

A bronze tablet near the main entrance to Pemberton Hall honors Miss Mary E. Hawkins, one of the earliest and most beloved Heads of the Hall (1910-1917) who died in the summer of 1917 while Head. The tablet was unveiled at a memorial service held at Homecoming on November 6, 1920. Following the Homecoming chapel the many friends of "Our Mary" gathered in the entrance lobby of Pemberton Hall for the memorial service. Miss Ruth Major sang a hymn, Mr. Lord read from the Scriptures, and also read "In Memoriam". Miss Grace Reininger of the Class of 1917 paid tribute to Miss Hawkins, letters from Mrs. Hawkins and Miss Elsa Diemer were read by Miss Annabel Johnson, and Miss Isabel McKinney read a tribute to Miss Hawkins from Mrs. Wilfred T. Lutz.³⁹

The charges made for residence in Pemberton Hall have always compared favorably with the prices charged for the better rooms in private homes and rooming houses. In 1909, the year the Hall opened, rooms without board in private homes were from \$1.00 to \$1.50 a week, and table board could be obtained for \$3.00 to \$4.00. Thus the best accommodations cost from \$4.50 to \$5.50 a week. At this time the Hall was charging \$4.00 a week for room and board. In 1948 rooms without board in private homes cost \$3.00 to \$4.00 a week. The Hall was charging \$24 to \$30 a quarter, or at the rate of \$2.00 to \$2.50 a week. Table board for girls, which cost \$8.50 a week at the Hall, was practically unobtainable off the campus except in the sorority houses.

The Dancing Controversy

The "dancing controversy" of the spring of 1909 was an aftermath of the completion of Pemberton Hall. Mr. Lord had been brought up to consider dancing a sin, but in time he came to recognize that under proper conditions social dancing was an innocent diversion, possessing some social values. When the gymnasium attached to Pemberton Hall was opened early in 1909, at the request of the students, supported by some teachers, Mr. Lord permitted dancing there, under faculty chaperonage. One reason for this decision was that some of the students had been attending dances held "up town", over which the school had no control. It seemed better to permit dancing under controlled conditions on the campus. Furthermore, dancing was permitted on the campus of the Normal University at Normal and on that of the State University. But the decision to permit dancing in the gymnasium set fire to a hornet's nest.

From March 21 to April 26, 1908, the Reverend William A. ("Billy") Sunday conducted a revival meeting in Charleston. In a sermon on "amusements" he denounced such worldly pleasures as card-playing and dancing.⁴⁰ In February 1909 the effects of this revival were still

³⁹*Normal School News*, November 9, 1920.

⁴⁰The sermon on amusements was delivered on April 17. The revival was very widely attended. There were 2,467 conversions. A total of \$10,558.82 was raised, of which \$5,874.82 represented a free-will offering to Mr. Sunday, collected during the last three days of the revival. Among the contributions to this offering to Mr. Sunday were "Normal School students", \$153.80; Henry A. Neal, \$50; and L. C. Lord, \$25. *Charleston Daily Courier*, files for March and April, 1908. While in Charleston Mr. Sunday refereed a ball game between the Normal School and Westfield College, on April 9. The Normal School won, 16 to 4. *Charleston Daily Courier*, April 10, 1908. At Mr. Lord's request Mr. Sunday spoke on one occasion at the morning exercises at the Normal School. His talk was well received. McKinney: *Mr. Lord*, p. 240.