The Midas of the Wabash

Robert C. Kriebel

Published by Purdue University Press

Kriebel, Robert C.  
The Midas of the Wabash: A Biography of John Purdue.  
Purdue University Press, 2019.  
Project MUSE. muse.jhu.edu/book/76755.
All that remains of the birthplace of John Purdue is this pile of stones which was photographed in 1962.

The dry goods merchant John Purdue believed in advertising, as this message from the 1860s attests. At the time his chief partner was Lazarus M. Brown. Associates Samuel C. Curtis and O.H.P. “Mack” McCormick also are named.

One of several oil portraits of John Purdue, date and artist unknown.
One of several oil portraits of John Purdue, date and artist unknown.

This detail shot of a full-length color portrait of John Purdue, preserved on the university campus, was rendered in a medium known among artists as oil crayons, probably in about 1870.

A photograph of John Purdue which is believed to be a detail of an image created in New York City c. 1865.
Photographed at commencement in 1903, Purdue University Graduates formed a procession between University Hall and John Purdue’s modest gravestone, near the flagpole.

John Purdue’s deteriorating health is shown by comparing his handwriting on Purdue University Trustees minutes. Purdue signed the clearer version in December, 1870; the indecipherable scrawl a few months before his death in 1876.

An image of John Purdue, date and artist unknown.
Three views of the death mask of John Purdue

Born 31 October, 1802
Died 12 September, 1876