In spite of the war time scarcity and disruptions, campus social life and athletics continued, if in somewhat modified form. They still held the annual hayride, and dances continued to be looked forward to, even if the women had to dance with each other. One reported “Our Senior dance took on a War time appearance. Many uniforms appeared on the floor and cakes and punch was sold by girls dressed like Red Cross Nurses.”

While fraternities were dwindling, sororities were going strong. Women’s basketball continued to draw both players and audiences. In 1918 the female basketball team won the championship of western Pennsylvania. In something of a reversal of roles when they played “all the boys went out to see it.”

In the fall of 1918 with the flu epidemic raging, most of the football season was lost. In the winter the women’s basketball team won the Championship of Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio.

**The End of the War**

“November 11-- Break of Dawn brings glad tidings. Much excitement! Armistice is signed. Town celebrates and Normal Students join with great enthusiasm.” (Instano 1919) When the end of the war was announced, the normalites rejoiced. Marion Spencer recalled, “What excitement there was over the war news. The classes went
wild as well as the S.A.T.C. men.” By December 15, 1918 Spencer reported the S.A.T.C. men had all been dismissed and were almost gone.

The Class of 1919 thanked Miss Leonard in the Instano for her leadership and assistance in interpreting the world political situation during the war. By then, she was nearly 80 and had decided to retire. The Board of Trustees recognize her long service and recorded in the Trustees minutes that she could have a home in Sutton Hall “so long as she may desire to remain.” Rooms were reserved for Leonard and her personal maid. Trustees also agree to provide her secretarial support to encourage her correspondence with alumni which they recognized benefited the school.

**State Ownership**

From its inception, ISNS had been a private corporation, but this was not the case for many of the other normal schools in Pennsylvania. By 1918, 11 the 13 normals had been acquired by the state. Indiana had held out, but with student enrollment decreasing and wartime prices rising, the economic health of the school was in a deplorable state.

In October of 1918, Dr. Keith suggested to the Board that they take advantage of state law and try to turn ownership of the school over to the State. He continued to lobby for the change of ownership and finally, the stockholders agreed. In March of 1920 the final arrangements were made.

The stockholders were compensated for their stock and the corporation was dissolved. On May 15, 1920, and ownership of the school passed to the State of Pennsylvania.
State ownership allowed the state to appoint nine members of the Board of Trustees. It was a sign of changing times that for the first time the Board included two women. They were Edna Smith Feit, the wife of George Feit, a local attorney, and Mabel Waller Mack, the daughter of former Principal David Jewett Waller, and also the wife of a prominent Indiana attorney. Hereafter the Board would always have at least one female member.

Summary

During the Great War, in many ways ISNS women did the work of men – they made up the majority of the professors and almost the entire student body. They actively supported the war effort by accepting employment in the war industries, government offices, or relief organizations at home and abroad.

Those that stayed on campus supported the war effort by manufacturing clothing for soldiers, raising money for relief work, or purchasing war bonds and stamps, even while enduring scarcity and disease. With few men on campus, women students took first place in student organizations and athletics.

The stress of wartime left the school in dire financial states. With raging inflation and declining student enrollment, many feared the school might close. Acquisition by the state in 1920 gave needed support to the school, and in the same year that women were able to vote in national elections, women also joined the ISNS Board of Trustees. With state ownership, and the economic promises that come with such status, ISNS set its sights moving from normal school to teachers college.