

HISTORY
OF
The Clarksville Female Academy,

WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY

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HISTORY

-OF THE-

Clarksville Female Academy.

The history of any institution is more or less interwoven with that of its vicinity. To appreciate the establishment and progress of this especial school for the higher education of young women, it would be well worth a cursory glance from the founding of the little Colonial nucleus, which in time was to prove an important factor in the commercial, political, intellectual development of the nation.

1796.

Something over a dozen years had passed since a mere handful of bold, aggressive pioneers had perched themselves on the north bank of the Cumberland, where they had found difficulty in maintaining their foot hold. The rude fort they had been compelled to build around their cabins had proved inadequate to protect them against the wiley savages who lurked in the dense forest, that extended boundlessly beyond the river. When most of the men would be on their hunting or other important expeditions, the Indians would slip in and tomahawk whole families, scarcely leaving enough to tell the tale. At times starvation, more dreaded than the savages, would stare them in the face. All this proved no warning to others of the same type of daunt less spirits, who continued to fill the empty houses and augment the settlement.

Most of the pioneers were from North Carolina, for whom the grand end picturesque Tennessee country held out peculiar fascinations which was then but an extension of the "old North State." They had baptized the infant township in honor of Gen. Clark, a dear friend of those pioneers. a noted Virginian and officer in the Revolutionary and Indian Wars, and prominent in the Cumberland pioneer interests.

1800.

The Indians were retiring before the white people. The name of Tennessee had been transferred to the State, that had been admitted into the Union, and that of Montgomery, the leader of the Clarksville pioneers, had been given to the county, by Legislature held at Knoxville.

Quite a trading post was developing. The Public Square had been cleared in the woods, (the forum, or) Court House built in the centre, other houses were materializing around the border lines, road ways, or streets, diverging from the Square into the outer world.

On court and muster days, the promiscuous crowds that would gather in the primitive town made it quite exciting; when the farmers, and may-hap their wives, would come on horse back over the precarious new-cut roads to do a little trading. Pack horses laden with all kinds of available merchandise, and doubtless one or more flat-boats loaded with tobacco and corn would be tied up at the most convenient landing to be exchanged by the owners for "goods and whiskey. " Money was almost an unknown medium, and all trading was literally done on the Square.

Those primitive homes were very bare. The entire side of the ' 'big room" would be devoted to the fireplace, as fuel was plentiful and places to utilize the labor at hand were

always ready. Around those roaring hickory fires, winters' nights, would be learned many tales of actual heroism, impressing the developing characters. The tallow-dips not having yet made their mellow appearance upon the scene.

The women considered themselves God's elect to be allowed to share the dangers and toils of their brave men, and lost no daylight in preparing and turning to account material that could be procured, raw though it may have been. For instance, the most desired of all Sunday clothes by the young men were those made of dressed buckskin, leggings and jacket; and the grey squirrel skins were fashioned into hoods and bodices for the daintier sex.

We have evidence that most of the early settlers of the Valley of the Cumberland were educated people, altho their immediate descendants may have "lost the art" to some extent. Some of them were fond of reading, and brought their Bibles and best loved books with them. Books then meant the highest type of literature, imbuing the minds with the most ennobling sentiments of life. Many had well fixed religious principles before leaving their homes beyond the mountains.

These mentioned were the chief opportunities from which the "young ideas" had to obtain their book learning. Some determined mothers would take a short while each day to impart their own knowledge to the children; perhaps the "Psalms" would be the only reader available.

A people whose very existence demands continuous material outlay are prone to neglect the finer interests of letters and religion. Coming from the States where the influence of "William and Mary," "Chapel Hill," and the old universities was fixed, and adopting this isolated, primitive life, was like taking a backward step and beginning again on first principles.

The earliest schools were of the order known as "old field." Nor was it an easy undertaking to restrain those youngsters within the dark, depressing walls of the log school house, the chief aperture of light being through the space of a missing log, which was opened or closed by a rough board bung by leathern hinges from the log above. Versed in the tricks of fine horsemanship, climbing, foot racing, fishing, rowing, could it be wondered that when these free air subjects were confined for hours within the "dark space" their young souls rebelled? When asked for the third trial, why he did not know the multiplication table, one inconsolable replied, "Jest as fast as I git it, I forgit it."

The teachers who proffered their services were usually patronized; no credentials were required. The prominent bunch of well trimmed "hickories" kept the teacher's method well before the barefoot urchins, whose familiarity with hardships and dangers, implanted rudiments of self-reliance; their "book learning" being an adjunct to their broader acquaintance with nature and humanity.

What of the Anns, Janes, Tabithas? They were there in attendance at the same schools with the rougher boys. They took more kindly to the confinement; their fingers yielded more readily to the use of the goose-quill in copying the formal line "set" by the teacher on the coarse paper. A few weeks, at most months, of schooling, went a long way then. Reading, writing and a limited amount of mental arithmetic constituted the required course. Those who attained more were born with the innate talent that spurred them, which was sometimes true.

The Court House, around which all public and much private interest revolved, became the centre of attraction to the quick witted youths, who imbibed a wonderful amount of information and inspiration by listening to, and observing the

prominent characters who found occasions to attend the courts and political gatherings. Many a successful lawyer was developed from these object lessons, and speaking fluently became the preeminent accomplishment of the era.

1801-1805.

The newspaper and postoffice made their appearance almost simultaneously, and these proved helpful educators. Mr. James Elder was the first postmaster.

Unlike the Puritans, who always carried their minister of the gospel before them when they went out to plant a new colony, these were a churchless people during the pioneer era. They lived a practical religion, in a measure, based on faith in the Supreme God, and a broad application of neighborly love, helping and sympathizing with each other, giving warm welcome to all new comers.

The itinerant preacher made his appearance in time at the inevitable Court House where small audiences responded to his ring of the bell. It goes without saying that there sprang up a rude, reckless element, that would have delayed any spiritual growth that might have germinated, and lamentable, that habits of "gambling and drinking" became more prevalent than they should.

Often the preachers were exposed to pranks and jokes that smacked of the vulgar. There were also finer natures, who craved the teachings and consolations of religion, whose circumscribed opportunities inclined them to accept whatever was presented of this character, if in unpolished form, at least sincere spirit. These were the ones who patiently nursed the "mustard seeds" that in time brought the harvest.

The early merchants all accumulated wealth, notably Mr. John H. Poston, whose family were Methodists, and at

whose house prayer meetings were regularly held.

The McClures, native born Irishmen, jolly, hearty, warm in their friendships, whose descendants are counted among the best people of to-day.

"Grattan Grove" was the suburban home of another "Green Islander," who lived and entertained with more than pioneer simplicity, familiarly called "Count" Reynolds - land owner, and prominent politician, having represented his district in Congress.

Judge Humphreys, who was lawyer and farmer, lived in the country but held court in Clarksville, was one of the bright lights of that period.

1812-1814.

When the second war with England became inevitable, there was great excitement in this vicinity, whose interests were peculiarly agricultural. They especially feared the uprising of the Indians, who were still not far away neighbors, and there occurred a drag in the wheel of fortune that had turned slowly enough. When Gen. Jackson, whom Tennessee claimed her own, made his last characteristic call for recruits to Governor Blount, again was there response from in and around Clarksville. The volunteers embarked on flat boats, the only means of transportation, during bitter cold weather in December, on their perilous voyage down the rivers to New Orleans, to help in the defence of that city, under the great leader, General Andrew Jackson, against the British, under Packenham.

1815.

Fortunately most of them returned to their homes in a few months. When the rumor of victory was received, to quote from a writer, who was a youth at that time, among those scenes: "It seemed to be floating in the air. None could tell

from whence it came. The whole community seemed to be struck with a kind of awe and repeated what they had heard almost in whispers." There were no telegraphs, no daily papers; mails were irregular. When the glad tidings of peace were authenticated there was a public demonstration on the Square. Matters soon began to assume a more solid basis than ever before.

The surrounding country was developing a wonderful agricultural capacity, each year increasing in extent. The fine body of land lying in Tennessee and Southern Kentucky had proved especially adapted to the development of tobacco, that great staple that had brought so much revenue to the Mother States. Many Virginians had moved to this section, and now a fresh impulse seemed to start them, and still the wonder grew, land increased in value, and some of the finest of Virginia's people were transplanted to this favorable soil, that promised to be one of the garden spots.

Clarksville was the incipient emporium of all this promising section; its produce was shipped by flat boats to New Orleans. and tobacco from thence to Europe. The superior qualities of the weed were early recognized, and long heads predicted for it a future.

1818.

When steamboats first ascended the river they passed the little hill town silently by, but the excitement was none the less; when one of the modern wonders was seen puffing and plowing, "like a thing of life," in midstream, the entire town would repair to the bank of the river, clap hands, wave handkerchiefs, and halloo loudly.

Within the homes where wives and daughters were the guardian spirits, of those economical, industrious times, the spinning and flax wheels were prominent among the scant furniture. Although the negro women did much of the

spinning and weaving, there was scarcely a maiden fair who did not pride herself on the fineness of the thread she could spin. All young women were taught the arts of dyeing and weaving, and knitting and sewing for the household, that she might understand how to provide for her own when she should be promoted to one. Those home trained maidens often found pleasure in imparting their knowledge, either practical or of books, to their younger sisters and brothers. It may have been a grandmother, or a maiden aunt who had "educated" the older children, or mayhap the former teacher had moved to a more promising neighborhood.

The interests of education had much advanced. The schools, tho' few and far between, did good work. Teachers of liberal learning, experience and intrinsic worth, who were well equipped to direct and train the young, appeared upon the scene. The names of Major Hinton, Davis, Valentine Barry, are especially mentioned by Mr. James Ross, in his history of early times, he having attended those schools, which would be sufficient evidence of their superiority. He also says: "The education of the distinguished men of Kentucky and Tennessee then began and ended with the classics," which gives the system in a nutshell.

Hon. Jno. D. Tyler's name stands pre-eminent as the great teacher of this entire section, attracting many pupils from a distance, beginning in pioneer days and extending far into the more cultured era. Mr. Ross got the finished part of his education from Captain Tyler, and later he established a successful school himself on the principles of his preceptor, whom he so ardently admired.

There are representative old people now who declare, "There never have been, and never will be again such teachers as old Captain Tyler and Jimmie Ross."

While the young women were not throughout coeducated with the other sex, all of those early schools were "mixed," and often the girls were unavoidably classed with the larger boys, receiving the same severe discipline. "A little leaven, leaveneth the whole," while the sons were being drilled in the classics the daughters were catching the reflecting rays. We know personally, that our grand-mothers were conversant with a high order of literature. Many of them "adored" Scott's writings.

1819.

There were schools within and without the town, of different degrees of efficiency. The first exclusively female school was managed and taught for quite a number of years by a woman, Mrs. Mary Jane Roland Killebrew. Mary Jane Barry was born on ocean, a day's sail from New York harbor, 1798. Her parents were Rosanna and Daniel Barry. She spent her childhood at Bardstown, Ky., where her father was a famous teacher of the classics. Valentine Berry, already mentioned, was her brother. In 1817 she married William Killebrew. Many most elegant women were educated at "Mrs. Killebrew's boarding and day school for young ladies."

The Meriwethers, Barkers, Gilmers, Poindexters, John T. Johnson. McNeils, Killebrews, Wimberleys, Lockerts and Forts, were all early patrons of learning.

Cave Johnson, Judge Martin, Hockett Allen, Jones Rivers, Charles Bailey, George C. Boyd, Garland, Dr. King, gave reputation for strength and intelligence to the community.

The country churches, Spring Creek and Bethel, were organized early in the century, and sent their best ministers to carry the message to their friends in the county seat. That great and impressive preacher, Rev. Reuben Ross, was actually the founder of the Baptist church in Clarksville.

Among the earliest of that denomination were the Elys, Joshua Brown, the Herrings, Grays, Sawyers.

"The Methodist Society" from which grew the grand church that has continued to extend its comforting influence in so many directions, the Broadduses, Bringhursts, Moores, Jo Johnsons, Hitters, Pickerings and others. were among those who had kept their "lamps trimmed."

Mr. Wm. R. Bringhurst, from Pennsylvania, a man of pronounced type. did much for posterity in recording the customs and manners of the early timers.

1829.

Certain material improvements, the building of bridges across the main river entrances. and the introduction into general use of wheeled vehicles, marked important impetus to commercial interests, and the dawning of a new era.

1830.

The pioneer period had closed, which covered a half century from the felling of the first tree in the dense forest, where the city of Clarksville was literally built from the stump.

About that time there arrived a brisk, intelligent young man from Lynchburg, Va., Mr. Henry F. Beaumont. whose future was to become impressed upon the development of the various interests of the community. It was a fortunate day for Clarksville that this fine character cast his fortunes in its midst. He was born and reared in Halifax, Yorkshire, England, where he had received careful religious and thorough business training. At an early age he went to Lynchburg, identified himself with the tobacco interest, the knowledge of which prompted him to locate at this place, in the heart of the region that produced that fine quality of the weed he knew to be desired in the old country. Together with

some others who already managed the "trade" in a haphazard manner, the business soon assumed shape under the Beaumont system, and he it was who shipped direct to England the first hogshead of strips. This was the beginning of the great business that in time was to give the "Clarksville Tobacco Market" world wide reputation.

1831.

Rev. Henry Beaumont showed the same enthusiasm and business tact in everything he undertook, which was very nearly every public enterprise started. Tho' a Reverend, he confined himself to local preaching and furthering immediate interests of the cause. He became a leader in the "Society," and a brick church, Methodist, was the first to point its spire heavenward.

It was the good fortune of the writer to live her childhood life near neighbor to this great and good man, she feels too much could hardly be said of him. Many mornings and evenings have we knelt with the family, including servants, around the fireside and heard him lift his voice in humble prayer.

1832.

The Baptists soon followed, with a good church, Rev. Reuben Ross the first, and much loved, pastor.

1833.

The beautiful gothic Episcopal Church, of stone, with Rev. Mullen, rector. The Wheatleys, Fielding Williams', Edward Barker's, Chiltons, McDaniels, Donohoe's, Henry's Dranes, Judge Clayton's families were the most prominent. The church bell was the gift of Samuel and John Stacker. From that time church bells rang out the glad tidings of progress.

At that especial period there were three prominent schools, all of which were popular, and brought many pupils into the town. An exclusively boys' school was taught by a Mr. James Byars.

Dr. L. D. Ring taught a high school for girls and young women, taking a few small boys, at the Masonic Hall. It was called "high" because he taught the classics, including French. Dr. Ring deserves credit for the amount of solid instruction he gave the young people that attended his school. He was a man of irascible temperament, but he was a thorough scholar, of fine discursive intellect and honest intensions. He had strong Christian faith, and was fluent in what he proposed to teach, all of which he endeavored to grind into his pupils, sometimes to pound into them. Unfortunately his weak side was often exposed to his shrewd pupils, who preferred to exasperate him to attending to their difficult lessons.

1835.

Across the street was Mrs. Killebrew's school, of which we have already made mention, which lasted until 1835.

Strange to say, there was great rivalry among these schools, the cause of each being warmly espoused by the attendants and patrons.

Later, Rev. Russell, an Episcopal clergyman, and wife (a niece of Rev. Henry Beaumont) taught successfully in Masonic Hall, a Female Academy. Finally Mrs. Whitman taught there, The Masonic Female Institute.

Nearly all of the young women of that time, and surroundings, attended one or all of those schools. Tho' the course of study was simpler, their epistles and essays more formal than of the later schools, they bear evidence of pure language, good common sense and well rounded lives. Letter writing was the one art that attained a high degree of

excellence! They were taught that the character of a young lady's letter was indicative of her own; it should be without blot, clearly and elegantly worded in a regular well formed "hand-write," correctly spelled and pointed; "dot your i's and cross your t's," smoothly folded, and "write the address plain and straight."

At the same time schools for the boys were making progress. The names of quite a number of Professors, who taught private schools and "colleges," are gratefully remembered, Captain Tyler's always drawing the larger proportion of the young men when he was teaching.

There were teachers of music, Professors Wendle and Herblin. French Professors, Guillet, Manton; all graduates from the old country, who had their respective classes, and good friends, giving a certain tone to the progress education was effecting.

The business outlook enticed active, wide awake men from the larger cities and foreign lands; Bryce Stewart, the McKeages, Keers, Dunlops, and others.

From Philadelphia came that ripe and travelled scholar, Mr. William M. Stewart, who built his suburban home and drew around him others of his own type.

Handsome residences were showing on the hills in and around town, whose yards were being beautified. The number of merchants increasing, encouraged by the inflow of produce brought to their market; the money spent for staples and luxuries to be returned by the long trains of wagons to the rich farms.

Another great industry had loomed up in the vicinity that attracted capital and prominent men of another type of ability. The managers of and those connected with the iron interests in the adjacent river counties turned to Clarksville as a place of residence for their families. The Stackers, Dicks,

West, Bronson, Leavelle, Lewis, Cobbs, Hillmans, and others.

The journalistic interests were represented by two weeklies. The Chronicle, established early in the life of the town, Mr. Robert Thomas, its third and longest editor, that great and true man. Mr. Charles Faxon, the editor of the Jeffersonian, the mouth-piece of his party and opponent of the Chronicle. A long and spirited warfare they waged on paper, be it said to their credit, was confined to paper, for they passed through many stormy periods. Just here we trust it may be allowable to say that tolerance was one of the first principles the Clarksville people must have developed as a characteristic. Forming strong convictions of their own, and conceding the right to others, of individual opinion, the first and greatest underlying true American citizenship.

1842.

As the population increased other churches, Presbyterian and "Christian," were erected, with their strong followings. Palace steamboats plied the Cumberland and competed for the Clarksville trade. There was a steamboat named the City of Clarksville, another the Sallie West, and the Blanche Lewis, the last two for favorite daughters in the town.

Clarksville was proving a magnet to all the ambitious young men of the community; new ones were continually adding to her ranks, many whose names in time became prominent in their respective walks. Society, though conservative, easily yielded to the encouraging influences of growth, wealth, religion, scholarship and general progress.

We should not pass silently over the name of Mrs. Eugenia Poston, as one of the most impressive and characteristic educators, who taught from one end of the town to the other, her faithful pupils following from house to house.

Most certainly she laid the solid foundation of many excellent educations. Mrs. Poston was a refined, cultured lady, who went to California from Clarksville and for a number of years was Principal of a large female school.

"White Hall," a select boarding and literary school for young women, six miles in the country, was established and managed by Miss Mollie Ward, with proficient assistants, for years collected and faithfully taught, not only pupils from this, but all the Southern States. Wherever her pupils entered, after being trained for any length of time under the White Hall discipline, they took high standing. White Hall was for young women what Captain Tyler's school was for young men.

1845.

The Clarksville bar had made reputation as being one of the strongest in the State, (a reputation that has held good) led by Hon. Cave Johnson and Hon. G. A. Henry, although ever political opponents, still warm friends. When James K. Polk was elected President, Mr. Johnson was made a member of his Cabinet. Tho' absent from his home a number of years, his heart and influence were ever at the service of his friends.

There arose a general clamor for more permanent and advanced schools in the town. Many were already sending their elder daughters to Dr. Elliott's Nashville Female Academy, and farther. The representative people seriously discussed the matter and declared, "We must have improved home schools for our growing young people."'

At very nearly the same time measures were taken to establish the female academy and a male college on opposite sides of the town.

The one most conspicuous in behalf of the Academy interests was Rev. Henry Beaumont. As soon as he declared

himself there was assurance that the scheme would materialize.

1846.

The Clarksville Female Academy, as a chartered institution of learning, was organized in the year 1846, the charter having been granted by act of the Tennessee Legislature of that year.

The necessary funds were raised by a stock company, chiefly by the efforts of the Methodists of the town and vicinity, liberally aided by other denominations, and many of no denominational proclivities.

The Tennessee Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, took thirty-two shares of stock-\$800-in the institution.

A most beautiful and retired location was selected and purchased, on the Nashville "pike," now known as Madison street. A successful merchant and his tasteful wife, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Johnson, had built and beautified their handsome brick residence of three stories, twelve rooms, in the midst of a grove of forest trees, surrounded by ample grounds, considered one of the most desirable places anywhere, and considerably removed from the noises and distractions (?) of the embryo city.

The buildings were considered sufficient for beginning, and after some special outlays, the doors of the Academy proper were opened.

Glad day for Clarksville!

Can not be imagined the tide of hopeful girls turning Academy-ward, set apart for their especial benefit, entering the doors of the temple to be dedicated to learning? The delight of the mothers who accompanied their daughters, the noble men and friends present at the opening?

The Rev. Henry, his voice trembling with glad emotion,

as he reverentially invoked the Spirit and Grace of God to bless the noble effort!

Again, can not be imagined the amount of patience required by the Principal and associates in classifying properly those variously taught, variously advanced pupils, perhaps imbued with various prejudices from the recent preceptors? None can know but those who have experienced the annoyance of organizing and systematizing a new, promiscuous school of size.

Mr. Henry F. Beaumont was President of the first Board of Trustees.

Rev. Joseph E. Douglass was the first Principal of the Academy, from 1846 to 1848.

Rev. A. R. Erwin, President, with Rev. J. W. Rust, Assistant, 1848 to 1854.

Rev. A. R. Erwin, President, Rev. J. T. Richardson, Assistant, 1854 to 1855.

Rev. J. T. Richardson, President, 1855 and 1856.

Rev. A. L. Hamilton, Ala., President, 1856 to 1858.

Rev. A. L. Hamilton, President, with Rev. Jas. S. Malone, Assistant, 1858 to 1861.

The Academy opened auspiciously and was satisfactorily conducted, solidly increasing in number of attendance until 1852, when the charter was amended by act of the Tennessee Legislature, and the institution reorganized. In 1854 a new Board of Directors elected; considerable addition to the capital stock, which enabled the Trustees to enlarge and add to the buildings, much needed.

The Trustees elected in 1854 were: Rev. Henry F. Beaumont, President; B. W. Macrae, Secretary; R. C. Moore, Treasurer; T. H. McCulloch, Dr. W. H. Drane. Wm. M. Stewart, Geo. T. Lewis, John S. Hart, James M. Quarles, Dr. Joshua Cobb, John F. Coutts, John F. House.

The Academy reached a high degree of excellence

under Dr. Hamilton's management. He came to Clarksville during the Summer of 1856. The Academy celebrated its tenth anniversary by engaging for its Principal this courteous, generous-minded, scholarly Southern gentleman. He spared neither pains nor expense to further the interests of the school. Some criticized him as "painfully polite," but that was the worst that could be said about him. He impressed by example this desirable quality, addressing the least tot as "Miss." Surely this influence was needed by a part of the pupils, who acted as if they were not "bred" every day at home on it. He had his own pronounced method of conducting the school, perhaps on a broad plane, but high, and to our mind would be bard to excel even now. He was extremely formal to teachers and pupils, but the roughest girl-and they were very few-would blush to be caught in a rude act by him. Would he correct her then.? No. But next morning, after Chapel exercises, with the sacred music of praise and words of prayer fresh in mind, he would give a "few minutes" talk that would bear on that, or any act be saw fit to reprove, always in courteous terms, but the culprit would understand. His great motto was "Learn to Think, " which he had printed in large letters and tacked on the school room walls, that it might become photographed upon the pupils' minds.

Dr. Hamilton opened with an overwhelming attendance in the Fall term of 1856, something two hundred pupils, seventy of whom were boarders.

The Faculty were: President and Superintendent, Dr. A. L. Hamilton; Assistants, Mrs. Laura Norton, Miss Hennie Adams; Art and Mathematics, Miss L. Townsend; Primary, Miss Charlotte Lindsay; French, Mlle. de Clave; Music Prof. Frank Herblin, Mrs. McDaniel, Mrs. Chandler, Miss Mary Barr, Miss Eliza Andrews; Matron, Mrs. Shanklin; Housekeeper, Miss Esther Keene. Misses Jane and Eliza

Adams were added later, Mrs. Norton and Mrs. Chandler retiring. Also Miss Tinsley was added to the Musical faculty. Prof. J. B. Killebrew took charge of the Mathematical Department, and other assistants were required. Other extensive additions were made and still the prospects of the school increased.

When the Fall term of 1859 opened, in the neighborhood of three hundred were enrolled, over a hundred boarders. They came from the entire surrounding country, and from all the Southern States. The Rev. J. S. Malone and wife, from Nashville, took charge of the extensive boarding department.

Dr. Hamilton devoted his entire attention to the moral and intellectual advancement of the pupils. He and his efficient corps of teachers were untiring in their efforts to surround the school with the most elevating influences. During the sessions, lectures on interesting subjects, "soirees musicale," literary evenings, with social features introduced were in order. At the end of the long term, as a final to the week of examinations, etc., a grand "reception" would be given, when the gates to the beautifully ornamented grounds, and the doors of the Academy would be thrown wide open for one evening; when colored and brilliant lights and strains of lovely music would add to the glamour. Complimentary to the friends and patrons who would crowd the halls and parlors, a general good feeling evinced as being in touch with the school.

The literary society of the Academy was called The Irving, in honor of the American writer so popular at that time.

"Stewart College," called in honor of Mr. William M. Stewart, who had so munificently aided in its development, had been organized and catalogued full attendance. Rev. R. B. McMullen, presiding over the faculty, including Professors

Forbes, Doak, Wardlaw, Haskins, Stewart, showed brilliant prospects.

The names of Henry F. Beaumont and William M. Stewart should never be permitted to die in Clarksville. The time may have been ripe and they the instruments, but the facts stand, they were the leaders in the good work of establishing these two institutions that have worthily been the pride of the refined community.

The city had reached a population of five thousand inhabitants, with many kinds of interests that invited people of means and families to locate within its limits. Its reputation as a "Tobacco Market" had become world wide. Naturally many of the older people had passed away, some had gone to other scenes, while others had taken up the thread. Such names as John F. House, Alfred Robb, James E. Bailey, William M. Quarles, James Quarles, George Harrell, J. O. Shackelford, Robt. Humphreys, C. G. Smith, weave the strong web of the bar. William M. Daniel was just entering the "practice."

D. N. Kennedy, James L. Glenn, A. Howell, T. Pettus, James J. Crusman, Macrae and Coulter, Thomas McCulloch and other names arise like giants on the well marked business canvas.

That young Virginian from Richmond, with his strong business capacity and training, M. H. Clark, was beginning to be felt in the great export business. Other names and faces arise to the writer's mind, but these are sufficient to typify the period.

The Young Men's Literary Society, with Dr. Haskins, President, numbered among its membership many who became eminent in their vocations. Already there were three young editors, Charles O. Faxon, Jr., later of the Louisville Courier; Gilmer Poindexter, of the Nashville American, and Thomas W. Beaumont, of the Banner.

Society represented the best Southern type. Those were the days when men and women read and discussed together literature and all pertinent topics, when the most valued trophies were brought to the fireside. The most recherche entertainments were given at private homes, when the mother and father together led in the recreations, and family culture was in order. Few homes but had their carefully supplied book shelves, and the few gifts to special friends were apt to be some handsomely bound "Standard."

The editor of the old Chronicle, Mr. Thomas, advanced in years, and much concerned about the turn politics was taking, spent much time under the shade trees penning the dainty short stories that were appearing in his weekly.

The Fall term of the Academy opened with many misgiving. There were not the hoped for increase. Politics was running rife. Such excitement was never known in any previous presidential canvass as that of 1860. Within a few months most of the pupils from the Southern States had been withdrawn. The school scattered and staggered along until the end of June, 1861. Dr. Hamilton took his family, servants, and the remnants of what he had brought with him and returned to Alabama.

The war had broken out and some fighting already done. It had oftentimes been between tears and desperate efforts that the teachers and pupils accomplished the lessons. We can never forget the kind instructions of Prof. Killebrew, as we girls would gather around him at recess hours, and he would explain to our young inquiring minds, the causes and probable issues of the advancing war.

Nor can we forget the deep lines that wore into the face of the Principal. who saw the inevitable ruin of his fondest efforts, and the complications that surrounded him, as it was

impossible for him to make collections. The money and the prospects had vanished.

The poor teachers, many of whom were stranded and away from home, were in a pitiable condition.

Stewart College had closed its doors and turned its beautiful campus into a tenting ground for the young soldiers that had early enlisted in Company "A," the first raised in the town, by their Professor, William A. Forbes, who was now the Colonel of the Fourteenth Tennessee Regiment. They were preparing to go to Virginia.

That Summer the Academy buildings were used for a Confederate hospital, and until the Federals took possession of the town after the fall of Fort Donelson, in February, 1862, after which time it was used for the same purpose by the Union troops.

Here we draw the curtain, as the long sad tale of broken hopes, broken homes, lost lives, belong to another history.

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Even the horrors of war have an end. When peace was declared in 1865, the "tattered" soldiers returned, and with the good, true women, and well tried friends whom good fortune still preserved, with one heart and resolve turned about to regain lost ground. There were others, too, that worse fortunes elsewhere had wafted here by kindly winds. Four years was a big gap in educational and commercial interests, all of which had been scattered to the four winds. But wonders can be wrought by faithful effort.

The good pilot, Rev. Henry Beaumont, had died in 1864. I can remember how my father wept for his old friend.

Among other old land-marks that were swept away during the war, was the educational stand-by, Masonic Hall, burnt in a frightful fire.

Although the Academy buildings were greatly damaged, and many opposed ever using them again for school purposes, the exigencies were such that it was impossible to do otherwise than repair thoroughly, and reopen.

In the Fall of 1866, with Rev. J. B. West, D. D., Principal, the school opened with very good prospects. We regret having been unable to learn the faculty who served that term, but through the kindness of Mrs. Belle D. Kindall, who was one of the faculty of 1872, we find Rev. J. B. West, D. D., Principal, with Miss Bettie Boxley, Assistant; Miss Agnes Dryden, English Literature; Miss Vic Dryden, Mathematics; Miss Belle Dromgoole, A. M. Languages; Mrs. Gunn, Preparatory Department; Miss Kate Carney, Art Department; Miss Sprue, Music Department, with Miss Sallie Hughes, Assistant.

Considering the unsettled condition of affairs in the South at that time, Dr. West opened with larger attendance than expected, and conducted quite a prosperous school until 1873.

Then succeeded by Rev. James M. Wright, D. D., President, 1873 to 1876.

Rev. James R. Plummer, D. D., President, 1876 to 1881.

Rev. John S. Collins, President, 1881 to 1882.

The old buildings being deemed unsafe were pulled down, and a more modern and commodious one erected within the same enclosure. The Academy, on Madison street, is considered one of the most attractive locations in the city.

The management of the Academy was placed under Miss Elizabeth Burgess (later Mrs. E. G. Buford) and opened in 1884. One of wide experience and culture, a graduate from The Athenaeum, Columbia, Tenn. A native Tennessean. "Of pure English blood, her innate dignity and strong will power

have constituted her a natural leader and controller of those around her," to quote from a biographical sketch. All which proved true. It fell to this proficient woman to raise the standard higher than it had ever been, instituting the most systematic curriculum the school had ever had, and under her control made more rapid advance. Mrs. Buford's reputation as educator is national, she having been present and prominent at several national conferences in behalf of education. Her original papers on the subjects pertaining to the higher orders of education have attracted scholarly attention, and been pronounced strong and progressive.

It was she who introduced the University Bible Course into the curriculum, beginning with the second grade. This one feature would recommend this school over others without it. For nearly twelve years Mrs. Buford had charge of the Academy, devoting her untiring zeal to its welfare. The young ladies who were educated under her systematic instruction, certainly are more than ordinarily equipped for the exigencies that follow in life.

The Faculty of 1895: Mrs. Buford, Psychology, Ethics, Bible, and Lectures; Miss Avirett, Advanced English Branches; Miss Chambliss, Languages and Literature; Miss Abernathy, Mathematics and Physics; Miss McLemore, Art and History; Miss Neff, Elocution, Reading, Physical Culture; Miss Hornbrook, Kindergarten, Primary Work, Penmanship. Miss Burgess, Directress of Music, Piano, Voice, Organ; Assistants, Mrs. West, Voice, Culture, and Miss Anna Simonton, Piano; Miss Killebrew, Violin, Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin. Miss E. T. Andrews, Stenography and Typewriting; Miss Mabel Buford, Lady Superintendent.

Mrs. Buford resigned in 1895 and was succeeded by Rev. H. W. Browder, of the Louisville Conference, who

brought with him extensive credentials and testimonials. For a year he has conducted a flourishing school, with full attendance.

The announcement for the term 1896-1897 is a thing of beauty, promising to equal, if not exceed, any previous year. It would be impossible to detail their best approved methods; suffice, the Academy is abreast with the most modern educational appliances, giving especial attention to the home influences and higher culture of the character of the girls and young women placed under the charge of the Principal and his estimable wife. "The Tennessee Conference of the M. E. Church, South, has thoroughly endorsed the management of the school, and heartily recommend it to the educating public."

Faculty: Rev. H. W. Browder, A. M., Principal, Bible, Psychology, Ethics; Mrs. H. W. Browder, Lady Principal, Mathematics; Mrs. J. H. Dixon, English Literature, Modern Languages; Miss Willie Cummins, Natural Science, Ancient Languages; Miss Jessie Wardlaw, Elocution, Pantomime, Physical Culture; Miss I. M. Fulcher, Primary and Preparatory; ----- Kindergarten; Miss Sallie C. Hollingsworth, Art and History, School of Music--Miss Gertrude E. Hall, Director, Piano, Organ, Theory; Miss Kate Reynolds, Voice, Harmony, Musical History; Miss Letitia Killebrew, Violin, Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin. Lecturers--Chancellor George Summey, Rev. Robert Price, D. D., Prof J. A. Lyon, D. D., Southwestern Presbyterian University; Rev. W. F. Tillett, D. D., Rev. Gross Alexander, D. D., Vanderbilt University, and others, will deliver a series of lectures on Scientific, Biblical, Historical subjects. To be given in Academy Chapel, during the coming term, free to friends and school.

Thus it will be seen, the full Course of Study, divided in departments: I - Primary, including Kindergarten. II - Intermediate, including two years. III - Academic, including

two years. IV - Collegiate, occupying four years to complete. Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior. Post-Graduate Course - V - Modern Languages. To which are added the different Schools of Art, Music, Elocution, Voice Culture, including the lectures by the best authority on these various subjects.

There are two Literary Societies: Philolethian - its Motto, "The beaten track is the safe one." Colors, old gold and blue. Hypatian - Motto, "To be is better than to seem." Colors, purple and white. Which meet alternate Wednesday afternoons in the Chapel. There is also an Alumnae Association.

Friday evening, June 5th, 1896, the Alumnae of the Academy held their annual meeting in the Chapel. Dr. J. B. Erwin (son of the second President of the institution) addressed the Association. The program was well rendered, and a large part of the evening was given to social entertainment. Those present agreed to undertake the education, at the Academy, of the daughter of some Alumnae who is not able to give her child the advantages she herself enjoyed. The Principal offered to give the tuition to a girl whom the Alumnae would choose if they will pay her board.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Miss Ethel Adams, President; Mrs. Gracey Settle, Vice-President; Miss Buna Pickering, Secretary; Mrs. Anna Howerton, Treasurer.

Following on Class Duty: Misses May Weatherford and Ruth Young, Vocalists; Miss Mabel Wood, Historian; Miss Alice Warfield, Elocutionist; Miss Will Allen Dromgoole, Story Teller; Mrs. E. G. Buford, Poet.

The next annual meeting of the Association will be held in the Academy Chapel, Friday, May 29th, 1897. All Alumnae of the Academy are cordially invited to be present at the next meeting and remain through Commencement exercises.

According to the charter, the Tennessee Conference was given the power of confirming the Principal elected by the Board of Trust, which bespeaks for the school the fostering care of the Conference. In behalf of its church connection, the daughters of active Methodist ministers in the Tennessee Conference receive English tuition, including Latin, Greek, Penmanship, Class Singing, and Physical Culture, free of charge.

Tho' denominational, the school is not sectarian, the faculty and patronage largely representing other churches.

Degrees - Power is given the Academy by the original charter, to confer degrees, diplomas, certificates and honors upon all worthy students of the school, thus giving it all Collegiate advantages.

The degree of A. B. (Artim Baccalaureus) will be conferred upon those pupils who finish the classical course; the degree of B. P. (Bachelor of Painting) upon those who finish the course in Painting; the degree of B. M. (Bachelor of Music) upon those who finish the course in Music on the Piano, including approved execution; the degree of M. E. L. (Mistress of English Literature) upon those who finish the English Course; and the degree of M. A. (Mistress of Arts) upon those finishing the Post-Graduate Course.

A chaste, classic little periodical, under the management of the two literary societies, The Academian, lies before us. First volume, six numbers, February to June, inclusive, which evidences research, discursiveness, technique, piquancy, that would reflect credit on any college class.

Quoting from Salutatory: "It will be the champion of the true, the pure, and the noble," which essence has pervaded the entirety. We do not doubt but some of the names of writers for this modest magazine will be met in more experienced literature hereafter.

All over the land are scattered women who have received the better part of their education at the Clarksville Female Academy, who point with proud affection to their Alma Mater. Mothers, wives and those who have nobly responded to the life duties that lay next to them. Wives who have been the silent influence in bestirring their husbands to successful lives; mothers who have reared families to honor their country.

Mrs. Mary Boyd Johnson, ex-postmistress, has always been one of the daughters that Clarksville is proud of, who showed her "timbre" when occasion demanded.

Mrs. Ann Howerton, at the head of a successful dry goods business, who developed her own methods and tact.

Mrs. Sallie Wilcox Shackelford, who for so many years was one of the leading teachers in the Howell High School.

Miss Kate Rogers, who has distinguished herself as an educator, and holds the esteem of the community as one of its most worthy daughters.

The few who embraced "letters" have made pronounced reputations. Bettie Garland, the poet, Clarksville's sweet song bird; daughter of the gifted lawyer, of the Virginia Garlands, and step-daughter of Hon. Cave Johnson.

Mrs. Elizabeth Gilmer, grand daughter of the pioneer scholar and gentleman, Dr. William Douglas Meriwether. Her graceful pen early found its way into current literature, and now of the New Orleans Picayune staff, wielding an influence mightier than the sword.

Will Allen Dromgoole, the bright, petite personel, who often finds "Esq." tacked on to the end of her address, Tennessee's exquisite romancer, and one of Arena's favorite contributors. Did you ever read her poem addressed to her "Daddy?" That same progenitor is a remarkably little man with a wonderfully big intellect.

During the half century of its existence, the Academy has had but four Presidents of its Boards of Trust. When reorganized after the war, Dr. Joshua Cobb served acceptably until his death, then Judge C. G. Smith was elected President. He was eminently suited to the position, having been identified with the progressive interests of the city since he had made it his home, when quite a youth. It was largely through his immediate influence that Mrs. Buford was prevailed upon to take charge of the Academy, the wisdom of which he had the pleasure of marking.

After the death of Judge Smith, Hon. John F. House was elected President of the Board of Trust, since which time he has filled the position. Clarksville takes pride in claiming John F. House as her own. He came here quite a young man, early in the fifties, and began the practice of law. During his long and useful life he has filled many prominent positions of trust, politically and financially. Doubtless it was largely owing to his influence that his constituents preserved the "balance" during the frightful years that closely followed the war of the sixties.

We feel a "word" is too little to add to Mr. B. W. Macrae's name as Treasurer. He, like Mr. House and Judge Smith, belonged to the list of talented young representatives that came to Clarksville about the same period. As a financier, Mr. Macrae has few superiors. He has proved himself one of the most worthy of the sons of the Queen City of the Cumberland. Mr. Macrae and Mr. House were both among the members of the Board of Trustees elected in 1854, and have belonged to this high toned "board" ever since, baring the time of the war, which fact has been influential in developing the best interests of the Academy and female education.

Mr. John F. Coutts cast his lot here when both he and the town were young. He has always lent his energies and sympathies to all its enterprises, and can be counted a life friend of the Academy, having been a member of the first Board of Trust. There are no friends like old friends. To them

we take off our hat!

It goes without saying that when matters and people adjusted themselves to the new order, after the termination of the inter-state war, Clarksville has solidly grown into a city of ten or twelve thousand inhabitants; that the higher education provided for the young, reaching out into all the avenues and relations of life, based on the high moral plan of its promulgators. is but the exponent of its cultured people in the municipality, and its rural districts, which have always fed its ranks.

Stewart College was merged into the Southwestern Presbyterian University, which has sent out many distinguished scholars all over the United States.

Another highly developed institution of learning, that is the connecting link between the two classic schools, that yearly sends its thoroughly trained graduates to both University and Academy, is the Public School, of which the people are justly proud. Mr. Leopold Bloch, a foreigner and scholar, who came to Clarksville in 1862, was largely instrumental in the development of the Howell Public School. To the management of its financial interests he gave much of his time and enthusiasm. And Mr. Graham, its long and faithful Superintendent, deserves honorable mention. Many of the rising young business men of the country received their education at Howell.

With apologies for the result of the writer's effort to render a faithful synopsis of the founding and progress of the Female Academy, she felt it would be incomplete without some mention of the social and other local features that go so far towards educational development. The occasion, the State's Centennial, and the Academy's half century celebration, deserves more than passing historical notes.

With prophecies for the continual unfolding of better and higher standards for the development of the characters of young womanhood in charge of the Clarksville Female Academy, and a sincere prayer for its future, we draw this history to a close.

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