

Our school, like other institutions of long and noble history, has been perpetuated because of a certain spirit, called the Woodward Spirit, passed on by each generation of Woodward students. No person ever leaves Woodward without being in some way influenced by the Woodward Spirit, which had its beginning in 1831. This so-called "Spirit" is actually a personification of the ideals of William Woodward, whose body reposes with that of his wife, Abigail Cutter Woodward, in front of the Broadway entrance to the school. To all Woodward students and alumni, this Spirit is a reality. To all of us it gives expression to the indomitable will which found a way to educate the coming generations. We can hear it say most clearly:

"My school is one hundred-eighteen years old. Of course, as time progressed the structure has been changed four times to meet the demands which were placed upon it. In 1831, it was a small two-story brick building which was called Woodward High School. It resembled an ordinary house with no promise of ever becoming a school with such a glorious history and the distinction of being the oldest high school west of the Alleghenies. For ten years, this plain building was a center of learning and culture for the youth of Cincinnati. In 1841, the belfry was removed, and a third floor was added, which, I thought was the crowning step in the cultural life of my school. You may realize then how surprised and yes, even how happy I was, when this building was replaced by a greater one of purely Gothic design. For more than fifty years, this beautifully designed school carried on the work of concentrated teachings and upheld fully the standards and ideals of my founder.

"Finally, however, as more and more youth awoke to the fact that education was one of the very highest ideals of life, the school was filled to overflowing. Again a change was found necessary. At this time, 1910, the present building was erected. Although time marked the change of Woodward High School as a structure, it, along with my spirit of service and standards of scholarship have remained firm through the years.

"To some I may seem intangible; but to those who love and know me, my influence has proved real. Yes, I believe that I am loved by those students who, through the years, have been the recipients of those things I have to offer. I believe also that they are justly proud to uphold my sacred traditions."