

# What's in a name? The tradition of naming the buildings at Millersville

"Hull Hall? Where'd they get that name?"

Traditionally, Millersville has named its halls after prominent figures in the history of the school. Below is a list of most of the buildings on campus, the year they were completed, and after whom the hall was named:

**Bard Hall (1960)** — Men's dormitory named for Judge Guy K. Bard, a 1914 graduate of Millersville who served various administrative posts at the normal school. He also served as Attorney General of Pennsylvania and U.S. Judge of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

**Bassler Hall (1961)** — This extension of Myers Hall was originally built to house the geography department, and now houses the English department. It is named for Harry M. Bassler, a member of the Millersville faculty from 1926-57 and chairman of the Geography department.

**Biemesderfer Executive Center (1895)** — originally the

school library, this building became home to the executive offices after Ganser Library was built in 1967. It is named after D. Luke Biemesderfer, a 1917 graduate of Millersville State Normal School and president of Millersville State Teacher's College from 1943-65.

**Biemesderfer Stadium (1970)** — Millersville's sports complex was also named after Millersville's former president.

**Boyer Computer Center (formerly the boiler room, restored in 1990)** — The recently restored computer building was named for Lee H. Boyer, a professor of mathematics at Millersville from 1934-57.

**Breidenstine Hall (1974)** — Art building named for Aaron G. Breidenstine, Dean of Instruction at Millersville from 1955-66.

**Brooks Hall (1940)** — The university's second gymnasium was named for Dr. Edward Brooks, a teacher of mathematics from 1855-66 and the third

principal of the normal school from 1866-83.

**Burrowes Hall (1970)** — Dormitory named for Thomas Henry Burrowes, one of the founders of the normal school and a leader in the establishment of public education in Pennsylvania.

**Byerly Hall (1929)** — This recently renovated building originally served as the junior high school building for the community and laboratory school. It is named for Andrew R. Byerly, who graduated from the normal school in 1855 and was a member of the English faculty from 1858-1912.

**Diehm Hall (1964)** — Dormitory named for G. Graybill Diehm, a prominent politician in Lancaster for 40 years.

**Dilworth Administration Building (1963)** — Named for Homer F. Dilworth, a professor of English from 1912-41 and the first Dean of Instruction.

**Dutcher Hall (1891)** — The oldest remaining building at

Millersville originally served as the school gymnasium, then as the student union (known as "the Rat-Race") before it became a theater and classrooms for the speech department. It is named after Dean Dutcher, who from 1927-52 was a professor of social studies, chairman of the social studies department and a developer of the college testing program.

**Gaige Hall (1973)** — Dormitory named for Frederick Hughes Gaige, director of the training school and professor of the social sciences at Millersville from 1918-39.

**Ganser Library (1967)** — Named for Helen A. Ganser, Millersville's librarian and head of the library science department from 1911-52.

**Gerhart Hall (1961)** — The special education building was named for Arthur R. Gerhart, a member of the natural sciences department at Millersville from 1927-55.

**Gilbert Hall (1953)** — Until

1964 it was known as Roddy Hall, serving as a men's dormitory. It is named after Sarah Hughes Gilbert, a graduate of the normal school and a teacher at Millersville from 1881-1912.

**Gordinier Dining Hall (1966)** — Named for Charles H. Gordinier, head of the classical languages department at the normal school. He came to Millersville in 1911, became principal in 1918, and became the school's first president.

**Harbold Hall (1964)** — Dormitory named for Peter M. Harbold, a graduate of the normal school and principal from 1912-18.

**Hull Hall (1965)** — Dormitory originally for men was named for George W. Hull, an 1874 graduate of Millersville and a teacher of mathematics from 1875-1921.

**Landes Hall (1964)** — Dormitory named for Amanda Landes, valedictorian for the normal school class of 1885 and member of the faculty from 1885-1920.

**Lenhardt Hall (1973)** — Dormitory for women named for Esther Lenhardt, a 1910 graduate of the normal school and a professor of English and speech from 1920-66.

**Lyle Hall (1953)** — The women's dormitory and dining hall was named after Anna Lyle, an 1866 graduate of Millersville and a teacher of elocution and history from 1873-1919.

**Lyte Auditorium (1953)** — Named after Eliphalet Oram Lyte, a graduate of the normal school and a teacher at Millersville from 1868-1912. He became the school's principal in 1887.

**McComsey Hall (1970)** — Named for Millersville graduate Sanders P. McComsey, a professor of English and the Dean of Instruction at Millersville from 1927-55.

**Myers Hall (1900)** — Originally served as the model school for students to practice teaching. It is named after Carrie

E. Myers, an 1884 Millersville graduate and a member of the faculty of the model school from 1883-1923.

**Osburn Hall (1960)** — The house of the industrial arts department was named for Burl N. Osburn, a member of Millersville's industrial arts department from 1932-63.

**Pucillo Gymnasium (1971)** — Named for John A. Pucillo, professor and director of health and physical education, football coach, and director of athletics at Millersville from 1925-57.

**Roddy Science Center (1963)** — Named for Harry Justin Roddy, an 1881 and 1896 graduate of the normal school and a teacher of geography and geology from 1887-1926.

**Stayer Research and Learning Center (1969)** — Named for Samuel B. Stayer, a 1914 graduate of the normal school and a teacher of mathematics and head of the education and psychology department from 1916-53.

**Stine Student Services Building (1970)** — The home of the book store was named for Clyde S. Stine, Dean of Men and a pioneer in student services at Millersville from 1946-68.

**Tanger Hall (1967)** — Dormitory named for Landis Tanger, president of Millersville from 1929-43.

**Wickersham Hall (1940)** — Originally serving as the principal classroom building when it first opened, it is named after James Pyle Wickersham, who was one of the founders of the normal school and its principal from 1856-66.

**Witmer Infirmary (1967)** — Named for C. Howard Witmer, a 1905 graduate of the normal school and a prominent physician in Lancaster County.

*Information for this article was compiled by Richard Reitz from "A Brief History of the Buildings on Campus," by Robert Coley, Millersville University's archivist.*