

C. R. Stuntz
of
Woodward High School
Cincinnati, Ohio

Chauncey Rollin Stuntz taught chemistry and physics at 'Old Woodward' in Cincinnati from 1860 until his death in 1895. The school began in 1831 as Woodward High School, founded and funded by William Woodward. In 1836 Woodward College was founded, and incorporated the high school as the preparatory department. Joseph Ray was appointed teacher of arithmetic in 1831, and then Professor of Mathematics, which continued into the College. (http://sections.maa.org/ohio/ohio_masters/ray.html) Ray is best known as the author of one of the most popular series of American arithmetic and algebra textbooks of the nineteenth century. William Holmes McGuffey, of McGuffey Reader fame, also taught two years at Woodward College. Woodward College was incorporated into the public school system in 1851, when the Ohio legislature established public high schools. Ray was the first principal.

Professor Stuntz, as he was called, is our great great grandfather. He was descended from Conrad Stuntz, who came to America as a Hessian soldier in the American Revolution. Conrad then fought for the colonist's side.

Our great grandparents, Walter T. Ritchie and Chauncey's daughter Mary E. Stuntz, were in the Woodward class of 1879, as was E. H. Moore. Moore (http://www-groups.dcs.st-andrews.ac.uk/~history/Biographies/Moore_Eliakim.html) was second in the class, and went on to earn a Ph D at Yale, was the founder of the mathematics department at the University of Chicago, President of the American Mathematical Society, and a pioneer of the American mathematical research movement. Also in that class was Horace D. Taft, founder of the Taft School in Connecticut; his brother William Howard Taft was in the class of 1874. Other Stuntz

children listed in 1896 were Frances (Fannie) Stuntz Curry 1886, Edward Stuntz 1890 then at Ohio State, Harry Stuntz 1893, and Chauncey R. Stuntz, Jr. 1895. A grandson, Walter Stuntz Ritchie, earned a Ph D in chemistry from the University of Missouri in 1922, and was on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst for many years.

Chauncey R. Stuntz was born in Albion, Pennsylvania in 1830. He left home at fourteen to make a living. He was a carriage maker for several years. His skills gained proved useful in later years, as he was able to repair and build apparatus used in his studies. In 1850, Chauncey entered Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania with the intention of studying the ministry. He remained there three years. As funds were drained, he taught school for two years in Richmond, Jefferson County, Ohio. This is where he met his future wife, Eliza Hauck. By 1855 Chauncey had returned to Allegheny College determined to change his major to teaching. It suited him better than preaching. He graduated in 1856 and went to Cincinnati to teach at Mr. Chickering's School until the summer of 1857. It was the most successful private school for boys in the city. In the fall of 1857 Chauncey Stuntz entered the public schools as the first assistant of the Second Intermediate School, which was held in the upper portion of the Ellen Street School House on Mt. Adams.

In 1860 he transferred to Woodward.. He taught many subjects at first, including botany, psychology, mathematics, Greek, Latin, drawing, physics and chemistry. That his pupils appreciated him was shown during the Civil War years. His name came up first in the draft. The sum necessary to send a substitute was raised by his pupils. He gave instruction in chemistry at the Wesleyan Female College. For about ten years he was connected as Professor in the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, and is listed as a graduate in 1876.

He lived in downtown Cincinnati until 1866 when he moved to Milford because of his family's health. Perhaps this is why he was so interested during his career in the quality of the air and water in Cincinnati and of the Ohio River water. In 1868 he moved to nearby Camden, later to become Terrace Park. Camden was platted on the Little Miami Railroad, the first railroad to enter Cincinnati. It is now a bike path. Chauncey commuted the 15 miles into Cincinnati. The house is still there at 625 Elm Ave.

Professor John Lloyd, a fellow chemist, remarked that Prof. Stuntz was chairman at the founding of the Cincinnati Chemical Society, which became a branch of the American Chemical Society. Two years later he was elected President. "Not a young man when the science of chemistry changed from the old theory of equivalent amounts to that of atomic weights, he stepped from the old to the new, and taught the atomic theory with the earnestness and care that he had previously shown in behalf of equivalent amounts. He carried the old and grasped the new and this is more than some others younger than Prof. Stuntz were willing to do." He had a publication "Clarification of the Public Water Supply of Cincinnati" in the *Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History* in 1886, and gave numerous presentations. He was awarded three chemical patents in the 1880s: Blow-Pipe, Process of Ruling Slate, and School-Slate.

A portrait painting of Mr Stuntz was the gift of S. P. Kramer, Woodward class of 1885. We think the picture reproduced above may be a copy of that painting. The artist was Leo S. Mielziner, class of 1887. Mielziner studied five years in Europe and had a studio in Boston. This painting hung in the Old Woodward building and then was moved to the new Woodward buildings. It was removed to storage to protect it. We could not find it among pictures and paintings in the Woodward archives. Perhaps it is in the Board of Education art collection.

Here are a number of articles in the *Cincinnati Daily Gazette*.

July 19, 1870: Board of Education meeting: A report of the Committee on Stoves and Furnaces was presented. A proposal by Mr. Stuntz to make a chemical examination, free of charge, of the air in and around school houses, was read and unanimously accepted.

February 18, 1876: The Commencement exercises of the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery were held at Pike's Opera House. "The stage ...contained a lot of chemical apparatus, which came into use during the valedictory address of Prof. C.H. [sic] Stuntz, Professor of Chemistry in the college." The title was "Atmospheric Air in its Normal and Abnormal Conditions." He had rubber bags of air from various locations in the city, including the Eggleston Ave. sewer. "By means of chemical reactions these bags were made to give forth wonderful results. ... Prof. Stuntz's address was very long, but was attentively listened to throughout."

June 22, 1876: The Forty-Second Commencement of the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery. "C R Stuntz, Ohio" is listed as a graduate.

May 1, 1877, p 4: "Prof. C. R. Stuntz will to-night deliver a lecture on Cincinnati atmospheric air at the Sixth Presbyterian Church... The lecture will be illustrated by chemical experiments."

April 1, 1878, p. 8: The Ohio Teacher's Association held its annual meeting at Put-in-Bay, July 2-4. On the program, "The High School Diploma, a Voucher for What?" C. R. Stuntz.

May 19, 1879: The May meeting of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, Prof. C. R. Stuntz was elected Curator of Meteorology.

July 26, 1880, p. 8: At the Union Board of High Schools meeting, salaries were fixed. C. R. Stuntz, \$2200. Second only to principal Harper.

October 11, 1880: In a news article on poisonous cisterns in Walnuts Hills at a meeting of the Board of Health: A notice was sent to residents in the immediate vicinity of Madison and Kibby Streets of the prevalence of typhoid fever. An analysis of C. R. Stuntz of the water from cisterns demonstrated the fact of contamination from privy vaults.

March 10, 1881, p. 7: The organizing meeting of the Chemical Section of the Ohio Mechanics Institute lists C. R. Stuntz as a charter member.

April 26, 1881, p. 6: Stuntz is listed as attending a meeting of the Local Committee in charge of arrangements for the August meeting in Cincinnati of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This meeting was to be held in Music Hall, and 800 were expected to attend. Stuntz was one of the invited guests. Ormond Stone is listed as a member of the Executive Committee. Stone (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ormond_Stone) came to lead the Cincinnati Observatory in 1875, then in Mt. Lookout. He was the first to establish standard time for an American city. It is said that E. H. Moore discovered mathematics through a summer job at the observatory while in high school.

May 15, 1881, p 8: Meeting of the Department of the Science and Arts Section of the Ohio Mechanics Institute. The Section on Chemistry reported the appointment of C. R. Stuntz on the Lecture Committee.

References

The Woodward Manual, The Alumni Association of the Woodward High School, Cincinnati, No. 9, 1896

A sketch of the life of C.R. Stuntz, delivered at the memorial services held in Woodward Hall, Dec 16, 1895, by William Parbody and remarks by John Lloyd.

This book also includes all the teachers from 1851 to 1896, as well as alumni of all classes.

'*Old Woodward*' A. *Memorial Relating to Woodward High School, 1831-1836 and Woodward College, 1836-1851*, Published by 'Old Woodward' Club, Cincinnati, 1884.

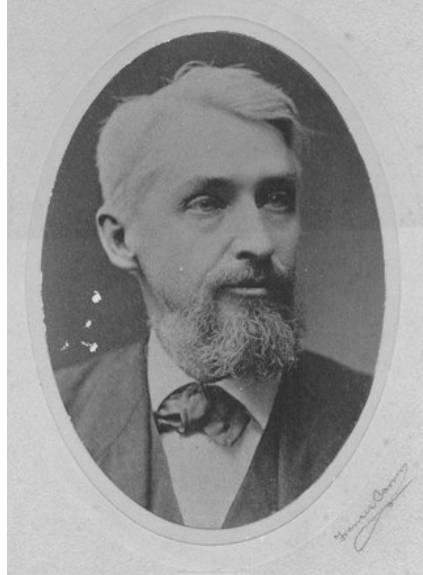
'Woodward High School in Cincinnati', *The American Journal of Education*, 520-525, 1857

Patents Nos. 227136 "Blow-Pipe" (May 4, 1880), 348599 "Process of Ruling Slate" (Sept 7, 1886) 358581 "School-Slate" (March 1, 1887), US Patent Office,

Stuntz, C R, "Clarification of the Public Water Supply of Cincinnati". *Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History*, 9 (April 1886). 20-35

Stuntz, C R, "The High School Diploma, a Voucher for What?", Meeting of the Superintendent's Section of the Ohio Teachers Association, July 2, 1878, Put-in-Bay, Ohio; *Cincinnati Daily Gazette*, 1878-07-03. p. 2.

Biographical sketches of Chauncey R. Stuntz and Conrad Stuntz by Patricia Stavovy.



C. R. Stuntz



Woodward faculty in late 19th century



Auditorium on the top floor of Woodward High School building.
Location of the memorial service for C.R. Stuntz.



Notice last name on the plaque.

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