

# J. Nelson Norwood



The sixth president of Alfred University, John Nelson Norwood, was born on March 30, 1879 in Laneham, England. He eventually came to Alfred to join his uncle on a farm. He received his Bachelor of Philosophy from Alfred University in 1906 and taught at Olean High School for one year before going to the University of Wisconsin. After a year in Wisconsin, he went on to the University of Michigan where he earned his Master of Arts. In 1915 he received his Ph.D. from Cornell. His doctoral thesis, "The Slavery Schism in the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1844" was published as a book by Alfred University in 1923. In 1910, Norwood was made an associate professor of history and political science at Alfred University. He became a full professor the next year and chair of the department the following year. He remained chair, and starting in 1923 became Dean of University until he took his post as president in 1933. After his retirement in 1945, Norwood remained active at Alfred University, as a member of the Board of Trustees and by publishing a history of Alfred University, *Fiat Lux*, in 1957. John Nelson Norwood was also active in the community. He served on the Board of Education, was president of the Hornell Rotary Club (1937-1938), and was district governor of Rotary International from 1945-6. President Norwood died February 7, 1965 and is buried in the Alfred Rural Cemetery.

President Norwood married Ruth Forbes Sherman on September 3, 1908 in Cowanesque, Pa.; they had a daughter, Ruth, and a son, John. After Ruth's passing in 1952, Norwood later married Dora Kenyon Degen on August 28, 1954.