

*Dr. Edward N. Tihen (1924-1991) was an avid reader and researcher of Wichita newspapers. His notes from Wichita newspapers -- the "Tihen Notes," as we call them -- provide an excellent starting point for further research. They present brief synopses of newspaper articles, identify the newspaper -- Eagle, Beacon or Eagle-Beacon -- in which the stories first appeared, and give exact references to the pages on which the articles are found. Microfilmed copies of these newspapers are available at the Wichita State University Libraries, the Wichita Public Library, or by interlibrary loan from the Kansas State Historical Society.*

## **Subject(s): John Bright University**

### **Wichita Eagle**

**Tuesday, February 8, 1887**

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8. The board of directors for the John Bright university are duly organized and will receive bids for its location until February 15th. It will be the leading institution of the Society of Friends.

### **Wichita Eagle**

**Wednesday, March 16, 1887**

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4. The location of the John Bright university has not yet been decided on.

### **Wichita Eagle**

**Saturday, March 19, 1887**

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4. The locating committee of the John Bright University yesterday decided on the location of the institution. It is to be on the Deck farm in the southwest part of the city. The bid consisted of 223 acres of land and \$25,000, and to this was added 630 acres of land bought by the Friends of Wichita and surrounding country. A street 100 ft. wide will be vacated leading northeast from the university site to the city, striking the river at right angles and intersecting Main Street. Details.

### **Wichita Eagle**

**Sunday, May 8, 1887**

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4. Article describes the methodical progress of the John Bright university. Undisputed title has now been secured to 470 acres of land, 300 acres of which is contiguous to the campus. The street railway to the Water Street bridge, which is to connect Bright Place with the city, is already under construction. The west landing of the bridge connects with two 100 feet Avenues leading to the north and east fronts of the university building. Excavation for the foundation will commence at once.

**Wichita Eagle****Saturday, May 28, 1887****page**

8. Architects Terry and Dumont were awarded the contract for preparing plans for the building of the John Bright university. There will be three buildings in all, in modern gothic style. The main building, to cost about \$75,000, will have a front of 162 feet and be 85 feet deep and three stories high with basement. The foundation will be of Cottonwood stone extending six feet above ground. St. Louis pressed brick will be used for the entire building. ¶Excavating for the main building is progressing nicely and the contract for the foundation will be awarded next week.

**Wichita Eagle****Friday, June 3, 1887****page**

4. The John Bright university was staked out yesterday by architects Terry and Thompson, who have nearly completed plans for the same.

**Wichita Eagle****Saturday, June 25, 1887****page**

4. Article reports board of directors of John Bright university met yesterday. The streets are all graded and the excavation for the building is done. Stone for the basement are being delivered on the ground.

**Wichita Eagle****Tuesday, July 19, 1887****page**

8. Excavation for the John Bright university has been completed and the concrete work for the foundation is being done. Several car loads of stone for the foundation have arrived.

**Wichita Eagle****Thursday, July 28, 1887****page**

4. Only the foundation for the John Bright University building will be completed this year. The contract calls for the foundation to be completed by the first of February. It is thought best to allow the foundation to be subjected to one winter before completing the building.

**Wichita Eagle****Sunday, October 9, 1887****page**

4. Summary article of building construction in Wichita now:  
Garfield university north wing is being plastered.  
Fairmount college is going forward.

Wichita university building will resume active operations tomorrow.  
Stone being delivered for Judson university and John Bright buildings.

**Wichita Beacon****Saturday, October 29, 1887****page**

1. Architect Terry has the plans for the John Bright university nearly completed. The foundation is already completed. The superstructure will be 88 by 168 feet and three stories high.

**Wichita Eagle****Sunday, October 30, 1887****page**

4. The foundation of the John Bright university building is being pushed to completion. A switch has been put in by the Rock Island for the delivery of material.

**Wichita Eagle****Sunday, November 6, 1887****page**

5. Several car loads of stone have been received for the John Bright university and are standing on the Rock Island switch to the university grounds recently put in. They will be used for the foundation, work upon which will be commenced immediately.

**Wichita Eagle****Thursday, November 10, 1887****page**

5. Plans for the main building of the John Bright university have just been completed by Architect Terry. The foundation will be ready for the walls by the last of this week. ¶The trustees have concluded to make the building of stone. The main building will be 88 feet by 168 feet, two wings, two stories high, and the main part of the building three stories. Further details.

**Wichita Eagle****Sunday, December 4, 1887****page**

5. The trustees of the John Bright University officially announce to the public that the foundation for the building is now completed.

**Wichita Beacon****Tuesday, January 10, 1888****page**

4. Last week the trustees of the John Bright university let the contract for the basement story to J. V. Wood, the work to be completed by May 15th.

**Wichita Eagle****Sunday, April 22, 1888****page**

5. There are a number of stone cutters at work on the John Bright university. The foundation is completed and work progressing nicely on the first story.

**Wichita Eagle****Tuesday, September 17, 1889****page**

6. Messrs. J. S. Nave and H. L. Cramer of Lafayette, Indiana have been in the city to make a loan to the John Bright university, and the deal is about closed for a loan of \$100,000 which will be ample for all construction. For a time there was a difficulty in securing a current title, the property being subject to so many leases, but all of these difficulties have at last been overcome.

**Wichita Eagle****Sunday, June 29, 1890****page**

5. Interview with W. A. Martin: "I have spent a good portion of my time for the past year in working up the John Bright university. I have made several trips east and have met with a great many difficulties, but think now that I will make a success of it. Much of the delay has been caused by the apathy of the people directly interested in the location. Had they done their duty the question would have been settled long ago. As it now stands the money is about all subscribed, and I expect soon that \$160,000 will be secured, which is the amount that the plans call for."

**Wichita Beacon****Wednesday, February 9, 1898****page**

5. Article reports a proposed sale of Garfield University building by Mr. Edgar Harding, of Boston, to Mr. J. M. Davis, of St. Louis, who would donate it to the Friends' Church if they would agree to maintain a school there. ¶ Mr. Davis is the gentlemen who had the contract for the photographic art work of the World's Fair and made a great deal of money out of the many World's Fair albums that were produced. However he was a rich man before undertaking this work, and it was his two sisters, who several years ago, intended to endow the proposed John Bright university in Wichita with \$20,000 each.

**Wichita Beacon****Monday, January 30, 1928****page**

3. Article reports sale last week of the tract of land bought in 1887 for the proposed John Bright University. Says the 160 acre tract, the John Bright Addition, was two and a half miles south of Maple Street on Seneca and that a foundation was constructed before work on it ceased. The property passed into other hands and for many years has been owned by

J. Shannon Nave, of Attica, Indiana, who last week sold it to Charles H. Miller and B. R. Peck, of Wichita, who bought it as an investment.

**Wichita Eagle**

**Sunday, April 17, 1938**

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Chamber of Commerce Section

5. Some history of Friends University. Says earlier, site selected on Seneca street three miles south of Douglas for John Bright University and basement excavated and foundations built.

**Wichita Eagle**

**Sunday, August 4, 1938**

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- 2-A. Article about Friends University opening 40 years ago. Drawing of former planned John Bright University building.