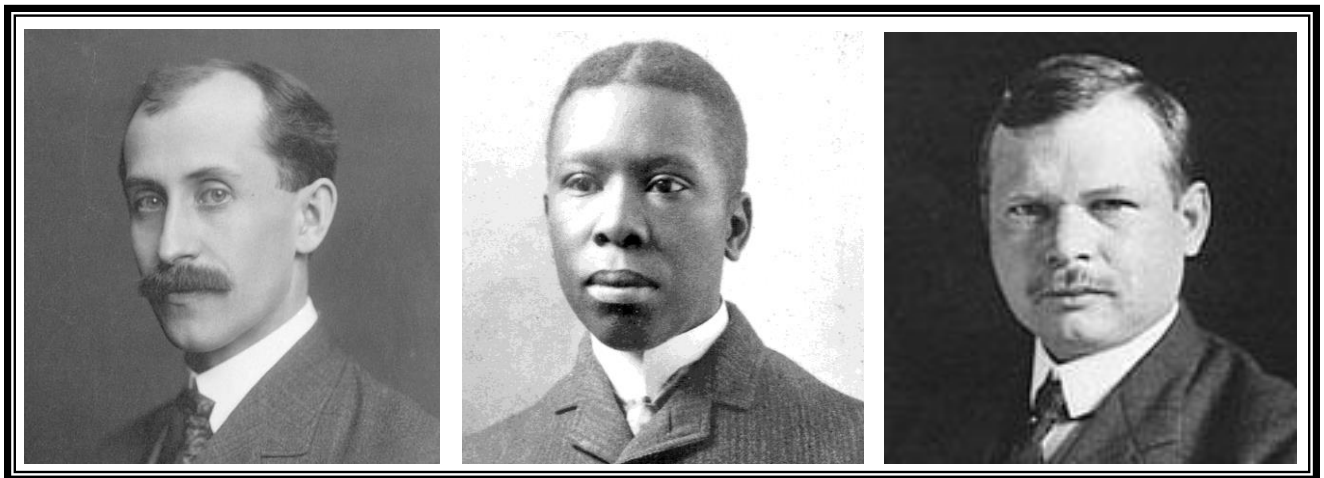
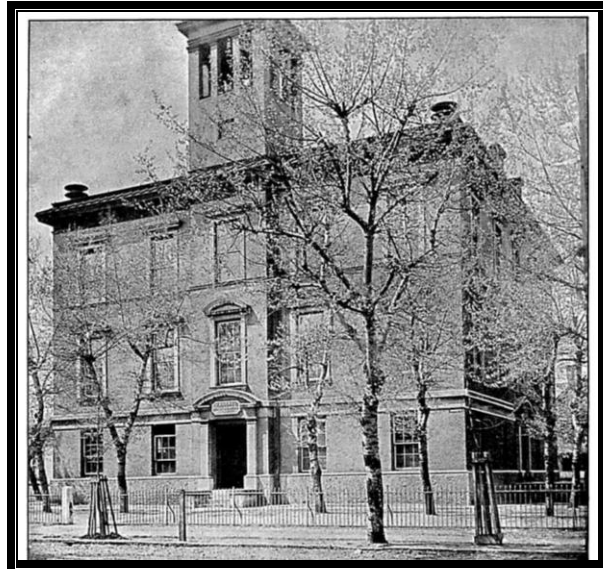


# CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL, DAYTON, OHIO

## CLASS OF 1890



**Orville Wright**

**Paul Laurence Dunbar**

**Thomas Ewing French**

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[Author of *Ohio: Home of the Wright Brothers, Birthplace of Aviation*]

## Three Icons of the Central High School Class of 1890, Dayton, Ohio

[The biographical sketch of Thomas Ewing French in Dayton is drawn from a chapter of *Ohio: Home of the Wright Brothers, Birthplace of Aviation*, second edition ©2017 pgs.552-53, and expanded herein through further research by the author]<sup>1</sup> See *Ohio Home of the Wright Brothers, Birthplace of Aviation* [HERE](#).

Thomas French, a highly successful engineering professor and text book author, was a member of the Class of 1890 at Central High School in Dayton, Ohio. The connections between Orville Wright and Paul Laurence Dunbar of the class of '90, are well known to most who are familiar with accounts of the lives of either of the two men. But little awareness exists of the connections among the three men Wright, Dunbar, and French as classmates, at a time when their futures were just beginning to open up before them in their high school years. It is always interesting to note the uniqueness of Orville Wright and Paul Dunbar as classmates in the Central High School Class of 1890, but to find that Thomas French, a nationally renowned author and academic in the field of Engineering Education, and an icon of Ohio State University athletics, was also a member of the Central High Class of 1890, makes this triumvirate all the more interesting.

Thomas Ewing French was born into a family of ministers on November 7, 1871 in Mansfield, Ohio. His grandfather Reverend David French was a pastor for forty four years in Washington County, Pennsylvania, where Thomas' father Daniel was born. Daniel French completed college in 1857, went on to the Theological Seminary in Xenia, Ohio, and then began his ministerial duties in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania in 1861. In 1867 Daniel French became the pastor of the United Presbyterian Church in Mansfield, Ohio, a position he held for twelve and a half years. The French family, in 1870, resided at Fourth and Mulberry Streets in Mansfield. In 1879 Reverend French received a call to become the pastor of the United Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio, which he accepted.<sup>2</sup> At the time that Thomas French's family moved to Dayton he was likely in the second grade in the Mansfield Public Schools. By January 1880 the family of Reverend Daniel French was in Dayton residing at East Third and Reingold Streets (see map pg. 12).

When his family moved to Dayton from Mansfield, Ohio in 1880 Thomas French was eight years old and his younger brother Edward was four.<sup>3</sup> Reverend French's church, the United Presbyterian Church, was located at Fourth and Jefferson Streets in downtown Dayton. Their home in East Dayton was about a mile from downtown. By 1882 the French family had moved a few blocks away to 51 Huffman Ave., just a block south of E. Third St., where they lived for the next eleven years.<sup>4</sup> The elementary school that Thomas French attended, the Ninth District School on Huffman Ave., was a half block south of his 51 Huffman Ave. home. (see map on pg. 12). Four years after Thomas French entered school his brother Edward began making



*Huffman Ave. School*

<sup>1</sup> The primary source of information on Thomas French in Columbus comes from The Ohio State University Archives.

<sup>2</sup> A. A. Graham, *History of Richland County Ohio*, pg. 704 (see appendix pg. 20)

<sup>3</sup> OSU Archives, *Ohio State Engineer Publication* 1937

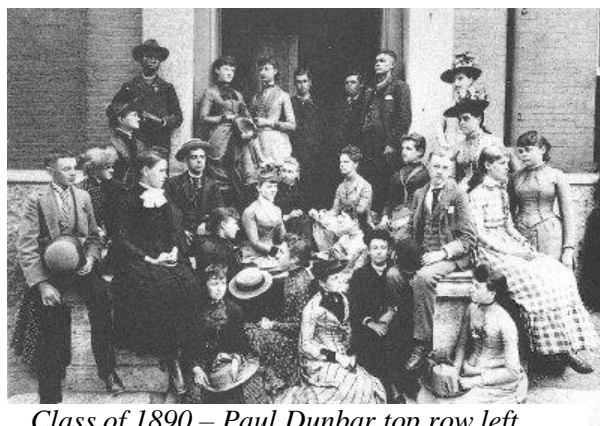
<sup>4</sup> Dayton City Directories from 1880 to 1892

the short walk down Huffman Ave. with him to the Ninth District School. The Huffman Ave. school still stands today and has been converted to a retirement home.

In intermediate school (today known as middle school) Thomas French was in the same class with the poet Paul Laurence Dunbar, who also grew up in East Dayton. Paul Dunbar lived on Howard St. just a block east of the south east corner of Fifth St. and Wayne Ave., about ten blocks away from the French family home (see map on pg.13). For Paul Dunbar in his early elementary school years, the Fourth District School, was about four blocks west of his home, at the corner of Brown and Hess Streets, in what is now the Oregon Historic District (see appendix pgs. 13-14). At about ten years of age Paul Dunbar's mother moved her family to an area just south of downtown. Paul Laurence Dunbar and Thomas Ewing French then met in 1885 when they both attended the Intermediate School, which was next to the site of the Fourth District School at the corner of Brown and Hess Streets.<sup>5</sup> As an adult in 1933, Thomas French reminisced to a student newspaper reporter for the Ohio State Lantern (see full article, pg. 19) about his recollections of Paul Dunbar, when he sat in the desk behind Dunbar in their eighth grade class. French noted that already then Dunbar's intellectual quality, which he called genius, was apparent to his classmates and teachers.<sup>6</sup>

When Paul Laurence Dunbar, and Thomas Ewing French entered Central High School together in September of 1886 they were joined by a young man from the West Side of town, Orville Wright. The three of them would spend the next several years coming to know one another in and out of school. Over their years at Central Orville Wright would apparently find Thomas French to be a like-minded soul and a friendship developed. French and Wright were both mechanically minded and would have naturally shared ideas of common interests. Considering that the enrollment of boys at Central High was only about eight to ten in each class through the years of the 1880s, it's easy to see how the two of them would have gravitated toward one another in such a small group.<sup>7</sup> Orville Wright's growing friendship with Paul Dunbar has been well documented over the years, primarily due to Orville's work printing the early writing of Dunbar. One of their early encounters in high school was recounted in a Dunbar biography by author Virginia Cunningham.

By 1886 when Paul Dunbar entered high school his mother had moved them to an apartment at the corner of Washington and Perry Streets near downtown, just a few blocks from Central High School. Today the location of that Dunbar home is on the athletic fields of Chaminade-Julienne High School.<sup>9</sup> Thomas French continued to live at 51 Huffman Avenue, commuting to school downtown.<sup>10</sup> In her book *Paul Laurence Dunbar and His Song* author Virginia Cunningham recounted an incident where Paul Dunbar and Orville Wright were discussing a tradeoff of talents in schoolwork, where



*Class of 1890 – Paul Dunbar top row left, Orville Wright top row middle<sup>8</sup>*

<sup>5</sup> In appendix on page 12 see Dayton Directory address listing for the Intermediate School.

<sup>6</sup> Ohio State University Lantern, April 3, 1933.

<sup>7</sup> A 2nd edition of Thomas French's *Engineering Drawing*, published in 1918, with a dedication to Orville reflects the length of their friendship (see pg. 8). The book is in the Wright Brothers Collection at Wright State University.

<sup>8</sup> See footnote 12 for a detailed perspective on the photo.

<sup>9</sup> Dayton City Directories 1886 to 1890, "Dunbar family home location through high school."

<sup>10</sup> Dayton City Directories 1886 to 1889, "French family home location through high school."

Paul would help Orville with an essay and Orville would help Paul with algebra. Engrossed in a discussion of their schoolwork while walking home after school one day, Orville realized he had walked on past his turn to go over the Fifth Street Bridge to the West Side. He only became aware of it after they crossed over the railroad tracks walking toward Paul Dunbar's Washington Street home.<sup>11</sup> Orville Wright left high school after his junior year to set up a printing business, and his experience as a printer was helpful to Paul Dunbar in printing his early newspaper, *The Tattler*.<sup>12</sup> Paul also wrote for Orville's *West Side News*. Paul Dunbar's first book of poems, *Oak and Ivy*, would soon follow, published by the United Brethren Publishing Co. of Dayton, Ohio,

As Thomas French and Orville Wright came to know one another, they found they had several other things in common beyond their mechanical interests. They were both sons of ministers who were religious leaders in the community, and both were considered by friends and family to be fastidious dressers. In addition it is apparent that the two of them both had competitive natures that would continue to serve them well into their adult years. While in high school Orville was known to have enjoyed the growing game of baseball, mustering the gumption to be a pretty fair pitcher in amateur baseball games.<sup>13</sup> The baseball field that was used by the high school and other amateur teams was just a few blocks from the Wright family home in what was known as Miami City on the West Side. The field was just north of Third St. near Euclid.<sup>14</sup>

Given his deep interest in sports, Thomas French was also likely involved in some of those sandlot games in their high school years. There was an amateur team from his side of town in those years called the "East Enders" that played against the high school team occasionally. There were also reports in the *High School Times* of groups of twenty or more students heading out to the Pinnacles south of town on Saturdays to choose up teams for pick-up games.<sup>15</sup> Sport was an interest that Thomas would maintain over his lifetime. After high school Orville transferred his robust competitiveness to the challenge of bicycle racing, and in the years down the road Thomas French would take up athletics administration as an avocation. Later in life his steadfastness would serve Orville well in his dealings with patent lawsuits, the Smithsonian Institute, and others who would try to lay claim to the Wright brothers legacy of first to fly. And Thomas French would come to be renowned for his enthusiasm in pressing for the growth of OSU athletics from his position as an athletics administrator.

In their junior year of high school Thomas French and Orville Wright both demonstrated their precociousness by leaving school early to get underway with their life's work. Thomas French did not return to school in January of 1889 after Christmas vacation, and three months later in March of 1889 Orville Wright published the first edition of the *West Side News* while still attending classes. Orville left Central High at the end of the school year in June of 1889. Leaving school early was not unusual in those times, and was even celebrated. The Central High school newspaper regularly noted when significant job opportunities developed for students. The January 1889 edition noted, "Ewing French has left school, accepting a position in the drafting department of Smith and Vail." (see appendix pg. 15). In the

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<sup>11</sup> Virginia Cunningham, *Paul Laurence Dunbar and His Song*, Dodd Mead & Co. 1947, pg. 27.

<sup>12</sup> There has been some question as to how Orville Wright was a part of the 1890 class photo (see pg.2) if he left school at the end of his junior year. Apparently Orville enrolled for a single class in Latin at the start of the new school year, but likely the rigors of the printing business caused him to drop the class the next month in October (see appendix pg. 16). However he would have been available for the photo at the start of the school year.

<sup>13</sup> John R. McMahon, *The Wright Brothers, Fathers of Flight*, Little Brown & Co., Boston 1930. "baseball recollections", pg. 41.

<sup>14</sup> *High School Times* September 1889, "games played at Miami City Field."

<sup>15</sup> *High School Times* September 1889, "pick-up games at the Pinnacles."

September 1889 *High School Times* the editor wrote, "Orville Wright '90 is editor and publisher of the *West Side News*," (see appendix pg. 16). "It is a great pleasure to add The *West Side News* to our Exchanges. The editor, our school-mate, Orville Wright, is establishing a justly enviable reputation by the manner in which he conducts his paper. No doubt some day he will occupy a prominent place among the journalists of the country." <sup>16</sup> Given that Orville Wright and Thomas French both left school in their junior year it raises the question of whether they had an influence on one another in their thinking.

Paul Laurence Dunbar stayed on at Central High and in his senior year he became the editor of the *High School Times*. His experience as the *Times* editor was a good foundation to the literary career he would begin to carve out for himself after graduation. The October 1891 edition of the *High School Times* noted, "Paul Laurence Dunbar is on the editorial staff of the *Dayton Evening Herald*." Soon to follow would be Dunbar's first book of poetry *Oak and Ivy* published by the United Brethren Publishing Co.

While Orville Wright was at work developing the *West Side News* Thomas French was gaining experience in the field of drafting. Both were laying the groundwork for future success. After a time French became the chief draftsman at Smith and Vail (see appendix pg. 18), and by 1890 he was teaching drafting at the Y.M.C.A. night school. After high school while he was working and teaching, Thomas French also attended Miami Business College in Dayton (see appendix pg. 17). <sup>17</sup> French's industriousness set the stage for the further expansion of his education, and the evolution of a career.

In the fall of 1891, with a formidable resume as a student, teacher, experienced draftsman, and with advanced course study at Miami Business College in his curriculum vitae, Thomas French entered Ohio State University. French helped pay his way through school at OSU as a patent draftsman and as a part-time assistant in the drawing department. A few years after he enrolled at Ohio State his family would move from Dayton to the Columbus area where his brother Edward would also enter Ohio State.

In the years immediately after Thomas French and Orville Wright left Central High School their younger siblings followed them into school. While Katharine Wright was honing her skills as a writer with the *High School Times* in those years, Edward French was busy making news in *Times* articles on the school's athletic teams. In an article in the December 1891 edition of the *High School Times*, titled *Rambles in Miami City*, Katharine gave students a tour of her West Side neighborhood. A decade later Katharine, who earned a degree from Oberlin College, would be teaching at Steele High School, the city's new high school in downtown Dayton. At Steele she would encounter another future OSU graduate, who would become a contemporary of Thomas French (see pg. 8). But in 1892 while Thomas French was studying engineering at Ohio State, his brother Edward was honing his athletic skills on the gridiron at Central High School, and Katharine Wright was writing for the *High School Times*.



*Steele High School, opened in 1893*

*Inset: Katharine Wright*

*Inset: Katharine Wright honing his athletic skills on the gridiron at Central High School, and Katharine Wright was writing for the High School Times.*

<sup>16</sup> *High School Times*, September 1889, "West Side News comments," pgs. 10 and 15.

<sup>17</sup> In the early 1900s Miami Business College, also known as Miami Commercial College, became Miami Jacobs Jr. College.



The sport of football had been evolving at Central High School since the early 1880s. In 1884 when Wilbur Wright played football at Central High they were just developing the team with practices and intra-squad games, expanding to amateur competition where they could find it.<sup>18</sup> There were reports of some of those 1880s games drawing 500 plus spectators to the Miami City Ballpark on the West Side. In 1884 Wilbur Wright's parents had their sights set on Wilbur attending Yale University.<sup>19</sup> At that time, in the 1880s, the legendary football coach Walter Camp was in his heyday creating the American game of football at Yale. A serious injury in a pick-up ice hockey game in the winter set aside those plans for Wilbur Wright. A classmate of Wilbur's, his next door neighbor John Feight, was a member of those developing teams of the early 1880s (see appendix pg. 21). In a newspaper interview in 1928, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first flight, John Feight talked about Wilbur Wright's football skills:

“One of our backfield players was Wilbur Wright, who later with his brother Orville was the first man to fly in a heavier than air machine. Will was just about the fastest man on the team. He was one of those quiet players. He would be back in the field when, all of a sudden he would be given the ball. Then down the field he would travel. How he would go.”<sup>20</sup>

In the years after Wilbur Wright, the Central High teams continued to develop to the point where, by the latter 1880s they were entertaining the Miami University football club from Oxford, Ohio.<sup>21</sup> They played a return game the next year in which the *High School Times* reported anticipating that a large following of fans would be accompanying the team to Oxford.<sup>22</sup> However, by the time Edward French joined the football team in the early 1890s the organization of the Central High School football club had slipped off and as a result the Central High students were all playing for a YMCA club team.<sup>23</sup> Ed French was an End on the 1892 team and reportedly was one of the best runners on the team.<sup>24</sup> The *High School Times* continued to report on the YMCA team's progress during that time (see appendix pg. 22).<sup>25</sup>

Edward French cut his teeth on football at Central High from the tight end position, and when his family moved to the Columbus area in the mid-1890s, he would join his brother, by then Professor Thomas French, as a student at Ohio State. He was a member of the 1895 OSU football team and in 1896 he became captain of the team (see appendix pgs. 23 and 24). This was during the time when his brother Thomas was becoming involved in organizing and developing OSU athletics.<sup>27</sup> It may have been Edward's experience with the up and down development of sports at Central High that helped motivate Thomas French to get involved with athletics at Ohio State. Edward French would turn his OSU education into a career as a chemical engineer.



*1895 Ohio State football team  
Edward French top row far left<sup>26</sup>*

<sup>18</sup> One *High School Times* article noted a game with local college graduates from Eastern (Ivy League) schools.

<sup>19</sup> Tom Crouch, *The Bishop's Boys*, W.W. Norton & Co., New York 1989, pg. 65.

<sup>20</sup> Dayton Metro Library, Wright Brothers Collection, Series VII Scrapbooks and Scrapbook Material, "John Feight football interview", December 18, 1928 Dayton Daily News clipping, Box 28 page 1.

<sup>21</sup> *High School Times*, November, 1889, "Miami U. at Central High," pg. 43.

<sup>22</sup> *High School Times*, September 1890, "Central High at Oxford," pg. 6.

<sup>23</sup> *High School Times*, April 1892, "YMCA club team," pgs. 1-2.

<sup>24</sup> *High School Times*, September 1892, "French a good runner," pg. 1.

<sup>25</sup> *High School Times*, November 1892, "YMCA game account," pg. 10.

<sup>26</sup> Photo courtesy of the Ohio State University Archives

<sup>27</sup> Edwin R. Clay & Brent Greene, *The Birth of Ohio Stadium*, Documentary Film, The Ohio State University, 1999.

Before Edward French reached Ohio State, Thomas French, midway through his studies at OSU in 1893, took a summer job at the World's Fair in Chicago working as a draftsman in the anthropological department. In his 1933 interview with the Ohio State Lantern he recounted how he would visit back and forth with Paul Dunbar, who with his French language skills had found work in the Haitian pavilion at the World's Fair.<sup>28</sup> Wilbur and Orville Wright spent an extended period of time at the World's Fair in 1893, but it is not known if they ever ran into either of their friends from Dayton while touring the fair. In the coming years Paul Dunbar's formidable literary career took off, carrying him to Washington D.C., New York City, and Europe along the way. After marriage and the growth of his literary career Paul Dunbar contracted tuberculosis, and he returned to Dayton in 1904. He traveled to Colorado for a short time to convalesce, but in 1906 Paul Laurence Dunbar returned to Dayton where he passed away.

After the summer of 1893 working the World's Fair in Chicago, Thomas French returned to Ohio State, and upon graduation two years later in 1895 he was hired onto the OSU faculty. He began a career in teaching, writing, and administration that remains today a legacy in Ohio State annals, and in engineering education nationally. After settling into his position on the OSU faculty Mr. French married Ida Richards in 1898 and they had a daughter, Janet, born in May of 1899. Life took an arresting turn for Thomas French when in April of 1903 his wife Ida passed away. From that time on Thomas French committed his life to raising his daughter and to his career as an educator and administrator at Ohio State. After his father Daniel passed away his mother Janet Methven-French came to live with Thomas and his daughter Janet.

As an educator Thomas French gained national and international renown. He wrote textbooks on engineering drawing that sold in excess of a million and a half copies, and were used in over five hundred universities in America and around the world. In June of 1942, nearly fifty years after his 1893 reunion with Paul Laurence Dunbar, Thomas Ewing French returned to Chicago to receive the Lamme Medal for achievement in engineering education from the Society for the Promotion of Engineering Education. The biographical sketch created for the event program offers a comprehensive view of Dr. French's textbook writings:

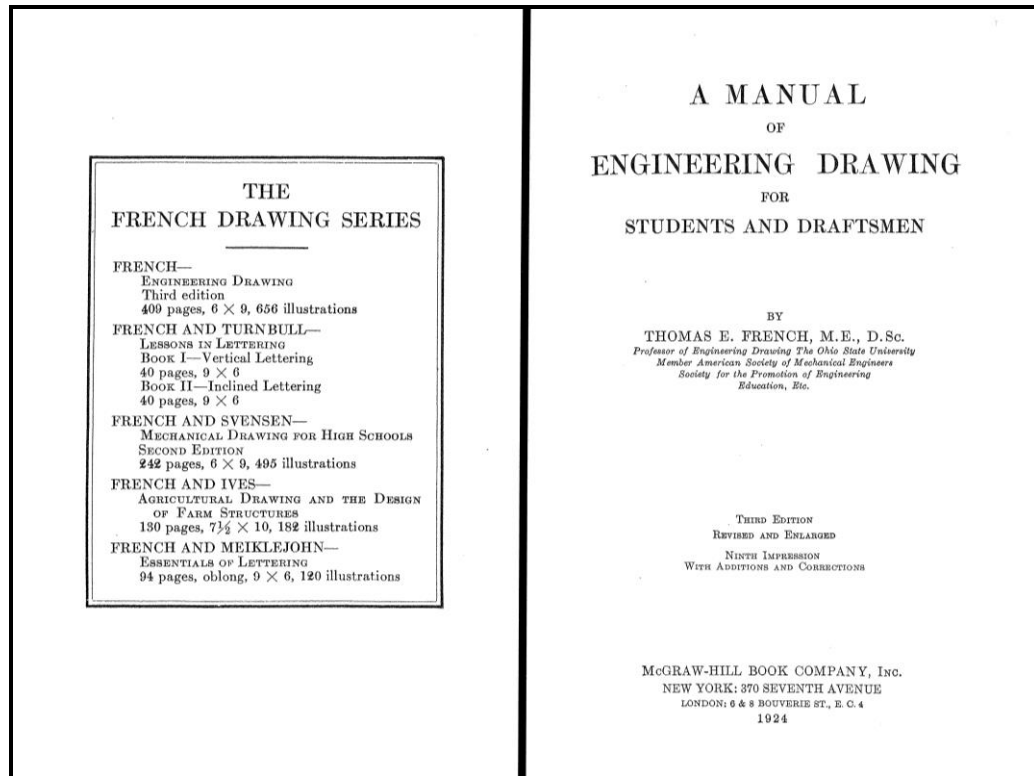
One cannot think or speak of Professor French's life and career without immediately recognizing the teaching service rendered by his widely used text books in Engineering Drawing. In fact, he was the first author who discarded the time worn name "Mechanical Drawing" for the much livelier and more attractive title "Engineering Drawing." In 1910 his first book was published in collaboration with Robert Meiklejohn under the title "The Essentials of Lettering." Other books by him are "Agricultural Drawing and Design of Farm Structures" (with F. W. Ives); "Mechanical Drawing for High Schools" (with C. L. Svensen; "Lessons in Lettering" (with W. D. Turnbull) and "Engineering Drawing Sheets" (with H. M. McCully). He has also contributed numerous articles to magazines and reference works, among them the Encyclopedia Britannica. In 1911 he wrote "A Manual of Engineering Drawing for Students and Draftsmen," better known as "French's Engineering Drawing." This truly monumental classic is now in its sixth edition and each year for many years has held the American publishers' record as the best selling of all text books. Of this Sixth Edition alone more than one hundred thousand copies have been printed and the all time score for all his books on drawing and allied subjects runs to more than a million and a half copies.

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<sup>28</sup> Ohio State Lantern April 2, 1933 - see full article in appendix, pg. 19.

<sup>29</sup> The Lamme Award extract courtesy of the Ohio State University Archives.



Title page of Thomas Ewing French's most successful book

In addition to Dr. French's legacy as an educator, as his brother Edward played football at Ohio State, he became a leader in developing and administering OSU athletics. In his early years on the faculty of Ohio State he began to involve himself in the promotion of athletics as a vital part of the development of university society. He believed athletics was a valuable compliment in character development. Thomas French took on the responsibilities of hiring coaches for team sports and expanding the scope of the schools athletic programs. By 1906 he was involved in promoting the building old Ohio Field for football games, with a seating capacity of 5,000. Along the way, in 1912, he promoted Ohio State's entry into a formidable athletic conference, the Western Conference, joining such schools as Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Iowa. French was named Ohio State's faculty representative to the conference. Also in 1912 OSU President William Oxley Thompson created the Ohio State Athletic Board and named Thomas French its president, a post he would hold for over thirty years (see appendix pg. 25). He would oversee the expansion of seating capacity of Ohio Field to 10,000 by 1916. When the Western Conference took on a tenth member in 1917 it came to be known as the Big Ten Conference.

It was in 1916 that the stage was set for Thomas French to catapult Ohio State into national athletic prominence. In October of that year Dr. French invited his former Central High School classmate Orville Wright to a game at old Ohio Field.<sup>30</sup> Orville Wright was very much on his own by that time. With his brother Wilbur having passed away in 1912, Orville Wright sold their



Thomas French and Orville Wright,  
at Ohio Field, October 7, 1916

<sup>30</sup> French / Wright photo courtesy of the Ohio State University Archives



airplane manufacturing company in Dayton in 1915. From that time on he was involved in various projects of interest, as well as being kept busy with social and consulting obligations nationally as an icon of the aviation community. When Orville Wright got together with his high school classmate Thomas French at Ohio Field in the fall of 1916, Ohio State was coming into its own as a formidable member of the Western Conference. The October 7<sup>th</sup> game against Ohio Wesleyan that Orville Wright attended saw the emergence of the career of Ohio State's first All-American, Chic Harley.<sup>31</sup>

A month later on November 4<sup>th</sup> the Wisconsin Badgers provided the opposition for the 1916 Homecoming Game. 12,500 spirited fans squeezed their way into 10,000 seat Ohio Field to see Chic Harley score two touchdowns and kick two extra points as Ohio State defeated Wisconsin 14-13. Thomas French saw the overflow crowd for that game as an opportunity and began immediately using it as a springboard to further his vision for a new and much larger stadium at Ohio State. By seasons end the Ohio State Buckeyes were the undefeated champions of the Western Conference and Thomas French's vision was beginning to take root.

From his position in the engineering department Dr. French was able to jump start the design of a stadium. In early 1917, within months of the end of the 1916 football season, he had a plan in front of the Board of Trustees for consideration. U.S. entry into WWI in 1917 slowed progress on the stadium project, but by 1918 French had recruited OSU graduate and architect Howard Dwight Smith to take on the complete design of a stadium. Howard D. Smith, a native Daytonian, was a student at Steele High School from 1899 to 1903, when Katharine Wright was teaching there, and her brothers Wilbur and Orville were preparing to make the world's first manned heavier than air flight in December of 1903. Through 1918 Howard D. Smith worked on the stadium design as enthusiasm for the project continued to be promoted by Thomas French. Simultaneously, planning for fund raising was begun.



Howard D. Smith

In the midst all that was going on with the push for the new stadium, the second edition of Thomas French's *Engineering Drawing* book was published in 1918. After their reunion in October of 1916 for the Ohio Wesleyan game and before French's second edition was published he and Orville had the opportunity to get together again. It is possible that Thomas French may have visited Orville at Hawthorn Hill in the spring of 1917 as a payback for the invitation to the OSU game. Given their formidable home, Orville and Katherine Wright were accustomed to putting up notable guests and friends who came to visit from out of town. (After his trans-Atlantic flight in 1927 Charles Lindberg was an overnight guest at Hawthorn Hill.) A copy of Thomas French's 1918 second edition book from Orville Wright's library reflects their get together. It bears the inscription, "To Orv, with memories of two delightful spring days – TEF." <sup>32</sup>

Into 1919 fund raising for the stadium became a major project. Although the Board of Regents, with the encouragement of President William Oxley Thompson was in support of the project, no education funds would go toward the cost of the stadium. A group of alumni and Columbus businessmen began working together to create a fund raising drive, establishing chairman in each of the eighty-eight Ohio counties to ferret out alumni and solicit support. As this process evolved so did the success of the OSU football team.

<sup>31</sup> The game date for Orville Wright's attendance was established from an Ohio State University Archives photo captioned with Thomas French, Orville Wright, and OSU President William Oxley Thompson together, along with the date. (see photo opposite pg. 552 in *Ohio: Home of the Wright Brothers, Birthplace of Aviation, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Edition 2017*).

<sup>32</sup> The book is in the Wright Brothers Collection of the Wright State University Archives.

In 1919 Chic Harley returned to school from the war, and not missing a beat he led Ohio State to another undefeated season. The Western Conference championship game against Illinois drew an overflow crowd of 17,000 to old Ohio Field, further raising the momentum for the new stadium. The process still took several more years. There was an extraordinary amount of effort in fund raising and bringing people on board for such a visionary project. Finally in 1921 with Howard D. Smith's architectural plans readied and approved, and funds in place, construction began on a new stadium. Thomas French had first shared his vision for a new and much larger football stadium in the Ohio State Alumni Magazine in 1909. After fourteen years of steadfast and focused effort, in the summer of 1922 a new and modern stadium was being pushed to completion for the opening of the fall football season.

On October 21, 1922 Ohio Stadium was dedicated before a crowd of 70,000 people. Ohio State became a major player in inter-collegiate athletics, and Dr. Thomas French's vision earned him the affectionate moniker "Daddy of Ohio Stadium" in Columbus and around the State of Ohio. Ohio Stadium has been expanded several times over the years since 1922, to its present capacity of 105,000, and "The Horseshoe on the Olentangy"<sup>33</sup> has become one of the most recognizable icons in American sports.<sup>34</sup>



*Modern Day Ohio Stadium*

Between his prominence in engineering education, selling over 1,500,000 textbooks, and his part in creating Ohio Stadium, Dr. Thomas French's presence looms large on the campus of Ohio State University and around the State of Ohio.<sup>35</sup> French Fieldhouse on the Ohio State campus remains today as a testament to his years of commitment to Ohio State University athletics. Thomas French invited his high school classmate Orville Wright to an OSU football game at old Ohio Field in 1916 and Orville was known to still be attending Ohio State football games at the new Ohio Stadium well into the 1930s when he was over sixty years old.<sup>36</sup>

In the end the 1890 class of Central High School produced three men of national renown, Orville Wright who with his brother Wilbur invented the airplane, Paul Laurence Dunbar the renowned American poet, novelist, and playwright, and Thomas Ewing French, Ohio State University engineering professor and the most successful textbook author in America for many, many years, as well as the "Daddy of Ohio Stadium."

*Thanks to Michelle Drobik, and Kevlin Haire, of the Ohio State University Archives, for their assistance in developing research sources, and for photo acquisitions for this piece. Also thanks to Dawne Dewey and the staff of the Wright State University Archives & Special Collections for their extended assistance. And thanks to Eric Wirick of the Dayton Metro Library for his timely assistance, and to Jayson Schlechty of the Mansfield/Richland County Public Library.*

<sup>33</sup> This moniker is attributed to former College Football broadcaster Keith Jackson.

<sup>34</sup> Edwin R. Clay & Brent Greene, *The Birth of Ohio Stadium*, Documentary Film, The Ohio State University, 1999. All accounts of the evolution of Ohio State football and planning for Ohio Stadium, and Thomas French's part in it, are drawn from this documentary film.

<sup>35</sup> In 1921 professor French was conferred a Doctor of Science degree from Monmouth College.

<sup>36</sup> Ohio State University Archives - "Correspondence between Orville Wright and OSU Trustee Julius Stone indicates that Orville attended the Ohio State – Michigan games in Columbus in 1932 and 1934."


# Appendix

## 1888-89 Dayton City Directory

Thomas Ewing French is listed as Ewing French, student in 1888-89 ( junior year of high school), living in the home of his father, Reverend Daniel French, at 51 Huffman Ave. The Dayton Directories list the French family at this address from 1881 to 1892.

Dayton and Cincinnati in 1 Hour and 35 Minutes.

The Road that Runs the "KIPPER" between



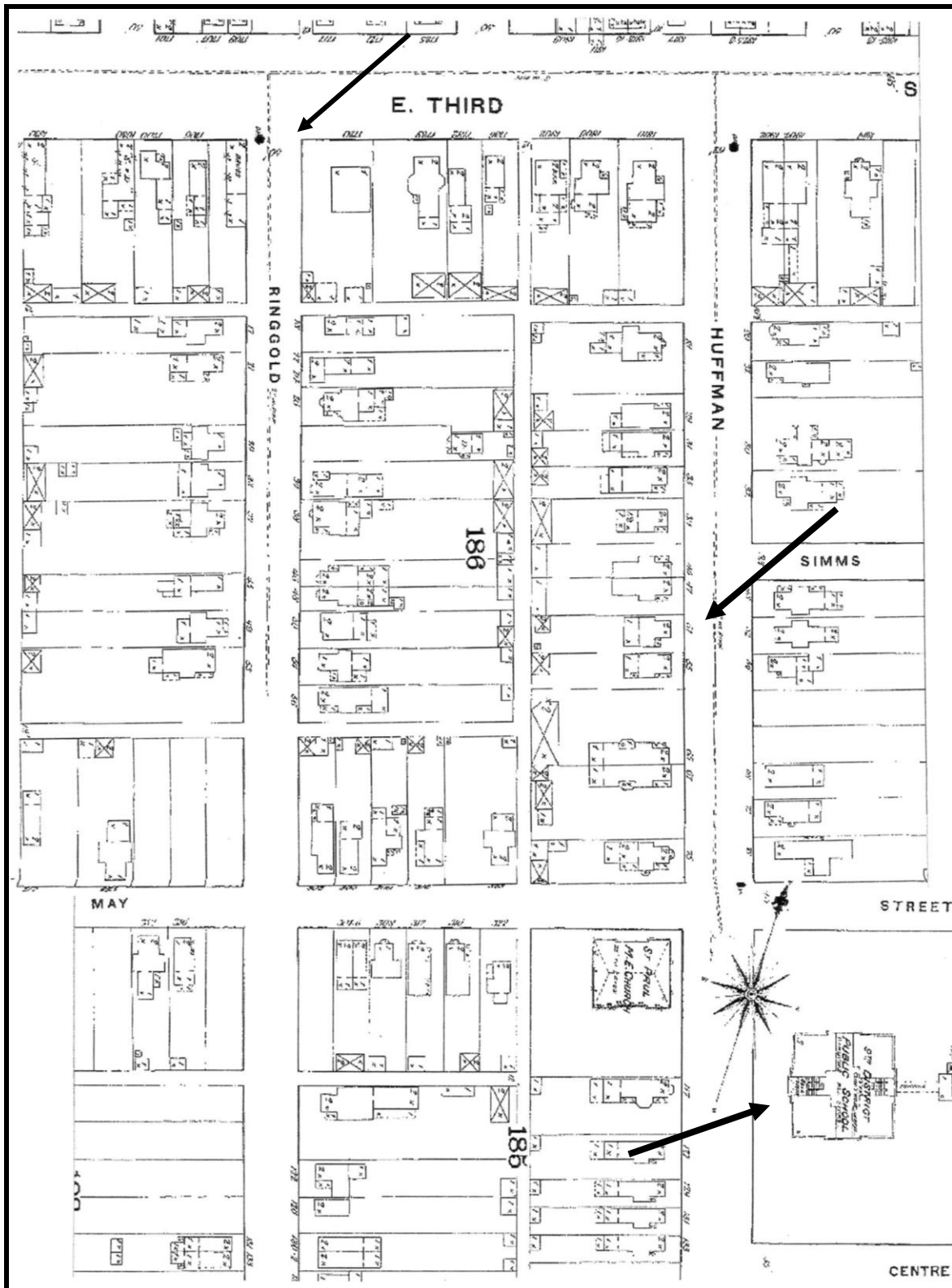
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DAYTON [ FRE ]
DIRECTORY.

Frederick Philip, res 1104 N. Main, Riverdale  
Frederick Robert, machine hand, res Old Troy Pike north of Corp. Line, N. D  
Fredericks Dollie, seamstress, res 12 S. Summit, W. S  
Fredericks Tillie J. widow, res 12 S. Summit, W. S  
Fredrick Nelson, cook, bds 603 S. Ludlow  
Fredrickson August, machinist, res 423 E. Sherman  
Free Amie, widow, res 127 S. Williams, W. S  
Freed Caroline, widow of Benj. res 835 S. Main  
Freed Edward O. carriage painter, res 835 S. Main  
Freed Fred. E. blacksmith, res 835 S. Main  
Freed John K. brass finisher, res 673 E. Richard  
**FREEMAN CHAS. T.**, Empire Livery and Boarding Stable, 20 and 22 W. 3d; Residence, 353 S. Main  
Freeman E. E. watchmaker, 33 N. Main, bds Phillips House  
Freeman Mrs. Julia, res 111 E. 2d  
Freeman Mrs. R. house-keeper, Phillips House  
Freeman W. D. traveling salesman, res 121 S. James  
Frees Sarah C. house-keeper, 546 W. Superior Av, Dayton View  
**FREESE GEO. W.**, Saloon, 11 E. Market; also, LaBelle Saloon, 640 S. Main; Residence, 640 S. Main  
Fregin Augusta, cigar maker, res 256 S. Allen  
Fregin Ernst, cabinet maker, res 256 S. Allen  
Fregin Otto, cigar maker, res 256 S. Allen  
Frei Adelheid, domestic, 315 E. Xenia Av  
Frei Henry, carver, res 1312 E. Richard  
Frei John, res 1312 E. Richard  
Freier Emma, res 33 N. June  
Freier Fred. boots and shoes, 719 S. Wayne Av, res same  
Freier Mary, domestic, C. L. Hawes', Dayton View  
Freier Minnie, domestic, C. L. Hawes', Dayton View  
Freier Philip, driver, res 33 N. June  
Freier Wm. res 719 S. Wayne Av  
Freier Wm. laborer, res n s E. 3d near Jersey  
**FREIGAU CARL**, Live Stock Artist; Secretary Ohio Poland China Record Co. and Editor Chester White Record, Office, Room 29 Central Block, n w c 5th and Jefferson; Residence, 143 S. Dudley, Patterson  
Freitag Mary, seamstress, res 365 N. Middle, Dayton View  
Freitag Wm. hod carrier, res 137 S. Fillmore  
Freund Geo. carpenter, res w s S. Cincinnati south of Corp. Line, Patterson  
French Rev. Daniel H. pastor United Presbyterian Church, res 51 S. Huffman Av  
French Ewing, student, res 51 S. Huffman Av  
French Mrs. H. I. widow, res 141 S. Ludlow  
French Hannah M. widow of Hezekiah B. res 53 S. Dover  
French May, res 141 S. Ludlow  
French Stephen S. res 1540 W. 1st, W. S  
French Wm. M. res 1540 W. 1st, W. S  
Fresenborg August, res 214 W. Washington  
Freshcorn Barbara, domestic, 218 S. Jefferson  
Fretz Frank, laborer, res 560 E. Richard  
Freud Louis, cigar maker, res 212 E. Bacon

**CHAS. M. PICCARD, Engraves Jewelry and Silverware,**  
**32 EAST THIRD STREET.**

## 1887 Sanborn Insurance Map

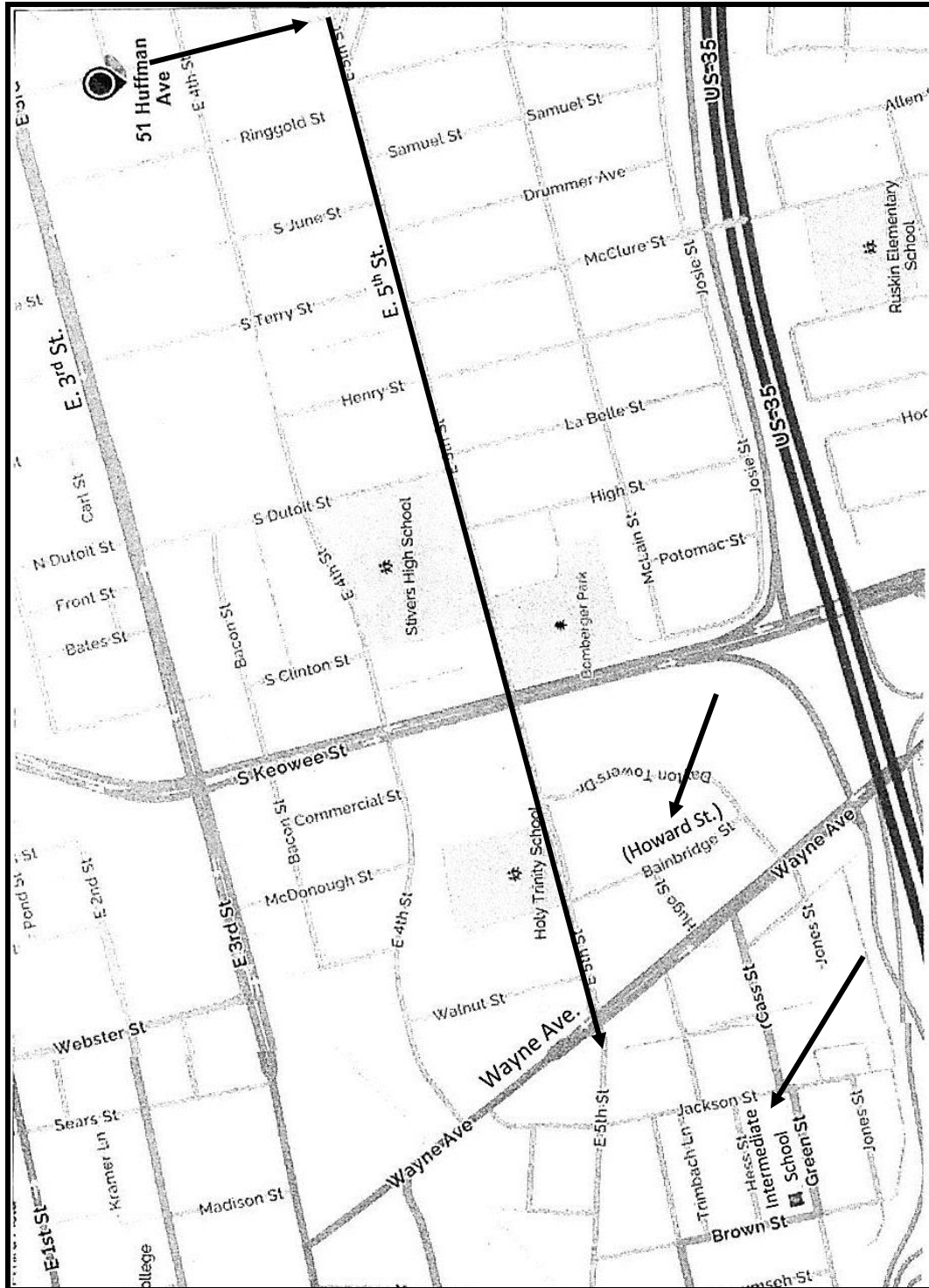
Showing the 51 Huffman Avenue residence of the French family (middle arrow),  
and Huffman School (lower arrow). Residence in first year at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Ringold (top arrow)





## Modern Map: from French Home to Intermediate School

Map shows the distance from the French family home at 51 Huffman Ave., down East Fifth Street to the Intermediate School (bottom right arrow), also the location of the Dunbar home at 311 Howard St. from 1871 to 1882 (note name change to Bainbridge).



## 1885-1886 Dayton City Directory

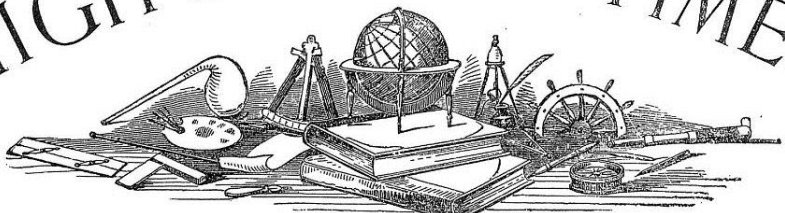
The location of the Intermediate School at Brown and Hess Streets where  
Thomas Ewing French and Paul Laurence Dunbar met in 1885.

DAYTON CITY GUIDE.		17
Teachers appointed at the last regular meeting in June.		
Librarian and Assistant Librarian appointed at the last regular meeting in August.		
Janitors appointed at the last regular meeting in August.		
Committee on Supplies and Printing advertise for sealed proposals on or before July 1st of each year.		
All accounts against the Board of Education shall be handed to the Clerk on Wednesday before the first regular meeting of the Board in each month		
Bills will be acted upon at the first regular meeting of each month, and orders issued for the same on the following Saturday.		
Members of the Board of City Examiners appointed at the first regular meeting in September.		
Examination of Teachers for Certificates on the third Saturday of May, August, November and February.		
Superintendent of Instruction,	- - -	J. J. BURNS. Office in City Building.
Superintendent of Music,	- - -	F. C. MAYER.
Superintendent of Writing,	- - -	CHAS. B. NETTLETON.
Superintendent of School Buildings,	- - -	OTTO R. MOLDENHAUER. Term expires June, 1886.
CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL EXAMINERS.		
J. J. BURNS.	CHAS. L. LOOS, JR.	A. D. WILT.
COUNTY BOARD OF SCHOOL EXAMINERS.		
JOHNSON SNYDER, President. J. R. LINDENMUTH. WM. PATTERSON, Clerk.		
Meets second Saturday of each month, and on the last Saturday of September, October, November, February, March and April, at new Court House.		
LOCATION OF SCHOOL HOUSES.		
Normal School—South-east corner Salem and Superior Avenue, Dayton View. Mary F. Hall, Principal.		
High School—South-west corner Fourth and Wilkinson Capt. C. B. Stivers, Principal.		
Intermediate School—South-east corner Brown and Hess. Samuel C. Wilson, Principal.		
First District—North side of Second street between Madison and Sears. C. L. Loos, jr., Principal.		
Second District—West side of Perry street between First and Second. Marie E. Jacque, Principal.		
Third District—East side of Ludlow street between Sixth and Franklin. A. B. Shauck, Principal.		
Fourth District—South-east corner Brown and Hess. Samuel C. Wilson, Principal.		
Fifth District—North side of Fifth street between Clinton and Dutoit. J. C. Morris, Principal.		
Sixth District—South side of Herman street between Wayne and Old Brown. Ferd. Loehninger, Principal.		
Seventh District—South-west corner of Fifth and Barnett streets, west side of the river. Esther A. Widner, Principal.		

## Central High School Student Newspaper

Notices in the school newspaper show that Thomas Ewing French returned to school for his junior year in September of 1888, and after Christmas break in January of 1889 he took a full time draftsman's job at the Smith and Vail Company.

**HIGH SCHOOL TIMES.**



"DECIES REPETITA PLACEBIT."

VOL. VIII. DAYTON, OHIO, SEPTEMBER, 1888. No. 12

**HIGH SCHOOL TIMES.**

12

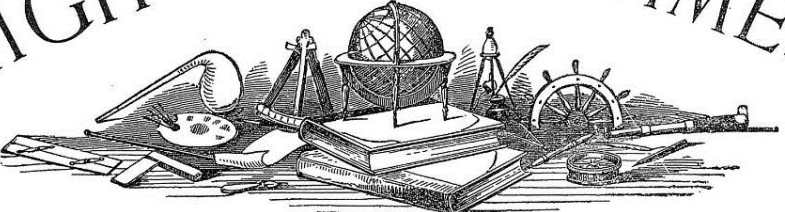
**PERSONALS.**

—Ed. Gerber, '90, has accepted a position in the County Auditor's office. We are sorry to learn that he will not attend school this year.

—Ewing French has begun the study of German.

TERMS:

**HIGH SCHOOL TIMES.**



"DECIES REPETITA PLACEBIT."

VOL. VIII. DAYTON, OHIO, JANUARY, 1889. No. 5.

**HIGH SCHOOL TIMES.**

86

**PERSONAL.**

—Ewing French has left school, accepting a position in the drafting department of Smith & Vale.

**SOCIETY NOTES.**

—The Philomathean Society has recently published an annotated edition of its constitution. The work was completed by the school graduates wherever they may be. This would bind the graduates more closely to the society.


TERMS:

ONE YEAR..... 75 Cents

# Central High School Student Newspaper

Notices on Orville Wright

**HIGH SCHOOL TIMES.**



"DECIES REPETITA PLACEBIT."

VOL. IX. DAYTON, OHIO, SEPTEMBER, 1889. No. 10

**HIGH SCHOOL TIMES.**

10

**PERSONAL.**

Orville Wright, '90, is editor and publisher of the *West Side News*

TERMS:

Loucks showed his talent as a cow-boy, and chased his horse around the woods four times before he caught it.

Kaspirsky was the marksman of the day. Kaspirsky's literature instead of Shaw's. It will be finished the first quarter, after which more of the best works in the English language

**HIGH SCHOOL TIMES.**



"DECIES REPETITA PLACEBIT."

VOL. IX. DAYTON, OHIO, OCTOBER, 1889. No. 2.

**HIGH SCHOOL TIMES.**

27

**PERSONAL.**

that some changes will be made in both before the first championship game, the object being to make the two teams as nearly equal as possible

Orville Wright has stopped the study of Latin.

Chemistry is taught under great inconvenience

TERMS:

## 1890-91 Dayton City Directory Listing for Miami Commercial College

Thomas French took classes at Miami Commercial College while working as a draftsman at Smith and Vail up to the fall of 1891 when he entered Ohio State University.

W. S. HUBER & CO., AUCTIONEERS, No. 140 East Third Street.

**LINCOLN A. DORNBUSCH, Insurance and Real Estate Agent,**  
**OFFICE, 32 E. FIFTH STREET.**

520 DAYTON [ MID ] DIRECTORY.

Meyers Jos. engineer, res 127 S. Jay  
Meyers Julia, domestic, 350 W. 5th  
Meyers Leo, clerk, 712 E. 5th, res 124 S. Jefferson  
Meyers Mary, res 1337 W. 5th, W. S  
Meyers Mary E. widow of Henry B. res 17 N. Harris  
Meyers Nick, awning maker, res 266 S. Bainbridge  
Meyers Peter, telegraph operator, bds 648 E. 2d  
Meyers Robt. laborer, bds Chas. J. Hochwalt's, W. S  
Meyers Solomon N. barber, res 332 E. Xenia Av  
Meyers Wm. carriage trimmer, bds 1645 E. 5th  
Meyers Wm. F. bicycle repairer, res 1315 W. 2d, W. S  
Meyers Wm. H. carpenter, wks n e c State and Wayn A  
Meyerson Moses, peddler, res 1130 S. Brown  
Meywald J. H. grocery, n e c 3d and VanLear, res s.m  
Miami Chapel United Brethren Church, off e s . Broadway south of  
Corp. Line, W. S  
Miami City Station and Ticket Office P., C. & St. L. R. R. n w c 3d  
and P., C. & St. L. R. R. W. S., John Shiel, ticket agent  
**MIAMI COMMERCIAL COLLEGE, A. D. Wilt, Princip-**  
**pal, Firemens Insurance Building, s w c 2d and Main**  
Miami Construction Co. (The), 10 N. Jefferson  
Miami Valley Boiler & Sheet Iron Works, Jas. T. Dougherty, proprietor,  
1002 E. 3d  
**MIAMI VALLEY FIRE INSURANCE CO. OF DAY-**  
**TON, OHIO, n e c 2d and Main; Alexander Gebhart, President;**  
**John K. McIntire, Vice President and Treasurer; W. R. S. Ayers,**  
**Secretary; John H. Scheffel, Assistant Secretary**  
Michael Cyrus, driver, bds Fred. Schlipf's  
Michael Enoch D. bridge watchman, res s w c D. & M. R. R. and Mad  
River  
Michael John R. res 1336 W. Monument Av, W. S  
Michael Jos. molder, res s w c D. & M. R. R. and Mad River  
Michael Louisa E. (widow of James) boarding house, 58 S. Fremont Av  
res same  
Michael Millie, domestic, 36 S. Ludlow  
Michael Orville C. engineer, res 177 W. Franklin  
Michael Wm. G. machinist, res 115 E. Ohio, N. D  
Michael Wm. H. res 1336 W. Monument Av, W. S  
Michaels A. laborer, bds 321 E. 1st  
Michalke August, bds 128 S. Montgomery  
Michel A. Jos. core maker, res 504 E. Oak  
Michel Andrew W. laborer, res 170 S. Potomac  
Michel Florence G. widow of Chas. W. res 121 S. McDonough  
Michel Frank, res 1129 S. Brown  
Michel Jacob, grocery, 1129 S. Brown, res same  
Michel Jos. laborer, res 504 E. Oak  
Michel Katie, res 1129 S. Brown  
Michel Theo. brewer, res lane b Central Av and Salem and River and  
Gilbert, Dayton View  
Michie Capt. Jas. C. commissary of subsistence Central Branch National  
Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, res at the Home  
Michigan Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Detroit, Gabriel Durst, agent,  
n w c 5th and Jackson  
Middendorf Mary, housekeeper, 310 S. Allen

**RONEY & SHEARER, HARDWARE, CUTLERY, TOOLS, &c.**  
10 East Fifth Street.



## 1891-1892 Dayton City Directory

Listing for Thomas French as the Chief Draftsman at Smith and Vail Company.  
In the fall of 1891 Thomas French entered Ohio State University.

DAYTON	[ FRE ]	DIRECTORY.	285
Freed Edward O. carriage painter, res 837 S. Main			
Freed Fred. E. blacksmith, res Geo. Shoup's			
Freed John K. brass finisher, res rear 2221 E. 3d			
Freeman C. T. livery stable, 20 W. 3d, res 128 W. 5th			
<b>FREEMAN CHAS. T.</b> , Superintendent of Police, Office s e c 4th and Jefferson; Residence, 128 W. 5th			
Freeman Cora, domestic, Ozni Hall's			
Freeman Elmer E. jeweler, res 267 W. Lafayette			
Freeman Ernst W. with The Davis Sewing Machine Co. res 103 S. Samuel			
Freeman Fred. machine hand, bds 103 S. Samuel			
Freeman Jas. E. clerk, 1451 W. 3d, res 1540 W. 1st, W. S			
Freeman Jeanette, music teacher, res n w c Adams and James			
Freeman John W. with The Davis Sewing Machine Co. res 103 S. Samuel			
Freeman Linly, teamster, res 441 N. Williams, Dayton View			
Freeman Maud B. res 128 W. 5th			
Freeman Rosa B. res 1540 W. 1st, W. S			
Freeman Ruhamah, housekeeper, Phillips House			
Freeman Wm. A. clerk, 18 N. Main, res 1540 W. 1st, W. S			
<b>FREEMAN WM. D.</b> , Circulating Agent Dayton Journal, 29 S. S. Main; Residence, n w c Adams and James			
Freeman Wm. O. res 1540 W. 1st, W. S			
Frees Lillie A. domestic, 307 E. 1st			
Frees Sarah C. (widow of Levi) housekeeper, res 546 W. Superior Av, Dayton View			
Freese Geo. W. saloon, 25 E. 6th, res same			
Fregin Augusta J. cigar maker, res 256 S. Allen			
Fregin Ernst, carpenter, res 256 S. Allen			
Fregin Johanna A. cigar maker, res 256 S. Allen			
Fregin Otto, blacksmith, res 256 S. Allen			
Frei Adelheid, domestic, 35 S. Perry			
Frei Henry J. wood carver, res 1312 E. Richard			
Frei John, elevatorman, res 1312 E. Richard			
Frei Victor, carpenter, bds 1312 E. Richard			
Freier Fred. C. shoe maker, 719 S. Wayne Av, res same			
Freier Lydia, tailoress, res 33 N. June			
Freier Mary A. milliner, 1430 E. 3d, res 33 N. June			
Freier Minnie. milliner, 1430 E. 3d, res 33 N. June			
Freier Philip, laborer, res 33 N. June			
Freier Sophia, res 719 S. Wayne Av			
Freier Wm. laborer, res n s 3d b Jersey and Nevin Av			
Freier Wm. F. res 719 S. Wayne Av			
<b>FREIGAU CARL</b> , Live Stock Artist; Secretary Ohio Poland China Record Co., and Editor Chester White Record, Office, Rooms 28 and 29 Central Block, n w c 5th and Jefferson; Residence, 143 S. Dudley, Patterson			
Freitag Annie, tobacco stripper, res 137 S. Fillmore			
Freitag Wm. laborer, res 137 S. Fillmore			
Fremd Geo. carpenter, res w s S. Cincinnati south of Corp. Line, Patterson			
French Rev. D. H., D. D. res 51 S. Huffman Av			
French Ella, domestic, 225 N. Ludlow			
French Ewing, chief draughtsman, The Smith & Vaile Co. res 51 S. Huffman Av			
French Harry, carpenter, res 1536 E. 3d			

## Professor **Thomas French** Talks Of Friendship with Poet Dunbar

By MAE MURPHY

"I first knew Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the poet, about 1880 or '85," Professor **Thomas E. French** of the department of engineering drawing ceased, leaning back in his desk chair and closing his eyes meditatively.

"His desk was just in front of mine in the eighth grade—or rather, as it was then called, in the intermediate school." Cellophane crackled as he unwrapped a fresh cigar. Smiling reminiscently, he continued: "Paul always read an original poem when we had literary exercises Friday afternoons. It was recognized even then that he had exceptional ability—that he had genius."

Professor French paused for a moment and then resumed, "He had always thought a lot of his mother and dedicated his first book of poems to her. It was called 'Oak and Ivy'." At this point the speaker brought forth a thin gray volume with the title 'Oak and Ivy' inscribed in gold print on the cover. "This was given me by Paul," he said.

"Well, I left Dayton in 1881," he continued, "and the next time I saw Dunbar was when we were both working at the World's Fair in Chicago. I was a draftsman in the anthropological department. Paul was a 'native' in the Haiti building. A number of very shy Haitians had

been brought there to act as guides in their building. Paul was the best 'native' of the lot. He spoke French and had picked up very quickly the dialect spoken by the Haitians.

"I used to drop in to see him on my way home from my office as his building was on my route home," Professor French said, chuckling to himself as he recalled the incident which he was about to relate. "One evening I found Paul sitting on a bench inside the building looking 'all in.' I asked him what was the matter. He just shook his head and said, 'I'll never do it again.'"

"You see, Paul was a guide," Professor French explained as he continued with the story. "He showed the various exhibits to the visitors, speaking in his broken French dialect."

A group of young men had invited him across the street to a Swedish cafe. While sitting at the table, one pulled out his watch and said, "How would you say what time it is in your language?" Paul happened to know that and told them. They kept him on edge for an hour not knowing when he would make a slip in his acquired language. He finally learned that these fellows were students in comparative language, studying the differences in the French spoken in Haiti and other places.

"Paul was a very sensitive fellow with an intense love for his race." 'Ode to Ethiopia' is quite illustrative of this attitude. Paul always put himself into his poems. Whatever he thought or felt, one can find in his verses." Professor French exhibited some poems in the little "Oak and Ivy" book in which the poet seemed to reveal his innermost thoughts.

"His slim fingers and the far-away look in his eyes, so common to most poets, convinced one of the poetic genius that he had. Some of his poems have been set to music. The most widely known, probably, is 'When Malindy Sings.'"

"At one time Paul was guest at a reception given him by the King and Queen of England. It was shortly after this that he died.

"But there was one thing I liked most about Paul," Professor French ended, "he had the most engaging smile."

## Honorary to Hold Banquet for Men With 3.25 Average

Outstanding Education Seniors To  
Hear Professors Lindquist,  
Thorpe, April 7.

The outstanding senior men in the College of Education who have made an average of 3.25 for the last six quarters will be the guests of honor at a banquet to be given by Phi Delta Kappa, honorary educational fraternity, Friday, at Pomerene Hall. Professor Rudolph D. Lindquist, director of the University School,

## Extract from The History of Richland County

By A. A. Graham

(biographical sketch of Reverend Daniel French)

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES:

Farper's Ferry cost him his dis- his personal friends always in- scape goat " for a higher officer's Lincoln re-instated him, though the service; he went to Wash- built up a lucrative practice in held for a while, the office of e Printing; about the year 1866, ominently with the temperance ict, and was considered one of quent advocates; he died Feb. 54 years; all the city papers d all published commendatory eath, that were widely copied; orders buried him with every of the city vaults, from which uently removed to the cemetery y now repose.

nt. He was born in Washing- 1856, where he resided until his the spring of 1872, where he s trade, which completing, he p with his father (the late John nder the firm name of Ford & usiness in stoves and tinware; which occurred Feb. 25, 1876, Ford Brothers. He was mar- 19, 1878, to Miss Ella J. Hershi- e Hershisier, a well known con- his city.

nt. He was born in Mansfield, er being the late Col. Thomas H. education principally at the t Lexington, Ohio; during the n the 32d O. V. I., in which he se of the war, participating in that regiment engaged; after- tion City for some time, then Co., Ohio, where he has since 3, he was married to Miss Mary n Township, by whom he has ie Ada, Edwin Davis, Charles y H. and Emma Virda; in the emoved to Mansfield, where he n mercantile business.

ry of the Mansfield Building

which he returned to Richland Co., and was engaged in farming and teaching school for seven years previ- ous to his removal to Mansfield. He was married in September, 1868, to Miss Leah Gaeber, of Washington Township; they have one son, G. G. Ford, who was born June 27, 1869; after his removal to Mansfield, he was employed in the wholesale house of E. P. Sturges & Co. four years, then a partner in the stove and tin store of Ford & Sons, now Ford Brothers; one of the best-conducted houses in that branch of business in Mansfield.

FRANZ, J. B., proprietor St. James Hotel. The subject of this sketch, the well-known landlord of the St. James Hotel in Mansfield, was born in Leesville, Crawford Co., Ohio, June 24, 1841; although compar- atively a young man, he has already acquired an envi- able reputation in his special line of business, and is classed among our enterprising citizens. He was mar- ried in Delaware, Ohio, June 3, 1874, to Miss Nellie Sampsell, daughter of one of the old citizens of that place.

FRENCH, D. H., Rev., D. D., Pastor U. P. Church, Dayton, Ohio. Dr. French, who for over twelve years was Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church in this city, is a son of Rev. David French, who was Pastor forty-four years of the Associate Congregations of North and South Buffalo, in Washington Co., Penn. Dr. French was born in that county; he received his collegiate education at the Jefferson College, Cannons- burg, Penn., where he graduated in 1857; he attended the Theological Seminary at Xenia, Ohio, and, six months after graduating there, received calls from three congregations to become their Pastor; he accepted the call from Cannonsburg, Penn., and entered upon the discharge of his duties in March, 1861; after a pastor- ate of five years, he was obliged to resign on account of a threatened attack of lung disease; about a year after his release from this charge, he was called by the congregation in Mansfield, which call he accepted, and for twelve and one-half years labored faithfully among the people here; late in 1879, he received a call from the U. P. Church, Dayton, Ohio, which he accepted, and early in January, 1880, went to that city, where he now resides; he received the honorary title of Doc- tor of Divinity from the Muskingum College, in the summer of 1879.

## High School Times, January 1885

*High School Times* account of the activities of the 1884 Central High Football Club.

Wilbur Wright was a member while taking additional college preparatory work.

The Wright's had just returned to Dayton from Richmond, Ind. where Wilbur completed high school.

(Roster: Wilbur at lower arrow, neighbor John Feight at upper arrow)

### The High-School Times.

BERT MILLHENNY, EDITOR.

JANUARY, 1885.

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#### LOCALS.

A happy Christmas to all.

Ask Jimmie Burns what time it is.

Go to Chancellor's Book Store for your Christmas Cards.

Boys, Engle, Buchner & Kramer are selling Acme skates for \$2.50

The regular five weeks exercises will take place at the High School next Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Noy's is giving his scholars exercises in arithmetic every Tuesday morning; the boys appreciate his efforts.

Last Thursday evening, Mr. McKnight gave to the teachers of Dayton, a lecture on the subject, Reading and the way to Teach it.

Calisthenics have been resumed throughout the schools, lasting ten minutes each afternoon; Ferdinand Froelich, a thorough gymnast has charge of the exercises in Mr. Noyes room.

On account of the numerous cases of tardiness, the principal has been compelled to enforce the rule, that if a scholar is late he shall not be admitted for that half day unless he brings a suitable excuse from his parents.

Many of the pupils of the Central High School and other schools throughout the city are availing themselves of the opportunity offered by Prof. McKnight of free instruction in elocution; The Grand Opera House is being used for this purpose, while the High School

## BOSTON 99-C

# HOLIDAY

### 110 E. THIRD STREET

Shortly after the school year had begun two foot-ball teams were organized from among the boys of the Central High School, known as the Reds and the Blues.

Three games were played in the old Base Ball Park on Saturdays, only one of these was properly a match game, resulting in six to three in favor of the Reds; of the other two, the first was a trial game and resulted in 2 to 0 in favor of the Blues, while in the last both sides claimed the victory.

The following are the members of the two clubs:

REDS

J. Feight, Capt.  
H. Constable,  
J. Schaeffer,  
E. Artz,  
E. Walchert,  
W. Fogarty,  
G. La Rue,  
F. Staniland,  
J. Hancock,  
— Haas,  
W. Kulms,

BLUES.

Van Crew, Capt.  
F. Froelich,  
C. Schaeffer,  
W. Phelps,  
W. Wright,  
C. Bosler,  
F. Hiester,  
— Legler,  
O. Stiver,  
C. Bickham,  
J. Irvin.

We wonder why it is goes over on William at

Miss Lizzie Koepfel spent last Sunday with Dwyer.

Herbert O. Collins High School boy is a Dr. Goodhue.

Lincoln Ariz sends his accounts from Dartmouth sleighing, parties, etc.

Again we hear that Archie Reeves is to be not to a banker's daughter

Russell Feicht carried est honors in Mr. Noyes past term. Get there!

Van Crew intends to mind by a visit to the Exposition during the

Miss Nora Lowe, a pupil of the first years class attending High School

Fred J. Cellarius, A. Louis Haas are pursuing at the Ohio State University.

We regret to say that Nauman has been with typhoid malarial, and probably be able to return to school

The smiling face of has reappeared among sense of three weeks has fixed to the house with the mumps.

21



# High School Times, November 1892

Edward French and Central High team playing for the YMCA Football Club

10

## HIGH SCHOOL TIMES.

were displayed the strong and patient, nay even heroic, qualities of the man. At the ebb of the tide the boats sailed out, and the men wrought throughout the livelong day in desperate haste; then on the incoming tide the boats returned, and the sea rolled the bars and beams, and the fruits of all their labor, in close behind them. So the year passed until the men were almost ashamed to accept the wages of their employer, and the next three months rolled slowly by and still no permanent success had been gained. April came and a thick fog settled down over the waters of the sound. Winstanley set out in the morning mist and piloted his boats over the glassy sea. The boats were lost to view and the mist seemed to have swallowed them up. At nightfall no boats returned, nor for twelve days did the people of Plymouth know what had become of them. Anxious crowds paced up and down the Hoe, peering vainly through the mist.

But on the thirteenth day a Scottish schooner put in, and the captain reported a strange sight. Through the fog he had heard the tapping of hammers and the voices of men, and through a rift in the fog he had discerned a building risen out of the sea. All through the night eager throngs braved the rain and crowded the strand. In the morning the rain ceased and the fog cleared away. Then there appeared, far away in the sound, a stately tower around which the waves beat with unavailing violence. In the evening Winstanley mounted the stair of his tower and lighted the wick; and Plymouth first saw her star. Winstanley, his work performed, mounted his horse and rode back to London, leaving the famous tower to shed its friendly light over the waters of Plymouth Sound.

## ATHLETICS.

Come one and come all,  
Go in for football,  
And take heed to the words of my song;  
For some must yell, and some must play,  
So goeth the game along.

At this season of the year, football is the only outdoor game which is in full swing. Although the High School eleven has gone down the misty vales of the past, the Y. M. C. A. Junior Football Team is its offspring, and since it has several High School students in it, we can still lay some claim to it.

The team played the University of McMicken eleven on Columbus Day, and was defeated after a stiff, hard fought game. The score was 16-0 in favor of Cincinnati.

The Dayton team lined up as follows for the first half.

Center rush.....Hascke	Right guard.....J. Whyte
Left guard ..... H. Davies	Right tackle.....J. Sharts
Left tackle.....C. Crummel	Right end.....E. French
Left end .....J. Parrott	Quarterback.....L. Ball
Left halfback.....Deweese	Right halfback ....H. Hall
Fullback, Captain LaRue.	

In the second half Thos. Fogarty was substituted for Whyte. Near the close of the game H. Hall sprained his ankle, and Ollie Klee was substituted.

Although our team was defeated, it left its mark on the other team, for nearly every player on the U. C. side had some slight memento.

Ed French was taken ill after the game, and will not play again until next season.

The Cincinnati were very strong in their guards, while the Daytons were comparatively weak. This enabled the visitors to buck center with great effect. There was little or no running around the end in the second half.



## 1896 Ohio State Football Roster

'Varsity 'Leven of '96.

A. W. MADDEN,	Manager
E. H. FRENCH,	Captain and Left End
W. E. MINSHALL, E. S. WERTZ,	Left End
J. G. WESTWATER,	Left Tackle
E. W. CRECELIUS,	Left Guard
C. B. HINE, A. Z. DELONG,	Center
V. H. JONES, M. L. BLOSE,	Right Guard
W. A. REED,	Captain and Right Tackle
F. M. STEVENS,	Right Tackle
H. C. HAWKINS,	Right End
R. B. WASSON,	Quarter
F. H. RICHT,	Left Half
H. C. HOWARD, F. B. NICHOL,	Right Half
J. F. TYLER,	Full Back

### Substitutes.

C. H. TITUS, F. S. ROBBINS, A. ENGENSERGER,  
B. F. SLOUGH, J. F. CUNNINGHAM.

### Games Played.

October 3 at Columbus	O. S. U.	24	O. M. U.	0
October 10, at Cincinnati	O. S. U.	6	University of Cincinnati	8
October 17, at Canton	O. S. U.	8	Otterbein	0
October 24, at Oberlin	O. S. U.	0	Oberlin	16
October 31, at Columbus	O. S. U.	30	Case School	10
November 5, at Columbus	O. S. U.	4	Delaware	10
November 7, at Columbus	O. S. U.	10	U. S. Barracks	2
November 11, at Columbus	O. S. U.	0	O. M. U.	0
November 14, at Columbus	O. S. U.	6	Wittenberg	24
November 21, at Columbus	O. S. U.	12	O. M. U.	0
November 26, at Columbus	O. S. U.	15	Kenyon	34

O. S. U. won 5, lost 5, tied 1.

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## 1895 Ohio State University Football Team

Edward French: Top row far left

Courtesy of the Ohio State University Archives



**Ohio State University Athletic Board 1913**  
**Thomas French, president, first row right**

Courtesy of the Ohio State University Archives