

How Bennington College Was Launched.

1. The idea of establishing a secondary school for girls came to me in January 1923.
2. In the spring of 1923 I secured an option on the Pican, now the Boyle, property. The two adjoining properties were also for sale.
3. On March 30th, 1923 I wrote to Miss Elixia Kellas, acting president of Russell Sage College, Troy, N.Y., suggesting that the Russell Sage College be moved to Bennington.
4. In May 1923 I conferred with President Moody of Middlebury College when we were attending a religious gathering in Burlington. Three days later Pres. Moody came to Bennington for a further conference.
5. On September 6, 1923 I called together ~~twelve~~ thirteen ladies at the home of Mrs. James Eddy to consider the plan for a woman's college in Bennington, which plan they endorsed with their signatures.
6. On September 22nd, 1923, I wrote to President Neilson of Smith College, (we are friends of long standing having met in Cambridge Mass. when he was professor at Radcliffe and I minister of the North Church,) and invited him to address a meeting called for Friday, September 28th, 1923 at the Colgate mansion. He accepted, came and spoke. The other three speakers were President Moody and Dean Ross of Middlebury College, and myself. Eighty Benningtonians were present. At the close of the addresses Mr. Spargo moved, and Rev. George S. Mills seconded, that a continuation committee be elected to investigate further. Thus was born the Committee of Twenty-one. At its first meeting held at the home of Mrs. M. M. Shonwaker I was elected chairman. This committee functioned until the charter was secured and the board of trustees was organized.

Vincent Ravi Booth -