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FAREWELL AND HAIL: THE ENDURING LEGACY OF LEARNING AT APSU

AP **Austin Peay**
State University
CLARKSVILLE  TENNESSEE

Woodward Library





Agenda

- **History of APSU's Campus and Former Institutions**
 - **Birth of APSU**
 - **Notable Historical Events**
 - **History and the Gaps**
 - **Building an Archive**
 - **ASPIRE**
 - **Future Planning**
 - **The Next 100 years**
- 

“The Academy Era,” 1806-1848

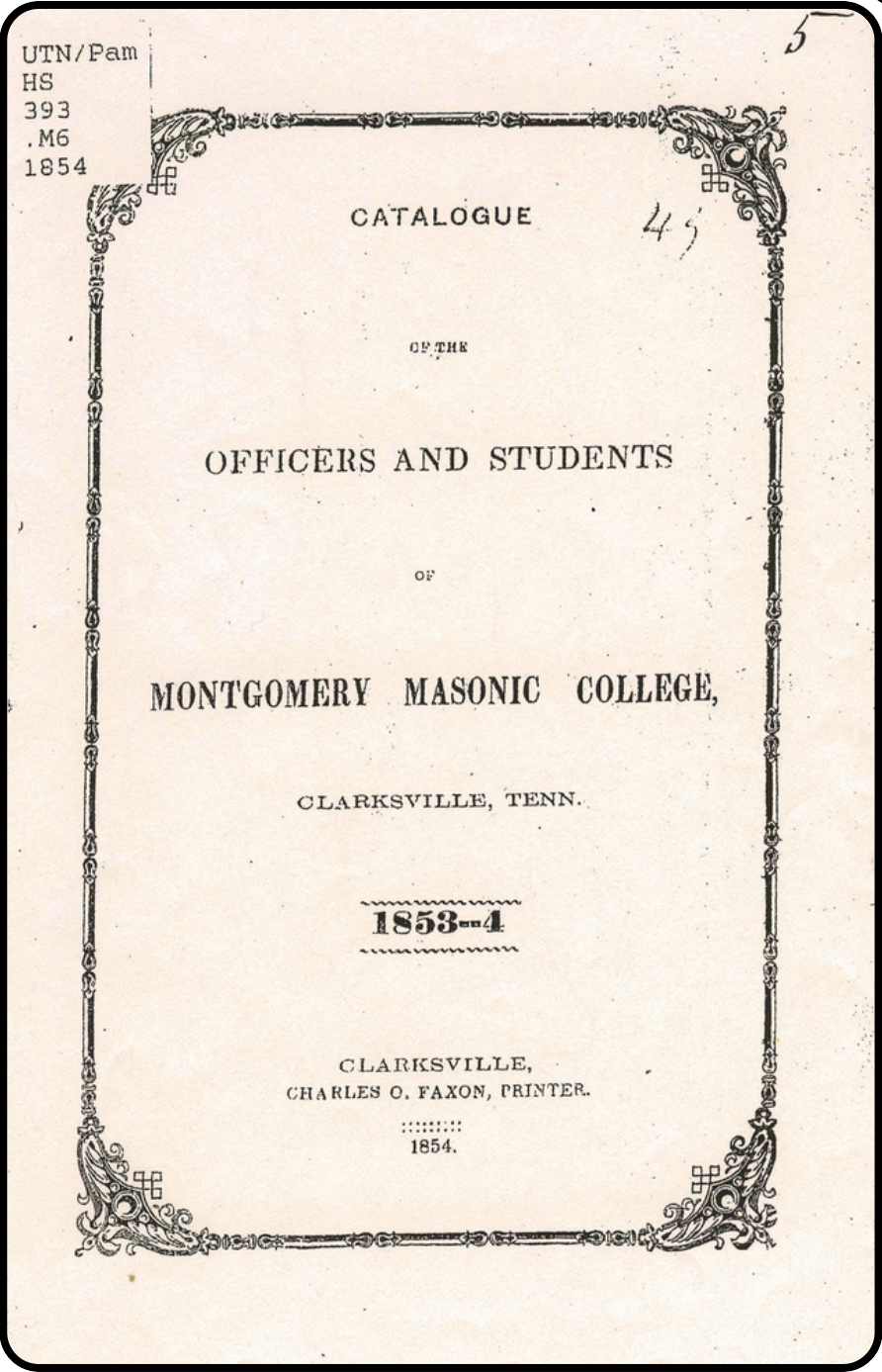
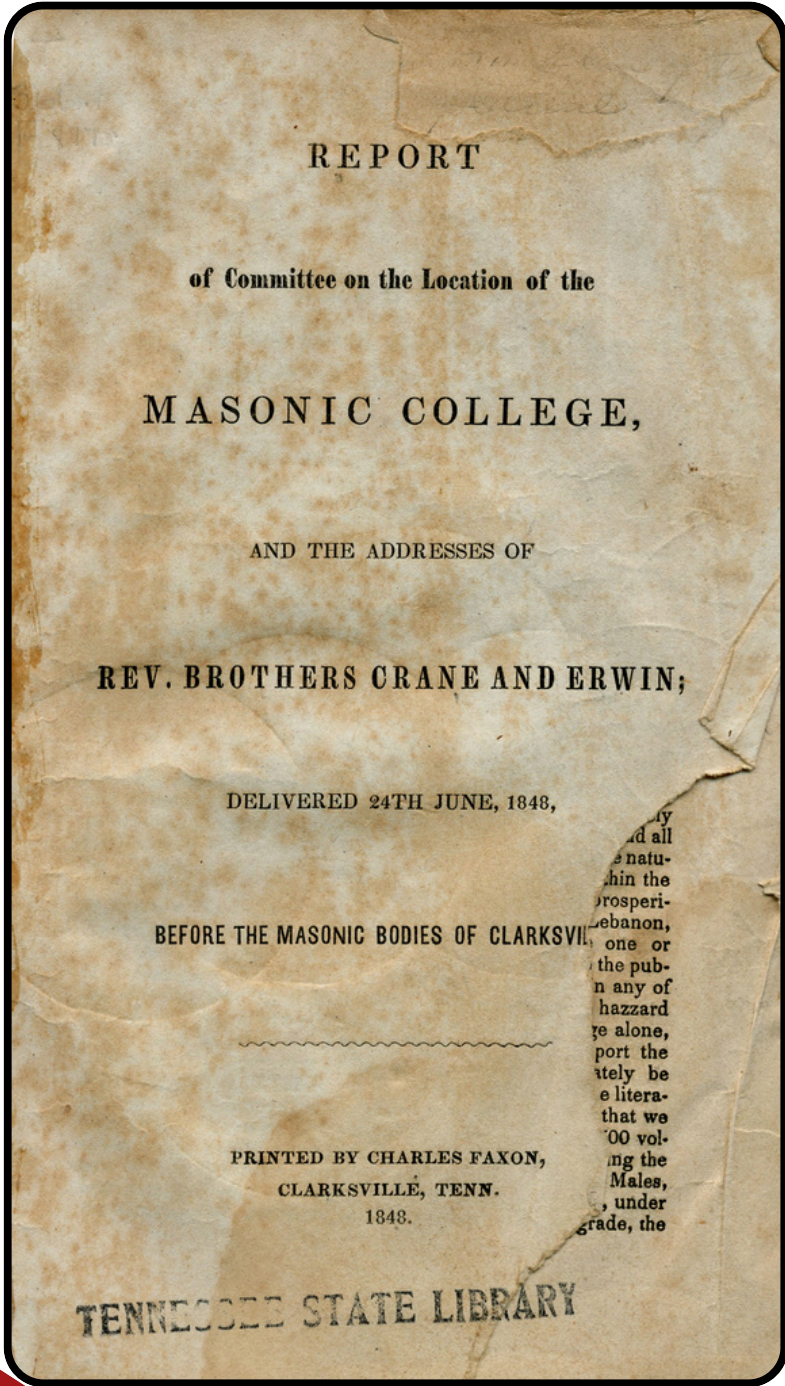
- **Early 19th-century “Academy Movement”**
- Private secondary schools supported by state governments, *“on the grounds that the ‘ignorance of its citizens was the greatest hindrance to the growth and development of the country.’”*
- **Compact of 1806** led to two colleges in the state and an academy in each county
 - **Rural Academy, 1806–1810**
 - Corner of Washington (now College) and Henry Streets
 - **Mt. Pleasant Academy, 1811–1824**
 - New name and funding from a state-sponsored lottery
 - **Clarksville Academy, 1825–1848**
 - Supported by the Presbyterians
 - “...the town’s leading educational institution for young males.”

"The Masonic Interlude," 1848-1854

- **The founding of colleges becomes a "national fad"**
- "...every proper town...required a college...as a sign of social and cultural maturity likely to further economic development and an improved quality of life."
- **Masonic College, 1849-1850**
 - Trustees conveyed the property to the Masons to "establish and maintain a first-class college in connection with the Academy."
 - Castle Building (1850 - 1946)
- **Montgomery County Masonic College, 1851-1854**
 - State Grand Masonic lodge pulled support and was sponsored by the local Masonic lodges
 - 1853 saw the institution's "first full catalogue."

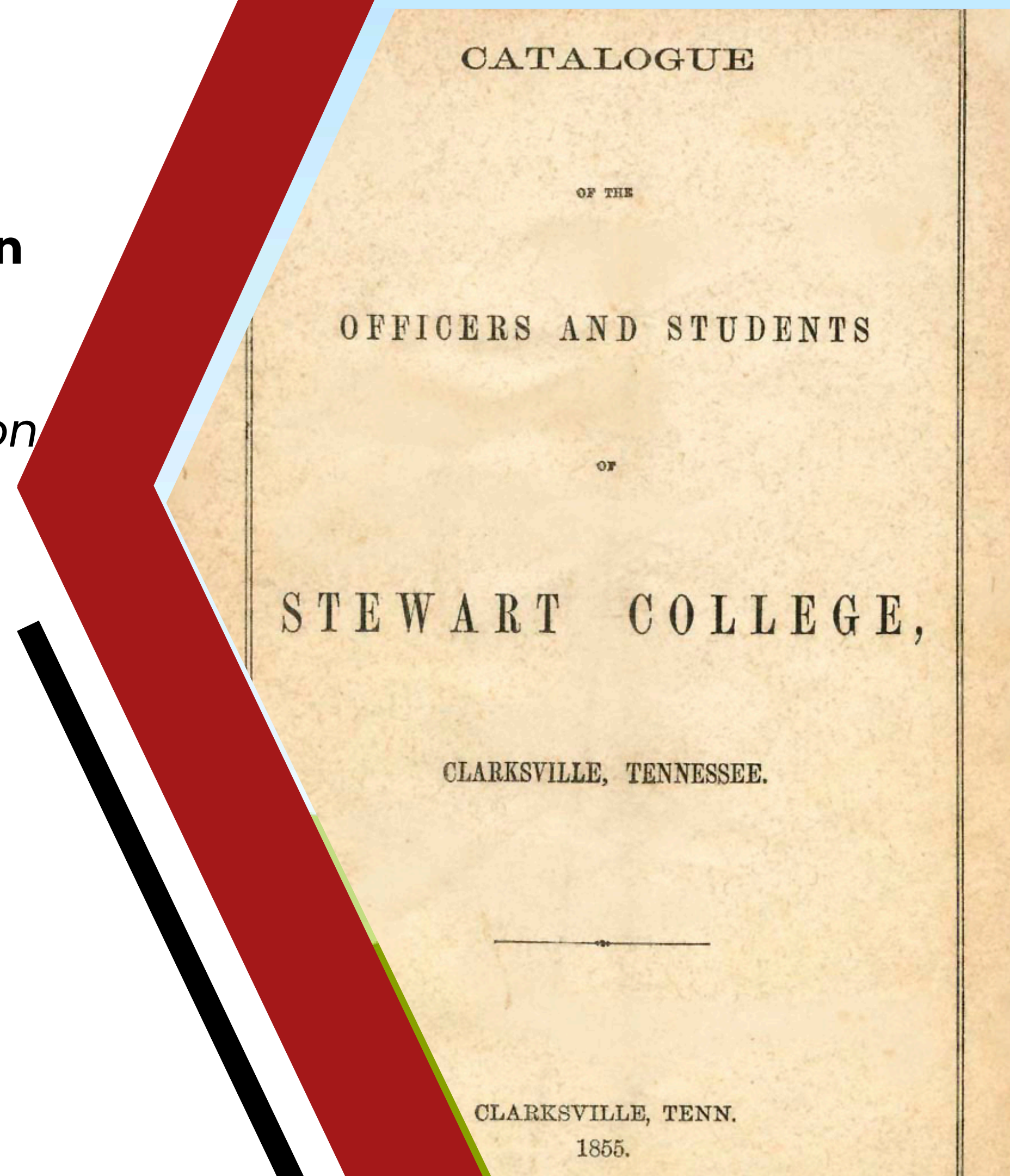
to of *Register's Office*
Montgomery County
The Annexed Dec
Certificates from G. H. Henry and other
Trustees of the Clarksville Male Academy
to Montgomery Masonic College of
Montgomery County, Tennessee, were received
5-20/60 O'clock P.M. 9th August 1853
noted in book B page 20 and do
registered August 9th A.D. 1853
in Book or Volume No. 2 page
16-17.
J. W. Denny, Secy.

“The Masonic Interlude,” 1848-1854



Stewart College, 1855-1874

- **Move from Masonic support to reliance on the Presbyterian Church**
- William Stewart was *"the main person responsible for the survival of the institution during the 1850s."*
 - made his fortune in the local iron industry
 - instrumental in funding the Castle Building
- **Impact of Civil War**
 - Vast majority of students enlisted
 - Campus commandeered as a military hospital
 - Reopened after repair in 1869



Southwestern Presbyterian University, 1875-1900

- **The “vision of a proper Presbyterian education”**
- **1879** move from a college to a university; Abolished traditional curriculum and established 9 “schools”
 - Ancient Language
 - Mathematics
 - Natural Sciences
 - Philosophy
 - Modern Languages
 - English Literature and Rhetoric
 - Biblical Instruction
 - Commerical Sciencs
 - History
- **1884** opened a School of Divinity headed by Joseph R. Wilson
- Flourishing of student life and sports



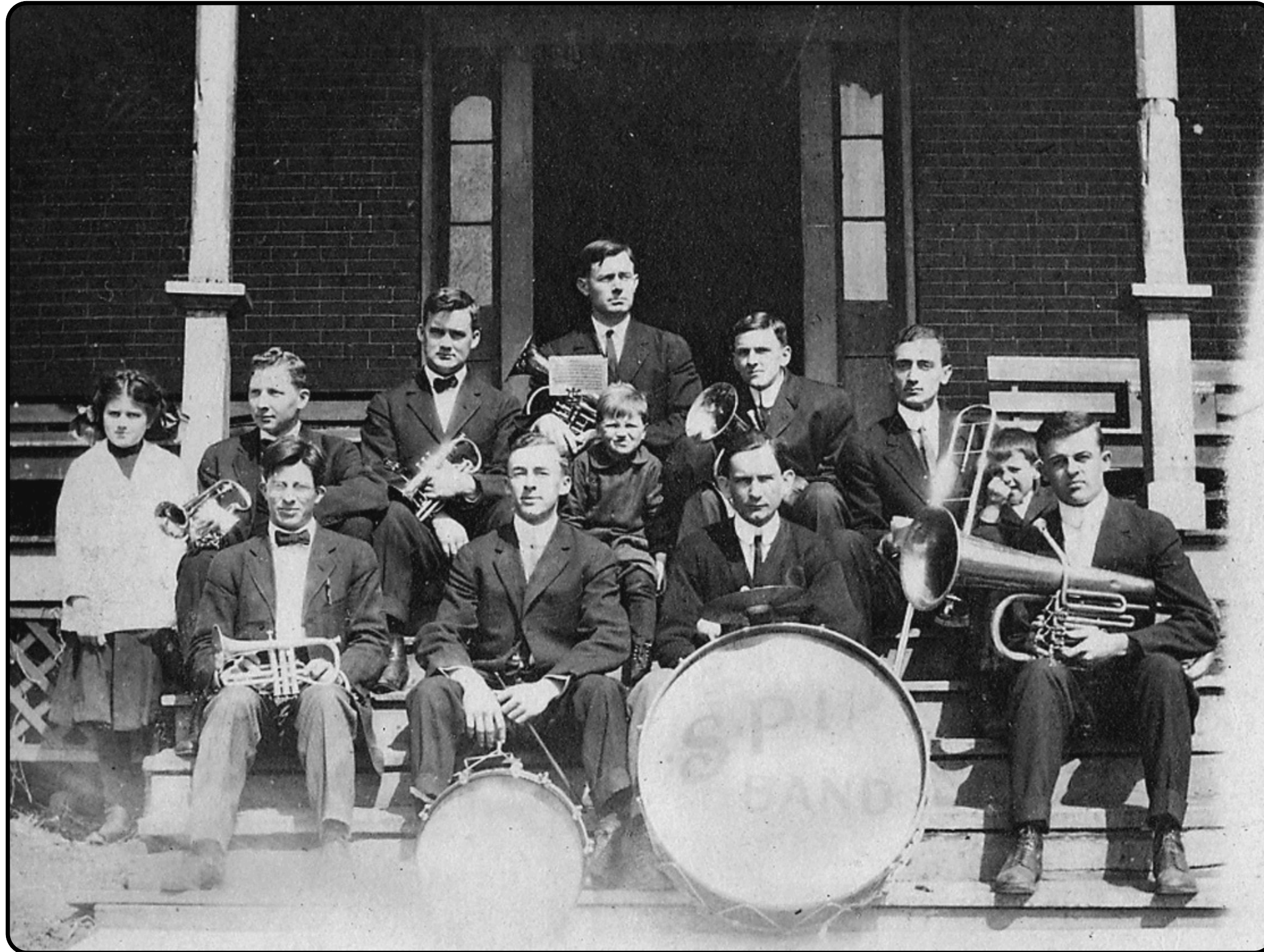
Stewart Building



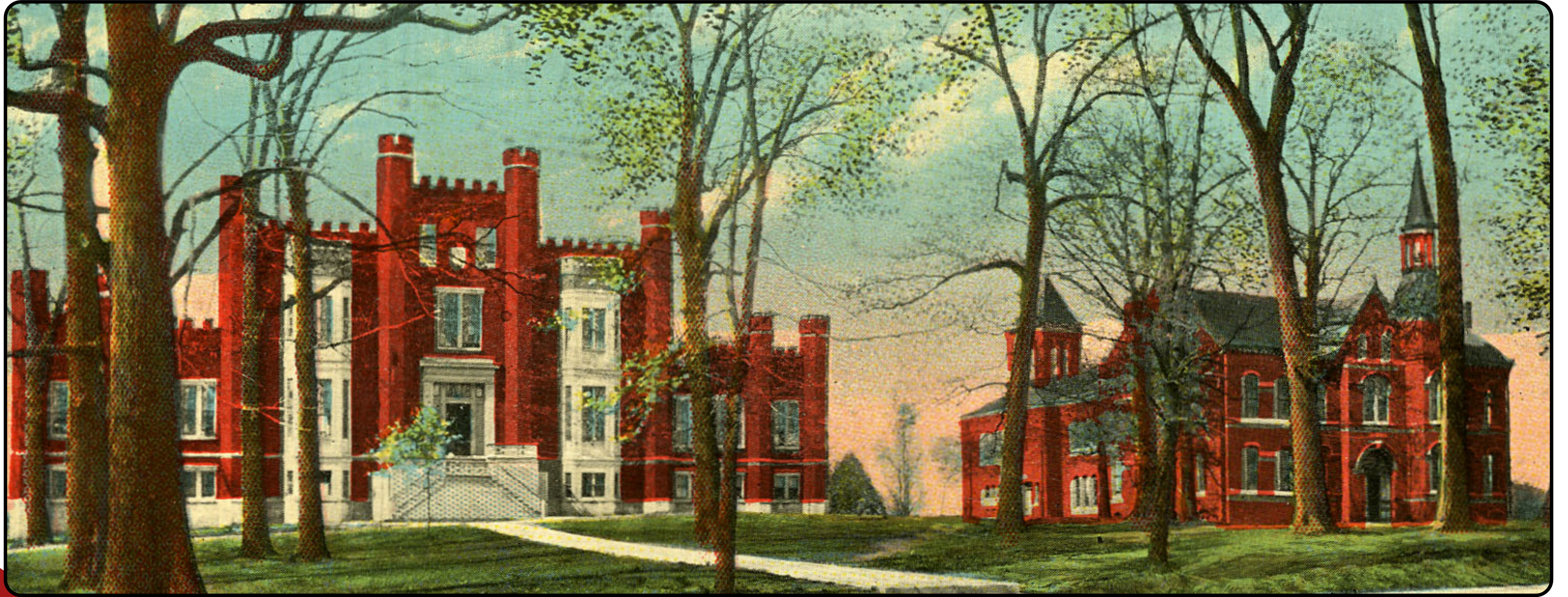
Southwest Presbyterian University, Basketball



Southwestern Presbyterian University, Band



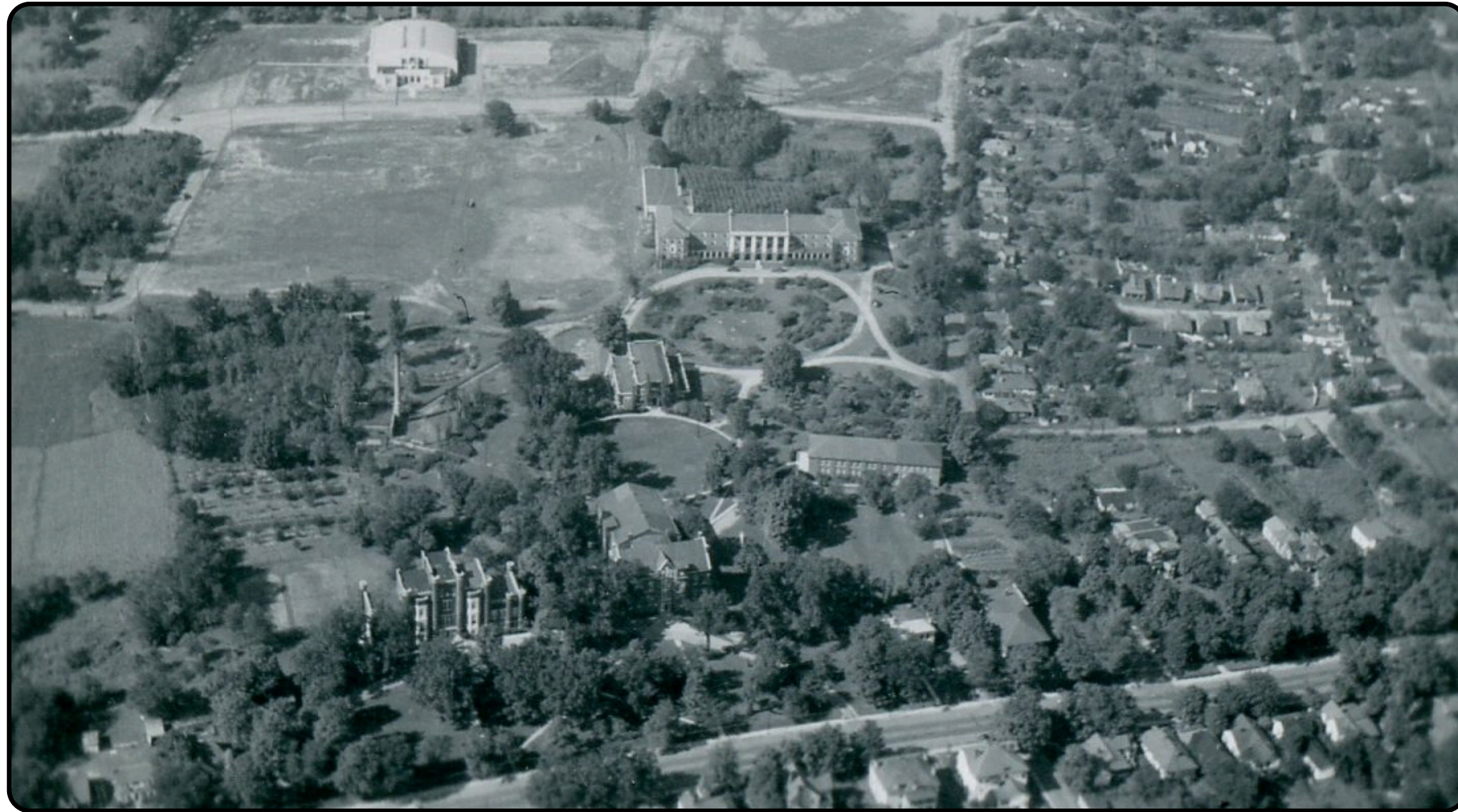
Castle Building and Stewart Building



Southwest Presbyterian University, 1901-1925

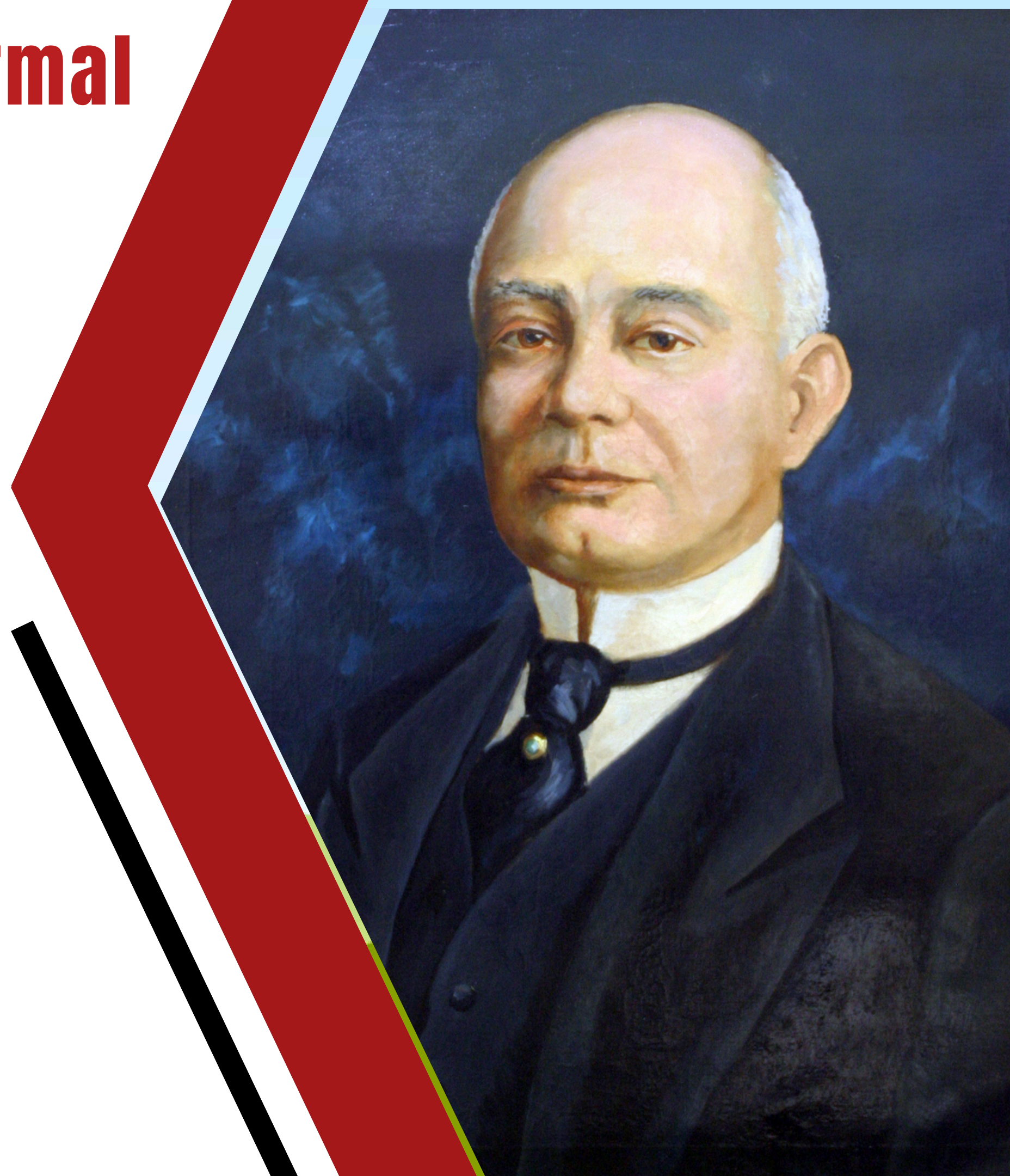
- **“...a chance for success beyond mere survival...”**
 - Decrease in financial support and enrollment
 - 1905 women allowed to attend class (but not earn credit)
 - 1916 women admitted on the same terms as men (but only at a ratio of one to ten)
 - 1921 Margaret Elwyn Trahern was first woman to earn a degree from the college
 - Problems related to location
 - could not maintain enough students for a “southwestern Presbyterian university”
 - competition with Vanderbilt in Nashville
 - 1920 synods approved the move to Memphis, but Clarksville unsuccessfully sued
 - 1925 Southwestern closed the site and Clarksville was allowed to purchase and land and buildings for \$25,000
 - Southwestern moved to Memphis and became Rhodes College

**“...Clarksville without a college on College Street
just would not be Clarksville.”**



Birth of APSU (Austin Peay Normal School, 1927-1939)

- **“Swapping preacher training for teacher training”**
- Peay was recognized for transforming the state government and its educational system during his tenure as governor between 1923 and 1927
- “Because of Peay, ‘no state in the South [was] making more rapid advances in education than Tennessee.’”
- The school’s purpose was “to teach students to interpret what they read; to think, to be independent.”
- “The Austin Peay Normal School was officially dedicated to the preparation of the human mind to exhibit courage and independence in the public service so as to perpetuate the legacy of Governor Austin Peay.”



Austin Peay State College, 1942-1963

- **A time of great transformation...**
- Influence of Camp Campbell
 - "Austin Peay was probably the first state college to establish night classes in Tennessee" in 1942 for the off-duty soldiers.
- Huge increase in enrollment post-war
- 1946 *Fairwell & Hail* issued
- 1956 Wilbur N. Daniel and Hattie Clay were admitted to the graduate school
- 1959 Full-time coordinator appointed for the Fort Campbell Extension Center



The Castle Building (damaged)



Austin Peay State University, 1963-

“The Vision of an Academic Community”

- Higher Education Act of 1965
- Geier case, 1968–2001, allocated \$77 million to address diversity at institutions throughout Tennessee.
- 1979, Student Coalition for Gay Rights case
- “The Liberal Arts University,” 1984–2001
- 1999 Tornado and campus renewal
- *“...to examine, pursue, and transmit the human treasure of hard-won facts, ideas, and values upon which society is built.”*



Campus Aerial Photo (1975-76)

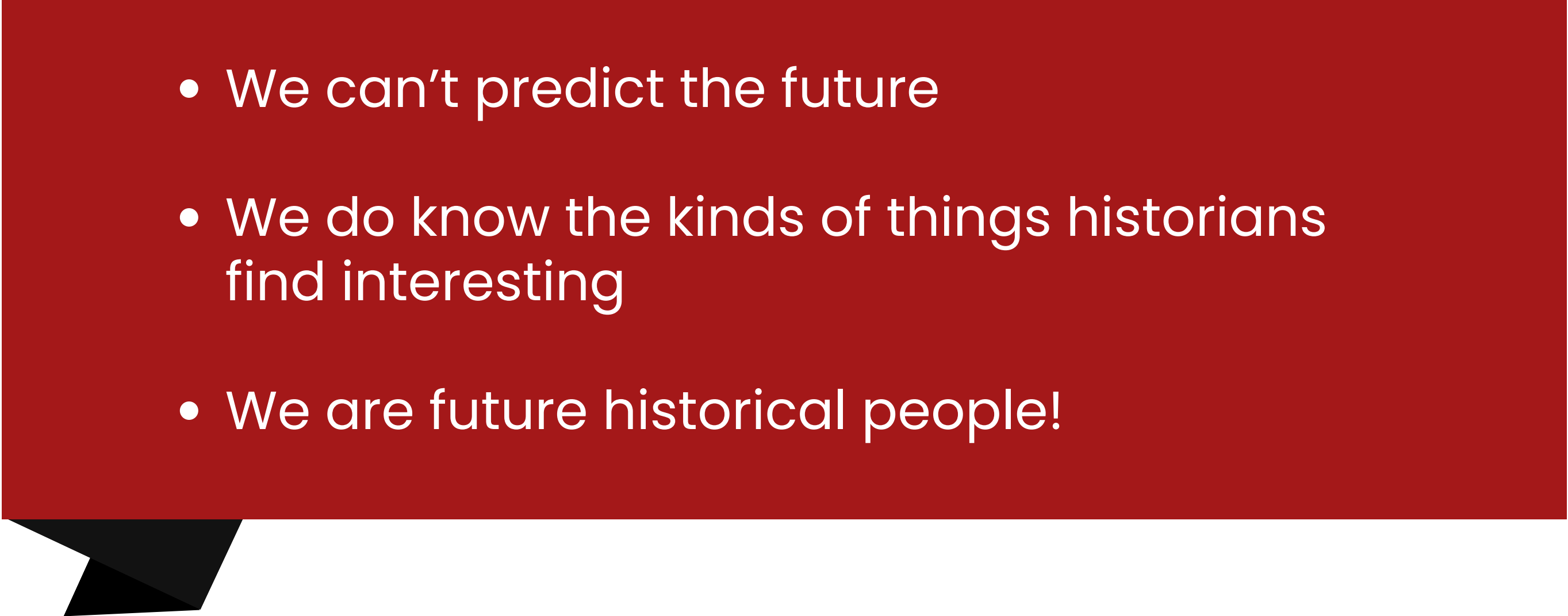


Campus Aerial Photo (2023)



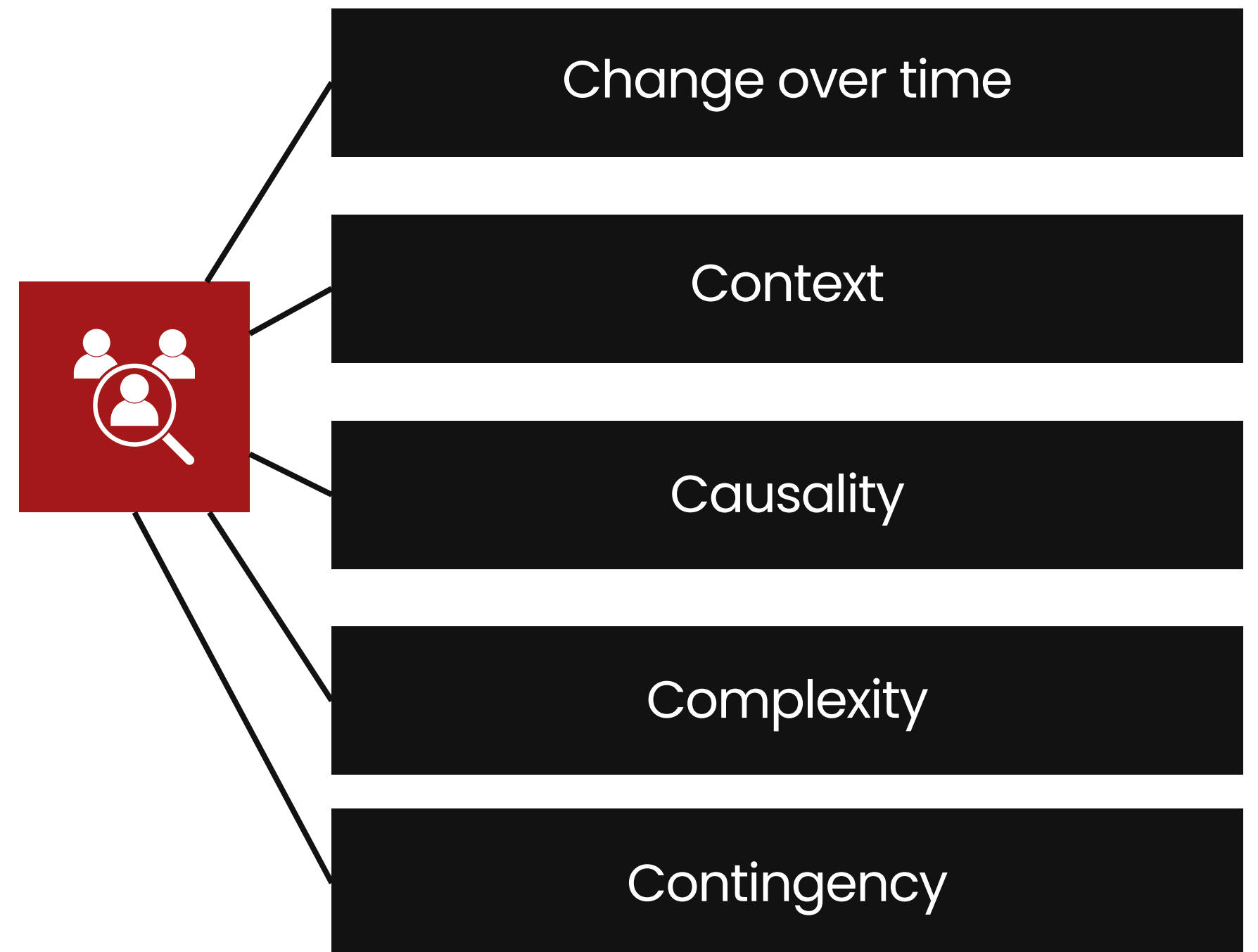


HOW DO WE KNOW WHAT'S WORTH SAVING?

- 
- We can't predict the future
 - We do know the kinds of things historians find interesting
 - We are future historical people!
- 

HOW DO HISTORIANS APPROACH THE PAST?

The 5Cs of Historical Thinking



TWO PERSPECTIVES

Unique

- What happened at APSU that only happened here?
- What is special about this place?

Representative

- How is APSU a microcosm of broader American society?
- How do we fit with national trends?

Project STAND: Student Activism Now Documented

- Community of archivists, student organizers, memory workers, and independent scholars to document student activism on campus.
- Collection within ASPIRE to capture APSU's student activism.
- There is a form in the collection for submitting relevant documents to the archive.
- Please submit or direct students to us for contributions!
- This is how we document our shared experience for future historians.



ASPIRE

Archive for Scholarship, Publication, Innovation, and Research Experience

- ASPIRE is APSU's institutional repository.
- ASPIRE's goal is to provide a central location to preserve, store, and make available the creative and scholarly works of Austin Peay's faculty, staff, and students.
- In addition, ASPIRE houses University Records, such as Faculty Senate minutes, standing committee meeting minutes, and policy and procedures documents.
- ASPIRE exists *for you*, and we would love to help with making your research easier (data storage) and more visible (hosting pre-prints).

The screenshot displays the ASPIRE website header with the logo and navigation links. The main content area is titled 'List of Communities' and features a list of categories with expandable sections. The 'Faculty Works' section is expanded, showing sub-categories like 'Research and Survey Data', 'Creative Works', 'Faculty Leadership Program', 'Faculty Publications', 'Grants and Grant Applications', and 'Whitepapers'. The 'University Records' category is also visible at the bottom of the list.

ASPIRE | Archive for Scholarship, Publication, Innovation and Research Experience

Home • Community List

List of Communities

- > Conferences and Events
- ▼ Faculty Works
 - Documents and research produced by university faculty.
 - > Research and Survey Data
 - Creative Works
 - Faculty Leadership Program
 - The Faculty Leadership Program offers an opportunity for selected faculty to acquire a more comprehensive awareness of university operations, current or upcoming initiative...
 - ▼ Show more
 - Faculty Publications
 - Grants and Grant Applications
 - Grant forms and applications submitted, regardless of whether they were accepted.
 - Whitepapers
- > Journals
- > Public Relations and Marketing
- > Special Collections
- > Student Affairs
- > Student Works
- > University Records



aspire.apsu.edu

ASPIRE

References

- Gildrie, R. P., Winn, T. H., Mann, J. T., & First Federal Savings Bank. (2002). *A history of Austin Peay State University 1927 - 2002: and its predecessors, 1806-1926* (1st edition). Austin Peay State University.
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<https://clarksvillenow.com/local/new-apsu-logos-coming-to-2-college-street-intersections/>
- Waters, C. M., & Beach, U. S. (1977). *The First fifty years of Austin Peay State University*. Austin Peay State University.

THANK YOU

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