ* (1861), the Brethren were actively trying to establish a school in the area at this time, and through their conferences across the Midwest, they had the means to do so.² Former Hartsville professor, O. W. Pentzer, in his history of Hartsville (1928), states that Haw Creek Township citizens voted in February 1848 to transfer all claims to the building to the United Brethren Church, which would complete it and open a school.³ According to all four previously mentioned sources, this transfer was made May 26, 1849.⁴ The school was completed and incorporated as Hartsville Academy by act of the Indiana General Assembly approved January 12, 1850.⁵

While the marker is named "Hartsville College," and the text states it was founded as "Hartsville Academy," there were actually two name changes. Incorporated in 1850 as "Hartsville Academy,"⁶ primary sources, including newspaper articles, official annual catalogues, and a speech, show that the name was soon changed to Hartsville University.⁷ According to an 1891 Federal Bureau of Education circular, Hartsville Academy changed to Hartsville University by act of the Indiana General Assembly February 8, 1851.⁸ On March 5, 1883, by act of the General Assembly, the name of the school changed again from "Hartsville University" to "Hartsville College."⁹

The marker text correctly states that Hartsville College was coeducational. However, according to Richard G. Boone's, *A History of Education in Indiana* (1892), while many of Indiana's denominational colleges eventually admitted women, Hartsville was perhaps unique in that it was coeducational from its inception.¹⁰ Primary sources including annual catalogues, newspapers, and speeches to students



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document that women attended Hartsville, and that at least one female professor was employed there.¹¹ In an 1856 address, the Reverend S.J. Browne stated that many women passed exams “with great credit and honor.”¹² All of the available issues of the *Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Hartsville University* illustrate that men outnumbered women, but that women indeed attended the school.¹³ According to Pentzer, a large boarding house for women opened in 1866 and female literary societies developed, operating under the name “Germanial.”¹⁴

The marker could benefit from a note on the effect of the Civil War on Hartsville’s operations. According to Pentzer, the war effort slowed construction on the building for the newly moved school, which could not be completed until 1865.¹⁵ Pentzer provides testimony of Hartsville students who recalled the financial burden inflicted by the Civil War on the school. Within Pentzer’s history, a “Reminiscence” by Dr. Arne Wilbur Clouse concurs that the “economic crisis which slowly developed as an aftermath of the Civil War” led to the closing of Hartsville.¹⁶ In addition, the *Hartsville University’s Annual Catalogue for 1872-3* shows that no students graduated between the years 1859 and 1865.¹⁷ These sources show that the situation at Hartsville reflected changes at institutions across the state as young Hoosiers left home and school during the Civil War.

After the Civil War, ongoing financial problems and a division within the United Brethren Church threatened the health of the school. The *Annual Catalogue of Hartsville University for 1875-76* petitioned readers to donate to an endowment fund of \$10,000 in order to “avoid financial difficulties, and give greater efficiency to every department in the college.”¹⁸ An October 2, 1889 *Logansport Journal* article described Hartsville as being “in a bad way financially.”¹⁹ An October 8, 1889 *Journal* article, stated that the United Brethren operating in Hartsville “are waging a bitter church war among themselves.”²⁰ According to this article, the split originated from those who supported secret societies, known as the “radicals”, and those who opposed the societies, the “Tights.” The “Tights” expelled those belonging to the G.A.R., as well as the semi-secret Grange society.²¹ On December 10, 1891, the *Logansport Pharos* reported that Professor Phillip Fix bequeathed \$5,000 to Hartsville on the condition that the school remain under control of the United Brethren and that Fix’s son be retained as a professor.²² According to the *Logansport Report*, in 1893, the liberal faction gained control of the institution and ruled that Fix’s donation be maintained, despite the change in leadership.²³ One June 19, 1897, the *Logansport Pharos* reported that the school had been struggling to stay open and that the United Brethren Church had split regarding secret societies.²⁴ The article stated that the conservative faction resigned from the college and continued under the United Brethren name to establish a new church.

While the marker wording implies that the school functioned until the 1898 fire, the school at Hartsville actually closed in 1897 and operations were transferred to a new school in Huntington, Indiana. Newspaper articles indicate that the school closed in April 1897 because of the split within the Brethren and financial difficulties.²⁵ Hartsville’s board of trustees voted to close the institution when faculty resigned due to the lack of student attendance on opening day. According to a June 19, 1897



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Logansport Pharos article, the closing of Hartsville College “had been anticipated” because “for some time the college has been struggling.”²⁶ The article states that the school did graduate one pupil that year. According to a 1917 *Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction*, “the Board of Trustees of Hartsville College in their last meeting turned over to the general Board of Education, all books, records of proceedings, grades, etc, and recommended that the new college should confer degrees upon the students then in the senior class...and continue the employ of the professors then in charge.”²⁷ This “new college” was “a more centrally located school”²⁸ at Huntington, Indiana. The president of Hartsville College was then elected president of the Huntington school, which was named Central College on September 1, 1897. Hartsville students were transferred to Huntington.²⁹ The 1935 *Huntington College Bulletin* states that, “virtually Huntington is a continuation of Hartsville College.”³⁰

The *Columbus Daily Herald* reported in 1898 that the former school building was used for church services in the period between the school’s closing and the fire.³¹ The 1898 *Columbus Daily Herald* article stated that Hartsville College was destroyed “by the act of the incendiary who saturated the floor of Hartsville college hall with coal oil.”³² The article went on to say that the fire began at 5 a.m. and became so furious as to alert the whole town. Hartsville lacked methods to extinguish the fire, so citizens could only watch the fire destroy the building.³³ Secondary source, *Up from Stubble: A Saga of College Park Ubee, Indiana, 1973*, cites an 1898 *Evening Republic* article that claims the building was “fired by enemies of the institution.”³⁴

The final statement on the marker is correct. Research shows that “distinguished” graduates worked throughout the state and nation. Annual catalogues cited throughout this report list alumni with occupations such as lawyer, doctor, and minister. A *Fort Wayne News* article, published in 1897, states that Hartsville College “is represented by former students in nearly every state.” An 1897 *Logansport Pharos* article stated that Hartsville “is well known through the country, former students having gone into all parts of the world.”³⁵ *Logansport* (1897) and *Columbus* (1898) articles stated that Hartsville graduated some of the best ministers³⁶ and finest educators in the country.³⁷



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¹ Thomas, John Hardin, "The Academies of Indiana," *Indiana Magazine of History*, 11 (March 1915): 28-29; State of Indiana Department of Public Instruction, *Twenty-Eighth Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the School Years Ending July 31, 1915, and July 31, 1916* (Fort Wayne, 1917), 156-8 (accessed June 17, 2011 through Googlebooks).

² Lawrence, John. *The History of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, Vol. II.* (Dayton, Ohio: Sowers & King, Publishers, 1861), p. 368-380.

³ Pentzer, O.W. *Hartsville College, Hartsville, Indiana, 1850-1897* (Columbus, Indiana, 1928), p.3. Indiana Historical Bureau marker file. Pentzer's history contains a section that includes reprinted primary sources and recollections by teachers and students.

⁴ Hardin, 28-9; State of Indiana Department of Public Instruction, 156-8; Lawrence, 368-80; Pentzer, 3.

⁵ *Local Laws of the State of Indiana, Passed at the Thirty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly*, (Indianapolis: John D. Defrees, State Printer, 1850), p.412-414 (accessed 15 June 2011 through GoogleBooks). (Does not include the date the law became effective).

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Browne, S.J., *Address to the Jeffersonian Society of the Hartsville University, September, 1856* (Cincinnati, no date), 15-16, Indiana State Library; *Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Hartsville University, for the Year Ending June 11, 1867* (Indianapolis, Indiana, 1867), Indiana State Library Manuscript Collection, p.10; "Hartsville University," *Warren (Indiana) Weekly*, May 12, 1881, p.4, (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive). These are the earliest primary sources located reflecting the name change. None provide exact date or reason for the change.

⁸ James Alburt Woodburn, Higher Education in Indiana, *Bureau of Education Circular of Information No. 1*, 1891 (Washington, 1891) 191-2. The circular cites the February 8, 1851 act of legislature. Indiana Historical Bureau staff was unable to locate this act.

Hardin, 28-9; State of Indiana Department of Public Instruction, 156-8. Hardin's 1915 *Indiana Magazine of History* article and the 1917 *Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction* cite 1851 as the date of the name change.

⁹ *Acts and Joint Resolutions of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana* (Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co., 1883), p.714 (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive); "Hartsville Indiana," *Warren Weekly*, April 12, 1883, p.3 (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive).

Woodburn, 191. The 1891 Federal Bureau of Education circular provides more information on why the name changed from "University" to "College."



¹⁰ Boone, Richard G. *A History of Education in Indiana*, (New York, 1892), p.82-7, 141-2, 318-19, 406-7, 410-424. Boone stated that denominational colleges such as Butler University and Asbury (DePauw) University gradually admitted women, but that Hartsville College was coeducational from the beginning.

¹¹ Browne, S.J., *Address to the Jeffersonian Society of the Hartsville University, September, 1856* (Cincinnati, no date), 15-16, Indiana State Library; "Hartsville University," *Warren (Indiana) Weekly*, May 12, 1881, p.4, (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive); "Ended its Work," *Logansport Pharos*, June 19 1897, p.2 (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive). See footnote 4 for information on annual catalogues.

¹² Browne, 15-16.

¹³ *Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Hartsville University, for the Year Ending June 11, 1867* (Indianapolis, Indiana, 1867), Indiana State Library Manuscript Collection, p.10; *Hartsville University, 1972-73* (Annual Catalogue), p.23, Indiana State Library Manuscript Collection; *Annual Catalogue of Hartsville University for 1875-76*, p. 25, Indiana State Library Manuscript Collection; *Annual Catalogue of the Officers, Faculty & Students of Hartsville College, for the College Year Ending June 9th, 1886* (Columbus, Indiana, 1886), Indiana Historical Bureau marker file; *Annual Catalogue of the Officers, Faculty & Students of Hartsville College, for the College Year Ending June 13th, 1888* (Columbus, Indiana, 1888), Indiana Historical Bureau marker file; *Annual Catalogue of the Officers, Faculty & Students of Hartsville College, for the College Year Ending June 12th, 1889* (Columbus, Indiana, 1889), Indiana Historical Bureau marker file.

¹⁴ Pentzer, O.W. *Hartsville College, Hartsville, Indiana, 1850-1897* (Columbus, Indiana, 1928), p.7, 22, Indiana Historical Bureau marker file.

"Winter Night's Fire Closed Hartsville College," (*Lafayette Journal and Courier*, January 3, 1970, p.4, Indiana Historical Bureau marker file" This source claims that the women's dorms were constructed during J. Woodbury Scribner's presidency, 1865-1873.

¹⁵ Pentzer, O.W. *Hartsville College, Hartsville, Indiana, 1850-1897* (Columbus, Indiana, 1928), p. 5-6, Indiana Historical Bureau marker file.

¹⁶ *Ibid*, 37.

¹⁷ *Hartsville University, 1872-73* (Annual Catalogue), p.23, Indiana State Library Manuscript Collection.

¹⁸ *Annual Catalogue of Hartsville University for 1875-76*, p. 25, Indiana State Library Manuscript Collection.

¹⁹ *Logansport Journal*, October 2, 1889, p.3 (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive).

²⁰ *Logansport Journal*, October 8, 1889, p.3 (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive).



²¹ Ibid.

²² *Logansport Pharos*, December 10, 1891, p.3 (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive).

²³ "Heirs Lose Their Case," *Logansport Reporter*, March 1, 1893, p.1 (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive).

²⁴ "Ended its Work," *Logansport Pharos*, June 19 1897, p.2 (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive).

²⁵ "Hartsville College Closed," *Fort Wayne News*, April 2, 1897, p.7 (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive); "One College Too Many," *Logansport Pharos*, April 3, 1897, p.2 (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive).

²⁶ "Ended its Work," *Logansport Pharos*, June 19 1897, p.2 (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive).

²⁷ State of Indiana Department of Public Instruction, *Twenty-Eighth Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the School Years Ending July 31, 1915, and July 31, 1916* (Fort Wayne, 1917) 156-8 (accessed June 17, 2011 through GoogleBooks).

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ *Huntington College Bulletin*, 32 (February, 1935), no. 3, p.4, Indiana State Library.

³¹ "In Ruins," *Columbus Daily Herald*, January 31, 1898, p. 3, Indiana State Library Microfilm.

³² "In Ruins," *Columbus Daily Herald*, January 31, 1898, p. 3, Indiana State Library Microfilm.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Chambers, Doris M. *Up from Stubble: A Saga of College Park Ubee, Indiana, 1973* (Huntington, Ind.: Hill Crest Lithographing), p. 12, Indiana Historical Society Clippings File.

³⁵ "Scientists Saved," *Logansport Pharos*, April 24, 1897, p.6 (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive).

³⁶ "Ended its Work," *Logansport Pharos*, June 19 1897, p.2 (accessed 15 June 2011 through NewspaperArchive).

³⁷ "In Ruins," *Columbus Daily Herald*, January 31, 1898, p. 3, Indiana State Library Microfilm.