Dr. William Lee Gentry (1917-1919)

Born: July 15, 1867 Union County, TN
Died: February 25, 1947
Began teaching in public schools: 1887
B.A., Hiwassee College: 1895
B.S., National Normal University: 1899
Married Bell McNew: 1900
Professor of education at Carson and Newman College: 1906
Dean of Carson and Newman College: 1914-1917
First edition of the college newspaper, Orange & Blue, published: 1917
Affiliation established between college and the Tennessee Baptist Convention: 1918
President of Carson and Newman College: 1917-1919
New John T. Henderson Memorial Hall administration building completed: 1918
Contract with TBC: December 16, 1918
Honorary LL.D. degree conferred by Carson and Newman College: 1919
Taught summer school at East Tennessee State Normal College: 1914, 1917, 1920, 1921
Became Director of Dept. of Public School Libraries and Text Books for Globe Book Co.: 1921
Worked with TVA Land Acquisition Department: 1934-1937

Gentry’s efforts brought the college through great period of financial stress due to World War I and the loss of the old Administration Building. During his presidency he saw the successful completion of a $300,000 endowment campaign. Gentry also served on the State Board of Education and later was President of the Bank of Jacksboro. Henderson Humanities Building’s Gentry Auditorium is named in his honor.