

LIVING FOUNDERS OF FAMOUS EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Romantic Figure of Mary Gwendolin Caldwell Who Founded the Catholic University of America

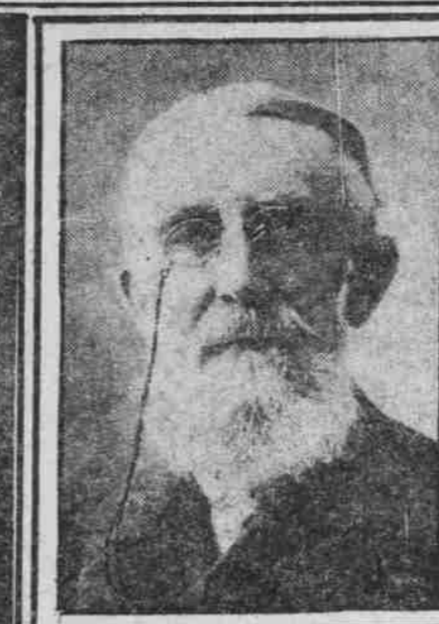
Rockefeller Who Finished Stephen A. Douglas' Unfinished Work; Wharton and Booker T. Washington



ANDREW CARNEGIE
FOUNDER OF THE CARNEGIE INSTITUTE



BISHOP JOHN H. VINCENT
THE CHAUTAUQUE
FOUNDER



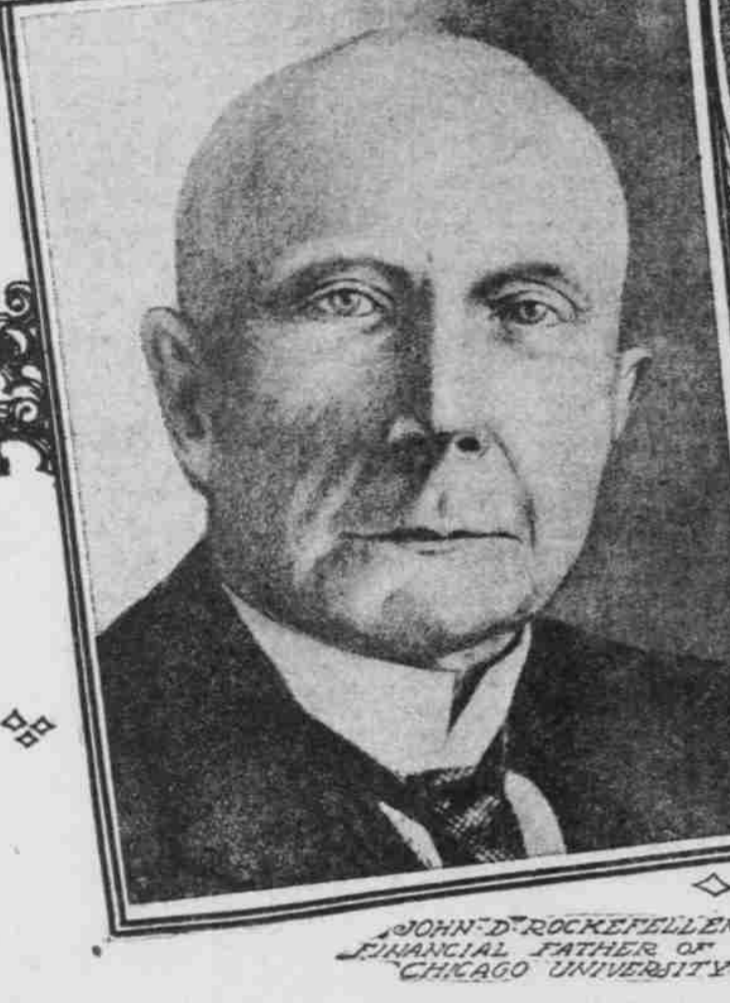
ANDREW D. WHITE
WHO HELPED START
CORNELL UNIVERSITY



BOOKER T. WASHINGTON
FOUNDER OF TUSKEGEE
INSTITUTE



SETH W. PALMER
FOUNDER OF COLORADO
COLLEGE



JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER
FINANCIAL FATHER OF
CHICAGO UNIVERSITY

BY JOHN S. HARWOOD.

HERE is in this country a number of flourishing and well-known educational institutions, the founders of which are still alive. Some men leave money in their will to the cause of education. Others, while still in the flesh, take the work in hand and have their declining years made happy by the contemplation of what they have accomplished for the intellectual enlightenment of their fellowmen. It is not given to every man to found a college or a school, but to those to whom it is given there must be an unalloyed happiness in watching the growth of their foundation. This applies to women as well as men, for women as well as men found educational institutions. Some of the living founders are men who from humble beginnings have amassed great fortunes. Some have had a college education and some have been self-educated.

association. He has written and published many able treatises upon economic and on scientific subjects. He is a linguist of considerable ability. The following incident will show the thorough methods which Wharton has pursued all through life and to which he owes his success both mentally and financially. When he went into the zinc business the first man he ran up against was his ignorance of chemistry, and the second was his ignorance of French. To these two studies he at once applied himself with zeal and devotion. The man would require a knowledge of chemistry in order to be a successful manufacturer of zinc was obvious, but Wharton's friends considered the French came in. They found out shortly. As soon as he could converse freely in French he sent to Belgium for the most efficient zinc workers to be had for hire and brought them over to convert the American zinc ore into the marketable material. None of these workmen could speak English, but having a knowledge of French, Wharton could converse with them, direct them, learn their wants and, in short, get so close to them that he could get the best work out of them and work in harmony with them as they worked with him. Naturally the success of his zinc venture. Had he not taken the precaution to learn French it might have been a failure. It is such apparently trifling things as being able to talk with workmen in his own language which makes or unmake fortunes. And it is to such detail that Wharton has always given attention.

Romantic Mary Gwendolin Caldwell

Among living founders there is probably not such a romantic and perplexing figure as that of Mary Gwendolin Caldwell, now the Marquise de Montiers-Meriville, who founded the Catholic University of America at Washington. As a girl and as a young woman, Gwendolin Caldwell was exceedingly devout. She and her sister were brought up in the Catholic faith, to which her parents had been converted, and were educated in the convent of the Sacred Heart in New York City. Gwendolin, it is said, was a very serious and becoming girl, but gave up the idea, and after graduating made a trip to Europe, where her good looks, her wit, her lively spirits and a certain dash which came natural to her and which the convent training had not entirely eradicated, made her at once popular in society and a person in the public eye of two continents. It was rumored that she had become engaged to Prince Murat, grandson of the Murat who married Napoleon's sister and was once King of Naples. The rumor was shortly confirmed by Miss Caldwell herself, and she began to prepare her bridal trousseau. The day of the wedding drew near and Miss Caldwell engaged a private tutor, at Washington, in which to "try on" her wedding gown. She did not appear for well, but all Paris society became agitated. It had been agitated before over the fact that Miss Caldwell had imperial crowns embroidered on her trousseau. Her prince was descendant of the Bonapartes and the head of that house was an emperor. The American girl thought the imperial crown of the grand Corsican was more picturesque than the high crown of Naples and she made use of it, to the rage of the Bonapartes. But now all shades of political opinion were wondering "What next?" The "what next" was a statement from Miss Caldwell that she and the prince were not to be married—it was "all off."



WAITING AT MOUTH OF SHAFT

THE DEAD

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—(Special.)—The explosion in the Rachel mine at Marianna, Pa., was one of the chief subjects of discussion at the meeting of experts from other countries at Pittsburgh to discuss the question of mine dangers, this great disaster will not permit the subject to lose interest. The dead taken from the Rachel mine numbered 157. The scenes at the mouth of the shaft just after the explosion were pitiful, and, though the crowd of friends and relatives of the miners grew more quiet as time passed on, many a tragedy could be read in the faces of the men and women who stood waiting for the bodies to be brought out.

Golden Rose and the Laetare medal and who had founded the Catholic University at Washington, publicly renounced her religion and turned Protestant. She gave as a reason, in a suit, the difference between her husband's life and his creed and the fact that it would engage his family to have her turn Protestant. Since that time she has written little has been heard of her. It is reported that she is in bad health and partly paralyzed.

Man Who Helped Found Cornell.

Although Ezra Cornell was the principal founder of the university at Ithaca which bears his name, and Henry W. Gage has claims to be considered a co-founder, yet Andrew D. White is entitled to a first place after as a founder. He was its first president and worked hard in his interests for many years. Indeed, his interest in the university has never flagged and although he has given more than \$300,000 in money to it, what he has done in other ways in its behalf has been still more valuable. In fact, from what he helped Cornell to do when the university was in danger of dying at Ithaca, he is entitled to be considered as helping Mr. Cornell in the foundation. In July of 1863 President Lincoln signed a bill appropriating Government land for educational purposes in all the loyal states. This land was, of course, nearly all in the West, and a state which took advantage of the offer could not hold land lying in another state, but must issue "scrips" for its value—the people who took the scrip to be paid out of the sale of the land. New York State got 500,000 acres. The market became over-loaded with land scrip and prices fell. New York sold some of its land at 90 cents an acre and there was a prospect that the price would go still lower. Andrew D. White and Ezra Cornell were in the State Senate together at the time. Cornell had made a great fortune by introducing the telegraph into the Northwest and wanted to found a university. He asked that the money derived from the Government land be applied to the establishment of one great university and offered to add half a million dollars to the Nation's gift if the institution were located at Ithaca. He took White into his councils and White worked hard to get a decision that all the Nation's gift should be applied as Cornell wished—and got it. Cornell University seemed to be as-

sured, but now came the great drop in the land scrip. Cornell, when he saw the land going for 70 cents an acre, stopped the sale and took all that remained at 60 cents. He located the land, paid the taxes and contracted to guard it against squatters and looters. He also promised to turn into the State Treasury the increase of value which he plainly foresaw would accrue to the said land. He died in 1874 and the trustees of the university, in the name of which institution the land was held, assumed his obligation.

Then Henry W. Gage came forward with his millions and by his generosity enabled the university to hold on to the land. The university at the time did not have enough money in its treasury to pay the faculty, and the temptation to sell the land was great. But it was resisted and other beneficiaries helping along with Mr. Gage, the bad times were tide over and in the end Cornell became richly endowed.

All this time Andrew D. White, who, because of his successful efforts in getting the decision applying all the Government land given to New York to Cornell, was looked upon as one of its founders, was almost supreme in the councils of the institution of which he had become president in 1866. There were no students, no books and no scientific apparatus when Mr. White assumed the presidency. He went at once to Europe, where he studied the educational methods in vogue over there and came back with ideas, books and appliances. Then, in 1868, the first class entered Cornell. It was not until 1882 that he finally retired from the presidency of the university, though in the meantime he had become prominent in the political life of the country and had held several important diplomatic positions.

Andrew D. White's career as a public man, as a diplomat, and as a politician is too well known to need repeating. When he was 70 years old he resigned as Minister at Berlin, with the avowed intention of spending his old age in the seclusion of private life. But he is a man of too much importance to be able to live entirely out of the public eye. White's maternal grandfather, Andrew Dixon, was the founder of Courtland Academy, at Hamer, N. Y., so he comes of a college-founding ancestry. It was at Hamer that he received his early academic training. Mrs. Seth Low is fairly entitled to be

included among the list of living founders, for it was she, together with J. P. Morgan, Jacob H. Schiff and a dozen or so others, who established Barnard college.

It was in 1885 that Columbia began giving degrees to women who could pass examinations showing that they had done work equivalent to that done by men at the University, but no provision was made for the instruction of women in connection with the institution. In the Spring of 1889 a movement was set on foot by the women who had received degrees from Columbia and by those who hoped to receive them, for the establishment of a woman's college as a part of the university. The plan was approved by the faculty of Columbia and Mrs. Low, whose husband was president of the university, gave a considerable sum of money to start the project along. The project was, of course, carried to a successful conclusion. Seth Low gave \$100,000 to build a great library at Columbia as a memorial to his father, and Mrs. Rockefeller, who was the daughter of Barnard, so the University would seem to be greatly indebted to the Low family.

Mrs. Low was the daughter of Benjamin Robbins Chapman, one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States. She was born and brought up in Boston. She is a dignified woman, rather retiring and not fond of the society or publicity. In training schools and such work she is greatly interested and devotes much of her time to such matters. Her favorite amusements are said to be golf, walking, riding and housekeeping. When her husband was Mayor a reporter would sometimes ask her for an interview. Her reply always was: "You must pardon me, I have no public life."

Army Officer Father of Carlisle.

Brigadier-General Richard Henry Pratt, U. S. A., retired, is the originator and founder of the Carlisle Indian School for Indians. He lives in Denver now and is 68 years old, but for a long time he was the head of Carlisle and he regards the institution as doing every body else who knows the facts, as the greatest accomplishment of his life. When the Civil War broke out Pratt enlisted as a private in a regiment of Indiana volunteers. Though born in New York State his parents took him to Indiana when he was young and it was there, at Logansport, that he received his early military training. He served as a private, a sergeant and a captain in the war and was appointed to the regular establishment, in which he rose from grade until his retirement four years ago. His early service in the regulars was hunting the Indians in the Southwest, and by means of this exciting and perilous occupation he became known to the man and his little ways well and to take a deep interest in the problem of what to do with him.

The popular idea at that time was that the only good Indian was a dead one, but Pratt thought that there might be a good Indian while still alive. When a lot of Indian boys were ordered to be taken from Fort Sill to the old fort of St. Augustine, Florida, Pratt was detailed as commander of their guard and then on to Carlisle, Pa., where the boys to which they were taken. He began aided by his wife and by other officers' wives at St. Augustine, to try and teach the prisoners something of the white man's ways and knowledge.

Indians were at that time received with negroes at Hampton, but Pratt believed that the Carlisle school should be a school of their own. So he developed the plan of an Indian college and got the Government to assign the old barracks at Carlisle, Pa., for a place to work out his theory. This was in 1879, and from that day to this General Pratt has never ceased to work for the school and for the bettering of the Indian. From small beginnings the Carlisle school has come to be what it is today, and Pratt is its father.

John D., of Chicago University.

What Stephen A. Douglas accomplished—that was the establishment of the University of Chicago. It was a long and hard fight, but Douglas, the "little giant," who seemed to have fame and place before him, gave a sum of money to establish the University and to go to the Rio Grande. He never flourished. It was a university in name only, and after languishing along until 1858 its affairs were wound up.

Two years later prominent men of the Baptist persuasion began to agitate for the re-establishment of the University. John D. Rockefeller, being a staunch Baptist and also a man of reputed wealth, the men who had the re-establishment of the university at heart cast their eyes in his direction. They had some misgivings as to how far they could go in going to their appeals, but to their delight he responded warmly and generously. Then they looked about for a man of reputation and education, who should, as president, give solid to the institution. Dr. W. R. Harper agreed to take the presidency if the institution could be made a "well-equipped college" and that meant putting a lot of money into it. Who would furnish the money?

Mr. Rockefeller came forward gladly and as the first anniversary of the American Baptist Educational Society, held in Chicago in May of 1888, announced that he would give \$400,000 toward the establishment of a "well-equipped college" and that meant putting a lot of money into it. In 90 days. The time was short but the stakes were big and generous Baptists came forward, unlocked their purses and contributed. When the time limit had expired the \$400,000 was all subscribed and Mr. Rockefeller was informed that his \$400,000 would be received with thanks. This was the first million raised for the endowment of the University of Chicago. So what Douglas had dreamed of

Rockefeller made a reality. Now Mr. Rockefeller became much interested in educational affairs generally and in the University which he had revived and re-endowed especially, and began those benefactions to institutions of learning which have been called "princely," but which have been in magnitude greater than any Prince ever bestowed.

In September, 1890, Rockefeller gave another million dollars to his pet University of Chicago on condition that the Baptist Theological Seminary at Morgan Park should be removed to the grounds of the University and made a part of it. This condition was complied with, Mr. Rockefeller also stipulated that \$50,000 of his new gift should be devoted to the non-professional graduate instruction. The university now has a fine site, the late Marshall Field having given the land for its buildings and \$100,000 besides. In 1892 Mr. Rockefeller gave the university another million and in December he gave it another. In 1893 he gave it \$100,000 and the next year \$65,000. In 1896 Rockefeller made another proposition to the university. He would give it \$1,000,000 and as much as \$100,000 more, as the university could raise elsewhere, up to two millions, before January, 1900. The entire amount thus raised was \$9,000,000.

It will be seen that Mr. Rockefeller has been the god from the machine for the University of Chicago, as well as its benefactor. Mr. Rockefeller did not found or refund Vassar, Brown, Columbia, the Theological Seminary of Rochester, Barnard or Bucknell, but he has given largely to all of these, and "Rockefeller Hall" stand thick in the land upon many college grounds.

Founder of Chautauque.

Bishop John Heist Vincent of the Methodist Episcopal Church is the founder of that educational institution which is known as Chautauque. He started the "Chautauque movement" and founded the Chautauque Assembly and Chautauque Literary and Scientific Circle, of which he has been chancellor since 1878. He was born in Pennsylvania, in 1818, and 75 years ago and brought up among the mountains of Pennsylvania. He was educated at Lewisburg and Milton, Pa., where he attended the common schools afforded. He was early dedicated to the ministry and began to preach at the age of 18. He was ordained elder in 1840 and minister of the Methodist Church, which has led him to many charges and in which capacity he has been preacher at Yale, Harvard, and other colleges. He has always been active in Sunday school work and has written much on religious and historical subjects. Though largely a layman, the bishop is well-versed and has degrees from several colleges.

There used to be an old camp-meeting ground at Lakewood, Pa., where annual gatherings were held. The Sunday School Association, in which Bishop Vincent was much interested and in which he was the leading spirit, took over the grounds and buildings of the camp-meeting association and added Chautauque to its name. In the Summer of 1872 the Association moved to Chautauque, Pa. In 1888 Bishop Vincent met Lewis Miller, of Ohio, and got him interested in the work. At first the meetings at Chautauque were held in the structure of a Sunday school teachers only, but the bishop saw the opportunity for extending the work, and so did extend it until it has become an all men known—a great educational factor.

Born a slave in the old conventional slave quarters of the South, a cabin of the rooming house at Chautauque, Pa., in the middle of the floor where the potatoes were buried to keep for the winter, Booker T. Washington is now the president of the great educational institution of Tuskegee and also one of the founders of it, for he organized it and made it a success. Others gave money, but it was Booker T. Washington who gave himself.

A Midas of the Mountains.

General William Jackson Palmer, the founder of Colorado College as well as of Colorado Springs, got his title in the Civil War. He has led an active life as a railroad man, in mining and in various ways in the business world. He was born in Kent County, Del., and when the war broke out went to the front. At the time he was employed as a railroad man on the Pennsylvania railroad. When the war was over General Palmer went back to railroading and became successively treasurer, director of surveys and manager of construction of the Kansas Pacific Railway. He became president of the Denver & Rio Grande and president of the Mexican National. For several years he served as president of the Rio Grande & Western. Now he lives in a beautiful home called Glen Eyrie at Colorado Springs and takes his chief delight in his life after the warfare of the college which he founded.

He was a pioneer in the development of the resources of Colorado, and the state owes much to his energy and development of its possibilities. He founded the Colorado College the same year he founded Colorado Springs—the year 1871. When the Rio Grande Western was sold Palmer gave \$1,000,000 to his fellow workmen. Because of competition and rival railroads, their loyalty and fidelity had been necessary parts of the good railroad employe. Palmer had inspired these qualities in the men under him; and when he left the Denver & Rio Grande to go to the Rio Grande Western, many of his men went with him. He had always paid them well, and owed none of them anything, but when the railroad was sold he said: "To my loyal friends and fellow workers, give according to his seniority and station, this money is due." And he gave out the \$1,000,000 with his own hands, in amounts varying from \$200 to a grand total of \$100,000 to stewards, superintendents, etc., and asked them to remember the giver and not mention the gift. He made no announcement of the gift, and it was only when some of the beneficiaries did "mention the gift" that people in general knew of his generosity. Among other living founders must not be omitted the name of Andrew Carnegie—founder of the Carnegie Institution at Washington. The work of Carnegie as a founder is almost too well known to need more than a reference. His various benefactions in the way of libraries and of Carnegie "foundations" are also well known. E. A. Stevens, although not strictly a founder, is at least entitled to mention, for he has given much money to the Stevens Institute of Technology at Hoboken, which his father founded.