

EDUCATION

The Milton Academy

In 1886, Milton was chosen by the Upper Columbia Conference of Seventh Day Adventists for the location of a denominational school. Elder G. W. Calcord was placed in charge of the school and its development. Enrollment the first year grew from 14 to 40 pupils. Enrollment the second year grew to 80. In 1888, a three-story dormitory was built to provide for 100 resident pupils.

Three departments of instruction were offered.

1. A preparatory course of six years.
2. An academy course of four years.
3. A normal course to fit students for teaching.

In 1892 more land was needed for the school farm, and the school was moved to College Place.

Milton Academy left an indelible mark on the record of education in the community. It pioneered the progress in secondary education here.

The history of education in Milton-Freewater is one of steady growth and improvement since the opening of the first public school on the W. A. Cowl land donation.

In addition to the public school system, more advanced education opportunity was provided by private and sectarian schools; an Adventist Academy prior to 1900, that was succeeded by Columbia College dedicated September 18th and 19th, 1900. The College was in operation for 25 years. (The main building on the campus later was converted to the present Milton-Freewater City Hall).

In March 1900, a movement began by the East Columbia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church sought to establish a Methodist College. The move was so successful that the College was opened that fall on the site of the old Milton Academy.

First classes were held Sept. 24th. T. C. Reese was the President. The Board of Education consisted of M. V. Howard, J. W. Compton, G. E. Gibbs, F. G. Adkins, C. R. Howard and L. P. Shearer.

The Executive Board consisted of E. P. Greene, L. P. Shearer and H. L. Frazier. Faculty members were T. C. Reese – President, W. C. Howard, Laura G. Reese, Margaret E. Winniford, Fannie Elliot and Nora Hunter.

The first year's operation ended with 131 pupils enrolled. The building,

now the City Hall, was built in 1910. In 1925, Columbia College was closed for lack of funds.

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