



History of the Platteville Academy, 1839-1853. 1942

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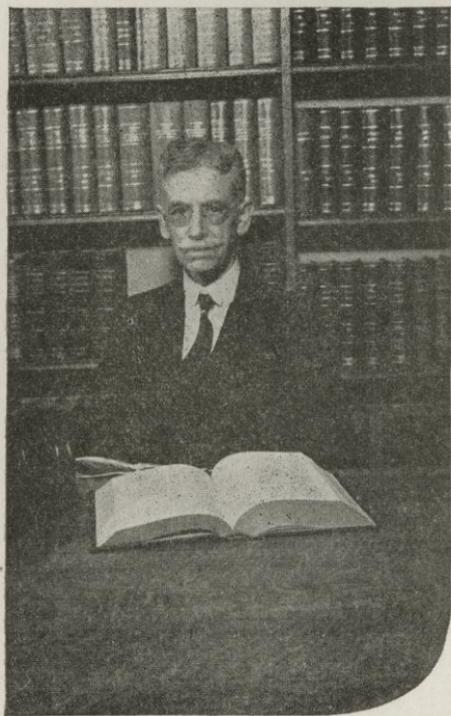
History of The Platteville Academy

By
James Alva Wilgus



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State Teachers College

Platteville, Wisconsin



JAMES A. WILGUS

History of The Platteville Academy

1839 to 1853

By

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Secondary Education Department

State Teachers College
PLATTEVILLE, WISCONSIN

HISTORY OF PLATTEVILLE ACADEMY

Introductory Note

JAMES A. WILGUS was a splendid teacher, a wise administrator, and a fine inspirer of youth. He taught in the State Teachers College at Platteville for forty-five years. During this time he established an enviable reputation.

Mr. Wilgus was preeminently an historian. He was careful, painstaking, and authoritative in respect to historical questions.

Throughout Mr. Wilgus' work in Platteville, he was interested in the beginnings and the life of the Platteville Academy. He probably knew more concerning the truth of that early school than any other person of his day. He was an authority on the Platteville Academy. In the latter years of his life he was relieved of some of his teaching work partly to provide time for him to finish an exhaustive, careful investigation into the original records concerning the Platteville Academy as an institution.

Mr. Wilgus' death came suddenly when he was still at work upon his investigations. His son, Dr. Curtis A. Wilgus, now of The George Washington University, Washington, D. C., took the manuscript and prepared it for publication.

The school is proud to present this work as a tribute of appreciation and love to one of its great faculty members. The work of James A. Wilgus in this institution richly warrants this action on the part of the college.

(Signed) A. M. ROYCE, President

February, 1942

Introductory Note

AT the time of my father's death on July 24, 1939, he had completed a revised draft of this manuscript, which was found among his papers. However, the work had not been titled and no chapter headings had been indicated. On the margins of some pages were queries and, in some instances, notes. In many places throughout the text there were interlinear notations. But on the whole the work gave evidence of finality.

In editing the manuscript for the press, I have attempted to check certain items and to answer certain questioned notes. The punctuation has been changed somewhat, but in no case has the original meaning been changed. The work is completely the result of my father's research which extended over a period of several years.

April 2, 1941

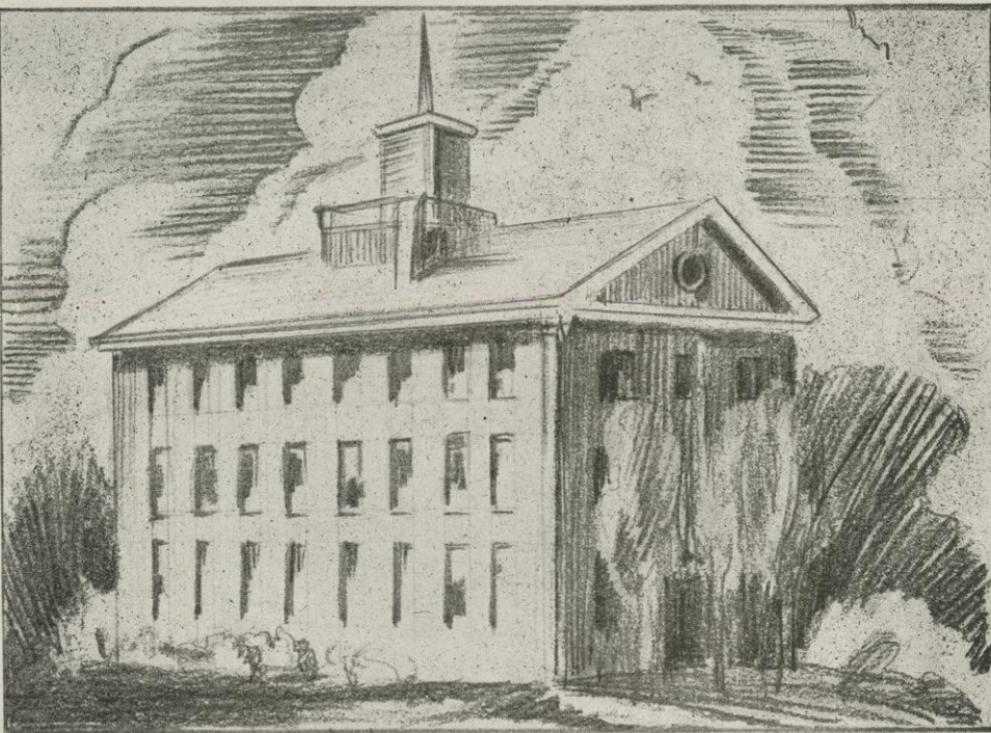
A. Curtis Wilgus,
The George Washington University.

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First Academy Building

HISTORY OF PLATTEVILLE ACADEMY



New Academy Building Completed in 1853

HISTORY OF PLATTEVILLE ACADEMY

Chapter 1 Beginnings (to 1842)

The legislatures of territories had no power to dispose of school lands, or to provide in any way for the support of schools other than by a tax upon the people. Until 1836 any "public" schools in Wisconsin would be organized and conducted in accordance with the Michigan territorial laws. As early as 1827 the Legislative Council of Michigan passed an Act requiring any town having over fifty families to establish a tax supported school; one hundred families were to have two schools; one hundred fifty families, three schools, and so on. Neglect of towns to do this entailed a fine, and such fines were given to the county for aid to poor districts. This law was never put into operation in the Wisconsin portion of Michigan Territory unless possibly in Milwaukee (1835 or 1836).¹ Hence the history of common school education in Wisconsin really does not begin until after Wisconsin became a separate territory in 1836. The first law for the organization and support of common schools by taxation was passed in 1839.² This was amended in 1840 and again in 1841, whereby a systematic organization of education was provided.³ The disposal of school lands for a public school fund, however, could only begin after Wisconsin became a state in 1848.⁴

In the meantime private or subscription schools were started whenever and wherever there was enough of an interest in the matter and some one was available as a teacher. Such schools were local affairs, beginning with the direct initiative of the people, and, therefore, at first were without any legislative enactment for such a venture. Eight of these private schools were in operation in Wisconsin Territory in 1836-1837, as follows: one in Kenosha Pike; two in Milwaukee; one in Green Bay; one in Sheboygan; one in Prairie du Chien; one in Platteville; and one in Mineral Point. The total estimated attendance in these eight schools in 1936 was reported as 275.⁵

The school history of Platteville begins in June 1834 with the building of a log school house on what is today the farm belonging to the Pioneer State Teachers College. It was situated a few hundred feet northwest of the present intersection of Jay and Court Streets in the south part of the city. At that time there were no such street designations, for Platteville was then just a small settlement not yet surveyed into streets or divided into lots, and it consisted of a few log houses situated in the vicinity of the present Meyer lumber yard at Oak and Pine streets. The school building was located so as to furnish convenient accommodations to three small settlements of the time. These were Platteville (or the Rountree settlement), the "Irish Hill" settlement east of the

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present Gardner farm, and the "Comstock" settlement where the Helker farm is today. Since there were not enough children in any one of these settlements for a school, the founders agreed on a central location at this point which was easily accessible to all inasmuch as a "road" connected them, running from Rountree's furnace in Platteville west and southwest along the ridge to the Comstock settlement. The school house was located on the north side of this road.

Funds for the building were raised by subscription to the amount of three hundred dollars;⁶ but the actual cost of the building seems to have been one hundred forty-seven dollars and fifty cents.⁷ The building was twenty by twenty-four feet in size⁸ and served not only as a school house but also as the first meeting house of the Methodist congregation (which had been established in 1832) until⁹ they put up their own building in 1837 within the village of Platteville, where the present Odd Fellows Block now is. The building also furnished a common meeting place for the neighboring settlements. After a few years - possibly a half dozen - the building was abandoned for public purposes and sold into private hands. It was then changed into a dwelling house and occupied by the late D. J. Gardner's father and mother. Later, about 1860, the building was torn down and the logs were moved to the George Carl farm, where they were used for a granary, which remained until it was destroyed about 1922.¹⁰

This school was of course not a free school, and tuition at the rate of one dollar a month or three dollars per quarter was paid for each child attending. The number of scholars ranged from fifteen to twenty-five and they came from the pioneer families of the three settlements for the most part with perhaps others from homes round about. Some of the contributing families prominent at the time were the Rountree, Reilly, Snowden, Waller, Vineyard, Holman, and Chalders families. The teacher in this school for 1834 and 1835¹¹ probably was Samuel Huntington, a man about forty years old, rather eccentric, and exacting but not severe, who came into the community "from no one knows where and disappeared no one knows how". Though he was an experienced teacher, dissatisfaction arose among the patrons because he was a kind of adventurer and spent much of his time with his pupils in hunting for mineral here and there in the region surrounding.¹²

Data are meagre and uncertain in authority concerning the successors of Huntington. Apparently, however, Dr. A. T. Locey, a physician in Platteville, was in charge of a school of about forty pupils there in 1836. But since the practice of medicine was his main interest, and would necessarily break into his teaching, this

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was delegated to his sister and a Miss Walker, from Cassville, for a good portion of the time.¹³

It was in this log school house, also that Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, the authoress, is said to have taught for a time.¹⁴

With the platting of the Village of Platteville in 1835¹⁵ by Major Rountree, the acquisition and location of property became greatly facilitated, and the community began to take on a permanent character on its present or "new" site, while its educational as well as other interests became increasingly centered within itself. In 1837 it had an estimated population of two hundred.¹⁶ One of its prominent citizens at the time was Hanmer Robbins,¹⁷ who later was to become especially conspicuous in the development of the community in many ways, but particularly in education because of his special interest therein, since he opened what is often regarded as the first school within the village limits. This was located in a log house, the exact site of which is not definitely determinable at this late date, but it is said to have been south of the present Congregational Church, either within the limits of the city park or across on the property adjoining the park on the east in the vicinity of the Civic Memorial Building.¹⁸ This school was opened in May 1837, instruction being given in the ordinary elementary subjects, and tuition was charged at the rate of four dollars and a half for a term of sixteen weeks. The attendance during the term appears to have been sixty "all told" and "embraced among others H. S. and Ellen Rountree, Miss Loey, two daughters of Thomas Render, a son and daughter of Richard Waller, Henry Snowden, the children of James Durley, and the children of James Vineyard."¹⁹

In these early days a very close connection existed between education and religion. This had already been manifest in the log school house on section 16 - which was for both school and church - and now in the fall of 1837 a more ambitious undertaking in this respect was completed in the village where the Methodists erected, and dedicated in September of that year,²⁰ a two-story frame building, which became known as the First Methodist Church. The Methodists had started their organization in 1832,²¹ at Major Rountree's home with the Major and a few others as the original founders, and in the years following had grown steadily in numbers and influence. When Major Rountree platted the village in 1835 and the lots were put on the market for sale, he had reserved a few of them here and there on the plat for special use. Thus in a volume of his papers, covering the period from 1828 to 1875, is to be found this entry: "Church and School House, Lots 1 and 2, Block 26."²² Here was erected the building in question, and it continued to stand there as probably the oldest building in Platteville until it was torn down in 1912 to make room for the Odd Fellows Building of to-day.²³

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This old church and school building stood back from Main Street about twenty feet, and was thirty by forty feet in size, and rested on a very pretentious foundation for that time which was made of "dressed stone" and "raised high enough above the surface of the street to give a basement room with double sash windows below," which was used for the school. "The sills and corner posts were hewed out with broad axe and adze" and the rest of the lumber was prepared at the McKee saw mill put up on the Little Platte River at the place later owned by Charles Roseleip. The cost of the building was \$2,600. "It was the first building erected for religious purposes in Platteville Village, and among the first in western Wisconsin." It was the largest building in Platteville. "The Main Auditorium above was reached by a broad flight of steps which covered the entrance to the basement. The church had a seating capacity for three hundred people and was lighted by three large windows on each side." Although the building was erected by the Methodists for their services and needs, contributions were solicited and received from the people generally, which made something of a general rather than a purely religious interest in the undertaking. This was further enhanced by one provision of the deed for the lots given by Rountree, wherein it was stated that

the Basement Story of the Church shall be used and occupied for public School Rooms free from Rent or charge during the days of every week Sundays Excepted under such Rules and regulations as the Trustees of the School shall or may adopt not inconsistant with the Rules of a well Regulated School.

These circumstances made the Trustees feel a certain obligation to the community at large, and they, for a time, were very generous in allowing the building to be used for various meetings of the people, even to the extent of permitting its use by persons of other faiths to hold services therein, so that it may truly be said to have been the first "public" building in the new village. ²⁴

In the following year, 1838, additional impetus to both education and religion was given by the arrival of Alvin M. Dixon. From his home in Bond County, Illinois, Dixon entered Illinois College, which had been opened in Jacksonville in 1831, and he graduated in the class of 1836 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. As a student in college, Dixon, along with many others, after the custom of the time, appeared on the program of the first Commencement Day with a declamation in the morning and with an original essay in the afternoon. The title of his essay was "The Mind Never Satisfied With Present Attainment"; his life then as well as afterward was a reflection of this sentiment. In 1839 he received the degree of Master of Arts from his Alma Mater.

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After arriving in Platteville, Dixon started a private school in which his wife also assisted. But his interest in education was broader and deeper than that of a mere living, and along with others he became very active in promoting the cause of common schools not only locally but also for the whole Territory. Late in January or early in February, 1839, a rather notable educational meeting was held in Platteville in which Dixon took a prominent part. Because of the important matters discussed and because of the action taken by this meeting, an account of it published at the time is inserted here.

A Meeting at Platteville for the Promotion of Common Schools 25

At a meeting of the citizens of Platteville and vicinity for the purpose of taking into consideration the best mode of promoting the interests of education, - Rev. Samuel Mitchell was called to the Chair and Wm. Husen and A. H. McKenzie chosen Secretaries.

The object of the meeting being stated by the Chair, Rev. A. Brunson delivered an appropriate and very interesting lecture of Common School system of Education.

On motion of Dr. Bevins, the meeting adjourned until 6 o'clock, P.M.

Met according to adjournment; the house being called to order by the Chair; Mr. Mills of Prairie du Chien was invited to the rostrum and addressed the house on the all important subject under consideration; ably and efficiently.

Rev. William Mitchell of Galena offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, the cause of Education is worthy the lively zeal and hearty co-operation of every friend to his country; and supported the same in an able and elaborate manner, and on vote of the house was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Campbell of Galena, seconded by Mr. Lord, offered the following resolution; and gave a short exposition of the same:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, the following are serious difficulties of school teachers, and should be as speedily remedied as possible, viz:

1st. Late pupils.—2nd. Irregularity in attendance.—3rd. No suitable schoolrooms.—4th. No suitable furniture.—5th. No apparatus.—6th. No libraries.—7th. A scanty supply of text books.—8th. No uniformity in text books.—9th. No sympathy from parents and others.—10th. Inadequate compensations.—11th. An improper influence of parents upon the children at home.—12th. No visits from parents.—13th. Short and dry visits from Committees.—14th. Want of teachers' associations.—15th. Sectarian jealousies.—16th. Unreasonable requirements of parents.—17th. Too great an anxiety on the part of the parents to secure to their children a present practical education; and was unanimously adopted.

Mr. A. M. Dixon offered the following resolution, seconded by Rev.

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J. Mitchell, who sustained the same in a brief, eloquent, and able manner.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention, the present is a suitable time to form an association for the promotion of Common School Education, which was unanimously adopted.

Rev. A. Brunson, from a Committee previously selected for the purpose; reported a preamble and Constitution to the house; which was taken up article by article for consideration; which was with some slight amendments unanimously adopted as follows:

Whereas the proper and suitable education of the youth of our country is considered of vital importance to our Republican institutions, our religion and the peace and prosperity of our domestic relations; and whereas the law of the Legislature, which from time to time may be passed for the purpose of rendering education universal, will be of no effect without the united effort and energies of the people in their support. Therefore, the undersigned associate themselves to endeavor to accomplish this desirable object under the following

CONSTITUTION

Art. 1. This association shall be called the Literary Association of Grant County, Wisconsin Territory.

Art. 2. The object of this association is, and shall be to promote and encourage Common School Education in the County, and in a conjunction with other similar associations throughout the Territory; by disseminating light upon the subject by means of lectures, addresses and the circulation of suitable publications, and by encouraging the promotion and support of Common Schools.

Art. 3. The officers of the association shall consist of a President, six Vice Presidents, four Secretaries, Treasurer and Executive Committee of eleven members, to be elected annually, and to continue in office till their successors are elected, and who shall form a board of Directors, and make by-laws for their own government.

Art. 4. The association shall hold meetings semi-annually at such times and places as the board of officers or a majority of them shall designate—the one nearest the commencement of the year being the annual meeting for the election of officers—due notice thereof being given by the President or Executive Committee.

Art. 5. The duties of the officers of the association shall be such as are usual to officers of voluntary and benevolent societies; the monies obtained by voluntary contributions, to be placed in the hands of the treasurer, and by him paid out by order of the board for publications and for other purposes tending to the objects of the association.

Art. 6. When similar associations are formed in other Counties of the Territory, who desire concentration and union of effort, a suitable number of delegates shall be appointed by the association to meet other delegates of the same kind at the Seat of Government, to form a Territorial Association, embracing the object herein contemplated.

Art. 7. This Constitution may be altered or amended at any annual meeting, two thirds of the members present concurring therein:

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and any person may become a member of the association by subscribing to this Constitution.

The Rev. A. Brunson offered the following resolutions; which were unanimously adopted;

1st. Resolved, That in view of the importance of the objects contemplated in the formation of this association, the Citizens of the county, and Territory generally, are respectfully and earnestly invited to cooperate in the design.

2nd. Resolved, That the Citizens of the Territory are respectfully requested to form similar associations in their respective Counties, and to appoint delegates to meet at the Capitol early in the next session of the Legislature to form a Territorial Association, and to take such other measures in the premises, as may be deemed necessary to the encouragement and support of Common Schools.

3rd. Resolved, That the Legislature of the Territory be, and hereby is earnestly and respectfully requested and petitioned to pass a law at its present session, establishing the Common School system, and taking measures for raising a fund for its support.

4th. Resolved, That a copy of these proceedings, be signed by the President and Secretaries, be furnished by the Secretaries to the President of the Council; and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the present Legislature, and a copy also to the Miners' Free Press at Mineral Point, for publication, and that every editor in the Territory be requested to copy the same.

On motion of Rev. J. Mitchell the Ladies and gentlemen of the house were invited to join this association; whereupon the names of sixty-eight persons were handed in to the Secretaries, as members of the association.

The house then proceeded to the election of its officers for the ensuing year, which resulted in favor of the following gentlemen:

President	Treasurer
Hon. John H. Rountree	J. Durley, Esq.
Vice Presidents	Executive Committee
Rev. B. Weed, Doct. John Bevins, Thomas P. Burnett, Esq.	Hon. Ralph Carver, J. R. Vineyard, Thomas Cruson, F. Hollman, Esq.
A. E. Hough, Esq.	Judge E. M. Orn, Honorable N. Dewey.
Col. J. McKenzie	Doct. J. J. Bayse
Daniel Burt, Esq.	James Gilmore, Esq.
Corresponding Secretaries	Doct. A. R. Lacy
Rev. J. Mitchell	Elihu Warner, Esq.
A. M. Dixon, Esq.	E. J. Dodge, Esq.
Recording Secretaries	
J. Allen Barber,	
A. M. McKenzie, Esq.	

On motion of Rev. A. Brunson the meeting adjourned.

SAM'L. MITCHELL, President
A. H. McKenzie,
Wm. Huson, Secretaries

On February 14, 1839 a copy of these proceedings was placed before the Territorial Council by its president. After being

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read to the Council, it was moved by Major Rountree that the proceedings be referred to the Committee on Schools, and also that they be printed in every paper in the Territory. The Council however was not then ready to take decisive action on so important a matter as the establishment of a system of common schools for the Territory. But after voting down a motion to lay the matter on the table, and postponing the question of printing to the following day (when nothing was done about it, as revealed by the records), the matter did go to the Committee on Schools.²⁶ Undoubtedly the action of the Platteville citizens was influential on the members of the committee and of the legislature in securing the passage and approval of the Act of March 7th for the organization of a system of public schools and for its support by taxation.

A movement for specially chartered schools, however, had manifested itself from the beginning of the territory, and is reflected in many Acts of the Territorial legislatures. At the first session, held at Belmont, Act No. 36, approved December 8, 1836, provided for the creation of the "Wisconsin University" at Belmont;²⁷ and the second session of the legislature which met at Burlington, Des Moines County, Iowa, saw legislative enactments approved by the governor in the two months of December 1837 and January 1838, providing charters for fourteen "seminaries", one "academy", two "colleges" (one a manual labor college), and two "universities" - one at Green Bay, and the other the "University of the Territory of Wisconsin" at Madison.²⁸ The form of organization for these institutions was that of stock companies, managed by trustees, and with incomes, aside from "bills of tuition" limited to a definite amount, more usually than otherwise stated at one thousand dollars. Such activity of the legislature is clear indication of a widespread feeling among people of influence in the various communities throughout the territory that educational facilities were required, at least by those who could afford to pay for them. Therefore it readily made provision for such joint or corporate enterprises.

In the spirit of the times Platteville decided to turn to the legislature for a similar charter for an institution of learning within its midst. Accordingly Major John H. Rountree, one of Platteville's representatives, from Grant County in the Territorial Council, on February 20, 1839 introduced "Bill No. 56" for that purpose.²⁹ Passed by the Council on the following day, it was sent to the House of Representatives, which passed it with an amendment, the next day. The amendment was agreed to by the Council on the 26th. Governor Henry Dodge signed it on March 1, and it became "Act 38" of the laws for that session, 1839, "to incorporate the Platteville Academy in the County of Grant".

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The opening words of the Act were: "That there be established in the town of Platteville in the County of Grant, a seminary of learning for the instruction of young persons, of either sex, in science and literature, by the name and style of the Platteville Academy."³⁰

The institution was to be organized as a stock company wherein the shares were to have a par value of twenty dollars each, be the personal property of the shareholders, and be transferable only on the books of the corporation. The annual income of the corporation was never to exceed five thousand dollars, and the corporation's "funds, privileges, and immunities" were to be used exclusively for the purposes of education. The management of the corporation was to be non-sectarian and its affairs to be conducted by a Board of Trustees of nine members, elected annually by the stockholders on the first Monday of September. Election was by ballot, and each shareholder had one vote for every share he owned to the amount of ten shares, and then one vote for every five shares he owned over and above that amount. The Trustees named in the Act were: James Mitchel, Ebenezer M. Oren, John Bevans, James Boyce, Henry Wood, A. B. T. Locey, Bennet Atwood, James R. Vineyard, Sylvester Gridley, David Kendall, and James Durley.³¹

To pass enactments authorizing the organization of institutions of learning, and naming specific persons for the purpose of effecting such an organization was one matter; but it was quite another matter for the incorporators named in each case to carry out the provisions of the acts and really establish the institution in question as a going concern. Consequently most of these "institutions", Platteville included, existed simply on paper and never materialized in fact. Different reasons for this obtained in different cases; but one reason may be conjectured as quite common, and that is the weakness of such institutions as financial undertakings in comparison with returns that might be secured from investments in other enterprises. Under these circumstances, not to mention others, there was general inability to secure the funds needed because of a personal unwillingness on the part of the incorporators and others to venture their funds into something unassured or into something that might easily become more of a philanthropic undertaking than anything else.

At first, however, it seemed as if Platteville would be an exception to this general situation, for Platteville already had a school room or "academy"; it also had a good school which was conducted by an enthusiastic and capable head, Mr. Dixon; and after the passage of the Act of Incorporation, Dixon's school was advertised as the Platteville Academy as follows:

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The next session of the Platteville Academy will commence under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Dixon on the 16th of September next on the following terms: For the common branches of an English Education, per session of 22 weeks, five days each six hours each day, \$9.00. For those studying the higher branches of English, \$12.00 per session. For the Languages, \$16.00. All payments must be made quarterly; that is, every half session.

Platteville, August 26, 1839.

Alvin M. Dixon.

A catalogue of the school was issued soon afterward, but no copy is now available. However, accounts of that time exist which are enlightening, and these help us to understand the nature of the school and also the conditions in Platteville at the time.

One is an interesting comment about Dixon, his "pamphlet", and his school:

Rev. A. M. Dixon, a Presbyterian minister, emigrated to this place in the year 1838, and immediately commenced teaching school . . . Mr. Dixon possessed in a high degree, those peculiar traits of character which qualifies a man rightly to perform the duties of a pedagogue. In the fall of '39, he gave an exhibition of his school; and published a programme of the Trustees, Faculty, Students, and Studies of his school. His patrons were highly gratified at the imposing array of studies conducted by one "Master of Arts", assisted by one or two females—studies which comprehended nearly all of the dead and living languages, and almost every branch of natural and moral science. The more this little pamphlet was circulated and read

"The more the wonder grew -
That one small head should hold the whole he knew."

It appeared that no less than 149 children, most of them belonged to Platteville, had attended his school the previous year—a fact which shows that as early as '39, this village was rapidly increasing in population.

Another account gives interesting data from the catalogue about the attendance and the course of study:

We have received a copy of the Catalogue of the Trustees, Teachers, and Students of this flourishing institution, from the Hon. John H. Rountree, who will accept our thanks. There are 150 students attending this Academy—70 males and 80 females. The following is an extract.

"The Instructors of this Institution, feel that too high an estimate can not be placed upon a common school education; and that a high standard should be raised in this young and rising Territory. The following branches are considered by them necessary to fit our youth for the right discharge of the duties they owe their Maker, their country and themselves. A thorough knowledge of spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, English, Grammar, History, Music, Intellectual, Moral and Natural Philosophy, and also a short course of Astronomy. The academical course embraces all the branches commonly taught in Academies to prepare youth for college, for teaching, and for filling other important stations in life."

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Another is an account of a public examination. This was an exhibition of the work of the school and was held at the end of each session:

We learn that a public examination of the pupils of this flourishing academy took place on the 14th inst. (February). The whole proceedings were extremely interesting. There are connected with the institution nearly one hundred pupils. The examination continued two days, and notwithstanding the unpropitious state of the weather, a large number of strangers, together with the citizens of Platteville generally, were in attendance. The pupils who are under the charge of Rev. Mr. Dixon, the able and efficient principal of the academy, evinced great proficiency in their studies, and reflected honor on the institution. In the course of the examination, the scholars were briefly and appropriately addressed by T. P. Burnett, Esq. The exercises were concluded by an address delivered before the **Platteville Literary Association** by MORTIMER M. JACKSON of this place. This association is composed of a number of the most intelligent and influential citizens of Grant County, and was established expressly for the promotion of **common school** education throughout the Territory. The address of Mr. Jackson was in reference to the objects and purposes of the association, and on the subject of education generally. Our informant speaks of the address in the highest terms of commendation. We hope Mr. J. will consent, in obedience to a resolution passed, to furnish a copy for publication, as all, we doubt not, would be much gratified to peruse it.

The people of Platteville deserve great credit for the public spirit which they manifest in promoting the great cause of popular education—and their literary association especially, for the good it has already accomplished in awaking the public mind to a sense of the importance of laying the foundation, at an early day, in this Territory, of a good system of popular instruction.

Another statement is found in a letter to the Secretary of the American Home Missionary Society, New York City, describing Platteville as a community, referring to its educational and religious movements, and telling particularly about Dixon and his purposes:

I take pleasure in introducing to your notice an infant Presb. Church of 12 members formed, last summer by Rev. Messrs. Hale & Kent. Being a sort of visitor & volunteer among the churches in this section, while halting in my travels at the West, I have providentially tarried here a week, long enough to become interested in the prospects of this church & people, in all numbering some 400 on a square mile, & this population gathered mostly in four years past.

The Methodists have hitherto occupied the whole ground, but now from the nature of their organization & from a schism among themselves do not cultivate the whole field, or secure the whole ground from the adversary of God & Man.

There is in the basement of the Methodist church, a school or academy, taught by Mr. A. M. Dixon & his female assistant having 130 pupils of all ages & both sexes on the roll of attendance, & he is aiming to introduce uniform text-books into the whole territory. He is a grad-

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uate of Jacksonville College, Ills. & every way competent to give direction to education in its infancy here, though he hesitates whether he shall not desist & enter the ministry, so great is the lack of ministers.

I may add, that this place seems destined to flourish, being built over & near **lead mines**, with water privileges & timber lands as well as prairies in the neighborhood.

I have intimated to Messrs. David Kendall, the Post Master, & A. M. Dixon the teacher and elder in the church, that it is your intention to send on & support men in this territory & that this must be one point in the western part, being 25 miles from Galena & about 16 or 18 from the Mississippi River—& withal being a healthy location, on high ground, with spring & running water around,—without marches and stagnant pools or streams.

The church & people would try to give a man something more than his bread to begin with, few & feeble as are the Presbyterians. The only difficulty is a place in which to preach, they having no commodious private house, or public room which they can command. But they hope a Lyceum will be erected in a few weeks, which they can occupy till other arrangements can be made.

I have suggested a plan of beginning on a small scale with erecting a house of worship, & school room & domestic apartments all under one roof, as it is very expensive building here, & by & by convert it into a temperance tavern, when a meeting house shall be erected. 32

Finally there is another letter, also to the American Home Missionary Society, concerning financial assistance desired by the Presbyterians to enable them to put up a building of their own, and also regarding a change to be made in the school. The letter is by Mr. David Kendall, the postmaster of Platteville, and also a charter member of the Presbyterian Church. He says:

... We do not ask the Society nor the Friends of Zion out of the Society to give anything towards this object as a donation, but we do ask that if the Society is prepared to loan at 7 per cent a sum not less than 500\$ nor to exceed 1000\$ the payment of which is to be secured by Real Estate; that it will introduce us to some Individual Capitalist who is a Friend and would rather him to be a Member of the Church of Christ, with whom it might be probable we could negotiate a loan for the above named object. We should not want it all at once. Should we be able to negotiate for any means we should not want it all this year. Had we a House we could get a minister. Mr. Howe would have continued had we have had. The Methodist Brethren have a good House, are strong in number, strong in wealth, but I am sorry to have to add evince a disposition to increase our burthens rather than take us by the hand and help us on in our Christian Conflict. This is one of the principal and most populous Towns in the Territory, and to give you a better Idea of its size and prospects I shall send you with this Letter a Catalogue of the School. Mr. A. M. Dixon the Principal of the School is an Elder of the Presbyterian Church here. It is now proposed to substitute Methodist Teachers. 33

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It was at this juncture (May 1840) that the Eighth Delegated General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church divided the Illinois Conference, by setting off the Rock River Conference, which included all of northern Illinois, and all of Wisconsin Territory, together with the Indian Missions of the Upper Mississippi River. When this new conference held its first session in August following, all of the appointments were grouped into two districts; namely, Platteville, and Milwaukee, the former being placed under the jurisdiction of H. W. Reed, and the latter under that of Julius Field. Together, these districts included seventeen pastoral charges which required twenty-two ministers. This does not embrace the nine Indian Missions. For some reason "Platteville was left to be supplied. This was not on account of its feebleness, for it had 265 members - the largest number reported from any circuit in the Territory. The supply was Rufus Spaulding, a returned missionary from Africa."³⁴

The arrival of Reverend Spaulding resulted in an association between him and Mr. Dixon and in new teachers as previously suggested in the school enterprise hitherto conducted by Dixon. The next announcement about the school appeared in the following advertisement inserted in the newly established newspaper of Platteville **The Northern Badger**, October 30, 1840: ³⁵

PLATTEVILLE SCHOOL

The Fall and Winter Session of the Platteville School commenced on the 19th inst. under the superintendence of A. M. Dixon, associated with Rev. R. Spaulding, and with Miss Sarah E. Spaulding in the female department.

The terms are the same as they have been, viz. \$9.00 per session of 22 weeks for those studying the primary branches of English, and \$12.00 for those studying the higher branches of English, the use of the Apparatus, and the Original Languages. Payment must be made quarterly; that is, in the middle of each session, and at its close. Patrons furnish house, and keep it in repair.

An Apparatus has just been received from Boston, as complete and extensive as can be found in any Academy in this part of the western country. Extra lectures and illustrations with the apparatus will be given to the advanced scholars.

Public examination at the close of each session. For admission, apply to the teachers, or Rev. R. Spaulding.

A. M. Dixon, Principal.

References

- Rev. A. Brunson, Prairie du Chien, W. T.
- Mr. A. B. Campbell, Galena, Ill.
- Mr. Curtis Beach, Mineral Point, W. T.
- Mr. David Brigham, Esq., Madison, W. T.

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In the meantime the Presbyterians were going forward with the project of building, as may be seen from this entry in their Church Records: ³⁶

Sept. 5th 1840 At a meeting of the Members of the Platteville Presbyterian Church held at the Methodist Meeting House for the purpose of taking into consideration the erection of a Church building and to elect Trustees to hold Church property it was on motion Resolved to make immediate arrangements to build a house. The following persons were then elected Trustees viz

James Durley
William B. Vineyard
Henry Snouden

David Kendal
William Davidson

Naturally Mr. Dixon was very definitely interested in this undertaking. Likewise, also, he was a supporter of the public or common school movement then coming to the front again under the call of the Trustees of School District Number 1:

School Meeting

Notice is hereby given, that there will be a meeting of the voters of the school District No. 1, in the school house in Platteville, on Friday the 8th day of January, 1841 at 6 o'clock P.M. for the purpose of making a Code of Bye-Laws to govern the District; also to elect a District Collector; and also to take into consideration the subject of levying a Tax, according to the power invested in them, as a body, by the law regulating common schools, and for other matters to be laid before the meeting.

Wirom Knowlton, Clk.

J. J. Bayse
W. Davidson
Wm. B. Vineyard
Trustees

(Jan. 8, 1841)

A very sensible and enlightening editorial appeared in the newly established Platteville Paper, the **Northern Badger**, which deserves insertion here because of its prudent counsel to the voters in considering the important matters involved:

PUBLIC SCHOOL

A public meeting of the voters of this district will be held this evening, Friday, according to notice, to take into consideration the propriety of levying a tax for the support of common schools in this district. It must be recollect that the bulk of the population to be benefited by the school resides in Platteville, and that the principal property to be levied on is the land of the farmers—neither personal property nor improvements being taxable. This condition of things shoud teach us who reside in Platteville caution and moderation in imposing a tax, lest we impose burdens on others in which we do not participate ourselves. If the heaviest possible tax allowed by the law be imposed, a formidable opposition to the system will be created, which may endanger its existence or diminish its usefulness. The true

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friends of the system, will endeavor to mitigate opposition, conciliate enemies, and remove the apprehensions of those who fear ruinous taxation. We recommend, however, a liberal support of the system, without engaging in any expenditures for the first year, which are not absolutely needed. The system begins under the most favorable auspices—the Trustees are able, zealous, and possessed of the full confidence of their constituents—the Teachers are above the grade we could have hoped to obtain; for it is well known that country schoolmasters are not always competent. With such an excellent beginning, moderation and a spirit of conciliation will carry the system through triumphantly.

Reviewing the general situation and condition of affairs at this time in the community, it could hardly be expected that Dixon's school would continue its Methodist connections much longer; Mr. and Mrs. Dixon were charter members of the Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Dixon was now a leading elder in it; the Presbyterians were arranging for a building of their own, and Dixon would then locate his school there; and the schism among the Methodists was disconcerting also and had a double aspect arising out of difficulties and disagreements in the paying for their church, and also in the use of the building regularly by outsiders, especially by the Lyceum. Thus matters were far from satisfying to everybody concerned. Consequently at the end of the first term of the winter session of his school in association with Reverend Spaulding, Dixon withdrew, making the following announcement: ³⁷

PLATTEVILLE SELECT SCHOOL

This school is still under the superintendence of A. M. Dixon (alone). It is removed from the District School Room, to the room occupied by the Presbyterians as a church. The school is on the same plan, and terms as before advertised.

From the long experience in teaching, which the Principal of this School has had, and from other facilities, he feels confident that he can make the School such as the wants of the community demand.

A. M. Dixon, Principal.

References

- Mr. David Kendall, Platteville
- Rev. A. Brunson, Prairie du Chien, W. T.
- Mr. A. B. Campbell, Galena, Ills.
- Mr. Curtis Beach, Mineral Point, W. T.
- Mr. David Brigham, Esq., Madison, W. T.

(Jan. 22, 1841)

By the time Dixon had finished his winter session of the school, the Trustees of the School District Number 1 were ready to open the common or "public" school, and announced it as follows:

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DISTRICT SCHOOL

THE SUMMER TERM of Three Months of this School will commence on the 12th inst. (April) at the School Room in Platteville, under the care of

MR. ALVIN DIXON

MRS. A. C. LORD &

MRS. H. A. NIXON:

the latter to commence teaching on the 3rd of May next. The School Fund is such, that the expense of a scholar cannot exceed Fifty Cents for the quarter above what is paid by the School Fund.

WM. B. VINEYARD,

WM. DAVIDSON,

TRUSTEES

J. J. BAYSE,

W. Knowlton, Cl'k, April 12, 1841.

Because of these currents and cross currents in education and religion, and perhaps for other reasons also, the Platteville Academy did not become organized under the Charter of 1839; but the desire for a chartered "Academy" still lived, and, as it proved subsequently, was to lead to a most successful and even distinguished undertaking for the future under a new and more liberal charter.

It was on December 17, 1841 that James R. Vineyard,³⁸ one of Grant County's representatives in the Territorial Council, introduced "Bill No. 6" to "incorporate the Trustees of Platteville Academy". After being amended it was passed on the 24th and sent to the House of Representatives, where it was further amended and passed on January 13, then returned to the Council for concurrence, which was given on the 18th. Four days later the Governor, James Duane Doty, notified the Council that he had signed the act "on yesterday" which was Friday January 21, 1842;³⁹ and it stands as "Act Number 1" of the laws of the Territory of Wisconsin for the session of the territorial legislature for the year 1842.⁴⁰

The opening words of this Act are: "That there be established in the Town of Platteville, Grant County a seminary of learning by the name and style of the Platteville Academy." Section 2 of the Act created a stock company in which the shares of stock were of two kinds - "whole shares of \$40 each" and "half shares of \$15 and under \$40 each." Stock was personal property and was transferable on the books of the corporation, "Provided that no stockholder shall transfer his stock . . . only in the event of his removal beyond the now boundary line of the Territory of Wisconsin." Heirs of deceased stockholders had one year in which to claim the rights of stockholders, otherwise the remaining stockholders had power to "elect a person to succeed to the privileges and rights" of the person deceased. This proviso also applied in case

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a stockholder removed from the Territory without making a transfer of his stock. The affairs of the corporation were to be managed by nine trustees, the original ones being those named in Section 1 of the Act, namely: David Kendall, Joseph J. Bayse, John Bevans, James Durley, Henry Snowden, William Davidson, Charles Dunn, William I. Madden, and Benjamin Kilburn. Section 3 provided that "The three Trustees whose names first occur in the first section of this act, shall go out of office on the first Monday of May, 1842, the three next named . . . in one year thereafter, and the remaining three on the first Monday of May, A. D. 1844" — which made necessary annual elections of three members for a term of three years each. Although the trustees were given full power in the organization, management, and conduct of the academy, it was "Provided that the real estate owned by said company shall not exceed \$20,000." Section 5 made the management of the institution completely non-sectarian: "No religious test or qualification shall be required from a trustee, teacher, or any other officer of said corporation as a condition for admission to any privilege in the same."

Whatever virtues inhered in an undertaking conducted as a closed corporation would be realized under the provisions of this act, and apparently there was no difficulty in effecting an organization of the enterprise, for within the next three months everything was in readiness for the first election of trustees in accordance with the following notice: ⁴¹

TO THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE ACADEMY.

Notice is hereby given, that there will be a meeting of the subscribers to the Platteville Academy, at the Schoolroom in District No. 2, on Saturday, instant, at 2 o'clock, p.m. for the purpose of electing three Trustees, pursuant to a provision in the Charter for said institution.

N. Wyeth Kendall, Sec.

(April 1842)

Saturday, the day named in the notice was April 30, and the election resulted in choosing the three whose terms under Section 1 of the act were to expire at that time. These were David Kendall, Joseph J. Bayse, and John Bevans, who now would hold office until May 1, 1845. Charles Dunn was President of the Board.

Thus another important step had been taken in the development of the educational and religious affairs of Platteville. It now only remained necessary further to organize and consolidate the whole matter into a common, concrete reality; and Mr. Dixon's double interest in religion and education was the dominating factor. In the church he had succeeded Mr. Chaffee, and had been engaged by the Presbyterians for six months from October 1841 as

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their second pastor. In January 1842 he also began preaching at Potosi; in March following he was ordained as a minister by the Convention of Presbyterian and Congregational churches; and in May he was commissioned by the Home Missionary Society as "Evangelist." He was also then preaching at Fairplay. Though these religious activities took much of his time from his school, it still continued its work, and enrolled from 70 to 110 scholars during the year. The Presbyterians with a membership now numbering sixty or more, in the spring and summer of 1842 rapidly pushed to completion the building they were erecting for the purpose of a church and school.

Some of the trustees of the church were also trustees of the Academy, so it was not only a perfectly natural outcome, but also a fore-gone conclusion that the arrangements would be made whereby the newly created Platteville Academy would occupy the lower floor of the Presbyterian building, and that Mr. Dixon who was the minister of the Presbyterians at the time, as well as principal of the "Select School", would conduct school there and would be elected the first Principal of the Platteville Academy. Accordingly, under date of August 9, 1842, the Trustees of the Academy announced the opening of the first session of the new institution on the first Monday of September following in the new building.

PLATTEVILLE ACADEMY

The fall and winter session of this Institution will commence on the first Monday of September next, under the charge of Rev. A. M. Dixon, A. M.

The Academic year will be divided into two sessions of twenty-two weeks each.

Tuition per quarter of eleven weeks

Common English branches,	\$4.00
Higher branches of Mathematics and Languages,	\$5.00

Boarding can be obtained in the village for from one to two dollars and fifty cents per week.

A large and spacious building has been erected for the purpose of accommodating scholars of both sexes.

It is located in a retired part of the village, well situated for the preservation of the health and morals of the pupils. The ability of Mr. Dixon to take charge of such an institution as this and his efficiency as a Teacher is too well known to need further recommendations.

The Board of Trustees and Teachers will spare no pains to make the School meet the wants and expectations of the community, and they pledge themselves to see scholars who are sent from a distance placed for boarding in moral families, and that they will strictly guard the Institution from sectarianism.

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As soon as the number of scholars will warrant it the Trustees will employ a competent female assistant.

All payments to be made punctually at the end of each quarter, and those living at a distance will be required to pay one half in advance.

For further particulars address, post paid, Dr. J. Bevans, Dr. J. J. Bayse, and James Durley, Esq.

CHARLES DUNN, President

JOHN BEVANS,
W. DAVIDSON,
J. J. BAYSE,
BENJ. KILBOURN,

HENRY SNOWDEN,
WM. I. MADDEN,
DAVID KENDALL,
JAMES DURLEY,

Trustees.

The ground upon which the Academy and church building had been erected was described in the deed as

a certain tract of land situated on the north side of the town of Platteville . . . known and designated as follows, a Block one hundred and thirty-two feet square bounded on the East and West by a continuation of Fourth & Bonson Streets and on the South by a Street to be laid off on the north side of Platteville fifty feet wide. More particularly known as the Block on which the Platteville Academy is now erecting. ⁴²

When the survey was made two years later it was then described as Lots 3 and 4 in Block 35 on the Village Plat, which has remained its designation since.

Conveyance had been made by Mr. Rountree and his wife as a gift, as may be seen from the consideration stated in the deed reading as follows:

. . . for and in consideration of the respects he (the party of the first part, Mr. Rountree and his wife) has for the worship of Almighty God and for the education of youth.

The deed is dated November 16, 1840, and is to the following named persons:

Henry Snowden, James Durley, William Davidson, William B. Vineyard and David Kendall, Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church in Platteville (parties of the second part).

Although the property was given to the Presbyterian Church, it seems to have been a matter of understanding among the parties concerned that the conveyance "was made more especially for the benefit of the Platteville Academy." ⁴³ Accordingly on the 19th day of March, 1842, the Trustees of the Church gave a perpetual lease to the Trustees of the Academy, as follows: ⁴⁴

This Indenture made this nineteenth day of March A. D. eighteen hundred and forty two by & between Henry Snowden, William Davidson, James Durley, William B. Vineyard and David Kendall, Trustees of the first Presbyterian Church in the town of Platteville County of Grant Wisconsin Territory of the first part and David Ken-

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dall, Joseph J. Bayse, John Bevans, James Durley, Henry Snowden, William Davidson, Charles Dunn, William J. Madin, Benjamin Kilborn, Trustees of the Platteville Academy of the second part

Witnesseth that in consideration of one hundred dollars the said parties of the first part do hereby lease, demise, grant and to forever let unto said parties of the second part all that tract or parcel of land Known and designated as follows to wit: (Described as in the deed before quoted) To Have and To Hold the same with all the privileges & appurtenances thereunto or anywise belonging for the full terms of Nine hundred and ninety nine years. And the said parties of the second part for themselves and their Successors in Office do hereby covenant and agree to and with the parties of the first part that the first Presbyterian Church of the said Town of Platteville shall have the privilege of using free of expense the lower rooms of the building now being erected commonly called the Platteville Academy for the Public worship of Almighty God on the Sabbath and at such other times as shall not interfere with the Schools that may be Kept in said Academy and at the expiration of the said term of Nine hundred and ninety nine years the said parties of the first for themselves and their successors in office to renew this lease for a further term of Nine hundred and ninety nine years free of any other consideration or charge. In testimony whereof the said parties of the first and second part have herunto set their hands and seals the day and year above written.

Henry Snowden	L S	James Durley	L S
W. Davidson	L S	Henry Snowden	L S
James Durley	L S	W. Davidson	L S
William B. Vineyard	L S	Wm. J. Madin	L S
David Kendall	L. S	Chas. Dunn	L S
J. J. Bayse	L S	B. Kilborn	L S
John Bevans	L S		

The ideals and aspirations of those who had promoted this enterprise of a combined church and academy, together with their pressing need now that the academy was just starting, are so interestingly told in a letter of Dr. J. W. Clark, Clerk of the Presbyterian Church, to the Secretary of the American Home Missionary Society, New York, that rather full excerpts are of interest here. The date of the letter is September 11, 1842. Dr. Clark says:⁴⁵

In order to make you acquainted with our circumstances permit us briefly to state; that 18 mos since a few Members of the Presbyterian Ch. for the purpose of advancing the interests of Religion & Education projected the erection of an Academy building, 30 by 54 feet: Two large & convenient rooms above for the School & a spacious room below which our Ch. have the occupation of for as many years as we need; until we are able to erect a Meeting house. This room will accomodate 250 or 300 persons—all the building is finished: save painting & seating. There is not in the western part of Wisconsin any other attempt to establish a similar institution & the field is large & important. In the efforts made by our church we have almost exhausted ourselves. The Building will cost when completed over 2500\$. After the subscription paper is all collected & paid out we shall be in debt about 300. Still we do not feel discouraged but only mention these circumstances to make known our situation . . . Our Academy has just gone into operation under favorable auspices—We want to begin a Library

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for the institution & a Benevolent Library for the use of pious indigent Students. There are in this vicinity many pious young Men who have small means & might be enabled with a little aid to get an education. By supplying us with the text Books used in preparing for College—to form a Benevolent Library—you will greatly aid us in these things. Here where the great need of Ministers is visible to all the senses, pious young Men are easily led to pursue studies preparatory to engaging upon the Lord's service in preaching the Gospel. If you reflect a moment upon our condition you will see that we are in danger of having an uneducated Ministry. The call is so great that many feel it to be their duty to preach who are not prepared to contend with the hydra-headed monster, Sin, in the specious forms he assumes; Such have been our views in the struggle which we have made to start a school here of more than ordinary pretensions. We hope & pray that it may be always under religious influence & the fountain from which shall flow pure streams to bless our infant Churches & elevate the morals of our new communities. If among the Books you have you can furnish us with a Benevolent Library . . . consisting of such books as are used as text books in the best Academies both classical & the higher as well as common branches of an English Education, they will be highly acceptable. The Classical Books used in a College Education would be at present beyond our reach & of no use to us. Such Books as would be suitable to begin a library to be connected with the School (Historical - Miscellaneous) would also be highly acceptable; & whilst it will require but little sacrifice on the part of many in the old states to part with what would be very useful to us; it will place in our power for the benefit of the youth of this portion of the west a valuable treasure, which otherwise we for many years should be deprived of - indeed we now see no prospect of being able to help ourselves in either of the ways above spoken of. We have therefore to say in conclusion do all you can for us in procuring such Books as will be really useful & worth paying the freight on & lay them by for us till the opening of navigation next spring when by having them come out with some Merchants goods they will come much cheaper. By having the winter we think you or some friend to the cause you may interest in our situation sufficiently to attend to it you may be able to procure a much better assortment than to send out what may now be at the M. Rooms. We can get along till Spring very well or as well as we have done. When you see what will be best to do inform us by letter & if you wish to know any more particularly of our situation of the Academy - we shall be happy to inform you. Before closing we ought to add that the Academy is a regularly chartered institution.

In this letter is indicated clearly the fostering care of the Presbyterian Church over the Academy in order that there might be a Christian school in the community for the education of its youth in the ways of Christian living, and also to the end that some - perhaps many - would be led to devote their lives to the Christian ministry. But in this work, no sectarianism was to be promulgated or permitted. Thus was started in Platteville a "higher" institution of learning which was to have an active existence for a quarter of a century, and to extend its influence not only locally, in Wisconsin, but into the middle west, and even out into the nation at large.

HISTORY OF PLATTEVILLE ACADEMY

CHAPTER 1

Notes

1. See W. C. Whitford, **Historical Sketch of Education in Wisconsin** (1876) p. 20. and J. W. Stearns. **The Centennial History of Education in Wisconsin** (1893) p. 82.
2. See Laws of the Territory of Wisconsin
3. From Master's Thesis by Clarence Brockert in Library of University of Wisconsin, Madison.
4. Letter of M. L. Martin, Green Bay, February 1867, to W. C. Whitford, (Wisconsin State Historical Society Library, Manuscript Division, File 253).
5. Letter of S. A. Divinnell, January (June?) 17, 1867, Reedsburg, Wisconsin to Reverend W. C. Whitford (Wisconsin State Historical Society Library, Manuscript Division, File 253).
6. J. H. Evans, "A Bit of Local History", **Platteville Witness**, February 16, 1898. Reprinted (**Ibid**), November 30, 1932. The original subscription list was in Evans' possession at the time he wrote.
7. J. H. Evans, "Pioneers of Platteville", **Platteville Journal**, July 5, 1905.
8. J. W. Murphy, "Early Schools of the City", **Platteville Witness**, October 4, 1922, gives the size as 18 x 20 feet, but does not state the source of his information.
9. ". . . The winter of 1836, when we procured a cabin in the vicinity of where the City Hall stands . . ." From a paper of J. H. Rountree, prepared for the semi-centennial celebration of the church December 22 and 23, 1883. Published in the **Platteville Witness**. In December 1833 the church had been organized at Rountree's house by Reverend John T. Mitchell, and preaching was conducted there "once in three or four weeks" thereafter. **Ibid**.
10. J. W. Murphy, "Early Schools of the City", **Platteville Witness** October 4, 1922; also: "Our Question Box", **Platteville Journal**, October 16, 1929.
11. Letter of S. A. Divinnell, Reedsburg, Wisconsin, January (June) 17, 1867, to Reverend W. C. Whitford, Wisconsin Historical Society Library, Manuscript Division File 253. The **History of Grant County**, p. 699 (Western Historical Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1881) says the school was discontinued in this place after Huntington's departure, and that Dr. Locey opened a school in the "village"—"in a house to the rear of the present Deffenbacher lot, north of Mineral Street."
12. W. C. Whitford, "Early History of Education in Wisconsin", **Wisconsin Historical Collections**, V, 334; **History of Grant County**, pp. 698-99, Western Historical Company, Chicago, 1881; and J. W. Murphy, "Early Schools of the City", **Platteville Witness**, October 4, 1922.
13. See reference cited in note 11 above.
14. J. H. Evans, "A Bit of Local History", **Platteville Witness**, February

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16. 1898 (Reprint *Ibid.* November 30, 1932, "P. M. J." (Mrs. Pauline Meyer Jones) says it was in the school on Pine Street (near Grindell's) where she wrote her first book (*Platteville Journal*, February 5, 1936) P. M. J. is wrong. This building was not put up until 1846. Mrs. Southworth was here in 1842. See Holford note 15 below.

15. C. N. Holford, **History of Grant County** (the Teller Print Lancaster, Wisconsin, 1900) p. 457. Rountree's Advertisement (September 19, 1835 in the **North Western Gazette** and **Galena Advertiser**—"43-4t". A photostatic copy of this is published in **The Wisconsin Magazine of History**, Volume VI, pp. 40-41 (1922-1923)

16. **History of Grant County** (Western Historical Company, Chicago, Ill.) p. 689.

17. See Biographical Sketch, **History of Grant County** (Chicago, 1881), p. 918.

18. J. W. Murphy, "Early Schools of the City", **Platteville Witness**, October 4, 1922, says it was in "the northeast corner of the city park". The **History of Grant County** (1881) simply says, "south of the present Congregational Church site" (page 699). The **Grant County News** (December 31, 1920) says it was "on the site" of the Congregational Church. It seems more likely to have been in the "house to the rear of the present Deffenbacher lot, north of Mineral Street", where Locey is said to have had a school in 1836. *Ibid.*

19. **History of Grant County** (Chicago, 1881), p. 699.

20. J. H. Evans "Writes About Old Structures", **Platteville Journal**, May 15, 1912. See "The Passing of the Old M. E. Church", **Platteville Witness**, May 1, 1912. The Rev. Wellington preached the dedicatory sermon.

21. "Interesting Paper Compiled by Mrs. Carrie Nicklas", **Platteville Witness**, October 24, 1934.

22. J. H. Rountree's Original Business Diary and Record, 1828-1875 ("Sale of Town Lots in Platteville" (9 pp.) p. 7, See my notes (1935) on Rountree Papers in Manuscript division of Wisconsin State Historical Society Library. It should be Block 25. See deed of January 14, 1839. (Deed Book B. pp. 276-278). According to this "deed in Trust" the Trustees were to erect thereon a house of worship. (See my notes on M. E. Church 1837).

23. **Platteville Journal**, May 15, 1912.

24. J. H. Evans (?), "The passing of the Old Methodist Church", **Platteville Witness**, May 1, 1912; J. H. Evans, "Writes about Old Structures", **Platteville Journal**, May 15, 1912. Evans says Dixon "opened the first session of the Platteville Academy in 1839" here. **The History of Grant Co.** pp. 699 and 918 (Chicago, 1881) says, Rev. Mr. Nolan and possibly some others acted as principals after the Academy was moved (1841). In 1845 Prof. Carrier was placed at the head; and in 1845-46 Miss Annette Goodell taught in the basement, and a Mr. Burke, in the auditorium of the church which had been remodeled for the purpose.

25. **Miners' Free Press**, Mineral Point, February 19, 1839, p. 2, columns 1 and 2.

26. **Journal of the Council**, 1839, p. 75.

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27. Reprint of Laws of Ter. of Wis. for 1836, 1837 & 1838, (By authority of Leg. Madison, 1867) page 106.
28. *Ibid.* (1867) pp. 126, 159, 206, 216, 223, 447, 498, 506, 512, and 518.
29. *Journal of the Council* (1839) pp. 90 ff. *passim*, and *Journal of the House of Representatives* (1839) pp. 122 ff. *passim*.
30. *Laws of Wis. Ter.* 1836-1840—the part of the volume entitled “Local Acts of the Legislature of Wis.”, passed at Madison, Wis. during the sessions of 1838 & 1839. (Milwaukee, 1839) pp. 70-72.
31. *Laws of Wis. Ter.*, 1836-1840 *op. cit.* pp. 70-72. A comparison of the names in this printed volume with those in the manuscript of the Original Bill, (*Archives* of the Secretary of State) shows three printed errors as follows: Ebenezer M. Orew, A. B. T. Lacy, & James Dudley.
32. Original Letter in Hammond Library of Chicago Theological Seminary. Photostatic copies in Wis. Hist. Soc. Lib. Madison, Wis. and in possession of the author.
33. A search by the library staff of the Hammond Library has failed to locate the “Catalogue of the School”, referred to by Mr. Kendall (Letter of Assistant Librarian, Evah Ostrander, to J. A. Wilgus, July 15, 1936)
34. Rev. P. S. Bennett, *History of Methodism in Wisconsin* (Cranston & Stowe, Cincinnati, 1890), pp. 60-61.
35. The first issue of the *Northern Badger* was Friday, July 31, 1840. It was a weekly, Thomas Eastman, Editor, and continued till Sept. 1841, when it passed into the hands of Alonzo Platt, and was named *The Wisconsin Whig*, which was suspended in 1843.
36. *Op. cit.* pp. 8-9.
37. File of the *Northern Badger*, Friday, January 29, 1841, in the Library of the State Historical Society, Madison, Wisconsin.
38. In an altercation with a fellow associate, Charles C. P. Arndt of Green Bay (?) Feb. 11th, 1842, Vineyard had killed him. Three days later he resigned, but the Council refused to accept his resignation and expelled him (*Wisconsin Blue Book*, 1876) pp. 195 ff.
39. *Journals* of the Territorial Council, and of the House of Representatives of the Territorial Legislature of Wisconsin, 1841-1842. *Passim*
40. *Laws of the Territory of Wisconsin* (Dec. 6, 1841 to Feb. 19, 1842), Madison 1842, pp. 5-7.
41. *The Wisconsin Whig* of April 26, 1842. The *Whig* was issued next day, so the date of it is April 27.
42. Recorded in Vol. C of Deeds, pp. 352-353, Register of Deed's office, Lancaster, Wis.
43. Petition of the Trustees of the Congregational Church, Platteville, to the Circuit Court of Grant County, Sept. 29, 1853, in Clerk of Circuit Court's Office, Lancaster, Wis.
44. Register of Deeds Office, Lancaster, Wis. Mortgage Bk. B. p. 49.
45. Original letter in the Hammond Library, Chicago, Theological Seminary. Photostatic copy in the State Hist. Lib. (*Mss Div.*), Madison, Wis.

Chapter II Vicissitudes (1842-1846)

The Academy was hardly more than started when it suffered the loss of its Principal, Rev. A. M. Dixon. In attending Jacksonville College, tuition amounting to three hundred and fifty dollars had been granted to Mr. Dixon upon condition that he should engage in preaching after his graduation.¹ Having since devoted his time to teaching until the winter of 1841-1842, it was now necessary that he make a change, and this was not difficult. It has already been mentioned that Mr. Dixon was deeply interested in religion as well as education, and that he was wavering between the life of an evangelist and that of an educator. From being an Elder in the Presbyterian Church, he had become its temporary minister, and had then secured appointment as a home missionary. At the time the Academy opened in September, 1842, Dixon had sent in to the Home Missionary Society his quarterly report as one of their evangelists telling of his doings for the four months previous,² when he was preaching not only at Platteville but at Big Platte, Belmont, Fairplay, Snake Hollow Diggings, Red Dog Diggings, and other places, and staying a few days or several days in a locality, depending upon the interest manifested. In these visits he was accompanied part of the time by another Home Missionary, Rev. Boardman, and Dixon says that their efforts were "abundantly blessed by the Lord." That his heart was fully in this work is seen in this statement of his report: "I love my mission - I love to tell the simple story of the cross to the miner - I can wear out in my Master's business."³

Even his selection as Principal of the Academy and his work there did not lessen his interest in, and his inclination towards, the religious field of activity. To carry on both lines of endeavor as he had been doing was an impossibility. He had to choose between them. So in a letter of January 20, 1843, he wrote the Secretary of the Home Missionary Society, saying: "I have become so much interested in the doings of the Home M. Society that I have resolved to leave the Academy and labor to promote it and the interests which it is promoting."⁴

A week later there was a meeting of the Convention of Presbyterian and Congregational churches of the Mineral Point District held at Dubuque, Iowa, and at one of its sessions a resolution was adopted asking the American Home Missionary Society to appoint Reverend Dixon as "Itinerant Missionary" for the mining region with an appropriation of \$300, and allowing him to have whatever added sums might be contributed by those among whom he worked.⁵ This action, together with the possibilities which it seemed to open to him in the future, decided his course; so in

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February he wrote to Rev. Stephen Peet, the General Agent of the Society in Milwaukee, that he "had cut loose entirely from the Academy" and that he was moving his family to Fairplay "next week".⁶

Whether he would remain there as the settled minister of the church would of course depend upon the outcome of the Society's action on the recommendation for his appointment as an "Itinerant". But he was definitely out of the educational work, and had committed his life to that of religion and the church. Two years later he was studying in further preparation at Lane Theological Seminary.⁷ Succeeding years found him filling charges at various places in Ohio and Illinois till his return to Wisconsin in 1856 as pastor of the Congregational church at Bloomington and Blake's Prairie where he remained till 1865. Later still he was at Glen Haven, Patch Grove,⁸ and Trempealeau, Wisconsin.⁹ He died December 11, 1887. In personality and character Mr. Dixon was well qualified for either field of work, for it seemed the general testimony that he was well adapted to the "western population," in all his contacts.

The Academy needed the supporting hand of Mr. Dixon and the three years immediately following (1843-1846) were critical. Apparently there were three main difficulties in these years. One was that of management and is mentioned in a letter written by Mr. Pickard some time later¹⁰ in which he says: "The institution was chartered with a list of stockholders and Trustees from the different Christian denominations of the Village. Unfortunate divisions arose and for two or three years it was managed almost entirely by Presbyterians and Congregationalists, but in due time it returned to its original purpose and was under the control of a Board of Trustees representing all the Christian denominations of the place."

Another difficulty was the lack of funds and equipment with which to carry on the school¹¹ but which happily was met by generous friends in the East. This was gratefully acknowledged by the Trustees, in the catalogue of the school for the year 1846-1847, in these words: "The Trustees take this opportunity to acknowledge the obligations they are under to those benevolent individuals, who though far removed from us, have nevertheless, taken a deep interest in our enterprise, and by timely aid in money, Books, etc., etc., have not only saved the Institution, when in peril, but have done much to prepare it for extensive usefulness." This was signed: James Shinn, President, J. W. Clark, Secretary.¹²

Still another difficulty was in securing a permanent prin-

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pal and staff of teachers. The first successor of Dixon was Professor D. R. Carrier, A.M., but he continued only till May, 1845. Little information seems to exist for his administration. The only thing of importance that has been found relates to the annual examination of the scholars, which was a matter of public interest and in the nature of an exhibit of the work of the school occurring in mid-year and also at the end of the school year. The following announcement, and invitation to the public therewith, for the examination occurring Friday, February 14, 1845, will indicate the general nature of this feature of the work of the school:

The examination will commence at one o'clock, P.M., and will be further continued at half past 6 on the evening of the same day. The parents and guardians of the pupils are requested to attend the afternoon examination, and the public generally are respectfully invited to the evening exhibition.

Such occasions became an important part of the work of the school in its community relationships as well as in the educational life of the pupils.

Professor Carrier left the Academy to take charge of a new and similar institution just then beginning in Platteville, whose story must be given along with that of the Academy. The Methodists were erecting a new brick edifice, on the site of their present church building, and moving into it, thus vacating the frame building which they had occupied since 1837. This old building then reverted to Mr. Rountree, who, thereupon, remodeled its interior - particularly the auditorium - so that both stories could be used for school purposes, and for a little while it became the seat of another institution of higher learning known as the "Wisconsin Collegiate Institute." The origin and purpose of this school are told in the following account:

WISCONSIN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

At a meeting held at the Methodist Church, in the town of Platteville, Grant, co. W. T., on Thursday evening, May 8th, 1845,

A. C. Inman was elected chairman and
G. W. Lakin, secretary.

The object of the meeting having been stated by the Hon. John H. Rountree, a committee of three, consisting of G. W. Lakin, J. H. Rountree and L. Bevans, were appointed to prepare and report a preamble and resolutions for the occasion, whereupon the committee having met and consulted, reported the following preamble and resolution.

Whereas, It is the duty of all men to promote the cause of education, and whereas we are of opinion that instructions of learning flour-

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ish best in the charge and under the direction of some religious denomination, therefore,

Resolved, That this meeting proceed to elect seven Trustees, who shall have discretionary powers in the establishing of a High School, in the town of Platteville, to be under the patronage of the Rock River Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

G. W. Lakin, Chairman

The above report was received and the committee discharged.

On motion, duly seconded, the above preamble and resolution were adopted.

The meeting then proceeded to elect seven Trustees as contemplated in the resolution: Whereupon, J. H. Rountree, J. J. Basye, Thomas Cruson, G. W. Lakin, A. C. Inman, F. Hollman and B. T. Kavanaugh were several elected.

On motion, duly seconded, it was voted that the board of Trustees be requested; to present the institution to the Rock River Conference and request said conference to take it under their patronage.

Voted, That the Trustees present a petition to the next Wisconsin Legislature for a suitable charter.

Voted, That this institution be called "The Wisconsin Collegiate Institute."

Voted, That this meeting adjourn, *sine die*.

A. C. Inman, Prest.

G. W. Lakin, Sec'y.

On the 14th day of May, 1845, the Trustees having met and organized, procured of J. H. Rountree the spacious building heretofore occupied as a Methodist Church: after which the said Trustees elected D. R. Carrier, A.M. Principal of said institution.

On motion, duly seconded, it was voted that a committee of three be appointed to prepare a presentation of this institution to the Rock River Conference, at its next session, asking them to take it under their patronage: accompanied with the form of a charter to be asked for at the next session of the Wisconsin Legislature, for their approval.

B. T. Kavanaugh, Thomas Cruson and G. W. Lakin were appointed that committee.

JNO. H. ROUNTREE, Prest.

G. W. Lakin, Sec'y. 13

The announcement for the opening of the school was made at once in the local paper, and appeared as follows.

WISCONSIN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

WILL commence its regular session on Monday the 19th inst. This Institution is located at Platteville, a flourishing village in the midst of an intelligent, enterprising and moral community, and enjoying a salubrity of climate not inferior to any town in the Middle or N. E. States.

The Trustees have secured the services of D. R. Carrier, A.M., as

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Principal, an experienced teacher, already known to this community, and shall employ such assistance as the increasing wants of the Institution require. Our Institution is provided with an apparatus, which, in the various points of power, artistical beauty, perfection of parts, &c., may fairly challenge a comparison with any institution in the West. — This Apparatus will be used in the illustration of those branches of Natural Science to which it is adapted; and such additions will be made as from time to time are deemed necessary.

The Academic year will be divided into 4 terms of 11 weeks each. Good board can be obtained in private families at from \$1 25 to \$2 00 per week.

TUITION

Common English branches per term,	\$3 25
Higher do	4 25
Higher branches of Mathematics,	5 25
Ancient Languages,	6 25
No charge for incidental expenses.	

It is very desirable that each student, if practicable, be present the first day of the Term, when the classes are formed and general arrangements made. For further information, enquire of the Principal or Trustees.

J. H. ROUNTREE, Prest.

G. W. Lakin, Sec'y.

Platteville, May 15, 1845. 14

In August, 1845 announcement was made that "the building known as the Adams Hotel has been secured as a Boarding House" for the benefit of the school and that it would be ready "for the reception of students during the first week of the term, which commences on the 25th." Mr. B. Atwood, Esq. was to be the manager. The name was soon changed to Union Hotel. It was situated on Main Street opposite Rountree's block.

It does not appear that the Conference took over this "Institute", and its continued existence was very uncertain from the beginning. Seemingly Mr. Carrier did not get it established, for in January 1846 a private school was announced for the term of eleven weeks, beginning the 25th, "in the old Methodist church, under the supervision of John W. Bayse and the female apartment under the charge of Miss Goodell. **Rates of tuition** - Common English Branches, \$2.00; Natural Science, \$3.00. The Teachers have secured the Apparatus belonging to the Platteville Institute, and will introduce them when necessary."

However, in the following summer, August 24, the Trustees of the Institute announced a fall session beginning September 21, "under the care and direction of Philander B. Wiley, A.M. Principal, an experienced teacher, who, as the Trustees believe, cannot

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fail of satisfying the demands of the public." A Female Department, "adapted to the wants of the community" would also be established then, and "as occasion requires, other competent teachers will be supplied."¹⁵ December 4, Principal Wiley announced that "Miss Annette Goodell has been employed and will take charge of the Primary Department. The patronage of those, **not otherwise engaged** is Solicited." The italicized words in this last notice seem to indicate an endeavor not to induce withdrawals from any other institution.

Two other notices of the school appeared the next Spring. In February 1847 Principal Wiley announces the opening of a session beginning March 8, and added: "The assistance of a competent teacher will be secured, who will take charge of the Primary Department"; and in March it is announced that "Miss S. Maria Goodell has taken charge of the Primary Department."¹⁶ This is the last announcement found about the institution.

Returning now to the story of the Academy. It had been "carrying on" in spite of its difficulties, and even had made a "new" start in the fall of 1845. When Mr. Carrier left to accept the principalship of the Wisconsin Collegiate Institute in the spring of 1845, it clearly became necessary for the Trustees of the Academy to find some one as soon as possible who could carry forward successfully the work of the Academy in the face of competition from the new institution in their midst. Their attention had already been called to a new-comer in the west, Mr. George F. Magoun, and his selection was afterwards agreed upon.

Mr. Magoun was born at Bath, Maine, March 29, 1821. He graduated from Bowdoin College at the age of twenty and afterward studied theology at Andover and Yale Seminaries. Coming west in 1844 he had located at Galena, where he was making quite a reputation for himself as a teacher and as a young man of striking ability, energy, and vision. Impressed with the need of better educational facilities in the mining region, Mr. Magoun set about immediately in an endeavor to arouse a public interest in improved conditions, by giving lectures on education at various places. In April 1845 he had delivered two notable lectures in Platteville in which he had especially urged the need of Normal Schools for the training of teachers. So outstanding were these lectures that the editor of the **Independent American**, Mr. J. L. Marsh, gave them wider publicity by a most excellent editorial, which deserves to be incorporated here.

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LECTURES ON EDUCATION

On Monday and Tuesday evenings, Mr. Magcon (George F. Magoun) a Classic Teacher of Galena, delivered familiar discourses on the subject of Popular education; the first discourse, in the M. E. Church; the second in the Academy. The object of Mr. M. appears to be, to awaken the public attention to the importance of a systematic training for teachers of common schools—to offer a plan for elevating the standard of such teacher's attainments and qualifications—in a word to establish a Normal School for instructing young men in the Literature and Sciences necessary to enable them to become competent teachers of youth. This plan was found eminently successful in France, under the government of Napoleon, who, willing to educate the people, set himself to work to educate first a class of men competent to educate the people. In Prussia, also, this system prevails. In the United States, two States have commenced this undertaking, namely, New York and Massachusetts, with what progress we are unable at this time to determine.

That such an institution is capable of diffusing the greatest blessings upon our infant communities of the West, we think no sane man will deny. But, as we know not the details of the plan of the highly accomplished Lecturer, we can say nothing of them. The mode of raising the funds for such an object—the control and management of such an institution—the ends to which it shall be directed—the immunities and privileges of its graduates—are all themes on which men will differ; and no scheme can possibly succeed that is not based on the wants, wishes, and predilections of the **whole** people, and administered in a spirit of universal conciliation. That Normal Schools suitable to the condition of our mixed (but not hitherto **divided**) population, may be shortly established, we fervently hope; and, as far as our humble efforts will go, our aid shall not be wanting.¹⁷

Two months later Mr. Magoun was a principal speaker at an educational convention held at New Diggings. This convention was of such importance in the further development of education in Wisconsin that a rather full account of it is desirable here. The call for this convention was first publicly made in the columns of the local press June 6, 1845 and is as follows:

The friends of Education in Grant and Iowa counties are requested to meet in Convention at New Diggings, on Tuesday the 24th day of June, at 7 o'clock, P.M., for the purpose of consulting upon measures for the advancement of popular education. It is hoped that such a meeting may tend to awaken a livelier and more general interest in the cause, and elicit the views and feelings of its friends in respect to important measures. The formation of an Educational Association will be proposed. Addresses and discussions upon questions of moment will occupy the meeting. Signed.

J. W. Blackstone	Henry Patch	B. Kilbourn
Robt. Chapman	Calvin Warner	Henry Potwine
J. D. Stevens	C. W. Bicknell	J. W. Clark
Justus de Seelhorst	J. M. Otis	Z. Eddy
Ben C. Eastman	Thomas Eastman	J. Shinn
J. W. Brunson	John Lewis	S. O. Paine
James Collins	Curtis Beach	J. T. Mills
		Dr. Cowles 18

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An account of this convention and of its work appears in the press a few weeks later signed "Spectator" and is found as a communication to the **Independent American**, July 4, 1845. From a casual allusion in his account to "The present school law of your Territory" which a lawyer friend tells him is not at all suited to the wants and needs of people in a newly settled region, and which in its parts is so contradictory that it can "never be put in operation as a whole", it is judged that the "Spectator" was not a resident of Wisconsin, but nevertheless he was a deeply-interested onlooker. He was glad, too, to know that the leaders in the convention "are resolved to go onward; holding similar meetings at various places in Grant and Iowa Counties until they have succeeded in arousing the people. Inquiry will then follow, and the inevitable result will be intelligent action. They therefore call upon all who have the good of the children of the people at heart, to aid them in these efforts. In union there is strength." He continues:

Be it remembered, that the first convention ever held in Wisconsin to promote the cause of Universal Education, convened at New Diggings, 24th June, 1845. The work is begun, let every philanthropist lend a helping hand, and we shall soon see Western Wisconsin taking the lead in this great enterprise. But I was to inform you what was done. At the hour named in the call, the Convention was organized by the appointment of Col. James Collins, of White Oak Springs, to the chair, and Dr. J. W. Clark, of your place Secretary.

An able and interesting address was then delivered by Mr. G. F. Magoun, of Galena. His subject "the errors of popular education"; one calculated to elicit much thought and was listened to by a highly respectable audience with deep interest. He exposed many of the fallacies common everywhere, in this matter, and pointed out the proper remedies. Such addresses ought to be delivered in every settlement

Delegates were present from several places, though there was not that general attendance which the importance of the subject demands.

The following resolutions were, after full discussion, unanimously adopted, viz:

Resolved, That the education of the whole mass of the people can only be secured by a judicious and comprehensive public school system and that the subject of Education is more worthy the constant care and oversight of the law making power.

Resolved, That it is expedient to form an Association of the friends of Education, in Grant and Iowa Counties, to disseminate information, and awaken, by public meetings, addresses, &c., a deeper interest among all classes of the community.

The whole subject, together with several other important resolutions, in harmony with the foregoing, were then referred to a committee who were instructed to prepare a report and call another convention at such a time and place as they deem expedient.

So the convention adjourned *sine die*.

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Performing the duties delegated to them, the committee called another convention to meet in Mineral Point on October 16, at which Mr. Magoun again was a prominent participator, but this time, as Principal of the Platteville Academy, to which position he had been chosen by the Trustees a few weeks previous. Their announcement of the opening of the Academy under his management was made in a two-column-wide advertisement in the paper.

PLATTEVILLE ACADEMY

George F. Magoun, A.M., Principal

Edw'd T. Doane, Assistant, Primary Department

Miss Charlotte E. Johnson, Female Teacher

THE TRUSTEES of this INSTITUTION are happy in being able to inform the public, that the winter term will commence on WEDNESDAY, the 5th day of November, (next), under the most favorable auspices. The Board are enabled to redeem the pledges given six months ago, that "arrangements would be made, at an early day, for opening the Institution in all its Departments." This is now done. In regard to the location of the Academy the Board deem it the most eligible that could be found in the whole western country. In the center of a populous, thriving and refined society,—in a pure and salubrious atmosphere, in a region of unsurpassed fruitfulness, which from its agricultural and mineral resources, must speedily attain wealth and distinction, and easily accessible, Platteville presents claims on the consideration of the surrounding country scarcely equalled by any other place.

Of the Instructors, the Board are enabled, from the most satisfactory testimonials, to speak in the highest possible terms.

MR. GEORGE F. MAGOUN has the charge of the Institution; and the Board, from his experience as a teacher, his literary and scientific attainments, the high testimonials he has presented and his well known character and abilities, feel warranted in assuring the public that the School, under his care, will be well conducted, have an elevated and permanent character, and merit the confidence and patronage of the community.

MISS CHARLOTTE E. JOHNSON, the Female Teacher, is an experienced and successful Instructor, having given unusual satisfaction, wherever she has taught, either as an Assistant or Principal.

MR. EDWARD T. DOANE who has given ample satisfaction, for the last two quarters, will continue as an Instructor in the Primary Department.

The public are assured that no pains or expenses will be spared to secure the most competent, experienced and thorough Teachers; and that the Institution, in all its departments, will be made equal to Seminaries, of the highest rank, in any section of the country. The Principal is able to secure Assistants accustomed to teach the highest studies pursued in such Institutions, and will do so as fast as the wants of the public require.

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PHILOSOPHICAL, and other Apparatus, with the latest improvements, will be provided. None but the best School Books in use throughout the country will be admitted in the course of study.

The arrangements of the Principal with Teachers and Publishers at the east, will supply him with such books, independent of the ordinary channels of the book trade.

A thorough course of study, occupying three years, will be arranged and announced at an early day. Pupils from abroad wishing to pursue such a course can enter upon it immediately. The plan of instruction will have reference to three classes of young persons: 1st. Those preparing for a business life. 2nd. Those fitting for College. 3rd. Those (of both sexes) intending to pursue the profession of Teachers.

The year will be divided into two terms of twenty-two weeks each, or four quarters of eleven weeks each. Pupils will be admitted at any time, and charged from the time of admission, but the Trustees and Principal earnestly recommend to parents and guardians to place them in School at the commencement of the quarters. The greatest improvement cannot otherwise be secured.

TERMS OF TUITION

IN THE PRIMARY DEPARTMENT

Elementary branches per quarter, \$2.00

Common English studies per quarter, \$2.50

IN THE HIGH ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Higher English Studies, except Algebra and Geometry, per qr., \$3.00
Algebra, Geometery, and higher Mathematics, \$4.00

CLASSICAL DEPARTMENT

Ancient or Modern Languages, with Mathematics, &c., as above, \$5.00

VOCAL MUSIC will be taught in both Departments, free of charge. For INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC, DRAWING, EMBROIDERY &c., a small additional charge will be made. A trifling charge of **twenty-five cents per quarter**, during the **Winter term**, and **twelve and a half cents** per quarter, during the **Summer term**, will be made against every pupil to defray incidental expenses. A bill will be made out against Parents or Guardians of any pupil known to inflict unnecessary damage on the premises, sufficient to repair the same. The building is refitted with seats and other fixtures, on the most approved plan. At present students from abroad will find board in families from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per week; the Trustees hope soon to open a Boarding Establishment connected with the Institution. Applications for admission and board may be made to the undersigned or to either Principal.

ROBERT CHAPMAN, PRESIDENT

J. W. CLARK, SECRETARY.

Platteville, Oct. 3rd. 1845.

Those who desire may see in the hands of the Secretary, the very

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highest testimonials in regard to the qualifications of the Instructors in the above Institution, from eminent literary gentlemen.

The Board are also permitted to give the following names as references.

EDWARD KENT (late Governor of Maine)
The PRESIDENT and PROFESSORS of Bowdoin College, Maine
PROFESSOR GOODRICH, Yale College
PRESIDENT STURDEVANT, Illinois College
REV. PROFESSOR TEFFE, ¹⁹ Asbury University, Indiana
PROFESSOR STOWE, Lane Seminary, Ohio
PROFESSOR LEFFINGWELL, Michigan University
REV. DR. CLEVELAND, Cincinnati
REV. J. C. HOLBROOK, REV. WM. SALTER, Iowa
REV. Z. EDDY, M. M. JACKSON, Esq., A. W. PARRIS, Esq.
Mineral Point
H. NEWHALL, M.D., THOMAS DRUMMOND, Esq., JOS. B.
WELLS, Esq., CHAS. S. HEMSTEAD, Esq., WM. C. BOST-
WICK, Esq., Galena

THE TRUSTEES of the Galena Academy
H. POTWINE, New Diggings
REV. C. WARNER, Potosi

Unfortunately the high hopes entertained by the Trustees in this announcement for the Academy were not to be realized at once, for the administration of Mr. Magoun was too short-lived to set the institution solidly on its feet, so to speak. However, Mr. Magoun, during his stay of a few months was identified with some very important educational developments. It will be observed that the Trustees adopted Mr. Magoun's Normal School idea, and announced it as one of the specific objectives of the Academy's work; and it will be seen later that this was to become soon an established fact. Mr. Magoun also continued active in giving lectures on historical and educational subjects. In addition, he conducted a series of articles on "education" in the local press during the winter and spring of 1846—the main object being to stimulate further interest in having better schools. Four general matters were presented in these articles, namely: "Educational Movements" then going on in the various eastern states; "Hints to Teachers" in helping them to do better work; "Western Education", particularly the difficulties to be obviated, such as the want of suitable and uniform text-books, and a better cooperation between parents and teachers, especially in the matter of discipline; and the need of "Educational Conventions and Associations" for the promotion of Common Schools.

At the Educational Convention held in Madison, January 15-16, 1846, which was a meeting adjourned from the October meeting before at Mineral Point, Mr. Magoun was appointed one

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of a committee of ten "to prepare and report a system of common school education in the STATE of Wisconsin with a bill . . . to the Legislature of Wisconsin at its next session." The other members of the committee were: Mortimer M. Jackson, Mason C. Darling, Charles M. Baker, Lewis H. Loss, M. Frank, Caleb Crosswell, Stephen McHugh, Rufus King, and Levi Hubbell. It is of general interest to note also, that at this convention a "Wisconsin Educational Association for the promotion of Common Schools" was organized, and that the formation of "Teachers' Associations" in the several counties of the state was recommended.

In the work of the Academy itself, Mr. Magoun's principalship was not so outstanding. He gave instruction in German and Spanish, while Miss Johnson taught Latin and French. Instruction in drawing was provided for, beginning the latter part of November, 1845. The second quarter of the winter session announcement in January 1846 indicated the cost of "drawing" as two dollars extra for twenty lessons. It also named Miss S. Buell as a teacher in the Primary Department. In January also Mr. Magoun allowed Mr. A. R. Dunton, from Boston, to have the use of the Academy in the evening to give private instruction in penmanship. The announcement of the Academy for the first quarter of the summer session, beginning May 4, indicates Miss Johnson as Preceptress and Miss Lucy E. Clark as Assistant. It also says:

A class of Young Ladies in **Botany** will be formed, with analysis of native flowers.

A Course of Lectures on **Natural Philosophy**, with experiments and illustrations, with the new and beautiful apparatus, of the Institution will be delivered.

This was the last session of Mr. Magoun's active connection with the Academy. The announcement for the second quarter of the summer session, beginning, Monday July 27, 1846 stated:

During the temporary absence of G. F. Magoun, A.M. the Institution will remain under the care of Miss C. A. Johnson. Mrs. Stevens, Teacher in the Primary Department.

A good deal of change is thus observed during the school year of 1845-1846 under Mr. Magoun's principalship, showing that the instability in the affairs of the Academy which had existed almost from its very beginning was yet to be overcome. The temporary absence of Mr. Magoun became permanent. He gave up teaching for the time and returned to Andover to complete his theological training, after which he came back to the west to engage in the ministry. In 1848 he founded the Congregational church at Shullsburg, and later was pastor of the Presbyterian

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church in Galena, Illinois, and of Congregational churches in Davenport and Lyons, Iowa. From 1862 to 1884 he was president of Grinnell College, Iowa.

The real development of the Platteville Academy though was at hand with the coming of Mr. J. L. Pickard in November 1846. He remained as principal for thirteen years and not only established the institution firmly, but made it one of distinction throughout the middle west and even beyond. To understand this development properly, however, requires turning aside for a little while to the story of Platteville itself as it had come to be at this time.

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CHAPTER II

Notes

1. **Independent American**, Platteville, Wis., Aug. 1, 1845, page 2.
2. Letter of Dixon, Sept. 20, 1842, to Rev. Milton Badger, Sec'y. of the A.H.M. Soc. N. Y. Original in Hammond Lib., Chicago Theological Seminary. Photostatic copy in Lib. of Wis., St. Hist. Soc., Madison, Wis., (Mss. Div.)
3. **Ibid.**
4. **Ibid.**
5. Letter of Stephen Peet, Feb. 25, 1843. Original and photostatic copy as above.
6. Letter of Stephen Peet, February 25, 1843. As cited heretofore.
7. Letter of Rev. John Lewis, New Diggings, Wis., Jan. 14, 1845. Original in Hammond Lib., Chicago. Photostat in Wis. State Hist. Soc. Lib., Madison, Wis.
8. Letter of Hon. J. L. Pickard, Chicago, Ill., April 5, 1867 to W. C. Whitford, Pres. of Milton College, Milton, Wis. Original in **Mss. Div.** of St. Hist. Soc. Lib., Madison, Wis. (Photostatic copy in author's possession, Platteville, Wis.) Letter from Grinnell, Iowa, Aug. 5, 1936 and notice of Academy in **Min. Pt. Democrat**, Oct. 22, 1845. See also: **Platteville Witness**, June 23, 1897.
9. Letters to the author from Evah Ostrander, Asst. Librarian, Hammond Library, Chicago Theological Seminary, Aug. 6 and 10, 1936.
10. Letter of Pickard, Chicago, Ill., April 5, 1867, **Op. Cit.**
11. Catalogue (Nov. 23, 1846 to Aug. 6, 1847) in possession of the author.
12. In June, 1845 at the request of the Academy the Presbyterian Church granted the services of the Pastor, Rev. J. D. Stevens, as Agent of the Academy to solicit funds to liquidate its debts. (Records of the Congregational Church, formerly Presbyterian, Bk. A or Vol. 1, 1839-1861, page 79.)
13. **Independent American**, Platteville, Wis., May 16, 1845, page 2, column 5.
14. **Independent American**, Platteville, Wis., May 16, 1845, page 2, column 5.
15. **Independent American**, Sept. 4, 1846. Vol. II, No. 35, Whole No. 87, page 2, column 6.
16. **Independent American**, Dec. 4, 1846, Vol. II, No. 46, Whole No. 99, page 2, column 6.
17. Editorial by J. L. Marsh, **Independent American**, Platteville, Wis., April 25, 1845, Vol. I, No. 16, page 2, column 3.
18. Note: three additional names were appended to this call as it was published in the paper a week later, namely: Solomon Chaffee, Silas Burt, and D. R. Burt.
19. Name in doubt.

CHAPTER III

Transition (1846-1849)

In 1841 Platteville had been made a chartered village,¹ and it was just beginning a new era when its very existence was threatened by the small-pox scourge in the winter of 1843-1844, which is said to have afflicted half of the population and caused a death in every ten or eleven cases. Scarcely a family had escaped the dread disease, and though a deep gloom settled upon the community for a time,² the people regained their courage and moved forward still further in the following years.

The general material prosperity of the mining region, however, was going on at a rapid pace, and was at a flood tide about 1845 when the employment of about 3,000 miners was required.³ Some 27,000 tons of lead ore were produced in this year and also again in 1847. This was estimated to be 10% of the world's production, and about 87% of the American output at that time.⁴ Much of the lead exported went to China, which gave this region an international as well as a national importance. Not only did this activity bring added wealth and an influx of people to the community, but it also resulted in a building and business boom in the Village of Platteville. Besides private dwellings, at least a half dozen business blocks,⁵ and other public buildings were being erected or projected in the year 1845 - all of them of brick, hence more substantial than heretofore.

Fortunately a statistical view of Platteville and vicinity at this time⁶ is found in the notes collected by Mr. Julius P. B. McCabe, a compiler and publisher of directories for a **Gazetteer of Wisconsin**. From the **American Independent** for May 9, 1845 we learn a number of interesting facts:

Platteville contains 12 brick, 196 frame and 13 log houses, making the total number of buildings, 221. There are in the village, four Churches, viz: 1 Episcopal Methodist, 1 Presbyterian, 1 Primitive Methodist and 1 Roman Catholic. The Primitive Methodist Church is a brick building and the others are of wood; the Episcopal Methodist and the Presbyterians have made arrangements to erect new churches of brick during the ensuing summer—when it is understood that several handsome and spacious dwellings are to be erected. Ground has already been broke for a Masonic Hall. Platteville also contains 9 extensive Dry Good Stores, with a stock of goods, the aggregate value of which may be estimated at \$65,000; 2 highly respectable and well conducted hotels, 4 lawyers, 5 physicians, one of whom is a botanic, 3 ministers of the gospel, an academy, 2 district schools, a Masonic Lodge, 2 Lyceums, 1 Thrashing Machine factory, 1 Fanning Mill Factory, 4 Joiner's shops, 1 Printing Office, from which is issued a weekly paper, 2 Cabinet Shops, 1 Chair maker shop, 1 Drug store, 1 Saddler's shop, 1 Copper and Tin smith, 1 Baker, 4 Tailor shops, 1 Dyer, 2 Butcher shops, 2 Boot and Shoe maker's shops, 1 Paint shop, 2 Cooper's shops, 4 Wagon

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and Plow maker's shops, 6 Blacksmith shops, 2 brick yards, 2 Livery Stables, 1 Barber shop, 2 Billiard rooms, and three Groceries, but no Gunsmith, Watchmaker or Hatter.

According to a census officially and accurately taken, in March last, the population of Platteville was then 1050—since that period the increase has been about 200, making the present number of inhabitants, 1,250, 500 of whom are children between the ages of 4 and 16.

There are 3 Smelting furnaces in the village and immediate vicinity, 1 within three miles and one within seven. There are 4 good Grist Mills within seven miles of Platteville, two of which are situated on the banks of Little Platte River, one on Fevre River, and one on the Rountree branch, within one quarter of a mile of town, and 5 Saw Mills, within 7 miles. The village is supplied with the purest water, from numerous springs which are found in every part of the town.⁷

A few additional facts about some matters listed here will help to understand more fully the cultural status of the village. The "2 district schools" mentioned, refer to the one-story brick schools designated respectively as the South School, located on the north side of west Pine Street between Chestnut and Court Streets, and the North School, located on the west side of North Third Street between Adams Street (then known as Rountree Street) and Lewis Street today.⁸

As to the churches: In 1840 Father James Causse became resident priest of the parish of St. Thomas at Potosi (first called Van Buren) which had been organized by the Reverend Father Mathais Loras, Bishop of Dubuque, June 17, 1836. The jurisdiction of the parish reached out over a wide territory, and in 1843 Father Causse is said to have performed the sacrament of baptism for the first time in Platteville. Thus was begun a missionary activity here that developed into the organization of the present St. Mary's Catholic congregation and the building of a small church before the end of that year.⁹ The Primitive Methodists organized and dedicated their church on the site of the present building, February 18, 1844.¹⁰ German Methodists and Lutherans also were making their appearance in the community, but their organization into churches did not come till later. Likewise adherents to the Church of Christ (or Disciples) were appearing. The new Presbyterian church of brick faced the public park on the lot where the present Congregational Church stands. It was dedicated December 20, 1846.¹¹ The Academy building was now left wholly to the school. The change of the Methodists from their old frame building to their new brick one,¹² on the site of their present church, has already been given in connection with the establishment of the Wisconsin Collegiate Institute.

Other intellectual activities were also carried on in different organizations or groups of people for various purposes. One

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of the oldest of these was the "Platteville Social Library . . . got up, even before the village could properly be said to have commenced its rise." In 1840 this library had one hundred thirty-five volumes, "Composed of the very best selections of Elementary, Historical, and Philosophical works." It was organized as a stock company, and at this time, its funds being low, urgent appeals were made to the shareholders to meet and provide money to keep it going. Different individuals also now and then subscribed to a "Circulating Library" which agents from St. Louis or elsewhere were able to "sell". Metropolitan papers, particularly from Philadelphia, were also subscribed for and circulated in the village.

One of the most flourishing clubs was the Platteville Lyceum which had been organized in the fall of 1837 by young men who constituted the "Literati" of the place and who held regular weekly meetings during the winter season until about 1841 in the basement of the Old Methodist Church. According to a writer of the time this organization was "a great source of improvement for many young men of the place. But the subjects discussed were sometimes calculated to offend the ear of the pious, or lesson respect for received opinions; and many intelligent persons condemned the institution as being opposed to good morals; and finally it was denied the privilege of meeting under the same roof where the gospel was preached." But the organization found new quarters and continued its meetings for many years afterwards, returning to the Old M. E. Church again after it became the Collegiate Institute. The leading features of its programs appears to have been a debate upon some matter of public interest, as may be seen from a typical announcement of the time:

The Platteville Lyceum will meet at the basement story of the Collegiate Institute, on Saturday evening next, at half past six o'clock. The following question will be discussed, to wit:— "Should all law for the collection of debts in the United States be abolished." Responsible members on the affirmative, Cochran and Robbins - Negative, Virgin and White.

Dec. 17, 1846.

By order of the Lyceum,
H. Robbins, Sec'y.

A more recent organization, but a vigorous and an enthusiastic one, was the Dramatic Club which announced its beginning in July 1845 in the following manner:

DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION (Multum in Parvo)

The object of this association is scientific amusement, improvement in morals and manners; to direct the captious and restless minds of the youth of this place, to amusements which are of home manufacture, and partake of none of the vices and luxuries of the east - whose

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actors are not riding round the country, playing to defray their expenses. They are true Badgers who get their bread by day in laborious toil, their knowledge by night, in consuming the midnight oil. As they have been to some considerable expenses in getting dresses and scenery, that they may appear in public, it is expected that it will take some means to defray the expenses, as we have had to employ Waters and Holland to prepare our scenery, but after those expenses are paid, the remainder will be exclusively applied to benevolent purposes.

This association will have its first performance in the basement story of the Collegiate Institute, on Saturday evening, July 5th, 1845.

Doors open at half past 7 — Curtain rise at 8. Admittance 25 cents, or a gentleman and two ladies admitted for 50 cents. Children half price.¹³

It was into this rather exceptional environment, combining material prosperity, active religious influences, and an intellectual interest and culture among the people, that Mr. Pickard came as Principal of the Academy, bringing a personality, a character, and an outlook that were to be potent forces in carrying the community - particularly its educational interests - to new heights of achievement and influence in the years to come.

Josiah Little Pickard¹⁴ was born at Rowley, Massachusetts, in 1824; but he grew to maturity on a farm in Maine, near Brunswick, where his parents had moved very early in his life. As he grew up he developed a fine idealism of service that remained with him throughout his long career. Some of the contributing influences toward this end may well have been certain experiences that left a deep impression upon him in his formative years which he told of later in life. When he first started to school, his first teachers, he says, were "two lovable women", one of whom taught for the pure love of teaching, "if I may judge from an entry in my father's expense record - 'Paid for tuition for Josiah 13 weeks \$1.30.' The salary of 10 cents a week, the teacher boarding herself, will stand at the head of all statistical tables of Teachers salaries."¹⁵ His maternal uncle was a teacher of distinction, and was afterward immortalized by John Greenleaf Whittier in the poem entitled "My Old Schoolmaster."¹⁶

Whether young Pickard should give his life to teaching or to preaching was a problem that pressed for solution as he neared the end of his college course at Bowdoin. He had previously attended the Lewiston Falls Academy and was assistant¹⁷ for a little while to the Principal, David Brainerd Sewall, a graduate of Bowdoin, who made an indelible impression upon him, which contributed inevitably toward his decision in favor of teaching. He says:¹⁸

During the latter part of my college course the claims of the Christian ministry were presented with some urgency by my pastor. But

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my experience as a pupil would constantly present counter claims of greater weight. I found in my teacher Sewall . . . a man of far greater influence over my life than that of any clergyman I had ever known. In him I saw the possibility of greater usefulness in the work of a Christian teacher than in that of a clergyman. The teacher of youth is engaged in molding character at the impressionable period of life, and his work continues day after day instead of a single day in the week. My experience as a teacher has more often confirmed the wisdom of my choice. The clergyman employs himself upon one part of man's nature chiefly. The teacher is engaged upon the harmonious development of all man's powers - physical, intellectual, and spiritual - and finds each line of labor helpful to the other.

To young Pickard, Sewall was the model teacher and of continuing influence. Under the spell of that influence, when Pickard was a junior in college at the age of nineteen, he had formulated a definition of education not gained from books but from contact with this man. He says: ¹⁹

Day by day I was conscious of the influence of my model teacher. My definition of education gained from observation of his daily life was — building of a life, strength and beauty its characteristics, the building to stand four square to the world, having four corner stones—self-knowledge, self-esteem, self-control and self-culture — the building to be fitly framed together — a temple for the dwelling-place of the divine architect.

Teaching having been determined upon as a career, and a clear idea having been formulated of what education was to be in the development of young people, Pickard says: "My purpose during my College course was to come West immediately after graduation, but the illness of my father kept me at the East from Sept. 1844 (the time of my graduation) until December 1845." ²⁰ At another and later date he wrote: ²¹

In studying the question of location my mind inclined toward northern Illinois or southern Wisconsin, on account of the predominance of New England and New York people who had settled there. A letter from a classmate and for a time my roommate in college, who was on his way to fill an engagement as teacher in a planter's family in Mississippi, informed me that a teacher was wanted in Elizabeth, a village in the northern part of Illinois. The State met my desires. Of the village I only knew that it was in need. At any rate it would serve me as a lockout over both Illinois and Wisconsin, and not doubting my ability to supply the demand for a teacher, I left my home in Maine on the twenty-second of December, 1845, and reached Elizabeth, January 14, 1846. I had spent three days of the time with friends on the way and had refrained from traveling on three Sabbaths. Of the twenty-four days, eighteen days were consumed in traveling, or waiting for stage accommodations after leaving the end of railway service The journey was agreeable though long, as it gave me a fair knowledge of the features of the country over which we moved by slow stages, and to a New Englander who had never before been more than a hundred miles from his home, it was full of surprises.

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Describing the conditions and his work in Elizabeth, he says: ²²

The population was cosmopolitan and of a character not unlike that of any mining settlement on the frontier. The industry was lead mining. I was not long a resident before I was convinced of their "need of a teacher." The few intelligent men who recognized the need were young men who had no children to be taught. The older settlers had children past school age. The only means available for the support of a school were derived from the income from the school land donated by the general government, and a small portion of the tax levied by the state and distributed on the basis of the school population. No town tax was levied. The length of the school term was determined by the salary paid the teacher. The amount I could rely upon would hardly pay my board for two months, but by the addition of a tuition fee I was able in nine months to pay the larger part of it.

Just at this juncture two invitations came to him in the same mail to take charge of an Academy - one in Galena, Illinois, and the other in Platteville, Wisconsin. Although Galena "had attractions" he said, "to a young man without means and anxious to make for himself a home where family life could be enjoyed", yet he decided in favor of Platteville. "Some months later" he continues, "I learned that my decision was influenced by a power not my own but proceeding, as I have had reason to believe many times in my life, from an Omnipotent Father whose love was engaged in seeking my highest interests". For "when I came to the point of asking the consent of the lady whose favor I sought, to join me in my labors in the West, she asked the counsel of her guardian. His reply to her was, 'You have my consent to go to any place in the West except Galena'." ²³

It was in the month of September 1846 at a convention of the Congregational and Presbyterian clergy held in Mineral Point, where the interests of the Platteville Academy had been considered, that the decision was made to invite Mr. Pickard to become its Principal. He took charge upon the 22nd day of November following, and remained until December 24, 1859. ²⁴

The Board of Trustees of the Academy at the time Mr. Pickard came were: James Shinn, President, Thomas Eastman, Vice President, J. W. Clark, M.D., Secretary and also Treasurer, Isaac Bancroft, Stephen O. Paine, Esq., Ptolemy Stone, and Henry Snowden, all of Platteville. Besides these there were Reverend John Lewis, of New Diggings, and Reverend Zachariah Eddy, of Mineral Point. ²⁵ It will be observed that Mr. Snowden was the only member of the original board, 1842, that was still serving.

November 10, 1846, the Board of Trustees placed the following advertisement in the **Independent American**, giving notice

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of the first session of the Academy under Mr. Pickard's management:²⁶

THE PLATTEVILLE ACADEMY

The Winter Session of this Institution will commence on Monday the 23rd inst. The Trustees have placed it under the care of Mr. J. L. Pickard, A. M. who is well qualified to fill the station. The course of study will remain as heretofore advertised.

During the intermission which has taken place in the school the past season, the extensive apparatus purchased last year has been received and will be employed, whenever a suitable occasion occurs, to illustrate the sciences. It is expected that a course of Lectures will be given during the Winter, of which public notice will be given.

TUITION

The common English studies, \$3.00 per qr.

Algebra, Geometry, Natural Philosophy, etc., \$4.00 per qr.

Higher Mathematics, Anc. & Modern Languages, \$5.00 per qr.

The academic year is divided into two sessions of 22 weeks each.

The Quarter is half a session, or 11 weeks. The charge of 25 cts per Quarter will be made to each pupil, for incidental expenses. Pupils from abroad will be assisted in procuring Boarding places by the President of the Board or the Principal.

James Shinn, Pres.

Boarding can be obtained in private families on as reasonable terms as in any part of the Mines.

The announcement of the Trustees, January 28, for the opening of the second quarter of the winter session on Monday, February 8, 1847, informs the public that Mr. Pickard "Who has given ample satisfaction, continues as the Principal . . . [and that] The Trustees are determined that nothing shall be wanting to make the school all that such an Institution ought to be . . . [Also] . . . The Scientific Lectures, illustrated by experiments will continue — they are given every Friday evening at 6½ o'clock, and are open to all." But the most significant part of the announcement was that relating to the training of teachers, and is:

To those who desire to Teach, peculiar advantages will be furnished, by the formation of a Teacher's Class, and instruction designed to aid them; provided a sufficient number apply.

In the late summer of 1847 the Academy published its first catalogue²⁷ covering the period from November 23, 1846 to August 6, 1847, the first year of Mr. Pickard's administration, from which fuller information is gained concerning the important features of the school. The first or Winter Session of the school year began on the first Monday of October, the second, or Summer Ses-

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sion on the Monday following the third Friday in March. There was a two weeks vacation between them, and at the end of the summer session was a six weeks vacation before the winter session began again. The incidental expenses "fee" was for "wood, lights, etc., etc.," and it was stated that "Students were held responsible for any damage done by them". A Primary Department was mentioned with tuition at \$2.00 per quarter; also "Instruction on Piano Forte, with use of Instrument" at \$10.00 per quarter; "Painting, Drawing, Embroidery, **Extra** \$2.00 per quarter"; and "Vocal Music will be taught regularly, free of charge;" also the Lectures were to be free.

The teachers on the faculty, as announced in this catalogue, besides Mr. Pickard were: Miss Jane E. Clark, Teacher in the Primary Department, and Mrs. J. W. Clark, Instructor in Instrumental Music. The position of Preceptress was vacant, but was to be filled with a "new and competent Instructress" who would have charge of the Female Department which was to be organized.

Besides the commodious building, the equipment of the school in Pickard's first year was a library of between 500 and 600 volumes of "well selected books" to which the students in the "upper departments" were given free access under appropriate rules; an Apparatus, "entirely new and of the best quality", valued at \$600 which was used at lectures and before classes at their recitations; and a "cabinet" of minerals which had just been started. The Academy, however, felt one need deeply and that was a "Boarding and Lodging House to accomodate students from abroad," and a strong appeal was made to friends of education in "Western Wisconsin" to cooperate in securing such a building as a part of the necessary equipment of the institution.

The general aim of the Platteville Academy was to be a literary institution which should "bless the youth who shall successively resort to it for preparation for the active duties of life." As specific objectives in this work, the plan of the institution contemplated the same definite ends as announced the year before at Mr. Magoun's appointment, namely,

- 1st. To fit young men for College
- 2nd. To impart a **thorough** English education, especially to young men preparing for a business life.
- 3rd. To educate and Train Teachers of **District Schools** — both male and female.

The organization of the school into three departments has already been indicated. The Classical and Higher English Department, or

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that of Languages as it was sometimes designated in later catalogues, afforded pupils the opportunity for study in Latin, Greek, French, German, and Spanish. The course of study in this department was three years.

Education, however, was not to be confined simply to stimulating mental growth, therefore the institution was to be much more than merely literary. "The physical, intellectual and moral habits of the Students will be strictly attended to" said the catalogue. Also: "The moral training of the young will be sedulously attended to. Nothing of the nature of Sectarianism will be admitted into the course of Instruction and Government; yet it is hoped, the Institution will not be found unfaithful to an elevated morality and the common Christianity which all denominations cherish." "The government of the Instructors will be kind and firm. Steady, rigid discipline will be maintained."

The academic work of the school was supplemented by what might be called an activity program (if the meaning is varied a little from its present use) which was mainly in the nature of an "exhibition" of the proficiency of the school in particular lines of endeavor. Besides daily exercises in penmanship, there were weekly exercises in declamation and composition, and tri-weekly exercises in music. As a final exhibit of the work of the school, each session of twenty-two weeks closed with a public examination before a committee of citizens which was appointed by the Trustees. As a preparation for this, two or three weeks immediately preceding were spent in reviewing the work of the term.

The Academy recognized its public character and relationship further by providing a program of "instructional lectures for the community, as well as for the school, during the winter term, upon the departments of Natural Science" which were illustrated by the use of the "Apparatus"; and during the summer term a course of lectures was given on "natural Philosophy, Mineralogy, and Geology." Also occasional lectures were given "on subjects connected with the Profession of Teaching."

Presumably Mr. Pickard had formulated much, if not all, of the material of this catalogue, but in doing so, he was simply setting forth the features of the school as he found it. Being a young man of vision and energy, only twenty-two years of age when he took charge of the Academy, he was full of enthusiasm. His eyes were open to the needs of the time, and he was anxious to do something about them. His mind also was alert to new ideas in education. Naturally of a progressive nature he had been stimulated and in-

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spired by an experience gained while he was located at Elizabeth, Illinois. He says:

Before going to Wisconsin I spent ten of the most profitable days of my life in Chicago, in attendance upon the first teacher's institute held west of the Great Lakes. Chicago had at that time four good school houses, and teachers, less than thirty in number, were employed for ten months in the year. The schools were free. A few gentlemen from Vermont and New York had brought with them an interest in public education and determined that their city should have the best schools obtainable. To this end they invited three men prominent in the State of New York as Normal School advocates, to hold an institute in Chicago. A general invitation to friends of public education was given a wide circulation and the gathering had somewhat national character. Governor Slade of Vermont, who was at that time engaged in securing places in the West for female teachers persuaded some of his wards to attend the meeting as a good opportunity for introduction to situations. The chief worker in that ten days' gathering was an enthusiastic young man from David F. Page's Normal School in Albany — William F. Phelps, who a few years later came to the West as an organizer of Normal Schools and for two years, 1876-'8 was a president of the White-water Normal School of Wisconsin. His enthusiasm inspired me.

It was apparent to Mr. Pickard, as it had been to Mr. Magoun, that the two most pressing educational needs of the west were better supported public schools and trained teachers for them. Throughout the mining region, Pickard says, schools were in a "low condition. Houses poor; teachers poor as a general rule, and the wages of teachers very low. Female teachers received \$1 to \$1.50 per week. Male Teachers \$10 to \$15 per month." But he says, "The public schools at Platteville were in better condition than in any other part of the lead region." However, they lacked the "means to employ a teacher except for a time sufficient to use up the money supplied by the territorial legislature." And he found their building unoccupied, he says at his arrival. Consequently: "The Academy had opened its doors to all who could pay a small tuition fee. This seemed to satisfy the need of the people. My invitation to young men and women who desire an academic education secured an attendance on the opening day [Nov. 23rd] of **five** students. Not a promising outlook to a young man who had in his pocket hardly enough money to pay a week's board bill and even that due to my landlady in the village I had just left. Determination born of necessity gave me courage in an attempt to awaken interest in public education through the Academy. For one year children were received and a teacher employed to instruct them. My time was given entirely to pupils of some degree of advancement. . . . One year was required to persuade the people that it would be cheaper to pay taxes for the support of a good free school than to pay tuition at the Academy" as they had been doing

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in the past. Had not this been accomplished, Pickard's plan for a "School of high grade" might have failed. But now, as he says, "I set myself to the task of improving the public school as a feeder to the Academy, and at the same time devoted myself to the education of Teachers."

Time, of course, would be required for the full realization of these purposes, but he was making a good start in this, his first year. That his efforts were appreciated also is clearly attested by the attendance record of the Academy which shows the total number of students for the year as 109. Of these, "12 Ladies and 11 Gentlemen" making a total of 23 were registered in the Classical and Higher English Department; 13 ladies and 29 gentlemen, or a total of 42 were in the English Department; while the Primary Department numbered 44. The states represented besides Wisconsin, were Illinois, Iowa, Ohio, and Indiana. Seventy-four pupils were listed as coming from Platteville. Other places in the vicinity that were mentioned are Willow Springs, Benton, Whig, Crocket's Grove, Spring Vale, Belmont, Platte Timber, Lancaster, Hazel Green, and Blue River.

Another and very far-reaching result of Pickard's first year as head of the Academy was evidenced near its close in the holding of an educational convention at Platteville, for which he was largely, if not wholly, responsible. Upon his invitation teachers from Galena, Dubuque, and Mineral Point came together for a three days' session—June 3rd, 4th, and 5th, 1847. The contemporary account of this published in the **Independent American**, Platteville, though not full and complete, sets forth the main items of the convention's proceedings, as follows:

Pursuant to call from several Teachers in the Mining Region, the Convention met at Platteville, on Thursday, June 3rd, at 7½ o'clock, at the Academy. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Turner, from Iowa. J. T. Mills, Esq., of Lancaster, W.T., then addressed the meeting. Subject — **Nature of the Human Mind**. The meeting then adjourned to 8½ o'clock, A.M., on Friday, June 4th.

Friday, June 4th. — Met pursuant to adjournment, and after a brief statement of the object of the meeting and the subjects to be discussed, proceeded to the relation of experience in regard to the best method of teaching Reading, Spelling, Geography, and Arithmetic. It having been deemed advisable to make a permanent organization a committee was appointed to draft a constitution. Adjourned till 2 o'clock P.M.

At 2 o'clock P.M., met and voted to take up the subject of Text Books. After considerable discussion, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Whereas, the great diversity of Text Books now in use is a great

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obstacle to success in our Common Schools as well as Academies, and the peculiar occupation of our patrons renders frequent removals from place to place necessary, of course, changing pupils from one school to another, making it absolutely necessary that some system of Text Books should be adopted by all.

Therefore. **Resolved**, That as Teachers, we do heartily recommend and do pledge ourselves to use in our schools the following Text Books. The Bible, the Elementary Spelling Book, McGuffey's or Sanders Series of Readers, Goodrich's Geographies, (Peter Parley's and the National) Colburn's First Lessons in Arithmetic, Adams' New Arithmetic, Day's Algebra, (abridged) Playfair's Euclid, or Davies' Legendre, Davies' Surveying Calculus, &c., Wells' English Grammar, Olmstead's School Philosophy, Gray's Chemistry, Hitchcock's Geology, Mrs. Lincoln's Botany, (Eaton pr. reference,) Lee's Physiology, Smelie's Philosophy of Natural History, Hale's and Goodrich's U. S. Histories, Worcester's General History, Newman's Rhetoric, Whately's Logic, Upham's Mental Philosophy, Wayland's Political Economy, do. Moral Science, Paley's Natural Theology.

The committee appointed reported the following constitution:

Art. 1. This society shall be known by the name of the Mining Region Teachers' Association.

Art. 2. The object of this Association shall be to **elevate** the profession of Teaching and to advance the cause of Popular Education.

Art. 3rd. The officers of this Association shall be a President, two Vice Presidents, a Corresponding and a Recording Secretary, and a Treasurer, all of whom shall constitute an Executive Committee. The above officers to be elected annually, by ballot.

* * * * *

Art. 6. The regular meetings of this Association shall be held semi-annually, at such time and place as may be appointed by the Executive Committee.

* * * * *

The report of the Committee was accepted and the Constitution adopted.

After the appointment of a committee to nominate officers, adjourned till close of the evening lecture. At 7½ o'clock, a lecture was delivered by J. L. Pickard - subject - **Galvanism**. At the close of the lecture, the Convention was called to order, and heard the report of committee on officers, which was accepted. After balloting, it was found that the officer's nominated were unanimously elected. Adjourned to 8 o'clock Saturday morning.

Saturday, June 5th. - Met according to adjournment. After a brief but interesting discourse on the subject of Teaching Arithmetic and English Grammar, the following resolutions were taken up and adopted:

1st. **Resolved**, That we will use our utmost endeavors to make the

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Profession of Teaching such as will deserve the name and secure to it that confidence and support it so richly merits.

2nd. **Resolved**, That we discountenance as far as possible all party feeling, and endeavor by every means in our power to do away with sectarian prejudices, in order that we may concentrate public feeling and action upon the great object in view - the discussion of sound education and a high tone of moral principle.

3d. **Resolved**, That we return to our scholars with renewed zeal and increased attachment to our Profession.

4th. **Resolved**, That we absolutely need the hearty cooperation of parents, guardians and the public generally; for, upon this, in a great measure, must depend our success.

5th. **Resolved**, That we tender our sincere thanks to the citizens of Platteville, for their hospitality to us during the sitting of the Convention.

6th. **Resolved**, That a copy of the proceedings of this meeting be presented for publication to the Independent American, Galena papers, Wisconsin Herald, Milwaukee Gazette, Prairie (Chicago) Farmer, and that all papers friendly to the cause of education be requested to copy. Also, that the thanks of the Convention be tendered to those papers that have kindly noticed our Convention.

Convention adjourned *sine die*.

J. L. Pickard, Ch'm.

P. Wiley, Secretary.
Platteville June 5, 1847. 28

The reader will observe that this institute-convention of teachers was putting into execution, and giving local expression to, the ideas and suggestions that had been discussed and recommended in the preceding educational conventions which had been held at Madison in January 1846, at Mineral Point in October 1845, and at New Diggings in June 1845. Most of these had also been urged, as already indicated, by Mr. Magoun in his lectures and in his articles on education published in the **American Independent** in the issues from January to March, 1845, such as uniform textbooks for schools, the holding of educational conventions, and the formation of associations of teachers and others, the cooperation of parents with teachers, and the enlistment of public interest and the support of the press. One action taken at this convention, it will be observed, became increasingly historic, and that was the organization of the "Mining Region Teachers' Association", because of its continued existence and its final development into the "Wisconsin State Teachers' Association" six years later in 1853.

The list of uniform text books as given in Pickard's first catalogue of the Academy is slightly different from that adopted by the convention, and is added here for the purpose of comparison.

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Pickard said that this list would be "strictly adhered to in the English Department of the Academy." It is:

The Bible, McGuffey's Series of Readers, Colburn's Intellectual and Adams' New Arithmetic, Day's Algebra (abridged), Davies' Legendre, Davies' Surveying and Calculus, Goodrich's Geographies (Peter Parley's and the National), Wells's English Grammar, Goodrich's History of the United States, Worcester's Universal History, Olmstead's School Philosophy (Rudiments and Compendium) Gray's Chemistry, Mrs. Lincoln's Botany, Hitchcock's Geology, Smellie's Philosophy of Natural History, Newman's Rhetoric, Whately's Logic, Upham's Mental Philosophy, Wayland's Political Economy, Wayland's Moral Science, Paley's Evidences, Butler's Analogy . . . In addition to these the following are recommended. Webster's Dictionary, The British Poets, Union Bible Dictionary, Barnes' Notes.

From this time on the Academy was to go steadily forward under the administration of Mr. Pickard. Some of the favorable conditions contributing to this end, such as the growing prosperity of the community, the solid and increasing interest of the citizens of Platteville in education, religion, and intellectual activities generally, the impress of Mr. Magoun's ideas and work, and above all the commanding personality of Mr. Pickard, have already been given. But another factor of supreme importance, just as Mr. Pickard was entering upon his second year, was the coming of the Reverend John Lewis, minister of the church at New Diggings, to Platteville to be the pastor of the Presbyterians, in their new church building dedicated a few months previously. They had given him a call in March, and he began his work the first of September 1847. His stay in this position was to be coincident with that of Mr. Pickard as Principal of the Academy and the friendship between these two men, and their close personal association (Pickard as Principal of the Academy and Lewis as minister as well as President of the Board of Trustees of the Academy) ripened into an intimacy that was to bring joy and benefit to each, and a combined influence of lasting value to the community and school alike. It was Lewis, Pickard said at a later time, "whose acquaintance I had formed during the summer of 1846, when taking a horseback ride through southwestern Wisconsin - a man whom to meet was to love" who had been mainly responsible for his call to Platteville. "For thirteen years" Pickard says "we were colaborers in the cause of education. As a wise counselor, and efficient helper, and as earnest advocate of a sound system of instruction, his help was invaluable."

The second year of Pickard's administration opened October 4, 1847 and closed August 25, 1848. The announcement in September preceding the opening of the school indicated the separate organization of the Female Department under the care of a

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new teacher. The faculty for this year as listed in the catalogue was composed of: J. L. Pickard, Principal; Olive A. Lewis, Preceptor; Jane E. Clark, Primary Department; Mrs. Jane W. Clark, Instrumental Music; and Meta M. Lulman, Drawing.

As has been indicated before, the public examinations occurring at the end of each session were events of interest and importance to the students, teachers, and community alike. These examinations were conducted by a committee of citizens appointed yearly by the Trustees. The members named at this time were: B. C. Eastman, Esq., Platteville; O. Cole, Esq., Potosi; Rev. S. W. Eaton, Lancaster; Rev. G. F. Magoun, Galena, Ills.; M. M. Jackson, Esq., Mineral Point; and A. P. Ladd, M.D., Shullsburg. These examinations were well attended by people generally, and were usually the occasion for much favorable comment and praise in the press of the region. A very interesting account of this kind is given concerning the mid-year examination, occurring March 2nd and 3rd, 1848, and is inserted herewith.

The semi-annual examination of the pupils under the charge of the Principal, Mr. Pickard, assisted by the Misses Lewis, and Clark, took place on Thursday at the Platteville Academy.

The ceremonies were opened and concluded with an appropriate prayer and benediction by our Presbyterian clergyman, Mr. Lewis. This examination, conducted as it was, with skill and good taste, satisfied us of the high qualifications of the teachers, and forces upon us the confession that great praise is due them. To the parents and others present it must have been, as it was to us, truly gratifying to witness the progress made by the pupils in the various departments of learning to which their young minds had been directed. Competent as we believed the instructors to be, we were not prepared to witness so much improvement. The most vigilant supervision and careful training of these young minds must have been used to bring about such flattering results. We regret that we cannot recall the names of all the pupils who so cleverly acquitted themselves on this occasion; a few, however, are remembered, and we will not be thought invidious, if we take these as a sample of the whole, and refer, briefly, to the evidence they gave of bright promise. Miss Sheek, we thought exhibited a commendable promptitude in all her answers to arithmetic questions - and this too with a most becoming feminine modesty. We were permitted to look at a pleasing little piece of composition on the "Power of the Mind to Associate Ideas," by Miss R. Shinn, it certainly shows the author possessed of mind. The examination of Miss Hardy, Miss Vineyard, and Miss H. Shinn, in mathematics, seemed to give general satisfaction; their answers were prompt, and without embarrassment. In truth it is but justice to all the young girls who were subjected to the ordeal in this branch, to say that they evinced much genius.

In the examination of the male classes we saw much to admire. We have hardly time to speak of these young students as they deserve; at another time we may refer to the evidence they give of future distinction.

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Mr. Pickard kindly showed us some specimens of sketching in Crayon by a young girl which possess merit and commend themselves to notice. We surely wish success to this school, so meritoriously controlled and directed as it is.

The report of the examination was continued in the next week's issue of the local paper, as follows:

The pleasure we experienced on this, the second day's examination was greatly enhanced by listening to a charming address on the subject of education by Mortimer M. Jackson, of Mineral Point. His remarks were truly eloquent, embodying good sense and meaning. He spoke with pride of the prospects of an improved educational system in the Territory, and exultingly pointed to this school as an evidence of its rapid progress. After indulging in the most beautiful apostrophe to education, he concluded his brief, but happy address by a well timed compliment to the Trustees on their good fortune in the selection of a competent Professor, and spoke in warm and generous praise of their successful efforts in producing such remarkable results as he had witnessed. The address was listened to with deep interest, and inspired a general feeling of heart-felt gratification.

Mr. Pickard now resumed the examination of the different classes and rendered it exceedingly interesting by the most severe and critical questions. The French class, Miss Rountree, and Miss Vineyard, were first examined - these two young girls had made considerable progress in the language.

Philosophy.—Master J. Atwood, C. Champion, V. B. McQueston, and G. J. Cloud - Miss E. A. Sheek, Miss Hardy, Miss Orne, and Miss Durley. We were amazed at the progress this class had made in Philosophy - we will not soon forget how successfully they answered the most searching and difficult questions in regard to the anatomy of the eye; we thought the girls excelled whenever it became a question of memory.

Astronomy.—Miss E. A. Sheek, Hardy H. Shinn, Jane E. Vineyard, R. Shinn, Mary de Haven and Ellen Rountree. We were not present at this examination, and cannot therefore speak of it.

Virgil.—Mr. T. J. Eastman, H. M. Page, A. Brooks, H. S. Rountree, Miss R. Shinn, and Miss H. Shinn. This examination was praiseworthy.

Mr. T. J. Eastman is the author of the prize essay on Education.

Master John Rountree gave a recitation in English and exhibited much good taste in his oratory - his reading was rather good.

We repeat the wish that this School may prosper.

Three other features of the school and its work are also to be noted in this year. The library had grown to include "800 volumes of well selected books" and all the students of the upper departments of the school were given free access to the collection under appropriate rules and regulations. A cabinet of minerals also had been started. A three years' course in the study of for-

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sign languages was provided for those who were interested in this line of work. The catalogue announcement was as follows:

Latin.—Andrews and Stoddard's Latin Grammar, Weld's Latin lessons, Andrew's Jacob's Reader, Anton's Caesar, Sallunt and Cicero; Bowen's Virgil, Leverett's Latin Lexicon, - Exercises in Latin Composition.

Greek.—Bullions Greek Grammar, Felton's Reader, Anabasis of Xenophon, Donnegan's or Pickering's New Lexicon.

French.—Longfellow's L'Homond's Grammar, Girault's Series of Reading Books, Meadow's or Boyer's Dictionary.

German.—Follen's German Grammar, Do. Gospel of St. John and Reader, Schiller's Wilhelm Tell, Mentz's Dictionary - a compilation.

Spanish.—Sale's Grammar, Longfellow's Espagnolas Novelas, Neuman's Dictionary.

The attendance during the year mounted to one hundred fifty-five, of whom eighty-three were gentlemen, and seventy-two were ladies. These were distributed in the departments as follows: Classical and Higher English, gentlemen 18, ladies 26, total 44; English, gentlemen 41, ladies 21, total 62; Primary, gentlemen 24, ladies 25, total 49. One hundred six out of the total of one hundred fifty-five were listed in the catalogue as coming from Platteville. Near-by places in Wisconsin contributing one or more students were: Dodgeville, New Diggings, Elk Grove, Head of Platte, Belmont, White Oak Springs, Hazel Green, Spring Vale, Platte Mound, Lancaster, Platte Grove, Mineral Point, Hugill's Grove, Prockett's Grove, and Fairplay. Places outside of the state from which pupils came were: Ashland, Ohio, Albany, New York, Glendale, Iowa, Dubuque, Iowa, Marietta, Ills, Whitehall, Ills, North Benton, Ohio, Galena, Ills, Rockford, Ills, and St. Croix, Minnesota.

This fifty per cent increase in attendance over the previous year caused the management of the Academy to consider the possible necessity of enlarged accommodations in the near future. Accordingly the Trustees decided upon a new location and more ground with which to meet such demands as might arise. Beginning in December 1847 and continuing till October 1848, the Trustees were fortunate in securing all of block 16 on the west side of the village, between Main and Mineral Streets, on the west side of Elm Street, and also a tract of 336 feet by 264 feet adjoining this on the west and extending between Main and Mineral Street, making a total of approximately three acres, for a total "consideration" of \$1,210, as named in the various deeds.

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With the opening of the third year of Pickard's administration (Oct. 1848 to Aug. 1849) the Trustees announced a few changes in tuition rates and payments with a view to prompt settlement by the students. They noted:

Rates of tuition according to studies pursued—from \$2.40 to \$6.00 per quarter if payment is delayed till the close of the quarter.

If paid before the middle of the quarter a discount of 20 per cent will be made.

In case of sickness, after advance payments, the proportionate sum will be refunded

The Trustees deem it necessary to make the following rule, which will be strictly adhered to:— No pupil can be admitted to the school a second quarter, till the tuition of the previous quarter be settled.

Sept. 14, 1848.

J. W. Lewis, Pres.

J. W. Clark, Sec'y.

It was at this time also that Mr. Pickard's brother, D. W. Pickard, came to the school to be Associate Principal.

The second, or Summer, session of the year, as it was called, began Monday, March 19 and ran for eleven weeks. It was announced in the catalogue that the "Female Department" would be in charge of Miss M. C. Hubbs, and that it would be organized just as soon as she arrived from the East, which was expected to be not later than April 1. She was to give instruction also in "Drawing and Fancy Needle-Work."

The catalogue does not give the attendance for the full year, but lists only those who were enrolled for the first session, that is from October to March, which was the winter session. Those in the Classical and Higher English Department numbered thirty-one, of whom ten were ladies; and those in the "English Department" numbered fifty-six of whom twenty-three were ladies. This made a total of eighty-seven in attendance for that session. Naturally the bulk of these was from Platteville, the number being sixty-three. Other places in the vicinity mentioned in the catalogue as sending students were: Harrison, Whig, New Diggings, Elk Grove, Belmont, Head of Platte, Dodgeville, Prairie du Chien, White Oak Springs, Spring Vale, Linden, and Christiana. The out of state places represented were: Fairmount, Virginia, Glendale, Iowa, Peoria, Ills., and Galena, Ills.

During this year the Trustees through their secretary, Dr. J. W. Clark, carried on a correspondence with ministers in near-by places in an endeavor to secure the names of promising young persons who might become interested in attending the Academy. Fortunately a few of the letters received by Dr. Clark in response to

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his request have been preserved, but none, so far, of Dr. Clark's letters of inquiry have been found. One of Dr. Clark's letters was written October 6, 1848, and directed to Reverend L. H. Loss, Rockford, Ills., making inquiry about the prospects of interesting some of the recently arrived Norwegians in coming to the Academy for an education. Reverend Loss's reply is informative, and is given herewith.

Rockford, Oct. 22, 1848

J. W. Clark M.D.

Dear Sir.

Since the receipt of your Letter of the 6th Inst. I have delayed a reply to make inquiry - I am 25 miles distant from the nearest Norwegian Settlement & have very little direct communication with that people - Their condition has greatly interested me for the last four years. One young man became my student 3&½ years ago & has been under my instruction & in my family till last June when he received Licence and commenced his labours in a Norwegian Chh in Chicago & is now occupying one of the most interesting fields of usefulness any where at the West. When he left my family Providence furnished another who is now pursuing his studies with very encouraging success. Many of their young men and women should be in our schools & might be if they could be **looked up**. Some of our Chhs & Ministers are in the immediate neighborhood of their Settlement & I am surprised and pained at the utter indifference they manifest in this matter - Merchants belonging to our Chhs find no difficulty in getting Norwegian clerks where it is an object from having a large amount of Norwegian trade - Christian families in their neighborhoods find no difficulty in getting their girls for domestic service - I was at Mineral Point a year ago & found a very promising pious Norwegian Clerk in Br. Beach's Store, conversed with him about studying for the ministry. Had he been encouraged by Christians about him he would have commenced study immediately. I urged the thing on Br. B. but "Ole" was so **trustworthy & so profitable in the Store he did not know how to spare him** — I wrote Br. Beach some months ago pressing the matter but got no reply - If I am rightly informed the young man is still there - He is the only one I can now point you to of the character you want - If by any means you can break him away from that Store & get him into your Academy you would accomplish an important object - It ought to be done. It might be well for you to write Br. Eddy about it or ride over and see them would do better - I hope you will succeed in obtaining some of these youth & train them for usefulness among their countrymen. If the 30,000 Norwegians now among us were beyond the Rocky Mountains or on some Island in the Pacific, & as destitute of evangelical religion & as accessable as they are now, our Chhs & Ministers would be much interested in sending them the pure Gospel - but being here at home we overlook them - Only two pious godly ministers are labouring among them & but one of these, (Mr. Anderson now at Chicago) has any adequate qualifications for his work - "What are these among so many" - This vast & rapidly increasing population can never be supplied with such Teachers for their Schools & such ministers as they need unless they are trained for their work in our Seminaries - no other foreign population is so accessable to our influence & no other

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is more exposed to "ravelling wolves" - Released from the domination of their semi-infidel Priests & the heartless forms of their State Chh they will float off into error & remain in ignorance, the tools of Demagogues & the curse of their adopted country, unless they are Americanized & evangelized by American benevolence & piety - May God make your Academy an efficient helper in this great and good work - Yours truly - My regards to your family

L. H. Loss.

N. B. Since writing the above I have heard of a very promising Norwegian youth about 17 years of age who is said to be anxious to get an education - He is twenty-five miles from here, on Rock Prairie - I will have the young man that lives with me write him immediately. If anything encouraging is obtained you will hear from me again - Yours &c
L. H. Loss.

Some letters from Gabriel Bjornson, of Christiana, are also interesting and helpful in disclosing the cultural atmosphere of these times. Here are three:

Town of Christiana March 1st 1849

Mr. J. W. Clark Esq

Dear Sir!

Encouraged by our interview at Rev. Dietrichsons I hereby availing myself of the chance, take boldness to send you a few lines.

I have since the alleged time, used my exertions, in trying to induce some one of young persons among the norwegians in this Settlement to enter the Academy at your place, and have but been able to find one whom I could persuade thereto. — His name is Zacarias Morbec, and he is of age 29 years — Though it may be said of him: that he has already passed the golden time of youth, Yet as far as my humble judgment, in discerning from physiognomy and conduct reach, I think there is still hope for his advancement in that profession. He says, that if he be allowed admission into the Academy on the terms proposed at Rev. Dietrichsons, he would spare no pains, and try by assiduous application to reach the aim. — You will do me a great favor in after the receiving of this to send me (?) few lines, respecting when the applicant (if there be any place) could enter the Academy, and if he has to provide himself with books of any kind.

I remain with respect
Your humble Servant

Gabriel Bjornson
Christiana March 15th 1849

Mr. J. W. Clark Esq

Dear Sir!

Your answer on my letter written to you under the first of March, was received in due time; and with which I was very much pleased, with regard to the offer made therein, concerning Zacarias Morbec. He is now starting for the journey to your place; and much Satisfaction will it be to me, if he for the future turns out to your satisfaction. — I hope however; that he will do the best in his power to reach the Aim, as he was very much pleased with the offer made in your letter. If it

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would not cause you too much trouble, I should like to hear from you one time or another about Z. Morbec's improving. My thanks are rendered for the Catalogue sent me.

Very respectfully
Your obedient Servant
Gabriel Bjornson.
Town Christiana June 8th 1849

Mr. J. W. Clark Esq
Sir!

A Young Norwegian in this Settlement by name "Assund (?) Bjornson" being desirous of entering Your Academy I send You these lines on his request to inquire whether You would be willing to let him enter the Academy only for the term of one Year, as he thinks three years would be a longer time that he would be able to spend, and he only wants to learn the most common Branches. — His age is Twenty five Years and a half, and his profession has for several years been to teach school. If you would be willing to comply with his desire, You would oblige him very much by transferring a few lines to me thereabout. If you are willing to admit him on the above condition, he also would like to find a place to work for his board.

I have received Your letter of March 7th last, together with the Catalogue, for which I render me sincerest thanks to You.

I should like to Know how Z. Morbec is getting along.

Very respectfully
Yours &c
Gabriel Bjornson

P. S.
When you write,
please to direct my letters
to Christiana Post Office,
Clinton Village, Dane Co. —

G. B.

But the outstanding feature of Mr. Pickard's third year of principalship was the opportunity that he found of really beginning the higher work of education which was so near and dear to his heart, namely, the training of teachers for the schools round about. Speaking many years later about the beginnings of this "Normal" instruction, he tells us that the children of the community (that is Platteville) were then able to attend "a good public school free to them for the greater part of the year," thus enabling the Academy to give more time and attention to older students. Consequently the Academy became well filled with young men and women, many of whom were quite "mature in years—some having taught a term or two and felt the need of special training." Also his "course of study was arranged for those who had teaching in view." He was enabled to organize a "Normal Class" in the winter session of 1848-1849 numbering ten persons, five gentlemen

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and five ladies. The names of the members of this first class were:

Bailey, William L. from Harrison
Bevans, James H. from Platteville
Eastman, Thomas J. from Platteville
Moran, Shelby from Fairmount, Virginia
Page, Harlan M. from Platteville
De Haven, Mary D. from Platteville
Durley, Adeline from Platteville
Sheek, E. Minera from Glendale, Iowa
Wells, Mildred A. from Dodgeville
Welis, M. Louisa from Dodgeville

From this time on a teachers' class was organized for the winter session each year whenever enough students applied for it, and it "became a prominent feature in the work of the academy." Also, whenever necessary "a few children were admitted as a 'model class' for practice of the art of teaching by candidates for teachers' certificates." "Fortunately I was able" Pickard said later, "to secure a lady assistant admirably adapted to the work of training teachers both by precept and example into whose hands I placed my special Normal Class, reserving to myself occasional talks upon theory and practice."

The woman here referred to was Miss Fanny S. Joslyn, who was born in Waitsfield, Vermont, September 20, 1820. Raised in the country, her elementary education was in the rural school, but going on with her education she afterward attended the Academies of Montpelier and Bakersfield, and finally the Female Seminary at Burlington. Then she engaged in teaching, for a time in Burlington, before returning home and taking charge of the country school in which she had received her own early education. When Governor Slade of Vermont interested himself in securing teachers to go west to the frontier communities, Miss Joslyn decided to enlist for this field. She came to the Platteville Academy in the fall of 1849 and continued all through Pickard's stay, and also afterwards in the Normal - when the Academy was taken over by the State - till the year 1870, making a total teaching service here of twenty-one years. How well her work was done was most fittingly told years later by her principal, Mr. Pickard, in these words:

She was **conscientious** in all her work. No half finish suited her, and her pupils soon learned to know it. No recitation was undertaken by her without full and thorough preparation. She easily detected the superficial student, and very soon the student became aware of the detection. Her influence in direction of thorough work was marked, and many a student's success in life is due to this silent, perhaps unconscious influence. She was in this regard just what she would have her pupils **become**. She was **helpful** in all directions. Her pupils had no excuse for failures unless opportunity to seek help failed them, for their teacher never was too weary to give extra time to those who sought it.

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Often she anticipated their difficulties, and by timely words prepared them for the obstructions they would find in their path. Her conduct of recitations was always more of an inspiration to study than a test of what already had been acquired. She was eminently **just** in her classroom. Whatever her decision might be upon matters in dispute it was always accepted as right and final. Not an appeal is remembered by the Principal, who writes this during the ten years of their work together. She was strictly **Impartial**. If she had any favorites they became such by their own worth and work, not from any adventitious circumstances of family or position in society. The poor always found a friend in her.

Upon leaving Platteville, she went to Michigan to live with relatives principally at Lansing, for many years afterwards.

When Wisconsin entered the Union as a separate state, in May 1848, "Forward" was chosen for her motto. This was truly representative of her attitude, and particularly so in the matter of education. In Article X, Section 2 of her Constitution, she provided for the creation of a "school fund" to be used, first, for the "support and maintenance of common schools in each school district, and the purchase of suitable libraries and apparatus therefore"; and second, for the "support and maintenance of academies and normal schools, and suitable libraries and apparatus therefore." It is significant that within less than six months after her admission as a state, and within ten years after the "normal school idea" had been established in the United States in the first normal school at Lexington, Massachusetts (1839), Wisconsin should not only incorporate the normal idea in her fundamental law, but also should have the idea given definite, institutional expression in the Platteville Academy, in the heart of the mining region of the southwest. This was undoubtedly due to the "forward" look of two of the Principals of the Academy - Mr. Magoun, and Mr. Pickard - who had come from the east imbued with the normal idea, and who "pioneered" in its establishment here. Fitting indeed was it that the Platteville Academy should in due time become the "Pioneer" Normal School of Wisconsin.

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CHAPTER III

Notes

1. Hist. of Grant Co., (West. Hist. Co., Chicago, Ill., 1881) p. 690. C. N. Halford, **Hist. of Grant Co.** (1900) p. 460, gives dates as Feb. 19. Halford **op. cit.** gives a list of the village officers from 1845 to 1880, pp. 471-474.
2. **Hist. of Grant Co., Op. cit** (1881) pp. 691-692.
3. **Hist. of Grant Co., Op cit** (1881) p. 486.
4. Letter of Edw. Longhenry, geologist, Chicago, Ills. to Mr. Charles Kistler, Platteville, Wis. Published in the **Platteville Journal**, June 23, 1926. Much of Longhenry's data, he acknowledges as coming from "Bulletin No. 26" of the Illinois State Geological Survey. Mr. Longhenry was formerly of Platteville.
5. **Independent American**, April 24, 1846, p. 2. col. 4 (In **Platteville Witness** Office, Platteville, Wis.)
6. C. N. Halford, **Hist. of Grant Co.** (Teller Print, Lancaster, Wis. 1900).
7. **Independent American**, Platteville, Wis., Vol. I, No. 18, page 2, column 4, May 9, 1845.
8. **History of Grant County** (1881), pp. 699-700. See also, Maria Greene Douglass, "Personal Recollections of Platteville", **Wisconsin Magazine of History**, VI, 58. A third public school for more advanced boys and girls was later held in the dining room of the former Campbell House (Hotel), 1855. Hanmer Robbins was the teacher. This school was discontinued at the close of the winter term, 1855-1856. **Ibid.** 58. The Campbell House is occupied today (1936) by Attorney Manfred Block and his family.
9. **Grant County Herald**, Lancaster, Wisconsin, Vol. XCIII, No. 35, page 1, September 30, 1936; John Gregory, Editor, **Southwestern Wisconsin** (1932) III, 348; Helen McGranahan, "Grand Time is Being Had" **Platteville Witness**, October 12, 1921; **History of Grant County** (1881), page 730.
10. Reverend J. H. Acornley, **A History of the Primitive Methodist Church in the United States of America** (1909), pp. 34, 35 ff. Also **The American Primitive Methodist Magazine**, for the year 1864. Six articles by "Remembrancer" (James Alderson) entitled "Historical Sketches of the Primitive Methodist Western Annual Conference." (A copy is in the possession of Frank Fox, Platteville, Wisconsin). Also Reverend P. S. Bennett, **History of Methodism in Wisconsin** (1890), pp. 447-448. See also J. A. Wilgus, "Beginnings of Primitive Methodism in Platteville", **Primitive Methodist Journal**, Vol. XLIV No. 6, pages 8 ff, June 1936.
11. **Church Records, Op cit.**, pp. 132-133. Also **Independent American**, Platteville, Wis., Dec. 18, 1846, page 2, column 3.
12. "J. H. Evans Writes about Old Structures", **Platteville Journal**, May 15, 1912.
13. **Independent American**, Platteville, Wis., July 4, 1845. Vol. I, No. 26, page 3, column 1. This organization continued for some years, and many excellent performances were given to enthusiastic audiences.

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14. Most of the material here given has been taken from Manuscripts of Mr. Pickard in the **Mss** Division of the State Historical Library, Madison, Wis. These are "Experiences of a Wisconsin Educator" (141 Typewritten pages). About one fourth of this (pp. 23 to 56) with some omission has been published (with prefatory notes by Joseph Schaefer) in the **Wis. Mag. of Hist.**, Vol. VII, pp. 125-147; and "Early Educational Movements and Development of Normal Schools in Wisconsin." Published in the **Platteville Journal**, Oct. 25, 1911. See also: **Wis. Mag. of Hist.**, X, 139, note 21 (Dec. 1926).
15. Pickard **Mss**: "Experience of a Wis. Educator", **Op. Cit.** p. 3.
16. Pickard **Mss**: "Experiences of a Wis. Educator", p. 2.
17. Pickard **Mss**: "Experiences of a Wis. Educator", **Wis. Mag. of Hist.**, VII, 135-136.
18. Pickard **Mss**: "Experiences of a Wis. Educator", p. 13.
19. Pickard **Mss**: "Early Educational Movements in Wisconsin", **Platteville Journal**, Oct. 25, 1911.
20. Letter of Pickard, Chicago, Ills. April 5, 1867, to W. C. Whitford, Pres. of Milton College. Original in State Hist. Soc. Lib. Madison. Photostatic copy in author's possession.
21. Pickard **Mss**: "Experiences of a Wis. Educator", **Wis. Mag. of Hist.**, VII, 126.
22. **Ibid.**
23. Pickard **Mss**: "Experiences of a Wis. Educator", **Wis. Mag. of Hist.**, VII, 127.
24. Letter of Pickard, Chicago, Ills. April 5, 1867, **Op. Cit.**
25. Catalogue of the Platteville Academy, from Nov. 23, 1846 to Aug. 7, 1847.
26. Independent American, Nov. 13, 1846, Vol. II, No. 43, Whole Number 96, p. 2, col. 1.
27. In possession of the author.
28. **Independent American**, Platteville, Wis., June 11, 1847, page 3, columns 1 and 2.

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Chapter IV

Achievement (1849-1853)

One of the far reaching laws enacted by the first legislature of the State of Wisconsin, in 1848, provided for the town supervision of schools through the establishment of the office of Town Superintendent. This was a welcome law and had special significance for Southwestern Wisconsin, and also for Mr. Pickard. Article IV, Section 23 of the Constitution just adopted required the legislature of the state to establish but "one system of town and county government, which shall be as nearly uniform as possible." Since this provision represented the dominance of the New England idea of local government, as evidenced in the eastern part of the state, over the southern idea that prevailed in southwestern Wisconsin, it became necessary to organize Grant County definitely on the Town plan before advantage could be taken of the new school law just referred to. Accordingly, the Board of County Commissioners met January 9, 1849 and designated sixteen Towns in Grant County and provided for their political organization. The provision made for Platteville Town was:

All that district of country in Grant County embraced in township numbered three north, of range numbered one west, of the fourth principal meridian, shall constitute a separate town to be called "Platteville." The first meeting in said town shall be held in the house of B. Atwood.

By state law the annual meeting was fixed for the first Tuesday in April each year; on that day the voters of Platteville Town assembled to choose officers, and at this time they elected Mr. Pickard their first Town Superintendent of Schools. The record of the meeting as relating to this is:

At an annual Town Meeting held at the house of Bennett Atwood, Esqr. in the Town of Platteville, Grant County, Wisconsin on the 3d day of April 1849, for the election of Town Officers and for other purposes for the current year, S. O. Paine Esqr. was chosen Moderator and W. B. Bevans Clerk.

The object of the Meeting having been stated by the Moderator, it was, - Resolved . . . That all Town Officers to be elected by Ballot be voted for at the same balloting -

Thereupon on proclamation of the Moderator the Meeting went into the Election of the said Town Officers by ballot

“To Wit”

Supt. Common Schools

*J. L. Pickard 246 votes
Neeley Gray 5 votes

*Elected

The Meetings then resolved to raise a School Tax for the ensuing year of \$300.00

* * * * *

The Clerk then read publickly the result of the foregoing election. After which the Meeting adjourned Sine Die.

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One of the first official acts of Mr. Pickard in this position was to meet with the chairman of the town board, Ben C. Eastman, and the clerk of the board, R. Hodgson, on Saturday, June 9, 1849, at seven o'clock P.M. to divide the town into school districts, number them according to law, and make maps of the same. That Mr. Pickard was glad to become the Town Superintendent of Schools appears in these words of his at a later time. "Election to the office" he said, "was accepted that I might know the needs of the nine public schools of the town, note the success of the teachers and so be better prepared to guide the pupils of my Normal Class." He held the office for one year only. His successor was Samuel F. Cleveland.

For the following few years, data for the history of the Academy are meagre. The next available catalogue of the institution is for the school year of 1853-4. Presumably catalogues were issued in the interval from 1849, but they have not been found. The local newspaper, **Independent American**, a valuable source of information, suspended publication from January 6, 1849 to September 13, 1851, thereby cutting off direct publicity of the Academy except for such notices as made their appearance in some of the outside publications of the mining region. Finally the memoirs of Mr. Pickard and other writings of his published at later times in his life contain very little relating to this period specifically.

But the period was an important one in the story of the State and the community. The State was being settled rapidly and its population of 305,391 in 1850 was approximately ten times that of 1840. The heaviest influx of people was in the east and southeast; but the southwest was growing too. Platteville Town, including the village, had 2171 people as enumerated in the census of 1850. The Town had "77 farms, representing probably not more than 400 persons," which would leave approximately 1700 people for the village area. Many of the miners undoubtedly lived on their claims or diggings near the village proper, but technically would not be included in the village had it been listed separately in the census. The population was a cosmopolitan one. Of the total number, 1552 were native Americans of whom 37 per cent were Wisconsin born while the remainder of these had come from twenty-one states (out of the 30 then existing), mainly, however, from Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, and Ohio in the order named and making about 40 per cent. Seven southern states (Maryland, Virginia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Missouri) contributed 162 or a trifle over 10 per cent. The northern states outside of Wisconsin furnished about 53 per cent of the native born. There were 616 foreign born persons who had come from ten European states, but 91 per cent of these were from England, Germany, and Ireland in the order named.

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The United States Census of 1850 showed the average per capita wealth of the people of the whole country as \$356. That of the people of Wisconsin was \$138, which compares very favorably with that of the older north central states - Ohio \$255, Indiana \$205, and Illinois \$184. The per capita wealth of Iowa was \$123.

Travel was tedious and difficult over the few main roads then existing, as these were scarcely more than pathways marked out between places of most importance. It took three weeks in 1850 to drive between Milwaukee and Platteville by ox-teams. Proposals for carrying the mails in 1853 called for delivery between Platteville and Mineral Point (a distance of 32 miles) in twelve hours; and between Platteville and Muscoda (forty miles) in thirteen hours. There was much agitation for improved communications, particularly for a plank road from Galena northward to the Wisconsin River, which was a main highway at the time. However, traffic and transportation connections - principally by water - with the outside world seemed adequate to meet the people's needs then.

Platteville itself was a very good business center with a trade area of 30 to 40 miles around about, and a thriving place apparently not hurt much by the California fever of 1848 - 1850. Merchants' stocks were larger and their prices were lower than at any other time before, and no one needed to go to Galena or elsewhere to buy what was wanted. "For the mechanic arts, this town cannot be excelled in Wisconsin," wrote the editor of the **Independent American**, October 3, 1851. "We have Wagon and Coach Makers and trimmers, Threshing Machine and Fanning Mill makers, Plow makers, Saddle and Harness Makers, a Foundry and Powder Mill, Cabinet Shops - where the most elegant Furniture can be obtained - a shop for the manufacture of Chain Pumps, Cooper Shops, Lumber Yards, a good Mill, a busy throng of Tailors, Shoemakers, Carpenters, Masons, Blacksmiths, and a Jeweler and Gunsmith." Business and profits were good, and the remarkable prosperity then prevailing was likely to continue since there was no "extraordinary" cause to produce it, but only a natural condition. As remarked by the editor of the paper: "It is a Mercantile and Mechanical industry and enterprise and our Schools - therefore it is healthy."

The great circuses and traveling shows of the time included Platteville in their itinerary. On July 2, 1852 the "United Menageries" of Raymond & Co., and Van Amburg & Co., showed to a "wonderful crowd" estimated between 4,000 and 5,000; and the next year, August 9, "Barnum's Grand Colossal Museum and Menagerie" was in Platteville.

The interest of the citizens of Platteville, mentioned before,

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in the higher life and culture of the community continued to be manifest not only in various societies and clubs - agricultural, political, literary, musical, and social - but also in a movement to mitigate the evils of intemperance, a reform which at that time was sweeping New England. The traffic in liquor first began to be regulated by local option laws in Connecticut in 1839. A few years later an agitation and educational campaign for state prohibition began in Maine which culminated in 1851 in the adoption of the Neal Dow Law, to be followed in the next year by similar laws in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Vermont. In 1852 there was considerable discussion *pro* and *con* in Wisconsin relative to the enactment of the Maine prohibitory law, with a referendum proposal on the matter defeated in the state senate by the casting vote of the President of the Senate. But the legislature did pass an act, April 14, 1852, for the local licensing of saloons. Two years previous to this, however, the Village Board of Platteville had first taken up the matter, and on January 16, 1850, on the motion of Mr. H. Bell, these resolutions were introduced:

Resolved: That in the opinion of this Board Groceries for retailing Spirituous Liquors to be drank in the houses of the Keepers thereof are publick Nuisances and not to be tolerated by the Corporation of Platteville.

Resolved: That this Board will not grant Licenses (after the termination of the existing contracts) to any person or persons to keep a Grocery within the Corporation limits of the Town of Platteville.

In order that these resolutions might be adequately considered they were laid over until the following meeting, January 26, when it was

Resolved: That the Resolution offered by Mr. H. Bell at our last Meeting bee and was unanimously adopted.

The members of the board were: S. O. Paine, President; and Messrs. H. Bell, N. Messersmith, N. Hutchins, G. Hawley, H. C. Lane, Thomas Stephens Trustees. William H. Zenor was clerk.

Then as now, however, the liquor business was too strongly intrenched to be eliminated merely by legislation. The licensing policy was soon restored, but after the legislature passed the local option law above referred to, the Village Board, June 29, 1852, passed an Ordinance for the Suppression of Drunkenness, though little was really accomplished.

Being a prosperous mining town, the population of Platteville was augmented each season by a considerable floating element, many of whom were directly interested in mining, but many of whom were also more concerned with securing the profits of mining for themselves through the "racketeering" methods of the time. This necessarily emphasized the "seamy" side of Platteville's life ordinarily sufficiently manifested in the usual vices —

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drinking, gambling, swearing, and immorality. Fortunately, though, much of this was localized on what was then called Grocery Street (now called Second Street or Central Avenue) because the village board refused to grant licenses for "Groceries" on Main Street. "In those early days", says a contemporary, "because foodstuffs and drink were supposed to belong to the same category and were dispensed by the same business houses, the term 'grocery' was appended to the store which furnished them. Later, when staple foodstuffs and dry goods were combined in general stores, the term 'grocery' still clung to places where drinks were the principal merchandise. Thus in my early days in Platteville 'groceries' were the equivalent of saloons of later years . . . Women and girls were not often seen on Grocery Street."¹ In time, a partition divided the front part of the "grocery" room from the rear, thus separating the "groggery" from the grocery proper. Another contemporary who lived in the country as a boy says, "I often saw men reeling on the streets or lying in the gutters. I met men on the road, homeward bound, running their horses at the top of their speed and shouting with all the strength of their voices. Now and then some poor fellow would fall out and break his neck or some of his bones. Well do I remember when Pat was pitched into the Platte. I heard his call for help; when we fished him out he was almost sober, but not quite."²

In addition to this dissipated, gambling, and profane adult element living in and about the village, there was a younger "hoodlum" element, generally harmless, but mischievous in actions and vulgar in tastes, which, as it grew up, too often found its way finally into the ranks of the former class. "But", says one of the writers just quoted, "these whiskey shops and this harmless hoodlum element were not the real Platteville. The real Platteville was the churches; the Academy; the honorable business and professional men of the town . . . the scores of good men and women who worked and prayed for the moral and spiritual well-being of the community, and for the uplifting of men the world around. This was the real Platteville, and its ideals were more and more realized as the years went by."³

In conformity with this spirit, two new religious bodies were beginning to take shape at this time. Though a German Lutheran congregation had its beginning in 1848 when a minister came from Galena, it remained for a minister from Dubuque in May 1850 to organize the German Evangelical Church. In the following two years a building was erected which was dedicated "on Sunday the 31st of October, 1852, by Rev. Van Vliet at 10 o'clock A.M., by Rev. Frohwein at 6½ o'clock P.M. in the German, and by Rev. Warner at 3 o'clock P.M. in the English language."

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It was in the fall of 1852, also, that Platteville was visited by one of the distinguished men in history and a noted missionary, it being none other than the Reverend Eleazer Williams, missionary to the Oneida Indians at Green Bay. This gentleman claimed to be the Lost Dauphin of France, Louis XVII, the youngest son of King Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, whom the mad revolutionists of Paris had imprisoned, and who finally died of exhaustion and decline through years of inhuman torture, on May 8, 1795. Notwithstanding these generally accepted facts as to the Dauphin's death, a plausible story had made Williams appear to be the true Dauphin who was saved by being spirited away and brought to the Oneida Indians in America, where in the course of time he became an active missionary among them. At any rate, it was he who held the first recorded Episcopal services in Platteville, thus beginning a work which eventuated ten years later in 1862 in having the Reverend Stephen C. Millett as the first settled Anglican Clergyman in Platteville. Four years later their church building was completed, and it was dedicated on August 15, 1867.

In this period, 1849-53, education in the new state was taking form for its future development. In the field of higher education the United States Census for 1850 showed 58 academies with 86 teachers and 2,723 pupils enrolled. It also showed two colleges with eight teachers and 75 pupils enrolled.⁴ These colleges were Beloit, opened for students November 4, 1847,⁵ and Lawrence, opened for students November 12, 1849.⁶ But these institutions were being augmented by others of similar character. New academies were opening at Waterloo⁷ and Milwaukee.⁸ Nashotah House at Nashotah became Racine college.⁹ In Grant County Father Mazzuchelli founded Saint Clara's Academy and Sinsinawa Mound College.¹⁰ The University of Wisconsin, established under an Act of the legislature approved July 26, 1848, opened with a preparatory department under John W. Sterling, Principal, February 5, 1849, with twenty students meeting in a room of the Madison high school building.¹¹ College classes began September 17, 1851 in the North Dormitory, the first of the university buildings.¹² Brockway College, later named Ripon College, was opened to students in the spring of 1853.¹³

Equally significant in the field of education was the development of public schools, the foundation for which had already been laid in territorial times in the law of 1839, providing for local taxation for school purposes, and in the law of 1845, fathered by Colonel Michael Frank of Kenosha, providing for the establishment of a public school there if approved by a vote of the people. After considerable opposition, approval was finally secured and the school, opened in 1849, became the pattern for others.¹⁴ The movement had also been furthered by the organization of the Min-

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ing Region Teachers' Association, various teachers' conventions, the educational provisions of the state constitution, the town superintendent law as previously described, and by the organization of the state department of public instruction with Reverend Eleazer Root as the first state superintendent, 1849-52.

In territorial days it has been estimated that there were fewer than 200 schools,¹⁵ which, of course was wholly inadequate for the rapidly growing population. Figures show a school population (ages 4 to 20) of 70,457,¹⁶ school districts numbering 2,059,¹⁷ and a tax levy of \$1.08¹⁸ per pupil of school age in 1849. About 46 per cent of the children of school age were attending school.¹⁹ There were 704 school houses, 359 being constructed of logs. The average wages of male teachers were \$15.22 per month and of female teachers \$6.92.²⁰ Figures for the following year (1850) show 92,047 children of school age,²¹ with 58,817 enrolled in 1,423 schools, taught by 1,529 teachers,²² and a tax levy of \$1.23 per pupil.²³ As reported to the state superintendent, 568 school buildings were of logs, 540 were framed, 51 were of stone, and 38 of brick.²⁴ Two years later, 1852, the children of school age numbered 124,783,²⁵ with an attendance of 72 per cent.²⁶ There were 2191 school districts and 1730 school houses.²⁷ The tax levy was \$1.34 per pupil and the expenditure per pupil in attendance was \$2.56.²⁸ The average wages of male teachers had advanced to \$16.34 and of female teachers to \$8.50. Grant county had the distinction of paying the highest average wages, which were \$22.74 per month. The lowest average was in Richland county - \$10.00 per month. Brown county paid the highest average female wages, which were \$15.00, while Waukesha county paid the lowest - \$5.33. School was taught an average of five and a half months during the year,²⁹ and in the English language. The subjects were: orthography, reading, writing, grammar, geography, and arithmetic, but the board might add other subjects.³⁰

Returning again to local matters: Mention has already been made of Mr. Pickard's marriage August 24, 1847 at Newark, New Jersey. His wife was Miss Cornelia Van Cleve Woodhull, born July 12, 1825 in Brooklyn, New York. Three children, all born in Platteville, blest this union. These were Alice, Frederic, and Fanny. But an additional child, Etta Groth, was adopted by them. With the exception of Alice, who died in Chicago, when Pickard was superintendent there, all lived to average age or more, were married and settled in widely different parts of the country - Frederic, at St. Anthony Falls, Minnesota, Fanny, at Cupertino, California, and Etta, in Portland, Maine.³¹ Mr. Pickard joined the Presbyterian (later Congregational) church, Platteville, May 1, 1847, by certificate from the Presbyterian church at Elizabeth, Ills.

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His wife joined on confession of faith, December 8 following.³² The close association and friendship between Mr. Pickard and Reverend John Lewis, pastor, have already been described. Naturally Pickard became a very active member of the church; he held various offices - trustee, deacon, clerk, treasurer, and Sunday School superintendent; and he was a member of important committees at different times.³³

Pickard's main interests, however, were educational, and he was very prominent each year (1847-52) in the meetings of the Mining Region Teacher's Association whose sessions were held in rotation at Platteville, Galena, Dubuque, Mineral Point, and Lancaster.³⁴ Following this last meeting, July 26, 1852, steps were taken to form a State Teachers' Association which was accomplished in the next year, as has been mentioned.³⁵

Pickard's openness of mind to all matters of education was that of a pioneer and experimenter, if not of an investigator. How much he may have known of Benjamin Franklin's idea that storms had a rotary motion and that they traveled northeasterly, as Franklin had announced in 1747,³⁶ it is impossible to say. Nor is it known whether Pickard was acquainted with the work that Mr. Increase Latham of Milwaukee had begun after detecting the presence of a slight lunar tide upon Lake Michigan in 1849, of the keeping detailed data, chiefly with equipment of his own making, of weather conditions, there, showing hourly changes in temperature, barometric pressure, and rainfall, and printing them daily in the Milwaukee newspapers, with monthly summaries.³⁷ At any rate, Pickard did the same thing at Platteville. His monthly summary for August, 1851, is a good illustration of this work:

ABSTRACT OF WEATHER RECORD FOR AUGUST, 1851³⁸

Observations taken four times each day. The average temperature at sunrise had been 62° above zero. Highest (11th and 12th) 74°.

Average at 9 o'clock, A.M., 71½°. Highest (24th) 82°. Lowest (16th and 17th) 61°.

Average at 3 P.M., 78°. Highest (24th) 70°. Lowest (3rd) 63°.
Average at 9 P.M., 65½°. Highest (29th) 77°. Lowest (26th) 53°.

The highest daily average has been (24th) 77°. The lowest daily average has been (17th) 61°.

10 REPRESENTING ENTIRE CLEARNESS OF THE SKY

The average at sunrise has been	4½
The average at 9 A.M., has been	4¾
The average at 3 P.M., has been	5
The average at 9 P.M., has been	6½

4 mornings at sunrise (22nd, 26th, 27th, 28th) entirely clear.

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3 afternoons at 3 P.M., (24th, 27th, and 28th) entirely clear.

12 evenings at 9 P.M., entirely clear.

2 days only entirely cloudy, (3rd and 16th)

7 mornings at 9 A.M., (9th, 18th, 22nd, 24th, 27th, 28th, and 30th) entirely clear.

1 day only entirely clear (27th)

Prevailing winds have been east and southeast. 6 mornings at sunrise (5th, 7th, 11th, 23rd, 25th, 27th, and 31st), calm. 2 mornings at 9 A.M., (15th and 31st) calm. 3 afternoons at 3 P.M., (2nd, 14th and 18th) calm. 7 evenings at 9 P.M., (4th, 6th, 9th, 11th, 15th, 20th, and 21st) calm.

Heavy thunder 6th, 8th, 16th, 23rd, and 29th.

Amount of rain that has fallen during the month 5 9/10 inches. Largest amount at any time - morning of 16th, from 3 1/2 A.M., till 11 A.M., 1 9/10 inches.

WEATHER RECORD FOR THE FIRST WEEK SEPT. AND 1st DAY 2nd WEEK

	Sunrise	9 A.M.	3 P.M.	9 P.M.
1	68°	79	92	77
2	75°	84	95	77
3	72°	86	93	76
4	72°	85	92	77
5	73°	73	92	76
6	74°	75	77	76
7	72°	84	86	78
8	72°	84	92	78

The slight variation in the Thermometer throughout is very remarkable.

More or less cloudy every day.

10 entire clearness. The average has been, at sunrise, 6. At 9 A.M., 6. At 3 P.M., 7. At 9 P.M., 9 1/2.

Prevailing wind S. E. Thunder showers 5th and 9th.

Amount of rain 5th, 1 8/10 inches

Amount of rain 6th and 7th, 3/10 inches

For week, 2 1/10 inches

J. L. PICKARD.

Although data for the Academy is in large measure wanting for this period of time, that it was progressing is abundantly evident, especially as seen in the movement for an enlarged building or else a new site and more commodious quarters. As already noted the trustees had secured a tract of about three acres on the western edge of the village. In the winter of 1851-52, a series of public meetings was held in the academy building to consider the needs for increased facilities of the growing school. The first of these meetings was held December 29, 1851, and the printed re-

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port of it, as published in the issue of the **Independent American**, for January 2, 1852, deserves to be quoted in full:

In accordance with notice given last week there was held at the Academy on Monday evening, a meeting of all interested in the Institution, for consultation in regard to its present state, and future prospects.

H. Hurlburt, Esq., was chosen chairman, and J. L. Pickard Secretary.

Rev. John Lewis, President of Bd. of Trustees, made a brief statement of the present condition of affairs as connected with the Academy, & then submitted to the meeting the following record of a Trustee meeting held a short time previous.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of the erection of buildings for the Academy would respectfully report recommending the adoption of the following resolutions:

Whereas, in the opinion of this Board, the permanence and prosperity of the Institution under our care, imperatively demands new and enlarged accommodations, first for the purpose of instruction, and further, also, for boarding and dormitories where the students can be constantly under the supervision of the teachers,

Therefore, **Resolved**, That measures be immediately taken to secure the erection of three new buildings - the centre and principal one to be 40 by 70, two stories high and devoted to school and recitation rooms and such other purposes as the Trustees may from time to time direct. The others to be 40 by 60 and devoted to study and sleeping rooms for students according to a general plan herewith submitted.

Resolved, That for the purpose of raising the funds necessary to erect these buildings the following plan for subscription be adopted, viz:

Class First - For less than \$15

Class Second - From \$15 to \$40 - which entitles the subscriber 1 vote as a stockholder.

Class Third - For from \$40 and upwards, which entitles the subscriber to two votes as a stockholder.

Class Fourth - For \$100 which shall entitle the subscriber to 5 years free tuition in all branches except such as made an extra charge - limited to 15.

Class Fifth - For \$200 which shall entitle the subscriber to the free tuition as above of one scholar for the term of his natural life, and until all his children shall have been educated.

Resolved, That the subscription shall be made payable when the sum of \$2500 shall have been subscribed.

Resolved, That the house now standing upon the grounds owned by the Academy, shall be devoted, rent free, to the purpose of a boarding house for students, where the price of board shall be fixed, term by term at its actual cost.

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Resolved, That the secretary be authorized to issue under the seal of the Academy, certificates of stock and scholarship to all who may be entitled to them.

Resolved, That Rev. John Lewis be and he hereby is appointed the Agent of this Board for the purpose of raising the above subscription.

The statement together with the resolutions by the Trustees, elicited remarks from several gentlemen present, all favorable to the contemplated action of the Board of Trustees. The impression seemed prevalent, that a good beginning could and should be made immediately. At the suggestion of Messrs. Rountree, Virgin, Durley, McCord, and others, it was deemed advisable that the agent of the Board of Trustees, Rev. Mr. Lewis, should proceed immediately to solicit subscriptions and report at a meeting to be holden on Wednesday Evening, January 12th, to which time the meeting stands adjourned.

As the design is, after securing all that can be secured here, to give other portions of our County and adjoining counties an invitation to help us, it was peculiarly gratifying to hear from Mr. Kelly, of Lancaster, who pledged a hearty co-operatoin on his own part, and also assured us of the deep interest taken by his Townsmen in the work, in which we are engaged.

H. HURLBURT, Cha'n

J. L. PICKARD, Sec'y

At the succeeding meeting it was reported as follows:

An adjourned meeting of the friends of the Academy was held on Monday evening, January 12th, to hear the report of the agent for receiving funds.

The Chairman being absent, J. Durley, Esq., was called to the chair.

The agent made a very encouraging report, stating, that should others not yet called on, subscribe as liberally as those who had already subscribed, the sum necessary for erecting the first building would be raised in our midst. This he had every reason to expect would be done. Several addresses were made and some subscriptions obtained.

The meeting stands adjourned to Monday, January 26th, when it is confidently expected the Agent will be able to report the whole amount raised, and preliminary steps will be taken towards the erection of the first building.

J. L. PICKARD, Sec'y

J. DURLEY, Ch'm

The proceedings of the meeting of January 26 were not published, but apparently everything was going along as desired, and the necessary funds were in sight, due to the generosity of subscribers locally, and also to the assistance of friends in the east, under the vigorous leadership of Reverend John Lewis, then pastor of the Congregational church into which the Presbyterians had recently been changed. Negotiations with a New York architect brought a very generous donation of plans and specifications for a three story building, so that on February 20, 1852 the trustees advertised for bids as follows:

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed proposals will be received by the Trustees of the Platteville Academy at the drug store of Thomas Eastman, at any time previous to Monday the 15th day of March, A.D., 1852, at 12 o'clock noon, for the furnishing of the following described materials to be used in the erection of the new buildings for the Academy; to wit:

150 Perch (more or less) of Stone for the foundation

600 Perch (more or less) of Stone for the walls - to be delivered assorted according to thickness of layers.

150,000 (more or less) Brick of the best quality.

500 Bushels Lime

2,000 Bushels Sand

Said materials to be delivered on the ground where the buildings are to be erected.

ALSO - For the following described Mason Work, the materials being furnished as above, to wit:

First - For the laying of the foundation

Second - For the erection of the walls of stone - to be laid in range work, the front carefully jointed.

Third - For the erection of the walls of brick.

The question whether brick or stone be used will be decided in view of the comparative cost, according to the proposals.

For further particulars and specifications apply to REV. JOHN LEWIS, the President of the Board.

By Order of the Board of Trustees

Feb. 20, 1852

The stockholders held their annual meeting at the Academy, on Monday, May 3 at 2 o'clock, P.M. at which further arrangements were made for carrying the work forward. In the issue of the **Independent American** for May 21, Editor Marsh gives details as to the plans of the building, and concerning the contracts already let. He says:

The Plans for the new Academy Building reached here Saturday last. They consist of a Ground Plan of each story and the Basement. A Front Elevation and Transverse and Longitudinal sections, with directions for warming and ventilation. The Basement story is to be 6½ ft. - the School room 15 ft. in the clear, and the two upper stories 10 and 9 ft. respectively. The upper stories are to be occupied as students rooms and will accommodate 25 or 30. Each study room has a bedroom and a closet connected with it.

The Building is to be surmounted by a Bellfry. The plans are very simple but neat - combining beauty with economy.

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The furnishing of rock and lime has been undertaken by J. B. McCord and Son and M. Armstrong. The sand is to be delivered by James Fanning. The stone-work has been let to Mr. Joseph Huppert, of the Town of Kendall, Lafayette Co.

The work will be commenced next week. Some of the material will be upon the ground this week. The contracts for work will be let as the subscription increases, as it is not designed to move faster than means will allow. ³⁹

The same issue ⁴⁰ contained a notice from the building committee for sealed bids for the timber work, as follows:

PLATTEVILLE ACADEMY

The Building Committee will receive Sealed Proposals at the Store of J. H. Rountree, at any time previous to 12 o'clock of the 29th of May, for the delivery of the Timbers necessary in the erection of the new Building, and for the framing and placing of the same upon the work as it progresses. For particulars consult plans in the hands of Building Committee, at the Store of J. H. Rountree.

ALSO - For the furnishing and construction of the Door Frames and Window Frames in accordance with plans.

The Building Committee also offer for sale the Old Academy Building and Lot. Also - a House and Lot on Main St. For terms apply to said Committee

J. H. Rountree,
J. Lewis,
J. L. Pickard

Platteville, May 21st, 1852

Building Committee

In the next issue of the **Independent American** the following notice appeared:

The time for receiving Proposals advertised last week by the Building Committee of the Academy has been extended to 12 o'clock M. of Wednesday, June 2nd.

The people of Platteville, who were taking a good deal of pride in this new enterprise of the Academy, just at this juncture were stirred to a patriotic expression of their feelings in a "big" celebration of the national holiday, July 4th. This probably came from a suggestion made by Mr. J. L. Marsh, Editor of the **Independent American**, who reminded them that since Platteville had not celebrated for several years it should be done at this time. The result was a call from twenty-eight citizens for a public meeting to make arrangements for the matter. This appeared in the issue of the paper on June 11, 1852.

HISTORY OF PLATTEVILLE ACADEMY

4th of JULY

We the undersigned, aware of the importance of duly celebrating our National Anniversary, would respectfully invite the citizens of this village to meet at Rountree's Hall, this evening, at 8 o'clock to make arrangements therefor.

Titus Hayes	T. B. Cheesbrow
J. Searles	John Kemler
H. C. Lane	E. Bayley
J. H. Rountree	B. Atwood
L. Coates	C. C. Clinton
J. T. Hancock	Geo. W. Lakin
Geo. W. Eastman	N. Clemons
W. R. Biddlecome	J. L. Pickard
J. L. Marsh	O. A. Boynton
Samuel Moore	Z. S. Palmer
I. Hodges	C. W. Wright
E. H. Stowell	B. F. Wayne
S. O. Paine	R. T. Hayes
John Lewis	R. A. Rice

Platteville, June 11, 1852

In commenting upon the above notice with reference to the appropriate character of the celebration, Editor J. L. Marsh said:

Several suggestions have been made, one of which meets with our hearty approval, as it should do with all who have at heart the interest of our thriving village. We are informed that the Foundation Walls of the new Academy Building will be completed by that time and it has been suggested that the day might be very pleasantly spent in laying the corner stone of the Building with appropriate ceremonies, such an [sic] oration, music, dinner, toasts, speeches, &c., &c. 41

The outcome of the meeting resulting from the above call and editor Marsh's suggestion was the appointment of a committee of arrangements which met and made a report published two weeks later.

CELEBRATION

The Committee appointed to make arrangements for the Citizen's celebration, on Monday the 5th July, are happy to report as follows:

For President of the Day - Maj. J. H. ROUNTREE

Chaplain - Rev. S. MITCHELL

Reader Declaration of Independence - S. O. PAINE Esq.

Orator - Rev. T. T. WATERMAN, of Galena

Chief Marshal - Col M'KENSIE, of Ellenboro

Toast Master - Geo. W. EASTMAN, M.D.

HISTORY OF PLATTEVILLE ACADEMY

Full particulars in regard to Dinner, Music, and Order of Procession given next week.

JOHN ROUNTREE
J. B. MOORE
E. BAYLEY
T. HAYES
N. CLEMONS
G. W. EASTMAN
J. L. PICKARD
Committee of Arrangements ⁴²

As promised, the more detailed report appeared in the following issue of July 2.

CELEBRATION

Order of Exercises for the Citizens Celebration on Monday the 5th. of July.

The Procession will form at 11 o'clock upon the east side of the Public Square, under the command of Col. JAMES MCKINSEY, of Elkenboro, Chief Marshal, and proceed directly to the grove in front of Major Rountree's residence.

The exercises at the Grove will be as follows:

MUSIC

PRAYER by the Chaplain - Father Mitchell
Reading Declaration of Independence - By S. O. Paine, Esq.

MUSIC

ORATION - T. T. Waterman

MUSIC

The Procession will again form as before, and proceed up Main Street, to the Academy grounds, to lay the Corner Stone of the New Academy.

ADDRESS by W. R. Biddlecome, Esq.

MUSIC

LAYING OF CORNER STONE

The Procession again formed as before, will march down Mineral Street to Third Street, through Third street to ROUNTREE'S Grove, to partake of a Dinner prepared by "mine host" of the Platteville Hotel.

Maj. J. H. ROUNTREE, President of the Day will preside at the Table and will be assisted by Messrs. Moore, Hodges, Messersmith, L. Coates, Bayley, Hancock, Watts, Kemler, Hawley, Grindle, H. C. Lane, Drs. Bevans and Hayes and Marsh.

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After the Dinner, Toasts will be served by Dr. GEO. W. EASTMAN, Toast Master, intermingled with Music and Speeches, Volunteer Toasts, &c.

Tickets to the Dinner can be procured of Mr. O. A. BOYNTON, or any of the Committee of Arrangements. **Price of Tickets** - Gentleman and one Lady, \$1.

Should the day prove stormy, the exercises will be held in some building suitable for the occasion.

J. H. ROUNTREE
E. BAYLEY
T. HAYES
J. B. MOORE
N. CLEMMONS
G. W. EASTMAN
J. L. PICKARD

Committee of Arrangements 43

In the issue of the **Independent American** for July 9 Editor Marsh gives a two column synopsis of the celebration which is included here in a somewhat condensed form, as follows:

CELEBRATION OF THE 5th

The exercises at the Citizen's Celebration on Monday passed of [sic] in fine style. The Procession formed at precisely 11 o'clock, on the Public Square, and marched under command of Col. Jas. McKinsey, aided by Mr. H. Hurlbut, Esq., to the beautiful grove in front of Maj. Rountree's residence.

The exercises at the grove were as follows:—Prayer by "Father Mitchell." S. O. Paine, Esq., being absent from town the Declaration of Independence was read by W. R. Biddlecome, Esq., Rev. T. T. Waterman of Galena, gave an excellent address. Subject - Mind, an element of Freedom.

The Procession of Ladies and Gentlemen again formed and marched to the Academy grounds, where W. R. Biddlecome Esq., gave a short, excellent and very appropriate address previous to the laying of the Corner Stone, which ceremony was performed by Maj. J. H. Rountree, and Mr. Joseph Hupperts, contractor. The address of Mr. Biddlecome we hope to publish next week.

The Box deposited in the Corner contained a copy of the Charter, Copy of Subscription Book, names of Trustees, of Building Committee - brief History of Academy - copy of Independent American containing Order of Exercises &c., and a Map of Wisconsin, published and presented by S. Chapman, of Milwaukee. Procession again formed, marched to the Grove and partook of an excellent dinner prepared by O. A. Boynton; after dinner came Toasts, &c., (the &s. includes nothing that intoxicates.) Three hearty cheers were given for adjournment for one year. All the exercises were enlivened by the Music discoursed by the Platteville Band.

The following are a portion of the toasts read on the occasion. Some that were read we are compelled to omit for the want of time to

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put them in type - one toasting the President of the Day has been lost - the author living at a distance we are unable to get a copy.

Editor Marsh lists thirteen regular toasts as follows:

- 1st. The day we celebrate
- 2nd. The memory of George Washington
- 3rd. America
- 4th. The old thirteen
- 5th. The Declaration of American Independence
- 6th. The President of the United States and his Cabinet
- 7th. The Army and Navy
- 8th. The Press - "The eye and voice of liberty - it watches and warns."
- 9th. The Officers and soldiers of the revolution
- 10th. The Congress of '76
- 11th. Education of the masses - "The only Lever that can raise the world."
- 12th. Our national Flag
- 13th. The American Ladies

Then there were some volunteer toasts:

The crators of the day

Chaplain of the day - "Father Mitchell"

The old Thirteen - "The Pioneers, who in clearing the wilds of America lighted the inextinguishable watch-fires of Liberty." Also, "Reverses have made them 31." Both by J. W. Pickard.

Platteville Academy - "May its literary virtues grow and increase in influence, while yonder sun pursues his journey through the skies, or Stars shall continue to deck the vault of Heaven." By J. Woodruff.

The Fathers of New England

The immortal memory of Henry Clay [who had just died]

The American Eagle

The Youth of Platteville - "May the efforts of the friends of Education, put forth in their behalf, incite them to the diligent use of every mental faculty, and to the highest of their Heaven bestowed powers." (Anonymous)

General Winfield Scott

Declaration of American Independence - "An instrument of ..death to Tyranny and of life to Freedom." By J. W. Pickard.

Daniel Webster

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Parental Obedience - "The only true and reliable foundation for domestic happiness, piety, and patriotism" By Titus Hayes.

The Chaplain of the Day

The Orator of the Day

The Baltimore Conventions

The Progeny of our illustrious veterans of '76

The Platteville Seminary - "Like the Evening Star, in the clear and beautiful west, like the diamond that sparkles and glitters upon the Queenly brow; like the 'bow of promise' that decks the passing cloud with its gorgeous prismatic tints - so may the new Seminary, in Platteville, be a **star**, a **jewel**, and a fountain of light and **truth**, to illumine and cheer the great valley of the Mississippi. As the fair spot that bears it upon her generous bosom and heart, may it always be surrounded with a free, invigorating, and healthy atmosphere, and now and ever may it remain free of any intolerant, sectarian miasm that poisons and sickens all within its influence." By Dr. Tobie.

Messages of regret came in the form of letters from C. C. Washburne, Mortimer M. Jackson, and Dr. Van Dusen all of Mineral Point. Mr. Washburne sent the toast "The immortal memory of Henry Clay"; Dr. Van Dusen sent "The day we celebrate"; and Mr. Jackson sent "Universal Education the corner stone of universal Freedom." Referring to the "corner stone of an edifice to be consecrated to the noble purpose of popular education," Mr. Jackson continued, "As knowledge and virtue lie at the foundation of our free institutions, no occasion can be more appropriate for the commencement of an edifice to be devoted to educational purposes than the anniversary of that day which gave birth to the freedom and independence of our country."

The foundation walls of the building having been completed the Building Committee, acting in accordance with the terms of the subscription agreement issued a call for the payment of the second installment of the amount pledged.⁴⁴

Construction work went steadily forward during the summer and early fall of 1852, but it was not rushed. As was observed at the time, "the character of the work is such that it can not be forced without slighting. The intention is to put up a building which will be just as good fifty years hence as at the present time. If stone well laid up will last, the Committee will succeed in putting up a building which cannot be excelled in Wisconsin."⁴⁵ Editor Marsh gives a summary of the progress made by mid-October in these words:

Mr. Pickard informs us that the stone work of this magnificent building will be completed the present week, and that it is the intention to cover it in with all possible dispatch. When completed this will be

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an imposing edifice, worthy of the town and the enterprise which has so perseveringly pushed it forward thus far. We believe ample funds have already been secured to complete the building, but the intention is to enclose and allow it to stand until next spring, to allow the stone work to settle, and thus avoid any injury which might be sustained by a too rapid completion of the interior. Buildings, as a general thing are rushed forward too rapidly to insure permanence and beauty in the work, - As this is intended to be a lasting edifice, no pains should be spared.

We look upon the erection of the Academy building as the greatest improvement which has ever been made in this town. A dozen private residences would add to its beauty, but after completion they would cease to add to its prosperity; but the Academy will be a source of revenue as long as it stands or this town continues to exist. ⁴⁶

The Academy, in the meantime was going forward with its regular routine of work under Mr. Pickard and the faculty. The first quarter of the winter session opened November 15, 1852, and it closed February 4, 1853 ⁴⁷ with the customary public exercises in the afternoon, which consisted of "Reading, Composition, Declamations original and select, and Singing under direction of Mr. Rice". ⁴⁸ A special feature of the first quarter was the effort put forth by the school to do its part in raising funds for the new building. This was accomplished by holding a Christmas "Festival and Fair" at which the sum of \$150 was realized. ⁴⁹ The second quarter of the winter session began Monday, February 7 ⁵⁰ and continued for eleven weeks, closing on Friday, April 22 with public exercises, as indicated before, held in Curtis Hall at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. ⁵¹

On May 30 the stockholders met at 2 o'clock in Curtis Hall to elect trustees to fill the vacancies caused by the expiration of the terms of James Durley, S. W. Eaton, and J. L. Pickard, and to transact other business needing attention. ⁵²

With the coming of spring, when construction work on the new building could begin again, the Building Committee advertised for bids as follows. ⁵³

The Building Committee of the Platteville Academy will receive proposals for the finishing of the Academy Building in two separate bids, at any time before noon of the 9th day of April, 1853 at the store of J. H. Rountree;

- I. For all Carpenter work remaining and the furnishing materials for the same.
- II. For all Mason work remaining and furnishing materials for same.

Plans and specifications, and conditions of payment furnished on application to any of the committee.

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Bids are also solicited for the Old Academy and lots, entirely separate from the other proposals for work.

Contracts were let, and the work went rapidly forward to completion during the five months following so that the next school year opened in the new building October 3. ⁵⁴

But before taking our departure from the old academy and going into the new one, a brief resume of what it had accomplished during its eleven years of operation, and especially during its last seven years under Mr. Pickard, will be appropriate. Having grown out of a "Select" school with a precarious existence, the first years of the Academy gave little promise of perpetuity; and when Pickard began his work in 1846 it was with misgivings. Referring to this ten years later, he said: ⁵⁵

When I first entered upon my work here it was with feelings of distrust and fear, lest the fate of my predecessors be mine also. Said one of them to me: "Should you ride the wave of popularity in Platteville more than six months, it will be a wonder."

But we have seen how well Pickard's personality and ideals enabled him to fit into the community immediately upon his arrival. And his influence mounted steadily thereafter. Not only did the Academy become an object of special interest in the community, its influence and reputation had spread into the older and more advanced portions of the country, whence not only students but substantial financial support also came. Believing thoroughly in the need of public education, Pickard at once took up the work so well begun by his immediate predecessor, Mr. Magoun, of continuing its promotion, until in a short time the village of Platteville had started real public schools, and he, himself, had been able as Town Superintendent to supervise and help direct the work of the rural schools in the country round about. Not only was Pickard's interest in public education an end in itself, it was also a means for lifting the work of the Academy to a higher level. Public schools could have full influence only as there were properly trained teachers in them. Pickard, therefore, made the Academy a teacher training institution - or Normal School - not as its only function, but as a prime one. Realizing also the value of institutes, conventions, and associations for teachers, Pickard promoted the organization, later to be widened into the State Teachers' Association.

Thus the Platteville Academy under Pickard's management had become not only identified with the fundamental educational movements of the time, but it had also become a recognized leader in them, and it now stood on the threshold of greater service and usefulness for the future. And though Pickard was just now elected to a professorship in Illinois College, at Jacksonville, Ills., where his brother was already a professor, the duty he felt to his Platte-

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ville work kept him from accepting the call.⁵⁶ What this work had been statistically, up to date, is told in an interesting communication by Mr. Pickard himself to the **Independent American** in August, 1853, as follows: ⁵⁷

Mr. Editor - While arranging a list of my scholars for the past seven years, curiosity led me to make a brief abstract which may not be entirely devoid of interest to some of your readers.

477 pupils have attended the school -

76 in the classical Department and

401 in the English Department

321 were at the time of attendance residents of Platteville, and 156 of other places.

Platteville still contains 179 of the No.

California claims as her own 63. Other places in our state and other states enroll among their citizens 224. As in the more advanced walks of life, Death has been busy and the grave now holds all that remains of the bodies of 11.

40 having entered **another school**, will we trust, soon make good the places they have left. 78 have been engaged, a longer or shorter time, in Teaching.

J. L. Pickard.

The Academy loomed large in the thoughts of other people besides those of Platteville. The **Lancaster Herald** predicted it would be more useful educationally for the next twenty years than the state university at Madison.⁵⁸ The editor of the **Potosi Republican** returning from a visit to Platteville wrote:⁵⁹

Platteville has acquired a number of the airs and manners of a moderate sized city, and might safely be put down as an inland town of considerable importance. Her greatest ornament and most noted edifice is the new building erected for the Academy. It is situated on rising ground near the western limits of the village, is constructed of stone, and is the finest and most capacious building of the kind in the western part of the State. It is a credit to the enterprise and intelligence of her citizens, and if continued under the management of its present able principal, Mr. J. L. Pickard will prove of vast benefit to the educational interest of our country. This school has become a permanent organization, and is already attracting hither men of wealth and respectability, who purchase small farms or residences in the vicinity, for the benefit it may confer upon their families.

And editor Marsh of the **Independent American** in describing the building in detail, and indulging in generous appreciation, undoubtedly expressed the pardonable pride of the community generally, when he said editorially: ⁶⁰

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Its external appointments are in such good keeping and its proportions so good, that one has little idea of its real size, until he views it at a distance of some 15 or 16 miles from a ridge of land beyond Elk Grove. The building was planned by Mr. Gardiner, a New York Architect, who very generously donated to the Academy, Plans and Specifications, which have been followed with some few exceptions. The size of the building is 40 by 70 feet. Its foundation is laid 4 feet thick of very large stone. The basement wall, $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet high, is 27 inches thick. The wall of the first story, 16 feet in height, and also of the second, 11 feet high, is 24 inches thick. The wall of the third story, 13 feet, is 20 inches thick. A cross wall of brick, 1 foot thick, runs from the ground to the top of the stone work. The stone of which the building is composed is the "Blue Limestone" or a Magnesian Limestone,⁶¹ obtained from the quarries upon the land of J. B. McCord. No more beautiful or durable material can be found than this stone. In this building, our village is admitted by all to possess an ornament inferior to none in the state.

Its cost when fully completed will be not far from \$10,000. To meet this a subscription was raised here a little more than 18 months since, amounting to \$2,500. Agents in the East have obtained for it, from benevolent friends of education at the west the sum of \$4,000 and upwards, with one or two conditional subscriptions, which if fully realized, will swell the amount to nearly \$5,000, exclusive of expenses of Agents. The amount asked of friends at the East has been generously given, while the amount expected to be raised has been about half subscribed. The third installment of the first subscription will fall due in a few days, when, as we understand it is the intention of the Trustees to raise another subscription thro'out this part of the state in the form of scholarships and otherwise, to obtain the means for the completion of the building. We trust the citizens of Grant County, to whom this Institution belongs, will respond generously to the call.

The school-room is to be one of the best we have ever seen. It is light, airy, well ventilated, and furnished with the best of desks and chairs, for the comfort and convenience of pupils. It will be ready for occupancy by the 3rd of October. The Parlor in the second story and a few dormitories will be finished during the month of October.

The whole building is to be heated by Furnaces the hot air being conveyed thro' pipes laid in the walls to each room.

The Board of Instruction is now complete, and is one well known in this part of our state. Those who may patronize the school may rest assured that no pains will be spared to advance their pupils in all that pertains to their physical, mental and moral well being.

In August preceding, the Trustees had announced the opening of the Academy for Monday, October 3, and naturally it was made a special occasion. Again editor Marsh has preserved an interesting account of the "Commencement Services" that must be given:⁶²

On Monday morning last, we received an invitation from the Principal of the Platteville Academy, to attend the opening services of that institution, which we were not slow to accept. On repairing to the building we found a very respectable audience assembled, together with a large number of Misses and Masters, just entering upon a course of

HISTORY OF PLATTEVILLE ACADEMY

intellectual training in this School. The services were opened with singing, and prayer by Rev. Mr. Wilcox, after which Rev. J. Lewis addressed the audience briefly, giving them a concise history of the situation of the institution. He also promulgated the rules adopted by the Trustees, for the protection of the edifice and furniture, which seemed to meet with general favor.

This being our first visit to the interior of the Academy since the School Room was completed, we were astonished at its beauty and the elegance and perfect adaptation of its furniture. It is all that could be wished - more than we dared to expect. We have frequently heard the remark made by those capable of judging that it was questionable whether there was a room in the State or perhaps in the whole country which would excell this. There is nothing gorgeous about it - it is simply elegant.

The most interesting and important item in relation to this school is the promptness with which the seats are filled. The number of students is already 185 with daily applications for admission. Arrangements had been completed on Monday for only 120 scholars, but we believe so far that all that have applied have been received, and every exertion is being used by the Trustees to extend the accommodations so as to receive all that may apply.

A further glimpse of the building on the inside is given by a student who entered a few years later, but may be taken as substantially correct for this time also:

The Academy building of my day was a rather imposing three-story stone building, west of the business section of town. The first floor consisted of entrance hall with stairway, on either side of which were recitation rooms. In the rear was a large assembly and study hall, where also recitations were conducted, in front of teachers' platform. It was a well lighted, pleasant room. Its decorations were engraved portraits of great statesmen, Washington, Webster, Franklin - also several framed mottoes to which reference was often made from the platform.

In the second story were music room and physical Laboratory, and the third story was used as dormitory for men students. The building was surmounted by a belfry from which a sweet toned bell tolled off the hours for coming and going, and changes of classes.

Catching the spirit of the regulations made by the Trustees for keeping the new building in order as laid down by Reverend John Lewis, President of the Board, in the "Commencement Services", the students joined in hearty cooperation by making rules of conduct for themselves, which they adopted October 4, the next day after the opening. There were:

Resolved: (1) I will be neat in my person, my dress and my desk.

(2) I will not neglect the scraper and the mat.

(3) I will keep "A place for everything and everything in its place."

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(4) I will be punctual in my attendance upon all the exercises of the school.

(5) I will remember Study Hours.

(6) I will save my teacher all unnecessary trouble.

(7) "I will conquer" or at least "I will try."

(8) I will be governed by principle and by feeling.

(9) I will respect the rights of others and will strive to treat them as I would wish to be treated by them.

(10) I will act in view of the fact, that I am not placed here for idleness, but to prepare to perform the duties of life.

Thus, after many vicissitudes, the Platteville Academy began a new life in new surroundings in the community of its birth.

HISTORY OF PLATTEVILLE ACADEMY

CHAPTER VI

Notes

1. Marie Green Douglas, "Personal Recollections of Platteville," (Mss, State Hist. Soc. Library, Madison) **Wis. Magazine of History**, Vol. VI (1922-1923) pp. 57-58.
2. Truman O. Douglass: "Platteville in its First Quarter Century" (Mss, State Hist. Soc. Library, Madison) **Wis. Magazine of History**, Vol. VII (1922-1923) pp. 53-54.
3. *Ibid.*
4. Henry Barnard, **American Journal of Ed.** I, 368 (Mar. 1856) gives figures from the U. S. Census of 1850.
5. Stearns, **Op. Cit.**, p. 140.
6. Stearns, **Op. Cit.**, p. 119.
7. **17th Ann. Rept. St. Supt. of Pub. Instr.** for year ending August 31, 1865, p. 13.
8. Stearns, **Op. Cit.**, p. 8.
9. Whitford, **Op. Cit.**, p. 103.
10. Stearns, **Op. Cit.**, pp. 685 ff.
11. Whitford, **Op. Cit.**, pp. 72 ff.
12. Stearns, **Op. Cit.**, pp. 154 ff.
13. Stearns, **Op. Cit.**, pp. 17, 58 (and "frontispiece"). Also Whitford, **Op. Cit.** p. 29.
14. This, however, does not agree with the account in the **Badger Quarterly**, Jan. 1939, p. 2.
15. Stearns, **The Columbian History of Ed. in Wis.** (1893), p. 68.
16. Whitford: **Hist. Sketch of Ed. in Wis.** (1876), p. 40.
17. Stearns, **Op. Cit.**, p. 57.
18. **16th Ann. Rept. St. Supt. of Pub. Inst.** for year ending Aug. 31, 1864, p. 91.
19. **Ind. Amer.**, Feb. 1853, p. 3, col. 1, giving synopsis of St. Supt's. Rept. for year 1852.
20. Whitford, **Op. Cit.** p. 44, referring to St. Supt. Root's first report (1850).
21. Henry Barnard, **Amer. Jour. of Educ.** I, (Mar. 1856), 368, giving U. S. Census figures for 1850.
22. Stearns, **Op. Cit.**, p. 67, quoting from **School Laws of Wis.**, 1854.
23. Whitford, **Op. Cit.** p. 40.
24. Reference in note 18 above.

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25. Stearns, **Op. Cit.**, p. 63.

26. Whitford, **Op. Cit.**, p. 40.

27. Reference in note 19 above.

28. **Ibid.**

29. Reference in note 18 above.

30. Reference in note 19 above.

31. **Memorial of the Pickard Reception**, August 11-12, 1887, compiled by J. H. Evans, p. 10.

32. **Church Records**, Book A or Vol. I, 1839-1861, pp. 144 and 150.

33. **Church Records**, as above, *passim*.

34. Pickard, "Pioneer Schools of the Northwest," **Iowa Historical Records**, Vol. 14, (Jan. 1898), p. 234.

35. Pickard, "Early Education Movements and Development of Normal Schools." MSS. in St. Hist. Soc. Library, Madison. Also, **Platteville Journal**, Oct. 25, 1911. See also, "Pioneer Schools of the Northwest," as in note 34 above.

36. Willis F. Moore, Chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau, "Work of the Weather Bureau," **Chicago Record-Herald**, Apr. 29, 1901.

37. "S. S." "The Curiosity about Lake Michigan that gave the U. S. its Weather Bureau." The **Milwaukee Journal**, Jan. 9, 1935.

38. **Independent American**, September 13, 1851.

39. **Independent American**, May 21, 1852, p. 2, col. 4.

40. **Independent American**, May 21, 1852, p. 3, col. 2.

41. **Independent American**, Jan. 11, 1852, p. 2, col. 4.

42. **Independent American**, June 25, 1852, p. 2, col. 4.

43. **Independent American**, July 2, 1852, page 2, column 4.

44. **Independent American**, July 9, 1852, p. 3, col. 1.

45. **Independent American**, July 30, 1852, p. 2, col. 4.

46. **Independent American**, Oct. 15, 1852, p. 2, col. 4.

47. **Independent American**, Oct. 29, 1852, p. 2, col. 6.

48. **Independent American**, Feb. 4, 1853, p. 2, col. 6.

49. **Independent American**, Jan. 7, 1853, p. 2, col. 4.

50. **Independent American**, Apr. 22, 1853, p. 2, col. 4.

51. **Independent American**, May 20, 1853, p. 3, col. 2.

52. **Independent American**, Apr. 1, 1853, p. 3, col. 1.

53. **Independent American**, Aug. 26, 1853, p. 2, col. 4.

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54. **Independent American**, Feb. 4, 1853, p. 3, col. 6.
55. Commencement of the Academy, June, 1856. Quoted in **Memorial of the Pickard Reception, Platteville**, Aug. 11, 1887, p. 16.
56. "Experiences of a Wisconsin Educator," **Wis. Mag. of Hist.**, Vol. VII, pp. 131-132.
57. **Independent American**, Aug. 26, 1853, p. 2, col. 4.
58. Quoted in the **Independent American**, Apr. 1, 1852, p. 2, col. 5.
59. Quoted in the **Independent American**, June 24, 1853, p. 2, col. 6.
60. **Independent American**, Sept. 23, 1853, p. 2, col. 4.
61. This statement of Editor Marsh started something of a controversy as may be seen by the following quotations:

"The rock used in constructing the new Platteville Academy is **Blue Limestone** - not **Magnesium Limestone** as stated by our exchanges. The error commenced with the **Independent American**, whose editor ought to know, for he formerly was a miner, that Magnesium Limestone is the most ugly, pockety, ragged, bastard rock known in any catalogue and is as stubborn to work under the chisel as a ram's head."

"Great men will differ occasionally" says editor Marsh, in reply. "Professor Daniels says the rock of which the Academy building is constructed is 'Blue Magnesium Limestone' and that there are two varieties of strata. Who is right the editor of the **Herald** or the state geologist? If the professor is wrong, the geological editor should be at some trouble to set him right that the dignity of the state may not suffer through the ignorance of its officers." (**Independent American**, October 7, 1853, page 2, column 4)

In the issue of the **Independent American** a week later, editor Marsh had this quotation: "Whenever Prof. Daniels vouches that there is a particle of quality peculiar to Magnesium Limestone, in this rock used in that Academy, we **may** believe it but not before." Presumably he refers to the **Herald** editor, but does not say so. (Oct. 14, 1853.)

62. **Independent American**, Oct. 7, 1853, p. 2, col. 4.

