

# The Galahad School

HUDSON, WISCONSIN

December 14, 1910.

To the Committee of Selection for Rhodes Scholarships,

Princeton, N. J.

Gentlemen;-

This is to certify that Wilder G. Penfield, of Hudson, Wis. was for four years a member of the student body of this school, graduating with honor one year ago last June.

During his four years with us, we had every possible opportunity to note his characteristics, and we have no hesitancy in stating that he is by long odds the most satisfactory student we have ever had. He combines the qualities of a good student with those of a good athlete and a perfect gentleman. He has temper, nerve, will power and self control.

His scholarship was far above the average. He took a heavy course of electives, maintaining at all times a high average, and at one time setting a mark that has proved our highest so far. For two years he led the school in average standing, and made it a business to get as much out of his work as possible, the school passing mark receiving little or no attention. He is a clear thinker and considers no amount of work too much to help him attain a desired end. He is willing to work things out for himself.

In debate and oratory also he showed a deep interest. He took up the work of the debating club, and represented the school on several occasions in both debate and oratory. He made creditable showings at all times, and by careful practice has developed into rather an easy talker. On one occasion, he and two of his fellow students showed the very highest quality of school spirit and manliness by voluntarily defending a question in debate with a rival school, when poor previous management had very much restricted their time of preparation, and when there was no possible chance of their getting the decision.

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It was done simply to uphold the honor of the school in an agreement, when that honor had been given scant consideration by the others concerned.

For some time, Penfield was on the staff of the school magazine, and while press of other work did not admit of his taking any large part, he did well what was given to him to do. The writer distinctly remembers that his work was in on time, no small item where the productions of ordinary school editors are concerned.

Penfield identified himself at all times with some branch of athletics, and while he was not unusually fast either in thinking or doing, his steady efficiency and dogged determination made him a factor to be well considered. He represented the school on football, baseball, and basket ball teams, and did considerable wrestling, track work and swimming in addition. He holds the school long distance record in swimming. His greatest success was in football, and during his junior and senior years he captained the most successful teams the school ever turned out. One of them was not scored upon at all, and the other was defeated only once. He showed great qualities of leadership in that he was able to bring together fellows who were personal enemies, and make them work in harmony for the good of the whole team and the honor of the school. We believe he was the only member of the student body who could possibly have succeeded in doing so, and he was able to do it because the boys recognized in him the qualities of manliness, courage and unselfishness that made them all respect him. He played fullback, and while it is usually the business of the quarter to call the plays, it was soon found that the superior generalship of the captain made it advisable for him to direct the team. One secret of his control over the boys, was their perfect confidence in his fairness. During his two years as captain, so far as the coaches recall, Penfield never

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once called his own signal to carry the ball over for a touchdown. He preferred to give his teammates that honor, and used it to good effect.

All of his work in athletics was noted for its general efficiency. While he was not positively brilliant in any one department, the coaches considered him a good utility man, and when the teams were in tight places, felt that he could, if necessary, be used well in other positions, if some special point suddenly developed a weakness. In one football game, which will long remain an interesting topic of conversation among the boys, the contest had reached a point where some of the best players could stand it no longer. They were taken out and sub after sub was put in until there were only nine men available for work. Penfield changed his position to quarter, and with only one other man behind the line to help him, he played his crippled team until the end, holding his opponents to no score.

For some years, Penfield has had a Sunday school class of small boys in one of the Hudson churches. He seems to like to work with the little fellows, mischievous as they are, and they accord him an admiration which almost approaches worship. He is their hero.

Socially, the young man was a most pleasing member of our school. He took a wholesome delight in parties and other school functions. He has had a most excellent home training, and shows high bred qualities at all times. He makes friends wherever he goes, and delights in the companionship of people whom he has opportunity to meet. Both old and young in his home town are interested in his progress and success. They recognize in him one of the young men from whom much may be expected. Their admiration for him was increased greatly a year ago last summer by an incident which shows his courage, manliness and presence of mind. A number of Hudson young people

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were returning home late one evening in launches. The channels are treacherous and the launch in which Penfield happened to be, struck a hidden obstruction, overturned, and in a very few moments, sank. All reports agree that Penfield's work in getting the young ladies to a place of safety was wonderful. He did not lose a moment in deciding what to do, and managed with the aid of the young man who was running the launch, to save the whole party. It was a case for quick work and was well done.

We have related at some length these incidents of Penfield's life here, believing that your committee will find them of service in determining your estimate of his qualifications. We are proud to have had so estimable a young man as one of our students. His work will long remain a record here, and the school's ideals and traditions are better for his having been one of us. Our old boys refer with pride to his record, and his influence will be felt for years to come. During his four years here, we never had the slightest occasion to question his honesty or moral strength. While he may not have been unusually brilliant, he combined in himself those fine qualities of manhood which will make him forever loved by those who knew him. It gives us great pleasure to give him our unqualified recommendation.

Sincerely yours,

*J. P. Inglis*  
*F. W. Mac Quarrie*

Principals.

Testimonials.

(N. J. J.)

The Calhoun School

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were returning home late one evening in January. The channels are treacherous  
and the launch in which Fenfield happened to be struck a hidden obstruction,  
overturned, and in a very few moments sank. All reports agree that Fenfield's  
work in getting the young ladies to a place of safety was wonderful. He did  
not lose a moment in deciding what to do, and managed with the aid of the young  
ladies to get them to safety. It was a very quick work and was well done.

We have related at some length these incidents of Fenfield's  
life here, believing that your committee will find them of service in determining  
your estimate of his qualifications. We are proud to have had an estimate  
young man as one of our students. His work will long remain a record here,  
and the school's ideals and traditions are better for his having been one of us.  
Our old boys refer with pride to his record, and his influence will be felt  
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Respectfully,  
Wm. W. ...

Principal