

Illinois State University

**ISU ReD: Research and eData**

---

Founding Celebration

---

2-18-1965

## 1965 Founder's Day Program

Illinois State University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/founding>

---

### Recommended Citation

Illinois State University, "1965 Founder's Day Program" (1965). *Founding Celebration*. 163.  
<https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/founding/163>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by ISU ReD: Research and eData. It has been accepted for inclusion in Founding Celebration by an authorized administrator of ISU ReD: Research and eData. For more information, please contact [ISURed@ilstu.edu](mailto:ISURed@ilstu.edu).



**1857**

## **Founders Day**

**Illinois State University**

On February 18, 1857,  
Governor William Bissell  
signed into law the bill creating  
Illinois State University

# A PLACE IN HISTORY

The founding of Illinois State University, the first state-supported institution of higher learning in Illinois, is traced to December 26-28, 1853, with formation of the Teachers Institute by a group of persons interested in the future of education in the state. Out of this meeting in Bloomington came a resolution for establishment of a normal school to prepare teachers for the schools of Illinois.

Leading the movement to secure public support for this idea were such men as Jonathan Baldwin Turner, Simeon Wright, Newton Bateman, Samuel Moulton, Daniel Wilkins, Ninian Edwards and William Powell. With the guidance of State Representative Moulton, the bill creating a normal school was approved by the Legislature during the winter of 1856-57. On February 18, 1857, Governor William Bissell signed the bill establishing Illinois State Normal University.

The act provided for a committee to select a site and principal. Among the competing cities was Bloomington, and largely through the efforts of Jessie Fell, a site just north of the city was chosen. The first principal, or president, was Charles Hovey, then superintendent of Peoria schools. President Hovey spearheaded the fund drive for the first building and on September 29, 1857, the cornerstone was laid for Old Main on about 60 acres of land donated by Joseph Payne and Meschack Pike.

The first class met October 5, 1857, in Major's Hall, a rented building in Bloomington. Ten members were in the first class to graduate from the university in 1860, with exercises held in the nearly completed four-story monarch of the plains, Old Main. The railroad junction of North Bloomington, which grew up around the university, later incorporated as a town, adopting the name of Normal.

In the years that followed, the University came to be regarded as the leading institution for teacher education in the Midwest. Many of its traditionally high quality students and graduates made important contributions to every facet of local, state and national life. The University has nurtured more college presidents, dedicated teachers and administrators than any other comparable school in the country. Its educational influence is reflected in ISU's becoming the center of the Herbartian Movement in America from 1887-1900, a program providing a scientific approach to education.

The University's excellent reputation continued as it expanded its program, going successively to the bachelor's, master's and doctor's degree levels. In 1964, after more than a century, the institutions name was changed to Illinois State University.

The University's primary purpose, that of Quality in Education, remains steadfast as Illinois State looks to the future, prepared to build on a distinguished past.

## DATES OF SIGNIFICANCE

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1857 - Bill creating ISNU signed Feb. 18. North Bloomington named site May 7. Cornerstone of Old Main laid Sept. 29. Model school opens Nov. 2. | 1892 - First Index published. North Hall becomes second campus building. |
| 1860 - First class graduates June 29. Old Main dedicated Jan. 24.   | 1907 - Fifty-year celebration held.                                      |
| 1862 - High School classes begin in Model School.   | 1908 - First bachelor's degrees are conferred.                           |
| 1863 - Alumni Association Founded.  | 1945 - First master's degree is conferred.                               |
| 1872 - First college YWCA formed at ISNU.   | 1957 - University centennial is observed.                                |
| 1887 - ISNU defeats Wesleyan in first recorded football game.   | 1962 - Specialists, doctoral degrees approved.                           |
| 1888 - First Vidette published.   | 1964 - Name is changed to ISU. First Specialists degree awarded.         |

# OUR FOUNDING FATHERS



JONATHAN BALDWIN TURNER, former Illinois College professor, proposed establishment of a state normal school.



JESSE FELL, lawyer, editor, farmer and real estate promoter, led movement to have university located at Bloomington.



NEWTON BATEMAN, school principal, was selected by Teachers Institute as first leader of normal school crusade.



SIMEON WRIGHT, president of State Teachers Association, was a leader in drive to secure normal school legislation.



DANIEL WILKINS, principal of Female Institute in Bloomington, served on teachers committee drafting normal school bill.



SAMUEL W. MOULTON, state representative, managed bill to create a normal school, in House of Representatives.



# UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS



Charles E. Hovey  
1857-1862



Richard Edwards  
1862-1876



Edwin C. Hewett  
1876-1890



John W. Cook  
1890-1899



Arnold Tompkins  
1899-1900



David Felmley  
1900-1930



Harry A. Brown  
1930-1933



Raymond W. Fairchild  
1933-1955



Robert G. Bone  
1956-

## ACTING PRESIDENTS



Perkins Bass  
1861-1862



H. H. Schroeder  
1930 and 1933



Arthur H. Larsen  
1950, 1954-56



**1857**

**Founders Day**

**Illinois State University**

On February 18, 1857,  
Governor William Bissell  
signed into law the bill creating  
Illinois State University

# A PLACE IN HISTORY

The founding of Illinois State University, the first state-supported institution of higher learning in Illinois, is traced to December 26-28, 1853, with formation of the Teachers Institute by a group of persons interested in the future of education in the state. Out of this meeting in Bloomington came a resolution for establishment of a normal school to prepare teachers for the schools of Illinois.

Leading the movement to secure public support for this idea were such men as Jonathan Baldwin Turner, Simeon Wright, Newton Bateman, Samuel Moulton, Daniel Wilkins, Ninian Edwards and William Powell. With the guidance of State Representative Moulton, the bill creating a normal school was approved by the Legislature during the winter of 1856-57. On February 18, 1857, Governor William Bissell signed the bill establishing Illinois State Normal University.

The act provided for a committee to select a site and principal. Among the competing cities was Bloomington, and largely through the efforts of Jessie Fell, a site just north of the city was chosen. The first principal, or president, was Charles Hovey, then superintendent of Peoria schools. President Hovey spearheaded the fund drive for the first building and on September 29, 1857, the cornerstone was laid for Old Main on about 60 acres of land donated by Joseph Payne and Meschack Pike.

The first class met October 5, 1857, in Major's Hall, a rented building in Bloomington. Ten members were in the first class to graduate from the university in 1860, with exercises held in the nearly completed four-story monarch of the plains, Old Main. The railroad junction of North Bloomington, which grew up around the university, later incorporated as a town, adopting the name of Normal.

In the years that followed, the University came to be regarded as the leading institution for teacher education in the Midwest. Many of its traditionally high quality students and graduates made important contributions to every facet of local, state and national life. The University has nurtured more college presidents, dedicated teachers and administrators than any other comparable school in the country. Its educational influence is reflected in ISU's becoming the center of the Herbartian Movement in America from 1887-1900, a program providing a scientific approach to education.

The University's excellent reputation continued as it expanded its program, going successively to the bachelor's, master's and doctor's degree levels. In 1964, after more than a century, the institutions name was changed to Illinois State University.

The University's primary purpose, that of Quality in Education, remains steadfast as Illinois State looks to the future, prepared to build on a distinguished past.

## DATES OF SIGNIFICANCE

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1857 - Bill creating ISNU signed Feb. 18. North Bloomington named site May 7. Cornerstone of Old Main laid Sept. 29. Model school opens Nov. 2. | 1892 - First Index published. North Hall becomes second campus building. |
| 1860 - First class graduates June 29. Old Main dedicated Jan. 24.   | 1907 - Fifty-year celebration held.                                      |
| 1862 - High School classes begin in Model School.   | 1908 - First bachelor's degrees are conferred.                           |
| 1863 - Alumni Association Founded.  | 1945 - First master's degree is conferred.                               |
| 1872 - First college YWCA formed at ISNU.   | 1957 - University centennial is observed.                                |
| 1887 - ISNU defeats Wesleyan in first recorded football game.   | 1962 - Specialists, doctoral degrees approved.                           |
| 1888 - First Vidette published.   | 1964 - Name is changed to ISU. First Specialists degree awarded.         |



# OUR FOUNDING FATHERS



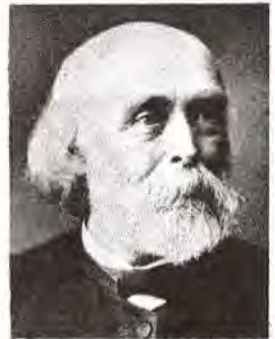
JONATHAN BALDWIN TURNER, former Illinois College professor, proposed establishment of a state normal school.



JESSE FELL, lawyer, editor, farmer and real estate promoter, led movement to have university located at Bloomington.



NEWTON BATEMAN, school principal, was selected by Teachers Institute as first leader of normal school crusade.



SIMEON WRIGHT, president of State Teachers Association, was a leader in drive to secure normal school legislation.



DANIEL WILKINS, principal of Female Institute in Bloomington, served on teachers committee drafting normal school bill.



SAMUEL W. MOULTON, state representative, managed bill to create a normal school, in House of Representatives.



# UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS



Charles E. Hovey  
1857-1862



Richard Edwards  
1862-1876



Edwin C. Hewett  
1876-1890



John W. Cook  
1890-1899



Arnold Tompkins  
1899-1900



David Felmley  
1900-1930



Harry A. Brown  
1930-1933



Raymond W. Fairchild  
1933-1955



Robert G. Bone  
1956-

## ACTING PRESIDENTS



Perkins Bass  
1861-1862



H. H. Schroeder  
1930 and 1933



Arthur H. Larsen  
1950, 1954-56