



The
Chapel Windows

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Swope Memorial Chapel

Westminster College

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Forty nine years, to the month, after Dr. W. W. Robertson offered his momentous resolution as the Presbytery of Missouri met at the Old Auxvasse church, seven students organized the Society of the Skulls of Seven in Westminster College. Conditions in 1898 were not much different from those in 1851 when Dr. Robertson established Fulton College, two years later to become Synod's College, Westminster. The original Westminster Hall still housed faculty and students; the rooms were still heated by stoves, not too lately substituted for open fireplaces. The registration was almost the smallest in the whole history of the institution, the student body still largely local. The same curriculum was taught; the same rules governed the college; the graduating class still had its salutatory delivered in Latin and the President still conferred the baccalaureate degrees in the same tongue. Kemper no longer taught Greek but Daniel Shaw Gage, his peer as an instructor and scholar, did. Fisher had gone but Edgar Hoge Marquess ably filled his place in the chair of Latin. John Harvey Scott, the first full professor of mathematics, was then serving his thirty

fifth year; John Jay Rice, great teacher and leader, was twenty nine years on the faculty; John Newton Lyle, professor of natural science, with one brief interruption, had taught since 1861, a span of thirty seven years. In every particular the Westminster of 1898 was a replica of the Westminster of forty years earlier. The students thought and acted as their predecessors had done; the college and town were militantly Presbyterian; the social life and attitudes of the Old South prevailed; conservatism obtained in town and college alike.

Originally a "ribbon society", without much in the way of objectives except good fellowship and general promotion of school loyalty, the Skulls of Seven grew with the years. Their inarticulate motto was, and is, "The thing that ought to be done and which will not be done unless we do it, that is our duty."

The Society never had any money; yet constantly endeavored to do something for the betterment of the institution to conserve the traditions; and once and again left some memorial of the great Westminster men of the past. Marble tablets to Robertson, to Sausser, to Hockaday, were placed on the walls of the old chapel at the Skulls instigation. Bronze plaques replaced marble slabs destroyed by the fire. Constantly the Skulls sought to preserve the ancient landmarks and to make the college a historic shrine by adding to its beauty.

When the long prayed for chapel was given the college by a bereaved Mother in Israel its windows were of saffron colored glass; curtains had to be hung to shade the morning sun as the students came in to prayers; the Gothic interior, because of these windows, resembled a hall rather than a church. The Skulls of Seven decided to do something about it and early in World War II proposed to Westminster men in the service that they contribute, not to exceed five dollars each, for stained glass windows to be placed in the east end of the Sanctuary. The response was immediate and generous. One enthusiastic alumnus in the armed forces even sent ten dollars. The rules to accept not more than five dollars from any one individual presented a problem until the difficulty was solved by crediting five dollars to the donor, a Beta, and the other five dollars to Eric, the well known Beta dog. Not only did the service men send in sufficient money for the three windows in the east of the Sanctuary but enough more to enable the installation of two others, one the north side of the Sanctuary to **Rev. W. W. Robertson**; one on the south side to **William Sausser**, our great benefactor, this being the only memorial to him in or about the college. The medallions at the top of each of these windows have a significance—the triangular device in the Sausser window being the heraldic insignia of a merchant.

Solicitation of the then five well organized "houses" on the campus resulted in enough gifts to install five windows in

the nave, the location of the individual window being determined by lot. On the south side of the nave, are the windows erected by **Beta Theta Pi** and **Kappa Alpha**. On the north side are those of **Phi Delta Theta**, **Delta Tau Delta** and the **Highlanders**. These are designated by the coat-of-arms of each "house" in the medallion at the top of the window.

Without regard to the time of installation of other windows attention is called to the one on the east side of the south transept, which is a memorial to **Rev. William H. Marquess D.D., '73**, a long time pastor of the Fulton Presbyterian church and the sixth President of the College. This was the gift of the late John Henry Higbee '91, of Jacksonville, Florida. The other window on the east side of the south transept is in memory of **Dr. Wylie Hamilton Forsythe '94**, a saintly man who gave his life as a medical missionary in Korea where poverty stricken lepers erected a monument to him. The emblem in the medallion is that of Korea. This window was the gift of Dr. Forsythe's personal friends.

At the south end of the south transept are three memorial windows. The one on the east is dedicated to the memory of **Corporal Donald G. Hill**, infantry, killed on Okinawa; the center window is dedicated to **Lieutenant Thomas J. Cole Jr.**,—Air man—the first man shot down over the Burma Road; the third is for **Ensign Philip M. Joyce**, killed on the Destroyer Perry at

Port Darwin, Australia. Each of these windows was given by the family of the fallen soldier.

On the west side of the south transept one window, in memory of **Jeremiah Bascom Reeves**, was erected by some friends and former students. The other, given by officials of Kemper School at Boonville, perpetually remembers **Frederick T. Kemper**, first full professor of Greek at Westminster and, when Dr. Laws was away, its acting President. Great teachers both, the medallions in these memorials appropriately bear a burning lamp in one instance; a lighted seven pronged candlestick in the other.

The two windows on the east side of the north transept are memorials to two of Westminster's most devoted and loyal sons, each having served more than a quarter of a century on its Board of Trustees. The window dedicated to **Robert M. White** (given by his son) significantly has a scroll and pen, designating the life work of this great editor; that devoted to the memory of **John F. Green**, (erected by his sons), testifies to the integrity and ability of this great lawyer by displaying the scales of equity poised on the sword of justice.

On the west side of the north transept the first window, given by his son, is in honor of **Jacob C. Keithley**, a consecrated elder in the Presbyterian church and our most venerable alumnus, being translated into glory in his one hundred

fourth year. The second window perpetuates the service of **Dean George B. Sweazey**, placed in the chapel by some of his affectionate friends. The Keithley window carries a sheaf of ripened grain, typifying a full and well spent life; the Sweazey emblem is a crown resting on an open Bible which is supported by the cross; the combination exemplifying his character, his faith and his reward.

In the north end of the north transept are three large windows. The center one is dedicated to the memory of **Rev. Joshua Barbee** and to his son **Joshua F. Barbee '95**—the window being a gift from **Rev. Thomas M. Barbee '92** the son and brother of the two honorees. On each side of this Barbee memorial are windows erected to the memory of heroic sons of the college who gave their lives in World War II; on the east is the one to **Lieutenant Charles H. McCann '41**, U.S.M.C. killed at Iwo Jima, the window being given by his mother; on the west the memorial is to **Lieutenant Joseph N. Glenn '44**, Marine Air Force, killed in action in the Green Island area in the South Pacific, the window being given by his parents. Each of these two last mentioned windows carries the marine corps emblem.

The extreme west window in the north side of the nave is a memorial to **Rev. Addison Alexander Wallace D.D. '84**. Funds for the erection of this window came largely from members of the Mexico Prebyterian church though other friends among the alumni and the Board of Trustees made

substantial and appreciated contributions. The window displays the Wallace coat-of-arms.

On the south side of the nave are two memorials to lifelong supporters of Westminster, both alumni. The first, given by his daughters and son-in-law, is in memory of Edward W. Grant '80, long an elder in the Fulton Presbyterian church, superintendent of the Sunday school and member of the Board of Trustees for more than a decade. This window is distinguished by the Grant family coat-of-arms. The second window was given by the Presbytery of St. Louis, U. S., in affectionate memory of Rev. Walter McAfee Langtry D.D. '89, bearing the appropriate Alpha and Omega on an open Bible.

There are twelve smaller windows in the side aisles of the nave, six on each side. These were given by the gold star families to commemorate all the sixty one Westminster men who died in World War II. They bear the insignia of the Army, Navy, Coast Guard and Marine Corps in succession; three times repeated.

The cost of the windows so far installed exceeds seven thousand dollars. All have been placed in the chapel without cost to the college. To complete the picture there are still six windows in the gallery and the large window at the western end of the chapel. The Skulls of Seven have the completion of this project as a major objective and would be glad to answer any inquiries regarding the installation of additional memorials.