

Michigan Every Day **By Patrick Sullivan and Carole Eberly**

Sept. 12, 1887
Alma College opens

Nearly a hundred students attended classes at Alma College on its opening day on Sept. 12, 1887. The college was founded by Presbyterians who received a gift of 30 acres of land from an Alma resident and \$50,000 from a Bay City man.

It received a charter from the state in April of that year and opened with a faculty of nine.

Although the college holds on to its Presbyterian roots, the school is open to students from all backgrounds. That said, Alma takes much of its identity from its Scottish heritage. Its band wears kilts and, in addition to traditional marching band instruments, includes a bagpipe section.

The school has a registered tartan, or plaid pattern, used to make kilts that distinguish the school as a unique Scottish clan. On Memorial Day each year, the college hosts the city of Alma's Highland Festival, featuring traditional Scottish games, music and sports.