

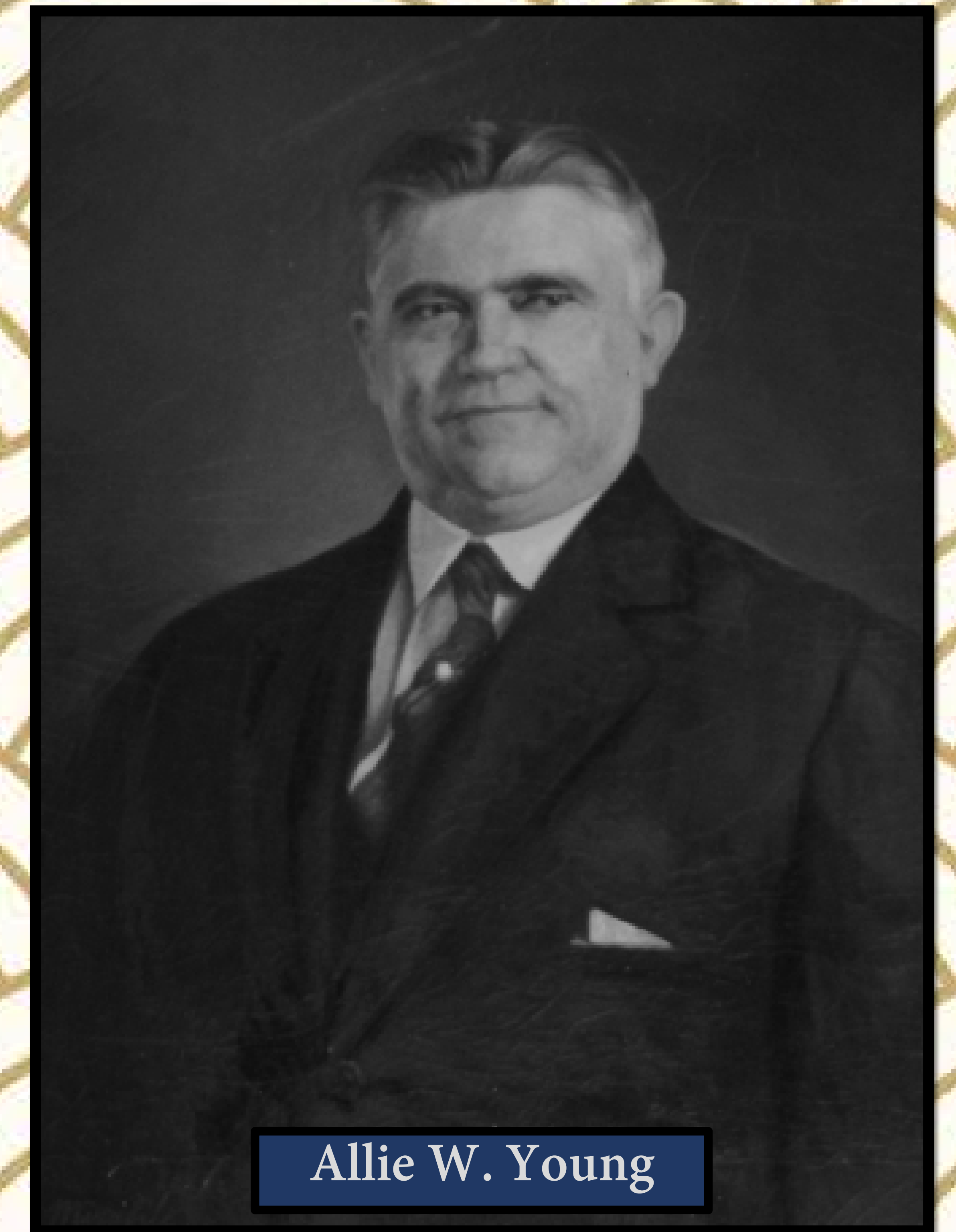
The Light in Morehead 1920-1930: Allie W. Young

Introduction:

The school we know today started as a two-room “normal school” in 1887. While the school grew from two students to hundreds by 1915, it closed during the 1922-1923 academic year due to low enrollment. Senate Bill 14 revived Morehead Normal School which created a commission to administer two state normal schools, one of which was in Morehead.



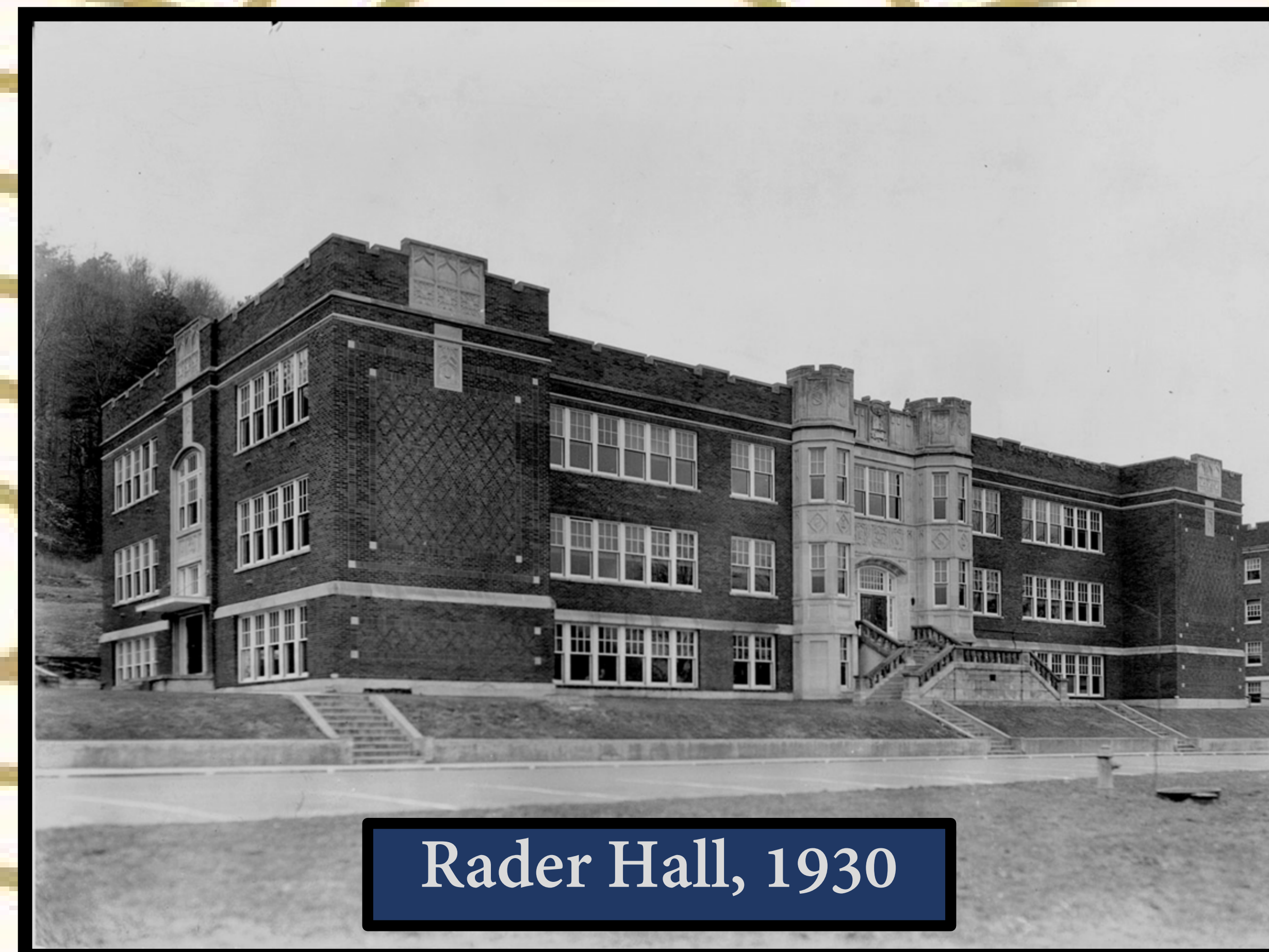
Hargis Hall, 1900



Allie W. Young



Class of 1920



Rader Hall, 1930

How “the light” came to Morehead:

Local Judge Allie W. Young “wined and dined” the school commission to ensure that the state selected Morehead over Paintsville, as the site for one of the “normal schools.” For four votes, the vote was even, and it seemed like it would stay that way. Paintsville commissioner, W. S. Wallen, once an advocate for his hometown, proved to be the deciding vote.

Politics in Property Value and Construction:

SB14 required that the state Normal School be located on land valued at \$100,000 minimum. In 1923, the Olmstead Brothers architects, claimed the property was worth \$30,000. Louisville contractors, Joseph and Joseph, who were closely associated with Young, claimed the worth to be \$130,000. The state accepted the J&J report.

Young’s Involvement After Acceptance:

After Kentucky chose Morehead, Young remained a powerful figure. He served on the Board of Regents in 1924 until the mid-1930s. Also, in 1924, he donated \$10,000 to the school. He later commissioned J&J to build Rader Hall, Fields Hall, and Breckinridge Hall.