

Densmore Dickinson
2002 Friend of Education

Upon his death on November 5, 1993, Densmore Dickinson revealed his desire to provide young people with the same higher education opportunities that he had. He graduated from Beaver Dam High School in 1928 and from Ripon College in 1933 and was the first in his family to earn a college degree. His will established a \$1.8 million scholarship trust to make sure students from Beaver Dam would have similar opportunities. The Dickinson trust is the largest single gift ever made to Ripon College.

After earning his degree at Ripon, Dickinson returned to Beaver Dam to work as assistant manager in the family lumber business. The Dickinson name had been part of the lumber business in Beaver Dam since 1877. He later served in the Army Air Corps as a sergeant in a weather squadron and then worked for the American National Bank in Beaver Dam. In the early 1950's, Dickinson moved to Milwaukee to work in real estate and then became a self-employed, long-term personal investor.

A 1994 Ripon College publication states, "Dickinson was a quiet, unpretentious man who has spoken loudly through his estate plans ... The Dickinson trust will generate nearly \$100,000 a year in interest ... Dickinson specified that recipients of the Densmore Dickinson Scholarship for tuition and books be from Beaver Dam or a Dodge County high school who are pursuing majors at Ripon in business, mathematics, chemistry, biology or physics." His contributions to education, however, began long before this trust was established. Before his death, Dickinson had a forty-year record of contributions to Ripon College.