

Blowing up the Cornerstone

In early July 1863, the soldiers of an Illinois regiment ignited a charge of gunpowder in the cornerstone. Their colonel, an Episcopalian, was very indignant at their needless prank. The artist has created a dramatic scene a split second after the explosion as the soldiers scamper away. No figures in this scene are identified.

Planting the Cross

Bishop Quintard tells in his diary that in March, 1866, when the snows were melted he rode up the mountain from Decherd, with the Rev. Thomas A. Morris, the Rev. John A. Merrick, and Major George R. Fairbanks. On the mountain they found a few persons who had stayed through the war. Gathered around a twelve-foot cross they had a simple religious service in the woods, singing the Gloria, reading the Creed, and with Quintard saying, "I hereby re-establish the University of the South."

Fund Raising Trip to England

The Three men at Lambeth Palace are Archbishop Longley, Bishop Quintard, and the Rev. Francis W. Tremlett. Quintard had recently received an honorary degree from Cambridge and is wearing that hood. The books held by Tremlett represent the 2,000 volumes given to the library of the University of the South by Oxford and Cambridge at the time. It is the autumn of 1867 at the first Lambeth Conference.

Opening the University

Entering the original chapel, St. Augustine's, on September 18, 1868, is Charles Massey Fairbanks, Matriculant No. 1. Next comes Professor Robert Debney, the first permanent professor, and then General Josiah Gorgas, first headmaster of the Junior Department, chief of ordinance of the Confederacy and second Vice-Chancellor, and Bishop Green, the fourth Chancellor. On the top of the ladder is the plasterer who, according to Bishop Quintard's diary, was still at work on the chapel when the procession entered.

Order of Gownsmen

In the chancel of St. Augustine's Chapel, with the eagle lectern in the right foreground, there is represented the installation of a gownsmen. The student is William Crawford Gorgas, the chaplain is William Porcher DuBose, and with them is Bishop Alexander Gregg, a Sewanee summer resident and fifth Chancellor of the University. Dubose founded the Order of Gownsmen, and is symbolically giving the gown to one of the first members of the order. Above is the Panama Canal, made possible by the work of Gorgas.

The Gift of St. Luke

In 1876, Charlotte Morris Manigault of Brighton, England and Charleston, was the University's first large benefactor. Mrs. Manigault said to Quintard that she wanted to give the University something substantial. She asked for his suggestion. He told her to wait until the next morning, when they would "meet at God's altar and then and there you shall decide." After the service shown here, Mrs. Manigault told the bishop "I want to build the theological school." It was one of the three most important moments in the institution's history. The bishop cabled the joyful news, to the trustees, then in session.