

= John Baldwin (educator) =

John Baldwin (October 13 , 1799 ? December 28 , 1884) was an American educator , and the founder of Baldwin Institute (later Baldwin University) in Berea , Ohio , which would eventually merge into Baldwin ? Wallace College . He was also the founder of Baker University and Baldwin City , Kansas , and contributed money to start schools in Bangalore , India that are today called Baldwin Boys High School , Baldwin Girls High School and Baldwin Co @-@ Education Extension High School .

Born in Connecticut , Baldwin originally was a teacher in Maryland and Connecticut before moving to Ohio in the late 1820s . He became part of the lyceum movement , and situated himself in Berea , Ohio . He opened up Baldwin Institute in 1846 upon seeing the dissolution of the Norwalk Seminary . Nine years later , the Institute became Baldwin University . He moved to Kansas around 1857 , laying the foundation for Baldwin City , Kansas , as well as Baker University . In his later life , he purchased a Louisiana plantation , and made contributions to education in India late in his life .

= = Biography = =

= = = Early life = = =

John Baldwin was born in Branford , Connecticut on 13 October 1799 to Joseph Baldwin and Rosanna Malley . His mother was a well @-@ educated woman , as well as intensely religious . She attempted to become a student at Yale University , but was not allowed because she was a woman . Due to this , John resolved to make no distinction between races or sexes should he ever found a school . His father enlisted in the Continental Army during the American Revolution as a private and left as a captain . When John turned eighteen , he joined the Methodist Church . As a student at a private school , he paid his way by chopping firewood , ringing the bell , and building fires . Afterwards , he became a teacher in Fishkill , New York , Maryland , and Litchfield , Connecticut . As a teacher in Maryland , his stance on slavery , as well as black people as a whole , was revealed . A mulatto boy was sent to his school daily as a servant for his master 's son . Baldwin began to teach them in common . When the student 's father found out about this , he demanded Baldwin not teach him any more , to which he replied , " I do not charge anything for teaching him " and continued to teach him .

= = = Founding Berea = = =

After marrying Mary Chappel on January 31 , 1828 , they moved to Middleburg Township in Cuyahoga County , Ohio in April of that year . It was there that Baldwin joined forces with James Gilbrith , a disciple of Josiah Holbrook who wanted to found a lyceum village . In the village , which was founded in 1837 and situated just north of his farm , Baldwin ran the Lyceum Village School for five years until June 1842 , when it went bankrupt . However , one day while walking home , he had an impulse to take a new route across the river on his farm . He noticed a grouping of exposed rocks , which would make superior grindstones . This was the beginning of the Berea grindstone industry . Baldwin shipped his grindstones to Cleveland by ox carts . After the Big Four Railroad was built from Cleveland to Cincinnati , Baldwin built a railroad which would connect his quarries to the Big Four Depot . It was then that Baldwin and the others of the Lyceum Village tried to think of a name for their new town . After Gilbrith proposed Tabor , John Baldwin suggested Berea , citing Acts 17 : 10 ? 11 . After a coin flip , Berea was chosen .

= = = Baldwin Institute = = =

In 1843 , Baldwin noticed that the Norwalk Seminary , located in Norwalk , Ohio , was dissolving due to lack of funds . He approached Thomas Thompson , who was the elder of the Norwalk District

(which included Cleveland and Berea) , and asked him to visit Berea . At Baldwin 's Old Red House , an agreement was made where Baldwin would create a campus on his farm similar to the Norwalk Seminary . Baldwin Institute officially opened on April 9 , 1846 . It was meant to open in 1845 , but the process was delayed until the completion of a building on Baldwin 's farm , which was erected by Baldwin himself , made of stone quarried on his farm and brick made of clay . The institute was open to people of all races , male or female , as Baldwin wanted . It became Baldwin University and was given a charter in 1855 . The university later became Baldwin ? Wallace College in 1913 .

= = = Life in Kansas = = =

At age fifty @-@ eight , Baldwin desired to satisfy his nature of being a pioneer again by moving to Kansas , which was at that time a territory . He arrived as the brunt of the fighting in the territory was ending . Upon his arrival , he founded Baldwin City and built the first college building in the territory , which became the foundation for Baker University . He was in Kansas only for a short time when tragedy struck . On August 30 , 1858 , John 's son Milton died unexpectedly after having been sick for only three days . Within a couple years , he laid out a town , built a grist mill and a saw mill , and he turned over the town and college to the Methodist Conference and returned to Berea , although he continued to finance it .

= = = Later years & family legacy = = =

In 1867 , Baldwin purchased the Darby plantation in Louisiana , a plantation of about 1 @,@ 700 acres (6 @.@ 9 km2) . At the age of eighty , Baldwin learned of the situation in India ; there were large numbers of Europeans in India who could not get a proper education . The Baldwin High School for Boys and the Baldwin High School for Girls were then built in 1880 . John Baldwin died at his home in Baldwin , Louisiana on Sunday , December 28 , 1884 , at 10 A.M. Baldwin 's family even left their legacy on the campus long after Baldwin 's death . A person of historical significance to the university 's history is Philura Gould Baldwin . Philura Gould Baldwin graduated in 1886 and was the granddaughter of John Baldwin . Philura started the school 's first library by collecting and cataloging books . Beyond this , Philura suggested the traditional colors of brown and gold for the school colors . These were also the school colors for Baldwin University , which still stand today . Philura died from consumption at age 26 (b . November 28 , 1865 ; d . March 3 , 1892) . The Baldwin family donated funds for a library that was dedicated in her memory in June 1894 . The Philura Gould Baldwin Library was eventually made part of the Malicky Center in the 1900s .

= = Personal views = =

John Baldwin was a person whose views seemed to run counter to the conventional customs of the time . Despite his accomplishments , he never wrote a book , held public office , or even kept books . Although he was not an abolitionist by definition , he had no problem teaching blacks and whites as equals , as evident by his opening Baldwin Institute without regard to race or gender . His parents taught him to fear God , and he consequently devoted himself to living humbly and righteously , to being kind to the poor , and to joining the Methodist Church .