

Brief History of Baldwin-Wallace College

In 1828, John Baldwin and his wife, Mary, came to the village of Berea, from New England, to claim their 200-acre purchase of land. They joined other established families in a wilderness where human beings were scarce, mobility minimal and survival threatened by wolves, bears, and wildcats.

An educated and religious man, Baldwin formed Lyceum Community and School, a Christian community devoted to working and teaching in agriculture, industry, and manual science. It was the first of five schools, which Baldwin was instrumental in founding. Of these, Baldwin-Wallace, Baker University in Baldwin, Kansas, and Baldwin's Boys' High School, Bangalore, India, are still operating.

The Baldwin Quarry Company, founded by Baldwin in 1842, provided the financial resources for his donation, three years later, of a five-acre campus, thirty village lots, and fifty acres of additional land with valuable stone quarries to the Methodist Episcopal Church for the founding of Baldwin Institute.

The growing strength of local public schools prompted the expansion of the Institute into the realm of higher education, and in 1845, Baldwin University was formed. The curriculum of the new institution included classical, scientific, commercial, and preparatory courses. Instruction was also offered in vocal music, piano, melodeon, and guitar.

A Department of German was added to the University in 1857. The growing German population of the area encouraged the German Methodists to divorce their department from Baldwin University in 1863 and establish a second school, German Wallace College.

Throughout the nineteenth century, the two Berea colleges shared curricula and permitted student exchanges. In 1913, the two were reunited, marking the official beginning of Baldwin-Wallace College.

Today, Baldwin-Wallace College offers a four-year liberal arts program leading to five undergraduate degrees: Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science in Education, Bachelor of Music, and Bachelor of Music Education. The College offers two graduate degrees: Master of Arts in Education and the Master of Business Administration.