

# **HISTORY OF HANOVER COLLEGE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649752362

History of Hanover College by A. Y. Moore

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**A. Y. MOORE**

**HISTORY OF  
HANOVER  
COLLEGE**



HISTORY  
OF  
HANOVER COLLEGE

BY  
A. Y. MOORE, D. D.

INDIANAPOLIS  
THE HOLLENBECK PRESS  
1900

12 m. Nov. 11, 1905.

## PREFACE

This brief history of Hanover College owes its existence to Miss Drusilla L. Cravens. It was written at her request, to take a place in another publication. She has deemed it of sufficient importance in the interests of the College to publish it in this form. The writer desires to gratefully acknowledge the kindness of Miss Cravens in giving his brief history this separate existence. He has endeavored to set forth the historical relation of the College to the planting and growth of the Presbyterian church in Indiana. He also wishes to acknowledge his great indebtedness to the manuscript history of Hanover College by Dr. Crowe.

A. Y. MOORE.

*Hanover, December 1, 1900.*

# CONTENTS

---

## CHAPTER I

Scenery—Geological Condition—First Settlers—Williamson Dunn—Indian Warfare—Religious Revival—Rev. Wm. Robinson—Church Organization—Primitive School—Dr. Maxwell—Rev. Thomas C. Searle—The Hanover Church—Rev. John Finley Crowe—The Old Stone Church—The Presbytery of Salem—Committee on Education—The Synod of Indiana—Need of Education—Ministers—The Presbyterian Academy at Hanover—Another Revival—Charter Granted—Synod Adopts the Academy—Theological Department.

## CHAPTER II

Dr. Matthews Takes Charge of Theological Department—J. W. Cunningham, Professor of Biblical Literature—The First Misfortune—Dr. Crowe Solicits Funds—Increase in the Faculty—Dr. Blythe Becomes President—College Charter Granted—College Building Completed—Manual Training System—Hanover 1834—Financial Embarrassment—Ecclesiastical War—An Appeal in the East—Tornado of 1837—The Church to the Rescue—An Impostor.

## CHAPTER III

Dr. McMasters—A Law Department—Faculty Changes—Theological Department Removed to New Albany—Faculty Difficulties—Financial Distress—Debt Liquidated—Faculty Enlarged—Change of Location Agitated—Madison Proposition—University of Madison—College Charter Surrendered—Hanover Indignation and Gloom.

## CHAPTER IV

College Building Sold to Dr. Crowe—The Academy Revived—Discontent at Madison—Students Return to Hanover—The Philatheans Return—Dr. Crowe Begins Reorganization—Professors Desert U. of M. for Hanover—Presbyteries of Madison and Crawfordsville Declare for Hanover—Synod of Southern Indiana Adopt Hanover College—Dr. Scovel Elected President—Synod of Northern Indiana Accepts Hanover—The Prosperous Condition of 1848—Cholera Scourge of 1849—Death of Dr. Scovel—Election of Thomas E. Thomas—Purchase of College Farm—Dr. Edwards Elected President—Completion of New Building—Plan for Endowment—Administration of Dr. Wood—of Dr. Archibald—of Dr. Heckman—Endowment of Mrs. Lapsley—The President's Home—Dr. Fisher—Present Prosperity.



# History of Hanover College

---

## CHAPTER I.

Hanover College is on the Ohio river, six miles below Madison. It is on a high plateau, five hundred feet above the river, commanding an extensive view of the river and its rich valley. The location is one of exceeding beauty. It is also distinguished for its healthfulness. The College is one of the oldest literary institutions of Indiana. It has large, substantial and thoroughly equipped buildings. Its endowment supports its faculty, and its expenditures are kept within the limits of its income. Between eight and nine hundred students, having completed its courses of study, have graduated from it. Between four and five thousand students have taken these courses of study in part. Its roll of honor includes many eminent men in church and state and in educational and scientific work. While one of the earliest institutions in the State, it is young and vigorous and growing, seeking earnestly with bright prospects for larger endowment, increased equipment and greater efficiency in what has ever been its aim and endeavor, thorough work.

Nothing could be more fascinating, if it were possible to give it, than the narrative of the geological and nat-

ural history of the region where the College is located. Old Silurian rocks, far antedating the Devonian rocks of the falls at Louisville, and still further antedating the sandstones of the Evansville region, come to the surface and in immense strata rise several hundred feet in thickness above the waters of the Ohio and the valley through which they flow. Upon these rocks, covered with soil and stretching for miles back into the country with comparatively level surface, grew forests of gigantic trees when the region was first explored by the white man. And through these strata, by mighty erosive forces, whose energies figures can not tabulate, the bed of the river and its valley were in those far-away geologic ages scooped out. Opening into the valley of the river are wild and weird fissures and grand canyons running back into the country, making picturesque valleys, wild ravines, enchanting glens, beautiful water falls and great precipices. From College Point, with its extensive and charming view for many miles down the Ohio through the alternations of the seasons of spring, summer, fall and winter, there is an ever-changing panorama of beauty and glory. Through the countless centuries of geologic time these wonder-scenes of creative power and art grew. Through them LaSalle passed in his voyage down the Ohio in 1685, the first white man that upon its current penetrated to the heart of the continent. We can only surmise what his thoughts might have been as he beheld the vast extent and the undeveloped resources of the new world opened to him.

But our narrative, which is of persons and events connected with the origin, growth, struggles and permanent

establishment of Hanover College, somewhat like Darwin's survival of the fittest, begins within a very modern period, although it may be early in the history of Indiana. We begin with the appearance of the land-hunter in the region. It was shortly after the extinction of the Indian title to this part of the country by purchase of the United States government and its survey and the opening of a land office at Jeffersonville for its sale. The sound of the steamboat had not yet been heard on the Ohio. The Indian still roamed through the forests, seeking game. "Then occasionally might be seen men on horseback, usually two or three together, winding their way through the deeply shaded forests, turning aside sometimes to avoid impenetrable thickets, keeping together for company and mutual protection. They were armed with old-fashioned flint-locked rifles, for they might have an opportunity to shoot a deer or bear, or possibly they might find their rifles convenient for pacifying lurking, treacherous Indians. They were land-hunters, that is, men from Kentucky or elsewhere, seeking homes in this great wilderness. Such a party of land-hunters," continues General Dunn, "were in this region a little while after a narrow strip of land had been purchased from the Indians, recently surveyed and offered for sale by the United States government. They examined the tract of land upon which afterward Hanover was established, as well as other tracts in the neighborhood. One of them remained and inspected with great care the soil, the timber, the stones, the springs, the brooks, on this particular spot. He found that there was not an acre of it that was not fit for cultivation;