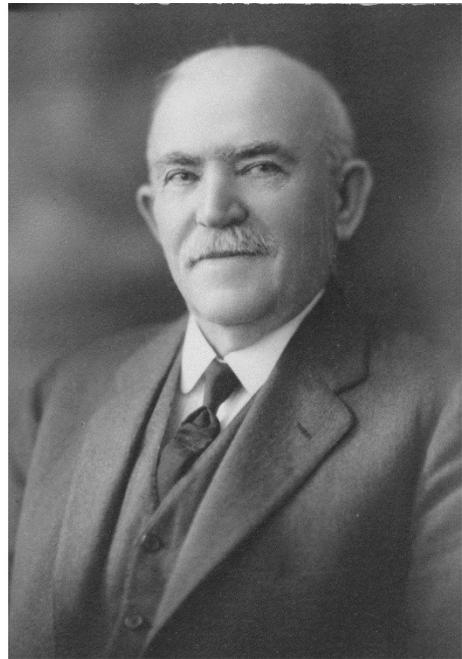


## Marcus Brown

Marcus Brown is credited with rescuing Niagara University from being foreclosed on a \$3,000 loan. John B. Stranges recounted the story in the *Rainbow Never Fades: Niagara University 1856-2006*.

"In December 1882, the sheriff of Niagara County informed the seminary's leaders that unless the loan could be repaid in full, the seminary's property would be subject to immediate foreclosure. Father Mike [Michael Cavanaugh] suggested that as a last resort he approach Marcus Brown, a Niagara Falls clothing store owner, for an emergency loan. Brown, a Jew, was known to the seminary's faculty as a fair-minded merchant and civic volunteer and to students as a clothier who sold high-quality products at reasonable prices. Moreover, Father Mike considered him a friend. On a cold December evening (the exact date is not known), Michael Cavanaugh trudged his way through snow to Brown's home in Niagara Falls, a distance of more than three miles. Brown quickly agreed to lend the seminary three thousand dollars in cash without interest. Despite the heavy snow, Brown promised to appear personally at the seminary the next morning to hand over the cash to the sheriff before the sale could begin. As he had promised, Brown arrived in time to stop the foreclosure. Two years later, the seminary repaid the loan in full."



Mr. Brown, later in life.

On April 19, 1971, Niagara University unveiled a plaque in the Gallagher Center in honor of Mr. Brown.



William T. Quirk    Very Rev. Kenneth Slattery    Richard H. Brown    Jane Brown

Mr. Brown's obituary, published by the *New York Times* on August 21, 1941, describes his life:

"Born eighty-seven years ago in Poland, Mr. Brown came here in 1863 and settle in Niagara Falls, N.Y. where he became a commissioner of public works. He moved to New York in 1904 and entered the apartment house and construction business."