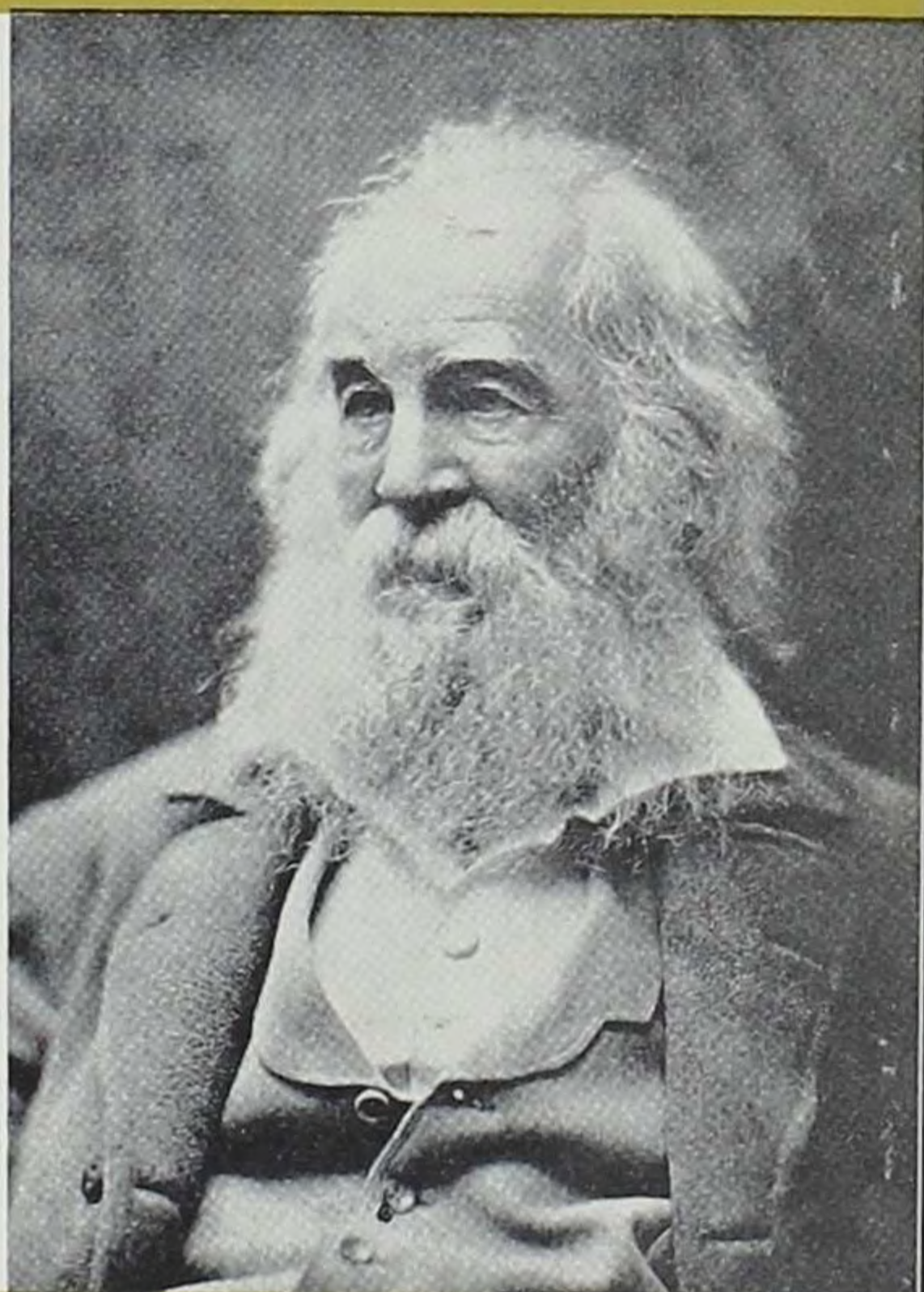


*The*  
**PALIMPSEST**



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Walt Whitman: The Wound Dresser

Old in Years but Young in Spirit

**The Walt Whitman Club**

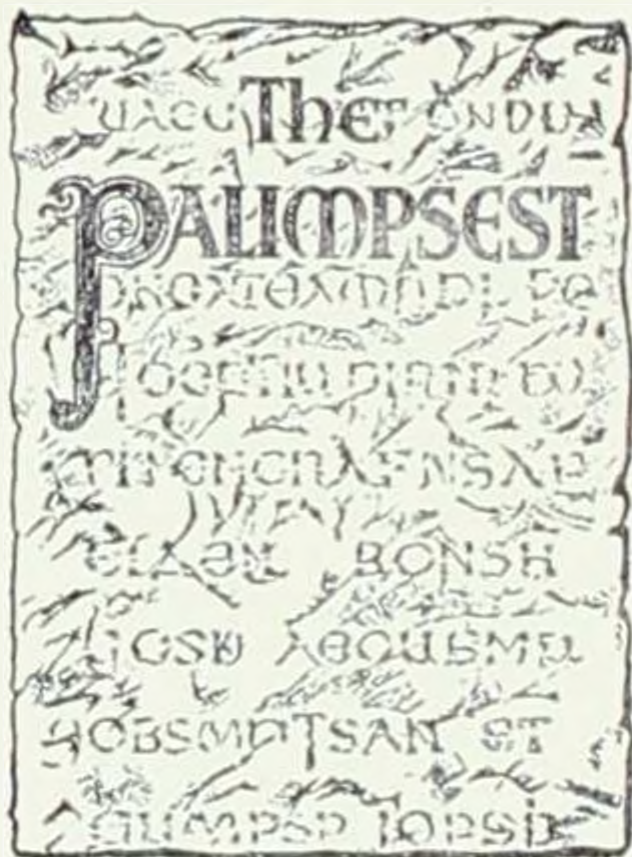
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Iowa City, Iowa

AUGUST 1970

SPECIAL EDITION—FIFTY CENTS



## *The Meaning of Palimpsest*

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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WILLIAM M. BEARDSHEAR

## *Illustrations*

Photographs came from the files of the Club, Drake University, Iowa State University, Iowa State Teachers Association, Iowa High School Athletic Association, Henry Galbreth, Arch Grimes, and Ray Bryan.

## *Authors*

William J. Petersen is superintendent of The State Historical Society of Iowa and a member of the Club since 1947. William M. Beardshear was President of Iowa State University.

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# THE PALIMPSEST

EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

VOL. LI

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No. 8

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## Clubs in Iowa History

Someone has said "The Americans are a Nation of Joiners." If this is true of Americans, it is also true of Iowans, for such groups as the Masons, Odd Fellows, and Knights of Columbus, the Elks, the Eagles, and the Moose, have become deeply engraved in the lives of our people. When one considers the various reform groups, patriotic, commercial, agricultural, and labor organizations that have been identified with Iowa's past the impact of their presence can be readily imagined and assessed.

Some of these groups assume a national role, while others, although they may have their nationwide counterparts, are definitely more local in character. Thus, there are athletic clubs and country clubs, art clubs and literary clubs, aero clubs and motor clubs, bridge clubs and bowling clubs, boat clubs and riding clubs.

During the past half century the State Historical Society has published such articles as the West Union Study Club for Men, the Monticello Fri-

day Club, the Keokuk Lantern Club, and the Cedar Falls Parlor Reading Circle. In addition, it has devoted whole issues of *The Palimpsest* to such diverse groups as the Boy Scouts, Kiwanis Clubs, Federation of Women's Clubs, and Farm Organizations. Such studies explore the many facets of the economic, political, social, cultural, and intellectual life of the people.

The present issue of *The Palimpsest* records briefly the history of the Walt Whitman Club, a 75-year old group established by the Iowa Schoolmasters in Des Moines in 1895.

By its title one would assume that this was just another literary club. Further investigation of the Club's records reveals that it had been set up by a dozen Iowa school superintendents bent on developing a spirit of camaraderie and helpfulness among its members. That they were successful cannot be doubted. Nor can one doubt the impact of this group in advancing the cause of education in Iowa. The high rank that Iowa has attained in the field of education during the 20th century can be attributed in no small degree to the men who have made up the membership of the Walt Whitman Club over the past 75 years.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

## The Walt Whitman Club

The list of men who have been inducted into the Iowa Schoolmasters Walt Whitman Club over the past 75 years reads like a *Who's Who* of great names in Iowa education. The idea for such a club had its inception at Cedar Falls in 1895, when J. T. Merrill, then superintendent of schools at Cedar Rapids, was visiting with O. J. Laylander, superintendent at Cedar Falls. Commenting on Laylander's expressed wish that the writings of Walt Whitman should become more familiar to students, Merrill said: "Why not organize a Walt Whitman Club?"

At the meeting of the Iowa State Teachers Association the following fall the suggestion took definite form when Superintendents J. T. Merrill, F. J. Sessions, W. D. Wells, George I. Miller, and O. J. Laylander drew up a brief organization paper and prepared a list of charter members. The following comprised the charter membership of the Walt Whitman Club when it was organized in Des Moines in 1895:

J. T. Merrill

F. J. Sessions  
George I. Miller  
W. D. Wells

W. W. Rodwell  
W. F. Chevalier  
Sherman Yates

O. J. Laylander  
L. E. A. Ling  
S. H. Sheakley

F. T. Oldt  
W. A. Doron  
Charles E. Shelton

At the Club's meeting in 1896, J. T. Merrill was elected president for life, with the title of Chief Walt, and O. J. Laylander was elected secretary—with the title of Scribe Walt. On the death of Mr. Merrill in 1900, Franklin T. Oldt was elected Chief Walt. When Mr. Laylander moved to Chicago in 1906 to accept a key position with Ginn & Company, Walt Palmer succeeded him as Scribe Walt.

The Iowa Schoolmasters Club evoked considerable curiosity at its inception. Many wondered as to the real object of the club. The press referred to it in a mysterious way. The members themselves were secretive. According to O. J. Laylander, the "old ladies of both sexes jumped to the conclusion that it was something horrid." After all, Whitman had been dead only three years when the Walt Whitman Club suddenly sprang into being in Iowa. Many knew Walt Whitman only by one line—

"I sound my barbaric yawp over the roofs of the world."

Would Iowa, some concerned citizens queried, suddenly become a land resounding with "barbaric yawps" from the members of this new club? As O. J. Laylander relates:

In certain educational circles, the club was denounced as something dangerous and was even referred to from

the pulpit by a professor-preacher in such a way as to lead his hearers to believe that the Walt Whitman Club was a promoter of underground literature. While the leaders in the club quietly enjoyed this misunderstanding, they felt that out of respect to certain members of the club something desperate had to be done in order to save the reputation of the club.

Even such a staid editor as Johnson Brigham seemed to raise an eyebrow as he took notice of the club in his *Midland Monthly* of February, 1897. In his editorial, Brigham wrote:

A most notable event in the literary history of the Middle-West is the organization of a Walt Whitman Club, composed of twelve of the foremost educators in the State of Iowa: Supt. J. T. Merrill, Cedar Rapids; Supt. Charles E. Shelton, Burlington; Supt. S. H. Sheakley, Waverly; Supt. F. T. Oldt, Dubuque; Supt. W. A. Doron, Monticello; Supt. Sherman Yates, Ida Grove; Supt. G. I. Miller, Boone; Supt. W. F. Chevalier, Red Oak; Supt. F. J. Sessions, Waterloo; Supt. L. E. A. Ling, Cresco; Supt. O. J. Laylander, Cedar Falls; and Prof. W. D. Wells, Davenport.

The organization was effected between times during the recent convention of the State Teachers Association in Des Moines. Its purpose is to study Whitman and by correspondence compare notes on his poems. Its members will meet once a year at the State Capital for conference and discussion. Twenty years ago these gentlemen would have jeopardized their standing as educators by such a commitment to the author of "Leaves of Grass."

The founding fathers of the Walt Whitman Club proved themselves both resourceful and equal to the challenge that lay before them. Their

next initiates, they determined, would possess such outstanding virtues that none could raise a questioning voice. Furthermore, they decided that the entire program would be witnessed by a group of highly regarded, unbiased citizens, who were not members of their Club.

Two exemplary Iowans, President Wm. M. Beardshear of Iowa State College at Ames and Freeman H. Bloodgood, Fayette County Superintendent of Schools at West Union, were invited to join the club. Then, to cap it off, Governor Leslie M. Shaw and other distinguished Iowans, including a Des Moines editor, were invited to the first Annual Banquet and with it, the privilege of witnessing the initiation. The following news account written by Lafayette Young of the *Iowa Daily Capital* appeared the next day in his Des Moines paper:

The first annual spread of the Iowa School Masters Walt Whitman Club, held at the Turner hall parlors last night, marked one of the most pleasant and interesting gatherings that has ever surrounded a banqueting board in Des Moines. The "Walt Whitman Club" is an organization composed of about a score of "good fellows" chosen from among the leading educators of Iowa. Its object is expressed in the word "camaraderie." Its purpose is to inculcate a spirit of good fellowship. These lines serve as its motto:

Camarado, I give you my hand!  
I give you my love more precious than money,  
I give you myself before preaching or law;



Will you give me yourself? Will you come travel with me?  
Shall we stick by each other as long as we live?

The feature of last night's program was the initiation into the mysticisms of the order of President W. M. Beardshear of the Iowa Agricultural college and Superintendent F. H. Bloodgood of West Union. Following these interesting ceremonies the banquet was served at midnight. Covers were laid for twenty. The invited guests included Gov. L. M. Shaw, William Hawley Smith of Peoria, Samuel Strauss, S. Y. Gillan of Milwaukee, Elbert Hubbard, editor of the "Philistine" of East Aurora, New York, Hon. Lafe Young and F. W. Bicknell. The members of the order present were Superintendent J. T. Merrill of Cedar Rapids, F. C. Eastman of the Normal School of Cedar Falls, T. M. Irish of Dubuque, Superintendent W. F. Chevalier of Red Oak, President W. M. Beardshear of Ames, Superintendent O. J. Laylander of Cedar Falls, Superintendent George I. Miller of Boone, L. E. A. Ling of Cresco, Superintendent F. T. Oldt of Dubuque, Superintendent C. E. Shelton of Burlington, Superintendent F. J. Sessions of Waterloo, Superintendent S. H. Sheakley of Waverly, Superintendent W. A. Doron of Eldora, F. D. Merritt of the State University at Iowa City, and Superintendent Bloodgood of West Union.

An elaborate menu was served and after coffee, Superintendent Merrill, who holds the office of Chief Walt, turned over his place of authority to Brother Walt Eastman, who acted as toastmaster, introducing the different speakers in a manner thoroughly original and eloquent. Toasts were responded to by Brothers Beardshear, Bloodgood, Shelton, Sessions, Laylander and Merritt. Governor Shaw and Samuel Strauss responded for the guests of the evening. It was late this morning when the participants in the banquet were dismissed after school boy fashion by "Chief Walt" Merrill. The banquet will be long re-

...First Annual Spread...

...Iowa School Masters' Walt Whitman Club....

...Turner Hall Parlors...

...Des Moines, Dec. 27, 1898...

In honor of the Elevation of Friends Beardshear and Bloodgood to the Comraderie of the Brother Walt Degree.

MENU

"This the meal equally set; this the meal for natural hunger \* \* \*"

BLUE POINTS. CELERY.

CONSOMME ROYAL EN TASS.

SALTED ALMONDS.

QUEEN OLIVES.

BONCHEES (?) A LA COMTESSE.  
RADISHES.

PUNCH CARDINAL.

ROAST QUAIL BARDE.  
TOMATO MAYONAISE.

NESSELRODE PUDDING VICTORIA.

MACAROONS. CHRISTMAS KISSES. LADY FINGERS.

SELECT FRUIT.

CHEESE AND CRACKERS.

COFFEE.

FRAPPE.

AFTER COFFEE

"I have heard that the talkers were talking \* \*"

TOAST MASTER, BROTHER WALT EASTMAN.

"As it Seems to Me," ..... Brother Walt Beardshear

"To You," ..... Brother Walt Bloodgood

"All Walts Look Alike to Me," ..... Brother Walt Shelton

"The Stranger Within Our Gates," The Stranger Himself

Grand Finale, ..... Any Old Walt

"Comerado, I give you my hand!

I give you my love more precious than my life.

I give you myself before preaching or praying.

Will you give me yourself? Will you give me travel with me?

Shall we stick by each other as long as we live?"

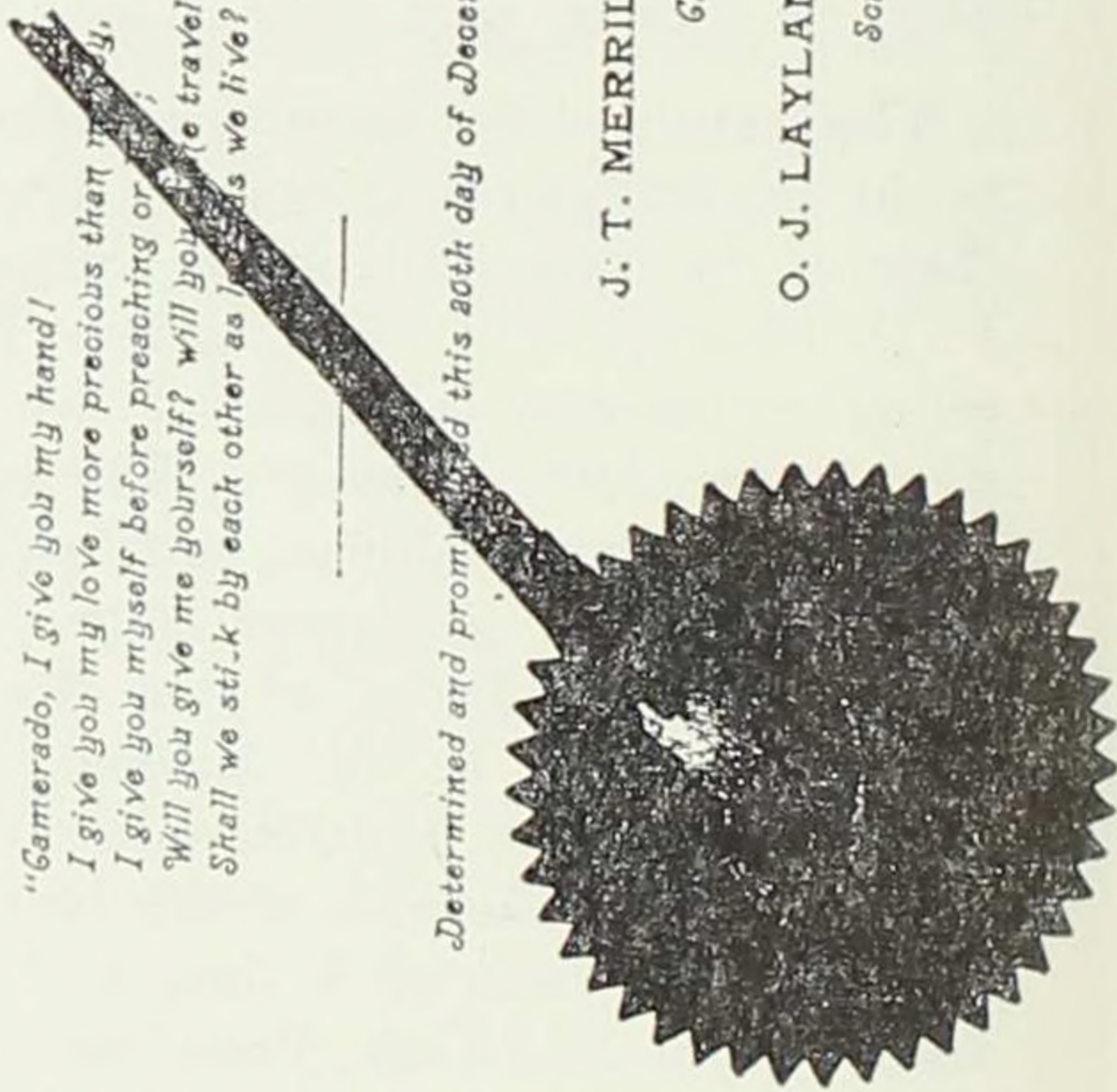
Determined and promised to do this 20th day of December, 1898.

J. T. MERRILL,

Chief Walt.

O. J. LAYLANDER,

Scribe Walt.



*Second Annual Banquet*

...of the...

*Iowa School Masters'*



*Walt Whitman Club*

*Odd Fellows' Temple,*

*Des Moines, December 27th, 1899.*

*In honor of the Elevation of Friends Beard, Mullin and Willard to the Comraderie of the Brother Walt Degree.*

*PART SECOND.*

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

TOAST MASTER BROTHER WALT SESSIONS.

The President's Annual Address. . Chief Walt Merrill.

Roll Call. (The Usual Response by Members:

Song, Yarn or Speech).

"The Man Without a Subject." . Brother Walt Willard.

"What Induced Me to Become a Walt" . . . . .

. . . . . Brother Walt Mullin.

"Before and After Taking." (Phunny Speech) . . .

. . . . . Brother Walt Beard.



membered. The menu cards, which were given the guests as souvenirs, were splendid works of art. The cover of each was a pen drawing suggestive of the different daily occupations of members and guests. Attached by a gold seal was a leaf of grass, stamped with the initials of the "Walt Whitman Club."



The above was the only time that a press release was given for a Walt Whitman Club banquet and initiation. This story, with the names of the distinguished guests who attended the banquet and witnessed the ceremonies, had the desired effect. It stopped for all time the wagging tongues of those who knew nothing of the Walt Whitman Club and its significance.

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When the Walt Whitman Club was organized in 1895 the population of Iowa had just passed the two million mark. Public education was well-entrenched although the high school still had competition from academies and colleges. Some idea of the size of schools, the months open, the salaries of superintendents, the number of assistants, and the average salary of teachers, can be gleaned from the following data on the Walt Whitman Club founders contained in the *Iowa State Educational Directory*—1896-1897:

Club Member	School Dist.	Enrollment	Mos. Open	Position	Salary	Assts.	Average Monthly Salary
W. F. Chevalier	Red Oak	1,084	9	Supt.	\$1,400	28	\$47.04
W. A. Doron	Monticello	482	9	Supt.	1,200	12	40.00
O. J. Laylander	Cedar Falls	946	9	Supt.	1,600	25	49.00
L. E. A. Ling	Cresco	485	9	Supt.	1,300	12	44.55
J. T. Merrill	Cedar Rapids	4,347	9	Supt.	2,040	114	48.78
George I. Miller	Boone	1,760	9	Supt.	1,800	50	46.50
F. T. Oldt	Dubuque	4,778	10	Supt.	2,300	112	48.55
F. J. Sessions	East Waterloo	1,112	9	Supt.	1,600	33	48.75
S. H. Sheakley	Waverly	620	9	Supt.	1,600	16	43.02
Charles E. Shelton	Burlington	3,956	9½	Supt.	1,900	109	66.72
W. D. Wells	Grundy Center	353	9	Supt.	1,125	8	38.75
Sherman Yates	Ida Grove	520	9	Supt.	1,200	13	45.00
W. W. Rodwell	Marshalltown			Teacher			
Thomas Irish	Dubuque	920	10	Prin.	1,600	22	41.82
F. E. Willard	Marshalltown	2,318	9	Supt.	1,900	60	56.68
I. N. Beard	Osceola	558	9	Supt.	1,100	15	40.53
Geo. H. Mullen	Washington	810	9	Supt.	1,400	21	43.00
F. H. Bloodgood	Fayette County Superintendent, West Union						
D. M. Kelly	Cedar Falls	1,038	—	Supt.	1,500	28	44.16
D. A. Thornburg	Grinnell	833	9	Supt.	1,400	23	54.54

It is well to note the relationship of the above institutions with the three institutions of higher

learning in 1895. The State University of Iowa was a relatively small institution with a faculty of 98 professors and assistants and only 1,250 students enrolled in all departments. Its total appropriation was \$115,000. The "Agricultural College" at Ames was also small, but its president, William Beardshear, had just completed his term as President of the Iowa State Teachers Association and was shortly to be initiated into the Iowa Schoolmasters Walt Whitman Club. W. A. Doron of Monticello and George H. Mullen of Washington were on the Board of Directors of the State Normal School at Cedar Falls. F. J. Sessions of Waterloo served on the Executive Committee of the Iowa State Teachers Association.

Perhaps the best explanation of the purpose of the Walt Whitman Club is given by O. J. Laylander in his *Chronicles of a Contented Man*. Published in 1928, Laylander's book recalls:

The early days of the club were intentionally shrouded in mystery. Strict secrecy was exacted of the members. None but the members knew that the purposes were not primarily literary; that it was in fact a gridiron organization, to which only those known to have a sense of humor could be elected; a center of camaraderie and wit that has had vitality enough to carry it already through more than thirty years, and has had on its roll many of the brightest and best men of the state.

The annual meetings of the club at Des Moines were a source of keen enjoyment. Each meeting provided for the admission of three new members. These were selected with

a view of their adaptation to the requirements. Repartee and good fellowship were essential qualities, for many of these meetings were occasions of real brilliancy. . . . The club had more laughs in it than its members could have possibly found elsewhere. The best evidence that this organization has real merit is that it refused to die.

The second Annual Banquet of the Iowa Schoolmasters Walt Whitman Club was held at the Odd Fellows' Temple in Des Moines on December 27, 1899—"In honor of the Elevation of Friends Beard, Mullen and Willard to the Camaraderie of the Brother Walt Degree." It was on this occasion, according to O. J. Laylander, that Walt Mullen, when called upon to respond to the toast—"What Induced Me to Become a Walt"—in desperation responded—"God knows, I don't."

The yearly initiation did not take final form until December of 1900. It was the brain child of Professor F. C. Eastman, Head of Latin at Iowa State Teachers College, who, with Thomas M. Irish, Principal of the Prescott School at Dubuque, had been initiated into the club in 1897. It is said that the versatile Eastman, who was constantly bubbling over with enthusiasm, would have, with a little encouragement, put the whole initiation into verse.

Superintendents D. M. Kelly of Cedar Falls and D. A. Thornburg of Grinnell, together with President George E. MacLean of the State Uni-

versity of Iowa, were the first Waltlets to be initiated into the Walt Whitman Club under the ritual conceived by Eastman in 1900. This initiation, with its searching personal inquiries, its journey into the literary tastes of the candidate, and its memorable visit to Walt Whitman's farm, is an experience through which each neophyte must pass. It is an evening that none will forget. It is an occasion for which the Walts will travel many miles once a year in order to exchange greetings and enjoy the sumptuous New England Boiled Dinner prepared by Walt Whitman's fastidious Hired Girl.

For the writer, who has known no other gathering place than the Fort Des Moines Hotel during the past quarter century, it came as a surprise to note, in poring through the Minutes of the Walt Whitman Club, the various meeting places during the first thirty years of the Club's history. Many of the following have either disappeared, been replaced, or might be called historic landmarks:

Yeoman's Hall	December 31, 1902
Savery Hotel (Parlor G)	December 29, 1903
Savery Hotel (Ladies Ordinary)	December 26, 1904
Chamberlain (Dutch Room)	December 26, 1905
Elks Hall	December 26, 1906
Chamberlain Hotel	December 31, 1907
Elks Hall	December 28, 1908
Savery Hotel (Ladies Ordinary)	November 4, 1909
Chamberlain Hotel	November 4, 1910



In the early days, beginning with 1909, it appears that the initiation frequently took place in such unusual places as the offices of the Board of Education, Room 1103 Fleming Building, in the Lincoln School Building, and in the Press Club Rooms, prior to the annual banquet. Between 1925 and 1929 meetings were held in 705 Youngerman Building, in the rooms of the American Institute, the offices of the Midland Schools Teachers' Agency, and in the Flynn Building. The dinner usually was held at one of the hotels. The dues assessed for the meal and sundry incidentals during this period usually ran from \$1.25 to \$1.50. The "sundry incidentals" included the cost of the programs, postage, janitor expense, etc., which were all faithfully paid by the Scribe Walt, who also served as Treasurer. The balance on hand in those days of high finance ranged from 24 cents balance on hand in 1925 to \$4.72 overdrawn in 1926. The deficit was due in part to flowers for Professor Franklin T. Oldt's funeral, who served the Club faithfully as Chief Walt for a quarter of a century.

An idea of the caliber of the men who were initiated into the Iowa Schoolmasters Walt Whitman Club can be gained from a study of its membership rolls. Particularly notable is the number of College and University presidents identified with the group.

**U. of IOWA**

George E. MacLean—1902  
 John G. Bowman—1912  
 Walter A. Jessup—1913  
 E. A. Gilmore—1935  
 Virgil M. Hancher—1944

**IOWA ST. UNI.**

Wm. M. Beardshear—1898  
 A. B. Storms—1905  
 Charles E. Friley—1940  
 James H. Hilton—1954

**U. OF NOR. IOWA**

O. R. Latham—1929  
 Malcolm Price—1944  
 J. W. Maucker—1952

**DRAKE UNIVERSITY**

Wm. B. Craig—1901  
 Hill M. Bell—1906  
 D. W. Morehouse—1924  
 Henry G. Harmon—1947

In addition to the above, W. A. Shanklin—1906, A. E. Bennett—1909, and J. P. Van Horn—1926, were presidents of Upper Iowa University; Edwin Schell—1911, was president of Iowa Wesleyan; and Harry M. Gage—1927, was president of Coe College.

Since the Iowa Schoolmasters had organized the Walt Whitman Club primarily as a haven for superintendents who found themselves in a "lonesome job," it is not surprising that its membership from the start was composed largely of superintendents, principals, and other administrative officers in the public school system. The presidents, deans, and directors of Drake University and the three large state institutions have always been well-represented in the Walt Whitman Club. Their loyalty to the Club never wavered. Thus, Walter A. Jessup was Dean of the College of Education at the University of Iowa when he became a Walt in 1913. Three years later he was

CHARTER MEMBERS



L. E. A. LING  
F. J. SESSIONS  
GEORGE I. MILLER  
W. D. WELLS

S. H. SHEAKLEY  
W. W. RODWELL  
J. T. MERRILL  
O. J. LAYLANDER  
W. F. CHEVALIER

SHERMAN YATES  
F. T. OLDT  
W. A. DORON  
CHAS. E. SHELTON

LAST OF THE CHARTER MEMBERS,  
50TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING



W. W. RODWELL



O. J. LAYLANDER



L. E. A. LING

WALTIETS—50TH ANNIVERSARY CLASS—1945



WM. R. GIBSON



BARTON MORGAN



J. P. STREET



A. B. GRIMES

SCRIBE WALTS—RECORDERS OF HISTORY



C. L. McDOWELL  
1944-1963

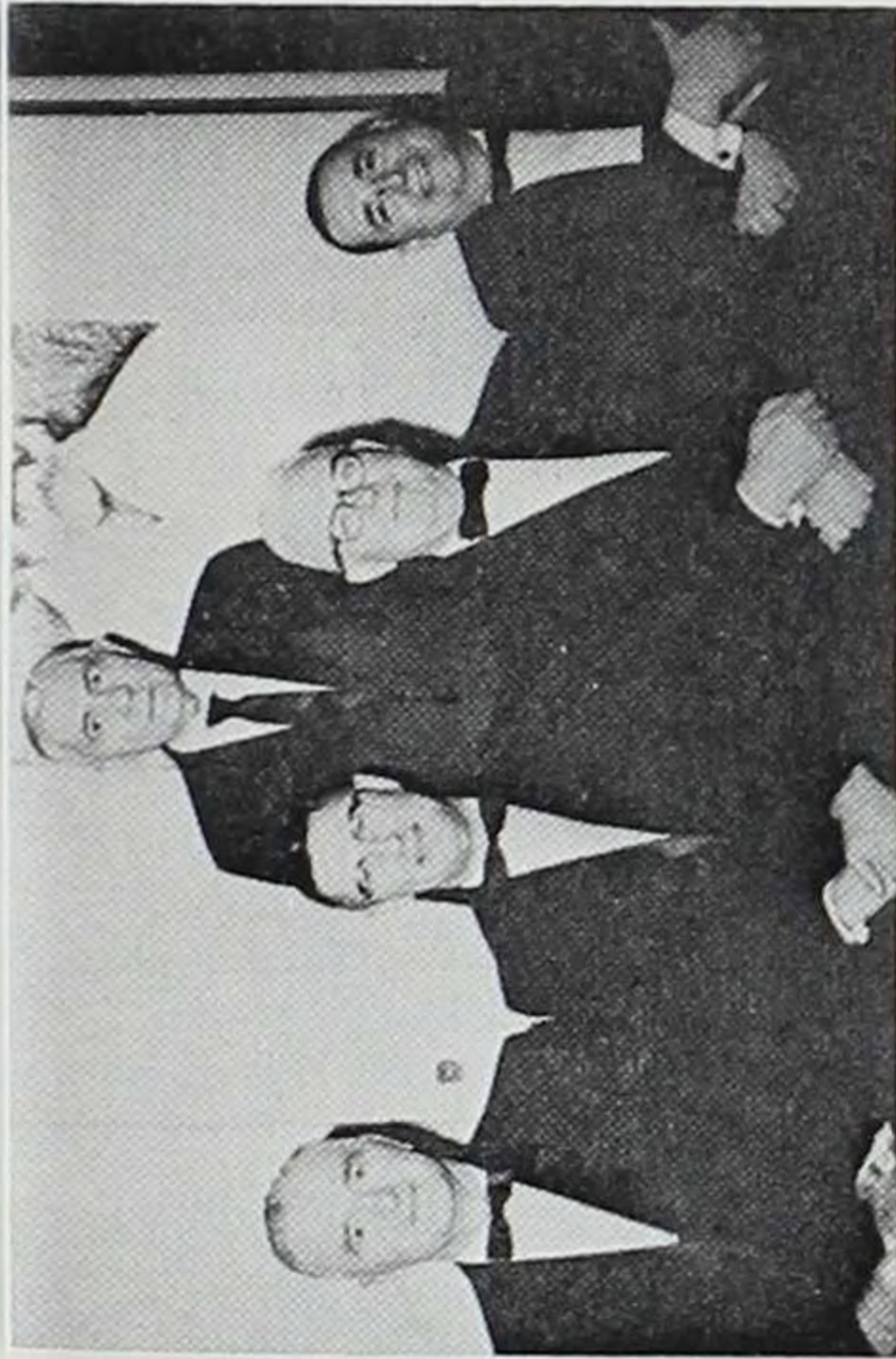
O. J. LAYLANDER—1897  
AARON PALMER—1905  
C. D. SLINKER—1921



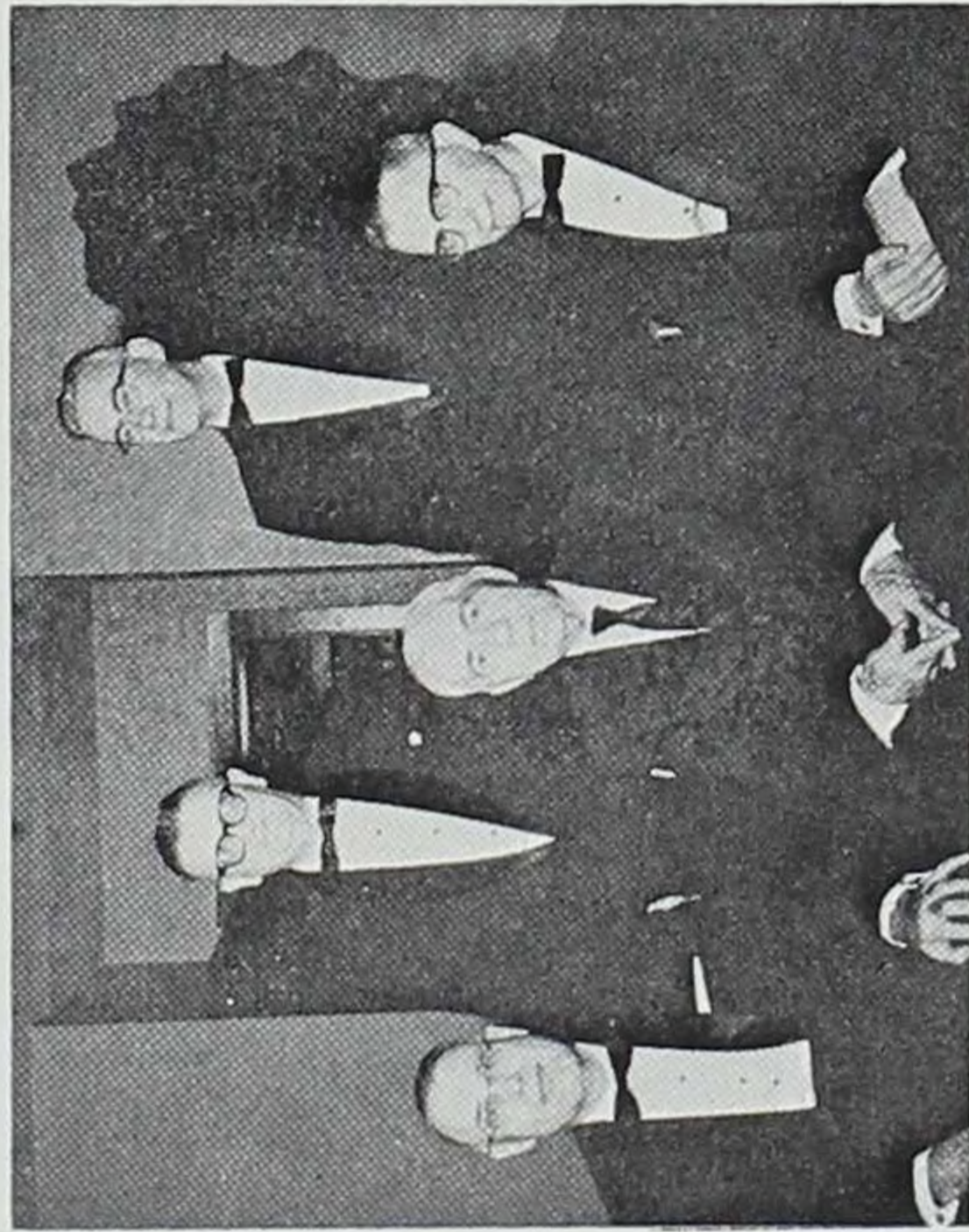
W. H. GALBRETH  
1964-



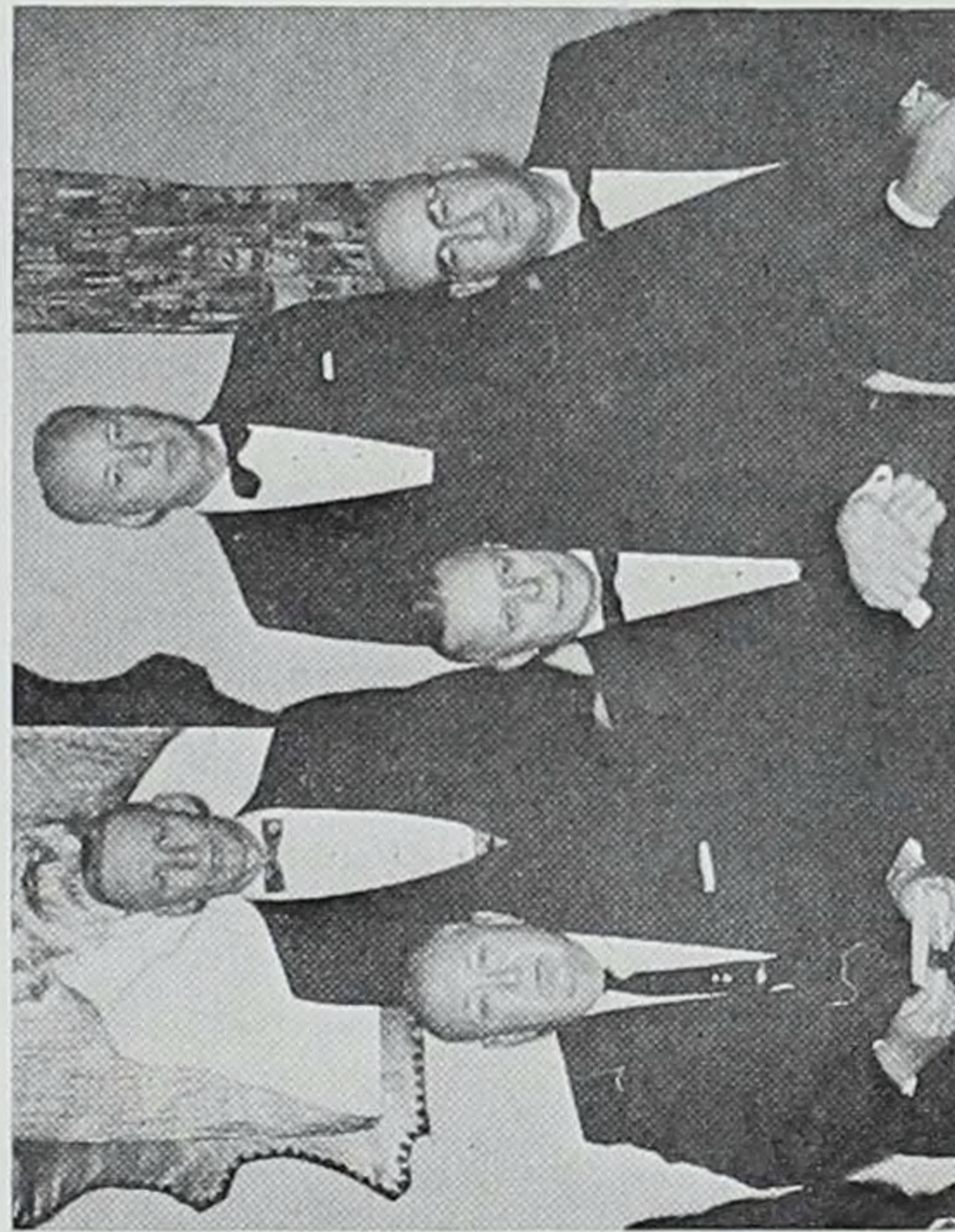
Two Chief Walts—Dornon and Gage.



1959 Waltlets—Briggs, Schlicher, Hoglan, Lagomarcino—  
with Chief Walt Gage.



1958 Waltlets—Kluckhohn, Carpenter, Frey, Sharar—  
with Chief Walt Gage.



Chief Walt Quinn with Waltlets Schuchert, Adams,  
Jones, Seydel—in 1961.

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE PRESIDENTS



G. E. MacLEAN



J. G. BOWMAN



W. A. JESSUP



E. A. GILMORE



V. M. HANCHER



WM. BEARDSHEAR



A. B. STORMS



C. E. FRILEY



J. H. HILTON



O. R. LATHAM



MALCOLM PRICE



J. W. MAUCKER



W. B. CRAIG



H. M. BELL



D. W. MOREHOUSE



H. G. HARMON



P. F. SHARP



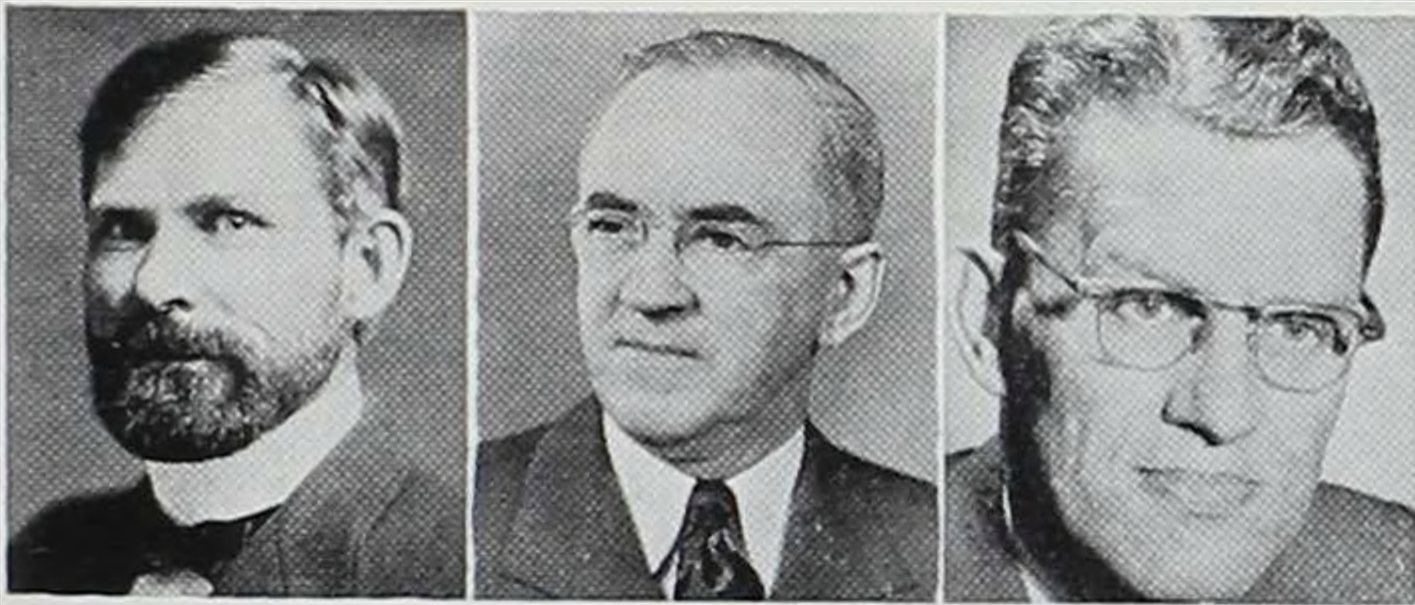
W. A. SHANKLIN



J. P. VAN HORN



A. E. BENNETT

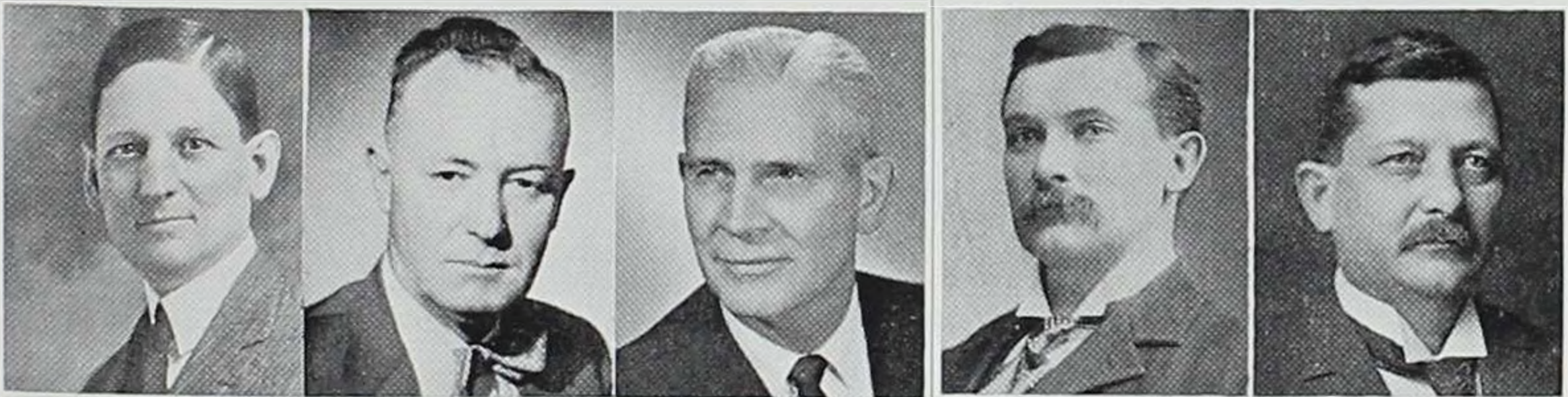


Left: Walt Presidents, National Societies

Left, below: Walt Supts. of Pub. Instr. (Iowa)

BEARDSHEAR NEA Pres., 1901    STUDEBAKER U.S. Com. of Educ.    SALISBURY AASA Pres., '69

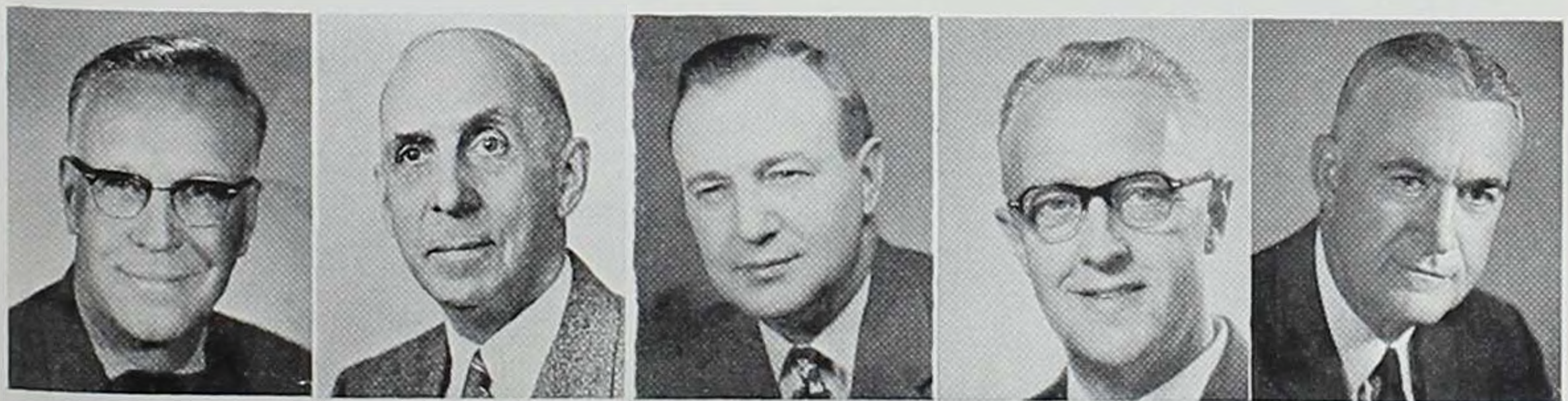
Below: 17 Walt Presidents, ISEA



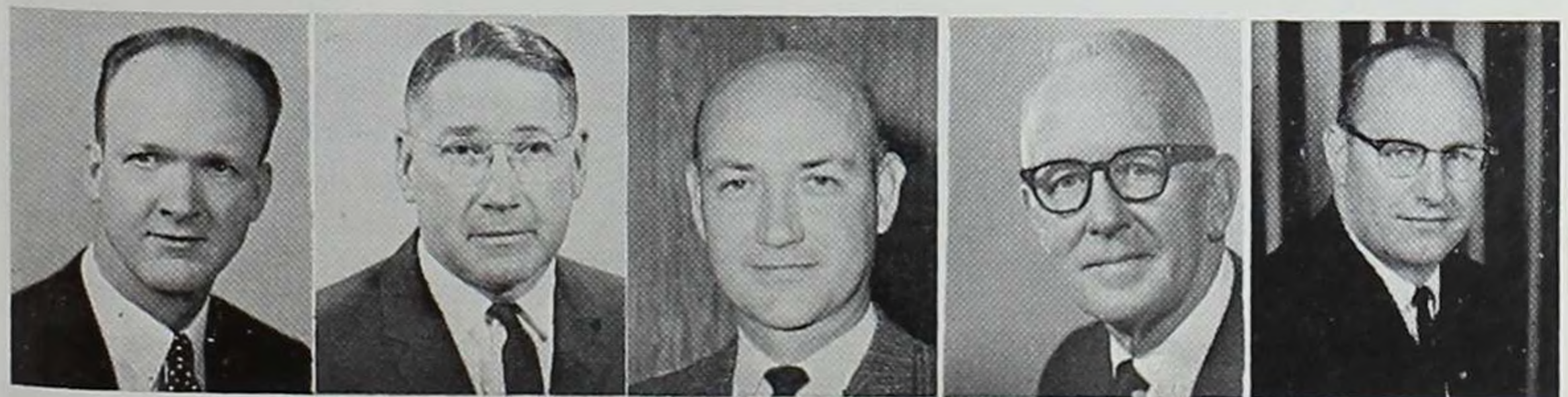
MCCLENAHAN    VV RIGHT    JOHNSTON    McCONNELL, '05    BELL, '10



ENSIGN, '19    MORGAN, '38    PACKER, '43    JOHNSON, '43    MARTIN, '45



SCHMIDT, '47    RITTER, '48    ERBE, '51    DAVIES, '53    GETTYS, '57



THOMPSON, '58    BRYAN, '59    ANDERSON, '62    WELLS, '63    GAST, '67

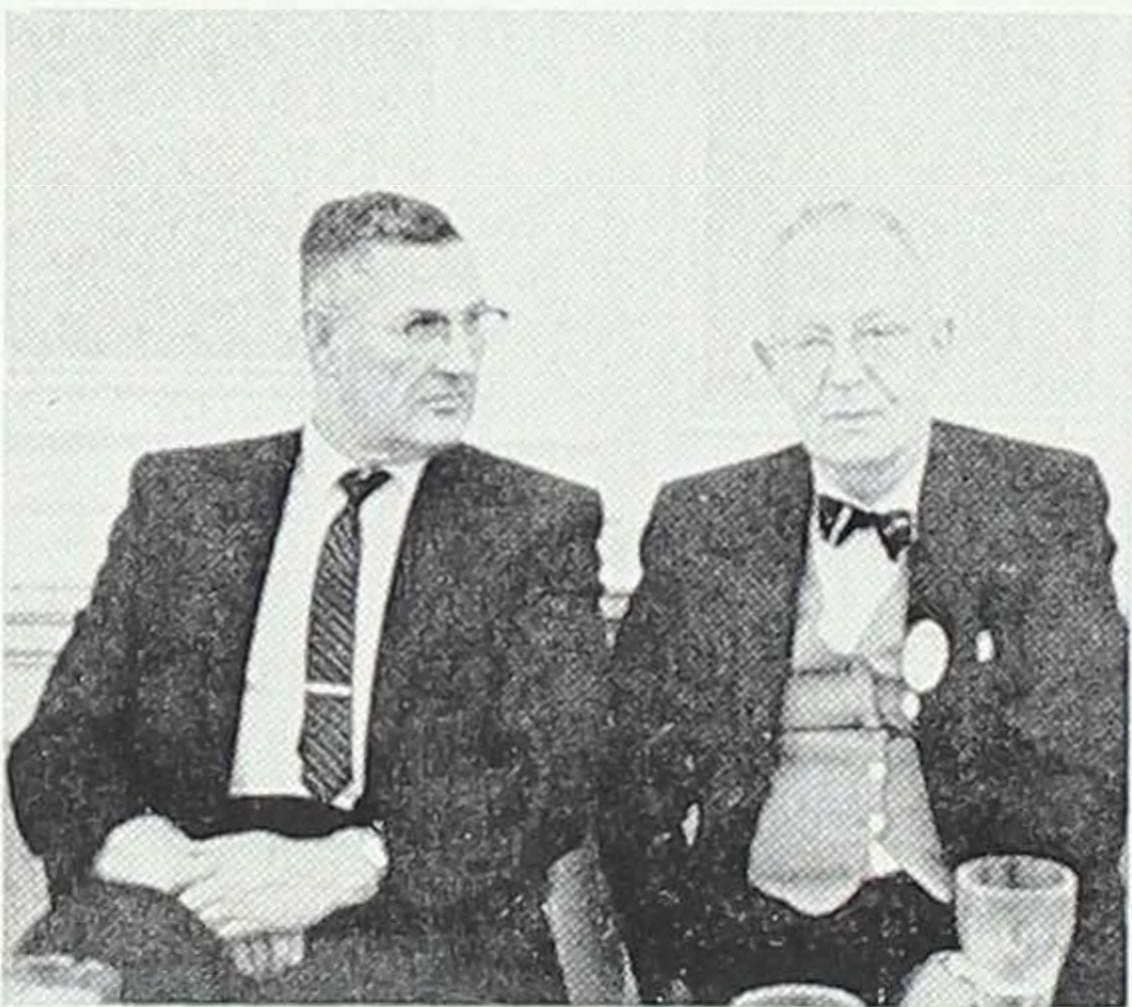
INITIATION TIME PHOTOS



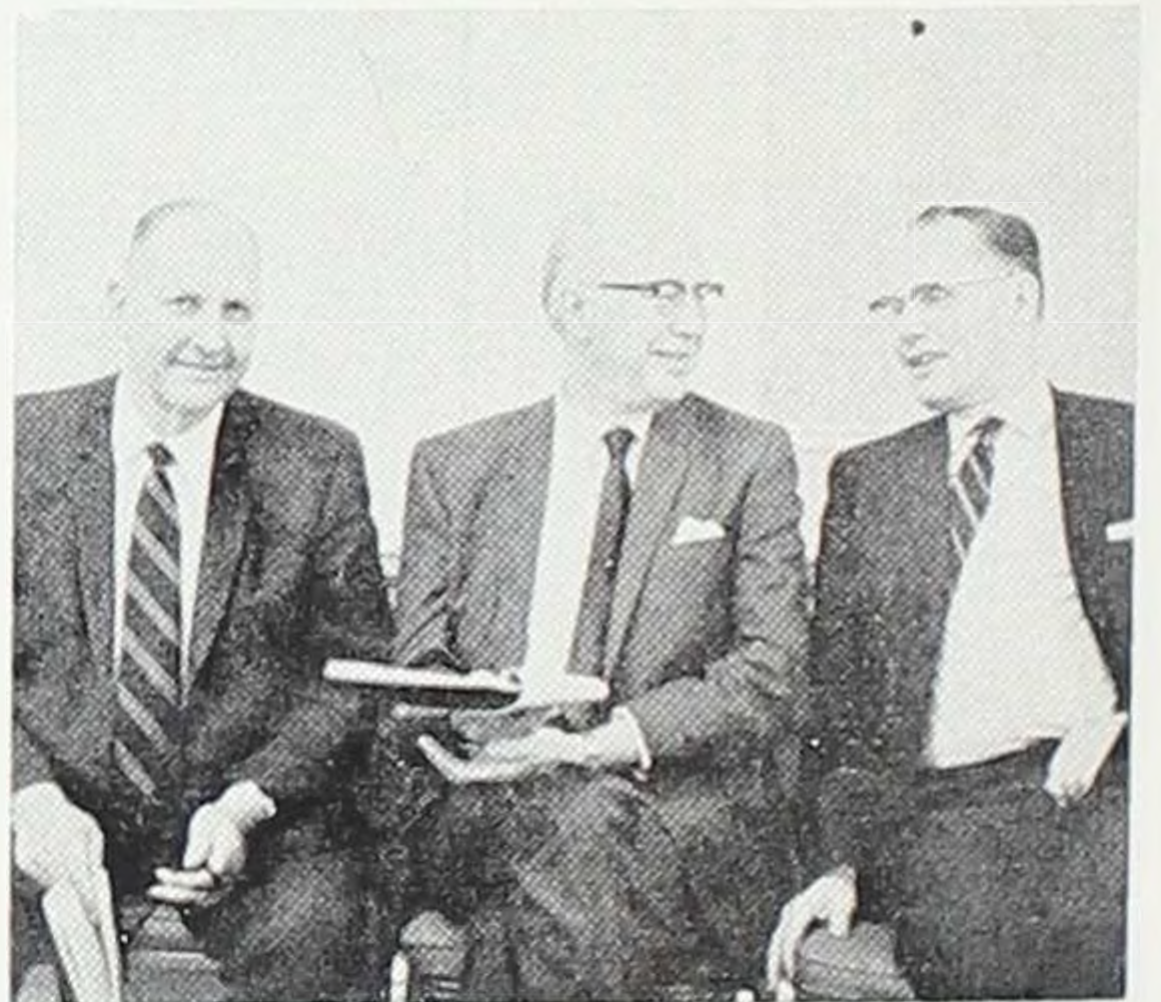
Arch Grimes—Walt Whitman lecturer.



Petersen, Chief Walts Dornon, Quinn.



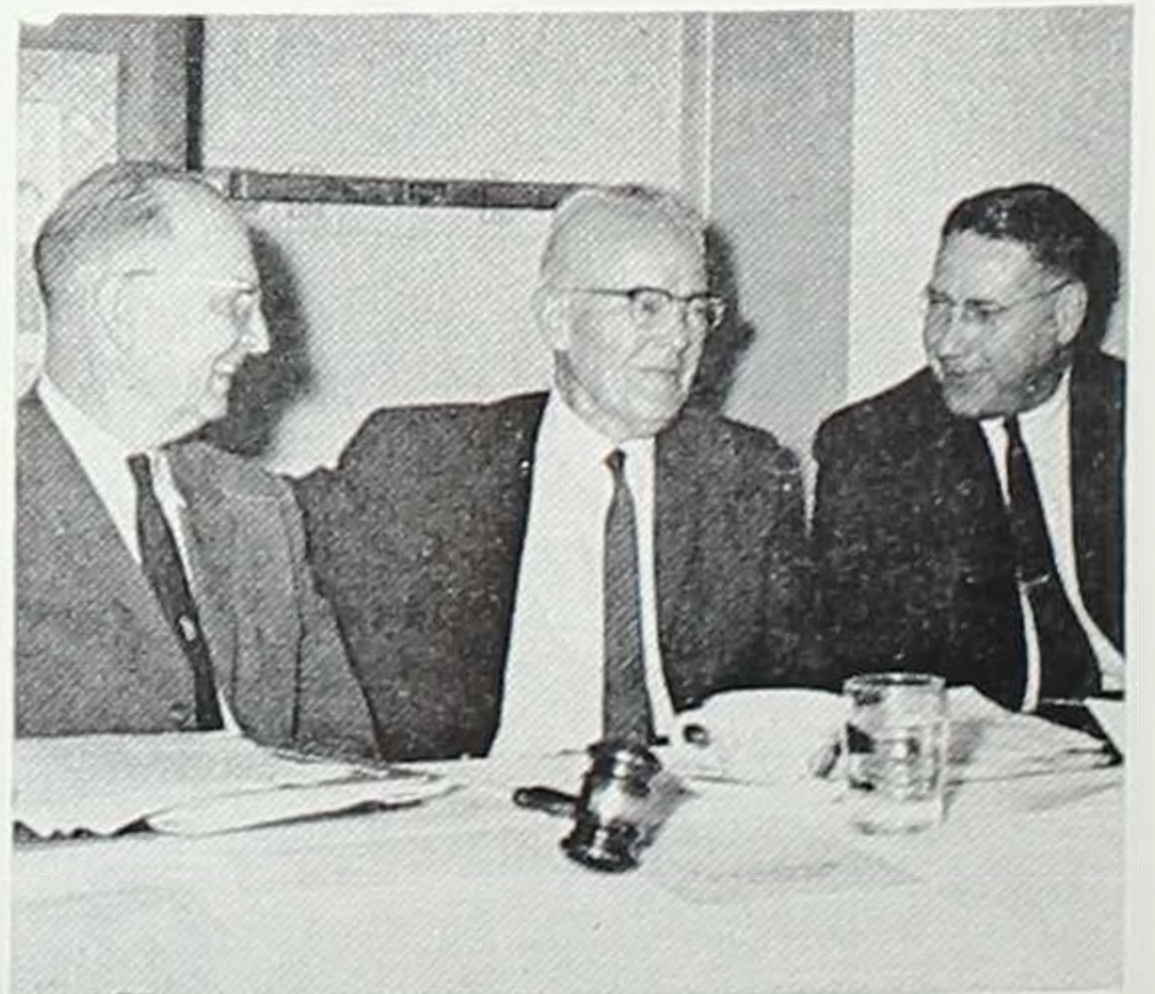
Ray Schlicher, J. C. Wright.



Max Clark, Kyle Jones, W. W. Wood.



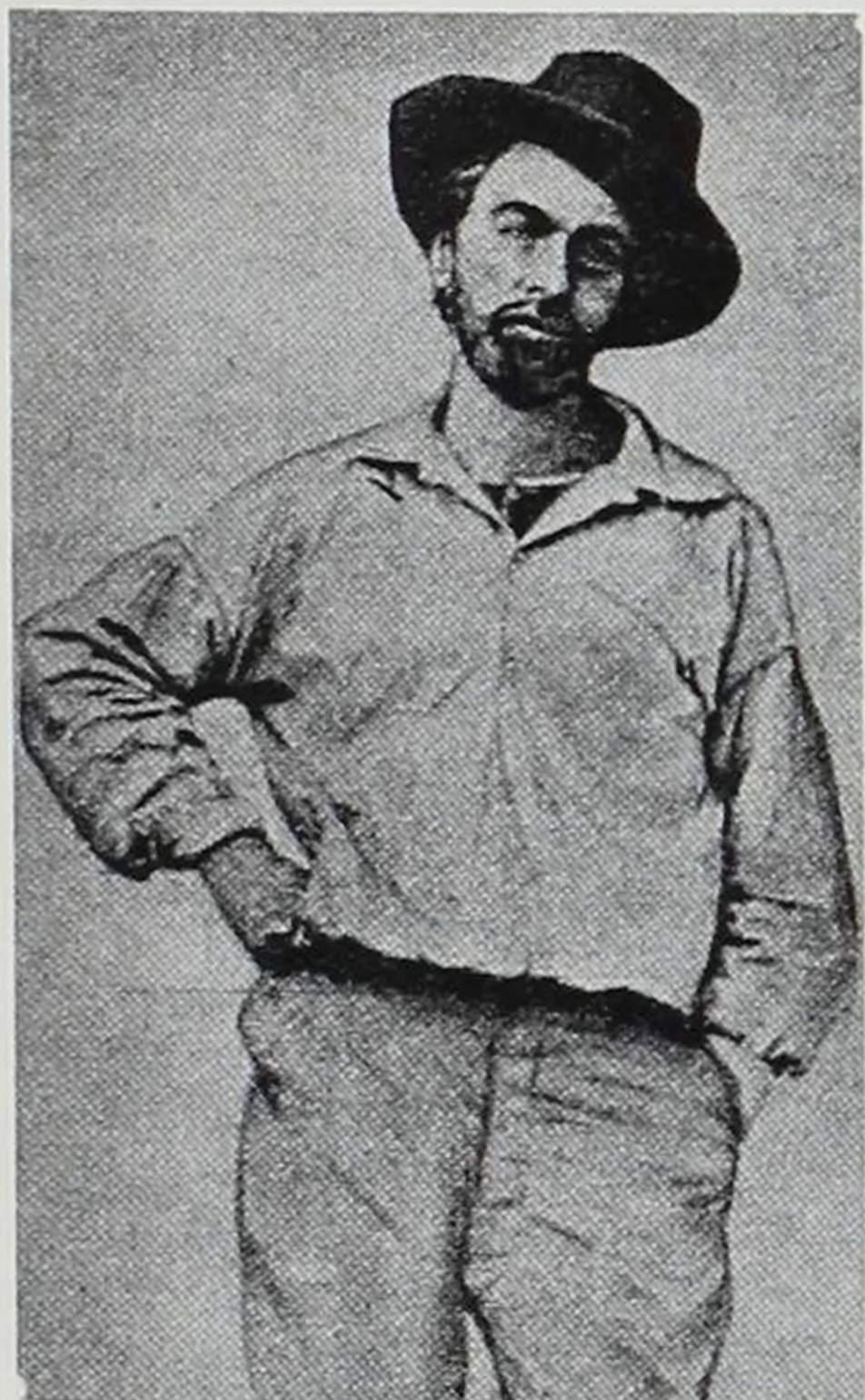
Scribe Walt McDowell, Chief Walt Gage.



Scribe McDowell, Chief Walts Peterson,  
Bryan.



SOME CHIEF WALT'S



Walt Whitman photo—used as frontispiece in *Leaves of Grass*.



F. T. OLDT



R. J. BRYAN



LYLE QUINN



E. T. PETERSON

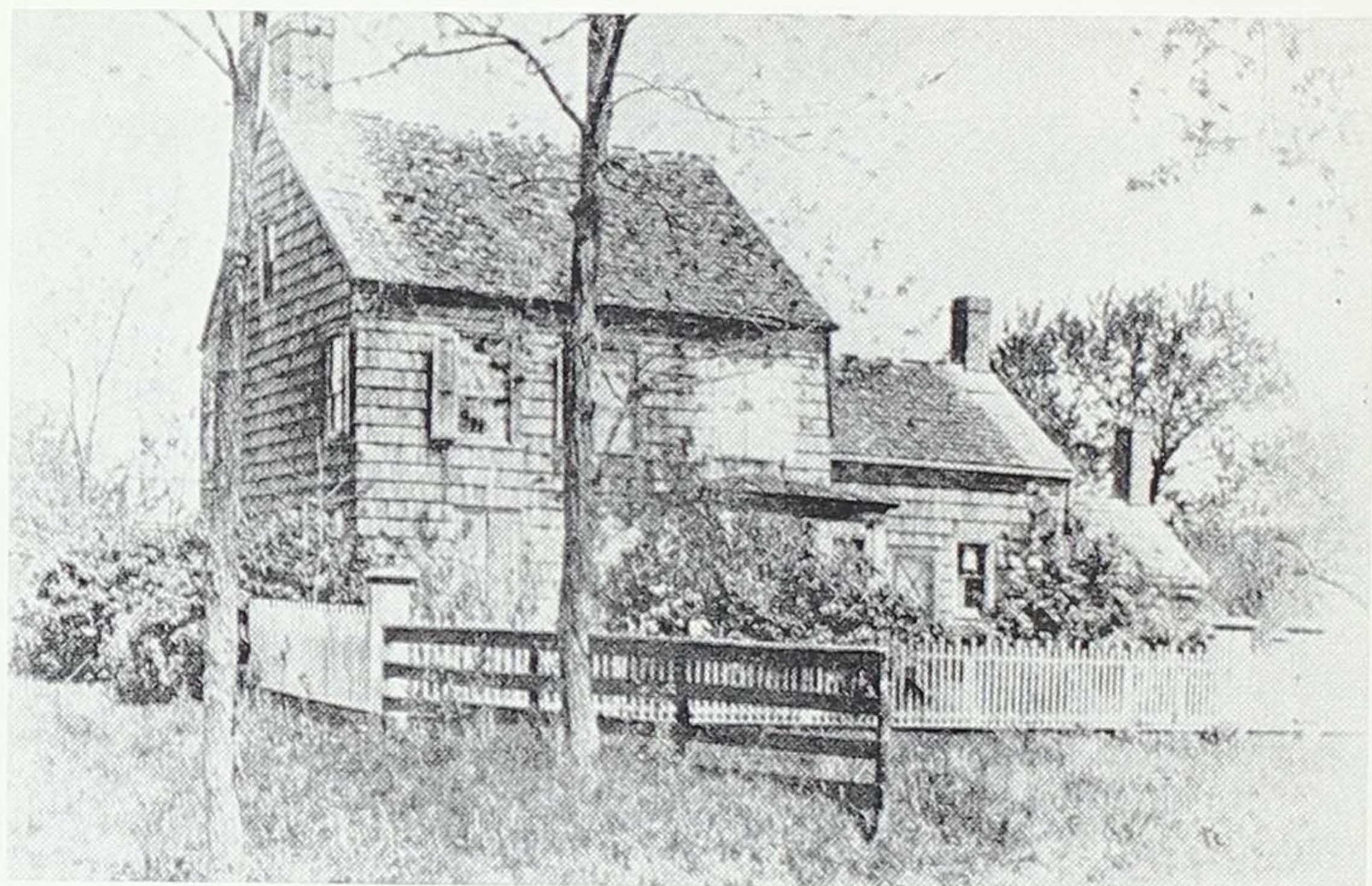


A. M. M. DORNON

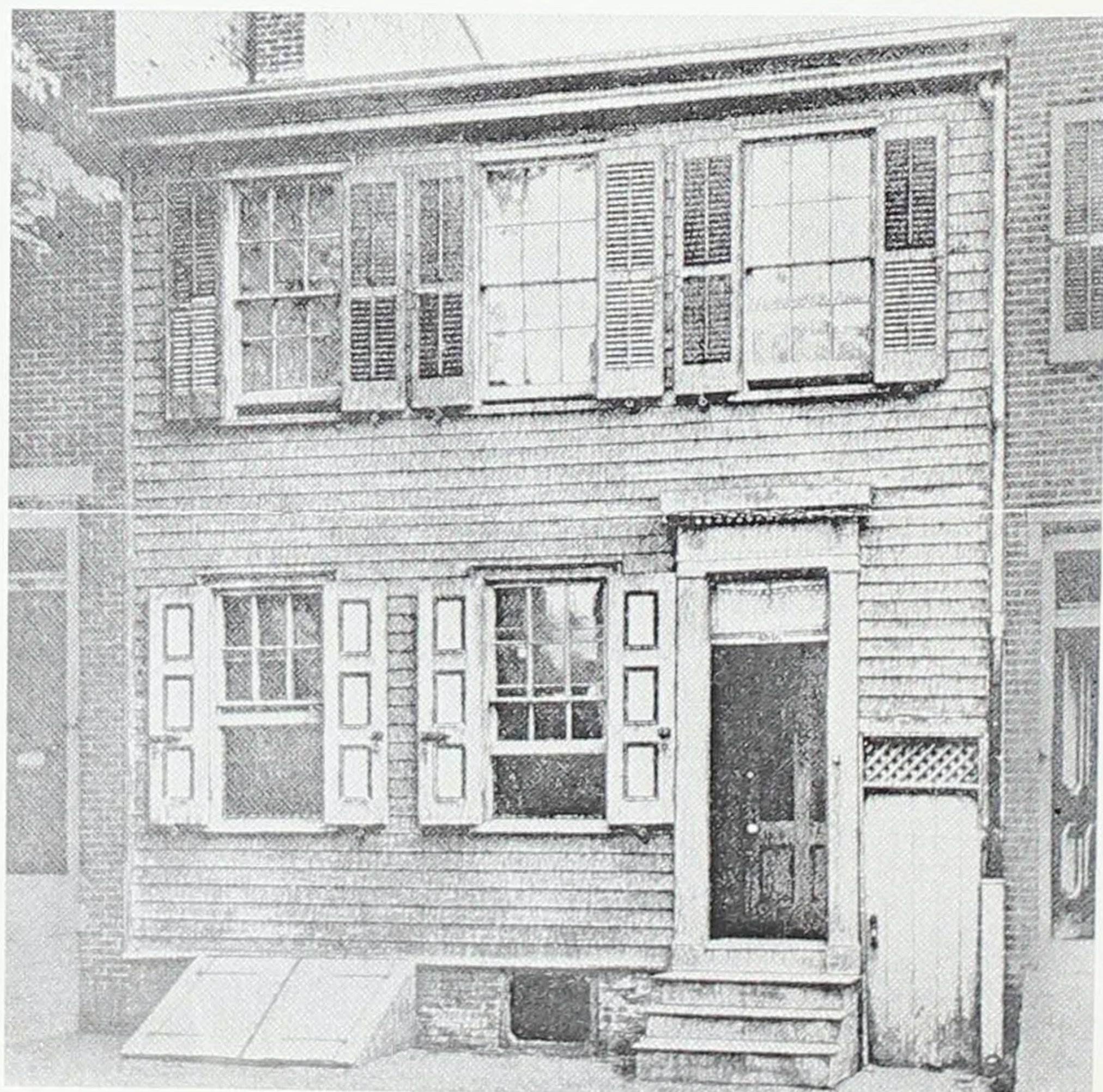


Principal Irish and Dubuque Prescott School Graduates—February, 1916.

Walt Tom Irish, 57 years a principal in Dubuque, little dreamed that the class president of 1916 would write the history of the Walt Whitman Club. More than 2,000 students graduated from Prescott School under Irish. He retired at age 83 and died in California at age 94.



Birthplace of Walt Whitman



Camden Home for Whitman's last twenty years.

named president of the University of Iowa to succeed Walt John G. Bowman. He continued to attend meetings after becoming president.

That one did not readily forget his Walt Whitman associations could be demonstrated a hundred times. From Pontiac, Michigan, James H. Harris (1913) wrote Scribe Palmer on October 31, 1921, that distance made it impossible for him to attend:

In body, that may be so; in spirit, not so. I shall always, in the latter sense, be a Walt Whitmanite, and neither time nor space can alter the delightful memories of my associations.

Deeply touched at the loss of Walt F. C. Eastman, William A. Shanklin (1906), President of Wesleyan University at Middletown, Connecticut, wrote on October 15, 1919:

I would that it were possible for me to be present on that occasion, both that I might have the privilege of fellowship with the Walts who will be there assembled and that I might bring a word of loving tribute to our dear Brother Eastman. Unfortunately for me, however, distance will deprive me of that privilege.

From his position as Head Resident of the Friendly House at Davenport, Harry Downer, a distinguished historian and school teacher, wrote Scribe Slinker "The Day After" the Walts had met of his inability to join them:

When I was a school teacher receiving real money, running into debt in the summer vacation and getting

square with the world by the following April, I seemed to find enough in the stocking toe each year to gather with the elect in November and after being led along the succulent pasturage of Walt Whitman's farm and exchanging raillery with the hired man and the hired lady cook no one could keep me at home with a rope. But since joining the uplift I have not handled enough money to buy a ticket and it is too far to walk. My pay is really adequate but it is largely in glory and obituaries.

Families of members of the Walt Whitman Club were well aware that attendance at the annual initiation and dinner served as an elixer in infusing new life into the veins of its members. When Eastman died in 1918, his daughter, Madge Eastman MacGregor, wrote Scribe Palmer in part as follows:

The Walt Whitman Club was very dear to my father's heart. Among you are the dearest friends of his lifetime, and he looked forward to your meetings each year with the greatest pleasure. I believe that you knew him as very few of his friends were privileged. There was between you a real understanding, an intimacy and a sympathy that he enjoyed with no one else. . . . You have afforded us a memory filled with the warmest satisfaction, and as he valued the good fellowship between you, so do we appreciate your expression of it.

The year 1918 was important for other events than the passing of Walt Eastman, who died in an auto accident. It was also the year of a terrible flu epidemic. On November 22 Chief Walt Oldt wrote Scribe Palmer that he gave the lectures to

the S.A.T.C. on "War Issues" and conducted discussions, quizzes, etc. The Army would have to let him off.

Ten days later, on December 2, 1918, Oldt wrote Palmer as follows:

Yours received. I think I shall write the State Supt. elect to take part in the program. *But*, will there really be a meeting? According to press reports the influenza in D.M. is worse now than in early November. A city in which the people are compelled to wear masks on the streets is not a very inviting field for a convention.

I lost my only son a few weeks ago after a siege of influenza, or pneumonia, lasting only four or five days. I knew nothing of the illness until telegram was received announcing death. It so shocked me that I find it impossible to become enthusiastic about a proposed meeting in a flu-stricken city.

Since a limit had to be placed on the number of College members it was determined to extend invitations after 1930 largely to the three State colleges and Drake because these were the only institutions that offered advanced degrees in education for public school administrators. It is interesting to note that the only charter member who was not a superintendent was 29-year old W. W. Rodwell, a Marshalltown teacher, who forfeited his active membership in the Walt Whitman Club in 1898 for missing a regular meeting but has always been identified with the Club.

Enough has been written to indicate that teaching and education form the crux upon which the

Walt Whitman Club was founded. Whitman himself had taught four years in one-room schools in seven Long Island communities. His annual salary was \$72.20 with board for no more than five months of teaching during the winter of 1837-1838. He taught 85 pupils. Throughout his life Whitman considered himself a teacher and a friend of education. His concept of a *good* teacher presents a real challenge to the modern pedagogue:

To be a good teacher requires great and long experience; a full stock of knowledge and a fine delicate tact in discriminating one kind of character from another. It is a high and arduous station—that of teaching. It is far, far more than going through the mere forms of hearing lessons. It needs the clear eye, and the steady hand. It needs that fine and exquisite judgment of human nature, which enables the possessor to know the right way of going to work with all the various and different kinds of tempers and dispositions. The duties of teaching, we will add, should be entered into not for money merely, but with a sense of its responsibility, its solemn obligations, and its lasting influences on those taught.

On the occasion of its 20th anniversary, in 1915, the Walt Whitman Club had a membership of 74, including the 13 charter members and the Waltlets who were being initiated that night. The records showed that at least 24 had left Iowa and were no longer active; eight had died, leaving a total of only 42 in Iowa when the group met in Des Moines. School administrators continued to form the nucleus of the group.

In the fall of 1945, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary, 96 names had been added in the thirty years that had passed since 1915. This brought the total initiated in 50 years to 172. Of this number, 64 were living in Iowa, 74 were listed as deceased, while those living outside the state (including a few about whom no reliable recent data had been obtained) numbered 34. Walt Laylander was again present and addressed the group.

Looking back over a period of thirty-three years, Joseph Fort Newton, Philadelphia pastor, sent his regrets to the assembled Walts on the occasion of their 50th anniversary:

It took me away back across the years to that goodly group in which I was so much at home, and with whom I had such grand fellowship. Some of them have passed over the hills, and are far away, but they somehow seem close to us. I wish so much that I could return to Iowa, and attend a meeting of the Club.

Although Newton was unable to be present, the Walts printed the following in their program from his *River of Years*:

All through the years Whitman has been a source of strength and inward sustaining; he has helped me to believe in America as I believe in God, helped me to keep its great Dream alive in my heart.

In 1953 an analysis was made of the background of 103 of the 110 deceased members of the Walt Whitman Club. Four of the group were

born before Iowa achieved Statehood: J. T. Merrill (1839), Thomas M. Irish (1841), William Smith (1845), and William Craig (1846). The place and year of birth of seven of the thirteen Charter Members is interesting:

Walter A. Doron	Iowa	1853
F. T. Oldt	Pa.	1853
Frank Sessions	Iowa	1853
L. E. A. Ling	England	1855
Wm. Franklin Chevalier	Ohio	1855
Wm. DeWitt Wells	Pa.	1858
Charles Shelton	Iowa	1859

Since Iowa was a relatively young state when the Walt Whitman Club was organized in 1895 it is not surprising that 51 of the known birthplaces of these deceased Walts were outside of Iowa—Ohio leading with 12, Illinois with 9, and Pennsylvania and Indiana with 5 each. Three Waltlets were foreign-born—one in Great Britain and two in Canada. Twenty-five Walts were known to have been born in Iowa.

The following shows the Iowa colleges attended by members of the Walt Whitman Club according to the 1953 study:

University of Iowa	19	Highland Park	2
Iowa State College	7	Grinnell	1
Drake University	7	Des Moines Uni.	1
U. of Northern Iowa	6	Parsons College	1
Cornell College	5	Simpson College	1
Upper Iowa University	2	Iowa Wesleyan	1



Some of the more popular out-of-state colleges attended by Walts were:

University of Chicago	11	Harvard	4
Columbia University	9	Yale	4

Several charter members of the Walt Whitman Club graduated from smaller Eastern colleges—Oldt from Lafayette, Chevalier from Marietta, and Sheakley from Thiel. The positions held by the 103 deceased Walts at the time of their election were: superintendents—51, principals—13, college presidents—18, and a scattering of others.

Since the 50th anniversary in 1945 a total of 120 have been initiated into the Iowa Schoolmasters Walt Whitman Club. Four candidates were initiated in 17 of the 25 years. Eight were added to the rolls in 1946, 1947, and 1948, while ten were being added to the membership roll in 1970, in honor of the 75th anniversary of the Walt Whitman Club. Many Walts have continued to return to Des Moines long after their retirement; their joy at renewing old ties never seems to waver. Whether they are 80 or 90, their enthusiasm for that night remains undimmed. Walt A. M. M. Dornon actually continued his yearly hegira through his 99th birthday.

Considerable preparation must take place to set the stage for the reception of the Waltlets each year. The basic work is carried out by the local committee composed mostly of residents of Des

Moines and Polk County. In 1957 Scribe Walt Carlos McDowell sent out the following typical flyer notifying members of the forthcoming gathering:

PERSONNEL OF WALT WHITMAN'S FARM

November 6, 1957

Walt Whitman—A. M. M. Dornon or William Petersen

Chief Walt—Henry Galbreth or E. T. Peterson

Boss Walt—Max Clark or Clyde Parker

Exurger—Don Foster or Howard Blanchard

1st Hired Man—Ray Bryan

Alternate—Joe Gettys

2nd Hired Man—George Hohl

Alternate—James C. Wright

3rd Hired Man—Oscar Thompson

Alternate—Earl Harmon

4th Hired Man—Kenneth Stephenson

Alternate—Herbert Spitzer

5th Hired Man—C. J. Christiansen

Alternate—Amos Lee

Hired Girl—Lyle Quinn

Alternate—Walter Hetzel

10th Hired Man—L. H. Shepoiser

Alternate—William Gibson

Assistant Exurgers—B. C. Berg, Frank Douma, R. W. Johnson, Budd Moyle, Barton Morgan

Property Walts—Fred Schmidt, Ralph Norris

Arch Grimes at the piano

Few men can point to such a distinguished career as President William M. Beardshear, who headed Iowa State College at Ames between 1891 and 1902. Beardshear served as NEA Director from Iowa from 1887 to 1889 and from 1896 to 1901 as a life director. He died in 1902—when only fifty-two years old. In the memorial service held by the Iowa State Teachers Association for Beardshear on January 1, 1903, Henry Sabin declared in part:

There was no aristocracy, no envy, no hatred, no uncharitableness, no selfishness in Beardshear's heart. He greeted not alone the collegians among educators and

those in high places, but he greeted cordially the teachers of the common schools of the state. He believed in the education of all the people. He wanted the people to know his own institution and his greatest work was the organization of great excursions which took to the college the people who were sending there their children. He loved contact with the common people, and he, himself, sprang from them. He was the friend of every man. Iowa would be fortunate did she have a thousand such men, so enthusiastic and loyal to the cause of the education of the whole people. He answered the calls of the people. He never declined to visit any institution or any school, but scattered his addresses broadcast, and in considering an invitation thought not whether it was a great or a small school or a powerful or weak clientage. He spoke at farmers' institutes, at commencements, at normal institutes, upon all occasions, everywhere, and never said in reply to invitations: "I am too busy." It would be better for Iowa today had he said sometimes that he was too busy, for he sacrificed his life on the altar of overwork. But had he said "No" to any invitation from any quarter it would not have been Beardshear.

Back in February of 1897 Johnson Brigham, editor of the *Midland Monthly*, in calling attention to the founding of the Walt Whitman Club, wondered if the progenitors might not have left themselves open to sharp criticism. It is doubtful if Mr. Brigham was even acquainted with young O. J. Laylander—who conceived the idea of the club.

Thirty-one years later in 1928, this same Johnson Brigham, then the revered State Librarian of

Iowa, wrote the following note which was later printed on the dust jacket of O. J. Laylander's new book:

I sat in my easy chair last night—well on into the night—in quiet enjoyment of "The Chronicles of a Contented Man." Occasionally an outburst of laughter drew from the family an insistence that I read aloud the story. Occasionally I compelled the wife to "listen to this"—reading some passage which cleverly expressed my own unformulated philosophy of contentment.

I thank you for the pleasure and soul-satisfaction given me by the story of your early life in Ohio with its hardships and triumphs; your youth and young manhood in Iowa; your evolution from a poor farmer into a successful educator and publisher—all so modestly yet so vividly pictured; your reminiscences of great Iowans, well known to fame—and to me; the fine tributes you pay to your partners; and, above all, and running through all, your invincible philosophy. I have never found any work which so well crystallizes my old-age views of life.

And who would not be stirred to the depths by a man who could philosophize as follows:

THE CHRONICLES OF A CONTENTED MAN  
(1928)

I am not a distinguished man. I have made no notable achievement in science, art, or letters. I am not the proud possessor of a rosary of titles and degrees. I have not served on the crew of the ship of state. I am not a great preacher or reformer. I have not accumulated great wealth. Nevertheless I am an unusual man, for I am a contented one. . . .

As I pass down the quarter stretch to the judges' stand

I have no cause to revise my claim. Contentment is possible. Its food is love, its harvest is friends. I certainly cannot complain. I have gotten out of life all that I deserve. I make no pretense of understanding things not meant to be understood, nor judging things that cannot be judged. I simply accept and am not disturbed. . . .

I am unable to join the chorus of those who sing always the songs of youth. To me *now* is the most interesting point in life. In retrospect the trials and disappointments of my own youth were just as real and as hard to combat as those of adult life. The best ten years that I have known were the last ten, the best year was last year, the best day today; for to its own joy is added all the joys that have gone before. . . .

Thus it seems to me: Unless the fruition of the years is filled with fond friendships, one must have lost the way. Unless what is styled worldly success has been lighted by love, the race has been scarcely worth the running.

As I now sit in the cool of the evening of life and listen to the voices of friends they are very sweet.

Together have we laughed,  
Together have we wept;  
Together sweet draughts quaffed,  
Together vigils kept.  
Together in fair weather,  
Together in the gale;  
Together—careless whether  
Together win or fail.  
Together have we fought,  
Together sometimes won;  
Together trophies brought,  
Together been undone.  
Together long rest earning,  
Together heart and heart;

Together in our yearning,  
 Together though apart.  
 Together drifting ever,  
 Together nearing shore;  
 Together, doubting never,  
 Together evermore.

The Walt Whitman Club has truly lived up to the spirit of "Together" as noted in this poem by Laylander.

The following men, in accordance with tradition, have served as Chief Walt or Scribe Walt, until illness, death, or removal from the State made it impossible for them to continue in office:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Chief Walt</i>	<i>Scribe Walt</i>
1896	J. T. Merrill	1896 O. J. Laylander
1901	F. T. Oldt	1906-1921 Aaron Palmer
1927	A. M. M. Dornon	1922 A. M. M. Dornon
1958	Harry M. Gage	1927 Clay D. Slinker
1961	Lyle Quinn	1943 John Hilliard
1962	E. T. Peterson	1944 C. L. McDowell
1964	Ray Bryan	1964 Henry Galbreth

Since 1895 a total of 290 have been elected to the Walt Whitman Club. Much the same pattern of membership emerges with superintendents predominating, followed by principals, and then deans, directors, and professors of education largely from the state schools.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

## Charge to a Walt

[Following his initiation into the Walt Whitman Club, President William Beardshear of Iowa State University was asked to prepare a "charge" for the next candidates, weaving as much of Whitman's phraseology into it as possible. Beardshear did a superb job, but unfortunately, when the manuscript fell inadvertently, through Walt Laylander, into Elbert Hubbard's hands, the latter printed it in *The Philistine*. Beardshear was charged with plagiarism by a few of his enemies in Iowa, but the whole matter was cleared up after a brief period of embarrassment to President Beardshear. The Editor]

He who aspires to be a Brother Walt must know the earth as his mother, the light as his father, the wind as his friend, the water as his kinsman, the sky as his brother, the animal and the plant as kindred spirits. He must understand that you are I, and I am you, and what has happened that you and I am I, and that I and you are you.

He must magnify and apply himself, lithografing Kronus, Zeus his son, & Hercules his grandson, buying drafts of Osiris, Isis, Belus, Brahma, Buddha; placing Manito in his portfolio, Allah on a leaf, securing the crucifix engraved and not forgetting Odin & the hideous-faced Mexitli, and every idol and image—taking them all for what they are worth to feel the puzzle of puzzles that we call Being. He must be afoot with his vision until it fails him, then loaf and invite his soul. He must undrape and sing of himself. What is a man anyhow? What am I? What are you?

Consider why you extract strength from the beef you eat, and whether you can dare wear your hat indoors or outdoors as you please. With your foothold tenoned & mortist in granite, you will need to pry thru the strata,

analyse to a hair and counsel with doctors, until you find no sweeter fat than that that sticks to your own bones. You will need to understand that the converging objects of the universe are written to you in perpetual flow, and your mission is to get the meaning of their writing. You must understand that it is as great to be a woman as to be a man, and that there is nothing greater than the mother of men. However big you are in office or your own wisdom, you must quit your ducking and comprehend that size is only development. In your soul you must swear that you will weigh the White House in the balance of a personal worth & that you will never deny the man-drudge of the cellar. That you will seize the descending man and say as a brother to him—

Oh despairer, here is my neck.

By the Almighty, you shall not go down!

Hang your whole weight on me!

You are not asked to give lectures nor a little charity, but to give yourself. You are to be a learner with the simplest, a teacher of the thoughtfulest, a novice beginning and the experient in myriads of seasons; to sympathize with every rank and religion; to be farmer, mechanic, artist, gentleman, seller, Quaker, express-driver, hod-carrier, foreman, prisoner, fancy man, rowdy, lawyer, fysician and priest. Your sphere is to incarnate the Southerner as soon as the Northerner, the Yankee, Canadian, Newfoundler, Hoosier, Badger, Buckeye, Hawkeye, the comrade of California, the free Northwesterners, (loving their big proportions), the comrade of all who shake hands and welcome to meat and drink and freely, fully, truly, to put yourself on record as from America sent. You must know that it is not only good to gain the day, but that it is good to fall, and that the spirit of lost battles at the bottom is the same as those won. You must be proud of no greater level than that by which you build your own house. You are forever



to hurrah for positive science and a long life to exact demonstration. For lexicografer, chemist, mariner, geologist, astronomer, mathematician, you must bring third-month twigs mixed with cedar and branches of lilacs, and enter by them the royal area of your own dwelling. You will need to unscrew the locks on your doors, the doors themselves from their jambs; mindful that whoever degrades another, degrades himself; that you are divine inside and out; that the body is the condition of civilization, the royal channelway & great highway of travel between the unseen and the seen, between God and the soul, and that the integral man is as delicate around his bowels as around the head and the heart.

It is your privilege to behold the daybreak and to find the morning-glory at your window, giving you greater satisfaction than the metafysics of books. As a Brother Walt, you are a kosmos, not only a son of Manhattan, but a citizen of the Universe. The minute that comes to you from the past decillions is no better than now, and the sublime wonder under all of these Universes is always and always how there can be a mean man or an infidel. All things are yours, the new and the antique, the Greek and the Germanic systems, Kant, Fichte, Schelling and Hegel, the stated lore of Plato, greater than Socrates sought and stated the Christ divine—fylosofies all, churches all, tenets all, yet underneath all, the dear love of man for his comrade. Yours is the joy of a belief that a leaf of grass is no less than the journey work of the stars, that a running blackberry would adorn the parlors of Heaven, and that a mouse is miracle enough to stagger sextillions of infidels. In the night-time it is yours to hear among the still little bells of your ear the distinctive voices echoing to the plaudits of your name at the Capitol during the day, and not to be happy for that; to hear the "Well done" of worthy plans accomplished, and still not be happy for that;

to reflect that I am I, you are you, nature is nature, God is God, and that I, a comrade, am coming to you with the scents of the wild woods and the pond-sides, with the breaking of the dawn.

Two comrades are a multitude. They know that whoever walks a furlong without sympathy, walks to his own funeral dressed in a shroud. Tho they may be pocketless of dimes, they may purchase the pick of the earth. A glance of their eyes, as a bean in its pod, confounds the learning of all times, and with a trade or employment, they may become a hub for the wheeled universe and heroes ranking above the warring gods of granite covered centuries.

They do not say things for a dollar or to fill up the time while waiting for a boat. They are fond of a sweetheart, and relish a steak. They are first rate to ride, to fight, to hit the bull's eye, to sail a skiff, to sing a song and play on the banjo; preferring scars and the beard and the faces pitted with small pox over all latherers, and those well tanned to those that keep out of the sun. They are the clocks of themselves. They are not contained between their hats and their boots, and know how it stings to be slighted. To them the city invisible and invincible to the attacks of the whole earth, is the new city of Friends.

It is the mission of a Brother Walt to plant companionship thick as trees along the Rivers of America, and along the shores of the Great Lakes, and all over the prairies, and to make inseparable cities by the life-long love of comrades. Our tokens are a sprig of lilac with a branch of pine, a bunch of wild orange, and calamus root, fresh scented of the pond-side. It is time to explain myself—let us stand up. Shoulder your duds, dear son, and I will mine and let us hasten forth. Wonderful cities and free nations we shall fetch as we go. If you tire, give me both burdens and rest the chuff of your hand on my hip. . . .

WILLIAM M. BEARDSHEAR

- 1953 J. L. Davies, Prof., U of Iowa  
E. B. Lynch, Supt., Red Oak  
Don Foster, Ia. Asso. of Sch. Bds., Des M.  
L. H. Shepoiser, Supt., Mason City
- 1954 Henry Galbreth, Editor, Midland Schools  
Herbert Spitzer, Prof., U of Iowa  
D. D. Dunlavy, Supt., Corning  
Walter Hetzel, Supt., Decorah
- 1955 Amos Lee, Supt., West Des Moines  
Herrold Mann, Sec. Bd. of Educ., Des M.  
Franklin Stone, Supt., Keokuk  
Ralph Norris, Supt., Polk Co., Des Moines  
James Hilton, Pres., Iowa St. Uni.
- 1956 Earl Harmon, Principal, Creston  
George Hohl, Asst. Supt., Des Moines  
Ralph Austermler, Dir. Cur., Waterloo  
Oscar Thompson, Prof., U of NI
- 1957 C. A. Cottrell, Supt., Mt. Pleasant 1960  
John W. Harold, Supt., Cedar Falls  
James Jensen, Provost, Iowa St. Uni.  
J. E. McAdam, Prof., U of Iowa  
Willard Lampe, Prof., U of Iowa 1969
- 1958 Arthur Carpenter, Asst. Supt.,  
Pub. Inst., Des Moines 1960  
Harvey Kluckhohn, Supt., Le Mars  
Paul Sharar, Dean, Jr. Coll., Clinton  
Glen Frey, Dir., Elem. Educ., Keokuk
- 1959 J. C. Hoglan, Supt., Marshalltown  
Virgil Lagomarcino, Prof., Iowa St. Uni.  
Ray Schlicher, Dir. Ext. Ser., U of NI  
Virgil Briggs, Supt., Hampton
- 1960 Paul F. Johnston, Asst. Supt., Dept.  
of Pub. Instr., Des Moines  
Harold A. Lynn, Principal, Newton  
Clifford C. Peterson, Supt., Indianola  
Armond Schuler, Supt., Atlantic
- 1961 Herbert Adams, Principal, Ames  
Kyle Jones, Supt., Grinnell
- Richard Schuchert, Supt., Spirit Lake  
Paul Seydel, Principal, Fort Dodge
- 1962 Harry Eastman, Supt., Charles City  
Perry Grier, County Supt., Waterloo  
Vernal Jones, Principal, Ottumwa  
Arnold Salisbury, Supt., Cedar Rapids
- 1963 William Anderson, Supt., Cedar Falls  
Russell Eidsmoe, Educ., Morningside Coll.  
A. A. Johnson, Supt., Muscatine  
Boyd Shannon, Supt., Monticello
- 1964 Perley O. Brunsvold, Supt., Mason City  
C. C. Buerkens, Supt., Pella  
Russel J. Mourer, Supt., Council Bluffs  
R. N. Schaefer, Dean, Educ., Parsons 1966
- 1965 Ernest Barker, Cur. Director, Waterloo  
Ralph Gambach, Supt., Fairfield  
Buford Garner, Supt., Iowa City  
Gordon Rhum, Prof., U of NI
- 1966 S. A. Ballantyne, Supt., Comm. Coll.,  
Cedar Rapids  
Ralph Borreson, Supt., Area IV Tech.  
School, Sheldon  
Earle Canfield, Dean, Grad. Coll., Drake  
Kenneth P. Wells, Ex. Sec. ISEA, Des M.
- 1967 Elmer C. Gast, Supt., Keokuk  
Howard T. Knutson, Prof., U of NI  
Louis L. Pickett, County Supt., Davenport  
J. A. Sheldon, Dir., Adult Educ., Des M.
- 1968 Mel. A. Everingham, Supt., Comm.  
College, Ottumwa  
Otto B. Laing, Supt., Algona  
Alfred Schwartz, Dean, Educ., Drake  
W. W. Wood, Dir., Instruction, Davenport
- 1969 E. D. Archambault, Supt., Cedar Falls  
Robert Fitzsimmons, Prin., Cedar Rapids  
Glenn E. Holmes, Ext. Spec., Iowa St. Uni.  
Willard R. Lane, Prof., Educ., U of Iowa
- 1970 Duane Lodge, Asso. Ex. Sec., ISEA, Des Moines  
Paul Forney, Instr., Indian Hills Community College, Centerville  
Earl O. Berge, Supt., Fort Dodge Community Schools, Fort Dodge  
Wesley A. Erbe, Director, University Schools, Iowa City  
Howard R. Jones, Dean, College of Education, U of Iowa  
Wayne P. Truesdell, School Adm., U of NI  
Clyde Mease, Supt., (retired), Humboldt  
Walter T. Edgren, Asst. Supt., Public Instruction, (retired), Des Moines  
Paul Sharp, President, Drake, Des Moines  
Donal Lillard, Supt., Winterset

## PERSONNEL OF WALT WHITMAN'S FARM — WEDGEWOOD ROOM

Fort Des Moines Hotel, October 21, 1970, 6:30 p.m.

Chief Walt—Dr. Ray Bryan	Assistant Chief Walt—Arch Grimes
Exurger—Herrold V. Mann	
1st Hired Man—Dick Schuchert	Alternate—Earle Canfield
2nd Hired Man—Paul Sharar	Alternate—Fred Schmidt
3rd Hired Man—Max R. Clark	Alternate—Kyle Jones
4th Hired Man—Dr. Ray Schlicher	Alternate—Harry Eastman
Hired Girl—Hamilton Vasey	Alternate—Al Schwartz
10th Hired Man—Don Dunlavy	Alternate—Harold Lynn
Assistant Exurgers—Wells, McAdam, Everingham, Seydel, Johnston	
Property Walt—Henry Galbreth	Ernie Barker at the Piano

## WALT WHITMAN CLUB MEMBERSHIP—1895-1970

### Charter Members—1895

Charter Members	Occupation when Initiated	Year of Death
W. F. Chevalier	Superintendent, Red Oak	1932
W. A. Doron	Superintendent, Monticello	1942
O. J. Laylander	Superintendent, Cedar Falls	1948
L. E. A. Ling	Superintendent, Cresco	1949
F. T. Merrill	Superintendent, Cedar Rapids	1901
George I. Miller	Superintendent, Boone	1931
F. T. Oldt	Superintendent, Dubuque	1926
F. J. Sessions	Superintendent, East Waterloo	1921
S. H. Sheakley	Superintendent, Waverly	1936
Charles E. Shelton	Superintendent, Burlington	1940
W. D. Wells	Superintendent, Grundy Center	1909
Sherman Yates	Superintendent, Ida Grove	1937
W. W. Rodwell	Teacher, Marshalltown	1945

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1896 Fred D. Merritt, Math., U of Iowa	1934	1909 A. E. Bennett, Prof., Upper Iowa	1946
1897 F. C. Eastman, Latin, U of NI	1918	J. H. Beveridge, Supt., Council Bluffs	1932
Thomas Irish, Principal, Dubuque	1935	A. M. M. Dornon, Supt., Vinton	1958
S. Y. Gillan, Ed., Milwaukee (Hon.)	1930	1910 Louis Begeman, Physics, U of NI	1958
W. H. Smith, Lecturer, Peoria (Hon.)	1922	Harry Downer, Principal, Davenport	1944
1898 W. M. Beardshear, Pres., Iowa St. Uni.	1902	C. R. Scroggie, Ed., Midland Schools	1948
F. H. Bloodgood, Supt., Fayette Co.	19—	Z. C. Thornburg, Superv., Des Moines	1919
1899 I. N. Beard, Supt., Osceola	1927	1911 Clarke F. Ansley, English, U of Iowa	1939
George Mullen, Supt., Washington	1915	Maurice Ricker, Principal, Des Moines	1952
F. E. Willard, Supt., Marshalltown	19—	Edwin Schell, Pres., Iowa Wesleyan	1937
1900 D. M. Kelly, Supt., Cedar Falls	1950	1912 W. H. Blakely, Principal, Fort Dodge	1918
George E. MacLean, Pres., U of Iowa	1938	J. G. Bowman, President, U of Iowa	1962
D. A. Thornburg, Supt., Grinnell	1945	J. C. McCowan, Principal, Sioux City	1944
1901 E. J. H. Beard, Supt., Newton	1924	J. F. Newton, Minister, Cedar Rapids	1950
W. N. Clifford, Supt., Council Bluffs	1929	1913 William Aldrich, Supt., Keokuk	1921
William B. Craig, President, Drake	1916	Ira Condit, Math., U of NI	1947
1902 Rodney Arey, Principal, Muscatine	1939	James H. Harris, Supt., Dubuque	1942
W. I. Crane, Supt., Marshalltown	19—	W. A. Jessup, Dean, Educ., U of Iowa	1944
Aaron Palmer, Supt., Maquoketa	1921	1914 Herbert Martin, Philosophy, Drake	1953
W. M. Stevens, Supt., Sioux City	1930	Frank Nagel, Music, Highland Park	19—
1903 Elmer F. Coffeen, Supt., Decorah	1917	C. N. Smiley, Latin, Grinnell College	1943
1904 A. T. Hukill, Supt., West Waterloo	1922	1915 M. G. Clark, Supt., Sioux City	1929
J. J. McConnell, Pedagogy, U of Iowa	1936	L. H. Minkel, Supt., Fort Dodge	1949
Frank Smart, Supt., Davenport	1936	R. E. Rienow, Dean of Men, U of Iowa	1945
1905 J. C. King, Supt., Boone	19—	1916 O. P. Flower, Supt., Oskaloosa	1949
W. O. Riddell, Supt., Des Moines	1915	P. E. McClenahan, Dept. Pub. Instr.	1938
A. B. Storms, Pres., Iowa St. Uni.	1933	R. C. Woolman, Ind. Ed., Des Moines	1957
1906 Hill M. Bell, President, Drake	1927	1917 W. H. Hanson, Supt., Burlington	1969
G. E. Marshall, Principal, Sioux City	1933	W. F. Shirley, Prin., Council Bluffs	1959
W. A. Shanklin, Pres., Upper Iowa	1924	C. D. Slinker, Commerce, Des Moines	1943
1907 F. E. Bolton, Educ., U of Iowa	1965	1918 War year, influenza, no meeting.	
F. C. Ensign, Educ., U of Iowa	1961	1919 Met in Des Moines. No exurgence.	
R. S. Whitley, Principal, Sioux City	1968	1920 George A. Brown, Prin., Burlington	1947
1908 Luther Brewer, Editor, Cedar Rapids	1933	W. F. Russell, Dean, Educ., U of Iowa	1956
O. P. Bostwick, Supt., Clinton	1918	1921 C. E. Humphrey, Supt., Denison	1941
Grant E. Finch, Supt., Marion	1947	S. A. Potts, Supt., Muscatine	1922
H. B. Hayden, Supt., Rock Island, Ill.	19—	F. T. Vasey, Supt., Mason City	1936
Eugene Henely, Supt., Grinnell	1928		
Seth Thomas, Principal, Fort Dodge	1962		

1922	H. E. Blackmar, Supt., Ottumwa	1952	1940	Arthur Deamer, Supt., Cedar Rapids	1960
	O. E. Klingaman, Extension, U of Iowa	1941		C. E. Friley, President, Iowa St. Uni.	1958
	E. M. Sipple, Supt., Burlington	1932		C. O. Hoyt, Asst. Supt., Des Moines	1957
	Theodore Saam, Supt., Council Bluffs			W. F. Johnson, Supt., Spencer	
1923	W. E. Beck, Principal, Iowa City	1964	1941	N. D. McCombs, Supt., Des Moines	1966
	H. A. Mitchell, Supt., Carroll	1948		Irvin Schmitt, Supt., Davenport	
	P. C. Packer, Dean, Educ., U of Iowa	1964		H. J. Williams, Supt., Fort Dodge	
1924	D. W. Morehouse, President, Drake	1941		Verne Young, Principal, Ames	
	C. F. Pye, Sec., State Teach. Assoc.	1943	1942	C. L. Crawford, Supt., Council Bluffs	
	J. P. Ryan, Prof., Grinnell	1951		C. T. Feelhaver, Principal, Fort Dodge	
	Alfred Smith, Mus. Dir., Des Moines	1969		W. I. Griffith, Prof., Iowa St. Uni.	1951
1925	G. W. Kirn, Principal, Council Bluffs			George Sawyer, Supt., Osage	1955
	James Rae, Principal, Mason City	1944	1943	E. T. Housh, Teach. Agcy., Des Moines	1964
	C. L. Robbins, Prof., U of Iowa	1938		O. G. Prichard, Principal, Des Moines	
1926	George Eaton, Supt., Clarion	1957		J. F. Van Antwerp, Prin., Ottumwa	1969
	L. B. Schmidt, Prof., Iowa St. Uni.	1963		Lauren Van Dyke, Prof., U of Iowa	
	J. P. Van Horn, President, Upper Iowa	1955	1944	Virgil Hancher, President, U of Iowa	1965
1927	A. J. Burton, Prin., East Des Moines	1937		W. H. Hoyman, Supt., Indianola	1960
	H. M. Gage, President, Coe College	1961		J. B. MacGregor, Dean, Cornell College	
	T. J. Kirby, Prof., U of Iowa	1938		Malcolm Price, President, U of NI	
1928	John Foster, Dean of Men, Ia. St. Uni.	1941	1945	William Gibson, Prin., West Waterloo	
	J. C. Hagler, Supt., Ida Grove	1946		A. B. Grimes, Supt., Boone	
	C. A. Kittrell, Supt., West Waterloo	1942		Barton Morgan, Educ., Iowa St. Uni.	
1929	George E. Davis, Principal, Keokuk			J. P. Street, Dept. of Pub. In., Des M.	1962
	O. R. Latham, President, U of NI	1940	1946	Arthur Hill, Des Moines Pub. Schools	1958
	Jack M. Logan, Supt., Eagle Grove	1970		H. E. Ilsley, Supt., Spirit Lake	1970
	K. D. Miller, Supt., Fort Dodge	1948		Paul Jacobson, Supt., Davenport	
	J. F. Overmeyer, Supt., Algona	1942		E. F. Lindquist, Prof., U of Iowa	
1930	B. C. Berg, Supt., Newton			Marvin T. Nodland, Supt., Sioux City	1966
	Raymond O. Davies, Dean, Drake			W. G. Pence, Supt., Fairfield	1963
	Ernest Horn, Prof., Educ., U of Iowa	1967		Lyle Quinn, Ex. Sec., IHSAA, Boone	1967
	E. T. Peterson, Prof., U of Iowa			Kenneth Stephenson, Prin., Oskaloosa	
1931	W. O. Allen, Principal, Des Moines	1951	1947	Max R. Clark, Supt., Dubuque	
	W. G. Brooks, Supt., Burlington			Henry G. Harmon, President, Drake	1965
	J. S. Hilliard, Supt., Estherville	1944		J. H. McBurney, Supt., Webster City	
1932	Earl Baird, Prof., Iowa St. Uni.	1962		C. F. Martin, Ex. Sec., ISEA, Des M.	1970
	Clark Brown, Supt., Clinton	1937		B. S. Moyle, Pub. Rel., ISEA, Des M.	1963
	R. L. Reid, Supt., Keokuk	1956		W. J. Petersen, Supt., SHSI, Iowa City	
1933	Burrus E. Beard, Supt., Webster City			S. N. Watkins, Supt., Ames	
	F. J. Miller, Prin., East Waterloo	1959	1948	Lemuel L. Wires, Prin., Des Moines	1969
	J. W. Studebaker, Supt., Des Moines			J. H. Peet, Supt., Cedar Falls	1961
1934	W. R. Boyd, St. Bd. of Ed., Des Moines	1950		C. J. Christiansen, Supt., Clarion	1948
	Ray Bracewell, Principal, Burlington	1954		Arthur Moehlman, Prof., U of Iowa	
	M. G. Davis, Supt., Ames			Paul Blommers, Prof., U of Iowa	
1935	L. W. Feik, Supt., Sioux City	1961		Myron Olson, Prof., U of Iowa	
	A. C. Fuller, Alum. Sec., U of NI	1958		Urban Harken, Principal, Burlington	1956
	E. A. Gilmore, President, U of Iowa	1954		Herbert Cook, Prof., Iowa St. Uni.	
	R. F. Hannum, Supt., Ottumwa	1936		Howard Blanchard, Guid. Clin., Des M.	
1936	Forrest Hagan, Supt., Allerton	1960	1949	Fred Schmidt, Supt., Eldora	
	R. B. Irons, Supt., Mason City	1950		Burton Holmes, Supt., Grinnell	
	L. I. Reed, Dean of Men, U of NI	1948		M. L. Cushman, Prof., Iowa St. Uni.	
	J. H. Trefz, Principal, Creston		1950	Joe Gettys, Supt., Oskaloosa	
1937	Herbert Gould, Prof., Drake	1964		Elmer Ritter, Prof., U of NI	
	Burton R. Jones, Supt., Creston	1959		Clyde Parker, Supt., Cedar Rapids	
	A. I. Nauman, Principal, Davenport	1948		James C. Wright, Supt., Keokuk	
1938	Fred Johansen, Supt., Clarinda	1957	1951	Irwin Edie, Supt., Rudd	
	C. L. McDowell, Supt., Eagle Grove	1968		J. A. Greenlee, Prof., Iowa St. Uni.	
	B. R. Miller, Principal, Marshalltown	1962		Hamilton Vasey, Supt., Independence	
1939	F. W. Douma, Supt., Ottumwa			Harlan Hagman, Dean, Drake, Des M.	
	R. W. Johnson, Principal, Dubuque		1952	Harvey Davis, Provost, U of Iowa	1969
	Harry Newburn, Prof., U of Iowa			Ray Bryan, Prof., Iowa St. Uni.	
				J. W. Maucker, President, U of NI	
				Harry McPhail, Supt., Ames	

## ROSTER OF WALT: 1970

Adams, Herbert	Gibson, William	Newburn, Harry K.
Anderson, William	Greenlee, J. A.	Norris, Ralph
Archambault, E. D.	Grier, Perry	Olson, Myron
Austermiller, Ralph	Grimes, A. B.	Parker, Clyde
Ballantyne, Selby A.	Hagman, Harlan	Petersen, William J.
Barker, Ernest	Harmon, Earl	Peterson, Clifford C.
Beard, Burrus E.	Harold, John W.	Peterson, Elmer T.
Berg, B. C.	Hetzel, Walter	Pickett, Louis L.
Blanchard, Howard	Hilton, James H.	Price, Malcolm
Blommers, Paul J.	Hoglan, J. C.	Prichard, O. G.
Börreson, Ralph	Hohl, George	Rhum, Gordon
Briggs, Virgil	Holmes, Burton G.	Ritter, Elmer
Brooks, W. G.	Holmes, Glenn E.	Saam, Theodore
Brunsvold, Perley O.	Jacobson, Paul	Salisbury, Arnold
Bryan, Ray	Jensen, James	Schlicher, Raymond J.
Buerkens, C. C.	Johnson, A. A.	Schmidt, Fred K.
Canfield, Earle	Johnson, R. W.	Schmitt, Irving H.
Clark, Max R.	Johnson, W. F.	Schuchert, Richard
Cook, Herbert C.	Johnston, Paul F.	Schuler, Armond H.
Crawford, C. L.	Jones, Kyle	Schwartz, Alfred
Cushman, M. L.	Jones, Vernal	Seydel, Paul
Davies, John L.	Kirn, G. W.	Shannon, Boyd
Davies, Raymond O.	Kluckhohn, Harvey	Sharar, Paul B.
Davis, George E.	Knutson, Howard T.	Sheldon, James A.
Davis, M. G.	Lagomarcino, Virgil	Shepoiser, L. H.
Douma, Frank W.	Laing, Otto B.	Spitzer, Herbert
Dunlavy, D. D.	Lane, Willard R.	Stephenson, Kenneth
Eastman, Harry	Lee, Amos	Stone, Franklin
Eddie, Irwin	Lindquist, Everett F.	Studebaker, John W.
Eidsmoe, Russell	Lynch, E. B.	Thompson, Oscar
Everingham, Mel A.	Lynn, Harold A.	Trefz, Jake H.
Feelhaber, C. T.	MacGregor, Jay B.	Van Dyke, Lauren
Fitzsimmons, Robert	McAdam, J. E.	Vasey, Hamilton
Foster, Don	McBurney, John H.	Watkins, Steven N.
Frey, Glen	McPhail, Harry R.	Wells, Kenneth P.
Galbreth, Henry	Mann, Herrold V.	Williams, H. J.
Gambach, Ralph	Maucker, J. W.	Wood, Wallace W.
Garner, Buford	Moehlman, Arthur H.	Wright, James C.
Gast, Elmer C.	Morgan, Barton	Young, Verne M.
Gettys, Joe	Mourer, Russel J.	

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### In Memoriam

HARRY E. ILSLEY

Initiated 1946

CHARLES F. MARTIN

Initiated 1947

JACK M. LOGAN

Initiated 1929

J. F. VAN ANTWERP

Initiated 1943

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### THE IOWA SCHOOLMASTERS WALT WHITMAN CLUB

Organized in 1895 with 13 members

Living Membership in 1970 — 119

Total Membership up to 1970 — 290

Including the ten 1970 Waltlets.