

Students' Names

English 106

Tank Scrap Archives

10 October 2014

I. Introduction

A single banner waved in the distance, a proud beacon of class pride standing atop its pole. In the distance, a tall tower of metal reflected the early September sun, waiting for the painting frenzy to begin. The well-beaten dirt surrounding the tank removed of all evidence of the previous year's fights. Beneath the banner, a crowd of students stood triumphantly, looking up at the two numbers etched carefully across the flag's surface. These two numbers would change everything.

According to Purdue's Archives and Special Collections website, "once a banner had been raised, or a class numeral had been painted, it immediately presented a challenge to the rival class." The symbolic raising of the flag was the beginning of the end. The two classes now held separate objectives. One class needed to replace the banner while the other class strived to defend the banner.

This tradition was known as the Tank Scrap, in which capturing the flag or writing the class name on the Tank became a badge of honor. As the tradition developed, people held preliminary scraps in order to determine who won the right to paint their name and class on this piece of metal. Going forward, the paper will begin with the cultural landscape surrounding the Tank Scrap in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Then, the origin of the Tank Scrap tradition will be analyzed. Transitioning into the Tank Scrap setting and structure, the variables involved within each Tank Scrap will be examined. From here, the paper will detail notable Tank Scraps at

Purdue University. Finally, the growing troubles (surrounding the Tank Scrap), which led into the tradition's eventual downfall, will be described.

II. Cultural Landscape

The tradition of the Tank Scrap at Purdue University occurred most regularly in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The conditions and habits absorbed by Purdue students at this time are all important in the discussion of the history involving the tank scrap. From the first claim of dominance to the final tragedy, the setting of the Tank Scrap revolves around campus life in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

A specific student stands out when examining the campus history preserved from this time period: Simeon V. B. Miller was a Purdue student who was extremely involved in all facets of campus life. He also documented everything he encountered in a scrapbook of his own creation (Miller). This gives insight and specific examples to a student's life at Purdue in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

An important aspect of Purdue traditions surrounds football. The whole point of the scrap is recognition of one class as having more power than the other. The significance of the whole story can



(Figure 1) The Purdue football team of 1929 practicing for an upcoming game.

be tied to the first home football game of every season. For background, the team technically started in 1887, but by 1890, the team could finally be taken seriously. Figure 1 depicts the more successful, recreated team practicing for the upcoming season. After successful wins, and a second place award in the Indiana Intercollegiate Athletic Association, the football team was

affected by one of Purdue's greatest tragedies. Fourteen of the players from the 1903 football season were killed in what is known as the Purdue Wreck. This tragic train crash occurred in the year of an intense Tank Scrap. As shown in newspaper clippings and illustrated in the Simeon V.B. Miller Scrapbook, the crash and was well known within the Lafayette community. After this accident, Purdue had little to no success with games or coaches; Purdue could not find a strong football coach to lead Purdue's football team to a victory. This train wreck became a major aspect of Purdue's history, affecting both the football legacy and the Tank Scrap alike. Football was popular among students just like today, and the same can be said for Greek life on campus.

Greek life was as popular in the late 1800s and early 1900s as it is today. The Greek system was significant because it was the best form of social education the school could provide. From making friends to becoming young ladies and gentlemen through momentous social events, this system was very respectable at the time.

The Greek system remained small from 1875 to 1900. Fraternities and Sororities began to grow drastically between 1905 and 1960, coincidentally during the same time as the Tank Scrap. The Tank Scrap raised class pride. Inasmuch as, the Scrap was mentioned in *Debris*, the Purdue yearbook, from 1896 to 1917, with each class bragging of their triumphs and hard won battles (Debris). Pride from the scraps extended into the Greek system on campus. New chapters sprouted out of nowhere.

As well as the number of chapters, the practices within fraternities and sororities changed. Miller collected important memorabilia from his days in Phi Delta Theta. The scrapbook included invitations to glamorous parties with menus filled with extravagant cuisine. A party in a fraternity involved a pre-selected girl for every well-known formal dance. A dance

card was used to pre-plan each encounter with a different girl. Simeon had three invitations complete with menus. He also included the few dance cards from 1905 (Miller). The important parties were for formal holidays where a dress code was also listed on the invites. The typical fraternity was full of young men who took great pride in their status, aspiring to be someone of great importance. That was the archetypal character to be involved in the Greek system. On the sorority side, these groups were extremely involved in community service and were focused on turning girls into successful young ladies. Miller followed in the footsteps of father and brother as part of his specific frat. Additionally, he took the initiative to become the president of his class in 1905. Miller's involvement in a wide variety of social activities demonstrates how important campus life was during this time period.

Education at Purdue always came first, before traditions or social systems.

Extracurricular improved the life of students, but never their education. Although the social aspect of college is extremely useful, university is a place of scholarly education. To this day, the academic side of Purdue is well-known worldwide, just as it was at the time of the Tank Scrap. In the early nineteen hundreds, tuition was low, but the level of education was at an all-time high. Simeon's documentation is just one example of a pristine student as his straight "A" grade card is displayed in the scrapbook (Miller). Always a progressive university, it was established with beliefs of looking far into the future for innovative learning styles. Around the time of the tank scraps, the three main colleges were established: engineering, agriculture, and pharmacy. These are still the three most well-known and popular majors at Purdue.

Since beginning of the school's history, Purdue University been progressive in its thinking. The first woman attended in 1875, only a year after the University's first year as an institution. This proves the progressive mindset of the university, but, regarding academics, the

science and technology aspects speak to the strength of the school. No other college chose to turn that much focus onto the future; the founding president believed in educating to prepare for the coming technology and innovation. Thus, establishing the university as a cornerstone in science and technology education with topnotch academics.

Traditions at Purdue today came from somewhere. Because the university had recently been established, many traditions developed during this time period (late 1800s to early 1900s), which are still in place today. To gain perspective, it is helpful to understand what is going on at Purdue at the same time as Tank Scrap.

The mechanics burning tradition was another student inspired grouping held around the time of the Tank Scrap. It involved students from mechanic classes who ceremoniously burned their textbooks (Figure 2). This traditional book funeral was extremely popular among the students just like the Tank Scrap, but angered the teachers to the

point of a ban on the mechanics burning. Around the same time as earlier Tank Scraps, the Purdue football team was nicknamed the “Boilermakers” by a reporter in response to the team’s constant success (Purdue Traditions). Within twenty years, a local composed the “Hail Purdue” fight song. Overall, the school pride lead to the creation of all traditions at Purdue, including the Tank Scrap.



(Figure 2) A specific mechanics burning from 1923.

III. Origin of the Tank Scrap Tradition

There is something that isn't widely known about colleges during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century: many of the graduating classes fought against each other, whether it be literally or not, to leave their mark on their campus, and Purdue was no exception. These fights were more commonly known as the Tank Scrap. Before the Tank Scrap, some examples of class rivalries include putting up their class' flag on top of the University building, painting class numerals on the Mechanical Engineering building, banners being hung from towers of University, ME, and Electrical Engineering buildings, as well as the occasional, more often common, fight between freshmen and sophomores.

The tradition of fights, between the freshmen and sophomores, would evolve into the event known as the Tank Scrap. According to *A University of Tradition: The Spirit of Purdue*, the tradition started when the class of 1889 painted a large '89' on the Agriculture (Ag) Building. Because the building was school property, the faculty protested the painting, so students decided to take the event off-campus: the Tank. In the beginning, the freshmen and sophomores would repaint the tank almost every night in the beginning of the school year. As the school year developed, the nightly paintings became less frequent. The Scrap started to evolve during 1903, according to *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*, when several freshmen were captured and sub sequentially tied to trees while sophomores danced around them. That same year, the first big fight decided who painted the tank, lasting for two hours. In order to celebrate the victors, the defeated class was paraded around campus by the winning class. This tradition started in 1904 when the defeated freshmen were paraded down to the courthouse in Lafayette and were forced to drink water from the tank.

After a few years, the students came to a consensus that one large scrap would decide who would win the honor of their numerals on the tank instead of little skirmishes. One large scrap would also likely cut down on the total numbers on those needing to go to the hospital as it's all done in one swoop, instead of dragging the tradition throughout the year. Although the large scrap was the deciding factor, there were smaller scraps before the large brawl. The students decided, at the beginning of the year, the freshman class with junior advisors and sophomores with senior advisors would discuss strategies and tactics for the scrap, elect a leader, and even choose a class yell (chant). Another annual tradition within the Tank Scrap was to get permission for the event from the current Purdue President. More traditions included either discussing passwords or sewing buttons or other such things in order to tell who was friend or foe during the confusion of the scrap.

The official Scrap would actually be held on the hill near the Tank, with the sophomores based on top of the hill and freshmen on the bottom. When ready, the sophomores would charge down the hill to meet their opponents. How long the scrap lasted varied from year to year, some hours long while others were less than half an hour. After one side was defeated, the losers were decorated, usually with paint and cornstalks, and then paraded around in celebration of the victorious class.

Finally, while the underclassmen fought their personal scraps, the upperclassmen would keep the crowd outside the field of battle. Why would there be a crowd you may ask? You did not think that such a large event on campus would go without witnesses to the event, did you? The actual Tank Scrap was a big tradition, practically a carnival with all the activities around. But what could have gone along with the Tank Scrap? Let's explore that, shall we?

IV. Tank Scrap Setting and Structure

One of Purdue's strongest tradition, known as the Tank Scrap, included many locations and attracted numerous spectators from Purdue as well as far and wide. The main event of the Tank Scrap took place at an actual water tank. The Tank was built in 1894, and it is located on the Southern Edge of the Grand View Cemetery on North Salisbury Street. The tank stands next to the caretaker's home to this day. While back in the time of the tank scraps anyone could walk up to the tank and undertake in any unauthorized activities, present day you will find a security fence complete with barbed wire. Spectators would flock to the Tank to watch the fighting. Upperclassmen, townspeople, and spectators encircled the Tank and the fighting boys. The importance of various setting as it relates to the development of Tank Scrap ("The Tank").

Figure 1 shows the fighting of the Tank Scrap took place on a grass field next to the tank. The field was usually grass, but if it rained then the field would be nothing but mud after the fight. As seen in Figure 3, the men who participated in the Tank Scrap Brawls are not all one demographic. Men range from scrawny looking boys to burly men. The students are not all dressed the same either: some wear nice collared shirts while others tattered jackets. The dirt covering their now dilapidated clothes does not care what economic class they are in. They are all boys fighting for pride ("The Fight").



(Figure 3) The brutality during the heat a typical scrap.

Figure 3 is also an example of the type of fighting that took place during the Tank Scrap. It was mainly wrestling and hand to hand combats on the ground. While

groups did team up on others, the scraps were mainly one on one fighting. Big groups of fighting did occur as you can see in the background of Figure 3, but on the outskirts people would fight one against another. The main goal of the scrap was to overcome and capture their opponent and chain the other team together. Chaining their opponents allowed the winning class to eventually paint their class's number up on to the Tank, displaying their victory for all to see.

Stuart Field was also a significant location during the Tank Scrap. While its primary function was a field for an assortment of sports and military drills, it played an important role leading up to the scrap. Stuart Field was a rallying point for the two classes before they headed to the Tank. The victors would also march the losing class back to the field for a bonfire. Figure 4 shows the bonfire crowded with the winners gloating over their captives. Spectators would fill the stands to watch the proceedings. The members of the losing class would then be painted and required to complete humiliating acts, such as, parades around the fire, dances, crawling races, Purdue cheers, the victor's cheers, leap frog, and other various larks ("Stuart Field").

After the Tank Scrap

concluded and the losing class was chained together, a parade would take place to the Courthouse. The parade marched through West Lafayette, across the Wabash, and ended at the



(Figure 4) A bonfire on Stuart Field.

Tippecanoe County Courthouse. The Courthouse was where the last of the traditions occurred. Huge gatherings of both locals and visitors congregated at the Courthouse to watch the humiliation of the losers. The defeated class would then have to praise the winners. On one occasion a freshman was stripped, painted, and required to dance Eva Tanguay's Dance of the

Seven Veils. The Courthouse was the final event of the Tank Scrap, and after the event took place the Tank Scrap officially ended.

While the Courthouse and Stuart field are two locations that they took the captives after the actual scrap, the information on the order of events is unclear. The order could have also been different depending on the year. The order appeared to be the captives would be taken to the bonfire after the Scrap, and then taken to the courthouse the next day due to the images from



(Figure 5) A parade at the courthouse.

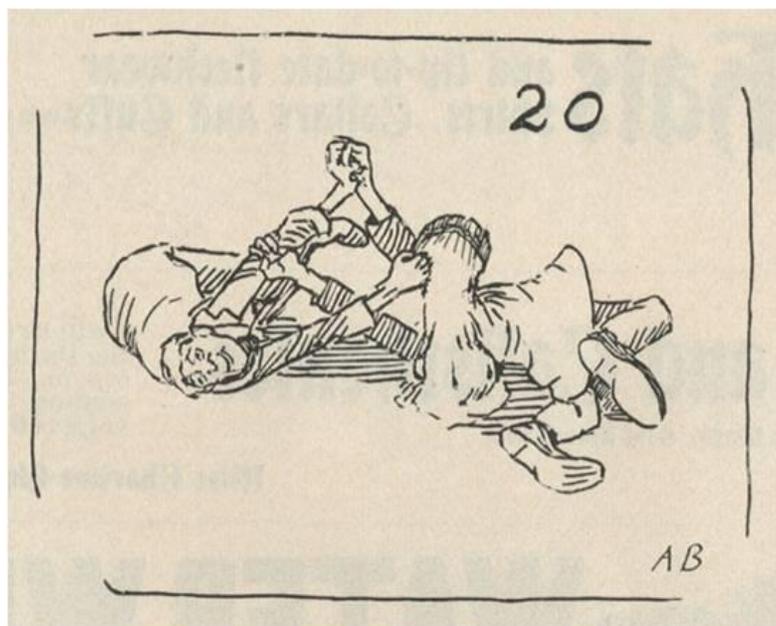
the time. Images of the courthouse and parade (Figure 5) display these events occurring during the day. These events always occurred as the final event of the tank scrap; comparatively, images of the bonfire at Stuart field (Figure 4) occurred in the dark. The Tank Scrap started at Seven O'clock and based on Figure 3 the

surroundings were already dark at the time, so the bonfire on Stuart Field would make sense to occur directly after the Tank Scrap.

While the main scraps took place on Purdue's campus, the scraps also occurred at other locations. On rare occasions these supplementary scraps would take place. The sophomores and freshman of the Purdue Medical School in Indianapolis decided to have a scrap at the state capitol building in 1907. The sophomore class was the victors and chained the freshman before marching them chained down the street. This scrap occurred twice between 1905-1907. Another supplementary scrap occurred at the Ladies Hall on the West Lafayette campus on the first floor

of the Ladies hall, resulting in the freshman being tied up and painted after two hours of fighting. These many venues show how the Tank Scrap was important to Purdue in various ways. The campus was utilized and the traditions continued for many years at these specific locations (“Variations on the Theme”).

V. Notable Tank Scraps



(Figure 6) One student pours a bucket of wet paint on the head of his victim, a student of the class of 1999.

Even though the scraps all held true to the common objective of painting the tank, some scraps individually stand out in relation to development of the tradition from 1894 to 1913. By looking through Purdue University’s history, encounters between the freshman and sophomore classes specifically developed in size and violence over the years. In analyzing the varying nature of

significant Tank Scraps, the advancement of the tradition itself may be better understood as it relates to the school and local community.

Although Tank Scrapping began in 1894, the tradition did not gain notoriety until the late 1890s. Therefore, the first documented scrap was between the classes of 1898 and 1899 (see Figure 1). As illustrated in the picture, the initial phases of the Tank Scrap were less violent and involved fewer people (“Scraps”).

When the tradition first began, the Tank Scrap was not one event, but a series of smaller conquests. Freshman and sophomores began painting and repainting the Tank in early summer to the start of classes in September. Over time, the activities eventually concluded by the first home football game of the season (“Early Years”). The significance of this deadline stands out in the Simeon V.B Miller Scrapbook, particularly in the article titled *Tank Scrap* found in the activities section of this artifact. The article focuses on last Tank Scrap of 1902, the final battle before the first home football game of the season. As outlined in the article, the night before the first game, two hundred freshmen marched to the tank, prepared to paint ’06. Shortly thereafter, two hundred and twenty five sophomores arrived. As dictated by the tradition and the twelve policemen present at the Tank, the class who won the scrap could paint their number on the giant piece of metal.

The fighting began. During the initial ten minutes, the freshmen were winning, but the sophomores soon gained advantage by tying up their opponents. By 10:30 pm, one hundred and thirty five freshmen were bound together. The sophomores camped at the tank until six o’clock in the morning, with many of the captives escaping before dawn. When the sophomores marched their captives back, a second division of freshman split off to change the ’05 to an ’06 on the Tank. After learning of the freshman’s conquest, the sophomores released their captives and changed the number back to ’05, making the sophomores the victors of the violent battle. The events surrounding this Tank Scrap demonstrate the growing size of the tradition itself, in terms student participation (V.B. Miller Scrapbook, 1900-1906).

Tactics within the Tank Scrap also began to change as the battles between freshmen and sophomores continued to escalate in size and violence. According to Purdue’s online archives, “one of the most creative [Tank Scraps] was that of the freshman class during the 1904 Scrap”

(“Creative Tactics”). Since the tank did not have a roof at this time, the freshman built a raft and placed it in the tank. Two of the freshmen then slept overnight in the tank, intending to ruin the sophomore class’ painting plans in the morning by spraying water and throwing sticks at them from within the tank. When morning came, the sophomores quickly defeated the freshmen class, but the two remaining in the tank continued to fight. Because, according to tradition, the tank needed to be painted before daylight, the sophomores monetarily bribed an engineer at the pumping station to flood the tank. When the tank became too dangerous, its inhabitants finally fled, making the sophomores the victors of 1904 Scrap. In analyzing this event, creative liberty, rather than violence, won the battle. Henceforth, Tank Scrapping began to take on a new meaning within the school community.

Since the beginning of the tradition, “the violence associated with the Tank Scrap was recognized by all concerned” (“1904 Rules”). Purdue’s administration was concerned with the negative presentation of the scraps in the newspapers including the *New York Times*. Therefore, overtime, students established rules, and when problems arose, the rules were accordingly corrected the following year. The development of the rules, as explained on the *1904 Rules* online archive page, demonstrates the escalating violence of the Tank Scraps:

“The first time the rules were published was in 1905. In 1905 the upperclassmen formed a barrier to prevent onlookers from interfering with the event. In 1908, the upperclassmen appointed 12 marshals from the upper classes to ensure no one got too rough and keep onlookers out. The number of marshals increased over time.”

As the tradition transitioned into a spectator sport (see Figure 2), Purdue built a fence to separate the townspeople and upperclassmen from the scrap between the freshmen and sophomores. As displayed in Figure 2, a group of townspeople anxiously walk to the local Tank

Scrap, enforcing the extent to which the community is involved in the event. The need for the fence also explicitly portrays the firm hold this tradition had taken within Purdue and the local community.

The opening lines of the article “Tank Scrap is Won by Sophs” from the September 27, 1907 Crawfordville newspaper *The*



Weekly Review clearly (Figure 7) A group of people from the local community walk to a Tank Scrap.

depicts the changing

nature of the Tank Scraps: “After thirty-four minutes of the fiercest fighting in the history of the tank scraps at Purdue University...” (“Tank Scrap is Won by Sophs). Although, according to the article, there were few injuries reported, the tactics within the fight escalated over time, making the fight itself more violent. The increase in brutality appeals to a larger audiences. As stated in the article, “*The fight was witnessed by several thousand people...*” (“Tank Scrap is Won by Sophs). Conclusively, at this point, the tradition extends far beyond the walls of solely Purdue. Insofar as, the community members appear to be more invested in the Tank Scrap than the students themselves:

“While interest in the fight was high among outsiders, not so much interest was taken in it among the students...[because] in the past the scrap has been held later in the season

and the newly arrived students' enthusiasm would increase with each day's discussion of the contemplated battle." ("Tank Scrap is Won by Sophs").

Conclusively, the Tank Scrap began as a function mainly centered within the school. As more students became involved in the tradition, which became increasingly violent over time, the Tank Scrap began to attract community interest. Eventually, the Tank Scrap appeared to be directed by the community rather than the students, specifically through the implementation of rules and officials. The large community focus directly correlated to the rise in the aggression during the brawls. As violence increased, community interest increased. Essentially, the Tank Scrap became more focused on the violence than the tradition itself. Therefore, the changing nature of the Tank Scrap and its gradual transition from school oriented to community driven lead into the tradition's eventual downfall in 1913.

V. Growing Troubles

As the tank scrap continued to grow so did the number of injuries and the severity of individual scraps. The pressure was building as rumblings among various groups increased. The press was looking into other stories surrounding the tank scrap. Many of these stories depicted the negative side of the tank scrap. The Los Angeles Herald even wrote a piece commenting on the number of injuries and how several were serious (Los Angeles Herald, Volume XXXI, Number 354, 18 September 1904). However, the press was not the biggest opposition to the tank scrap. The biggest resistance came closer to home.

The complaints from the staff were numerous. The grievances started as mumbling and quickly turned into outright protest and formal objections towards the Tank Scrap. According to the 1912 Debris, the staff was greatly against the Tank Scrap for its "grotesque violence" and

“lack of moral standards” (243). This increased uprising led to many changes, including the option to opt out, safety equipment, and crowd control.

The Tank Scrap was the fastest growing tradition on Purdue’s campus. Through the years, the once small tradition increased in size. The number of spectators grew as well as the number of participants. With the vast quantity of people, there was increased violence and the potential for violence. This brutality extended beyond students participating in the scrap; violence overflowed into the streets among spectators. Following years of increased violence and pressure from the community, the 1913 Tank Scrap was closely monitored by the University and other people supporting the disbandment of the tradition. The pressure on Purdue led to strict new guidelines to be placed on the Tank Scrap. The new guidelines stated:

“1. No street fighting or parading before or after the Tank Scrap by the lower classes except during the nights of the preliminary fight and the Tank Scrap. 2. The preliminary Scrap shall be held on Stuart Field and shall begin no later than 9:00 PM. 3. The Scrap will be held on the traditional grounds and start no earlier than 7:00PM and end no later than 10:00PM including the celebration following the Scrap. 4. Rubber soled tennis shoes must be worn in both fights. 5. No member of either class shall carry knives, hooks, or any other device that may cause injury. 6. All bills necessary to conduct the fights shall be contracted by the Student Council Tank Scrap Committee. 7. The scrap leaders of the two classes must submit their plans to this committee no later than the evening preceding the Tank Scrap. Upperclassmen shall be barred from participation in the Scrap. 8) The only men, except the members of the contending classes will be the thirty

marshals and the physicians. 9) The Tank Scrap shall end all class antagonism between the members of the 1916 and 1917 classes” (1913 Rules).

Essentially, the rules for Tank Scrap were significantly modified to appease Purdue’s faculty who had complained in the past.

The 1913 Tank Scrap

Due to the increased guidelines and oversight, the 1913 Tank Scrap was the mildest in terms of student participation and brutality between participating members in history, (Last Tank Scrap). For this reason, the 1913 Tank Scrap only lasted fourteen minutes. The University had already made several threats to shut down the whole tradition. The 1913 Tank Scrap was also the first year to include an option to opt, due to a heart condition or physical disability, out of the fighting since initially entire classes were required to participate in the scrap. These new rules were all measurements to appease the university and those demanding to end of the Tank Scrap. The lack of stories and violent images in the local newspaper, *The Exponent*, is evidence of the University’s disapproval of the tradition (Last Tank Scrap). However, this scrap had a tragic story that was not written about. The Tank Scrap tradition had seen its last year. The story surrounding the 1913 Tank Scrap is shrouded in mystery and lies.



(Figure 8) *Francis Walter Obenchain*

On the night of the final Tank Scrap (September 16, 1913), the participants were searched for weapons, cops were spread throughout the area, the crowds increased in size, and the students prepared for battle. One of these students was a sophomore by the name of Francis W. Obenchain from South Whitley, Indiana. He joined ranks with the three hundred other sophomores to battle the opposing five hundred freshmen. The 1913 Tank Scrap only lasted fourteen minutes and took the life of a student. At the end of the Scrap, Obenchain was dead on the ground. He was lifeless. The campus and the Tank Scrap would never be the same.

The Downfall of the Scrap

When a marshal found the body, Obenchain initially appeared unconscious. However, shortly afterwards, he was official pronounced dead. After a short review of the death, the doctor's on site claimed the cause of death to be a heart attack (Francis Walter Obenchain). However, the coroner did not do a true autopsy. He based his conclusions on Obenchain's heart conditions. Following the news of his death, the celebrations surrounding the Tank Scrap were quickly halted and the students were left shocked. The crowds faded quickly. The papers and the faculty were in a frenzy. Purdue was left to make a quick and swift decision.

“The day after the 1913 Tank Scrap, the entire university body assembled in Fowler Hall and with a unanimous vote ended the tradition.” (Tank Scrap is Scrapped). The faculty

finally had accomplished what they wanted: the end of the Tank Scrap. The lack of an autopsy also brought unwanted media coverage the university. The father of Oberchain did not want a autopsy performed because he suspected a cover up from the university.

Later on, once the body of Oberchain was returned to his home five Fort Wayne, physicians performed an autopsy and discovered Obenchain had died of a broken neck (Francis Walter Obenchain). On his neck, there was evidence of finger marks, leading to the ultimate conclusion that another student broke Obenchain's neck. To this day, mystery still surrounds the death of Oberchain. No one knows if the misconstrued report was a cover up by the university or just a mistake by the coroner.

VI. Conclusion

The Tank Scrap is a significant part of Purdue's history. The Tank Scrap brought national attention to the campus and shed light on issues such as violence among college students based on their Class year. At the time, Purdue was not the only University who participated in events such as the Tank Scrap. Violence and pranking was a common occurrence between classes. Universities looked down football during this period upon as a violent sport because of all the injuries that resulted. Some universities removed football completely from their campus. With the removal of these sports the men of these schools looked for other outlets to exert their pent up energy. The rebellious acts were a result of class pride, and the goal was to display dominance over the other classes. Many of these pranks turned into glorified traditions celebrated by future generations; however, many of these traditions became excessively violent and resulted in death.

Works Cited

- "1904 Rules." *Purdue University Customs and Traditions*. Purdue University Libraries. (n.d.)
Web. 9 Oct. 2014. <<http://collections.lib.purdue.edu>>.
- "1913 Rules" *Purdue University Customs and Traditions*. Purdue University Libraries. (n.d.)
Web. 9 Oct. 2014. <<http://collections.lib.purdue.edu>>.
- "COLLEGE STUDENTS INJURED "Tank Scrap" at Purdue University Results Seriously." *Los Angeles Herald: 2*. Associated Press. Web. 23 Oct. 2014. <<http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=LAH19040918.2.42#>>.
- "Creative Tactics." *Purdue University Customs and Traditions*. Purdue University Libraries. (n.d.) Web. 9 Oct. 2014. <<http://collections.lib.purdue.edu>>.
- Debris; 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, 1913. "Debris Yearbooks, Purdue University." *Debris Yearbook*. Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries, West Lafayette, IN. 27 Oct. 2014.
- "Early Years." *Purdue University Customs and Traditions*. Purdue University Libraries. (n.d.)
Web. 10 Oct. 2014. <<http://collections.lib.purdue.edu>>.
- Fig. 1. Purdue Football Team History. "The Players." *1929 College Football National Championship*. n.p. n.d. Web. 27 Oct. 2014. <<http://tiptop25.com/champ1929.html>>
- Fig 2. "Mechanics burning, Purdue University." *Purdue Students*. 1923. Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries, West Lafayette, IN. 27 Oct. 2014.
- "The Fight." *Purdue University Customs and Traditions*. Purdue University Libraries. (n.d.)
Web. 9 Oct. 2014. <<http://collections.lib.purdue.edu>>.

- "Francis Walter Obenchain" *Purdue University Customs and Traditions*. Purdue University Libraries. (n.d.) Web. 9 Oct. 2014. <<http://collections.lib.purdue.edu>>.
- "Last Tank Scrap" *Purdue University Customs and Traditions*. Purdue University Libraries. (n.d.) Web. 9 Oct. 2014. <<http://collections.lib.purdue.edu>>.
- Miller, Simeon V.B. "Simeon V.B. Miller scrapbook." *Purdue Scrapbooks Collection*. 1900-1906. Box 1. Virginia Kelly Karnes Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries, West Lafayette, IN. 27 Oct. 2014.
- "Purdue Traditions." *Purdue University-Purdue Traditions*. n.p. n.d. Web. 27 Oct. 2014. <<http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/about/traditions.html>>
- "Scraps." *Purdue University Customs and Traditions*. Purdue University Libraries. (n.d.) Web. 9 Oct. 2014. <<http://collections.lib.purdue.edu>>.
- Simeon V.B. Miller Scrapbook, 1900-1906. Purdue University Libraries, Archives, and Special Collections. Simeon V.B. Miller Scrapbook. Box 1. Virginia Kelly Archives and Special Collections Research Center, Purdue University Libraries, West Lafayette, IN. 01 October 2014.
- "Stuart Field." *Purdue University Customs and Traditions*. Purdue University Libraries. (n.d.) Web. 9 Oct. 2014. <<http://collections.lib.purdue.edu>>.
- "The Tank." *Purdue University Customs and Traditions*. Purdue University Libraries. (n.d.) Web. 9 Oct. 2014. <<http://collections.lib.purdue.edu>>.
- "Tank Scrap is Scrapped" *Purdue University Customs and Traditions*. Purdue University Libraries. (n.d.) Web. 9 Oct. 2014. <<http://collections.lib.purdue.edu>>.

"Tank Scrap is Won by Sophs." *The Weekly Review* 1 Sept. 1907, VOL LXVII, NO. 19 Web. 10 Oct. 2014. <<http://news.google.com>>.

"Variations on the Theme." *Purdue University Customs and Traditions*. Purdue University Libraries. (n.d.) Web. 9 Oct. 2014. <<http://collections.lib.purdue.edu>>.