Some of the primary focuses at the Millersville State Normal School were on the students and concerns of student life and education. These are exhibited through the faculty minutes and student theses records.
Faculty meeting minutes were an overview of the meeting that would take place each week amongst the faculty. The time period of these minutes are from 1855 to the 1950s. During these meetings the faculty would speak about rules and regulations, discipline cases, promotions of students in studies and different activities that were happening in Millersville.
How have student behaviors changed since the early 1900s? Have they?

What kinds of punishment(s) were handed out? How does this differ from today’s punishments?

How were rules different from what they are today?

Interested in finding some of these answers? Be sure to look through the Student Confessions, Handbooks, Faculty Minutes, and Student Theses located in the University’s Archives and Special Collections.
Meningitis death at the school, 1890

Millersville, Pa.
June 16, 1890

The faculty met at the usual hour, all the members were present except Jasper Hubbell and Dr. Clark. The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and approved.

The following students left school: Meres, Luck, Hurd, Godman, Basler, Alt Right, Roger Byers, Balfour, Walsworth and Yag.

Wagner, Baskin, Fitting, Mowfeld, Immey, Frantz, Bushkraft, Mason, Jensen, Roff, Young, and Buehme.

Walters, the general health of the school is fair. There are from 8 to 10 cases of scarlet fever and diphtheritic tendency. Mr. Wright went home with a cold in his ear caused doubtless by taking in the concert hall.

Mr. J.W. Wagner of The Mill, June 25, at this institution, on Saturday June 6. It is supposed that his disease was contracted by going in the concert hall.

His disease developed into croupous spinal meningitis. As soon as it was ascertained that his sickness was of a serious character his friends were notified and they arrived before his death. Mr. Wagner received every attention and care possible. He was a bright young man and a very excellent student. A committee from the faculty, society and his class attended the funeral.

Conduct, the committee stated that he had called the attention of the 80 men of the Board of Trustees to the punishment inflicted on Thomas, Walsworth, and Benjamin, and that they opposed of our action and suggested that if he came into effect even if the service of the court is necessary to do so. The faculty decided to reverse the punishment (pp. 113) on all day do off commencement's and the anniversary of the two literary societies.
“Mr. J.O. Wenger of Terre Hill Lanc. Co. died at this institution on Saturday June 6. It is supposed that his disease was contracted by bathing in the Conestoga. His disease developed into [cerehospinal] meningitis. As soon as it was ascertained that his sickness was of a serious character his friends were notified, and they arrived before his death. Mr. Wenger received every attention and care possible. He was a bright young man and a very excellent student. A committee from the Faculty, society and his class attended the funeral.”
Conestoga Creek, 1890
The case of Wm. Bowne is brought up and discussed at some length. Mr. Bowne moved that each body receive 40 dollars and be removed for the remainder of the season. Mr. Bowne was seconded by Mr. Bowne by requiring them to sign a pledge. The motion was lost.

After further discussion, Mr. Bowne moved that the two bodies be suspended for the remainder of the term. The motion prevailed.

Said names were given as follows:

- Mr. E. B. Kauffmann 4
- A. J. Williams 6
- W. W. Warfel 6
- A. Williams 12

The Faculty adjourned at 9 o'clock on Sunday evening immediately after dinner.

Mr. Bowne, 12.
Conduct. The Prin. Stated that he had called the attention of the Ex. Com. Of the Board of Trustees to the punishment inflicted on Messrs. Warfel and Greenwalt, and that they approved of our action and suggested that it be carried into effect even if the services of the constable be necessary to do so.

The Faculty decided to enforce the punishment (see pp. 113) on all days except “Commencement” and the anniversaries of the two literary societies.

The case of Misses Courtright and McKeever was taken up and discussed to some length.

Mr. Maltby moved that each lady receive 40 demerits and be campused for the remainder of the session. Mr. Bitner amended the motion by requiring them to sign a pledge. The motion was lost.

After further discussion Mr. Hull moved that the two ladies be suspended for the remainder of this term. The motion prevailed.
Committee Meeting.
Justice Room - May 9, 1900.

Present: Dr. Lyte, Agent, Hull, Potter, Chief Reddy, and Lautzenhiger.

Case Stated: It is stated that Mr. George Lautzenhiger and Mrs. Lautzenhiger and Stephanie Black met on the lane near the vicinity of the last small boys house, and went into the field to the left going down, and Mrs. Lautzenhiger returned to the lane before the others. She was met then by Messrs. Wiser, Meek, and Mr. Kuef, and was either forced to return to the field or was ordered to return. She then stated the boys were there - in brief they say the boys forced Mrs. Lautzenhiger to go into the field picked her up against a tree, and held her in a very rude manner, using language so vile that they cannot tell it in court to hear. Mr. Kuef went on ahead and seized Mrs. Black who was in the field. All the boys held hands on the girls and attempted to do them great injury. They state that they resisted from the beginning and were overcome.

May 10.
At the evening meeting the boys from 8:15 to 9:15 were about an discussion of the case without coming to any conclusion. The meeting adjourned to meet at 11:15 same day. The boys from 11:15 to 13 were about to go to meeting earnings without any decision.

Gen. W. Hull, Jr.
Case Stated. It is stated that Mr. Oram Lansinger and Misses Getzinger and Mary Lee Black met in Shenk's Lane in the vicinity of the last small brick house, and went into the fields to the left going down, and Miss Getzinger returned to the lane before the other two. She was met there by Messrs. Weiss, McGrul and Geo. Knoff, and was either forced to return to the field or was induced to return. Here the statements of the ladies' were read, -- In brief they say the boys forced Miss Getzinger to go in the field pushed her up against a tree, and treating her in a very rude manner, using language so vile that they cannot tell it even to ladies. Mr. Knoff went on ahead and seized Miss Black who was in the field. All the boys laid hands on the girls and attempted to do them great injury. They state (Girls) that they resisted from the beginning and were over powered, &c.

Mr. Geo. Harold Weiss was called before the committee and at first denied having laid hands on either of the girls, but confessed having met them at the time and place specified. But after he found that the committee knew the matter confessed that he had his arms around Miss Getzinger and treated her in an ungentlemanly way.

Mr. McGrul was called before the committee and soon confessed that he had grossly violated the laws of propriety. He said he knew he had disgraced the school, his home, and himself.

Mr. Knoff said he had taken hold of Miss Black and tried to induce her to go farther down in the field. But she refused.

The committee could not agree on the punishment.
Shenk’s Lane, 1900
Harriet Getzinger's Accusation

Miss Getzinger x Vern Black went down flakes lane
about 9 o'clock on Saturday
About 45 minutes after I left the house set in Miss Getzinger x Vern Black went
out to the door. When I turned the door the lane went from the and
there was a little door

Vern Black was about where I am down lane
There he was, Vern Black was about where I am down lane
There he was, Vern Black was about where I am down lane
There he was, Vern Black was about where I am down lane
They showed one into the lane and picked one again
They showed one into the lane and picked one again
They showed one into the lane and picked one again
They showed one into the lane and picked one again

Mr. Knopf said 2 ill go to
Mr. Knopf said 2 ill go to
Mr. Knopf said 2 ill go to
Mr. Knopf said 2 ill go to

I sat down to have a smoke on Sunday afternoon
I sat down to have a smoke on Sunday afternoon
I sat down to have a smoke on Sunday afternoon
I sat down to have a smoke on Sunday afternoon

I put down my pipe and
I put down my pipe and
I put down my pipe and
I put down my pipe and

Then I got up.
Then I got up.
Then I got up.
Then I got up.

They took a field of corn. Henry
They took a field of corn. Henry
They took a field of corn. Henry
They took a field of corn. Henry

Mr. Knopf said he was going to Vern Black—Then
Mr. Knopf said he was going to Vern Black—Then
Mr. Knopf said he was going to Vern Black—Then
Mr. Knopf said he was going to Vern Black—Then

They showed one into the field and finished one against the wire. I fell down.
They showed one into the field and finished one against the wire. I fell down.
They showed one into the field and finished one against the wire. I fell down.
They showed one into the field and finished one against the wire. I fell down.

They then treated me very
They then treated me very
They then treated me very
They then treated me very

Miss Getzinger x Vern Black went down flakes lane
Report of Committee –

The punishment was fixed as follows:

1. No honors will be given to and of the persons engaged in this misdemeanor.
2. The boys were suspended until Saturday June 9.
3. The girls are to be campused until Saturday June 9, and denied social privileges as fixed by the Prin.
For some students, a requirement for graduation was to write a thesis, much like today. Topics for these theses varied greatly but entailed issues on education such as the way school rooms should be designed. The theses focused on in this exhibit ore contemporary issues in the classroom.
The school room should be well ventilated. Imperfect ventilation is a sure source of disease in a school room. Even in the most inclement season of the year the room should be well ventilated several times during the day. The lungs are constantly calling for a fresh supply of fresh air and in precedence of all others this demand should be heeded.
Every teacher should understand that this is the true end of education. The carpenter understands what kind of a house is to be built, what it's plan and dimensions, before he goes into the forest to cut the timber. The sculpture has his ideal of form before him even before he takes up his chisel to realize it in marble. A teacher would be very likely to criticize a pupil if he should commence working an example in arithmetic or algebra before seeing what was required. So the teacher, before entering upon the great work of education should understand what is to be done and he will then be better prepared for his performance.
For the most part, the public schools of Pennsylvania are very much neglected so far as culture is concerned; and the pupils show it.

This then we think belongs to the teachers duties: not only to teach and discipline while school is in session, but also during the many leisure hours which are spent by the pupils at the school which are wasted or more than wasted by them.

We do not pretend to say that all the time spent at the school-room should be occupied in study; but the instruction which a teacher can give is often very much more interesting than any play. And the brow cheek and firm step of our country girls and boys do not need much physical exercise while at school.

The perceptive of children are wide awake to everything passing around them. Everyday they learn something new; and these facts and phenomena which they thus learn will afford a very interesting topic for conversation in which much useful information can be imparted.
To learn more about the students, faculty and general history of the University, stop into the Archives and Special Collection and explore the University’s past.