At Burnettsville in White county, Indiana, stands an old building now occupied as a dwelling, which according to local tradition was the home of the first normal school in Indiana. It was conducted by Joseph Baldwin, who came from Pennsylvania and opened a normal school at Burnettsville in 1857 at the solicitation of his brother-in-law, Elder William Griggsby, then pastor of the Christian church at Burnettsville. This little village, known in early years as Farmington, had long shown an ambition to become an educational center, and five years before Mr. Baldwin’s arrival a stock company had been formed which resulted in the erection of the building above mentioned, to be used strictly for school purposes. The school was called the Farmington Seminary, and the first teacher was Isaac Mahurin, the organizer of the stock company and founder of the school. He was a Methodist and a graduate of an eastern college. He only remained two years and was succeeded by an Associate Presbyterian named Hugh Knickerbocker, who continued the school three years longer. Up to that time the school had been known in common parlance sometimes as the Seminary and sometimes as the academy, meaning in the popular mind a place where more than one teacher was employed and where something higher than the Three R’s was taught. Tradition says that though the community was proud of its distinction as a center of higher learning there was a division of sentiment when physiology was introduced as one of the branches of study, some of the fastidious considering it an innovation bordering on the vulgar. But with literary societies, singing schools and writing schools as evening accessories the public mind was so diverted that even the study of man’s internal economy ceased to cause rancor.

At the end of the Knickerbocker regime the time seemed opportune for Joseph Baldwin to enter the field with his ideas
of teacher training, and he came. He was an enthusiast on the subject of normal schools and had the energy, judgment and fluency of speech to give effect to his enthusiasm. He got at once in touch with the public by canvassing the country for miles around, sowing circulars and posters broadcast and making public addresses on the subject uppermost in his mind. As a result his school opened with a surprisingly large enrollment. It soon overtaxed the capacity of the Seminary, and the Christian church near by was used to accommodate the overflow. Among the students of this school was William H. Calkins of LaPorte, later representative in congress from the Tenth district of Indiana, and a number of other young men who afterward reached distinction either professionally or politically. On account of the success of this school, Burnettsville, once nicknamed by scoffers "Git-away," came to be spoken of as "the Athens of White county," and it deserved the name. White county bestowed upon the head of its school the highest honor within her gift for men of erudition—the office of school examiner, and he held it as long as he remained in the county.

While in the high tide of his success at Burnettsville he sought a larger field and in 1859 removed to Kokomo. There he founded a normal school which continued to operate for some years after he had severed his connection with it. He also opened a similar school at Logansport and while there he was much in demand as a lecturer at teachers' institutes in other counties. Here in 1867 his Indiana career closed. In that year he went to Missouri and was lost to Hoosier view and in a few years practically to Hoosier thought. But to him the closing of Indiana's gates behind him opened the pathway to enduring fame, and his subsequent career, if no other part of his life, entitles him to the space here allotted to him. To his Missouri biographer, Prof. E. M. Violette, we are indebted for a rich store of material, from which much that follows has been compiled.

Joseph Baldwin was born at Newcastle, Pennsylvania, and was educated at Bethany college, Virginia, where he sat under the personal instruction of Alexander Campbell, the founder of the Disciples' church, who was then in his prime. In 1850 he was married to Miss Ella Sophronia Fluhart of Ohio, and
went immediately to Missouri, where he opened an academy at Platte City. The next year he and his wife went to Savannah, that state, where for three years they were engaged jointly in the management of a young ladies' boarding school. Even at that time he had taken high rank among the teachers of the state, for at a meeting of the State Teachers' association held at St. Louis he was elected one of its vice-presidents. Among the distinguished educators present at that session was the great Horace Mann, from whom he drew much helpful and stimulating inspiration. After four years' residence in Missouri he returned to Pennsylvania, where he attended the Lawrence County Normal school and also taught for a time in the Millersville Normal school. His mind was evidently imbued with the thought of teacher training, though the normal-school idea at that time had barely obtained a foothold in this country and normal schools were limited to the far eastern states.

Arriving at Burnettsville in 1857, he was given his first opportunity to put into effect his idea of a training school for teachers. The success of his school has already been narrated. During his residence at Kokomo his teaching activities were suspended for a brief period of service in the Union army, and on his return he opened a school at Logansport which continued until he entered upon his work in Missouri in 1867.

It so happened that the same Elder Griggsby who had persuaded him to come to Burnettsville was then a resident of Kirksville and had been urging him ever since 1860 to come to Missouri. He finally yielded to his brother-in-law's persuasions on learning that a school at Kirksville known as the Cumberland academy had been abandoned by the Presbyterians and the academy building was seeking an occupant. After looking over the field he leased the building and opened a private school known as the North Missouri Normal school. He at once began a publicity campaign similar in method to the one he had conducted in connection with the Burnettsville school, except that his keynote from the first was state supervision of teacher training. After three and a half years of this kind of propaganda, including much intercession with legislatures, he had the satisfaction of seeing a state normal school system adopted and the school at Kirksville taken over
as part of the system. The achievement was so notable and Professor Baldwin's leadership in the movement so generally acknowledged that he afterward became known as "the father of the Missouri normal school system."

Professor Baldwin's first step after deciding to locate at Kirksville was the selection of a faculty for his school, and incidentally this proceeding introduces into this narrative several other White county people. His staff of teachers consisted of himself and five associates, two of whom, Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Ferris, had been White county teachers. They had taught schools at Idaville, Burnettsville and Logansport, and Professor Baldwin, having personally observed their work, had conditionally engaged their services before leaving Indiana. Professor Ferris was assigned to the principalship of the model school established in connection with the normal, while his wife was employed as teacher of the intermediate department. Professor Ferris also assisted Professor Baldwin during the summer of 1867 in his canvass of northern Missouri in the interests of the new normal school. After three years he severed his connection with the normal and became principal of the Kirksville public schools. Later he went west on account of failing health and died at Denver, November 18, 1873. He was an ordained minister of the Universalist church but never held a pastorate. Through the influence of Professor Ferris two other young men of this vicinity were drawn to Kirksville and became students of the Baldwin institution. These were B. F. Heiny, who later became cashier of the National bank of Kirksville, and H. C. Langley, who became a minister in California.

The first year of the new school, though full of promise, yielded no financial profit to the hard-working president. In fact it fell $315 short of paying expenses. But the second year showed a gratifying gain in attendance and after paying all expenses left $1,185 in the president's pocket. From that time on the school was no longer an experiment but on the contrary such a marked success as to make all Missouri "sit up and take notice."

The law finally enacted provided for two normal school districts with a school in each, and then began a contest for the location of the schools. Largely through Professor Bald-
win's efforts in arousing the people of Adair county to the point of a bond issue of $100,000, Kirksville was finally selected as the site, the Baldwin school as the nucleus, and Joseph Baldwin as the principal of the First District Normal school. Work was begun on a new building, and on February 13, 1873, it was dedicated with impressive ceremonies and great rejoicing. For eleven years Professor Baldwin continued at the head of this state institution of his own creation, and then, yielding to the pioneer instinct which seemed to have been born in him, he accepted the presidency of the Sam Houston Normal Institute at Huntsville, Texas. This school had been established only two years before and was then the only state normal school in Texas. After holding this position ten years he was elected to the chair of pedagogy in the University of Texas, and at the close of his active work there in 1897 he was made professor emeritus of pedagogy in that institution. His death occurred January 13, 1899, at Austin, Texas, in the 72nd year of his age.

Professor Baldwin was a man of wonderful energy and diligence. Besides his work in the school room he found time to answer many calls as a public speaker on educational and religious topics. He was an elder in the Christian church and occasionally officiated as a minister. He was also in demand as a writer, making frequent contributions to educational journals and at one time being assistant editor of the American School Journal. He was the author of two books, one on School Management and one on Elementary Psychology. Both had a wide reading in this country, and both were adopted by the government of Canada for the schools of that country. His School Management was translated into Spanish for use in Mexico and South America.

The high regard in which he was held at Kirksville was shown not only during his active work there but for many years afterward. Twelve years after he had severed his connection with the school and gone to Texas a special day was set apart during the commencement week to be observed as Baldwin Day. He was the guest of honor on that occasion, and no other day in the history of the institution ever brought such a large attendance of former students, many of them distinguished men, as that memorable day in June, 1893. Upon
his death five years later memorial exercises were held at the normal school, and an entire evening was devoted to honoring his memory as the founder of the school and of the normal school system of the state.

Indiana may well consider it an honor to have been the nursery of Joseph Baldwin's aspirations and the laboratory of his first experiments.