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The Senior Class of The Thaddeus Stevens Trade School
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Thaddeus Stevens and School History

Great accomplishments follow right thinking, right feeling, right beliefs, numerous sacrifices, hard work, and an indomitable courage. The benefactor of this Trade School possessed these virtues.

Born sickly, lame, and into a broken and destitute family, on April 4, 1792, at Danville, Vermont, Thaddeus Stevens had learned through privations, sufferings, disappointments, and sacrifices—the importance of courageous struggle in educating himself and succeeding in life. His early formal education was obtained at Peacham Academy. Then, he attended Dartmouth College. Leaving New England, he came to York, Pennsylvania, where he taught school. It was here that he studied law.

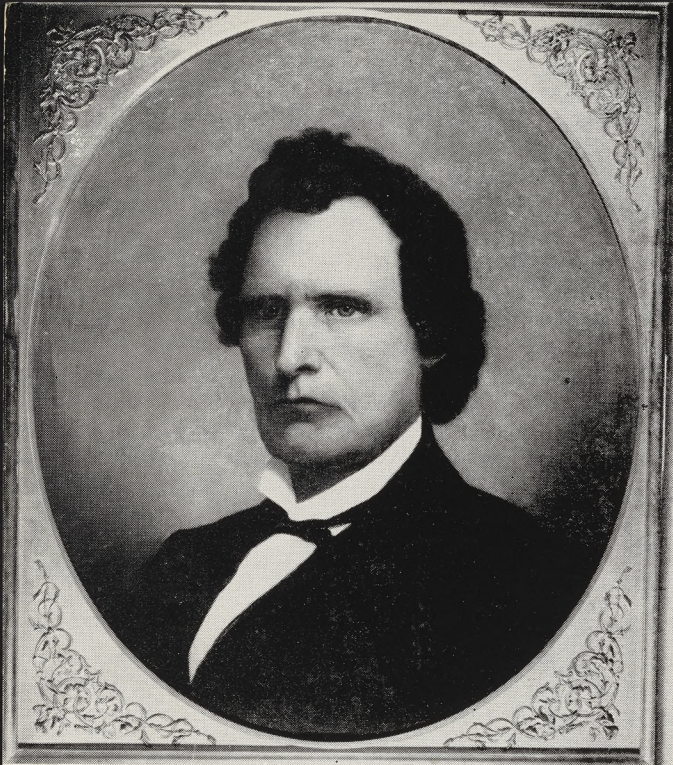
As a practicing lawyer at Gettysburg, Thaddeus Stevens stepped into politics. His accomplishments as a lawyer, politician, business man, humanitarian, and statesman are lengthy and noteworthy. Outstanding are his singular advocacy of Public School education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, while a Representative in the Legislature; his great force of personality and character in shaping the destiny of this Nation as a Member of the House of Representatives; his humanitarian concern for the abolition of slavery; his impatience with inefficiency, incompetence, and indecision over the conduct of the affairs of States; and his abiding desire to benefit countless generations through generous provisions for the education of orphan and needy boys in a free trade school without considerations of race, creed, or color as expressed in his will.

In 1905, the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania appropriated funds to supplement those in the will of Thaddeus Stevens for a free trade school. A commission was appointed by Governor Samuel W. Pennypacker (1903-1907) with the following members: Charles I. Landis, Chairman; John B. Warfel, Amos M. Cline, Henry S. Williamson, and Harry L. Trout. Under the supervision of these men, the administration building, "A" and "B" cottages, and a power house were erected and furnished with the proper facilities.

In 1908, the construction of the first shop started. Vocational trade training in bricklaying, carpentry, machine shop, and patternmaking followed. Today this building houses these shops: baking, brick, carpentry, and radio-electronics.

With further funds, the Commonwealth provided for Cottage "C" in 1930. By 1938, the gymnasium was completed under the supervision of the General State Authority. Recognizing the increasing importance of trade training at Stevens, the Legislature provided for the erection of the new shop building in 1949. In it are the auto, electric, machine, and print shops. By 1951, Cottage "D" was erected; then followed Cottage "E" in 1952. The five dormitories house about 300 boys who are studying one of the trades at the present time.

In conclusion, we can say that to live daily in the grateful hearts and minds of growing generations is to be blessed with more than earthly immortality. Among our benefactors, we wish to remember the generosity, wisdom, and interest of all the Governors, Legislators, Trustees, Superintendents, Faculties, and countless Citizens of this Commonwealth. Their contributions continue to enrich the lives of deserving boys who receive academic and trade training at the Thaddeus Stevens Trade School.



FROM THE PAPERS
OF MARY H. DYKE

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