

CONCORD COLLEGE
Athens, West Virginia

September 18, 1963

Remarks and Citation by President Joseph F. Marsh upon awarding Mrs. Nannie Bee Gore Hearn of the Pisgah Church Road, Athens, West Virginia, the degree of Bachelor of Education:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

This morning a gracious lady, Mrs. Nannie Hearn, 99 years old, will receive the Concord College degree and diploma that were promised her 80 years ago. Although alert and possessing a keen mind, she cannot leave her home to be with us here. Immediately following these ceremonies a delegation from the College will go to her home where, with many members of her family and friends gathered there, we will deliver her diploma and citation. Now I shall confer the degree in absentia.

Citation

NANNIE BEE CORE HEARN
Bachelor of Education

NANNIE BEE CORE HEARN, gentle and gracious lady in the ninety-ninth year of your life, you have witnessed the entire history of Concord College, your beloved Alma Mater. Born August twenty-second, eighteen sixty-four, you were a girl of eight when the early families of our community secured the passage of the First Legislative Act that founded a State Normal School at Concord Church. At the age of ten you witnessed the laying of the cornerstone for the first Normal School building. You returned to Concord in eighteen eighty as a student, completing your course in eighteen eighty-three, and each succeeding generation of your family has had a student at Concord. Today it is our privilege to fulfill a promise made eighty years ago. Deprived of a diploma because a smallpox epidemic forced the closing of the School shortly before your graduation, nevertheless you began teaching in Concord's noble tradition. We now honor you, Concord's oldest living alumna, by conferring upon you our degree of Bachelor of Education, and we hand you this Diploma as testimony that your name officially is inscribed upon our rolls forever as one who holds a Concord College degree.

Given under the Seal of Concord College and conferred from the academic halls in Athens, West Virginia, on this eighteenth day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and sixty-three, and of the College the eighty-ninth.

Joseph Franklin Marsh, Jr.
President