

*Miss DeWilde*

MEMBERS OF THE BENNINGTON COLLEGE CONFERENCE

June 20-21, 1930

Guest

Wilford Aiken  
Willard Beatty  
Ralph Boothby  
John Clark  
Dr. M. C. Del Manzo  
Professor John M. Gaus (?)  
Mr. and Mrs. Frederic H. Kent  
E. Langley  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Lynd  
Dr. Fred A. Moss  
Helen Parkhurst  
Mary E. Pierce  
E. M. Sipple  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene R. Smith  
Herbert Smith  
Perry Dunlap Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Morton Snyder  
Katharine Taylor  
Carleton Washburne  
Dr. Eleanor R. Wembridge  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Yeomans

Arthur A. Ballantine  
Dr. John J. Coss  
Mrs. George S. Franklin  
Dr. William H. Kilpatrick  
Mrs. Clarence M. Woolley

Stenotypist

E. C. Lindeman (uncertain)

Hostess

Mrs. Arthur J. Holden  
Mrs. Hall Park McCullough  
Mrs. Hall Park McCullough  
Mrs. Beekman J. Delatour  
Mrs. John G. McCullough  
Walloomsac Inn  
Walloomsac Inn  
Mrs. Robert D. Leigh  
Mrs. Robert D. Leigh  
Mrs. Arthur J. Holden  
Mrs. Hall Park McCullough  
Mrs. Hall Park McCullough  
Mrs. John G. McCullough  
Mrs. Hall Park McCullough  
Mrs. John G. McCullough  
Mrs. Arthur J. Holden  
Miss Ethel Van Benthuyssen  
Mrs. Hall Park McCullough  
Mrs. John G. McCullough  
Mrs. Robert D. Leigh  
Miss Ethel Van Benthuyssen

Miss DeWilde  
Mrs. John G. McCullough  
Miss DeWilde  
Mrs. John G. McCullough  
Mrs. Hall Park McCullough

Walloomsac Inn

Walloomsac Inn

---

Mrs. Beekman J. Delatour	1
Miss DeWilde	2
Mrs. Arthur J. Holden	3
Mrs. Robert D. Leigh	4
Mrs. Hall Park McCullough	8
Mrs. John G. McCullough	6
Miss Ethel Van Benthuyssen	4
Walloomsac Inn	5 (including 2 uncertain)



*Lin De Wildt*

PROGRAM OF BENNINGTON COLLEGE CONFERENCE June 20-21, 1930.

All meetings of the Conference will be held at the home of Mrs. John G. McCullough, North Bennington, Vermont.

Headquarters for the Conference will be at the College office, the Old Academy Library, Monument Avenue, Old Bennington, Vermont. Telephone: 836-W. All meetings are held on daylight saving time.

First Session - Friday, June 20.

4:00 - 5:30 P.M. Presiding Officer, Robert D. Leigh.

- (1) Presentation of the status of the Bennington College project.
- (2) Presentation and discussion of the specific need for Bennington College.
- (3) Announcements.  
(Mr. Fred O. Newman, Assistant to the President, Bennington College, is in charge of all detailed arrangements for the Conference including provision of transportation by automobile and by rail.)

5:30-6:15 P.M. Visit to the campus site.

Second Session - Friday, June 20.

8:00 - 10:00 P.M. Committee Meetings.

Committee A - Ways of Getting Started.

Dr. John J. Coss, Chairman.

Committee B - The Educational Program.

Dr. William H. Kilpatrick, Chairman.

Third Session - Saturday, June 21

9:30 - 12:45 P.M. Dr. William H. Kilpatrick, Chairman.

Report of committees and discussion of committee reports.

1:00 - 3:00 P.M. Buffet Luncheon.

Fourth Session - Saturday, June 21.

3:00 - 4:00 P.M. Report and discussion of report of Conference committee on recommendations to the Trustees.

Note: Whenever the discussion makes it possible the work of the Conference will be advanced; the Saturday afternoon session, therefore may not be necessary. At the beginning of the Conference a committee of six advisors will be appointed. The work of this committee will be to help formulate reports of Committees A and B and to prepare a list of recommendations to the Trustees to be adopted by the Conference.



PROGRAM OF BENNINGTON COLLEGE CONFERENCE June 20-21, 1930.

All meetings of the Conference will be held at the home of Mrs. John G. McCullough, North Bennington, Vermont.

Headquarters for the Conference will be at the College office, the Old Academy Library, Monument Avenue, Old Bennington, Vermont. Telephone: 836-W. All meetings are held on daylight saving time.

First Session - Friday, June 20.

4:00 - 5:30 P.M. Presiding Officer, Robert D. Leigh.

- (1) Presentation of the status of the Bennington College project.
- (2) Presentation and discussion of the specific need for Bennington College.
- (3) Announcements.  
(Mr. Fred O. Newman, Assistant to the President, Bennington College, is in charge of all detailed arrangements for the Conference including provision of transportation by automobile and by rail.)

5:30-6:15 P.M. Visit to the campus site.

Second Session - Friday, June 20.

8:00 - 10:00 P.M. Committee Meetings.

Committee A - Ways of Getting Started.  
Dr. John J. Coss, Chairman.  
Committee B - The Educational Program.  
Dr. William H. Kilpatrick, Chairman.

Third Session - Saturday, June 21

9:30 - 12:45 P.M. Dr. William H. Kilpatrick, Chairman.

Report of committees and discussion of committee reports.

1:00 - 3:00 P.M. Buffet Luncheon.

Fourth Session - Saturday, June 21.

3:00 - 4:00 P.M. Report and discussion of report of Conference committee on recommendations to the Trustees.

Note: Whenever the discussion makes it possible the work of the Conference will be advanced; the Saturday afternoon session, therefore may not be necessary. At the beginning of the Conference a committee of six advisors will be appointed. The work of this committee will be to help formulate reports of Committees A and B and to prepare a list of recommendations to the Trustees to be adopted by the Conference.



## MEMBERS OF THE BENNINGTON COLLEGE CONFERENCE

June 20-21, 1930

### Advisors

1. Wilford Aiken, Director, John Burroughs School, St. Louis, Mo.
2. Willard W. Beatty, Supt., Bronxville Public Schools, Bronxville, N.Y.
3. Ralph Boothby, Headmaster, Metairie Park Country Day School, New Orleans, La.
4. John Clark, Principal, Lincoln High School, New York City.
5. Dr. M.C. Del Manzo, Provost, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City.
6. Professor John M. Gaus, The Experimental College, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.
7. Frederic H. Kent, 458 West 116th Street, New York City.
8. Mrs. Frederic H. Kent, 458 West 116th Street, New York City.
9. E. Langley, Principal, The Edgewood School, Greenwich, Conn.
10. Helen Lynd, Member of the Faculty, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, N.Y.
11. Robert S. Lynd, Executive Secretary, Social Science Research Council, New York City.
12. Dr. Lois Hayden Meek, Teachers College, Columbia University, N.Y.C.
13. Dr. Fred A. Moss, Center for Psychological Service, Washington, D.C.
14. Helen Parkhurst, Principal, The Dalton Schools Inc., New York City.
15. Mary E. Pierce, Director, The Park School, Cleveland, Ohio.
16. E.M. Sipple, Director, The Park School, Baltimore, Maryland.
17. Eugene Randolph Smith, Headmaster, The Beaver Country Day School, Chestnut Hill, Mass.
18. Mrs. Eugene R. Smith, Beaver Country Day School, Chestnut Hill, Mass.
19. Herbert Smith, Principal, The Fieldston School, Fieldston, N.Y.
20. Perry Dunlap Smith, Headmaster, North Shore Country Day School, Winnetka, Illinois.
21. Morton D. Snyder, Headmaster, Rye Country Day School, Rye, N.Y.
22. Mrs. Morton D. Snyder, Rye, N.Y.
23. Katharine Taylor, Director, The Shady Hill School, Cambridge, Mass.
24. Carleton Washburne, Supt., Winnetka Public Schools, Winnetka, Ill.
25. Dr. Eleanor Rowland Wembridge, Referee, The Court of Domestic Relations, Cleveland, Ohio.
26. Edward Yeomans, Principal, The Ojai Valley School, Ojai, California.

### Trustees

1. Arthur A. Ballantine, New York City.
2. Dr. Vincent Ravi-Booth, Secretary, Board of Trustees, Old Bennington.
3. Dr. John J. Coss, Columbia University, New York City.
4. Mrs. George S. Franklin, New York City.
5. Mrs. Arthur H. Holden, Old Bennington
6. Hon. Morton D. Hull, Old Bennington, Washington, D.C., Chicago.
7. Dr. William H. Kilpatrick, Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City.
8. Hall Park McCullough, Esq., North Bennington and New York City.
9. Mrs. H.P. McCullough, Chairman, Board of Trustees, North Bennington and New York City.
10. Mrs. Clarence M. Woolley, Greenwich, Connecticut.
- 11.

### Staff

11. Robert D. Leigh, President, Bennington College.
12. Fred O. Newman, Assistant to President of Bennington College.



## PROGRAM OF BENNINGTON COLLEGE CONFERENCE June 20-21, 1930.

All meetings of the Conference will be held at the home of Mrs. John G. McCullough, North Bennington, Vermont.

Headquarters for the Conference will be at the College office, the Old Academy Library, Monument Avenue, Old Bennington, Vermont. Telephone: 836-W. All meetings are held on daylight saving time.

### First Session - Friday, June 20.

4:00 - 5:30 P.M.      Presiding Officer, Robert D. Leigh.

- (1) Presentation of the status of the Bennington College project.
- (2) Presentation and discussion of the specific need for Bennington College.
- (3) Announcements.  
(Mr. Fred O. Newman, Assistant to the President, Bennington College, is in charge of all detailed arrangements for the Conference including provision of transportation by automobile and by rail.)

5:30-6:15 P.M.      Visit to the campus site.

### Second Session - Friday, June 20.

8:00 - 10:00 P.M.      Committee Meetings.

Committee A - Ways of Getting Started.

Dr. John J. Coss, Chairman.

Committee B - The Educational Program.

Dr. William H. Kilpatrick, Chairman.

### Third Session - Saturday, June 21

9:30 - 12:45 P.M.      Dr. William H. Kilpatrick, Chairman.

Report of committees and discussion of committee reports.

1:00 - 3:00 P.M.      Buffet Luncheon.

### Fourth Session - Saturday, June 21.

3:00 - 4:00 P.M.      Report and discussion of report of Conference committee on recommendations to the Trustees.

Note: Whenever the discussion makes it possible the work of the Conference will be advanced; the Saturday afternoon session, therefore may not be necessary. At the beginning of the Conference a committee of six advisors will be appointed. The work of this committee will be to help formulate reports of Committees A and B and to prepare a list of recommendations to the Trustees to be adopted by the Conference.



1-15

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS  
BENNINGTON COLLEGE CONFERENCE

JUNE 20-21, 1930.

As stated in President Leigh's introductory remarks, the purpose of the Conference "is to deliberate honestly about the particular problem of what the Bennington College project should do next.....we should appreciate courageous criticism rather than praise.....nothing should limit the discussions of this particular conference."

There followed an historical sketch and a statement of the educational and financial developments leading up to the present status of the enterprise, i.e.,: a general interest in and approval of the College's educational ideas, but a total of funds which the Trustees have considered inadequate to begin construction.

President Leigh suggested that members of the Conference should see if it were possible to agree with the Trustees upon the following hypotheses before discussing the situation further:

- (1) There is a specific need for the Bennington type of college;
- (2) No existing college, either at present or in the near future, contemplates doing the type of thing that Bennington proposes to do;
- (3) This is a strategic time in the educational situation to concentrate our efforts on establishing the College, reorganizing in any way necessary to get the educational ideas into actual operation.

With the first hypothesis there was general agreement. There was a discussion of whether the need was limited to girls. Messrs. Perry Smith and Herbert Smith emphasized the greater need of such a college for girls. The widespread specialization on



students of the "academic" type in the women's colleges and the restricted fields open to women were the arguments advanced. On the other hand, Messrs. Beatty, Washburne and Clarke felt that the boys' need was equal to the girls'. Mr. Beatty thought this especially true in the case of the boy with distinct interest in the sciences, who now is forced to regulate his special interests in accordance with the college entrance examinations.

The query was also made as to whether the need was felt more by the student with exceptional ability in one specific direction or by the normal, high grade student with first class, well rounded ability. After discussion it was concluded that Bennington would appeal equally to the girl of special interests and the girl of excellent all-round ability.

Regarding the second hypothesis, it was understood that no other institution now carried on, or contemplates inaugurating the Bennington type of program. It was stated that Swarthmore, although doing an excellent piece of work in the last two years, is not moving rapidly toward the progressive school type of curriculum, especially in the first two years. Mathematics and languages bar the way, during these years, to comprehensive reorganization.

According to Mrs. Robert Lynd (a member of the faculty of Sarah Lawrence College), Sarah Lawrence College "is doing what Bennington proposes to do, the difference being it is only two years.....we are constantly encountering the difficulties that have been stressed; we lose people because they do not want to go to one of the conventional colleges. Rollins and Swarthmore, moreover, do not fill the need, and we are continually getting more and more requests from people to come back for a third year....".

Mr. Beatty, Mr. Smith, and Miss Parkhurst gave specific examples of the increasing number of students taking post-graduate



work in their schools either because no college offers the type of work which they need, or because they wish to broaden their educational horizons before they enter college.

There was unanimous agreement with the Trustees as to the validity of the third hypothesis.

With general agreement reached upon the three hypotheses, the Conference sub-divided into two committee groups which met on Friday evening to consider what changes, if any, in educational and financial policy would facilitate the establishment of the College. Committee "A", under the chairmanship of Dr. John J. Coss, discussed "Ways of Getting Started"; Committee "B", under the chairmanship of Dr. William H. Kilpatrick considered "The Educational Program."

The two Committee reports were made in full session the following (Saturday" morning. A complete discussion of each topic took place before the recommendations were finally drafted.

Below is a summary of the Recommendations of the Conference to the Bennington Board of Trustees, with a short statement of the discussion which led to the adoption of each resolution.

(1) THE CONFERENCE APPROVES UNANIMOUSLY AND ENTHUSIASTICALLY THE EDUCATIONAL PLAN FOR BENNINGTON COLLEGE AS IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED IN THE WRITTEN STATEMENT AND EXPLAINED BY THE PRESIDENT.

Miss Katherine Taylor, reporting for Committee "B", analyzed the various points in the "Educational Plan", gave a thoroughgoing endorsement for the committee, and found nothing in the Plan itself to militate against the successful establishment of the College.

(2) IF THE COLLEGE IS TO BE ESTABLISHED AT BENNINGTON THE CONFERENCE FAVORS A COLLEGE FOR WOMEN AND NOT A COEDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION. (VOTED 19-5). THE CONFERENCE WELCOMES THE PLANS



ALREADY WORKED OUT BY THE PRESIDENT FOR PROMOTING EVERY COORDINATED ACTIVITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IN RELATION TO THE COLLEGE.

A large majority of the Conference expressed a theoretical preference for coeducation on the college level. The primary arguments supporting this hypothesis were: it is the logical continuation of an important feature of the newer educational philosophy, namely: that coeducation assumes normal relationships between boys and girls, men and women, in all phases of activity; modern psychology, furthermore, emphasizes the need for normal work and play relationships in order to promote a healthy, natural sex development. New types of courses dealing with parental adjustments, adjustments within marriage, etc., looking toward a career in the home, are carried through more naturally in a coeducational college.

The prevailing arguments against coeducation for Bennington College, if the College is to remain in the Northeast, were as follows: Because of general opposition to coeducation in New England and the Northeast, Bennington would fail to attract boys equal in ability and character to the girls. The example of Swarthmore was cited, showing that while one from every eight girl applicants is taken, one half of the boys' applications are accepted. On the other hand, President Leigh referred to a recent letter from a member of the Swarthmore faculty who wrote: "Our boys are very high grade, above the median, take more 'highest honors' than the girls, and make up about one-half of Phi Beta Kappa."

Several members emphasized that boys' social dominance invariably hampers the girls' freedom of expression and action (Mrs. Wembridge, Mrs. Lynd, Mr. Perry Smith, Mr. Coss). This might produce a particularly harmful effect in the case of association between first-rate girls and third-rate boys. There would also be



a large increase in the administrative burden attendant upon co-education which, added to the already existing hazards of creating a new institution, might prove disastrous (Mr. Gaus).

On the other hand, it was argued that the development of coordinated activities with Williams College, 14 miles away, and the later possibility of creating a coordinate boys' college in Bennington might prove advantageous.

(3) THE CONFERENCE DIVIDES PRACTICALLY EVENLY ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE COLLEGE SHOULD BE LOCATED NEAR A METROPOLITAN CENTER OR IN BENNINGTON. (8-9 VOTE).

The primary argument advanced for a metropolitan center was that the proposed Bennington curriculum is peculiarly adapted to the utilization of metropolitan facilities. There would be far less danger of reverting to a "subject matter" or verbal, book-knowledge curriculum. The enjoyment of high class art, music, and drama would become a normal experience. Proximity to the finest examples of current economic and industrial activity would aid greatly in the social science courses. The regular use of libraries, natural history and art museums would give vital meaning to many courses. Mrs. Lynd cited examples of Sarah Lawrence students drawing great benefit from the Museum of Natural History, the Metropolitan Art Museum, and the New York Public Library, as well as from a study of conditions in New York relative to an understanding of different types of civilizations.

There would also be a greater opportunity to obtain high-class teachers in art and music, especially for part-time work. The College could have the more regular counsel of psychological and other experts for teaching and personnel work. Many expensive items, such as library facilities, would be reduced. Much of the



"mischievous segregation" often found in women's colleges would disappear because of the opportunity for sharing in a larger unit of ordinary living.

The advantages stressed for a location at Bennington were: the great natural beauty, quiet, and healthfulness of the rural surroundings; the advantage of retaining most of the cash and pledges already received from Bennington residents; public identification of the College program with the Bennington name; the opportunity to scan life with a certain amount of perspective in peaceful surroundings; escape from "the drive of modern life on adolescence."

(4) THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS THAT THE TRUSTEES MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO OPEN THE COLLEGE IN 1931.

AMENDMENT 1: THE CONFERENCE RECOMMENDS STRONGLY THAT IF THE TRUSTEES GO AHEAD IN 1931, THE TRUSTEES THEMSELVES SHOULD ASSUME COMPLETELY ALL FUTURE FINANCING PROBLEMS, AND POSSIBLY BUILDING CONSTRUCTION PROBLEMS, UNTIL THE COLLEGE OPENS.

AMENDMENT 2: IN THE DEGREE THAT THE COLLEGE BEGINS WITH LESS CERTAINTY OF FINANCIAL STANDING, THE FACULTY MUST BE THE MORE FULLY ASSURED OF FUNDS TO PAY THEIR SALARIES. IN ANY DECISION TO BEGIN, THEREFORE, THERE SHOULD BE A GUARANTEE OF FACULTY SALARIES FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST THREE YEARS.

Mr. Eugene Smith, offering this recommendation, held that the College must capitalize on its friends' enthusiasm before it is too late. Mr. Lynd offered the first amendment, in order that



President Leigh might devote his entire time to the educational and organizational phases of the work. Mr. Herbert Smith offered the second amendment, and stressed that the project would stand or fall by the men and women on its faculty. Adequate salaries should be paid from the start, salaries far greater than those in other women's colleges.

The following suggestions relative to financing an early opening, as reported from one of the two committees, are recommended to the Trustees:

(a) That the dormitory construction be financed through loans, the interest and amortization charges being met by room rentals.

(b) That such part as is possible of principal, as well as interest of funds already given for scholarships be used for scholarships at the beginning of the College in order to insure a balanced clientele. The belief is that this would encourage gifts for this purpose.

(c) That parents of enrolled students be invited to add one or two percent to their annual tuition payments, to create a scholarship fund.

(d) That since Bennington College will offer opportunities particularly desirable for graduates of the schools represented at the Conference, the College should urge interested schools to recommend very promising students unable to attend college without financial assistance, and the schools themselves should be urged to become responsible for the scholarship allowances for such students.

(e) That the Trustees consider a plan by which parents will be required to deposit a certain sum as a non-interest bearing loan, to be left with the College while the student is in College and to be returned when the student leaves.