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THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

EDITOR OF PUBLICATIONS

March 4, 1931

H.C. Thorban
509 North Lime St.,
Lancaster, Pa.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of recent date, relative to the student days of Thaddeus Stevens at the University of Vermont, I would say that the College records of that period are rather meager, and there is not very much to say beyond the fact that he was a student here in the years 1812-1813. In 1814 the University of Vermont was closed as the United States Government took over the main college building as a dormitory for soldiers during the War of 1812. Burlington being the chief port on Lake Champlain, was an important military post and many soldiers were stationed here during the War. Mr. Stevens finished his college course and graduated at Dartmouth College. Another student who left the University at the same time on account of the temporary closing of the Institution was Wilbur Fisk, who became the first President of Wesleyan University. Mr. Fisk, like Mr. Stevens, came from the Peacham Grammar School to the University of Vermont.

It is said that in his will, Mr. Stevens provided that his mother's grave in Peacham should be carefully tended and its corners should be planted with roses "or other cheerful flowers".

In 1867, not long before his death, the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon Mr. Stevens by the University of Vermont.

I regret to say that we do not have available photographs of the early buildings and campus of the University. In one of the college annuals known as "The Ariel" there are pictures of the early buildings, and if you can take photographs or make photostat copies from this book, I shall be glad to loan you a copy of the same. I may be able to secure a photograph of President Sanders, the first President of the University, who was the head of the Institution during the time that Thaddeus Stevens was a student here. When the University was closed, for the War period, President Sanders left Burlington and never returned.

Please write me how soon you must have this material and whether you can make use of the copy of The Ariel as I have suggested. I think I may be able to find some back numbers of the Alumni Weekly giving facts about the Institution in its early years.

Very truly yours,

Mathiott Crockett

Editor.

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