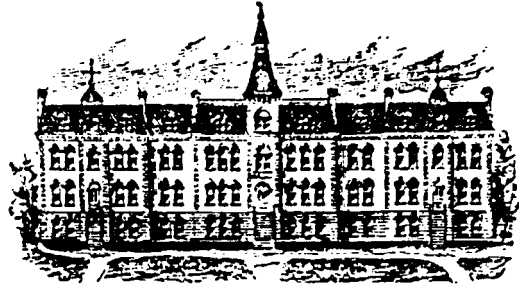


Ambrose Hall: A new beginning

SAU has become a well-known university in and around the Quad Cities and across the Midwest. But as we look toward a successful future — a growing student body, new and renovated buildings, more challenging curricula — it's important to remember the tiny seed planted long ago that grew into the quality institution we know today. Here, in our last issue of the '88-'89 school year, we take a journey in the past to the time when SAU was simply an idea in the minds of a few great men. This is the story of our school — a school with a rich history of traditions and goals that are as much alive today as they were at its birth.

ST. AMBROSE SEMINARY



LOCUST ST. BETWEEN SCOTT AND WESTERN AVE.
DAVENPORT, IOWA

Ambrose Hall is the key that opens the door to the early years at SAU, and today, each room is filled with stories about (unintelligible). The cornerstone for the historic building was laid in July 1885. Dignitaries assembled under the oaks on the famous "Noel's Grove" site in front of nearly 2,000 people in a grand ceremony. The 10 acre site was purchased in the spring of that year.

The institution was founded by the late Rt. Rev. John McMullen, D. D., first Bishop of Davenport. In the year 1882

The Rev. J.P. Ryan, pastor of St. Marguerite's, said during his speech on dedication day, "This little seed which we have planted here today will grow and develop and its influence will be felt in the community, in the diocese and in the entire state." While dark clouds loomed overhead, holy water was sprinkled over the cornerstone, prayers were recited and the lot became the beginning of historic Ambrose Hall.

INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF IOWA, OCT. 6, 1885

The Seminary is under the supervision of the Rt. Rev. Ordinary of the Diocese, the Rt. Rev. H. Cosgrove, D. D.

The object of the Institution is to impart to the Catholic Young Men attending, a thorough Mental and Moral Culture.

The Course embraces the CLASSICAL, COMMERCIAL, SCIENTIFIC AND PREPARATORY COURSE.

Students officially began their classes in the building November 2, 1885, but the building was still not complete; only two of the four stories had been finished. But as more students began to enroll, a fund drive was launched to complete the building so that it would attract even more students in future years.

TERMS: { Boarding School, - per year \$190 00
Day School, - - " " 50.00

Instruction in music given at terms arranged with Professor

Once completed, Ambrose Hall contained a large dining room and a kitchen on the first floor, a study hall and several bathrooms on the second floor, a library, faculty rooms and another study hall on the third floor and rooms for boarding students and the original chapel on the top floor.

oak trees, which were 30 to 40 years old when the building was founded in 1882.

During that time, the *Iowa Catholic Messenger* said the new building was "the finest college building in eastern Iowa."

Although the campus soon began to expand and many of the Ambrose Hall facilities began to be used for other purposes, the building continues to stand today as home of the business departments, the registrar and business offices, several administrative offices, the Bee Hive, game room and snack bar. The SGA also has set up an office inside the ancient walls. The old Murphy gym

has been converted to a new room for the occupational therapy department. The administration is continuing to modernize the building and considering installing an elevator for handicapped students.

But even with these improvements, Ambrose Hall will continue to be the home of tales of the ghosts of priests long ago and creatures who play games with students while they sleep at night. Some students may think the tales are silly, but when the wind blows through the cracks in the windows late at night, even they have to wonder what secrets Ambrose Hall holds in its walls.