

# THE CONESTOGA COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

THE Daily Evening Express, of Wednesday, August 23rd, 1865, contained an announcement that the Conestoga Collegiate Institute, a seminary for young ladies, would begin its first session on Tuesday morning, September 5th. The advertisement stated that it was intended to make this a first-class educational institution by securing the best teachers, the best books and the best apparatus. The institute was located in the house, now (1931) No. 32 South Lime street, Lancaster, Pa., which, at that time, was opposite to the circus lot. The school occupied three rooms, a large one on the first floor, and a class room and a rest room on the second floor. The founder and principal of the institute was the Rev. Herman Henry Bruning, a Lutheran clergyman. He boarded with Mrs. Sarah Mason, a widow, who lived in the rectory of St. John's Protestant Episcopal church, which was located on West Chestnut street, near Mulberry, and adjoined the church on the west. A number of the teachers also boarded with her. Later, Mrs. Mason moved into the Kramph property, which occupied the north-east corner of West Chestnut and Charlotte streets. Mr. Bruning and his sister, Mary J. Bruning, still boarded with her; and when Mrs. Mason moved to 108 East King, where she was living in 1869, Mr. Bruning accompanied her.

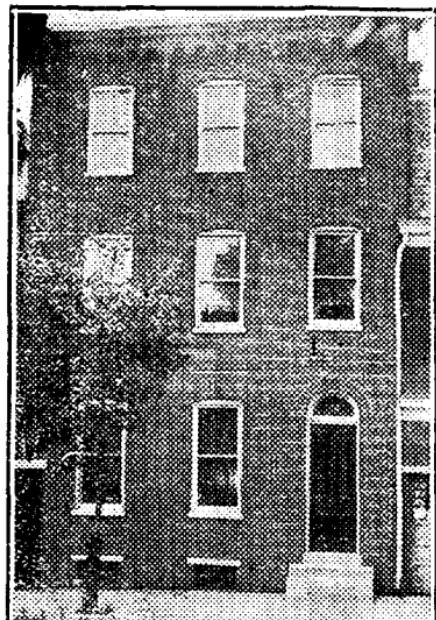
The first annual session of the Conestoga Collegiate Institute closed on Thursday, June 28th, 1866, at which time a matinee was given in the lecture room of St. John's Lutheran church. A large and appreciative audience was present. The exercises consisted of recitations, essays, dialogues and musical selections. The students taking an active part, were Ida Cadwell, Louisa Long, Mary Reed, Hattie Jordan, Anna Baumgardner, Eugenia Cockley, Dora Martin, Lizzie Shenk, Mamie Beates, Sudie Baumgardner, Annis Bare, Lillie Martin, Julia Martin, Clara Baumgardner, Louisa Reinoehl, Mary Logan, Emma Hauks, Margie Baumgardner, Mary J. Bruning and Mazie Baker.

Following the close of the exercises, a meeting of the scholars and their parents was held for an interchange of views with the

idea of promoting the efficiency, usefulness and success of the institute. During the year the number of students had increased from fourteen to twenty-five.

The second annual session opened on Tuesday, September 4th, 1866.

During the spring of the following year, the institute moved its quarters to the building No. 32 North Prince street.<sup>1</sup> The first term of the third annual session began on Wednesday, September 4th, 1867.



*Building at 32 South Lime Street, Lancaster, Pa.,  
in which the Conestoga Collegiate Institute was  
established in September, 1865*

On Tuesday evening, May 19th, 1868, an entertainment was given in Fulton Hall by the young ladies who attended the institute. The Daily Evening Express, of Wednesday, May 20th, in describing the event, stated:

"The program was varied, and the characters admirably sustained. The audience was large and appreciative; and the pro-

<sup>1</sup> The original building is still standing, although very much altered. The number of the house has been changed to 48. At the present time W. A. Hammond conducts a florist's shop in a part of the first floor. The school was held in the parlor.

# CONESTOGA COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

## COMMENCEMENT.

Fulton Hall, June 29, 1869.

### GRADUATES.

MARY E. GEIST, ADA FAHNESTOCK,  
LILLIE E. MARTIN, MARY W. BAKER.

### PROGRAMME:

1. PRAYER, ..... BISHOP BIGLER.
2. CHORUS—"Strike the Harp," .....
3. ADDRESS, ..... REV. THOS. B. BARKER.
4. SALUTATORY AND ESSAY—Unseen Battle Fields, ..... MARY E. GEIST.
5. DUETT—Instrumental—Mephisto Galop, ..... { MARY W. BAKER.  
ANNIE C. PATTERSON.
6. SELECTION—The Daughter of Jairus, ..... HALLIE MUSSelman.
7. CHORUS—The Nightingale and the Rose, .....
8. ESSAY—The Power of Silence, ..... LILLIE E. MARTIN.
9. DUETT—Instrumental—Milanollo March, ..... { FLORENCE GEIST.  
ANNIE SPRECHER.
10. SELECTION—Scatter the Germs of the Beautiful, ..... ANNIE M. BAUMGARDNER.
11. SOLO—Instrumental—Il Trovatore, ..... MARY W. BAKER.
12. SELECTION—Miss MacBride, ..... DORA MARTIN.
13. CHORUS—What are the Wild Waves Saying? .....
14. ESSAY—Nothing but Leaves, ..... ADA FAHNESTOCK.
15. SOLO—Vocal—Love's Request, ..... DORA MARTIN.
16. SELECTION—The Bridge of Sighs, ..... ANNIE C. PATTERSON.
17. DUETT—Instrumental—Amarante Quadrilles, ..... { ADA FAHNESTOCK.  
LILLIE E. MARTIN.
18. VALEDICTORY AND ESSAY—The Importance of Little Things, ..... MARY W. BAKER.
19. DISTRIBUTION OF DIPLOMAS, .....
20. CHORUS—Tell Me Where do Fairies Dwell, .....
21. ADDRESS, ..... REV. E. GREENWALD, D.D.
22. BENEDICTION, ..... BISHOP BIGLER.

MUSIC CONDUCTED BY PROF. GLEFFER.

Piano from Kevinski's Music Store.

ceeds, added to those of the previous exhibition, will be a handsome contribution towards the furnishing of the school room of the new 'Home' building. The music was furnished gratuitously by Prof. A. Bowman's orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. [W. H.] Keffer."

The fourth annual session began on Tuesday, September 8th, 1868.

The first commencement of the institute was held in Fulton Hall, on Tuesday evening, June 29th, 1869. Four young ladies were graduated: Mary E. Geist, Lillie E. Martin, Ada Fahnestock and Mary W. Baker. The hall was filled with a highly respectable and appreciative audience, who listened, with interest, for two and a half hours, to the exercises. Bishop David Bigler, pastor of the Moravian church, made a prayer, and addresses were delivered by the Rev. Thomas B. Barker, rector of St. John's Protestant Episcopal church, and the Rev. Dr. Emanuel Greenwald, pastor of Trinity Lutheran church. In addition to those who were graduated, the following pupils participated in the exercises: Annie C. Patterson, Hallie Musselman, Florence Geist, Annie Sprecher, Annie M. Baumgardner and Dora Martin.

The Daily Evening Express, of Wednesday, June 30th, 1869, in commenting on the exercises, stated, in part, as follows:

"The essays of the graduating class were well written, and the delivery did great credit to the principal as a teacher of correct reading. The selections of the other young ladies were all in good taste and well read, some excelling their companions in their clearness of enunciation.

"Considering that music has not been taught in the institute as a special accomplishment, this part of the program was equally creditable to the school and to that excellent musical director, Mr. [J. E.] Gleffer, who had charge of this department.

"The addresses by the Rev. Mr. Barker and Dr. Greenwald gave those present a clearer idea of the character and excellence of this institute than most of them had ever before entertained. The former has been a frequent visitor at the school, and having himself been an excellent and successful teacher, his opinion had great weight when he so warmly endorsed this school as being one of the very best of which he had any knowledge. In this he but confirmed the opinion expressed in this paper at various times.

We have had ample opportunity of knowing, during the past four years, that for thoroughness of instruction the Conestoga Collegiate Institute is without a superior; and the only wonder is that with such a first-class institution at home, any of our citizens should send their daughters to be educated away from the wholesome influences of the home and the family circle; but as Dr. Greenwald remarked, in his excellent address to the young ladies, we yet hope to see this school so prosper that in a few years a handsome and commodious building, inscribed, 'Conestoga Collegiate Institute,' will be no less an architectural adornment than a literary credit to our city. Certainty, if thorough scholarship, incessant labor, and zealous devotion to the profession of teaching, deserves success, that reward is due to Mr. Bruning.

"A handsome diploma was presented to each graduate by the principal. These diplomas read as follows:

"Instituted, A. D. 1865.  
"Conestoga Collegiate Institute,  
"Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

"This Diploma certifies that ..... has completed the full course of study required in the Conestoga Collegiate Institute, and, after passing a rigid examination, has taken the first rank in scholarship; also, that for uniform excellence of deportment, her name is inscribed on the roll of honor.

"Given this 29th day of June, A. D., 1869.

"H. H. Bruning, Principal."

The fifth annual session of the institute began on Monday, September 6th, 1869.

The Daily Evening Express of Thursday, October 28th, 1869, contained the following:

"The pupils of the Conestoga Collegiate Institute started on a nutting expedition this morning, Mr. J. B. Kevinski acting as cicerone. Their destination is the woods near Mount Hope, beyond Manheim."

The last reference to the school, in local papers, appeared in the Daily Evening Express, of Thursday, August 11th, 1870. The Rev. Mr. Bruning advertised that the Conestoga Collegiate Insti-

tute, a seminary for young ladies, located at 32 North Prince street, would begin its sixth annual session on Tuesday, September 6th, 1870. Whether the school was opened, as advertised, is not known. It is generally thought that it was discontinued about this time, owing to a lack of patronage.

The Rev. Dr. Herman Henry Bruning, founder and principal of the Conestoga Collegiate Institute, was born in Baltimore, Md., May 17th, 1835. He received his education in the private and public schools of his native city and was graduated in the first class of Baltimore City College.

As a tutor and teacher in private schools, including Lamb's Friends' school and the Baltimore Blind asylum, he was eminently successful. He taught seven languages at one time during this period. He studied theology privately, and was ordained by the Maryland Synod, October 15th, 1860. During the year previous to his ordination he served as a missionary.

Dr. Bruning served the following churches as pastor: city missionary, Baltimore, five years; Strasburg, Pa., six years; Millersville, Pa., four years; Selinsgrove, Pa., two years; and Erie, Pa., five and a half years. He preached his first sermon in White Haven, Pa., his last charge, in October, 1880. The congregation of St. Paul's church, White Haven, were planning a quadruple jubilee in his honor in 1914. It was to include the recognition of their pastor's seventy-ninth year of life, fifty-fourth as a Lutheran minister, and thirty-fourth as the beloved pastor of St. Paul's, together with the fiftieth anniversary of the congregation. The jubilee was to have begun October 25th, or two weeks after his death which occurred on Sunday morning, October 11th, 1914.

Dr. Bruning was married to Miss Frances Gable, of Lancaster, Pa., September 23rd, 1873. She, with their two daughters, preceded him into eternal life.

The funeral services were held in St. Paul's church, White Haven, Pa., October 14th, 1914, and interment was in the White Haven cemetery.