The idea of class memorials is as old as Bucknell University itself. The first class that graduated from the institution felt just as much love for its Alma Mater and just as much gratitude for the benefits received as any succeeding class; and it is such feelings as these which inspire a class to leave a fitting memorial. Thus the source of inspiration being the same, the variation in the gifts is to be found in the individuality of the classes and in the growth of the school. The expansion of the school depends upon the growth of the classes, and results each year in a memorial commensurate with this growth; therefore at the time of such great prosperity of the university, the evolution of the class memorial is a fit subject, both for the classes which have passed from her halls and for those which have their duties still before them.

It is much to be regretted that there has never been a permanent record kept of the memorials from the beginning, and because of this fact, those which are not definitely marked or otherwise known will be overlooked in this article. The first memorial of which we have any knowledge was given by the Class of 1865. It is a tree situated at the foot of the hill, on the left side of the path leading to West College. At its base is a marble slab bearing the class year. The tree is a black ash, and has grown to be a large and shapely specimen, which will probably live for years.

Several classes following the year 1865 continued the custom started by their predecessor, and a number of trees were planted on the campus. However, not all of them were marked, and cannot be identified unless perhaps by members of the classes which planted them. Some time later the planting of trees was abandoned, and the class memorial assumed another character. Books were presented to the library, and of these early memorials no record seems to exist to-day.

On the left side of the entrance to Main College, a granite block was inserted in the wall by the Class of 1875. It bears the Latin inscription Non Nobis Solum in addition to the class year. Whether any other memorial was given by this class is not known. There was probably nothing else, as the idea of class gifts was then in its embryonic state.

The gift of the Class of 1878, the next one of which there is any record, is especially interesting. It is a large elm tree standing at the foot of the hill near the path leading to Main College, and marked by a stone set at the base of the tree. Last year it seemed as if this memorial would have to be removed, for almost one-half of its trunk had rotted away. But in order that it might be preserved, the hollow was filled with a preparation of cement and the trunk was built up to its normal shape. The work proved to be a success, and now the tree is growing vigorously.

The Class of 1880 departed from either of the precedents when it undertook to decorate Commencement Hall. It frescoed the walls and otherwise greatly improved the appearance of the room. In addition the class placed upon the front of Main College, at the right of the entrance, a metal plate bearing the inscription, Post proelium praemium. This plate forms a conspicuous and lasting memorial of the class, although by no means showing the extent of its generosity.

From the year 1880, the presentation of books to the library again became popular. These were valuable acquisitions to the working material of the school, and although
such memorials are perhaps not so visible as others, yet their good effects are even more lasting and cannot be estimated. No class of the future can go amiss in presenting an alcove of useful books to the present well-equipped library. To the year 1899, besides the classes which gave books, some planted trees, while others seem to have left no memorial whatever; and yet no one can tell just what memorials of their college these classes have sent forth into the world in the good reputation, honor and fame of their individual members.

With the Class of 1899 begins an almost unbroken series of memorials, each seeming to vie with its predecessor in value, usefulness and beauty. That year marks the beginning of the real advance in the direction of the beautification of the college property. The Class of 1899 planted vines along the front of Main College and inserted a granite block in the wall, bearing the word "Ivy" and the class year. It was an excellent idea, intended to beautify the long stretch of bare wall, which was broken only by the rows of windows. Although the whole wall has never been overgrown, yet this attempt showed what results might have been attained if other classes would have carried out the idea of 1899.

The Class of 1901 planted a maple tree near the University Avenue entrance to the campus, and marked it by a stone at its foot, bearing the date. This was the last tree memorial. It is likely that this class gave a more substantial memorial in the form of books, but of this there is no record.

In the year 1902 the class took a new method of decorating the campus. On each side of the path leading from the chapel to the hill it erected a granite post several feet high, bearing the date 1902. It was the intention of the class to establish a custom by which the whole campus would be outlined with a series of such markers. But, as in the case of the ivy, these expectations were not realized, and no more posts were added. Besides the posts, the class gave a sum of money for the purchase of books.

The Class of 1903 could not agree upon any memorial with which to adorn the campus, and after much discussion it also decided to purchase books for the library. About this time the classes began to raise the money in part by means of the class play given during Commencement week; and the increasing popularity of these plays made the presentation of finer memorials possible.

The massive brownstone steps in front of the entrance to Main College stand as a useful and ornamental monument of the Class of 1904. This was a great improvement to the campus, and one which would probably still be wanting had it been left for the college to build. Around these steps one of the school traditions has arisen—that it is highly improper for a Freshman to be seen loitering in their vicinity. In fact it is at the price of his hair that a Freshman ventures to sit upon this memorial.

With the Class of 1905 the desire to surpass all preceding memorials is in evidence. This class erected the two huge brownstone pillars at the University Avenue entrance to the campus. They are without doubt among the most imposing adornments of the university property. It is these pillars which give the Freshman his first impression of the campus, and by the end of his four years' course they are to him the most familiar objects about the university.

The Class of 1906 found a difficult task before it when it undertook to choose a memorial, and therefore began early to look about for opportunities. The old wooden foot-bridge which crossed the brook near the chemical laboratory was doomed. It was removed, and in its place was built an arch of brownstone, with a concrete floor.
Rising above the centre of the arch, on each side of the walk, is an artistically cut stone bearing the class numerals. What so short a time before was an "eyesore" now became one of the beauty spots of the campus. As it is constructed entirely of brownstone and concrete, it is a permanent and practically indestructible memorial.

To the Class of 1907 was given the task of presenting a memorial which would be more useful, ornamental and conspicuous than any former one, and its members admirably acquitted themselves of their task. In a tower erected upon the top of West College, rising twenty feet above the roof, they placed a clock. It is a Seth Thomas tower clock with four faces, each being eight feet in diameter. It strikes the hours and the half-hours, and requires winding only once a week. The faces, which are of ground glass, are illuminated at night. Above the four faces the numerals of the class are visible night and day as a constant reminder of the donors. The striking of the clock, on account of its convenience, has become almost indispensable to the student.

From the preceding description it is perceived that the memorials may be of two kinds—those for the practical use of the student and those for the ornamentation of the college property. They are equally desirable and both contribute to the welfare of the university. Although much already has been done, there is still great opportunity for the originality and generosity of the following classes. The library can be further enlarged, and apparatus can be presented to the various departments. Then there are innumerable opportunities for beautifying the surroundings and making them more attractive to the student of the future. Thus we see the spirit of love for the school embodying itself in the various memorials, which in a degree keep pace with the development of the school. With the examples of former classes as an incentive, we have every reason to believe that in the coming years the class memorials will become some of the most useful and valuable acquisitions to the property of the university.