

*"Dr. Frasier"*

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About five years ago, I became very active in tracing my family history. I discovered that my paternal grandmother (who, sadly, had passed away by that time) had attended a teacher's college in Colorado-far from her home in Marlette, Michigan. I asked my grandfather, who is now 92 years old, how my grandmother was able to do such a thing. After all, this was 1925, and it was very uncommon for a young, single woman to matriculate at a college that was so far away from her home and family. My grandfather informed me that she had been "sponsored" by her uncle, Dr. George Willard Frasier, who was the President of the Colorado State Teacher's College.

Needless to say, I became very interested in the story of my great, great-uncle-the college president! So I contacted the college (now called The University of Northern Colorado), and they happily sent me information about him. I learned that he was, by all accounts, a pioneer in the field of education-which just happens to be my field of study! He earned graduate degrees from Stanford and Columbia, and authored numerous books and articles. He was also, at the time of his appointment, the youngest college president in the United States. Dr. Frasier was described as " a thoroughly modern man...a scholar-president... a charming extrovert." He refused to live in the university's sumptuous presidential home, choosing instead to turn the home over to the department of music, and live with his family in a campus apartment!

Over the past five years, I have worked diligently to collect Dr. Frasier's many fine books, not only because he was my great, great-uncle, but also because these works represent important contributions to the field of education. His ground-breaking works run the educational gamut from preprimers and elementary level science books, to college level texts and his philosophy of education (he was a great admirer of John Dewey). His books were widely read for nearly three decades, and remained a part of America's educational curriculum until well into the 1960's

It has not been easy to collect these books, as they are old and rare, but I currently have 14 of his books, and I am always on the look-out for more. I am very proud of my great, great-uncle Frasier, and his wonderful books are very dear to me.