

Professor sought pay for double duty

Back pay, from page A1

hobby of spelling reform, but he was a thoughtful student, well-educated for his time and place, and he always held up high standards before his teachers." The historian added that Campbell's nickname was "Pap." Of the students who didn't much like him there was still respect.

It is not really known how the university could have gotten so far behind in compensating the professor, but he did not stand alone — hat in hand — before the legislature in that winter of 1883. Accompanying his request was a petition signed by no less than 1,100 persons, mostly former students, but also including the names of former Professors Richard Owen, Elisha Ballantine and George W. Hoss, who had also served as state superintendent of public instruction.

After stating his case to the legislature, Campbell added: "For all the foregoing work, whatever be its amount and worth, I assert, and the treasurer's books will show, that I have never received any compensation whatever beyond the gratifi-

cation of doing it and the great pleasure of witnessing the progress of my pupils and the growth of the University. And now, when aged and in need, I pray for its payment with interests."

How did Campbell manage to get by financially during the years when he needed to provide for a wife and four children? In the meager information available about the man there are a couple of clues. Woodburn wrote that in 1854 Campbell resigned from his position at the university and retired to his farm. The 1850 census for Monroe County contains the names of all of the members of the Campbell's household, including a boarder by the name of Nicholas Sims, who was 20 years old.

There is no record indicating that Professor Campbell ever received his back wages, despite the support of others. One likely explanation for the university's default was the school's financial embarrassment, particularly after the fire of 1883. Campbell died "past 87," at Topeka, Kansas, at the home of his son, Matthew.