The Milne School
1845-1977

By
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The Experimental/Model School opened in June 1845, six months after the State Normal School’s first classes were held in December 1844 at the State Street Building (left), just below the State Capitol.

The State Normal School trained teachers in subject matter and education for grades 1-8. The education training quickly included practice teaching.

In 1845 the Experimental School (after 1915, the Milne School) enrolled 47 students, 26 paying $20 a year and 21 free-seats orphans.
Experimental/Model School
1845-1890

David Page was the first principal of the State Normal School. He was an early advocate of practice teaching to hone students’ teaching ability.

The names Experimental School and Model School were used interchangeably during the 19th century to describe the practice-teaching school.

Page Hall is named for David Page.
Photos: The first permanent home for the school in 1849 at Lodge and Howard Streets (see the Milne mural above, right). The early State Normal School faculty (see photo above, left) in 1850. The arrow points to William Phelps, the first principal of the Experimental School, 1845-1852.

The Experimental School was created to give Normal School students a place to practice (experimental) teach in grades 1-8, the Common Schools. High School teachers were not trained at the Normal School until 1890 when the school became the State Normal College.
In the floor plan for the Lodge and Howard Streets building, note the separate boys’ and girls’ “clothes” rooms and the “experimental school” chairs. Initially, the school consisted of 1st through 8th grades but was later divided into primary and intermediary departments.
Rapid Expansion

In 1883, Kindergarten (photo right) was introduced, with a move to the Willett Street Building (photo left). In 1890, a High School Department was added to existing Kindergarten, Primary, and Intermediary Departments. 200 Students were now enrolled in the practice school.
High School Expansion

William J. Milne, 1889-1914, President, NY State Normal College, presided over the creation of a high school curriculum.

William Jones, 1890-1904, was the first principal of the Model High School and also led teacher training at the Normal College.
1890: Quintillian Society for women was formed.

THE QUINTILLIAN RECEPTION.
Saturday evening January 30th, the Quintillian society gave a reception to the faculty and students of the college and high school. The rooms were tastefully decorated with palms and the society's colors, an orchestra rendered music during the entire evening. President Loretta McGraw on behalf of the society welcomed the assembled guests and announced the following program:

Vocal solo ........ Miss Mae Farrell
Recitation ........ Miss Mamie Lynch
Reading ........... Miss Anna Carroll
Vocal solo .... Miss Nellie Goldthwaite
Recitation ...... Miss Florence Martin
Prophecy ........ Miss Mae Crawford.

Much credit is due the Quintillian society for having afforded such a delightful entertainment.
1904: *Crimson & White* newspaper was first published. The University Archives is missing the first three issues of the *Crimson & White*, Volume I. The missing issues should be for October (No. 1) and December (No. 2) 1904 and February (No.3) 1905.
Rise of Student Life

1895: Adelphoi Society for men was formed.

These are the earliest minutes (1902) we have for the Adelphoi literary society.
Willett Street Building Burns

1906: The Willett Street building burned, forcing a move to new quarters. The best account and photos of the burning are in the *Crimson & White*, the Milne newspaper!
1909: The Normal College moved to Western Avenue to Draper Hall after the Willett Street building burned. The Practice School was restricted to High School until 1915, when Junior High was added.

1915: High School was renamed The Milne School after William Milne’s death in 1914.

John M. Sayles, Milne Principal, 1907-1939
Milne School Staff 1940

Principal Robert Fredericks (back row, 4th from left) and staff in 1940
February 1929: “Building incomplete, dusty, noisy, and full of shocks, but all our own.”

Junior High was reintroduced after an absence of eight years.

There was some room for athletics in Page Gym and on the front lawn.
Basketball and baseball were the major sports.
Academics & Curriculum

The Milne School was extremely desirable from the start. Practice teachers conducted lessons, while critic/supervisor teachers monitored and stepped in when needed.

70 students per class, small class size, no tracking of students, and lots of homework, according to Ted Fossieck.
A number of 1925 grads went to good colleges: Antioch, Colgate, R.P.I., Russell Sage, and Syracuse, according to this *Crimson & White* yearbook page.
Academics & Curriculum

Milne pioneered an audio-lingual approach to teaching foreign languages.

It was one of the first schools to give advanced-placement and early-admittance courses.

1940s: Student teachers started teaching in suburban schools.
1950s: Up to half of the student teachers were instructing at suburban schools.

1966: Milne became a distant school when SUNYA moved to the Uptown Campus; plans to build a Milne School near Stuyvesant Plaza were never carried out.
The Milne School, 1948-1972

Theodore Fossieck, Principal
Milne High, 1940-1972

1940: Money was appropriated to make a documentary film about Milne life.

1961: Milne admissions opened up.
“Duck & Tuck”…. Do you remember nuclear defense?

1966: SUNY Albany moved to Uptown Campus.
1960s: Early plans to move Milne to Uptown Campus.
Mid-1960s: Changing awareness of the outside world in the *Bricks & Ivy*, where senior students are listed by first names. Note the Age of Aquarius sign in the door to Page.
1970s: New York State economy was in a tailspin, which killed plans to give Milne a new building near Stuyvesant Plaza and ultimately killed the Milne School.
1977: Milne closed. There was a dramatic change in the background of students. Since 1961, students were chosen from all categories of applicants, not just from the middle class.