

By Pres. King.

July 9, 1942

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF AMHERST COLLEGE:

We all recognize the beauty of the Amherst campus. The natural charm of the site is enhanced by the simple, austere dignity of the older buildings in Chapel Row. But perhaps the most important element in the result is the planting.

History. President Hitchcock took an active part in the landscaping of the campus. Between 1845 and 1854 white pines from Pelham were set out along the westerly slope between the Octagon and the present Kirby Theater. At some time in the 50's the first major tree planting program was undertaken on the back campus and the double row of maples was set out extending from Johnson Chapel to East College. This avenue, then young, is mentioned in the college publications of 1858 and 1860.

After 1850 the next recorded tree planting of any extent, with ornamental effects in view, took place in the 70's under the personal supervision of Austin Dickinson, Esquire, Treasurer of the College. Austin Dickinson was a lover of trees and gardens. He was the organizer of the Ornamental Tree Association of Amherst and he supervised the planting of trees on the town common and in Wildwood Cemetery as well as on the campus. The beauty of the campus, as most of us have known it in our college days, was due largely to Austin Dickinson's industry, enthusiasm, and taste. In 1877 trees were planted north of Walker Hall and around the President's house, Morgan, Hall, and College Hall.

After Austin Dickinson's day relatively little attention seems to have been paid to campus trees. They were admired and taken for granted. So far as I can find, no college officer was interested in the subject.

(See article in Graduates' Quarterly, February 1939 issue;  
by Walter Dyer '00)

Introduction: This report is submitted as a record of progress during the past dozen years, as a reminder that the beauty of landscaping is dependent to some extent upon ~~the~~ continuing care and attention, and in the hope that in each generation in the future there may be some college officer or trustee who is interested in the preservation and development of the living beauty of our trees and shrubs.

Care of Trees. Beginning in 1930, at my suggestion as chairman of the Trustee Committee on Buildings and Grounds, a contract was made with the Bartlett Tree Expert Company for the care of our trees. An annual appropriation was included in the budget and a careful study made. In 1938 we added an <sup>EXPERT</sup> ~~extra~~ tree man trained by Bartlett to our permanent staff, and since that date he has devoted his time almost exclusively to our tree work. Our contract with the Bartlett Company however continues on a limited basis and should be continued indefinitely.

Wild Life Sanctuary. In 1933, with your approval, we began the development of the wild life sanctuary. The College had acquired in the 1920's, through purchases financed largely by gifts of Dwight W. Morrow, '95, and negotiated by me, the Sidney White property extending east of our campus from the Central Vermont Railway to East Street, the Tuckerman meadow, and the Walter Cowles meadow south of the Boston & Maine Railway and extending from South Pleasant Street east to the estate now owned by Miner Tuttle. Year by year for ten years we have developed this property, draining the swamps, thinning the trees in the college woods, damming the streams, building trails, and setting out trees and shrubs. The work has been done by students working at first under the direction of Professor Goodale (Botany) and later under the supervision of Mr. Markert, foreman of our grounds men. We have built the Tuckerman Trail, which runs some two miles from our ornamental gateway on South Pleasant Street on the west and reenters the campus at the infirmary. We have built the Tyler Pool, the new skating rink,

installed permanent rustic benches at convenient intervals. And more important, we have set out thousands of seedlings purchased from the Massachusetts Division of Forestry and shrubs purchased from commercial nurseries. Our purchases of trees and shrubs for the Wild Life Sanctuary alone have cost \$1108 in the ten-year period.

In the 1920's we were faced with the possibility that the private owner of the meadow adjoining our campus to the south would erect onion warehouses in our front yard. Now we have an informal park which is growing in beauty every year and is used by students, faculty, and townspeople.

Campus Planting. For ten years we have carried on a continuing program of planting on the campus. The cost of trees and shrubs (exclusive of the 1938 hurricane program) has been borne by the budget. The ten-year cost paid from the budget is approximately \$5170.

During the years 1938-39 the planting expenditures due to the hurricane amounted to \$3365 and were made from the special hurricane fund contributed by the alumni.

Because of personal interest in planting, Mrs. King and I have carried on at the same time in collaboration with the college program a planting program of our own. We have planted around the President's house, Morgan Hall, College Hall, Converse Library, north of Williston, at Feyerweather, and elsewhere. The cost of this program has been borne by us and amounts to \$3148.

The important planting during the past ten years which has been paid out of the college budget consists of planting around the Alumni Gymnasium group, planting around the Faculty Club, the Kirby Memorial Theater, Converse Library addition, the little red schoolhouse, the infirmary, Valentine Hall, about the parking space south of the cage, and about the parking space east of Pratt Museum. Planting has also been begun on the college lot at the corner of Willow

and Woodside, beyond the Noah Webster house, and on the college side of the property line between Professor Canfield's house and the Musante property. Some planting has also been done southwest of the chapel, in the south common in front of the Alumni Gymnasium, on Hitchcock Road, on the south side of the new practice playing field. Ornamental planting has also been done west of the service building, south of the power house, and between the power house and the little red school house, and west of Walker.

An interesting by-product of the College's program has been an enhanced interest in ornamental planting by the Amherst fraternities and by some of the faculty tenants of college houses. I call your attention particularly to the planting at Alpha Delta Phi, Psi Upsilon, Delta Kappa Epsilon, the planting about the house at 22 Hitchcock Road now occupied by Professor Bain, the planting around the Snell house now occupied by Professor C. H. Morgan, around Professor Packard's house at 297 South Pleasant Street, the planting at 61 Lincoln Avenue, formerly occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Allis and now occupied by Professor Odegard, the planting at 41 Lincoln Avenue done by Mrs. King, at Blake Field by Professor Turgeon.