**Walter Buck Richards 5th Director 1893-1897**

Born on June 24, 1863 at Riverside Plantation in Riverton Virginia.

Died Dec 28, 1904 in Front Royal, Virginia

Early education in schools of Warren County, VA – 1881 entered University of Virginia Charlottesville, graduated after one year in a course comprising Latin, French, Mathematics, Literature and Rhetoric. 1882 Richards taught a preparatory school in Charlottesville and held a “Licentiate” from University of Virginia. At the same time he was pursuing studies in German and Philosophy and graduated from such courses in 1882. In 1883 he was elected Instructor in the “Miller School” of Albermarle County, Virginia – a prominent mechanical and technical institute. In 1884 Richards returned to University of Virginia to complete his work for the M.A. degree which he received in 1885, during that year he received the Jefferson Literary Society’s medal as the “best debater.” In 1886 he took a position at McCabe’s University School at Petersburg, Virginia, where he gave instruction in Greek, German, Latin, Mathematics, and English. In 1888, Richards was named as the new Chair of Mathematics at MSM. He replaced Professor Eaton. He was then appointed director of MSM on April 5, 1893.

He was married to Miss Mary Monroe Cocke on June 20, 1889 in Petersburg, Virginia. They had two boys, born in Rolla. After leaving Rolla in 1897, Richards moved to Riverton, Virginia, where he took over ownership of his grandfather’s farm and proceeded to study law. He set up his practice in Front Royal, Virginia. He was also interested and active in politics. He died at age 43 in 1904 and his wife died in 1927.

At the beginning of the Richards administration the Board of Curators established the Chair of Mining and Metallurgy. The following rearrangements were made to departmental organization: Engineering; Chemistry; Mining and Metallurgy; Mathematics; Physics; and Modern Languages. Mineralogy and Geology were now offered as courses under the Mining and Metallurgy department for the first time. Metallurgy was finally separated from Chemistry where it had been combined since 1871, it had been the first major professorship in the School. The staff of the department of Modern Languages took care of the work of the Academic Courses. Mining was split from the engineering department where it had been combined since 1873.

Faculty:

Prof Harris stayed in charge of **Engineering** – other faculty – T. G. Poats, & George E. Miller. Prof Seamon was in charge of **Chemistry** until 1895 then succeeded by Dr. Eugene T. Allen, aided by William Thomas and Paul Larsh.

M. H. Ihlseng 1st chair of **Mining & Metallurgy**, but after a visit to Rolla to see conditions, he resigned. Henry Kinzer Landis was then appointed, he served for the 1893-94 year. Then Courtenay DeKalb took the chair and served until Richards resigned in 1897.

Director Richards served also as the Chair of **Mathematics** and taught some foreign language classes.

Dr. Austin Lee McRae served as Prof of **Physics** for one year. He was succeeded by Arthur H.Timmerman who served until 1899. Dr. McRae then returned to MSM and assumed his previous post, until the end of his life.

Prof Thomas Rubey(from Laclede county – strong political ties) and Paul Wilkins continued as instructors in the **Academic Dept**.

\*\*\*\*\*See pg 510-519 for a copy of a report by Director Richards to the Board in 1893 – concerns changes in educational policies of the school from 1871 to his administration.

Staff and buildings inadequate for mission – instruction sunk to meet the abilities of the students who came to MSM in the first 20 years. Offered courses such as Commercial, Preparatory, Normal, Business, English, Teachers, Book-keeping, Girls courses in Arts were offered to attract students, but diminished the draw of engineering and technical students it desired and was its mission to educate. 1888 progress started to be made in areas of technical instruction and adequate facilities. Chairs of Physics and Mining and Metallurgy were instituted – Physical and Chemical laboratory facilities – Engineering testing apparatus and tools curriculum improved – Mess Club House and Athletic Park for students.

On pg 512, Richards declared in his report that he did not like the idea of sending forth bachelors of science who cannot speak nor write good English, and who have no ability to read productions, scientific or other, in any tongue but their own. He went on to state that they now required English in the Freshman year, and German is required in The Chemico-Metallurgical Course. Responsibility of the Academic Department to offer the opportunity of good thorough general culture, such as is needed, in connection with purely technical training, to round off the equipment of the accomplished engineer or scientist.

(From Reminiscences…by Dean: he was the first director to have a separate office by no clerks or stenographers)

In the March 17, 1894 advertisement the title “An Institute of Technology” had been dropped for the first time.

**Missouri School of Mines**

**Offering courses leading to degrees in**

**Mining Engineering, Civil Engineering,**

**Chemistry and Metallurgy,**

**Mathematics, and Physics**

**Special Courses in**

**Assaying, Surveying, and Electricity**

**An Academic Course**

**Maintained in accordance with a special act of the General Assembly, in which the**

**Professions courses are supplemented by instruction in the elements of general**

**Culture, in English, French, German, Mathematics, the Natural Sciences, etc.**

**TUITION AND FEES ONLY $14.00 A YEAR!**

**Second term begins Tuesday, January 30, 1894**

**During this term teachers in Missouri Public Schools**

**Will be admitted free of all tuition fees**

**For Catalogues and other information address**

**W.B. Richards, Directory, Rolla, Mo.**

Courses in Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Engineering were dropped because of inadequate facilities and supplies. The professional degree was awarded during this administration for an additional year of graduate work in residence; and for actual work in practice of an acceptable character and extent. Admission standards for students entering from high school was set up. A two year technical course in Assaying and Technical Analysis; Surveying; and Electricity.

1897-98 school year given in three terms instead of two semesters which had been the case since the opening of the school in 1871. These terms went from September 13 to Christmas holidays; January 3 to March 18; and March 20 to June 15. This schedule went until 1907. The four year courses were arranged so that the student spent 15 hours per week in lectures and recitations, and five periods per week in laboratory. Each laboratory period consisted of two hours. The Academic course was still continued as a three year diploma course, but the four-year degree course in General Science was discontinued in the catalogue for 1891-92.

Mining and Metallurgical Laboratory (Power Plant 1940s) was completed in 1895 at a cost of $25,000. Chemical Laboratory had an increase in supplies and equipment during the Richards administration. The Library was on the second floor of the Rolla Building. The Student Mess Club, built in 1889, used solely as a student dorm in 1897.

The Richards administration had two rules governing general school discipline and student decorum; Be a gentleman and Work.

Early Student Clubs – Emersonian Club – literary

Shakespeare and Reading Clubs

Journal Club – Chemistry

Mining Club

First Formal Alumni Association was organized at the first reunion of MSM students in Denver, Colorado on August 18, 1882. No activity after this date. In the 1886-87 catalogue another Alumni Association is mentioned. The present Alumni Association was organized by Professor George R. Dean in the first years of the Fulton Administration 1920-37.

1893 – first year the football team wore the MSM football uniforms of silver and gold.

A fence consisting of stone base and iron pickets was constructed around the original campus, and steam heat substituted for ordinary stove and furnace heat in the two main buildings. A “campus well” 180 feet deep was drilled and provided water for the laboratories. It was pumped by windmill.

Senate Bill No. 252 introduced February 4, 1895 School of Mines should have its own separate and distinct government from the University. Bill not passed.

Director Richards was credited with withstanding the pressure to restrict the School’s courses to Mining and Metallurgy. Laboratories for mining and metallurgy were built. Technical courses promoted more than the academic courses – women’s enrollment went down. Admission requirements were standardized.