

1987

Wilbert Renwick McChesney Citation

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CEDARVILLE COLLEGE

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Wilbert Renwick McChesney Citation

Wilbert Renwick McChesney was born July 7, 1871, on a farm near Wampon, Pennsylvania. He attended Greensburg Academy and graduated from Franklin College in 1892. Following his graduation he taught Latin and History at Franklin for two years and then in 1894 became the first professor at Cedarville College. He received his masters and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Franklin College and the Doctor of Divinity degree from Tarkio College.

Dr. McChesney served at Cedarville, not only as a faculty member, but also as Secretary of the Faculty, Vice President, and Dean. In 1915 upon the retirement of Dr. David McKinney from the College presidency, Dr. McChesney was named President. For a period of time the Reformed Presbyterian Seminary was also located in Cedarville. Dr. McChesney served as professor of New Testament Literature and later as Professor of Systematic and Pastoral Theology in this seminary.

Dr. McChesney devoted virtually all of his professional life and abundant energy to the development of Cedarville College. He was convinced that Cedarville College was to be a key institution in Christian education, taking its place among the favored colleges across the land.

Dr. McChesney commanded the respect of his denomination and of his community. In addition to his ministry at Cedarville College he served seven terms in the Ohio Legislature. He led the College during very difficult days including World War I and the Depression. He was known as a great orator and a man who exemplified the highest ideals of personal godliness. He was known throughout the area as a man who earnestly practiced the presence of God.

The Trustees of Cedarville College have authorized the bestowal of the posthumous degree, Doctor of Letters, upon Wilbert Renwick McChesney, for the sake of honor. To God be the glory!

Receiving the degree is Eleanor Cooley Finney, an alumna of the Class of 1937 and a resident of Cedarville, Ohio. Mrs. Finney knew the McChesneys well and was often in their home while she was a student at Cedarville College. Mrs. Finney is the recipient of the 1986 Cedarville College Alumnus of the Year Award.

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