

## **Information on Kearney Military Academy**

[Underlined material in original file did not transfer to this Word program]

[Questions and answers specifically requested for the book. Questions were underlined in the original file so I'm guessing from memory.]

1. Name of School - **Kearney Military Academy**
2. County and District Number - **Buffalo County (private school)**
3. Location - **East edge of Kearney, NE at 2400 East 32nd St.**
4. Years of operation - **1892 - 1923**
5. School colors -
6. School Mascot -
7. School Song -
8. Year of first graduating class - class in 1895. This may have been the first one.  
Number in class - 7  
Names of members first graduating class - Fred Goodell, Fred Salsbury, and Charles Tripp graduating from the commercial course; Grace Brown, Frederick Graves, George Frey, and George Bates graduating from the normal course.
9. Year last class graduated - 1923  
Number in class -  
Names of members last graduating class - Orville Bradley, Fullerton, NE; Lloyd Clinton Berry, Anselmo, NE; David Correll Fletcher, Buffalo, IL; Greene Berry Hastings, Hamilton, IL; Frank Breese Smith, Gordon, NE; and Harry Yelverton Steele, Denver, CO.
10. Sports championships -
11. First school board members - **First principal was Clarence Murch.**
12. Famous Graduates -
- 13.

The Kearney Military Academy opened originally in 1891 as a co-educational institution called the Platte Collegiate Institute of Higher Education. It was founded by the Rt. Rev. Anson R. Graves, Bishop of the Episcopal Missionary District of the Platte. Clarence Murch served as principal. He also taught English and literature. His wife, Marcia, was matron. She was also the art instructor.

Students could specialize in any of nine possible areas including collegiate preparation, business, art or military. There were 147 students the second year the school was open.

Tuition was \$10, board was \$20, rooms were \$5 with an additional 50 cents for heat if necessary. Each term for which these fees were charged lasted 10 weeks. If payment was made in advance the rate was \$120 for a 40-week school

year. The school was so poor that supplies came in missionary barrels from eastern churches.

Female enrollment declined and in 1895 or 1898 (sources differ) the school was converted to the Kearney Military Academy.

The Academy consisted of three buildings. A three-story brick building contained class rooms. One wooden structure held the gymnasium, the other served as a dormitory. The school closed in Sept. 1923 because of insufficient enrollment and loss by fire of an annex, boiler house, and gymnasium.

The school retained its ties with the Episcopalian church throughout its existence. On Sunday mornings the cadets would march from the Academy on east 32nd Street to St. Luke's Episcopal Church on the corner of 23rd and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, a distance of 34 blocks, stand during the worship service, and then march back to school.

The top graduate, football star and class commander of the class of 1921 was Vine V. Deloria, an Indian lad from Wakpala, South Dakota.

The three-story brick structure which served as the main classroom building still stands at 2400 East 32nd Street on the east edge of Kearney. After serving as St. Luke's Hospital and St. Luke's Nursing Home, the first floor of the building has been used by Rhyme & Reason Community Child Care Center since September, 1978.