URSINUS COLLEGE
A History of its First Hundred Years
Calvin D. Yost
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A HISTORY OF ITS FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

by CALVIN DANIEL YOST, Class of 1930
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FOREWORD

T

HIS attempt at a history of the origin and founding of Ursinus College and of its first century was begun in 1967 and was continued in the intervals that could be snatched from the triple burden of teaching, administration and planning that I was then carrying. This load of responsibility frustrated its completion in time to be published as a part of the centennial year’s celebration.

Its publication fifteen years later is owing to the initiative and energy of H. E. Broadbent, III, director of Myrin Library, to whom I wish to express my warmest appreciation.

I owe warm thanks to James R. Rue, college archivist, who selected the pictures appearing in the history, to Wilda Schatz, who typed the original manuscript, and to Sandra Risher, who prepared the final copy for the press.

My deepest appreciation is owed to Elizabeth, my wife, for her constant encouragement and support through the years of gestation and since. Furthermore, she made the index and wrote part of the final chapter.

The text has not been substantially revised and thus represents Ursinus as seen from the perspective of 1970. Any and all faults, or sins, of commission and omission are to be charged to the author.

Calvin D. Yost
INTRODUCTION

The first century of Ursinus College, from 1869 to 1969, is not an inert artifact of history. It is the foundation for the thriving and aspiring liberal arts college we know today. Already working into the second century, we will know better where Ursinus is going if we know better the policies, actions, and external forces that took the College through the first one hundred years.

This book will entertain all those who care about Ursinus. More than that, it will shed light on the driving force that comes from our roots and that still influences the way we teach and the way we go into the future.

The author’s life-long association with Ursinus uniquely equips him for writing its history. He grew up with the College as the son of a professor and then made a career in its classrooms and in the library. For those of us who were rodents of the author, the book will have the added value of reminding us of his respect for facts and of his impeccable approach to scholarship.

Calvin D. Yost, Jr., like his father, was closely involved in the operation and development of the College library. This makes it fitting that any excess of revenues over expenses in the publication of the history will be used to purchase books for Myrin Library in his honor.

In this history we see the struggle, over ten decades, of many men and women who believed in Ursinus College. Through good and bad times, they valued liberal learning and the possibilities of the human spirit informed by religious principle. I hope that the book will engender a new respect for what they thought and what they did.

I thank Calvin Yost for writing the book. It enriches the College and all those who know and care about it.

Richard P. Richter
President, Ursinus College
March 1985
Todd's School, founded in 1832, was a one room grammar school located on part of what is now the Ursinus College campus (opposite Super House). It was the Freeland Public School from 1844 to 1874.