

Board of Trust
Annual meeting

January 20, 1942.

Chancellor Oliver C. Carmichael,
vanderbilt University,
Nashville, Tennessee.

Dear Chancellor Carmichael:

We, the undersigned committee, representing and speaking on behalf of the Barnard Astronomical Club of Vanderbilt University, wish to propose and urge that Vanderbilt's observatory be dedicated to the memory of Edward Emerson Barnard, its first director, and become officially known as the Barnard Observatory of Vanderbilt University.

Since the other buildings on the campus, with very few exceptions, bear names which perpetuate the memory of various ones identified with the university's life and growth, it seems proper that the astronomical observatory be likewise designated.

Such designation would, also, follow a custom which is usual with university observatories, as witness: Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago, the Leander McCormack Observatory of the University of Virginia, Flower Observatory of the University of Pennsylvania, et cetera.

It further seems peculiarly fitting that Vanderbilt's observatory bear the name of Edward Emerson Barnard, native of Nashville and

alumnus of Vanderbilt. Born in poverty, Barnard had attended school for only two months in his life before he was admitted to Vanderbilt as a special student in 1883. At the same time, he was appointed assistant to Chancellor Garland in practical astronomy and director of the observatory. During the four years he remained at Vanderbilt, his many discoveries of comets and nebulae brought both the newly built observatory and the young astronomer into national notice. Before his death in 1923, his outstanding achievements in almost every field of astronomy brought him world renown and the highest honors that could be bestowed by learned scientific bodies in the United States, France, and England.

In honoring this distinguished son, Vanderbilt would also be commemorating a momentous incident in her own history. Barnard came to Vanderbilt at the invitation of Bishop McTyeire, who wisely recognized his exceptional mental ability and was impressed by his boundless energy and eagerness for knowledge. In short, Bishop McTyeire opened the way for Barnard's illustrious career by making it possible for him to acquire the necessary educational equipment he lacked.

Inasmuch as the observatory remains practically unchanged since Barnard won his first fame there, it is now frequently called the Barnard Observatory.

Barnard is a name instantly known and greatly honored throughout the scientific world. Association with such a name would give Vanderbilt's department of astronomy a prestige of real value at this

particular time, when plans are already underway for expansion of the astronomy program and the resumption of serious astronomical research.

respectfully submitted,

Latimer J. Wilson

I. J. Crawford

John Ball

S. S. VanHusen

Roberta Dillon Lyne