

John C. Breckinridge, Democratic candidate for the Vice-Presidency of the United States, was in Lancaster on Tuesday, September 9th. He dined with Mr. Buchanan at Wheatland, and left on the afternoon train for Pittsburgh.³⁹

The following week, Mr. Buchanan paid a brief visit to his brother, the Rev. Edward Young Buchanan, rector of Trinity Protestant Episcopal church, Oxford, Philadelphia. On the day of his arrival in Philadelphia, Thursday, September 18th, he was called upon by the Young Men's Democratic club, of New York, and serenaded by their band. The following day was spent at the Merchants' hotel, where he was visited by thousands of his fellow-citizens. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed. He returned to Lancaster on Monday, September 22nd.⁴⁰

Sir Henry Holland, physician to Queen Victoria, visited Mr. Buchanan at Wheatland on Wednesday, October 1st.⁴¹

(To be continued)

THE LANCASTER COUNTY ACADEMY

By WILLIAM FREDERIC WORNER

MANY of the present-day generation who walk up and down the second block of North Lime street, do not know that the row of houses, 109 to 115, was at one time a building devoted to the advancement of education. While many changes have been made in the venerable structure during the past century, the main portion of the building is much the same as it was when erected in 1827 for the use of The Lancaster County Academy.

In preparing this monograph, I realize that the subject is not an original one. A brief history of this institution appears in Dr. Joseph Henry Dubbs's excellent "History of Franklin and Marshall

³⁹ The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, September 16th, 1856.

⁴⁰ The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, September 23rd, 1856.

⁴¹ The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, October 7th, 1856.

College," issued in 1903. Since that work was published, however, I have discovered, in files of local newspapers, references to this ancient seat of learning that enable me to prepare a more complete history of it than appears in the able work above referred to. What I am presenting, however, is, I fear, somewhat disconnected and fragmentary, as it was gleaned almost wholly from local newspaper accounts. I have not had access to the original records of the academy, and, indeed, do not know whether or not they are in existence.

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, March 30th, 1827, contained an announcement that citizens of Lancaster interested in the fate of a bill before the Legislature of Pennsylvania for the incorporation of an academy in the city of Lancaster, were requested to meet in the court house on that evening, at half past seven o'clock.

A subsequent issue of the paper stated that the meeting was held, as announced. John Risdell was called to the chair, and Benjamin Champneys and John R. Montgomery were appointed secretaries.

James Buchanan, Esq., announced that the meeting was convened for the purpose of considering the provisions of a bill for the incorporation of The Lancaster County Academy, which had passed the Senate of Pennsylvania; and also the beneficial effects which should result to the citizens of Lancaster. A committee, consisting of James Buchanan, — Keffer, — Moore, E. C. Reigart, Thomas Wentz, James Johnson and Philip Benedict, drafted the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That this meeting highly approve of the provisions of the bill which has passed the Senate, for the incorporation of The Lancaster County Academy; and that while the past services of the representatives from this county, in behalf of the said bill, are duly appreciated, they be and are hereby respectfully and earnestly requested to continue their efforts for its final success.

"Resolved, That the nomination of trustees in the said bill, as it passed the Senate, is decidedly approved by this meeting; and will, if concurred in by the House of Representatives, secure the confidence of the community and promote the best interests of the institution.

"Resolved, That a copy of the foregoing resolutions, signed by the chairman and secretaries, be forwarded to each of the representatives from Lancaster county.

"Resolved, That George B. Porter, Esq., and Dr. Frederick A. Muhlenberg, be a committee to visit Harrisburg for the purpose of aiding in the accomplishment of the important object of the meeting."¹

A committee, consisting of the Rev. William Ashmead, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, the Rev. Joseph Clarkson, rector of St. James's Protestant Episcopal church, the Rev. Levi Silliman Ives, co-rector of St. James's church, the Rev. Bernard Keenan, rector of St. Mary's Roman Catholic church, the Rev. John G. Herman, pastor of the Moravian church, the Rev. John Henry Hoffmeier, pastor of the First Reformed church, the Rev. Christian L. F. Endress, pastor of Trinity Lutheran church, George Bryan Porter, William Jenkins, Jonas Dorwart and Robert Evans, was appointed to superintend the raising, by subscription, of the sum required by the bill for the incorporation of the academy.

This bill for the purpose of establishing an academy and granting an appropriation, was discussed in the Legislature on April 12th, 1827. Mr. Lehman was in the chair. Mr. J. R. C. Smith stated that he felt sure the bill would meet with no opposition in the House, since it came from the Senate, where it had been given a thorough examination; but in the absence of William Barber, the representative from Lancaster county, who had it directly in charge, he felt called upon to advocate it and to make a few remarks in favor of its passage. He considered it at all times becoming, in fact incumbent, on the Legislature of Pennsylvania, to establish and encourage institutions of learning and education. He thought it was more particularly so in this case, since Lancaster county, though populous and flourishing in other respects, had never had an academy; and that Franklin College, for reasons unknown to him, was in a somewhat decayed state. The bill proposed to establish the academy on the most liberal principles, and the board of trustees was composed of Christians of all denominations.

The bill called for an appropriation from the State of \$3,000. This, Mr. Smith reminded his colleagues, was not asked as a grant but as the payment of a debt justly claimed by the county of Lancaster; that years prior to this time, the State had voted to most of the counties certain sums for academies. Long ago, Lancas-

¹ Lancaster Journal. Friday, April 6th, 1827.

ter county should have been granted \$2,000, but inasmuch as it was not received, this sum, with interest, would now amount to about \$4,000.² After a second and third reading, the act of incorporation of The Lancaster County Academy was passed by the Legislature of Pennsylvania, April 14th, 1827, and is as follows:

AN ACT INCORPORATING THE LANCASTER COUNTY ACADEMY.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That there shall be and hereby is established in the city of Lancaster, in the county of Lancaster, an academy for the education of youth in the learned languages, useful arts and sciences, and general literature, by the name, style and title of "The Lancaster County Academy."

SECTION 2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said institution shall be under the management, direction and government of a number of trustees not exceeding fifteen, and until others shall be elected as hereinafter provided: The trustees of the said academy shall consist of the following persons, viz. — The Rev. William Ashmead, Rev. Joseph Clarkson, Rev. Christian Endress, Adam Reigart, George B. Porter, Edward Coleman, William Jenkins, John Reynolds, George Musser, Frederick A. Muhlenberg, Samuel Dale, George H. Krug, George L. Mayer and Jasper Slaymaker, of the city of Lancaster, Esquires, and James Coleman, of the county of Lancaster; which said fifteen trustees, and their successors to be elected as hereinafter provided, shall forever be and they are hereby created, established and declared to be one body politic and corporate, with perpetual succession, in deed and in law, by the name, style, and title of "The Lancaster County Academy," and by the same name shall be able to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in all courts of record, and elsewhere; and shall be competent and capable, in law and equity, to take and to hold, to them and their successors, for the use of said academy, any estate in lands, tenements, or hereditaments, goods, chattels, stock, monies, or other effects, of what kind, nature, or quality soever, by gift, grant, bargain, sale, conveyance, assurance, will, devise, or bequest, from any person or persons whomsoever, capable of making the same: Provided, the same does not exceed the yearly value of ten thousand dollars, and the same from time to time to grant, bargain, sell, demise, alien, lease, place out on interest, or otherwise dispose of, for the use and benefit of said academy, and to receive the rents, issues, profits, income and interest thereof, and to apply the same to the proper use of the said academy; and to erect such buildings as may be necessary, and generally, to do all and singular acts, deeds, matters, and things, which shall be lawful for them to do, for the well being of the said academy, and the due management and ordering the affairs thereof.

² Lancaster Journal, Friday, April 27th, 1827.

SECTION 3. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees shall hold their first meeting, in the city of Lancaster, on the first Thursday in May next, and shall meet on the first Thursday in May in each succeeding year, or on such other day or days as may be agreed upon by a majority of the said trustees; and when so met, any eight thereof shall constitute a quorum, who shall have the power of transacting the business of said corporation, particularly in making and enacting ordinances and by-laws for the government thereof, of filling vacancies in the board of trustees occasioned by death, resignation, or otherwise; electing and appointing the principal, as well as masters and tutors for said academy, and at their pleasure removing the same; of agreeing with them for, and paying their salaries, of appointing a president, secretary, treasurer, and other necessary officers; of taking care of the funds and managing the concerns of the corporation, and of determining all matters and things, necessary to be determined and transacted by the said trustees: Provided, That no ordinance or by-law, shall have any force or effect, which may be repugnant to the Constitution or laws of the United States, or of this State: And Provided, That all persons of every religious denomination shall be capable of being elected trustees; nor shall any person, either as principal, master, tutor or pupil, be refused admittance on account of his conscientious persuasion in matters of religion, provided he demean himself in a sober, orderly manner, and conform to the rules and regulations of the academy.

SECTION 4. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees shall cause to be made, for their use, one common seal, with suitable devices and inscriptions thereon, under and by which, all deeds, certificates, and acts of the said corporation, shall pass and be authenticated, and the same seal, at their pleasure, from time to time, to change and alter: the business of the said corporation shall and may be transacted and performed by the number of trustees constituting a quorum, as aforesaid; and all by-laws, ordinances, and proceedings of the corporation, shall be fairly and regularly entered in a book or books to be kept for that purpose; and no misnomer of the said corporation shall defeat or annul any gift, grant, devise or bequest to, or for the use of, the said corporation: Provided, The intent of the party or parties shall sufficiently appear on the face of the gift, grant, will, or other writing, whereby any estate, or other interest, was intended to pass to the said corporation; nor shall any disuser or non user of the rights, liberties, privileges, jurisdictions, and authorities, hereby granted to the said corporation, create, or in any wise cause, a forfeiture thereof.

SECTION 5. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That no sale or alienation of the real estate of the said corporation, which may be made by the said trustees, or their successors, *bona fide*, for a valuable consideration, in case the possession thereof pass immediately to the purchaser or purchasers, and continue in him, her, or them, his, her, or their heirs or assigns, shall be considered invalid for want of proving that eight of said trustees of said corporation consented to such sale or alienation, unless the

same be controverted within the space of five years from and after the sale and delivery of such real estate, to the purchaser or purchasers thereof.

SECTION 6. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the sum of three thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby granted, to be paid to the treasurer of the said institution, on the order of the trustees, or a majority of them, by warrant drawn by the governor on the State treasurer; two thousand dollars thereof to enable them to erect a suitable building, or buildings, for the said academy, and to purchase books, mathematical instruments, and the necessary philosophical apparatus, or to be otherwise applied, under their direction, in such manner, as they shall believe most advantageous for promoting the objects of said institution; and the remaining one thousand dollars shall be placed in some productive fund or funds,³ and the income or profits thereof, shall be forever applied in aid of other revenues or resources to compensate a teacher or teachers in said academy; but the money hereby granted, shall not be paid until the sum of two thousand dollars shall have been paid, or secured to be paid by private subscription, for the benefit of said institution; which fact shall be certified, by said trustees, or a majority of them, to the governor; and in consequence of the aforesaid grant, there shall be admitted into the said academy, any number of poor children, not exceeding four, who may at any time be offered to be taught gratis; but none of the said children, so to be admitted, shall continue to be taught gratis in said academy, (should others apply), longer than two years, unless the trustees or a majority of them, should determine otherwise.

Office of the clerk of the Senate, April 14th, 1827.

I certify the foregoing to be a correct copy, as passed by both branches of the Legislature, and approved by the governor.

Witness my hand, this 14th April, A. D., 1827.

Jno. DePui.⁴

The first meeting of the trustees was held on May 5th, 1827. Between two and three thousand dollars were subscribed by citizens of Lancaster city and county.⁵ Fortunately, we have a record of one of the original subscription papers, which is as follows:

"We, the subscribers, believing that the establishment of an academy in the county of Lancaster, under the conditions contained in the bill now pending before the Legislature for the incorporation of 'The Lancaster County Academy,' is not only desirable but necessary, hereby agree to contribute

³ It may be interesting to note that this sum was invested in stock of the Bank of the United States.

⁴ Lancaster Journal, Friday, April 20th, 1827. "The Charter, By-Laws, and Regulations of The Lancaster County Academy. Lancaster: John Reynolds, Printer, 1827." A copy of this pamphlet was in possession of the Rev. Dr. Joseph Henry Dubbs at the time he prepared his history of Franklin and Marshall College.

⁵ Lancaster Journal, Friday, May 18th, 1827.

the sums affixed to our names, respectively, in the aid of the same. The money to be paid to such person as shall be designated by the trustees, when demanded. Jan. 31st, 1827.⁶

"Edward Coleman.....	\$150	Molton C. Rogers.....	\$50
William Jenkins.....	100	James Buchanan.....	50
George Bryan Porter.....	100	Thomas G. Henderson.....	50
William Kirkpatrick.....	100	Robert Evans.....	50
Mrs. Jasper Yeates.....	100	Jasper Slaymaker.....	50
Langdon Cheves.....	100	Samuel Dale.....	50
William Coleman.....	150	Amos Ellmaker.....	50
Cyrus Jacobs.....	150	E. C. Reigart.....	50
Thomas B. Coleman.....	100	F. W. Muhlenberg.....	50
		John Reynolds.....	50."

It is greatly to be regretted that we do not have a complete list of all the subscribers to this most worthy cause, as it would be a valuable addition to our local history. In the list above given, the names of some of the foremost citizens of Lancaster are included. It will be observed that they subscribed over \$1,500.

The Lancaster Journal of Friday, May 18th, 1827, contained the following:

"The trustees have unanimously agreed upon the Rev. Joseph Barr as the principal of the academy, and although he has not yet accepted, it is hoped and believed he will. His high standing, respectability and literary attainments eminently qualify him for this station. We further learn that the trustees have appointed a committee for the purpose of selecting a suitable lot, and another committee to report a plan of a building; and in order to facilitate the immediate establishment of the academy, they have obtained the use of one of the rooms of Franklin College, until a suitable building can be erected, and have adopted their rules and regulations for the government of the institution, and expect to open the school on the first of July. [Times have changed. Few schools are now open in July]. Thus, from the activity and indefatigable exertions of the committee, in little more than two months from the passage of the law authorizing the erection of the academy, the citizens will have the pleasure of seeing it in operation."

Contrary to the announcement in the Lancaster Journal, the academy was not opened on the first of July; and the old Franklin College building, which at that time was in the fifth block of North Queen street, west side, was not used to house the infant institution.

Dr. Dubbs states that a lot of ground, measuring sixty-eight

⁶ Dubbs, pp. 116-117.

feet on East Orange street, and two hundred and forty-five feet on North Lime street, was acquired from Michael Gundacker on June 1st, 1827.⁷ The commissioners appointed to receive proposals for the erection of an academy advertised in local papers that specifications and plans could be seen at the office of George Bryan Porter, in Lancaster. Bids were required to be in the hands of William Jenkins, the secretary, before the last Friday in June.⁸ The building was erected in the summer of 1827, by Jacob Hensel and Joshua W. Jack, contractors, for \$2,325. on the lot at the northeast corner of Lime and Orange streets. Dr. Dubbs writes: "It must, however, be borne in mind that only a part of the building, as some of us remember it, was erected at this time. As described in the original plan, it was of two stories, containing in front thirty-eight feet in the clear, and extending thirty feet in depth. On each story, there was a room thirty feet square; and on the northern side an entry eight feet wide, in which the stairs were placed. At the head of the stairs, on the second story, there was a small room, about eight by twelve feet in size. The roof, which was covered with slate, was four-sided, coming to a point in the center, on which was erected a small cupola, to contain the bell."⁹

The Rev. Joseph Barr, pastor of the Leacock and Middle Octorara Presbyterian churches, was chosen principal of the academy, and though at first inclined to accept the call, finally declined, at the request of his congregations. James P. Wilson, Jr., a son of the Rev. James Patriot Wilson, D.D., pastor of the First Presbyterian church, Philadelphia, was then elected, and the

⁷ The records in the court house show that the lot of ground at the northeast corner of Orange and Lime streets, known as Lot No. 501, on the plan of the city of Lancaster, was acquired from Robert Evans, who married Ann Margaret, daughter of Michael Gundacker. Mr. Evans entered into a verbal agreement for the sale and conveyance of the ground; and on the faith of this agreement the trustees of The Lancaster County Academy erected buildings on the lot. Robert Evans, however, died before the property, which his wife had inherited from her father, was conveyed in writing and the purchase money paid by the trustees. In view of this, Ann Margaret Evans, for the sum of 450 dollars, subject to certain considerations, on November 27th, 1839, legally conveyed the property to the trustees of the academy.

⁸ Lancaster Journal, June 22nd, 1827.

⁹ The bell is still in existence, or at least it was in the possession of a gentleman residing near East Petersburg, Lancaster county, Pa., in 1903, at the time Dr. Dubbs prepared his history of Franklin and Marshall College.

school was formally opened on the fourth Tuesday of October, 1827. The Lancaster Journal of Friday, October 19th, 1827, contained an announcement that an appropriate address on the advantages of classical education and general literature, would be delivered by the Rev. William Ashmead, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, in the Moravian church, of which the Rev. John G. Herman was the pastor, on Monday evening, October 22nd, the evening preceding the opening of the academy. In a circular issued at this time there is the following statement:

“Youth may be here qualified to enter at least the junior class in our most respectable colleges; and as it is presumed that Dickinson College will be generally preferred by parents and guardians in this and adjoining counties, particular reference will be had to the requisites for admission to the several classes of that seminary.”¹⁰

An announcement appeared in local papers that the classical and mathematical departments of the academy would be opened on Tuesday, October 23rd, 1827. A room had been procured, not in the old Franklin College building, as announced earlier in the year, but in the house of Mrs. Kuhn, next door to William Jenkins, on West King street. The pupils would be taught here until January, 1828, when it was confidently expected that the building, which was then in the process of erection, would be ready for occupancy.¹¹

The last clause of the sixth section of the act of incorporation of the academy, specified that “There shall be admitted into the said academy, any number of poor children, not exceeding four, who may at any time be offered to be taught gratis, but none of the said children, so to be admitted, shall continue to be taught gratis in the said academy, (should others apply), longer than two years, unless the trustees or a majority of them, should determine otherwise.” In view of this provision, parents and others disposed to avail themselves of it were requested to make application for the admission of their children to the executive committee, which consisted of the Rev. William Ashmead, the Rev. John G. Herman and William Jenkins, Esq., on or before the stated meeting of the trustees on the last Friday in March, annually.¹²

¹⁰ Dubbs, p. 119.

¹¹ Lancaster Journal, Friday, October 19th, 1827.

¹² Lancaster Journal, Friday, January 4th, 1828.

The summer session of the school was advertised to commence on the fourth Tuesday of April, 1828, in the building at the north-east corner of Lime and Orange streets.¹³

Announcement was made in local papers that the semi-annual examination of the students of the academy would take place in the upper department of the new building, on Thursday, October 2nd, 1828, at nine o'clock in the morning. On the evening of that day, exercises in elocution by the pupils were held in the Moravian church.¹⁴

The winter session was advertised to commence on October 28th, 1828. The classical and mathematical departments were under the superintendance of James P. Wilson, Jr. Tuition was fifteen dollars a session, with an additional charge of one dollar during the winter for fuel. Boarding for boys could be had in the most respectable families, at two dollars a week.¹⁵

Mr. Wilson conducted the academy for about two years. At the opening, there were about twenty scholars; and it does not seem that the number was at any time much larger. Why it failed to prosper is now difficult to determine; but it is claimed that the school was too exclusive, and that the esteem in which the scholars were held was greatly influenced by the social position of their parents. The following letter of resignation indicates that the principal was not satisfied with the conditions of the academy:

"Lancaster, February 19th, 1829.

"Dear Sir,

"My own interests now clash with a longer residence in Lancaster and render it my duty to resign. I am young and cannot waste the best part of my life in doing nothing to any purpose. I feel grateful to the trustees for their kindness and attention, and proud also in having done my duty, I hope, to their satisfaction. I shall remain till the close of the session.

"Hoping that the institution may prosper, and leaving this as my resignation to the trustees,

"I am, Sir, yours respectfully,

"James P. Wilson, Jr."¹⁶

"To the Rev'd. Joseph Clarkson."

¹³ Lancaster Journal, Friday, April 11th, 1828.

¹⁴ Lancaster Journal, Friday, September 19th, 1828.

¹⁵ Lancaster Journal, Friday, October 3rd, 1828.

¹⁶ Dubbs. pp. 119-120.

The executive committee, consisting of the Rev. William Ashmead, the Rev. John G. Herman and William Jenkins, Esq., announced in local papers that the principal, James P. Wilson, Jr., was leaving the institution, and that applications from teachers desirous of obtaining the position would be received. The appointment would be made before the fourth Tuesday of April, 1829.¹⁷

Joel Erwin, who had been a teacher for several years in Philadelphia, secured the position. He informed the public that on Monday, April 6th, 1829, he would commence the tuition of the various branches of an English education in the academy, where young gentlemen entrusted to his care would receive unremitting attention.¹⁸ For some reason we do not know, which, doubtless, would prove very interesting, if made clear to us, Mr. Erwin taught but a single month in the institution.¹⁹

Robert Birch, A. B., was the next principal of the academy. He was appointed in the summer of 1829,²⁰ having been graduated at Dickinson College, Carlisle, in the same year. He brought highly commendatory letters, the originals of which are still in the archives of Franklin and Marshall College, from Professors Alexander McClelland, Henry Vethake and Joseph Spencer. He was to receive an annual salary of five hundred dollars. Subsequently, he was granted the privilege of supplementing his income by giving private instruction.²¹

A brief announcement in the Lancaster Journal of Friday, August 28th, 1829, informed the public that the academy would open on the first Tuesday of October of that year, under the direction of Mr. Birch. The opening, however, was delayed until three weeks later.

The trustees, who at this time consisted of the Rev. Joseph Clarkson, president, Adam Reigart, George Musser, James Coleman, George H. Krug, William Jenkins, Samuel Dale, John Reynolds, George Louis Mayer, Robert Evans, F. A. Muhlenberg and George Bryan Porter, informed the public of the engagement

¹⁷ Lancaster Journal, Friday, March 20th, 1829.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Dubbs, p. 120.

²⁰ Lancaster Journal, Friday, August 28th, 1829.

²¹ Dubbs, p. 120.

of Robert Birch, as principal of the academy. The long recess which had occurred since the resignation of the former principal, rendered the notice in local papers necessary. Applications for admission to the school were requested to be made at once, as considerable time was required properly to classify the pupils.²²

Mr. Birch remained for little more than a year. In his letter of resignation, dated December 27th, 1830, he says:

"I am pained to think that I have been incompetent to the task of placing the institution committed to my charge in that scale of literary and scientific advancement it so deservedly merits If vigorous endeavors are persevered in with my more successful successor, '*haud dubie*,' you will obtain the consummation devoutly to be wished."²³

On Tuesday, October 25th, 1831, sessions were resumed, under a new principal, — John B. Patterson.²⁴ How long he served as the head of the academy is not definitely known. He was succeeded by Dr. James Power, who, on June 8th, 1832, advertised for a teacher, preferably a young man, who could furnish satisfactory references as to ability and character, to take charge of the classical department.²⁵

Prof. John Keenan, who succeeded Dr. Power as principal, announced that the academy would be reopened on August 26th, 1833. An advertisement in local papers at this time contained the following:

"Those who are desirous of being well and thoroughly instructed in what appertains to merchandise, mechanics, and the counting house, will be received on the most reasonable terms; and young gentlemen, zealous for distinction in the first colleges of the country, by an accomplished, sound and radical knowledge of the mathematics, and of the Latin, Greek, French and Spanish languages, might do well to attend."²⁶

An examination of the students took place on Friday, July 18th, 1834, under the direction of Prof. Keenan.²⁷ Summer vacations were short in those days. Local papers announced that the academy would be reopened and studies resumed in August.²⁸

²² Lancaster Journal, Friday, October 2nd, 1829.

²³ Dubbs, p. 121.

²⁴ Lancaster Journal, Friday, October 14th, 1831.

²⁵ Lancaster Journal, Friday, June 8th, 1832.

²⁶ Lancaster Journal, Friday, August 23rd, 1833.

²⁷ Lancaster Journal, Friday, July 18th, 1834.

²⁸ Lancaster Journal, Friday, August 1st, 1834.

Two months later, the public was informed that the Rev. Charles A. Van Vleck, pastor of the Moravian church, had assumed charge of the institution, and that he had appointed William R. Work, his assistant.²⁹ The Rev. Dr. Samuel Bowman, rector of St. James's Protestant Episcopal church, was president of the board of trustees.³⁰

In the spring of 1836, the Rev. Aaron A. Marcelus, eminently qualified by classical and literary attainments, was elected principal.³¹ The trustees at this time were: Hon. James Buchanan, president; Rev. John C. Baker, Rev. J. T. Marshal Davie, Rev. Samuel Reinke, Adam Reigart, William Jenkins, John Reynolds, George Louis Mayer, George Musser, Dr. F. A. Muhlenberg, Samuel Dale, George H. Krug, Dr. Samuel Humes and Redmond Conyngham.³²

Mr. Marcelus announced that there would be no vacation until October, 1836. Pupils were admitted at any time. During the warm weather, the morning session was held from 5:15, A.M., to 7 o'clock.³³ Owing to the increased number of students, Mr. Marcelus was obliged to procure the assistance of an usher. He engaged a man, who in addition to an excellent character and a thorough classical and mathematical education, had taught for several years in the seminary at Nazareth, Pa.³⁴ The Rev. Mr. Merz taught German, when any students desired to study that language.³⁵ On May 1st, of the following year, J. J. Van Antwerp, a graduate of Union College, N. Y., was employed to teach in the scientific department.³⁶ Later in the summer, Mr. Marcelus found that the duties had increased to such an extent that it was necessary to have another teacher, and C. P. Waller was employed, in addition to Mr. Antwerp.³⁷ On Friday, August 11th, 1837, an

²⁹ Examiner & Herald, Thursday, October 23rd, 1834.

³⁰ Lancaster Journal, Friday, April 8th, 1836.

³¹ Ibid.

³² The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, June 28th, 1836.

³³ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, August 2nd, 1836.

³⁴ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, September 6th, 1836.

³⁵ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, February 28th, 1837.

³⁶ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, April 18th, 1837.

³⁷ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, July 11th, 1837.

examination of the students was held.³⁸ After a brief vacation, sessions were resumed on Monday, August 28th.³⁹

In the spring of the following year, Mr. Marcellus advertised in local newspapers that he would receive into his home, which was near the academy building, twelve pupils under twelve years of age. Parents desirous of entering their sons in the school, were requested to make immediate application. Mr. Marcellus's experience for seven years in preparing young men for college and the various pursuits of life (two years of which he had had charge of The Lancaster County Academy), enabled him to speak with confidence of his ability to communicate knowledge, develop the intellectual powers, and form correct mental and moral habits.⁴⁰

Instructions in the English, classical, and mathematical departments were resumed on Monday, September 3rd, 1838.⁴¹

It is generally supposed that the Rev. Mr. Marcellus was the last principal of the institution. He resigned some time during the year 1839, apparently, for The Lancaster Intelligencer of Tuesday, November 12th, of that year states, that The Lancaster County Academy was opened for the reception of classical scholars. Application for admission was to be made to the teachers or to the board of trustees, of which the Rev. Dr. John C. Baker, pastor of Trinity Lutheran church, was the president. As Mr. Marcellus's name is not appended to the advertisement, as was the case with previous notices during the time he had charge of the institution, it is fair to assume that he had resigned.

It is doubtful if any students applied for admission, for late in the autumn of that year the academy was closed and its board of trustees practically ceased to exist.⁴²

During a part of its existence, the academy received students from public schools, on certificate from their principal teacher. A number of these certificates are preserved in the archives of Franklin and Marshall College, the following of which is an unusually fine recommendation:⁴³

³⁸ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, August 8th, 1837.

³⁹ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, August 22nd, 1837.

⁴⁰ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, April 24th, 1838.

⁴¹ The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, August 28th, 1838.

⁴² Ellis and Evans, p. 407.

⁴³ Dubbs, pp. 121-123.

"Lancaster, Jan. 19th, 1828.

"George Hubley has been a member of the public school in this city upwards of three years. He has passed through all the different degrees of preferment until he has attained the station of monitor, of the first grade, a dignity inferior only to that of tutor. He is a very studious and intelligent lad, making it his pride and his pleasure to secure the approbation of being not only one of the best scholars but one of the best boys in his class. His proficiency in arithmetic, English grammar and geography, well qualifies him for a more extended course of study.

"With many wishes for his future welfare, I can cheerfully recommend him as a youth of good disposition and one of whom I have conceived no ordinary expectations.

"Alexr. Varian,

"Teacher of the public school, Lancaster."

It will be observed that the public schools were conducted according to the so-called Lancasterian system, and that the relation between the schools and the academy was very intimate. With all the efforts that were made, however, the latter institution was never prosperous. Some of the original subscriptions remained unpaid, and, on October 19th, 1830, the following circular was addressed to delinquents:

"Dear Sir,

"To a gentleman of your intelligence it would certainly be useless to say one word about the importance of education. It was discreditable to the city that we had no academy or grammar school. A number of public-spirited individuals petitioned the Legislature [for an academy], who granted a Charter of Incorporation in the usual manner, with an appropriation to be paid to us on condition that we should raise by subscription \$2,000. Having obtained this subscription, we purchased a lot and erected a building; and since then a very useful school has been kept in it. The number of scholars is, however, barely — or perhaps not quite — sufficient to pay the principal and the current expenses. We are yet in debt for a small part of the building, and are now called on for the balance of the lot. We have no funds to meet these demands. Shall we suffer the school to be broken up, and this public building to be sold under the hammer, for about \$550? Unless those who subscribed, and on the faith of whose subscription the building was put up, come forward, this must be the case. No further appeal need, we trust, be made to induce you to call upon the treasurer at once and pay the amount you owe.

"We address a similar letter to each delinquent subscriber; and should this last notice not be attended to, after years of indulgence given, you cannot blame either the committee, or the board, for resorting to the only remain-

ing mode of enforcing payment. We ask you to discharge this sum before the next meeting of the board, which will be on the 27th inst. We are convinced that you do not know the need we have for money, or you would have paid this small sum long since.

“Duty to the public is the only motive which could induce us to be thus urgent.

“Very respectfully,

“Your friends and obt. servts.,

“.....”

It does not appear that this urgent appeal brought the expected relief.

The number of pupils who attended the academy at this time seems not to have been very large. The trustees rented a part of the building to the newly organized Infant School Society. On January 9th, 1832, the society opened a model school in the academy building, with forty-four scholars in attendance. The number was soon increased to one hundred and twenty; and the school occupied the building for several years.⁴⁴

The building was also used for other purposes. Mr. Coad delivered a course of lectures in it, beginning Wednesday evening, January 21st, 1835, on astronomy, geography, mineralogy and geology.⁴⁵

Two years later, the Lancaster Conservatory of the Arts and Sciences and City Lyceum, used the upper story. On July 3rd, 1837, the Rev. Mr. Cruse delivered the introductory lecture before the lyceum.⁴⁶ Several weeks later, Dr. George B. Kerfoot gave a lecture on the anatomy and physiology of the eye before this learned body, in the same room.⁴⁷ The Jefferson Debating Society also met in the academy building. On Thursday evening, May 31st, 1838, Daniel B. Vondersmith delivered a lecture to the society on “Man’s Intellectual Powers.”⁴⁸ The Rev. E. Kingsford, of

⁴⁴ Proceedings of The Lancaster County Historical Society, Vol. xxxiv, pp. 31-37.

⁴⁵ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, January 20th, 1835.

⁴⁶ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, June 20th, 1837.

⁴⁷ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, July 11th, 1837.

⁴⁸ The Lancaster Union, Tuesday, May 29th, 1838.

Harrisburg, Pa., preached in the academy on Sunday, September 29th 1839.⁴⁹

For some years the academy struggled on, until its condition was almost hopeless. Its liabilities were not large; but it may as well be confessed that no philanthropist had sufficient confidence in its future to make it the object of his benevolence. At last, some one wisely conceived the idea that the academy might secure relief by uniting with Franklin College. The latter institution had, during the time the academy was in operation, maintained its organization, though it had not been active in the work of education.

The Rev. Dr. John C. Baker, pastor of Trinity Lutheran church, was elected president of the board of trustees of Franklin College, June 11th, 1828. He was also chosen president of the board of The Lancaster County Academy. At the same time, the Hon. Samuel Dale served as secretary of both boards. The academy appealed to the college for financial aid, especially for the purpose of satisfying a mortgage which was about to be foreclosed. It was suggested that the college board might sell its old building in the fifth block of North Queen street, west side, and apply the proceeds to the relief and restoration of the academy. At the annual meeting of the college board, held October 19th, 1837, it was, on motion of Dr. Smucker,

“Resolved, That a committee be appointed to dispose of the present real estate of Franklin College, in the city of Lancaster, provided the trustees of The Lancaster County Academy are willing to dispose of their real estate in the city of Lancaster, and are able to make a good title for it; and that if said academy can be procured at a reasonable price, the same committee be authorized to purchase the said academy for the corporation of Franklin College.”⁵⁰

The proposed arrangement was soon effected, as was no doubt anticipated when the above resolution was adopted. The old college building on North Queen street was sold on September 17th, 1840, to John S. Gable, for \$2,000. Subsequently, it was converted into six dwelling houses (433-48 North Queen street). The old building is thus used at the present time (1933).

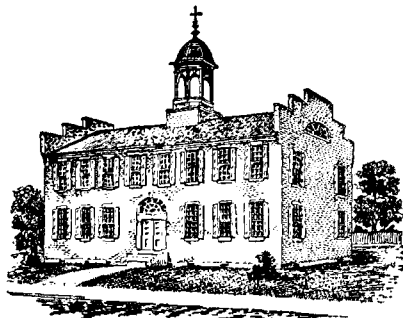
By an act of the Legislature, passed May 15th, 1839, the trustees of the academy were authorized to convey their building and grounds to the trustees of Franklin College. It appears that

⁴⁹ The Lancaster Intelligencer, Tuesday, September 24th, 1839.

⁵⁰ Dubbs n. 125.

on August 12th, 1840, the latter paid for the property of the academy, \$593.34, the exact amount of the pressing claim referred to.

An addition to the academy building on North Lime street, was erected in 1840, by John Sehner, at a cost of \$1,972. In 1841, a small house was built for the janitor at the northern end of the lot, at a cost of about \$1,000.



The Lancaster County Academy

Franklin College occupied the building until it was united with Marshall College in June, 1853; and the united institution held sessions in it until the new building of Franklin and Marshall College was almost completed in 1856. The old building, which was sold at public auction, was purchased by John Wise on April 15th, 1856. He paid \$5,600. for it. The building, now divided into four residences, as stated at the beginning of this article, 109-115 North Lime street, is still standing. Several houses have since been built on ground which was then occupied.