

James Clark Graham (1945-1954)

Before he was the seventh president of Yankton College, Dr. James C. Graham was the Dean of Ripon College. Dr. Graham received his undergraduate degree from Grinnell College in 1916. He then went to Columbia to receive a master's degree in English and later a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin.

Graham's administration had four major ambitious goals: more students, greater endowment, increased salaries for the faculty and ample funds to meet current expenses. It was a program full of hope for a new post-war era. A special "Keep the Doors Open" drive was launched in 1951 and Graham made numerous radio talks and wrote articles saying that the school was "fighting for its life." The drive was aimed towards the Yankton community which responded as it did in the past, but it eventually became evident that the support was not unanimous. Succeeding drives took its toll on the president and even though efforts were made to ease his burdens, he submitted his resignation to the trustees.