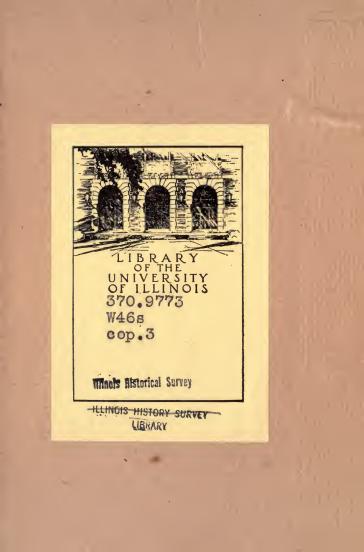


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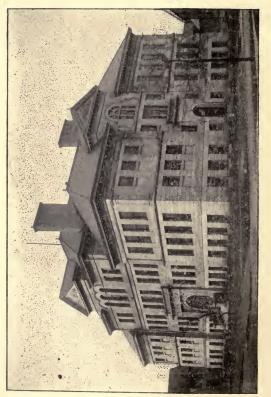




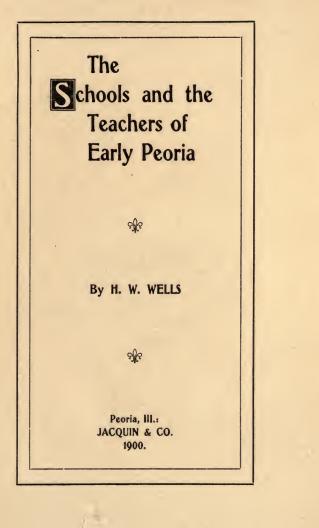








THE LINCOLN SCHOOL, Opened 1900



Press of SMITH & SCHAEFER Peoria, III.



There in his noisy mansion, skilled to rule, The village master taught his little school. --Goldsmith.

Jel. Hist. Survey



370,9773 W46 & Ill. Hist. S. cop. 3

PREFACE.

This book is altogether made up from the recollection of teachers and pupils of the long ago. These were private schools that there were never any records kept of, and of course traditions grow dim as the years run away. One remembers a circumstance one way another remembers it differently. This difference in recollection applies especially to dates and more or less to all other circumstances here related, and of course many

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errors must have crept in and some teachers entirely forgotten. The book, however, is as near correct as I could make it, and with this apology it is submitted to the considerate judgment of the surviving teachers and pupils in the schools of lang-syne and their friends who may read its pages.

Almost 80 years have elapsed since the first school was opened in Peoria, of that school, the teacher and the pupils all, save one, are long dead and gone. Concerning the next school, not a line of its history has ever been written; the teacher and all the pupils are dead or gone; every recollection of it has vanished beyond recall, in fact its existence was discovered by accident, and yet the children, or grandchildren of any teacher or pupil of any of those old schools would read with interest any ac-

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count of them, were it possible any might be found. This book contains the traditions of many schools gathered from hundreds of different sources. The recollections are dim and will soon be forgotten. Perhaps something here written which may recall to some grayheaded father, or some matronly lady the pleasant recollections of their younger days as school children, when everything looked bright and all the way was along a path strewn with flowers. In the hope that it may do so I have written these lines.



INTRODUCTORY LETTER BY N. C. DAUGHERTY.

The lower animals make no progress; they have no history; they have no records; they have nothing that could be recorded or that could constitute a history. Each generation moves on in precisely the same path as its predecessor, just as we see on the banks of the Nile to-day precisely the same method of irrigation in process with the help of man or beast as we find pictured in the temple, pictures

INTRODUCTORY LETTER

that have stood there for thousands of years. Each generation is the trustee of a civilization; and each generation owes it to itself and to posterity and to civilization to protect it and to enrich it and to transmit it; and the only institution that mankind has worked out for that purpose is the institution known as education. That institution is the one which in this century attracts of all institutions the most thought, which is receiving the most careful consideration from the world's great thinkers to-day and which is likely to deepen and widen in its scope with the coming years. It is the record of this institution in our own city of which this book treats.

Anything which enables us to compare the present with the past in the history of education must be not only profitable, but interesting. Independent of the satisfaction to

INTRODUCTORY LETTER

be derived from recalling old and almost forgotten associations, history sets up for us land marks to indicate the progress, which we have made; we may sum up the work which has been done and estimate the position we occupy.

Compare the school of 1821, its one room log shanty, one log cut out and greased paper to admit the light, its puncheon door, its mud and stick chimney, its indifferent accommodations for a dozen pupils, with the school house of 1900. We may gain some idea of the progress that has been made in the last 79 years. The steps from 1821 to 1900 is each represented in the pages before us. The school house of 1821, the school house of 1846, the school house of 1848, the boys stock school of 1854 and the school house of 1900-each step indicates advancement. At the present time the public schools are, and for more than 45 years have been under the direction of one independent authority elected by the people. The school inspectors occupy the place of school directors; the parents furnish the means in the public taxes and the inspectors are charged with the duty of wisely expending them, tested by 45 years experience this is one of the best systems yet devised for the maintenance of schools.

The early schools were in all cases private or select schools. A few families living near each other felt the necessity of schooling their children and casting about they selected one of their number as teacher. These teachers were as a rule not scholars, but they could teach the simple elements of common school education, and that was ample for those who could do no better. There were no public schools and no public money and no qualified teacher for many long years after, and of course no record of these schools has been preserved. It is the history of these private or neighborhood schools, which is related in these pages and which gives it its value. This history should have been written years ago, when the recollections were fresh and green. In a few years it will all be forgotten. This publication is undertaken at the latest day that such a history was possible, just before it fades out and is gone forever. The author and publisher deserve thanks of the public for their work.

N. C. DAUGHERTY,

Superintendent of Public Instruction.



THE SCHOOLS AND THE TEACHERS OF EARLY PEORIA.

THE history of the early schools in Peoria exists almost altogether in traditions which are fast fading out. Almost all the teachers and a large majority of the pupils are dead or have left Peoria. The subject is one which, except at the time, excited little general interest and was seldom mentioned afterwards. There was no school in or near Peoria before 1821, more likely not before 1822. The Indians certainly had no schools or school houses. So of the French, nothing ever known of them induces any suspicion that they had

either schools or teachers at any time during their occupation of the valley of the Illinois.

The Americans, the English speaking people, brought with them to the Garden of the World the first idea of school and school teachers.

The first schools were for many years select or private schools where the tuition was paid by the parents or guardians of the scholars, usually about two and a half or three dollars each scholar for each term of three months. This select or private school was the only course followed for many years.

The General Government in 1818, in the act admitting Illinois into the Union made liberal provision for free schools by reserving Section 16 in each Township for that purpose, with five per cent of

the proceeds of land sold, two-fiths of which was to be expended for roads and three-fifths for schools and a college or university.

It has been stated that Illinois is indebted to John Pope for this provision. The statement, however, is incorrect. In May, 1785, Congress passed an act for disposing of the land in the Northwest Territory, and under the leadership of Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Madison and Mr. Dane, and others, it was provided, "There shall be reserved the Lot No. 16 in every Township for the maintenance of schools in said Township." Illinois received under this distribution 985,066 acres, together with 480,000 acres for which script was issued to this State, making a total of 1,465,066 acres-almost an Empire. Illinois through a short sightedness, which is much to be regretted, sold the

most of these lands at a small price and thereby lost the magnificent provisions for free schools at a later date.

At the date of her admission all the machinery of government was new and very rough. It was not until January, 1825, that the Legislature passed a law establishing free schools in Illinois. The law is given in the appendix. This was the first law on our statute books establishing free schools. It would be thought crude, in the light of seventy-five years, which have elapsed since its passage. Its rather high sounding preamble provokes a smile, but it is an approving smile, and the declaration therein "That the mind of every citizen in a republic of ours, is the common property of society" has our hearty approval. It distinctly foreshadows the principle of compul-

sory education which Illinois did not attempt to enforce until more than fifty years later. The tax to pay teachers "in produce", not unusual at that day, with a provision for assigning the tax list and warrant for collection to the teacher, to be levied and collected by him, with the probable disagreement about the prices at which he should accept what was tendered, would seem a queer and unusual proceeding at the present date and would hardly satisfy teachers now.

The provision in the law of 1827, that no one should be assessed unless he had signified in writing his willingness to pay, and in no event more than \$10.00 in any one year, and that no person should be permitted to send a child to school, unless he had consented to be taxed, might possibly not give entire

satisfaction to some of our citizens at this date.

The Bill for the act of 1825 referred to, was introduced in the Senate by the Committee on seminary lands and education, December 1, 1824, by Joseph Duncan, chairman, then Senator from Randolph County, who was undoubtedly the author of the law. The law was an excellent one for the times and schools would have prospered under it, but the notion of a tax to support schools was hateful to a politician of that date and the Legislature soon after repealed it. Subsequent attempts at the school law were made, but Illinois was for many years without any good school law.

R. W. Paterson, who was a citizen of Southern Illinois and well acquainted with the early society in this State, in an address before

the Historical Society of Chicago, in 1880, said, "During the early history of Illinois schools were almost unknown. In the most favored districts they were kept up solely by subscription and only in the winter season, each subscriber agreeing to pay for his children pro rata for the number of days they should be in attendance. The teacher usually drew up an article of agreement which stipulated that the school should be commenced when a specified number of scholars should be subscribed, at the rate of two and a half or three dollars per quarter. In these written articles the teacher bound himself to teach spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic as far as the double rule of three. The mode of conducting schools at that day was peculiar, all the pupils studied their lessons by reading or spelling aloud

simultaneously, while the teacher heard each scholar recite alone. At the opening of the school a chapter of the Bible was read by the older scholars by verses in turn. At the close of the school in the evening, the whole school, except the beginners, stood up and spelled the words in turn as given out by the Master. In those early days the school house was in almost every instance built of logs; the books in use were usually Webster's Spelling Book, Murray's English Reader and Pike's or Dabold's Arithmetic."

It was amusing to a person of ordinary education, to listen to the pretentious, but erroneous use of language, that was indulged in by men who were ambitious to be thought more learned than their neighbors. One gentleman in speaking of a young man who had

gone from his neighborhood, to attend some college in the East, remarked, that he could not judge "How well the young man might succeed as a public speaker, but there was no doubt he would make a very "superficial scholar."

These were but the beginnings, -our early days as a State. The population of Illinois in 1820 was fifty-five thousand one hundred and sixty-five. Peoria now contains more inhabitants than the entire State did then. It is probable that one of our school houses in Peoria, now contains more room and certainly infinitely better school accommodations than all the school houses in the State did then, while the method of teaching and the qualifications of teachers is now incomparably superior.

As has already been stated, much the largest part of the history of

schools in early Peoria, exists only in the recollection of the surviving teachers and scholars. Johnson's History says, "For a good many years after the first settlement of the County of Peoria, commenced at Ft. Clark, as Peoria was then called, there was no schools or school districts, or school money. Educational affairs, like everything else, was in chaos, without form and void. The County was wilderness and the pioneer fathers were left to get along as best they could. As the settlements advanced, and as schools were desired, a central location as to neighborhood and the convenience of scholars was selected and a school house built. Each settler who had children large enough to go to school volunteered a certain amount of work towards its erection. In no case was the school house large or pretentious.

One window on each side of the structure furnished the light, that is, if the settlers had money enough to buy the sash and glass, if not greased paper supplied the place of glass. More than likely as not, a part of a log was cut out and greased paper fastened over the aperture was made to serve as a window. There was a puncheon floor, a puncheon door, on wooden hinges at one end of the building, and a mud and stick, or sod chimney and fireplace at the other end. The seats were made from puncheons or a suitable sized tree was cut to the desired length and split; the split sides were dressed with a broad axe; holes were bored in the round sides with a two-inch auger and pins inserted for support. Writing benches or desks were made by boring slanting holes in the sides of the houses, in which

supports or arms were driven and a wide plank or puncheon with the upper side dressed smooth and held in place by shoulders cut on the lower end of the supports, an



old split bottom chair was added for the teacher and the school house was complete.

The teacher in a large majority of cases, in these early schools "boarded round". That is, he

boarded a week, more or less with one patron of his school, and then with another; usually his boarding places were in the rough, homely, but hospitable homes of the pioneer. A cabin with but one room, in which the whole family cooked, ate and slept was the rule. Perhaps there was a loft reached by a ladder where the boys slept, but it was unusual to find a cabin without two beds and perhaps three in the only room down stairs, which was the family living room, as well as the kitchen and dining room. A letter from one of these old teachers written to his mother in one of the eastern states lies before me and from it I make the following extract:

* * * "I am told my school is a large one for this place. I have twenty-six scholars, most of them very regular in attendance. I have

two girls and four boys, who are older than I am, but they are well behaved and seem desirous to learn. I board this week with Mr. they are nice people and seem desirous to do anything they can to make me comfortable and at home. * T have a nice large room with a fire in it, all to myself, - I allow Mrs. ----- to cook at the fire in my room, I also allow the family to eat there. There are three beds in the room and a trundle bed, which may be pulled out at night. As I cannot use all the beds myself, I have concluded to allow Mr. and Mrs. ---sleep in one of them, and the girls sleep in another, as I do not want to disoblige such kind patrons. For dinner to-day (Sunday) we had venison and corn bread and two kinds of pie,-pumpkin pie and

Dutch cheese—so you see I live like a nabob."

Some of the early schools were very rough. There were schools where the big boys thought it a solemn duty to lick the schoolmaster and drive him off before the winter was out, and frequently they did so. Sometimes the teacher was young and athletic and came off victorious after a fight. These contests were usually a kind of rough horse play without much malice on either side. They frequently originated at Christmas time when the boys would smoke the teacher out by putting a board over the top of the chimney. Many stories have been written illustrating these contests.

There was a provision in the law at that time, by which the inhabitants of any school district might classify themselves and allot

for each class a portion of the work, and materials for buildings —see Section 22, Law 25; thus one class might cut the logs and another might hew them, a third might make puncheons and split shingle, etc., etc. Such was the course pursued in an attempt at the first school building in Peoria County, as shown in the following order:

ORDER FOR BUILDING A SCHOOL HOUSE.

In pursuance of the order of the legal voters of Peoria School District No. 1, the trustees make the following apportionment of families in classes to erect and finish a school house 16x18 feet, at least 10 feet high from the ground to the eave bearers as follows:

The first class consists of Henry Neely, James Walker, John Ham-

lin, John Barker to cut the logs for the body and sills, ribs and bunting poles, joists, sleepers and eave bearers, chimney and chinking stuff, door facings and to split puncheon stuff for floor, benches and other necessary timber for said house.

The second class to consist of Isaac Walters, James Latham, Wm. Clark and Augustus Langworthy, to cut and split seven hundred clapboards, hew the puncheons for floor and to lay the floor.

The third class to consist of Wm. Holland, Abner Eads, George Sharp and Alva Moffitt, to haul the timber and stone for the house and to chink the same, cut out and face the door and windows and cut out out the fire place.

The fourth class to consist of Isaac Hyde, John Dixon, John L. Bogardus and Archibald Allen, to build the chimney, daub the house, make the door and windows and writing table; to hang the door and bank the house. All the classes to join, to raise and cover the house and lay the floor.

To Mr. Elijah Hyde, you are requested to call on each individual in the above classes and to notify all those belonging to the first. second and third class to meet and perform their several portions of labor from Wednesday to Friday next both inclusive. And the fourth class to meet and perform their respective portion of labor from Monday to Wednesday next, both inclusive. You will not fail to serve the same on each of the above named persons on or before the 12th day of the present month and make due return hereof and fail not under pain of \$5.00.

(Signed) NORMAN HYDE Clerk Peoria Common School District No. 1. December, 1825.

Judging from the names in these several classes, who were all citizens of Peoria, the school house must have been built somewhere in Peoria, if built at all. It was, however, much easier to make the plan than to build the house. The house may have been built, if so it has entirely disappeared, not even a recollection of it remains, and it may be strongly doubted whether the house was ever built.

In 1876 President Gregory of the Illinois Industrial University of Champaign, issued a circular to teachers and friends of education throughout the state, soliciting historical sketches of the schools in the several counties. In response to this circular, Johnson says the following sketch was prepared, which is the only account of the very early schools now remaining. The response says:— "The first school taught at Peoria, or at Ft. Clark, as it was then called, was taught by a man named Peter Grant, about 1821 or 1822. The school was necessarily small and the teacher was paid by subscription, so much each quarter for each scholar."

James Eads, one of the pupils who attended this first school, is still [in 1900] living in Peoria. He is ninety-four years old. He lives with his grand-daughter, Mrs. Baker, who with her husband lives on the bank of the river near the foot of Fulton street. He describes the old school house as follows: It was a small building on the river bank below Water street and near Bridge, of course there were no streets then]. The house was built of unhewed logs, a part of a log was cut out and greased paper instead of glass was inserted to ad-



JAMES EADS Aged 94

Attended the first school ever held in Peoria, taught by Peter Grant, 1821.



mit the light. It was chinked and daubed with mud, a stone hearth and fire place, with a stick and mud chimney, and a puncheon door, completed the structure. Ogee's hewed log cabin which was famous afterwards as a school house and court house was not built for two or three years after. Eads says that four of his father's family, his brother Thomas and his two sisters, two of his cousins, the children of Abner Eads, and some others were among the pupils. They are all dead.

James Eads, the old gentleman referred to, was a son of Wm. Eads, who came here in 1820, the year after Josiah Fulton, Abner Eads and party landed here. He came with his father in the fall of the year, when he was about fourteen years old, and "pretty soon" as he says, he thinks the next year after,

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he went to school to Peter Grant. Grant was a tall slim man about thirty, he was not married at that time. He was a pretty strict disciplinarian and whipped pretty liberally to keep the boys straight. He whipped Eads for some boyish prank. Eads says he dare not tell his father for fear he would be whipped again. Grant did not stay long in Peoria. It is said he went to Lewistown in Fulton county, but the history of early settlers in Fulton county does not show his name.

Mr. Eads mentions in this connection, a thing not generally known and though it does not relate to schools or school houses, I cannot forbear to relate it. He says his father and his uncle Abner started the first ferry at Peoria-He says they bought two pirogues, or canoes, thirty or forty feet long, lashed them together and laid rails

thereon, covering the same with straw, and that was the first ferry at Peoria. He says he well knew old Bisson (pronounced Besaw) an old French trader, who kept a Trading house at Wesley City.

This school taught by Grant was certainly the first school in Northern Illinois; it was probably ten years before any school in Chicago, and it ranks with the first, if it was not the very first in the state. There were perhaps some villages in Illinois settled earlier than Peoria by the Americans, and somewhere there may have been a school, but none is known to have existed. James Eads is without doubt the oldest living person attending any school in Illinois. He speaks the Pottawatomie language and has acted as interpreter. His recollection is clear, and his mental

faculties bright. He has lost the use of his lower limbs.

The school next after this seems to have been taught by Norman Hyde in 1825. Hyde was the first Probate Judge of Peoria County. He was elected January 1825, and was commissioned by Governor Edward Cole. He was a surveyor and his handwriting shows he was an educated man.

In the papers of the Probate Court in the estate of James Latham is an account, from which I make the following extract:

Estate of JAMES LATHAM To N. HYDE, Dr.

1825	
March 16, To amount of School Sub-	
scription	.\$7.00
June 22, To amount of School Bill	. 6 95
Aug. 24, To amount of last quarter	
of School	. 2.51

This extract from an account arising in 1825, before any tax

could be levied, or before any school officers were elected is tolerably good evidence that Norman Hyde taught here in 1825.

It is probable the next school in Peoria was taught by Mrs. Maria Harkness, she was certainly the first female teacher and there begin to be clearer glimpses of the school, taught by *a dame* now almost forgotten. Maria Harkness was the daughter of Isaac Walters and the wife of James P. Harkness. In a letter written in 1879 and furnished President Gregory for his information concerning her school, she says: *

*A letter was written to the University of Illinois at Champaign, asking for information on this subject and the following is the reply received.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS,

President's Office

CHAMPAIGN, ILL., February 20, 1900. H. W. WELLS--Peoria, Illinois.

DEAR SIR-

Your letter addressed to the President of the Illinois University has been referred to me for reply.

There is nothing in the records of the University of Dr. Gregory's circular letter asking for Historical

"In May, 1826, as was then the custom, I wrote out an article of agreement proposing to teach a school at Peoria, as Fort Clark had then come to be called, enumerating the branches I proposee to teach-spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and needle work, at \$1.50 per scholar for a term of three months and board. The teachers in those days boarded around among the patrons of the school. Thirty scholars were subscribed and I had an average attendance of twenty-four. My patrons were Judge Latham; then Indian Agent; Dr. Augustus Langworthy, Joseph Ogee, Indian interpreter; John L. Bogardus, John Dixon, John Parker, George Sharp, William and Abner Eads, Capt. Joseph Moffitt and Isaac Waters (who was the father of the teacher.) The school was commenced in a log cabin owned by William Holland, the village blacksmith, where it was continued but one week, because there were no windows and no light except the open door. It was opened the second week and completed in Ogee's new hewed log cabin, which was afterwards used as a court house " +

School data; nothing to show that it was ever replied to. There is not even a copy of his letter. The entire Centennial exhibit from the University has been carefully examined. There is nothing upon the subject to which you refer. Yours very truly,

LITTIA HEATH, Secretary to the President.

[†]The County Commissioners March 8th, 1825, Court ordered the building a Court House twenty feet square and nine feet between the floor and the joists. The order was, however, rescinded a short time after. No court house was built until 1885,

This is the first and most definite account we have of the schools in early Peoria. The teachers and all the pupils so far as known, are long since dead.

Maria Harkness left several acquaintances in Peoria county, among whom may be mentioned Mrs. Emerson, residing on Evans street, Mrs. Lovell Harrison, residing on Hurlburt street and some others, from whom it may be gathered she was in many respects a remarkable woman for the times. She was educated beyond most women of that early day. She was entirely capable as a teacher, of more advanced scholars than attended her school in Peoria. Some time about in the forties, two pupils in one of the schools, (prob-

when the brick building on the square was built. Ogee's hewed log cabin here mentioned was the court hou e and school house for many years. It stood on the bank of the river.

ably Page's), were discussing with each other some question in grammar,-some rule about the infinitive mode,-an old lady, a total stranger to both of them, heard them some time and at length interrupted the discussion and gave them a clear explanation of the rule, and its application, to great astonishment of both of them. It turned out the old lady was Maria Harkness. Her latter davs were somewhat embittered. She claimed title through her father to a tract of land in the upper part of the city, now worth perhaps a million of dollars, and to which she attempted to establish her rights. She was defeated by lapse of time and perhaps through lack of friends and means to push her rights. She was at length sent to the poor house, from which she was rescued by her son. She went to Minne-

sota some time in the fifties. She adopted and wore bloomer costume for several years while in litigation about her land, and until her death. E. C. Harkness of Elmwood was her son.

In his history of Peoria County, Johnson says that Isaac Essex taught school here about 1823 or 1824. This is probably a mistake. Essex came here, according to his own statement to Mrs. Shallenberger, in her history of Stark County, in 1826. He probably taught school here that winter. He did not reach Peoria until the latter part of November, and Mrs. Harkness taught school in the summer of 1826, she must have preceded him. Essex was a strong antislavery man, though born in Virginia, he was an active Methodist, and in fact, a very decided man.

He was born in Albermarle County, Virginia, in 1800.

On the 25th of December, 1821, Christmas Day, he married Miss Isabel Williams, and removed to Ohio. From Ohio he removed to Illinois, reaching Peoria the 26th of November, 1826. Crossing the river at Sharp's Ferry. When he reached Peoria he had \$14.00 in cash, a small stock of household goods and a team. He found shelter for his family and that winter taught a mission school under some arrangement with the Rev. Jesse Walker, the first Methodist preacher and the first Protestant preacher north of Alton.

He established Mission schools at various points in northern Illinois for the Indians. One here at Peoria, one at Mission point near Ottawa. White children were admitted, but the schools were called

Mission schools. Essex probably taught one of these Mission schools. The next summer Essex left his family and went into what is now Essex Township, Stark County, split clap boards and cut logs for a a cabin. He then took his family and went there. It was then Putnam County, afterwards Stark. He put up his cabin and to use his own phrase, "Cut out a log and moved in." In 1832 the Blackhawk war was raging; the families in this part of the state concentrated for safety, he moved his family to Peoria, where he again taught school for a short time. The war scare being over he surrendered his school to a Mr. Allen and returned to his farm in Stark County. He was a man of strong personality, a well known and highly respected citizen of Essex Township, which was named after him, He accumu-

lated considerable property and afterwards moved to Rock Island County, where he died in 1877.

I can find no trace of Mr. Allen to whom Essex is said to have surrendered his school. The name of Henry Allen appears as one of the first voters on the first poll books in 1825, and Archibald Allen's name is found in the first assessment list returned by John L. Bogardus in . 1825. It may have been either of these gentlemen, nothing is certainly known of them. It was probably Archibald Allen whose name appears in the fourth class of those assigned to build a school house. (See above.)

Probably the next school was taught by Samuel C. McClure, though it is not certain he was the man. Samuel C. McClure was, at one time, one of the owners of the land on which Bigelow & Under-





FIRST FRAME SCHOOL HOUSE. Washington St., below Chestnut.

hill's Addition to Peoria was located. It is said McClure taught here, and one or two old citizens think he was the man. H. C. Wright, now residing at Henry in reply to an inquiry writes as follows:

HENRY, ILL., Jan. 23, 1900. H. W. WELLS-Peoria, Ill.

DEAR SIR:

Referring to your letter of November 18th. The first school I attended in Peoria was in the old Log Court House on Water Street. near Bridge. I think it was in 1830, and that the teachers name was McClure. Jackson and Washington Sharp, who lived south of Peoria, and Frank Moffitt on the Kickapoo, were among the scholars. I remember, but its been years since I have heard from any of them. The second school house that I remember was a Frame Building on Washington Street. It seems to me it was there I first met Moses Dusenberry. My recollection is that the Washington Street School House was built just after the Black Hawk war. I attended school in the log house before the war.

Yours,

H. C. WRIGHT.

James Eads remembers McClure

perfectly well and says he thinks he taught school here. He is not certain.

Among the early teachers in Peoria was Charles Ballance, he came here in 1831; he had taught school for two winters in Kentucky before coming, and after reaching Peoria, in the fall 1832, taught school a short time, he tells his own story very modestly in his history of Peoria. He says-"I believe the first school attempted in Peoria was in the fall of 1832, the author seeing some children running about and learning that there was no school in the village rented a room and opened a school, but it was so badly patronized for want of children that it soon closed." Here he stops. His subsequent history is tolerably familiar to our citizens. He died August 10, 1872. Ballance also says in his history,

the first house that was built in Peoria on purpose for a school house, was built by the author in 1846, on a lot on Walnut street, between Washington and Adams streets, on the corner of the alley on the lower side, a private school was kept there until the public school was opened under the law of 1857. It seems a little strange that there was no school house in Peoria until as late as 1846, but school houses were scarce fiftyfour years ago. Miss Kate Keller taught in that house in 1846 and in 1847. She had a tolerably large school for the times. She was a daughter of the Rev. Isaac Keller, and still lives at Keller Station, a few miles out on the Rock Island & Peoria R. R. She was an excellent teacher, several of the Ballance children attended her school. She devised a scheme of rewards.

which greatly stimulated her scholars. When any scholar was perfect in any study for an entire week she gave a "reward of merit card", on which was a request for the child's parents to pay it a pickayune (6¼ cents). One little girl, Miss Jennie Ballance, succeeded in getting these rewards to the amount of \$1.25 in one term and of course her father paid her the money and she felt as though she owned the earth.

Michael Pfeifer, the hardware merchant on Bridge street, afterwards bought this old school house and in 1862 moved it to Washington street, two or three doors below Maple, where it is now standing in good repair. It has had a kitchen built on the rear, otherwise it is as it was fifty-four years ago.

The next school concerning which any information has come to us, was kept by Isaac Sheldon

Dewey, in 1832, who taught in the log structure before mentioned on the bank of the river. Information as to this school is given by Moses Dusenbery, an excellent and well preserved gentleman, residing at 102 Jackson Street. He is a bricklayer and plasterer by trade, an excellent workman, who still works daily at that business, notwithstanding he is verging towards 80 vears. His recollection is clear and bears evidence of truthfulness on its face. He says-"I first went to school to Mr. Dewey in 1832, I know it was in 1832, because it was the year before the great meteoric shower, which they say took place in November 1833."

He describes the storm, he says some one was on the other side of the river who came to notify Col. Menard that some member of his

family was sick.* The messenger called several times, but could not arouse the ferryman, and Mr. Dusenbery, then a lad about 14 years old, went in a skiff and brought him to this side, on returning with his passenger, about the middle of the stream, the shower of meteors began. He was not frightened, but when he reached his home. climbed on top of his father's log cabin, in order to see how the stars fell, or how near they came to the earth. The falling of the stars, he says, made it as light as day, people were much frightened, many were praying and thinking the world was coming to an end. He says he did not go to school very long, at least not a full term, when Mr. Dewey was taken sick and the school was closed.

^{*}Menard kept a trading store on the corner of Main and Water Street, but his family lived on the other side of the river.

Hiram Wright, now living at Henry, and who writes the letter given above, and Henry Moffit, were among the scholars, and probably with Mr. Dusenbery, the only ones who now survive. Henry Moffit was probably the first white child born in Peoria County. He lives in the lower part of the city. Dewey was rather a small man, he had a scar- on his face, caused as Mr. Dusenbery thinks, by a gun shot wound, which somewhat marred its regularity. He was probably about 30 or thereabouts. He died and was buried in Peoria a number of years ago. His son, Thomas Dewey, now lives on Glendale Avenue.

Mr. Dusenbery tells a characteristic anecdote of the first and only Sunday School he remembers. This he thinks was held in the log court house on the bank of the river.

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The school was opened one Sunday afternoon, and the lesson about to begin, when one of the boys listening, leaned out of the window a moment, and then shouted Steamboat, by thunder, and bounded out of the room. He was followed by the teacher and all the scholars and that ended the Sunday school for that day at least.

The next teacher of whom we have any account, was Miss Elizabeth Morrow. She taught two or three terms here, commencing probably in the summer of 1832 or 1833, in the little log cabin before mentioned, and later in a little frame building, which stood on Main Street, opposite the Court House, where the Herron Block now stands. This building was leased to her by Charles Ballance. She was a good looking woman, medium sized, blonde complexion,

and wore linsey woolsey dress, then worn by all women. Among her pupils was Capt. J. H. Hall, who attended in the little frame building opposite the Court House. He is perhaps the only one now living in Peoria. Miss Morrow went away, came back in 1836 and taught in a private house on Main Street. The house was occupied by a family named Little. Miss Morrow boarded with the family and taught in one room of the house. She next taught in a house near and above where the First National Bank now stands on the corner of Main and Washington Street. P. C. Bartlett well remembers attending this school. He says his father lived in a little yellow frame house on the corner of Adams and Hamilton Street, where the Eldrick Smith Block now stands. He says he sometimes heard wolves in

the night which came to steal pigs or chickens from Mr. Anderson, who lived lower down on Main Street.

Miss Morrow afterwards married Amos Stevens, a prosperous man living near Elmwood in Peoria County. She died about 1838.

About 1833, or possibly 1834, Cyrus W. Parker taught one term here. The family came from Ohio in a lumber wagon; they struck the Illinois river somewhere below here, when they sold their team and came here by boat. On reaching Peoria, he found some trouble in getting shelter for his family. At length he managed to get his family provided for and secured a log shanty, where he opened a school. This was probably in the old Court House. He afterwards moved his family to Washington, Tazewell County, where he died

some 30 or more years ago. The latter part of his life he was nearly blind; he was an excellent teacher, much better qualified than teachers usually were at that time.

Mr. Douglass was the next to teach a winter school, according to memory of old settlers. He taught in a little frame building not far from where Anthony's Bank now stands on Main Street in 1836 or



1837, and afterwards in the First Congregational Church, a onestory frame building just across the alley above Rouse's hall. It

was plastered both inside and outside, and was built in 1835. It is claimed to be the first church buildin Peoria.

Mr. Douglass was a fine looking man about 28 years of age and an excellent teacher. John H. Hall and P. C. Bartlett were among his scholars. He also taught in a log school house, which stood where Spinnetto's saloon once stood on the lower side of Main Street, just above the alley between Jefferson and Madison. The front has lately been changed and it is now occupied as a Millinery store.

There was a school opened here about 1838 or 1839, the teacher's name is remembered by Mrs. Harrison as Mr. Winslow. The school room was on Washington Street, up-stairs in a building, situated in the rear of what is now Robt. Davis' Drug Store. Capt. John Hall,

T. B. McFadden, P. C. Bartlett and Clint Farrell were among the scholars.

Miss Margaret Fash, now Mrs. Harriman Couch, residing at 312 South Jefferson Avenue, opened a select school in the old Court house on Water Street in 1834. Her school was a large one for the time, she had about 30 pupils and kept a summer school one term. Mrs. Couch is a very pleasant old lady and bids fair to live many winters yet. Her recollection is clear, although more than sixty-five years have elapsed since her school was closed. Miss Rouse, now Mrs. Capt. Sweeney, now living in New Jersey, and her sister, now Mrs. Winchell, residing on Fayette Street, were among his pupils.

In 1835 Miss Sarah Bigelow, who subsequently married Jas. C. Armstrong, and is now a widow resid-

ing at 1009 Jackson Street, also taught a summer school. Her school was well attended. Miss Margaret Rouse, nowMrs.Winchell, and her sister, Mrs. Capt. Sweeney and one or two of the Hamlin children were among her pupils. Mrs. Winchell is probably now the only one now living in Peoria. Mrs. Armstrong was for years Librarian of the Peoria Mercantile Library, and though now in feeble health, her mental faculties are unimpaired. She was an excellent teacher and popular with her pupils and patrons.

Miss Jane Taggert, a daughter of Mathew Taggert, taught in what was then known Hunts Row, somewhere near 1838. Hunts Row was a row of frame buildings on the corner of Adams and Fulton Streets, where the B. & M. now stands; each house consisted of one room,

about fourteen feet square. They were built by Judge Hunt to rent. If the family of new comers was able to get one room, they thought they were well provided for at that time. Miss Taggert afterwards taught on Washington Street, on the lot now occupied as Proctor's Lumber Yard. Henry T. Baldwin and Mrs. Harry Van Buskirk were her pupils. The family lived there and she taught in one room of the house.

She afterwards taught in a house known as the Cleveland House. It was situated on Jefferson Avenue on the corner of Fayette Street. It was afterwards moved to the lower end just above the alley, between Jefferson and Madison Avenue. It was a large house for the times. The Taggert family lived there and Miss Taggert taught in one of the rooms. The lot is now owned

by Mr. Schradzki, who has torn down the old house. T.B. McFadden, Clint Farrell, Miss Richardson, now Mrs. Lovell Harrison, Sanford Richardson, many years a missionary in Syria, and Aunt Lizzie Aiken, the well known army nurse were among her scholars. The house was known as the Cleveland House, probably because Henry W. Cleveland built it and lived there in 1836. Miss Taggert was a rather precise, formal lady, but was reasonably well qualified as a teacher at that time. Later she lived with her father in a little low frame building on Jefferson Avenue across from the Greeley School. She was small, below the size of women usually, and was a strict disciplinarian. The family have disappeared and are probably all dead.

About 1838 Asa T. Cassell taught in the old plastered church on

Main Street for one term. He was a brother of Doctor Cassell, who was well known in early Peoria; he is said to have been a good teacher. He also taught early in the forties in the building on the corner of Main and Adams Streets. where McDougal's Drug Store now stands. The building was a twostory frame. It was built by Fisher Brothers of Lacon. The upper story was for some years used as a school room, P. C. Bartlett afterwards occupied the lower story as a grocery store. Main street was afterwards cut down and the house was left some two or three feet higher than the street. T. B. Mc-Fadden, P. C. Bartlett and William Reynolds were among the scholars.

A Mr.Johnson taught in a building near the old church and next above the alley on the lot where

the old Library Building stands. It was a little frame building, built for a residence. T. B. McFadden and Clint Farrell were among the scholars. He afterwards taught up-stairs on Main street. about two doors below Robert Davis' Drug Store. The school room was entered by stairs on the next building above with a bridge across the space to the school room. The school was a large one for the time. Johnson Cole was one of the pupils attending this school.

Robt. Cooper, a brother of J.K. Cooper of legal fame, taught here in 1845, on South Washington street, at the corner of Fulton. He was a good teacher, well qualified and a regular martinet in discipline. Henry T. Baldwin and Johnson Cole were among his pupils. His school was up-stairs in a two-story building.

Mr. Cooper also taught in the Congregational, then Presbyterian Church, for one or more terms. Cooper was a man slow of speech, a better than ordinary scholar and teacher. His school was large for that day; the exact date of school cannot be certainly learned; neither can I learn the exact date at which Johnson taught, but it was probably 1837 or 1838-1839, and probably in the winter. Mr. Cooper also taught near the corner of Washington and Fulton streets in the forties. He was a strict disciplinarian, a tall, spare man, not unlike in physical make up to his brother, the well known lawyer.

Miss Royes taught a Summer School here in 1837 or 1838 in the old Congregational Church; her school was large for that day; she is said to have been a good teacher and a favorite with her pupils. Miss

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Russell, now Mrs. Caleb Whittemore, was among her pupils, and speaks well of her as a teacher.

About 1839, Mr. Rice opened a school near the corner of Main and Adams street, up-stairs in the building built by Fisher Bros., and afterwards used as the Postoffice. He taught one or two winters here and died some thirty or more years ago. It is said that Rice afterwards taught in a carpenter shop built by Charles Benton, on Second street near Franklin, but I can learn nothing definite about this school. In front of the shop on Second street, was a fine brick building, built by Doctor Cassell in 1839. The house is still standing, although the carpenter shop has long since disappeared.

On the 7th of January, 1840, the Rev. David Page opened a private school in the old Buxton House,

which stood on Adams Street, near Fulton, about where the Powell Block now stands. His sister-inlaw. Miss Boardman, was his assistant. He taught two or three terms in this house and lived in the other half of the same house. This school was famous in Peoria at that time: he called his school the Peoria Academy. It was much better than an ordinary district school of that day and was by far the best school in Peoria up to that time. About 1843 or 1844 he removed his school to near the corner of Second and Franklin street on the alley (there were no alleys at that date, all was open ground) into Wilkinson's carpenter shop, which he fitted up as a school house. He published an advertisement, describing the school. He stated that children of every age were admitted from the alphabet and upwards

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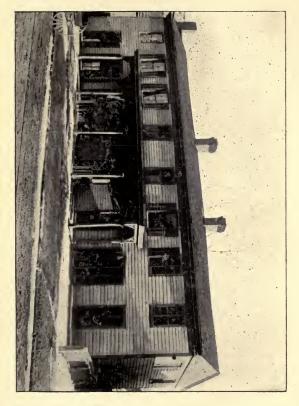
through the whole circle of sciences as far as they were taught in any academy. The branches above ordinary common schools are geometry, algebra, surveying, natural philosophy, chemistry, history, celestial geography, astronomy, logic, rhetoric, declamation and composition. The Greek and Latin languages are also taught. Very small boys in their first attempt at going to school are sometimes placed in the female department; almost any kind of produce received for tuition at a reasonable price.

Miss Abbey Lovett and Miss Louisa Aldrich, graduates of Mt. Holyoke, were employed as assistants; Miss Aldrich taught Latin and Greek and Miss Lovett taught French. Page's Academy was a popular school and was reasonably profitable to the proprietor. During the early part of this school, Miss

Boardman, who was his wife's sister, and his wife, were his assistants. Mrs. Lovell Harrison, now residing on Hurlburt street, was one of his pupils, and speaks in very high terms of the efficiency of his school. The Rev. Page was a small man, below the ordinary size; his wife and Miss Boardman were large, as much over the ordinary size for women as Page was below the ordinary size for men. Page on one occasion announced to the school that business called him away, that he should be gone until after dinner and that he was compelled to leave the school in charge of his wife for that morning. He charged the scholars to be good boys and not make any disturbance etc. He had hardly gone, when one of the boys, said to be BobCox or Daniel Van Bard, took a large pin and bent it so that it could be

placed on a seat where it would pierce the tender extremity of any one who would sit down. One of the boys managed unnoticed to slip this pin on the chair of the Mistress, who presently sat down on it. The teacher screamed, ran out of the room, and the boys had the balance of that forenoon to themselves. Capt. John H. Hall, Clint Farrell, Murry Blakesley, Daniel Van Baird, Bob Cox, Sanford Richardson and many others were among his pupils. For some boyish prank played on the teacher, Page was one day about to thrash one or two of these boys. The boys, however, made common cause with each other and all of them grabbed their caps and ran out. Their continued absence gave Page some uneasiness and after school he started to find them. which he did. He told them to

THE, OLD BUXTON HOUSE, 212 and 214 Glendale Ave





come back and he would not punish any of them. The boys went back to school and the escapade was overlooked. They say Page treated them very kindly after that.

The old Buxton House deserves a passing notice. It was a double frame house, two stories high and the largest house in Peoria at the time it was built. It stood, as stated, where the Powell Block now stands, near the corner of Adams and Fulton street. It was built in 1834 by Hurd and Hamlin for old Maid Buxton, as she was then called, and was occupied by Buxton and Wolford until Buxton died in 1835 and until his widow was compelled to leave it. It was a famous old house in its time and is still standing at No. 212 and 214 Glendale Avenue, where it was moved by Henry Mansfield, a number of years ago; it is now occupied

as a tenement house. The old house did not extend beyond the porch shown. The two ends have been built since. Abraham S. Buxton was the editor of the "Champion", the first newspaper printed in Peoria. He had what at that day was an extensive and well selected library. The books were sold by his administrator. A list of them can be seen in the inventory now on file in the Probate Court.

Miss Mary Waters taught a select school in the summer of 1839 or 1840; the school consisted of very young children. Miss Leah Thomas, now Mrs. Chas. Benton, who lives on Franklin street, at the head of Sixth street, was one of her scholars. Her only recollection of the school is, that Miss Waters was a very good, and a very pretty woman. She afterwards married

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John McClay Smith, a stately old gentleman, who kept a Grocery on the corner of Fulton and Washington street, where Zell's Bank now stands. She died about a year after her marriage. The following letter contains more of her history than can otherwise be given:

CALDWELL, KANS., Nov. 25, 1899. H. W. WELLS, ESQ.

DEAR SIR:

Your letter of inquiry is received. Am sorry, I can give you but meager informal tion, as to my Aunt, Mrs. Mary Waters Smith, connection with Peoria schools. All I have for reference is an obituary notice printed in the "New York Observer", the year of her death, 1848. * * * She came with her father, Rev. John Waters, with a colony from New York State, which settled on the site of the present city of Galesburg in 1835.

She soon after engaged in teaching in a small log schoolhouse in Peoria County, also in several other of the schools in the state in successive years.

In 1841 she went to Green Bay. Wiscousin, and taught six years, she returned to her father's house in spring of 1847 and the fol-

lowing June became the wife of J. McClay Smith, of Peoria, Ill.

It is evident that she taught somewhere in Illincis about five years, but when she taught in Peoria, what kind of a school, or how many scholars, I have no facts on which to base reply. She died August 17, 1848. * * *

Regretting my inability to give more of the desired information.

Respectfully yours,

HATTIE L. WATERS.

In the summer of 1844, a convention was held at Peoria for the purpose of discussing a system of education for this state. The convention was attended by John S. Wright of Chicago, Judge H. M. Wead, the father of S. D. Wead. the attorney, Thos. Kirkpatrick, of Winchester, and some others. They prepared a memorial to the Legislature, which resulted in a new school law, but as usual, resulted in very little benefit to schools; -in fact, a new school law was enacted at almost every session of the Legislature. and repealed by the

next. The different school laws enacted by our Legislature would make a very large volume if published together.

John Porter taught here in 1844 in a schoolhouse on the bluff side of Washington street, between Main and Fulton streets, and afterwards in the Congregational church. He afterwards bought the lot on Main street and built the building now occupied by McFadden as a bakery. He taught two or three terms in that building. His wife also assisted him and taught music. His son, Gib, then a chunk of a boy, assisted in teaching the young children. Mrs. Harry Van Buskirk remembers that Gib Porter taught her her letters. While this building was being made ready he lived on Fulton street in the building across from the City Hall, now lately torn down. He

afterwards moved his family back to Massachusetts. He was killed by the explosion of a boiler near Morris in Grundy county. Henry T. Baldwin, Jacob and Peter Frye, Clint Farrell, the Rouse boys, Lem Lindsay and Vic Hamlin, now the wife of Harry Van Buskirk, were among his pupils.

Mr. Hooper taught up-stairs about where Clarke's Dry Goods Store on Adams Street is. He probably taught in 1846. Hooper was a fat old man, and was in the habit of taking a nap after dinner. Sometimes, however, he would "possum" on the boys. On one occasion he lay with his head on his desk, apparently asleep, when one of the boys on a seat near him made some noise. Instantly the old man was awake and as he could not tell which boy was at fault, he deliberately thrashed the whole

bench of boys, remarking, they probably deserved it anyway. Henry T. Baldwin and the two Merwin boys can remember and tell about this.

William Frisby taught in the old Lowry Church in 1844. Valenentine Schlink was one of his pupils. He did not teach a full term. Business called him out of town and Ephraim Hinman taught the remainder of the term. He was not a teacher; he was a lawyer and taught school for lack of something better to do.

Jim Anderson, the house mover, who turned the church around, said he used to go to school in it. Murry Blakesley, Johnson Cole and Valentine Schlink were also pupils at that school.

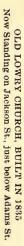
Hinman also taught in this old Church. Val. Schlink distinctly remembers going to school there.

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He says he carried some maps for Himman, when he removed to his school house on Monson street. Others taught there but their names are forgotten.*

Ephraim Hinman was a famous teacher in Peoria in the forties and fifties. His principal school was in a plastered brick building, situated at 513-515 Monson Street. The building is still standing. It was situated in a low place or sag and in wet weather was surrounded by water and a long plank for the pupils to cross on, extended from the sidewalk to the door. Bob Bur-

^{*} Some interesting memories cling around the old church. It was built in the spring of 1835 by John K Lowrey, a zealous old-school Presbyterian. It was undoubtedly the first building built for church purposes in Peoria. The building was sometimes called Keller's church, because he preached there. The church is still standing substantially where it was built. It has been turned half around and now fronts on Jackson street, just below Adams. A story has been added to it and it has been disguised with a coat of red paint. It has been occupied for over 40 years as a residence by Peter Hayden. Hallance gives some interesting reminiscences about the old church. See Appendix.







dette has written up this Hinman school better than I can, and let Bob tell the story:

THE STRIKE AT HINMAN'S.

Away back in the fifties, "Hinman's" was not only the best school in Peoria, but it was the greatest school in the world. I sincerely thought so then, and as I was a very lively part of it, I should know. Mr. Hinman was the Faculty, and he was sufficiently numerous to demonstrate cube root with one hand and maintain discipline with the other. Dear old man; boys and girls with grandchildren love him to-day, and think of him among their blessings. He was superintendent of public instruction, board of education, school trustec, county superintendent, principal of the high school and janitor. He had a pleasant smile, a genius for mathematics, and a West Point idea of obedienee and discipline. He carried upon his person a grip that would make the imported malady which mocks that name in these degenerate days, call itself Slack, in very terror at having assumed the wrong title.

We used to have "General Exercises" on Friday afternoon. The most exciting feature of this weekly frivolity consisted of a freefor-all exercise in mental arithmetic. Mr. Hinman gave out lists of numbers, beginning with easy ones and speaking slowly; each succeeding list he dictated more rapidly and with ever-increasing complications of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, until at last he was giving them out faster than he could talk. One by one the pupils dropped out of the race with despairing faces, but always at the closing peremptory:

"Answer?"

At least a dozen hands shot into the air and as many voices shouted the correct result. We didn't have many books, and the curriculum of an Illinois school in those days was not academic; but two things the children could do, they could spell as well as the dictionary and they could handle figures. Some of the fellows fairly wallowed in them. I didn't. I simply drowned in the shallowest pond of numbers that ever spread itself on the page. As even unto this day I do the same.

Well, one year the Teacher introduced an innovation; "compositions" by the girls and "speakin' pieces" by the boys. It was easy enough for the girls, who had only to read the beautiful thought that "spring is the pleasantest season of the year." Now and then a new girl from the east, awfully precise, would begin her essay — "spring is the most pleasant season of the year," and her would we call down with derisive laughter, whereat she walked to her seat, very stiffly, with a proud dry-eyed look in her face, only

to lay her head upon her desk when she reached it, and weep silently until school closed. But "speakin' pieces" did not meet with favor from the boys, save one or two good boys who were in training by their parents for congressmen or presidents.

The rest of us, who were just boys, with no desire ever to be anything clse, endured the tyranny of compulsory oratory about a month, and then resolved to abolish the whole business by a general revolt. Big and little, we agreed to stand by each other, break up the new exercise, and get back to the old order of things—the hurdle races in mental arithmetic and the geographical chants which we could run and intone together.

Was I a mutineer? Well, say, son, your Pa was a constituent conspirator. He was in the color guard. You see, the first boy called on for a declamation was to annonnce the strike, and as my name stood very high-in the alphabetical roll of pupils-I had an excellent chance of leading the assaulting column, a distinction for which I was not at all 'ambitious, being a stripling of tender years, ruddy countenance, and sensitive feelings. However, I stiffened the sinews of my soul, girded on my armor by slipping an atlas back under my jacket and was ready for the fray, feeling a little terrified shiver of delight as I thought that the first lick Mr. Hinman gave me would make him think he had broken my back.

The hour for "speakin' pieces," an hour big with fate, arrived on time. A boy named Aby Abbott was called up ahead of me, but he happened to be one of the presidential aspirants (he was mate on an Illinois river steamboat, stern-wheeler at that, the last I knew of him), and of course he flunked and "said" his piece-a sadly prophetic selection -"Mr. President, it is natural for man to indulge in the illusions of hope." We made such suggestive and threatening gestures at him, however, when Mr. Hinman wasn't looking, that he forgot half his "piece," broke down and cried. He also cried after school, a little more bitterly, and with far better reason.

Then, after an awful pause, in which the conspirators could hear the beating of each other's hearts. my name was called.

I sat still at my desk and said:

"I aint goin' to speak no piece."

Mr. Hinman looked gently surprised and asked:

"Why not, Robert?"

I replied:

"Because there ain't goin' to be any more speakin' pieces."

The teacher's eyes grew round and big as he inquired:

"Who says there will not?"

I said, in slightly firmer tones, as I realized that the moment had come for dragging the rest of the rebels into court: "All of us boys!"

But Mr. Hinman smiled and said quietly that he guessed there would be "a little more speaking before the close of the session." Then laying his hand on my shoulder, with most punctilious but chilling courtesy, he invited me to the rostrum. The "rostrum" was twenty-five feet distant, but I arrived there on schedule time and only touched my feet to the floor twice on my way.

And then and there, under Mr. Hinman's judicious coaching, before the assembled school, with feelings, nay, emotions which I now shudder to recall, I did my first "song and dance." Many times before had I stepped off a solo-cachuca to the staccato pleasing of a fragment of slate frame, upon which my tutor was a gifted performer, but never until that day did I accompany myself with words. Boy like, I had chosen for my "piece" a poem sweetly expressive of those peaceful virtues which I most heartily despised. So that my performance, at the inauguration of the strike, as Mr. Hinman conducted the overture, ran something like this—

"Oh, not for me (whack) is the rolling (whack) drum, Or the (whack, whack) trumpet's wild (whack)

appeal (Boo-hoo!)

- Or the cry (swish—whack) of (boo-hoo-hoo!) war when the (whack) foe is come (ouch!)
- Or the (ow-wow!) brightly (whack) flashing (whackwhack) steel! (wah-hoo, wah-hoo!)"

Words and symbols can not convey to the most gifted imagination the gestures with

which I illustrated the seven stanzas of this beautiful poem. I had really selected it to please my mother, whom I had invited to be present, when I supposed I would deliver it. But the fact that she attended a missionary meeting in the Baptist church that afternoon made me a friend of missions forever. Suffice it to say, then, that my pantomime kept pace and time with Mr. Hinman's system of punctuation until the last line was sobbed and whacked out. I groped my bewildered way to my seat through a mist of tears and sat down gingerly and sideways, inly wondering why an inscrutable providence had given to the rugged rhinoceros the hide which the eternal fitness of things had plainly prepared for the school-boy.

But I quickly forgot my own sorrow and dried my tears with laughter in the enjoyment of the subsequent acts of the opera, as the chorus developed the plot and action. Mr. Hinman, who had been somewhat gentle with me, dealt firmly with the larger boy who followed, and there was a scene of revelry for the next twenty minutes. The old man shook Bill Morrison until his teeth rattled so you couldn't hear him cry. He hit Mickey McCann, the tough boy from the Lower Prairie, and Mickey ran out and lay down in the snow to cool off. He hit Jake Bailey across the legs with a slate frame, and it hurt so that Jake couldn't howl-he just opened his mouth wide, held up his hands,

gasped, and forgot his own name. He pushed Bill Haskell into a seat and the bench broke.

He ran across the room and reached out for Lem Harkins, and Lem had a fit before the old man touched him. He shook Dan Stevenson for two minutes, and when he let him go, Dan walked around his own desk five times before he could find it, and then he couldn't sit down without holding on. He whipped the two Knowltons with a skatestrap in each hand at the same time; the Greenwood family, five boys and a big girl, he whipped all at once with a girl's skipping rope, and they raised such a united wail that the clock stopped.

He took a twist in Bill Rodecker's front hair, and Bill slept with his eyes open for a week. He kept the atmosphere of that school-room full of dust and splinters, and lint, weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth, until he reached the end of the alphabet and all hearts ached and wearied of the inhuman strife and wicked contention. Then he stood up before its, a sickening tangle of slate frame, strap, ebony ferule and skipping rope a smile on his kind old face, and asked, in clear, triumphant tones:

"WHO says there isn't going to be any more speaking pieces?"

And every last boy in that school sprang to his feet; standing there as one human be-

ing with one great mouth, we shrieked in concerted anguish:

"NOBODY DON'T !"

And your Pa, my son, who led that strike, has been "speakin' pieces" ever since.

Hinman afterwards taught in the public schools. It was probably one of these schools where the strike so graphically described, occurred. Hinman is living, a hale old gentleman at Los Angeles, California.

About 1846 or 1847, Alfred Washburn taught school in the same place. He was a brother of Cephas Hercules Washburn, well remembered by most old citizens. Washburn also taught over the old Postoffice Building, which stood on the corner of Main and Adams street, where R. D. McDougal's Drug Store stands. P. C. Bartlett and Clint Farrell attended this school. Washburn was a fair teacher, a little inclined to

let things take their course. He went from here to New Orleans, where he married and went to California, where, it is said, he died. He was a small man and very quick on his feet.

Samuel L. Coulter, who was an uncle of the late Wm. E. Stone, taught school in 1848 in a little brick building, nearly opposite the National Hotel, on the rear of the lot occupied by the late Harvey Lightner's residence, in a building built for a Swedenborgian Church. His school was exclusively for boys, and it is believed that that is the first school in Peoria where the children of different sexes were separated. He afterwards taught in the basement of the Baptist Church, a school for boys and girls, Miss Sophia Lalanne, a sister of his wife, was his assistant. Miss Kidder, now Mrs. Reinhart, Mrs.

Henry T. Baldwin, the Lightner girls, Martha Calhoun and Mary Powell were among his pupils. Miss Sophia Lalanne afterwards went to California, and about 1882 was the wife of Judge Byers of Stockton, Cal. On one occasion Mrs. H. T. Baldwin was registered at one of the hotels in Stockton, as residing in Peoria, and Mrs. Judge Ryers called to make some inquiry about Peoria people, when a little conversation revealed the fact that she was the teacher and Mrs. Baldwin was one of the pupils in the old school at Peoria almost forty years before.

About 1846 or 1847, the Rev. J. S. Chamberlain, an old time Episcopalean clergyman, now rector of that church at Jubilee, taught a select school in a room over what was then Pettengill's store. Henry T. Baldwin was one of his pupils.

The building stood at No. 203 Main street, and is now occupied by the Peoria Sonne newspaper office. Mr. Chamberlain was a fine teacher and an excellent man. Few teachers with his merit are so modest and retiring as he. As a clergyman he has for fifty years been held in high esteem as an exemplary man and teacher in all respects by his parishioners and the public. He is a tall, spare old gentleman and is now quite deaf.

In 1848 he built a school house on the corner of Main and Monroe street, on the lot now occupied by St. Paul's Church, and opened a school for boys. It is best to let him tell the story himself, though his letter was not written with any idea of its publication.

JUBILEE, ILL., Jan. 15, 1900. H. W. WELLS, ESQ.,

Peoria, Ill.

DEAR SIR:— * * * In A. D. 1848, Î opened a school in a small building, erected by me for the purpose on a lot owned by St. Paul's parish, on N. W. cor. Main and Monroe Sts., your city. This school I continued for about ten quarters. The sittings provided were twenty-eight and were uniformly all occupied by pupils, these being limited to boys over twelve.

Among those in attendance were Henry Rouse, son of Dr. Rouse; three sons of Mr. John Burkett; three sons from the Voris family and George Bestor. Mr. Davis, editor of Peoria's newspaper, also had a bright son amongst our pupils during the whole time of the schools continuance. But it was more than fifty years ago, my brother, that these things occurred and my memory fails to recall the names of others, whose persons I recollect.

My school was entirely subordinate to my church work and was resorted to solely that I might live while working to build the congregation and church edifice of St. Paul's parish on an annual salary from my bishop of \$100. And this church work, by the divine blessing, the little school made possible. In its hired room the congregation grew. A few paces from the school the church building arose and was completed at a cost of

about \$4000. And my work and that of the school were thus ended happily. You will not wonder that I am very sensitive to all these things and that my heart goes out with all it has of gratitude to offer it to Him, whose blessing enabled me and my little school to do so good a work.

> Your friend and servant for x^* J. S. Chamberlain.

Rev. Chamberlain afterwards opened a school for girls, called St. Mary's Academy, in the building on the bluff, built by Captain Moss, afterwards occupied by G. C. Bestor. Mr. Chamberlain bought the house and opened his school under the promises of an endowment sufficient to maintain it. The school was opened and went along swimmingly until it began to need funds,

^{*} The monogram X at the end of the above letter may not be understood by all. It is an abbreviation of the name of Jesus Christ, used by churchmen of the old times. It is the cross the Emperor Constantine saw in the sky the night before his victory over Maxentius, surrounded by the motto: "In hoc signo vinces." It is called the Cross of Constantine. It is from the first two letters of the Greek word Christos, the X (Chi) and P (Rho) united in the form shown.

when the parties who had promised to furnish them, slipped out and left Mr. Chamberlain with the obligation on his hands and no money. The school was of course obliged to suspend and Mr. Chamberlain saddled with debt, was broken hearted.

About this date, Isaac Underhill, who was a prominent citizen of Peoria, offered a gold watch as a prize to the best speaker among the children in the schools of Peoria. The contest came off in the court house; the contestants were numerous, and as a matter of course, the audience was large. After an exciting contest, the judges awarded the prize to Sanford Richardson, and gave him the watch. It is said the award caused some heart burnings at the time.

Mrs. Walker taught school in the basement of the old Baptist

Church on Hamilton street, just below where the County Jail now stands. The church was built in 1847 while the Rev. Isaac D. Newell was pastor and the basement at times was occupied as a school room. Mrs. Walker was a member of the church and was probably the first to teach in its basement. She is said to have been a large, fine lady, considerably above the ordinary size for women. Linn McCoy was one of her pupils, unquestionably there were others, but their names have been forgotten.

Mrs. Gustorf about 1849 taught on the corner of Hamilton and Madison streets, near where the Russell property is. Mrs. Henry T. Baldwin was one of her pupils, Tom Griffiths another. Mrs. Gustorf afterwards taught on Eaton street in the rear of where the Academy of the Sacred Heart now

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stands. She was an English lady of fine appearance and education and an excellent teacher. She was the mother of Mrs. Wm. E. Stone.

Mrs. Stevens taught in a little brick house on the corner of Madison and Eaton streets. She was a widow lady about 40 and well qualified as a teacher, but not very popular with her scholars She was rather free with her rod and very free with reproof. Whipping mingled with prayers was her long suit. Sam Calhoun was among her pupils. On one occasion she accused Sam of throwing a spitball. Sam, then an unregenerate little villain of eight, stoutly denied it, whereupon the teacher took him upstairs and after compelling him to kneel, she prayed over him and licked him doughtily for lying. It afterwards appeared that Sam's story was true. An apology was

due and a nice tart to Sam. It is probably still due.

Thos.Griffiths taught about 1851 on Jefferson street, near where the Hamlin Block is now situated. Geo-Bestor, Jackson Mayer and Onslow Peters, Jr., were among his pupils.

He afterwards taught between Fulton street and Liberty on Jefferson street in 1854. Charles Ballance, James and Samuel Thompson, Eugene Peters and Thomas Griffiths were his pupils at that school. He was an excellent old gentleman and a great favorite. with his pupils. He was the first librarian of the Peoria Public Library. He died many years ago.

Mrs. Walker taught in the basement of the old Baptist church on Hamilton street, just below where the County Jail now stands. The church was built about 1847, while Rev. Isaac D. Newell was pastor

and the basement was at times occupied as a school room. Mrs. Walker was a member of the church and probably the first teacher in its basement. She is said to have been a large, fine looking woman, considerably above the ordinary size. Linn McCoy was one of her pupils; probably there are others here, but none have been found.

Rev. Benjamin Huntoon, late in the forties, taught on Washington street, between Main and Fulton. He was a Boston man and a fine teacher. He had over thirty scholars, among whom were P. C. Bartlett, John Kuhn and Johnson Cole. He was a brother-in-law of Moses Pettengill. He died many years ago. His son was at one time in the Dry Goods business on Main street.

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The following letter from Capt. S. F. Otman speaks for itself:

WYOMING, ILL., April 18, 1900. My Dear Major Wells—

Your letter regarding schools came to hand. * * * I taught two terms in Peoria during the winter of 1849 and 1850. There were at that time four public schools in the city and designated as the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Ward schools.

The 1st Ward school was located I think on Hariison street, between Washington and Adams streets, and taught by a man by the name of Conner, a young frishman.

The 2nd was near what was called the State House Square, and the teacher's name was Hinman, who taught there several years and was quite successful as a teacher.

The 3rd Ward school, which was mine, was located on Perry street, between Fayette and Jackson, on the bluff side of the street.

The 4th was located on North Washington street, near Eaton, and was next to the old jail and the teacher was D. M. Cummings.

I can now recall but a very few among my scholars, living in Peoria; Charles and Edward Easton, James Ward, John M. Simpson, three Warner boys, George and Harry McClelland, who were the last I knew of them in Chicago. School matters were in poor shape at that time. Each ward had three school directors and the teacher was

employed at a salary, which he had to prorata among the patrons of the school and collect his salary from them. There was no public school fund. I had some young men as scholars, who were larger and older than I was, but they as a rule were easy to manage. The directors of the 3rd Ward school were George Greenwood, John Waugh and Abram Fash. I have to depend on my memory in regard to these matters and as it is now fifty years since I quit teaching, I can recall but little that transpired in those days.

Very respectfully yours. S. F. OTMAN.

Captain Otman is employed on the Revenue force here in Peoria, and is an excellent man. In 1861 he enlisted and was elected Captain of one of the companies in the 112th Illinois Volunteers and served until the close of the war, since which time he has resided at Wyoming.

The foregoing letter is the only information I have or can find of the teacher named as Conner. It seems, however, that there was a teacher of that name who taught on Harrison street, between Adams and Washington. He seems to have disappeared behind fifty years which have since intervened.

Since the foregoing was in type, I am in receipt of the following letter from Samuel Lowry, son of the Samuel Lowry, who built the old church in 1835, which mentions Geo. H. Quigg as a teacher here in 1835 on the northwest corner of Adams and Fulton streets. This means in Hunt's row before mentioned. From Ballance history it may be learned that Quigg was a tall Irishman, who had a high opinion of himself. He was at one time employed by Wm. L. May to run the ferry, about which there was much contention. He lived afterwards in a very pretty one-story frame cottage at the southeast cor. of Jefferson and Fulton streets. Mr.

Garrett says he saw him in Chicago before the great fire; that his daughter taught school in Henry.

ST. LOUIS, April 24, 1900. H. W. WELLS, ESO.,

Peoria, Ill.,

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DEAR SIR:-Your letter of 20th inst., addressed to Cincinnati, has been forwarded to me here where I am now residing. In response to your inquiries I would say that no school was ever held in the old church to which you refer.* In 1838, when I was about eleven years of age, I attended a school that was held in the "Main Street Presbyterian Church", located on the East side of Main street, half block north of the Public square. The teachers name was Douglas. This may be the school you are seeking to trace.

Previously, in 1835, I was a scholar in a small school, held in a room on the upper side of Adams street, just west of Fulton, —the teacher's name was Quigg.

In 1837 I attended a school held in the second story of a building on the west side of Main street, south of Washington, taught by Mr. Winslow. In 1839 Rev. Benjamin Huntoon had a school on Washington street, east of Fulton.

The same year the Peoria Academy was started by Rev. David Page in a building on the upper side of Adams, east of Fulton.

* The schools were after Lowry left.

Later removed several blocks north and west to a building purchased and enlarged by Mr. Page, which was the first building devoted exclusively to school purposes in Peoria.

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My father (whose name I bear) was a school trustee I think in 1837-39. The church, sometimes called "Lowry's Church," was a frame building erected in 1835, upon a large lot on the southwest corner of Adams and Jackson streets. If the building is still standing it is not upon that ground. My father's residence, a frame cottage, built in 1836, was directly opposite on the upper side of Adams, and when I was last in Peoria, about ten years ago, it was still there. The frame houses of those days were built to last—the frame of oak, the weather boarding of black walnut, and the floor of yellow pine.

The congregation that built the church was organized in December 1834 in my father's dwelling, then on Water street, the second house west of Hamilton. The details of its history and of Mr. Kellar's connection with it, are I think in the possession of the First Presbyterian Church.

If these statements are of use to you it gives me pleasure to furnish them. I still cherish a warm feeling for the home of my school boy days.

Yours truly, SAMUEL LOWRY.

2803 Russell Ave.

Mr. Fey taught in the old Congregational Church; he is described as a small man, a fairly good teacher, but I can get no particulars about him except that he was a Yankee and was always well dressed.

About 1848 a Miss Ellis taught in the basement of the old Baptist Church. Some time after she went to Alton where she taught school a short time and afterwards married a wealthy manufacturer of that city. She is believed to be residing there now.

Anastatia Joyce taught in a twostory frame building that stood on the northwest corner of Hamilton and Monroe streets in 1847. The family afterwards moved to Block 34 in Taylor & Blakely's Addition, near where O. C. Parmelee lived on North Jefferson street. They



ANASTASIA JOYCE Teacher from 1847 to 1857.



afterwards moved up Jefferson street near the corner of Wayne. Mrs. Joyce continued to teach until 1857. James and John Dolan, Miss Kate Kelley, Sam Calhoun and many others were among her pupils. She was a faithful teacher and many young business man learned his letters from Mrs. Joyce. Her husband was a cooper. He afterwards moved to Livingston County and Mrs. Joyce died near Chatsworth in 1864. She is described as a tall woman, dark hair and eyes and fair skin. Her son, John N. Joyce, lives at 2520 South Washington St.

Mr. Ferris taught in a little brick school house on the southeast corner of Madison and Hancock street. Miss Martha Calhoun was one of her pupils, and speaks in high terms of her teacher.

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Chas. Doty taught on Walnut street, just below Adams. The foundation of the large two-story school house, which once stood on the corner of the streets, was partly built when the school inspectors organized and completed it. Doty was an excellent teacher, with a very hot temper and a very strict disciplinarian. Miss Virginia Ballance was his assistant. The boys in this school were large, and some of them boisterous and unruly fellows. It is said on one occasion they determined to rebel,-at least to scare the teacher if he should attempt to correct any one of them. The occasion soon came. He attempted to correct one of his big boys, when four or five of the others came to the boy's rescue. Some of them drew knives and made noisy threats to use them. Miss Virginia Ballance, now Mrs. Bash,

attracted by the noise, came in from the next room, marching straight into the melee, she commanded the boys to go straight into their seats. They at once slunk away and the row quelled.

The Snow family is famous in the history of schools in Peoria. T. J. Snow came here from Kentucky to avoid raising his family in a slave state. He was a graduate of Brown and Harvard, and a fine scholar. He died about two years after, leaving a wife and four sons and three daughters. The two oldest sons took charge of their father's school, then on Main street. just below the Post Office. In about two years they opened a school on Fayette street, teaching higher branches.

In 1854 H. O. Snow taught in Chicago. A fire destroyed his school in 1858 and he went to Ra-

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cine, Wisconsin. About 1870 he commenced teaching in Kentucky, where he died in 1895 after fifty years successful teaching.

O. T. Snow taught a private school in Chicago and in 1862 removed to Batavia, where he was principal of the public school for nearly 30 years. He died in 1891. C. P. Snow taught in the public school in Peoria and while teaching the war broke out and he at once enlisted as a private and was promoted to first lieutenant. At the close of the war he resumed teaching in Peoria and was principal of one of the city schools for about eight years, when he removed to Princeton, where he has been Superintendent of city schools for the major part of thirty years.

H. W. Snow was also a teacher and principal in Peoria. He en-

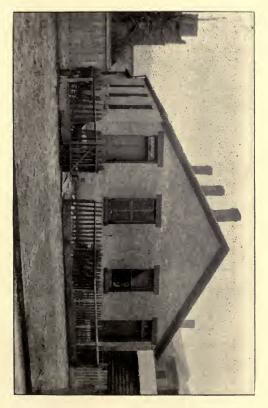
listed in the army and was chosen Lieut. Colonel 151st Regt. Illinois Vols., and was Provost Marshal of Georgia. He was afterwards elected to Congress on the Democratic Ticket and after his term was elected Sergeant at Arms of the house. He is now President of a bank and resides at Kankakee.

Miss Bonnie Snow, daughter of J. T. Snow, taught several years in the Peoria High School. She finally married A. C. Little of Aurora, where she now resides. Many of our best business men received their education under some one of the Snows. All speak of them in the highest terms as teachers and excellent men.

In 1851 the Methodist Church obtained a charter and organized the Wesleyan Seminary of Peoria. They purchased the Mitchell house

on the corner of Jefferson and Fulton streets, and opened where the "Star" office now stands with considerable ceremony. They had 23 trustees, all influential men, and a good attendance of scholars followed. They were, however, unfortunate in their selection of their principal. Ballance says he was a vile hypocrite and filthy debauchee. The school closed before it had fairly started.

There is an old brick school house now standing at 322 North Washington Street, just below the site of the old jail. It is supposed to be the first school building built in Peoria by the public. It was probably built in 1847 or 1848 by Wm. Senior as contractor. Mr. Phillips did the brick work. It was known as the Fourth Ward school. The building was an excellent one SCHOOL HOUSE, BUILT PROBABLY IN 1847 Now Standing at 322 N. Washington St.





for those days and would accommodate about 80 scholars. W. H. Gowdy is said to be the first teacher. Chas. Shaw of Chillicothe was one of his pupils. Dave Cummings also taught there and was followed by J. B. Paul. Johnson Cole was a pupil of Dave Cummings and used to assist him at times in teaching. The building was sold many years ago and is now occupied as a tenement house. When built it was in the residence part par excellence of Peoria.

C. C. Bonney opened a school called the "Peoria Institute" November 4th, 1850, in the basement of the Baptist Church. The school lasted but a few terms. Bonney afterwards studied law and moved to Chicago where he now is. He had charge of the Congress of Religions at the Worlds Fair in 1893.

Bonney was followed by Dr.John Niglas and E. S. Wilcox. They taught in the basement of the Baptist Church. Dr. Niglas was a German and as well and favorably known as any physician in Peoria. E. S. Wilcox is librarian of the Peoria Public Library and is well known to our citizens.

Miss Sarah J. Matthews taught in the Girls Stock School on Jefferson street, which was afterwards destroyed by fire. After that she taught in the brick school house, which the Association built at the corner of Jackson and Adams. Not long after she became the wife of Alexander McCoy. She died many years ago. Her sister Adalaid, also a teacher here, married Geo. Harding, a well known lawyer of Chicago. She had considerable trouble with her husband, out of which

grew a suit for divorce, which developed much bitterness.

Miss Clerk, an English lady, taught here about 1853 on Harrison street, at No. 308, on the ground now occupied by Murphy's Plumbing Shop. Charles Ballance was one of her pupils and describes her as a fair teacher.

Miss Helen Partridge taught in the school afterwards called the Irving school in 1854. She was a large woman of fine presence and a superior teacher. She afterwards removed to Princeton, where she married Mr. P. J. Newell and now resides. 'Frank Newell of Chicago, late of Peoria, is her son. Mrs. Newell says there was a Teacher's Association in Peoria in 1854, gives the names of some of the members. Mr. and Mrs. Hovey, Sophia Lalanne, Miss Sarah and Adelaide Matthews, Miss Laura Chambers, Ephriam Hinman, D. McCulloch, Dr. Niglas, O.T. Snow, J. B. Paul and others.

David McCulloch came here in 1853. In January of that year he began teaching a classical and scientific school in the basement of the old Methodist Church, corner of Madison and Fulton streets. He began a second term of the same school, September 5th, which continued eleven weeks. On the 8th of January, 1854, he taught one full term. He afterwards rented the room over the old Engine House, 229 North Adams street, where he taught one term. He also filled out a term for Snow on Main street. He taught nothing but the higher branches of Mathematics and the classics. Among his pupils may be named Rollin and Portius Wheeler, Arthur Rugg, Linn and Wil-98

liam McCoy, John Dodge, Phillip Brotherson and others. With the closing of the term last mentioned his career as a teacher was over. He began studying law with Manning & Merriman. His subsequent career as a lawyer and judge are well known in the history of the state.

The two Misses Clark taught in the old Ballance school house on Walnut street, below Adams. They kept the last school taught in that house. They were very precise ladies, but good teachers. One thing may be noticed. They required a contract with parents of pupils, that the children should be clean and neatly dressed each day, before they were sent to school. It was a departure from customary methods in education, but the departure was sometimes needed.

The Misses Clark were English ladies and taught but one or two terms when the district school was opened just across the street. In that school Miss Grace Bibb and Miss Wood were employed to teach; young children and the Misses Clark brought their school to a close.

THE COLORED SCHOOL.

There was a school for colored children taught by Miss Rebecca Elliott, who came here from Cincinnati as their teacher about 1860.

Schools for colored children were a rather scarce article in Peoria before the war. The city contributed \$15.00 per quarter of the teacher's pay and the parents of the children paid the remainder.

The school was opened in a small frame building, which stood

OLD COLORED CHURCH AND SCHOOL HOUSE New Standing No. 409 Chestnut St.





at the head of Chestnut street, No. 209. The building was built by the Turners and was the first Turner Hall in Peoria. It then stood on Washington street. About 1858 or 1859 it was sold; the colored people bought it and moved it to Chestnut street and used it for some years as a church and school house. The building is yet standing and is now occupied as a tenement house.

Miss Elliott must have been a good teacher, at least her name may be found among the teachers of the public schools in 1863. It was a separate school for colored children, — white children were hardly wise enough then to attend school with colored children. Miss Elliott was paid by the public \$125 for twenty-five weeks.

The next school for colored children stood at the head of Franklin street on a vacant piece of ground claimed by the city. That school house was built during or just after the war. The school was taught by Miss Duffee, who is said to have been an Irish lady and a good teacher. Miss Duffee went to Ireland and Miss Houghtailing taught for some time.

The colored children are now admitted to the public schools the same as white children.

GIRLS' STOCK SCHOOL.

The Female School Association, better known as the Girl's Stock School was opened in 1850 and proved to be reasonably successful and became a paying investment. They leased the lot on Jefferson Avenue on which it stood from Charles Ballance, — before the lease expired the house was burned. The Association afterwards bought a lot at the corner

of Adams and Jackson streets, and put up a fine brick building. This school also prospered there until it was taken by the School Inspectors, who for some time made use of it as the High school under their system. It afterwards became the Irving school and was so used some years. It is now occupied by the Teacher's Association as a club room.

BOYS' STOCK SCHOOL.

The Boy's Stock School was organized in March 1854 in pursuance to several public meetings held in 1853 and 1854. A meeting of the shareholders was held at Hascall's Hall in February 1854, where the plan was outlined, and on the 23rd of March the shareholders met and elected Hon. Onslow Peters, President and A. P. Bartlett, Secretary and H. G. Anderson, treas-

urer. They purchased lots 10, 11 and 12, Block 47 in Monson & Sanford's Addition and a building was erected and furnished **at a cost** of



\$8000, ready for occupancy Nov. 27, 1854, the school was opened. Chas. E. Hovey was selected as principal; Mrs. Hovey, C. H. Doty, Elizabeth Smith and Sophia Lalanne assisting. Dr. Niglas instructed in German and J. M. Hig-

gins in music. One hundred and nineteen students entered the school.

The New Testament, the Bible, Webster's Dictionary and Julius Caesar are the only books in a long list of studies, which are recognized now. This school was chartered by the Legislature February 6, 1855, under the name of Peoria Academy and April 6, 1856, was purchased by the School Inspectors of Peoria and the school became incorporated in the general school system of Peoria. (See Appendix.)

THE GERMAN SCHOOLS.

So far as known the following is all of the German schools in early Peoria: About the year 1849 a school was opened by Rev. Michael Ruppelius, formerly a Lutheran minister, then a Notary Pub-

lic and Justice of the Peace. It was located on Adams street, between Main and Fulton. It continued until 1857, employing two teachers, one of them being the late Mr. Chr. Zimmermann.

Soon after another was opened by Mr. J. G. Schultz on the corner of Washington and Harrison Sts. After running it with fair success for a few years Mr. Schultz obtained a position in the Recorder's office and dismissed his pupils.

About the same time a third was conducted under Catholic auspices by Mr. Franz Stubenrauch on South Washington Street, between Walnut and Bridge, whence it was moved about the year 1850 to No. 311 South Washington street, and kept up until 1859, when it was closed. Joseph Brodman, John Henseler, Chris. Yerger and Frank J. Miller were among his pupils. He married Susanna Streitz

in March, 1859, and died 1873. His widow and family live at No. 411 First avenue.

A fourth school, opened by a a Mr. Nachtigal, on North Adams street, corner Morgan and Adams, had a precarious existence from 1856 to 1858 and was closed in the middle of the schoolyear for want of scholars.

A fifth was operated by a Mrs. Stein on Walnut street and managed to hold out until 1859 or 1860. There may have been others in the decade ending with the year 1860, but of these there is no information available, except that in 1859, when all or nearly all those mentioned had been given up, another effort was made by a Mr. Stieboldt, a linguist and gentleman of superior education, who opened a school on Washington street. This school was afterwards assumed by

the late Mr. August Kampmeier, and by him transferred in the fall of 1871 to Mr. Schultz, named earlier in this article. It was held in the court house. Mr. Schultz soon tired of his second venture and early in 1862 turned over to the newly formed German School Society, all the belongings of his school, together with perhaps 69 or 70 pupils, himself remaining as one of the teachers.

Many Germans had settled in the lower portion of the city, in what was familiarly known as the "Krim", and to accommodate these a Mr. Gehrig in 1860 opened a school on South Washington street, just below Edmund, which was fairly well patronized and continued to exist until 1867 or 1868.

GERMAN FREE SCHOOL.

On the 21st of March 1862, a meeting of Germans was held at Bergan's Hall, 509-511 South Washington Street, to consult about establishing a German school. Dr. Brendel was called to the chair and H. Baier chosen Secretary. After full consultation a committee was appointed to report a plan. The committee reported in favor of establishing a German School and \$600 was at once subscribed by those present and a committee to solicit funds was appointed.

On the 11th of April the school was organized, 13 directors were chosen and Carl Feinse was elected president. Bergan's Hall on South Washington street was rented and Chris. Zimmermann and J. G. Schultz were engaged as teachers. May 3rd the school was opened

with 103 scholars. April 8th, 1863 the lot at 110 Second avenue, where the school now stands, was purchased for \$1200 and the building was erected at a cost of \$4,698.14. It was dedicated October 30, 1863. The president, Carl Feinse, made an English oration and Dr. Studer spoke in German. April 29, 1864, the number of pupils had increased to 275 and two more teachers were employed. The school is maintained from voluntary subscription and a small charge to the pupils. The school was incorporated in 1864, and has now ample funds on hand for the maintenance of the school. It is emphatically a German-English school. They teach the same branches from the same books used in the English Grammar school. During a portion of each day the studies are conducted in German. April 4, 1890, a Kin-

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dergarten was added with Miss Jennie Dammann as teacher. The officials at the present time are Dr. O. J. Roskoten, president, Fred. Kleene, secretary, John Schlatter, treasurer. The teachers' names are Robt. Eckstein, D. H. Poppen, Emily Wetzlau and Mrs. Frahm.

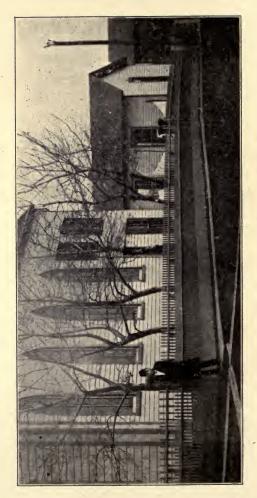
The founders of this school were many of them exiles from their native land on account of the Revolution of 1848, most of them came here very poor. After a shelter for their families they built a school to educate their children. That school, a monument of German industry, pluck and patience is still standing at 110 Second avenue, and the school is still in active operation.

The forty years, which have elapsed since the German school School was started, has made many changes. Emigration has dimin-

ished. The Germans have to a large extent become Americans. The public schools are much better and are more convenient than at first, and of course the attendance at the German school has fallen off. It is not impossible the Germans may in the near future conclude to transfer the school to the American school board, possibly to be maintained as an exclusively German school of the higher grade.

There were some funny mistakes that arose in these German schools from a misunderstanding of language. One German teacher on one occasion seeing a new boy in his school, said to him "Komm mal her!" the boy thought he said "Comb your hair" and putting his hand to his head, said my hair is combed. The teacher at once reached for his gad and started for





FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING ST. PAUL'S GERMAN LUTHERAN SCHOOL, 1857 Cor. First and Goodwin Sts.

the boy, to administer a sound thrashing, when one of the German boys called to him: Er ist ein englischer Bub, er kann kein Deutsch. (He is an English boy, he cannot speak German.) The teacher surveyed the boy with astonishment and said "Soh"—

THE PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS.

The Parochial Schools, or Parish Schools are controlled by the Parish authorities, which in this country in all cases are the church authorities. A church is organized within a district, which is called a parish, the school is a part of the church in effect or belongs to the church. There are in Peoria 13 of these Parochial schools, of which seven are Catholic and six are Lutheran. Among these early Parochial schools, St. Paul's Evangel-

ical Lutheran School at the corner of Prairie and Goodwin streets, is perhaps the first. It was organized in 1854. The Rev. H. Kopman was the first teacher. The school was supported largely by the church, but the patrons are usually charged 50 to 75 cents a month for each scholar up to two, the remainder of the family all being included in this charge. They teach ordinary English branches, a part of each day being devoted to teaching German, while for the remainder of the day the teaching is in English. The schools sometimes have a Kindergarten for young children as a part of the school. Wolfgang Semmelmann is the present teacher of this school, while his wife is teacher of the Kindergarten. The school now numbers 106 pupils. Their first school house was rather a small affair. The second adjoin-



PRESENT BUILDING ST. PAUL'S GERMAN LUTHERAN SCHOOL Goodwin St, cor. Prairie. Built 1898.



TRACHERS OF BARLY POERIA.

ing it is a much larger and better building.

In 1857, a Lutheran school was organized at No. 418 Warner avenue. It was taught by Prof. E. Miller. It is called the German Lutheran Trinity School. In 1888 the Rev. E. J. Keimnitz was the teacher. He continues to be the teacher at this time and has about 80 scholars.

In 1892 a school was organized at 214 Malone avenue, called the Evangelical Lutheran Christ's School. Edward Kremsieg is the teacher. This church and school was destroyed by fire in 1895, but the congregation at once rebuilt a new school house and church. The school now has 56 pupils in attendance. The pupils pay 75 cents per month, up to two members of a family, the other members are free

and the remainder of the expenses are paid by the church.

Other Lutheran schools in this city are not essentially different from those already given. They all teach the ordinary English branches, and I believe all devote a portion of their teaching to German, or in the German language, and a portion in English. The children, however, all get English enough in their contact with other children on the street.

There is a German Reformed Church on the corner of Reed and Persimmon street, which is different in faith from the Lutheran, but not essentially different in their manner of teaching. Their school is small, not having over 30 scholars and is kept only in the summer months. It is substantially a German Reformed School, which in English means congregational.





THE OLD LUTHERN SCHOOL HOUSE, BUILT 1857 Now Standing at 416 Warner Ave.

TEACHERS OF EARLY PEORIA. CATHOLIC PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS.

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH SCHOOL.

The first organized effort on the part of the St. Joseph's congregation to establish a school was made in 1858. Four members. Messrs. John Wichmann, Andreas Goebel, Philip Rohmann and Henry Lammers donated to the congregation a lot for this purpose, situated at the corner of Spencer street and First Avenue, extending 50x150 feet. In the middle of this lot the congregation, about 40 families in all, built its first one story frame school house, 16 feet wide by 24 feet long, which soon received an addition of the same dimensions along Spencer street line, so that it represented a lengthy structure of the dimensions 16x48 feet.

The families resided within two miles of the school, and the num-

ber of school-going children ranged from 60 to 70. This was the first Parochial school built in Peoria, for children of Catholic parents, at a time when its inhabitants counted less than one-sixth of their last census.

The men who taught St. Joseph's school from 1858-1869 were educators. Messrs. Frank Stubenrauch and Peter Elzer deserve this distinction. Messrs. Herzog, August Steiger, Titner and Higi were teachers.

Ten years after a new and better school house was erected at the corner of Spencer street and First avenue, on the site now occupied by St. Joseph's church. The school building in question consisted of two large rooms, 24 feet wide and 30 feet long, which could be thrown into one hall by opening

the folding doors, forming a partition. The cost amounted to \$2,600.

A third school house was built in 1869, facing Spencer street, especially designed to furnish class rooms for the boys. The teachers engaged on their behalf were Mr. George B. Meiler, who was a competent teacher, but no educator. Then followed in succession Mr. Barth and Mr. Bahl. Then, the principal of co-education of the sexes was imperceptibly introduced and finally became firmly established in 1885.

On January 10, 1868, the School Sisters de Notre Dame took charge. In place of one teacher as formerly, the school now had four Sisters. They also employed one male teacher for the boys; the training of the children became from that

time more thorough and systematic than before.

The studies were graded. Industrial Drawing, Plain and Fancy Needle Work were taught in each room. Promotions henceforth took place only after passing satisfactory examinations.

Moral training forms an essential element in education; the Sisters acted the part of parents towards the children entrusted to their care, and spared no efforts to secure the cultivation of the heart as well as the mind. Some of the readers may be interested to know that the first Superior was a baroness von Pronath and went by the cloister name of Sister Seraphina.

The superiors in charge are the following in order of their succession: Sr. M. Seraphina, Sr. M. Amanda, Sr. M. Melania, Sr. M.

Fulgentia, Sr. M. Alphonsa, Sr. M. Kostka, Sister M. Anna Garcia, Sr. M. Antonia is the present Superior.

All discharged their duties with credit to themselves and their institute. The number of children had increased until at the close of 1869 there were 285 pupils and 400 at the beginning of 1872.

About that time an agreement between the rectors of St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's Schools separated the children of Irish parentage from those of German. In consequence of this agreement the number of pupils in the school gradually diminished from 400 to 264 during the school year 1872.

In 1885 the pupils numbered 270. At present 355 are enrolled. From 1858-1868 the attendance had grown from about 60 to 90 pupils. In less than half that space of time,

namely from 1868 to 1872 the number of German-American pupils alone had nearly trebled, and the teaching staff had to be increased from time to time, so that now seven teachers are actively engaged in school work.

This result was due to the slow, but steady growth of the city, during the 15 years since the opening of the school and the consequent growth of the congregation.

In 1877, in order to make room for the present St.Joseph's Church, the two school houses were removed to the north-east corner of Spencer and Hurlburt streets. In 1885 both were furnished with new benches.

St. Joseph's School has had a useful existence of more than forty years. It took its beginning when the city was as yet an insignificant

town. In 1885 the old school houses were sold and in May of the same year the foundation of the new school house was layed at the corner of Prairie avenue and Spencer street.

This new school house is a large brick building 60 feet by 95 feet. It cost \$24,000. The basement and first floor contain each four large rooms, and the second story two large rooms and a hall. As regards fixtures, space, natural and artificial lighting, ventilation, heating apparatus and sanitary arrangement, nothing was left to be desired. The school was formally opened by the Rt.Rev.Bishop Spalding, October 22nd, 1889.

In September, 1893, it was changed into a free school, the parish paying all the expenses.

The year following also a Kindergarten was opened, which up to

the present has been well attended and is continuing to gain great favor.

Teaching both German and English, with a leaning toward the latter, the school is keeping step as a whole in connection with the steady progress of the city. It suffices to point to three prizes, which the St. Joseph's School won at the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893.

The history of this school shows a steady improvement all along the line. Ever bettering her discipline and improving her methods she has been able to send forth several thousand boys and girls, well equipped to become citizens and members of the larger Peorian community.





ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL Saratoga St., near Johnson.

ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL.

St. Patrick's School on Saratoga, near Johnson street, was originally a small frame building on the site of the present brick.

The school was opened September, 1869, with about 150 pupils. Miss Mary Ryan, now Mrs. John Madigan, Miss Mary Nailon, now secretary and part owner of the Nailon Bros. Co. Steam Fitters and Plumbers, were the teachers of the first school; a year later Miss Ellen Donlin and Miss Beust were employed as additional teachers.

About 1873 the school was placed in charge of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, who have been in charge of the school for the last twenty-eight years. Under their hands it has increased largely. Some eight or ten years ago the old frame school house was sold

and moved away and a large fine brick structure was erected on the same site. The new school house contains about ten rooms, each having all the improvements of the most modern school.

Sisters of Notre Dame still have charge and the pupils number about 300. John and James Nailon, Thomas N. Gorman, Frank J. Quinn and John Brady went to school there as their first school.

ST. BONIFACE SCHOOL.

St. Boniface School was opened about 1884 on the site of the present school, on Louisa, near the corner of Antoinette street. It is under the charge of the Franciscan Sisters, who have their mother house at La Crosse, Wisconsin. They are said to be excellent teachers and their school now num.

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ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART. Cor, Madison Ave and Eaton St

bers 200 pupils. The school is maintained by a charge of fifty cents per month to each pupil.

ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART.

The Academy of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was founded in 1862 by Father Abraham Ryan, and was opened in April, 1863. Mathew Henebery, Patrick Harmon, N. Bergan, Patrick Dunne, Charles Burt, John Boyle and others were induced to subscribe to the expense and the teachers from the Sisters of St. Joseph were selected to teach. Their first house was on Jefferson street, between Eaton and Hancock, where the school was opened with about 100 pupils. They next moved to the corner of Jefferson and Fayette street, and later sold that lot to C.

P. King and bought at the corner of Eaton and Madison streets, where the school is now located. Mother Teresa was the first Lady Superior or mother. She was followed by Mothers George, Assinsi, Agnes, Theodosia, Mathilda, Lucrecia, Estella, Teresa, and Mother Alexander, who now presides. Their services were all short, three or six years, except Mother Mathilda, who had control eighteen years.

Their Academy is now a large fine building, containing several school rooms for pupils in different grades, with a number of music rooms, painting and drawing rooms, chapel, etc., with accommodations for some hundred boarders. The building is an ornament to the city.

The institution admits pupils to both a boarding and day school.

Pupils of all denominations are admitted, and except the religious instruction to the children of Catholics, all are treated alike. They have now about three hundred pupils and seven expert teachers.

The course in addition to the ordinary branches of an English Grammar school, embraces Rhetoric, Natural Philosophy, Civil Government, Literature, Geology, Zoology, Mythology, Botany, Astronomy, Mental Philosophy, Chemistry and Criticism.

They also have classes in French, German and Spanish, Music and a systematic course of Art study.

In the rear of this school and convent is a pile of stone five or six feet high and eight or ten feet across at its base. No one now living knows when it was first planted, nor the purpose, for which placed there, but the good Sisters of the Convent all devoutly believe it marks the spot, where the priests who came with La Salle planted the first cross in the great wilderness of new France. They point to legends, which they say, justify this belief, and when the ground was first purchased, it was with a view to possessing the spot of ground to which the legend attached.

The Parochial school near the corner of Eaton and Jefferson avenue, adjoining the Academy of our Lady of the Sacred Heart was first opened by a lay teacher before the Sisters took charge of it. The Sisters of St. Joseph, however, took charge of it the same time they opened the Academy. The school is simply an ordinary grammar school, for the purpose of fitting young ladies, who may desire for

entering the Academy, and for fitting boys for the High school or for the Spalding Institute. This parochial school now has from one hundred and fifty to two hundred scholars, and is taught by four of the Sisters. It is managed with the usual skill of these excellent teachers.

This substantially brings the history of the private schools in Peoria down to the year 1855. February 15, 1855, the school inspectors took charge and the schools became public schools, the records of which have been preserved.

When the inspectors assumed control, there was no school house in the First Ward, although the foundation had been laid for a building at the corner of Adams and Walnut streets. In the Second Ward

there was a small school house, inconvenient and uncomfortable. In the Third Ward there was an old foundry, which had been fitted up as a school room and would accommodate 80 or 90 pupils. It was hot in summer and freezing in winter. In the Fourth Ward was a better school house, which is now standing at No. 322 N. Washington Street. In this school house there were seats for about 80 or 90 pupils. There were then in the city approximately 230 children attending school. There were approximately 1000 of proper age, who should have been attending school.

From May to October, 1855, the Board had been able to get together \$2414.85, the sum total of the school money of that year. During the next year they had been able to collect \$11,089.46. During the

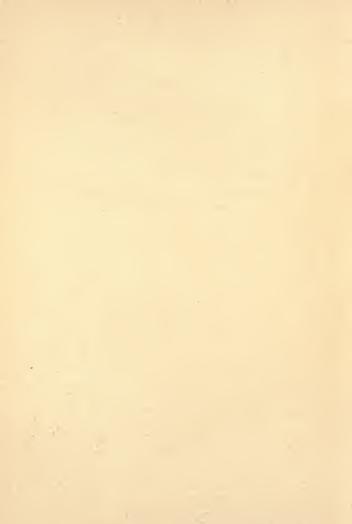
year ending May 1900, the inspectors expended \$63,503.00 for new school buildings. They have in all parts of the city 18 large well furnished school houses, averaging ten or more rooms each. The total cost of these was \$750,000.00. The total disbursements of the Board for the year was \$246,168.00, of which \$135,106.96 was for salaries paid teachers. During that year they employed and paid 218 teachers. They had in round numbers 8000 pupils to educate.

When President McKinley came here in the fall of 1899, there were approximately 5000 children marching in procession to welcome him to Peoria. This did not include the scholars of the High school, nor did it include any of the small pupils of the primaries.

There has sometimes been a

snarl at the school taxes. This exhibit shows the cost of schooling a child approximately \$20.00 a year for each pupil. The cost in a private school would be over \$50.00 a year, and the schooling would be much inferior. The school tax in cities of the size of Peoria is generally higher than in this city.





An Act providing for the Establishment of Free Schools. Approved and in force January 15, 1825.

PREAMBLE-To enjoy our rights and liberties we must understand them; their security and protection ought to be the first object of a free people and it is a well established fact that no nation has ever continued long in the enjoyment of civil and political freedom, which was not both virtuous and enlightened; and believing that the advancement of literature has always been and ever will be the means of developing more fully the rights of man; that the mind of every citizen in a republic is the common property of society, and constitutes the basis of its strength and happiness. It is therefor considered the peculiar duty of a free government like ours to encourage and extend the improvement and cultivation of the intellectual energies of the whole. Therefor.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly:

SEC. 1. That there shall be established a common school or schools in each of the counties of this state, which shall be open and free to every class of white citizens between the ages of five and twenty-one years. Provided, that persons over the age of twenty-one years may be admitted into such schools on such terms as the trustees of the school district may prescribe.

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted, That the County Commissions Courts shall from time to time form school districts in their respective counties, whenever a petition may be presented for that purpose by a majority of the qualified voters resident within such contemplated district.

SEC. 3. Be it further enacted, That the legal voters in each district to be established as aforesaid, may have a meeting at any time thereafter by giving ten days previous notice of the time and place of holding the same; at which meeting they may proceed by ballot to elect three trustees, one clerk, one treasurer, one assessor and one collector, who shall respectively take an oath of office faithfully to discharge their respective duties.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the trustees to superintend the schools within their respective districts; to examine and employ teachers; to lease all

lands belonging to the district; to call meetings of the voters whenever they shall deem it expedient; or at any time when requested so to do by five legal voters, by giving to each one at least five days notice of the time and place of holding the same; appointing one or more persons living within the district to serve the necessary notice; to make an annual report to the County Commissioner's Court of the proper county of the number of children living within the bounds of such district between the ages of five and twentyone years, and what number of them are actually sent to school with a certificate of the time a school is actually kept up in the district with the probable expense of the same.

SEC. 5. Be it further enacted, That each and every school district, when established and organized as aforesaid, shall be, and they are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate so far as to commence and maintain actions on any agreement made with any person or persons for the non-performance thereof, or for any damage done to their schoolhouse or to any property, which may belong to or be in possession of such school, and be liable to an action brought and maintained against them for the nonperformance of any contract by them made.

SEC. 6. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the trustees to prosecute and defend all such suits in the name of the trustees for the use of the school district;

giving it its proper name; and that it shall be lawful for said trustees in the name and for the use of said district to purchase, or receive as a donation and hold in fee simple any property, real or personal, for the use of the said school district and they may defend or prosecute to any suit or suits relative to the same; and it shall be the duty of the trustees to give order on the treasurer of said district for all sums expended in paying teachers and all other expenses necessarily incurred in establishing, carrying on and supporting all schools within their respective districts, and at the regular annual meeting of the inhabitants of the district the said trustees shall, together with the other officers, settle all accounts, which shall have accrued during the year for which they are elected.

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the clerk of each district to keep a book in which he shall make true entries of the votes and proceedings of each meeting of the voters of the district and of the trustees, which shall be held according to law and to give attested copies thereof, which shall be legal evidence in all courts of this state.

SEC. 8. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the treasurer of each school district to receive all money belonging to the same and pay them over for the use of the school to the order of a majority of all the

legal voters by a vote in general meeting or the order of the trustees, requiring at all times written vouchers for such payments, stating the purpose for which it is made.

SEC. 9. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the collector of each school district to collect all the money belonging to or due to the same when directed so to do, and to collect such taxes as by vote of the district shall be levied and to pay over all moneys when collected to the treasurer of said district within twenty days of such collection, except five per cent. which he shall retain for his services, taking his receipt for the same.

SEC. 10. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the assessor of each school district to assess all such property lying within and belonging to the inhabitants of said district as he may be directed to assess by a vote of a majority of the voters of such district and to make return of the same within thirty days after such assessment to the trustees of said district.

SEC. 11. Be it further enacted, That when any legal voter living within any school district shall be duly elected or appointed according to the second section of this act, trustee, clerk, treasurer, collector, assessor or to serve notice, and refuse or neglect to discharge the duties of the same he shall, if a trustee be fined in the sum of ten dollars,

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if a clerk in sum of eight dollars; if a treasurer in the sum of five dollars; if an assessor in the sum of five dollars; and if a person appointed to serve a notice of any meeting the sum of five dollars; and for a neglect to settle all of their respective accounts at the end of the year for which they were elected the trustees, clerk, collector and treasurer shall be fined in the sum of twenty dollars, which together with all other fines imposed in this act shall be collected by suit before any justice of the peace within the proper county, and when collection shall be paid over to the treasurer of the district for the use of the school or schools within the same.

SEC. 12. Be it further enacted, That the legal voters within any school district lawfully assembled shall have the following power, to wit. To appoint a time and place for holding annual meetings, to select a place within the district to build a school house to levy a tax either in cash or good merchantable produce at cash price upon the inhabitants of their respective districts, not exceeding one half per centum, nor amounting to more than ten dollars per annum on any one person, to do all and everything necessary to the establishment and support of schools within the same.

SEC. 13. Be it further enacted, That one of the trustees shall preside at all meetings of the voters, who shall put all questions upon which a vote is to be taken and when the

vote is taken upon levying a tax upon the district, each of the voters present may propose a sum to be levied and the vote shall be taken upon the highest sum proposed first, and in case of a disagreement, upon the next highest, and so on down until a majority of all the legal voters within the district so taxed shall agree.

SEC. 14. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the trustees, or a majority of them, to furnish the collector with the following warrant to collect such taxes as may be so levied, which warrant shall be his authority for collecting the same to wit:

STATE OF ILLINOIS, | SS.

--- County

To A. B. Collector of the —— School District in the County aforesaid, Greeting:

In the name of the people of the State of Illinois, you are hereby required and commanded to collect from each of the inhabitants of the said school district the several sums of money or produce as the case may be, written opposite their name in the annexed tax list and within sixty days after receiving the warrant to pay amount of money by you collected into the hands of the treasurer of the aforesaid district and take his receipt for the same, and if any one or more of the said inhabitants shall neglect or refuse to pay the same you are hereby further commanded to levy on the personal goods and chattels of each delinquent and

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make sale thereof according to the law regulating the collection of taxes within this state.

Given under our hand this——-day of——-A. D., 18—-

The annexed tax list:

G H......\$1.50 I. J......5.00 K. L.....3.00 E. F.

SEC. 19. Be it further enacted, That the auditors and secretary of state under the direction of the governor are hereby declared and constituted commissioners of the school fund; and the said fund now on deposit in the State Bank, together with all such money as shall be and accrue to this state for the use of schools and a seminary of learning by virtue of any act of congress, shall be and the same is hereby vested in said commissioners, to be by them applied in such manner for the use of schools and a seminary of learning as shall be prescribed by law, and the said commissioners or a major part of them are hereby authorized to receive and give acquittances for all such sums of money as this state is or shall be entitled to receive from the treasury of the United States.

SEC. 20. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the cashier of the state bank to pay to the order of the commissioners or a majority of them the amount of the school fund on deposit in said bank and the said commissioners shall forthwith proceed to

buy up therewith as large an amount of the bank notes of said bank as the same will purchase and the notes so purchased, shall be by said commissioners deposited in said bank and the cashier shall give to said commissioners a receipt therefor and proceed to burn the same in the manner and at the time prescribed for burning the ten per cent. paid into said bank, which receipt the said commissioners shall present to the auditor of public accounts, who shall issue a certificate for the amount specified in said receipt, payable to the aforesaid commissioners of the school fund in the legal currency of the United States, which certificate shall be by said commissioners safely kept as an evidence of the claim of the commissioners upon the treasury of the state.

SEC. 21. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the clerk of the county commissioners court of the several counties in this state to make an abstract of the report of the trustees of the schools established, stating the number of children within each district, the number actually sent to school, the time a school has been kept in operation in each district, with an account of the expense of the same and forward it to the Secretary of State on the first day of December in each and every year.

SEC. 22. Be it further enacted, That it shall be the duty of the inhabitants of any district at their regular or called meetings to make

such regulations for building or repairing school houses as they may think necessary and for furnishing the school house with fire wood and furniture. They shall have power to class themselves and agree upon the number of days each person or class shall work in making such improvements and all other regulations that they may think necessary to accomplish such building or improvement.

Provided, however, That no person shall be required to do any work or pay for such improvements or wood unless they have the care of a child between the age of five and twenty-one years or unless he shall attend the school for the purpose of obtaining instruction and for any neglect or refusal to do such work by any one of the inhabitants according to this act, there shall be a fine for each day they shall so neglect or refuse to work of seventy-five cents.

SEC. 23. Be it further enacted, That the several school collectors and treasurers, who may be appointed under the provisions of this act, shall before they enter on the discharge of the duties of their respective offices, enter into bond and security in the sum of two hundred dollars to the county commission of the county in which they reside and their successors in office, conditioned for the faithful accounting for all money received by them respectively under and by virtue of any authority conferred on them by this act.

SEC. 24. Be it further enacted, That whenever the tax is levied according to the twelfth section of this act in good merchantable produce, it shall be lawful for the trustees to make out a list with a warrant stating to be collected in produce and they shall have power to transfer the list and warrant to any teacher or teachers that they may have employed, who shall have full power to collect the same, and if any person shall refuse or neglect to pay their respective amounts in produce for two weeks after demand it shall be lawful to collect the same in cash. Provided, that whenever there is any disagreement about the price of any produce offered in payment it shall be the duty of each to select one disinterested housekeeper to value the same and if they cannot agree it shall be their duty to choose a third and all such valuation shall be binding.

Approved January 15, 1825.

This Act was amended by the act February 17, 1827. Section 3 and 4 are the ones which are essential to the history of the earliest schools. Sec. 3 provided, The legal voters of any school district at their regular meetings shall have power in their discretion to cause either the whole or one half of the sum required to support a school in such district to be raised by taxation the remainder may be required to be paid by parents, master and guardians in proportion to the number of persons which each of them shall send to suck school.

Sec. 4 provided that no person was to be taxed for the support of free schools in the state unless by his own free will and consent first had and obtained in writing and unless he was taxed he could not send any children to the school.

THE PEORIA ACADEMY.

The following is an exact reprint of an old catalogue and all of it of Page's Academy, kindly loaned for this purpose by Henry T. Baldwin. It is in all probability the only copy now in existence. (This Catalogue must not be confounded with the Boys' Stock School. Page called his school the Peoria Academy, because it was the first and only academy at the time.)

CATALOGUE OF PEORIA ACADEMY

1840.

SCHOOL TRUSTEES

SAMUEL LOWRY, JOSEPH C. FRYE, LEWIS HOWELL, FRANCIS VORIS, GEORGE T. METCALFE.

Teachers in Peoria Academy during the year A. D. 1840.

> REV. DAVID PAGE, Principal, MRS. HANNAH B. PAGE, MISS MARY L. BOARDMAN.

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MALE DEPARTMENT.

William Alter James S. Davis James F. Anderson Robert R. Davis Carneal Armstrong Charles Davis Longworth Armstrong Reuben Davis Lewis H. Armstrong William O. Dewey Wm. P. Armstrong Joseph Ellis Peter C. Bartlett Ben famin Ellis Watson M. Evans George Blakeley Hermon Blakeley James W. Evans John M. Blakeley D. W. C. Farrell James Blakeley Hiram G. Farrels Henry Forsyth Daniel Banyard John Burnheisel James Forsyth Cornelius Burnheisel George Ford John Caldwell James Fowler Jerome H. Case Francis Fowler James Frye Johnson L. Cole George Cone William Gaines Charles Cook **Reay Gaskill** Frederic Cook Cyrus Gaskill Samuel H. Gaskill Joshua Cushing James Cushing Joseph Glaze John Cushing Lyman Hall George Cushing John Hall Southwick Davis Thomas Hardesty H K. W. Davis Henry Hardesty John C. Hardesty Daniel E. Oakley Dixon Hardesty Henry S. Phillips Anderson Hardesty William Phillips-Abijah Hunt Francis Phillips F. W. L. Huntoon Benjamin F. Pierce Marcellus Huntoon Daniel Raney John Huntoon Isaac Raney Isaac D. Huntoon David B. Reynolds,

Wm. J. Harrington Jerome C. Hawley **James Heaton** Ferdinand Hevl Michael R. Hughes Theodore Keller Henry C. King Charles Knowlton Henry Little James C. Lindsay Samuel Lowry Wm. J. Lowry William Lowry William J. Mason Albert M'Clellan James M'Coy Alonzo Nurse Horatio G. Nurse Edw. F. Nowland William M. Oakford

William Reynolds Sanford Richardson Erasm. D. Richardson Anastus Robin Jacob H. Slough Wm. A. Schlotman William Shores Wiley Sigler Enoch Sigler Jacob Sigler Leonard Summers John Summers Jonathan Sweet James Taylor Andrew J. Tuller Elam Tuller James Thomas Francis Upshaw Albert Zieber Males 107

FEMALE DEPARTMENT

Catharine Beck Elizabeth Banvard Susan Bartlett Catharine Bettleton Ellen Brady Allah Ann Buckley Amanda Caldwell Catharine Cook Mary Cunningham Sarah Cushing Augusta A. Davis Melinda Dewey Sarah Dewey Elizabeth Blakeley Hester Ann Bice Sarah M. Bice Sarah Brestle Elizabeth Markley Sarah J. Martin Marion Oakford Marion Oakley Hannah L. Page Mary E. Page Hannah J. Pettengill Sarah F. Pettengill Ann Eliza Phillips

Isadore E. Edwards Catharine Farrell Mary Jane Forsyth Alicia Forsyth Elizabeth Fisher Mary Gaines Eliza Gaines Phebe L. Gardner Caroline Gibson Mary Gray Martha Hardesty Madora Hall Cecilia Hall Helen A. Heaton Susan Huntoon Hannah Hyde Elsey Jane Justice Anna Maria Knight Sarah A. Kellar Margaret A. Kenney Elizabeth Knowlton Mary Kingsley America Leadley Jane Lindsay Cynthia B. Lindsay Rebecca Lowry

N

Rebecca Pollock Maria L. Proctor Juliet Richardson Lucinda Richardson Lydia Rogers Margaret Rouse Amelia Ann Rouse Martha Rouse Diana Sanford Catherine Slough Cynthia Sharp Mary G. Stearns Jane A. Tagart Mary R. Tagart Harriet Taylor Georgianna Taylor Matilda Thomas Catharine Tuller Melissa Upshaw Narcissa Ann Upshaw Phebe J. Welch Jane Weis Mary Woodworth Celestia Woodruff Eugenia Zieber Females 77

SUMMARY.

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TOTAL	4

TERMS.

The academical year is divided into two sessions of twenty-four weeks each, to commence the first Mondays in January and July.

Tuition for 12 weeks, - - \$4.00 No deduction for absence.

The Principal of the institution would express thanks for past favors, while he solicits future patronage.

DAVID PAGE, Principal.

PEORIA ACADEMY Dec. 24, 1840.

WESLEYAN SEMINARY.

The following pages contain a copy of an old Programme of the Graduation Exercises of the Wesleyan Seminary, the first and last held by that school. It was kindly loaned by Henry T. Baldwin and is believed to be the only copy in existence:

PEORIA WESLEYAN SEMIMARY PEDRIA, ILLINDIA.	ORDER OF EXERGISES. THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1851.	FORENOON, 8 1-2 O'CLOCK.	Prayer Prayer What is Ambition	II Grammar	GeographyJohn Perrin. Progress of Liberty	Singing.
FEORIF	E	H	 Prayer What is Ambition Reading 		7. Geography 8. Progress of Liberi 9. Colburns Arithme	

	Edwin Ely	Loami Sparks	George Gilbert. James Thompson		Charles Purple.	Thamas Perrin. Amos Seely.	Loami Sparks.	Sylvanus Thompson
AFTERNOON, 11-2 O'CLOCK.	- H	Thanatopeis EVENING, 71-2 O'CLOCK.						Death of Harrison
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FRIDAY, JUNE 13, '51. FORENOON, 8 1-2 0'CLOCK.

	Thomas Perin			Selby Whittleser	Reuhen Moffett.			Arnos Seelev		CK.	Cultanue Thoma
Singing.	Singing.									AFTERNOON, 11-2 O'CLOCK.	Singing.
1. Prayer	2. David's Lament over Absalom	Reading	II Geography Class.	Death of Adams and Jefferson	Logic	II Algebra Class.	Grammar	Hand Me the Bowl Amos Seeley	If Arithmetic	AFTERNOO	1. The Grave
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1. The Grave				5. Destruction of Sennaccherib.	6. Happy Consequences of American Indep Edwin Ely.
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;	2. Geometry.	3. Elocution Class.	4. Physiology.		
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Reuben Moffett.	Reuben Moffett, Peoria. Georgtanna Mitchem. Margaret Gilbert, Peoria Loami Sparks, Peoria. Alice Hill, Peoria. Mary T. Burton, Wash.	Thomas Perrin, Peoria. Sylv. Thompson, Peoria. Ellen Wagener, Peoria. Phebe Seeley, Peoria. George Gilbert, Peoria. Francis Wagener, Peoria Mary Boys, Metamora. Loami Sparks.
III Arithmetic		 Wonderful Inventions A Journey A Journey Singing A Journey Singing Singing Singing Singing Singing
8. 9. 10.	H 03 59 4 10 00 1	7. 8. 9. 9. 10. 11. 13. 15. 15.

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PEORIA ACADEMY.

HISTORY.

The Peoria Academy originated in a desire, on the part of a number of citizens of Peoria, to have a school, for males, more thorough in its teachings and more permanent in its character than existed in the city. Accordingly, stock was created to purchase a site, and to build thereon an edifice large enough to accommodate one hundred and forty students. The shares were first put at forty dollars, subsequently increased to fifty, and finally to sixty dollars each. Messrs. Hansel and Bartlett drew up the paper and circulated it for subscription.

At the first meeting of the share-holders, holden in Haskell's Hall, Hon. Onslow Peters was called to the chair, and J. A. McCoy was elected Secretary. On motion, A. P.Bartlett, E. N. Powell and J. W. Hansel were appointed a committee to prepare articles of association; J. Gale, H. J. Sweeny, C. S. Clarke, C. Ballance and W. F. Bryan to inquire in relation to a location; and J. Johnston, H. G. Anderson and A. P. Bartlett to report a plan for a school house.

On the 23d of March, 1854, the shareholders again met, received and adopted the report of their committee to draft articles of association, and elected the following officers:—

> HON. ONSLOW PETERS, President. A. P. BARTLETT, Secretary. R. ROUSE, P. R. K. BROTHERSON J. W. HANSEL, H. G. ANDERSON, Treasurer. THOMAS BALDWIN, WM. R. PHELPS, H. S. AUSTIN,

At a subsequent meeting, "For the purpose of determining upon a location for a school house." Capt. Sweeny, in behalf of the committee, reported in favor of purchasing lo[†]s 10, 11 and 12, block 47, in Monson & Sanford's addition to the city of Peoria. On motion of W. Loucks, the report was adopted and the committee discharged. The building committee, Messrs. Bourland, Ulricson, Sweeny, Hazzard and Bartlett, employed Charles Ulricson as architect, and contracted with Preston & Brooks to erect a building, and with Joseph L. Ross, of Boston, Mass., and Dredge, Keys & Co.. of this city, to furnish it.

Cost of the site.....\$1800.00 Cost of building, furniture, etc... 6200.00

Total,.....\$8000.00

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The edifice was dedicated by appropriate ceremonies, and an elaborate address from the President. On the morning of the 27th of November. 1854, one hundred students. having received certificates, were admitted to the school, and took their seats. Mr. and Mrs. Hovey appeared as teachers, and a large number of parents were present at the opening ceremonies of the institution. The principal held a parley with the students, touching little matters and observances, which it was no great honor to know and observe, but yet quite a dishonor not to know and observe. Perfection is made up of trifles, but is itself no trifle. The President also made some fitting remarks, and was followed by A. P. Bartlett and J. P. Hotchkiss. After the school had been in operation a few days, nineteen other students were admitted and two additional teachers employed.

NAMES OF STOCKHOLDERS.

H. G. Anderson, J. C. Armstrong, Charles Ballance, G. T. Barker, George C. Bestor, Edward Bohanan, B. L. T. Bourland, W. F. Bryan, Samuel H. Calhoun, C. S. Clarke, Joseph Clegg, John Anderson, Henry S. Austin, Thomas Baldwin, Amos P. Bartlett, Charles P. Billon, Charles Bonney, P. R. K. Brotherson, S. H. & G. Burnett, Marvin S. Carr, S. S. Clarke, Washington Cockle,

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E. M. Colburn, P. M. Comegys, N. B. Curtiss, William H. Davis. V. Dewein, John Dredge, Geuel Ely. Jacob Gale, William S. Gregg. Matthew L. Griswold, William Hale, Warren Hall, A. C. Hankinson, William H. Haskell, Ephraim Hinman, Joshua P. Hotchkiss, E. G. Johnson, Charles Kettelle, Theodore Lawrence, Wellington Loucks, Julius Manning, William E. Mason, J. A. McCoy, Thomas C. Moore, James F. Murden. O. C. Parmely, William Peters, William R. Phelps, Elihu N. Powell. E. A. Proctor. Rudolphus Rouse, Enoch P. Sloan. J. McClay Smith. H. J. Sweenv. Alexander G. Tyng, Isaac Underhill,

Jona. K. Cooper, Jas. Crawley, James Daugherty, Thomas L. Davis, T. S. Dobbins, Jacob Darst. Smith Frye. Charles Greenleaf, Richard Gregg, Ralph Hamlin, John W. Hansel, James Hazzard, John Hinzey, Norman Howe, John Johnston, Charles P. King, John Lindsay, Tim. Lynch, Thomas L. Mayne, John McClallen, G. C. McFadden, Henry Morell, E. F. Nowland, Onslow Peters, Moses Pettengill, Thomas J. Pickett. B. P. Pratt. George N. Remington, H. I. Rugg, Job Smith, George Spurck, William Truesdale, Charles Ulricson. Samuel Voris,

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T. Wagener. I. Walker. Horatio N. Wheeler, Michael Yost.

TRANSFERS-T. Wagener to A. Frank, W. Cockle to Mrs. Thompson, Wellington Loucks to J. Tapping, Jacob Darst to Ralph Hamlin.

OFFICERS OF GOVERNMENT.

Hon. Onslow Peters, President. A. P. Bartlett, Secretary. Rudolphus Rouse, M. D. P. R. K. Brotherson. J. W. Hansel.

OFFICERS OF INSTRUCTION.

Chas. E. Hovey, A. B., Principal. Mrs. C. E. Hovey, First Assistant. C. H. Doty, Second Assistant. Anna E. Kilburne, Third Assistant. Dr. J. Niglas, LL. D., Instructor in German. T. M. Higgins, Instructor in Vocal Music. Elizabeth Smith, Assistant, Winter Term. Sophia Lalanne, Assistant, Winter Term.

STUDENTS.

Adams Chester, Armstrong Lewis, Austin Richard H., Austin, Charles S., Baldwin Franklin T., Barker Walter T., Bartlett Samuel C.. Bestor George L. Bohanan Major G., Boyd John S., Brokaw Frederic

Armstrong Charles. Armstrong James. Austin Thaddeus R.. Baldwin William J., Bentley Edward N., Billon Francis C., Boilvin William F., Boyle Matthew. **Brotherson Philip**

Callender Eliot. Carr George H., Clegg Joseph A., Colburn Walter P., Cornwell Edward E., Creighton John M., Crawley Eadron Chadwick Henry. Davis Robert S., Dodge Loring, Dudley Ethelbert L., Ely Edwin C., Evnatten Frederic. Frank August, Frink George M., Frye Smith, Jr., Frye Chastain S., Gilbert Aaron F., Gregg Robert J., Gregg Samuel T., Gray William H., Hankinson A. C. Hamlin George Haskell Joseph E., Haslett John. Hinds George E.. Hotchkiss Jay P., Hotchkiss James M., Hotchkiss Walter B., Irons Charles D., Johnson Samuel M., Johnson Austin, Kettelle George H., Kettelle Edwin S., Lawrence Romeo, Lindsay James A.,

Calhoun Samuel A., Clark Sumner, Chambers Perry Chambers Francis M., Cornwell Millard C., Creighton David Childs H. F., Chadwick Charles A., Daugherty James P., Dredge Henry W., Durst Edwin S., Ewalt Henry, Ford George S., Fields Charles H., Frye Henry A., Frye James K., Gale Edward, Glaenzer Philip J., Gregg, W. S., Jr., Gustorf Frederic. Hansel Jacob C., Hankinson John K., Hamlin Charles Haskell Charles E., Hazzard Joseph F., Hinze, Elias C., Hotchkiss M. V., Hurd Charles T., Littleton A. W., Irons Henry F., Johnson Alexander Johnston John, Kettelle Charles A... Kirkman John Lineback Boyd, Lindsay, William P., xxvii

Mason Richard, Mayne George A., May William, Metcalfe Charles F., McClallen George H., McCoy William D., M'Culloh Robert L., Morell Henry F., Mueller George H Mull Julius C., Oakford Edward. Peters Eugene P., Pickett Horace G., Powell Charles F., Preston Thomas E., Purple Frank. Rugg Arthur H., Remington Philip H., Remington George Rouse Henry B., Shelly William K., Spurck Henry, Swayze Ambrose, Taber Charles. Tapping Samuel P., Thompson Samuel E., Truesdale William, Voris Richard R., Ward James. Weis John C.. Wheeler Portius C., Wood John C ... Yost John,

McCoy Lindsay, May Rodney. Maxwell Henry, Metcalfe George T., McClallen Henry W., M'Culloh Thomas G., Moore Thomas H., Mueller George F., 'Aueller William, Noves Alfred S., Oakford Aaron S., Peters William, Pickett George B., Powell William H., Purple William, Raney George B., Richardson Charles A. Rouse Rudolphus, Smith Theodore. Spurck Albert Sweeny Rudolphus E., Taber James, Thompson James B., Voris Robert C.. Wagener Charles, Wheaton Loyd, Wheeler Charles R., Wood Gilbert E., Yost Daniel Z.,

Mary T. Hotchkiss.* Annie E. Kidder.

^{*} Ladies are admitted for the study of the Classics only.











