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Biographical History

State University of New York at Cortland

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DR. JAMES HARMON HOOSE, 1835-1915

FIRST PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL (1869-1881) (1882-1891)

Dr. Hoose began teaching at the age of eighteen. From 1855-1861 he was either studying or teaching and served as professor, department head and/or principal of various academies, seminaries and schools throughout Central New York State. In 1861 Dr. Hoose was graduated from Genesee College (now Syracuse University) which college later conferred on him a Ph.D. degree. In 1866 he was employed as a regular conductor of Teachers Institutes.

Extremely active during his lifetime in state, national and international educational associations, Dr. Hoose held many positions of importance.

A history of Dr. Hoose's administration would be incomplete without mentioning the so-called "Cortland Case" or the trouble between the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Hon. Neil Gilmour, and the Principal. After much friction and controversy between Dr. Hoose, the Superintendent, the Local Board, and the citizenry of Cortland, he was dismissed in 1881 and restored to office on the appeal of the Local Board to the Supreme Court.

Dr. Hoose continued to administer the College according to his own tenets and beliefs in spite of orders from the Board and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Hon. Andrew S. Draper. As a result, further friction caused his removal from office in 1891.

Leaving Cortland, he went to the University of Southern California as professor of Philosophy and Pedagogy, eventually being elected Dean of the School of Pedagogy there and Vice Chancellor of the faculty. Dr. Hoose was held in high esteem by many of his students at Cortland and at the University of Southern California, by many residents, and by educators throughout the nation as well as in other parts of the world.