

Professor Woll Memorial Scholarship

— 1885-1957 —

Henry L. Woll was a life-long advocate for the advancement and availability of public education in North Dakota. He lived through the lean years of the state's early history when the sons and daughters of farmers were fortunate to be able to finish high school. There was little money or opportunity for higher education. He knew the frustration of a gifted young person with a love for learning who was unable to attend a state university. He was one himself.

He empathized with young citizens of the state who had received so little educational training that they were unable to obtain jobs that would pay a living wage. Perhaps this is why he emphasized business college subjects in the early days of Devils Lake Junior College.

His life was one of interest in young people, the community, his church, and his family. These interests also included hunting, fishing, and camping; supporting high school football, basketball, and track; being active in the local rifle club; and serving as chairman of the County Fair Committee.

Henry Lawrence Woll was born on a farm in Edgewood, Illinois, on January 20, 1885. He completed eighth grade in 1903 at the age of eighteen and continued his education, as money permitted, at Charleston Normal School and the University of Illinois. He began teaching in country grade schools in 1906.

Moving to North Dakota in 1909, he attended

Valley City Normal School, Dakota Business College, and the University of North Dakota in the summers while teaching at Arvilla, Flasher, and Medina during the academic years.



He married Clara Marie Frederickson of Farmington, Minnesota, in 1918. He served as school superintendent in Medina, Linton, and Ashley, North Dakota. While at Ashley, he continued his studies and received a Master of Science in Education degree from the University of North Dakota in 1933. His wife and five children attended the graduation.

The family moved to Devils Lake in 1941 after receiving word from Superintendent Gilliland that the Devils Lake School Board had appointed Henry Woll the first dean of Devils Lake Junior College. The appointment also made him the college's first full-time

employee. As such, H. L. Woll wore many hats—counselor, registrar, recruiter, financial aid officer ... even janitor! Affectionately known to many as “Prof,” Henry Woll will long be remembered for his tireless efforts to build a strong college for the Lake Region. His children, Harry Woll, Margaret Woll, Robert Woll, and June Woll Huesgen, are proud to offer this scholarship in his name.

Beginning in December 1992, the Professor Woll Memorial Scholarship is awarded annually to a talented student with a strong desire to achieve an education at Lake Region State College. ♦