

Harriet Lane Johnston: Founder of St. Albans School for Boys

by Homer T. Rosenberger

Through the vision and philanthropy of a great lady, a famous school for boys came into existence in Washington, D. C., early in this century. During her lifetime Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston assisted a number of boys to acquire a college education. She provided every conceivable opportunity for her two sons who died in their youth. Grieved by their early death she founded by codicils to her will a school where other boys would receive the kind of education which she would have desired for her own sons.

St. Albans School, which sprang into existence because of her philanthropy, is located on Mount St. Alban, a small area of fifty-six acres adjacent to the intersection of Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues, NW, the highest ground in the city of Washington. It overlooks the Capitol Building, the Potomac River and much of the city. This choice tract of land nearly six miles northwest of the Capitol, was named for the hill in England, approximately thirty miles north of London, on which St. Alban was martyred more than 1600 years ago. In 1898 much of Mount St. Alban was purchased by the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation of the District of Columbia, frequently referred to as the National Cathedral Foundation. The Foundation had been chartered by an act of Congress approved January 6, 1893. Less than seven years after the Foundation acquired the land, ground was broken at Mount St. Alban for the main building of a school now widely known. At first named the "Lane-Johnston Choir School for Boys of the Washington Cathedral" and later the "National Cathedral School for Boys and Choir School," the name of the institution was changed in 1914 to St. Albans School. By then, for many persons at the school, Mrs. Johnston had become a legendary, but revered, figure.

An Era of Prosperity

Numerous fortunes were made in America in the period 1897-1907. Many other fortunes were greatly enlarged during that same period. No doubt Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston's investments benefited substantially from this era of prosperity. As her fortune grew

in her last years, far beyond her needs, she added codicils to her will of June 1, 1895, in order to make additional bequests. These bequests launched new projects, one of which was a choir school for boys, now known as St. Albans School.

The mid 1890's was a period of hard times in the United States. The Panic of 1893 began with the failure of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad in February of that year and the failure of the National Cordage Company in May. From 1893 to 1897, the period in which Mrs. Johnston made her will, there was a severe business depression. Conversely, the period 1897-1907, except for a mild recession in 1900 and the "Rich Man's" panic of 1903-1904, was a period of great prosperity for Americans, especially those with investments.

The amount of gold coined in the United States in the five years 1897-1902 was \$437,000,000, as compared with an average of \$258,000,000 for each five-year period from 1873. Federal legislation of March 14, 1900, known as the Gold Standard Act, made possible additional bank-note circulation.

The United States was becoming a manufacturing nation and a world power, but was not nearly as philanthropic as now. Of its total exports in 1890 only 17.8 per cent were manufactured goods. Ten years later this figure rose to thirty-two per cent. In 1900 the products of factories, foundaries, and mills in the United States were valued at slightly more than thirteen billion dollars, an astounding figure for those days.

A serious epidemic of consolidations, monopolies, giant trusts, and legislation favorable to big business brought tremendous fortunes to those who owned stock in the powerful corporations.

Because of these and other somewhat similar factors, the period 1897-1907 was an era of prosperity—for Mrs. Johnston and for the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation of the District of Columbia. It was during this period that Mrs. Johnston was able to extend her helping hand still farther without injuring her major beneficiary, the Harriet Lane Home for Invalid Children. It was during this period that the new Cathedral Foundation obtained the Cathedral Close, a school for girls and another school, for boys, and prepared itself to erect the magnificent Washington Cathedral. This era of prosperity enabled Mrs. Johnston to stand out as a pioneer in philanthropy. It left her unsullied. She seems to have abstained from the devious means commonly used then and now in the building of a fortune. Without this era of prosperity in America late in her life and its automatic effect upon her investments, she could not have founded St. Albans School.

What She Expected of the School

It seems certain that from the time she was a young lady, Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston loved England and English traditions. Un-

doubtedly she became familiar with the choir schools which have been attached to English cathedrals for centuries. As a young woman in England she may have loved the music which resulted from those choir schools. When she married in 1866 and settled in Baltimore, she became a parishioner of Saint Paul's Church, a historic and great Episcopal church founded in 1692.

During most of her years at St. Paul's, the Reverend Dr. John Sebastian Bach Hodges was the Rector of that church. He had come to St. Paul's in 1870 and was almost as distinguished in music as his name might suggest. St. Paul's had established a choir school in 1849 for needy boys who could sing. Reverend Hodges was soon supervising the school and was emphasizing music instruction. His love for music had a great influence on Mrs. Johnston, and it probably caused her to establish what is now St. Albans School.

Dr. Hodges was born in Bristol, England, in the same year that Harriet Lane was born in Mercersburg, Pennsylvania—1830. He acquired his love of music naturally, from his father who was organist of the Bristol Cathedral in England and a Doctor of Music from Cambridge University. The elder Hodges came to the United States and was organist and choirmaster at Trinity Church, New York. The son, who came to the United States in 1845 when just a boy, loved church music and was a talented composer of church music. The son was a tenor soloist at Trinity Church during his college years at Columbia University. He received an A.B. from Columbia in 1850 and an A.M. in 1853, before completing his theological training. After serving Protestant Episcopal churches in Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Newark, New Jersey, and teaching in a seminary for approximately three years, he was Rector of Saint Paul's in Baltimore, 1870-1906. He was the composer of many services, anthems, chants, and hymn tunes. Two years before coming to Saint Paul's he compiled the *Book of Common Praise*, to accompany the *Book of Common Prayer*.

When Dr. J. S. B. Hodges came to St. Paul's in Baltimore he saw an opportunity to introduce English cathedral tradition. In American churches in the 1870's choirs consisted of men and women in street clothes. Hodges wanted to have boys replace women in the choir at St. Paul's and desired to vest the men and the boys. He knew that congregations resist change. He also knew that St. Paul's was proud of the beauty of its services and that a vested choir would increase that beauty. He would be able to use boys from the congregation's Boy's School which provided instruction in music, as well as in other subjects.

Dr. Hodges had laid the groundwork for the fundamental change in the choir at St. Paul's. He selected Easter, 1873, as the time to launch the new choir. To ease the strain in the introduction of the change he devoted a sermon to an explanation of his purpose. He asked the congregation to bear with him. He pointed to the surges in quality of the choir of men and women, from good to bad.

and assured that in time the new approach would bring dignity and grandeur to the services at St. Paul's. Francis F. Beirne states in his volume, *St. Paul's Parish, Baltimore, A Chronicle of the Mother Church*, that Mr. and Mrs. Johnston withdrew from the church, to another parish, but that they soon became dissatisfied and came back to St. Paul's. By the time their two son had died the Johnstons were "so reconciled to a choir of men and boys that they expressed regret that their own sons had not lived to sing in it." (Page 128 Beirne.)

How strange. Like ourselves, Mr. and Mrs. Johnston had built up a resistance to change. Why eliminate women from the choir and fill their places with boys? Why have a vested choir? But, like St. Paul, the apostle, once they saw the light they were overjoyed!

Dr. Hodges continued to emphasize high quality church music at St. Paul's. With the assistance of the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore he had a Choral Communion on Christmas Day 1873, a performance nearly three hours long, at St. Paul's. He carried St. Paul's School through difficult times and developed many boys into masters of church music. From Mrs. Johnston's later years at St. Paul's in Baltimore, to the present day, the choral music of that church has been furnished almost entirely by the boys trained in its choir school, by its great choirmasters. During the time Dr. Hodges was Rector of St. Paul's its music was raised to an exceedingly high level. Without doubt its quality had an influence on Mrs. Johnston and on other members of the congregation. Almost without question the spirit of Dr. Hodges, and his success, made a profound impression upon Mrs. Johnston. No doubt his emphasis on church music and the training of boys as choristers caused her to recall the choir schools that were attached to English cathedrals.

In her will of June 1, 1895, Mrs. Johnston made no provision for establishing a school. Four years later the first codicil, dated June 10, 1899, was added. In it she bequeathed \$200,000 to the Protestant Episcopal Cathedral Foundation of the District of Columbia for construction of a building for a school for boys. The codicil did not specify how the boys for the school should be selected or what they should be taught. It merely stated that the money was to be used to erect a building for a boys' school to be "established and maintained" by the Cathedral Foundation; that the building should be erected on land belonging to the Foundation; that no part of the bequest was to be used for the purchase of land; and that the building should be known as the "Lane-Johnston" building "to the end that the family names of my husband and myself may be associated with this bequest made in loving memory of our sons." The building was to be "begun" within six months after her executors would notify the Foundation that the money was "subject to their order." The building was to be of a design that would "best promote" the welfare of the school, "whether as the first building erected for the establishment of such school or as an additional building for the better maintenance of such school already established."

In the next few years the Cathedral Foundation did not establish a school for boys. Then, on March 18, 1903, about three and a half months before her death, Mrs. Johnston made a fourth codicil to her will. She increased the bequest from \$200,000 to \$300,000 for the school and allotted a maximum of \$150,000 for erection of the building. The money not spent for construction was to be invested by the Cathedral Foundation "as an endowment fund to be known as the 'Lane Johnston Fund' and the income to be used for the maintenance of said school for boys." The codicil continues: "While not restricting the general objects of said school it is my wish that the said school shall be so conducted and the said Fund so applied as specially to provide for the free maintenance, education and training of choir-boys, primarily those in the service of the Cathedral."

In the same codicil Mrs. Johnston expressed special confidence in the judgment of Reverend Philip M. Rhinelander and directed that he should have primary responsibility for selection of site and construction, and for the organization and management of the school. However, if his services were not available the Cathedral Foundation should carry out these responsibilities.

Mr. Rhinelander was still a very young man in 1903. He was born in 1869, received an A.B. degree from Harvard University in 1891, an A.B. from Oxford in 1896 and an A.M. from the same university in 1900. In the years after Mrs. Johnston's death he would receive a handful of honorary doctor's degrees. The Reverend Philip H. Rhinelander was in charge of St. Mark's Church, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, and St. Alban's Parish in Washington, 1896-1903. Apparently Mrs. Johnston still had that important faculty which enables one to identify talent before talent has proved itself.

Mr. Rhinelander did not assume the responsibility for establishing and managing the school. He went at once to another type of academic field, teaching in a theological school in Connecticut and another in Massachusetts, 1903-1911. He was consecrated bishop coadjutor of Pennsylvania, October 28, 1911, and became bishop of the diocese, November 1911, resigning in November 1923 because of ill health. He was a trustee of the Washington Cathedral in 1923 and the Warden of its College of Preachers, 1925-1937. He wrote extensively on religious subjects.

Mrs. Johnston's apparent desire that the school would provide boys with exceptionally good training in church music and that the training would help substantially to improve church music in this country was noble, indeed.

Planning the Lane-Johnston Building

To carry out the provisions of Mrs. Johnston's will, the Right Reverend Henry Yates Satterlee, Bishop of Washington, appointed a distinguished group of four persons to serve with him as a Building Committee. Of the four, Colonel George Truesdell, who had been

Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, was chairman. Dr. Daniel C. Gilman, Mr. Thomas Hyde, and Rev. C. F. Bratenahl were the remaining members. Gilman had been President of the Johns Hopkins University 1875-1901, Bratenahl was Rector of St. Alban's Church and later was named Dean of the Washington Cathedral, in 1916.

With a maximum of \$150,000 at their command, it was the duty of the Committee to plan the Lane-Johnston Building to house a combined choir-and-college preparatory school. The Committee was requested to visit important boys' schools in order to study their construction and administration. Consequently, the Rev. Bratenahl of the Committee and the Reverend W. L. DeVries, who had been a boyhood friend of Mrs. Johnston's oldest son, James, visited some of the best known private secondary schools in the country. From three schools in particular, ideas found their way into the design of the Lane-Johnston Building. These were St. Paul's, Concord, New Hampshire, St. Mark's, Southborough, Massachusetts, and Groton at Groton, Massachusetts.

After the Building Committee had made its report, specifications for the Lane-Johnston Building were drawn and a competition was held as the means of selecting the architect. The firm of York and Sawyer in New York was then selected to prepare the final plans for the building. The plans envisaged a structure blending church and collegiate English Gothic architecture constructed of gray Potomac stone with Indiana limestone trim which would harmonize with the Cathedral which was yet to be built and with the total surroundings of the Cathedral Close. The Lane-Johnston Building would be on sloping ground (of split-level design) with three stories in front and five in back.

Ground was broken on January 7, 1905, to begin excavation of the foundation of the Lane-Johnston Building, although the plans for the building itself were not yet complete. The central plan looked toward a self-contained unit which would provide facilities for a complete boarding school, except that the Little Sanctuary, nearby, which had been built in 1902, would be available for daily chapel services.

Laying the Cornerstone

The cornerstone of the building was laid on June 1, 1905. The Right Reverend William Paret, D. D., LL.D., Episcopal Bishop of Maryland, officiated at the cornerstone ceremony, in place of the Bishop of Washington, the Right Reverend Henry Y. Satterlee who was in Europe at the time. A procession, with music furnished by the vested choirs of the city and a part of the Marine Band, marched from St. Alban's Church to the building site. Mrs. Johnston's pastor, the Reverend J. S. B. Hodges of St. Paul's, Baltimore, was to have made an address but could not be present. In his absence the Rev-

erend Alfred Harding, later Bishop of Washington, delivered the sermon.

A few days before the ceremony the *Washington Star* for Sunday May 28 carried a three-column drawing of the proposed building and in a lengthy article entitled "Choir Boys' School" announced the forth-coming cornerstone laying. It said the event would be of "more than ordinary interest and importance in the history of the Episcopal church in America." The next four paragraphs of the article sketched a background that must have been familiar to and influential upon Mrs. Johnston, especially in her last years. The paragraphs are as follows.

From time immemorial there have been choir schools in connection with the cathedrals and other great religious foundations in the Church of England, where the male vested choir has its oldest home and best development. The splendid quality of voice and tone, so characteristic of the leading choirs of England, could not, it is claimed, have been produced under any other system. Boys carefully selected for their voices and general fitness and character are given a fine education in these schools as well as a musical training, which has made some of them famous as musical leaders, composers and organists. The late Sir John Stainer is an example of the work of the choir school.

In this country the development of the vested choir has been very rapid within the last twenty years, but the quality, it is said, has not kept pace with the quantity, as the number of persons qualified to train the voices of boys properly is as yet limited. In Baltimore the Rev. Dr. Hodges, who is to make the address at the corner stone laying, was the first to establish a choir school in connection with a parish church. [Probably an error. Saint Paul's choir school was established twenty-one years before Dr. Hodges settled in Baltimore. This writer has not found that Dr. Hodges established a choir school elsewhere. Undoubtedly Dr. Hodges developed greatly the choir school at Saint Paul's after he arrived in 1870. H. T. R.]. The result is evident to any one who has had the privilege of hearing the choir of old St. Paul's under the able leadership of Mr. Miles Farrow. It is considered by musical experts one of the finest, if not the very finest choir in America. Here the carefully selected boy is educated for business or college and in music. Daily lessons, practices and services combine to produce tones of rare beauty in the boy singers.

Grace Church in New York has recently established a choir school on liberal foundations, and is having a choir of superior excellence. St. Thomas, New York, is preparing to follow this example.

There is in connection with the cathedrals of Long Island and of New York, and Trinity Church, a plan of giving education to the boys of the choir, but there is no choir school proper where the pupils live and are educated in one building.

It is believed that this choir school in Washington is the first to be established in connection with any cathedral in this country. Its establishment is due to the generosity and deep appreciation of the importance of the Cathedral and its music in the capital of the country by the donor, Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston, who has bequeathed the sum of \$300,000 for the building and endowment of the choir school. (Part 2, page 3).

One additional paragraph in the article in the *Star* of May 28, 1905, is of particular significance:

It is hoped that this choir school, so attractively situated and so carefully planned, will be the means of giving to the church in the course of time many cultivated church musicians, who will be able to advance the cause of church music in the whole land. Others doubtless will be led into the ministry, as has been the case notably in St. Paul's choir school, Baltimore.

The *Washington Post* for June 1, 1905, under the headline:

**Choir Boys' School
Corner-stone to Be Laid To-
day by Bishop Paret**

Mrs. Lane-Johnston's Gift,

also included a front elevation of the architect's drawing of the building. In addition it had a picture of Harriet Lane Johnston as she appeared during the Administration of President Buchanan. The article ended with a few facts about requirements for admission to the school and stated that "The aim is to give a thorough musical and preparatory education such as will fit the boy, when the inevitable break in the voice comes, for good service in the world."

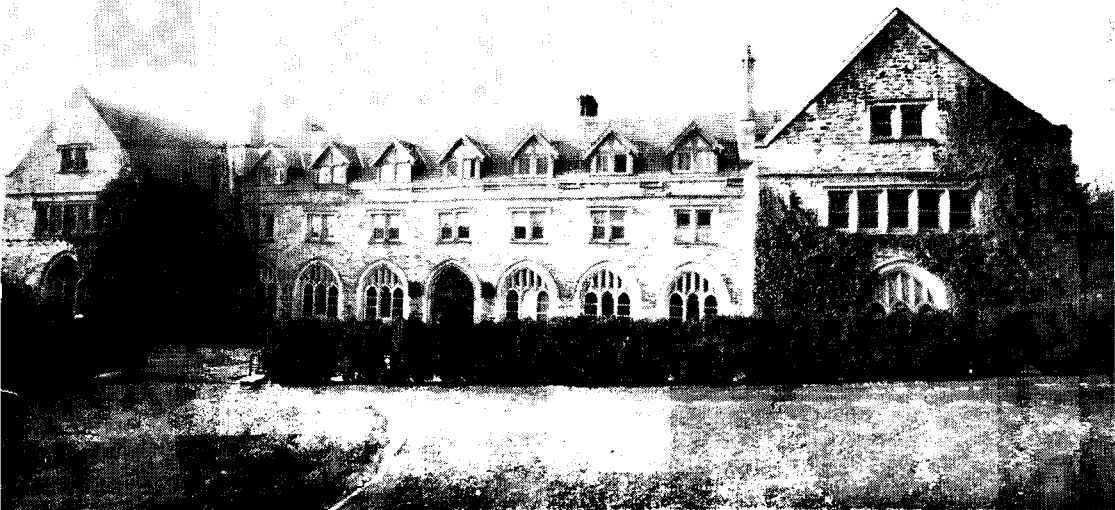
In the Archives of the National Cathedral there is a large scrap-book containing mementos of 1905. Among them is a photograph of the multitude that attended the cornerstone ceremony on June 1. The photograph is sufficiently well preserved as to indicate size of the group and the general atmosphere of the occasion. It is probably the only extant picture of the ceremony. Unfortunately, the photograph is not clear enough to be reproduced satisfactorily.

Dedication

By November 1905 construction of the Lane-Johnston Building, with its dormitories, refectory, study hall, classrooms, and offices, was well advanced but far from complete. It was not until Ascension Day, May 9, 1907, the anniversary of Harriet Lane Johnston's birth, that the building was dedicated. The procession, which included choir boys and many members of the clergy of the city, led by the Marine Band, assembled near St. Alban's Church and marched to the Lane-Johnston Building. Members of the National Cathedral School for Girls (including Ethel Roosevelt, the daughter of the President of the United States) were also present. The Music Room and the Refectory were thrown into one large room for the occasion and there the service was held. Bernard of Cluny's *Hora Novissima* was sung as the Processional Hymn and "Crown Him with Many Crowns" as the Recessional. Bishop Satterlee gave the dedication address.

The School's Early Years

Although the Lane-Johnston Building was now completed it was not yet furnished nor had a Headmaster been selected. In the



LANE-JOHNSTON BUILDING

This structure, built with funds provided by Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston, has been the center of St. Albans School from the time its classes began to meet in 1909. The driveway in the foreground, for carriages, has been removed, and an extension has been added to the wing nearest to the former driveway. Built on a slope, the structure is split-level, with a full floor beneath the three stories shown in this picture.

ensuing two years the building was furnished and equipped at a cost of approximately \$10,000. Then, in the spring of 1909 there was an announcement that the "National Cathedral School for Boys and Choir School" would open on October 7, 1909, and that Mr. Earl L. Gregg, Headmaster of the Grammar School of Racine College, had been selected as Headmaster. He served for six years and was present at the celebration in 1959 of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the opening of the school.

When the school opened it was to have a faculty of five men and in addition a director of physical culture in charge of athletics and general health. A choir master would train the choir boys.

It was thought that income from Mrs. Johnston's \$150,000 would pay the expenses of about a dozen choir boys. They in turn were expected to be choristers throughout their school lives. However, if their voices broke it was hoped that they would consider preparing for the ministry.

A total of eighty-five to ninety were to comprise the student body, including a dozen choir boys. Forty were to be boarders.

When the School was opened formally on October 17, 1909, by the Right Reverend Alfred Harding (who had succeeded Bishop Satterlee), it had an enrollment of fifty-nine boys.

The first catalogue of the School was issued for the year 1909-1910 and listed its name as "The National Cathedral School for

Boys." The title page bore the school's motto: *Pro Ecclesia et Pro Patria*, "For Church and Country." The cornerstone of the Lane-Johnston Building also bears this motto which is used in various ways today to remind those who enter its portals that the school places emphasis on the development of Christian manhood and a spirit of service.

The catalogue outlined a six-year college preparatory course described as Forms I to VI (seventh grade through twelfth). During the school year 1909-1910 twelve choir boys received special in-



ST. ALBANS CHOIR BOYS PRACTICE DAILY

In accord with Mrs. Johnston's testament, St. Albans School was founded as a Choir School training boys to become choristers for the Cathedral. Their training begins when they enter the sixth grade and continues for seven years, until they are graduated from St. Albans School and are ready to enter college. Today, however, only a small number of the total student body are in the Cathedral Choir.

struction in music. Instruction in music was also available to all the boys at the school who desired such training.

In the early years St. Albans School was governed by the Board of Trustees of the National Cathedral Foundation. The school has had a governing board of its own since 1947. Distinguished persons have served on both boards. Admiral George Dewey, U. S. N., hero of the Spanish American War, was on the Foundation's Board in 1909 and presented sweaters to the members of the school's first football team.

The original commencement was held on June 8, 1910, in St. Albans Church, which is adjacent to the school. Ten boys were graduated. A class window was unveiled in the dining room and a bronze tablet with the names of the graduates was placed in the corridor. Ever since, the graduating class has continued this dual ceremony. The school holds its annual commencement exercises in the Cathedral and the diplomas are presented by the Bishop of Washington.

After the spring of 1910 the Washington School for Boys, at 3901 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, and at 2900 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, was brought into the Lane-Johnston Building. The pupils of that school and some of their teachers became part of the school established by Harriet Lane Johnston.

The Washington, D. C., *Post* for November 8, 1910, provides contemporary information concerning the school, as follows. Notice had been given the day before of the transfer of property at 2900 Wisconsin Avenue. The building at that site had been the home of the Washington School for Boys for the preceding twelve years and was only 150 yards from the Lane-Johnston Building. The enrollment in the National Cathedral School for Boys was then approximately 100 and was overtaxing the Lane-Johnston Building. It was therefore decided to use the Lane-Johnston Building for the college preparatory department of the school and the newly acquired building for the primary and intermediate departments.

The article in the *Post* closed with an interesting observation:

This institution fills a long-felt want in Washington, inasmuch as it affords facilities for day and boarding pupils, and its location in the country makes an ideal combination of study and play. The younger boys, who will occupy the new building, are taken out to the school from Dupont circle every morning by automobiles [automobiles were then still something of a rarity], and returned late in the afternoon.

The school catalogue for 1914-1915 announced a new name, St. Albans School. This has been used ever since. The catalogue stated that the change of name was made in the interest of clarity and brevity and that "It implies no other change. In location, plan, purpose, and scope the school remains exactly the same as heretofore."



"STUDY HALL" IN THE LANE-JOHNSTON BUILDING

Originally there were rows of long desks and benches in the "Study Hall" on the main floor of the building. Modernization brought the round tables and chairs. Still later a separate library building was erected for the boys of St. Albans. The "Study Hall" was converted into offices.

In 1915, unlike most preparatory schools at that time, St. Albans required College Board Examinations. This self-imposed requirement led to enviable scholastic standards and achievement at St. Albans. The College Board Examinations provided incentive to both faculty and student body.

Among the early graduates of the school were Peyton Conway March, Jr., son of the Major General who was Chief of Staff during the latter part of World War I, and David C. Mearns who became Assistant Librarian of Congress and a leading Lincoln scholar. Honorable Rudolf E. Schoenfeld, later a United States foreign service officer with the rank of Ambassador, was a master at St. Albans, 1915-1916.

The School Grows

The growth of the school from 1903 when Mrs. Johnston's will together with its codicils was published, to the present, is described in the various editions of *The Washington Cathedral Guide Book* (known by different names over the years) and in the publications of the school itself. The *Guide Book* for 1931 said the school then had an enrollment of more than 200 boarding and day pupils and

an eight-year course which prepared boys to enter college. The *Guide Book* continued:

Unusual Opportunities. While receiving their education near a great Cathedral at the seat of Federal government, boys of St. Albans are constantly in touch with an environment charged with the finest ideals for which the Nation stands. Here the student has opportunity of observing the development and administration of national affairs; he gains an intimate appreciation of the outstanding personalities not only of his own country but of the world; and he has at his command the facilities of the Congressional Library, the Smithsonian Institute [Institution], the National Geographic Society, and other authoritative organizations officially and unofficially associated with the United States Government.

Washington, with its many memorials and places of historical interest, offers a vivid summary of our national development and a visual expression of our national ideals. Visits to the Capitol, the White House, the House and Senate Chambers, the Supreme Court, the various government bureaus, and historic shrines provide extra-curricula activity, available in no other American city. It is natural that men and events should come to be seen in a national setting, and a national point of view rather than a provincial outlook results. (Pages 105-106).

Later Development

As the years passed there was significant growth in the academic stature of St. Albans School, in the size of its student body, and in its facilities. Its magnificent situation on Mount St. Alban with its panoramic view of the city of Washington caused its extensive campus of twenty-five acres on the Cathedral grounds to become increasingly attractive.

In 1922 the Little Sanctuary was enlarged to provide sufficient accommodations for the growing student body, and soon one building after another was erected in the shadow of the Lane-Johnston Building.

In 1929 a three-story building in the same Gothic style as the Lane-Johnston Building was erected just west of it to serve as the Lower School for grades five through eight. The building was connected with the Lane-Johnston Building by a cloister-type arcade and came to be known as the True Building, so named to honor Mr. Alfred R. True long the head of the Lower School and a revered figure at St. Albans. The building has six classrooms, living quarters for the Master, offices, conference rooms, music rooms, and an indoor play hall.

The Right Reverend James Edward Freeman, Third Bishop of Washington, broke ground in June 1937 for the Activities Building. It was designed by Waldron Faulkner and was completed in 1939. Its three floors provide classrooms, a gymnasium, wrestling room, a library, and activities offices.

The Lucas Building, so named for The Reverend Albert Hawley Lucas, Headmaster 1929-1949, was erected in 1961. It is an aca-

demie center, with science laboratories, classrooms, and facilities for art and audio-visual aids. In 1963 an additional building was erected, known as the Lawrence Building. It has a swimming pool for year-round recreation.

A \$2,000,000 complex was dedicated on September 20, 1968. It includes science laboratories, an enlarged refectory and kitchen, a large library unit, a theatre, classrooms, faculty offices and faculty reception room, and an expanded art room.

Among its student activities, the school has engaged in various publishing ventures from its very beginning. *The Albanian*, a student publication, was first issued in November 1909. It was originally published monthly and then quarterly and was mainly literary in form. From January 19, 1923, to the autumn of 1930, *The Albanian* was supplemented by *The Weekly Albanac*. In the autumn of 1930 *The Albanian* became the school's annual yearbook. Also in the autumn of 1930 *The Weekly Albanac* was superseded by a larger publication, *St. Albans News*, which appeared every two weeks. The *St. Albans News* has received the highest award for secondary school journalism from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism fourteen times, the gold medal, and "first place" twenty times.

The St. Albans Bulletin contains significant articles by staff and



**A CORNER OF THE LOBBY, "COMMONS ROOM,"
OF THE LANE-JOHNSTON BUILDING**

For nearly sixty-five years the Commons Room has been a comfortable place for St. Albans boys to relax, in an intellectual atmosphere.

alumni. For example, Issue 38, of May 1965, opened with an article on "The Pennsylvania Avenue Plan," in which Arthur Cotton Moore, an architect and a St. Albans 1954 graduate, explained, with the help of architectural drawings, and defended, the now highly controversial and far-reaching proposal to revamp the major artery in the Nation's Capital.

In 1926 and into the 1930's the St. Albans Press, informally connected with the School, and Stephen A. Hurlbut, Master in Classics at the School, were publishing limited editions of studies in Latin, and usually in the Latin language. After 1930 the press issued a series of *Mediaeval Latin Hymns Accompanied By English Renderings*. The series included the eucharistic hymns of Thomas Aquinas. Undoubtedly this type of scholarly activity at St. Albans would have delighted Mrs. Johnston.

In 1927 St. Albans School had an enrollment of 160 boarding and day students and an eight-year course fitting boys for admission to college and to West Point and Annapolis. In 1930 there was an enrollment of 200 boys. The next year the income from the remainder of Mrs. Johnston's legacy to the school was providing approximately twenty-five Lane-Johnston Scholarships for Cathedral choristers.

In 1937 there were 230 boarding and day students at St. Albans, and in 1938 there were 250 students at the school. In September 1939 grade four was introduced as a part of the Lower School. In 1945 St. Albans was still limited to 250 students and then had a ten-year course. However, two years later the school's ten-year course was reaching 325 boys of whom 300 were day students. In 1965 the enrollment was 425, with 40 boys, all from the Upper School, living there as boarders.

During the depression years the school continued to grow. It suffered no serious loss during World War II. Since 1945 the growth in facilities and academic excellence has continued.

From 1955 through 1960 St. Albans graduates entered 49 different colleges and universities, the largest number, fifty-two, going to Harvard. Twenty-three entered Princeton, nineteen entered Yale, seventeen entered Washington and Lee, thirteen entered Cornell, thirteen entered the University of North Carolina, twelve entered Haverford, and ten entered the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1967 a St. Albans student became the school's fifth graduate to be named a Rhodes Scholar. In 1968 one of its graduates, Michael Collins, gained fame as an astronaut. In 1969 Adrian S. Fisher, who graduated from St. Albans in 1930, is Dean of the Georgetown University Law Center, Russell E. Train, who graduated in 1937, was appointed by President Nixon to be Under Secretary of the Interior, and Dr. O. B. Hardison, Jr., a 1946 graduate, was named to be Director of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington. The School has produced leaders in many fields.



A SCENE AT ST. ALBANS SCHOOL IN 1956

Students enroute to Chapel. The building at left, with large archway, is adjacent to the Lane-Johnston Building, which is not shown in this picture. Note the tower of the Washington Cathedral at right.

In 1973 St. Albans School has an enrollment of 516 students, twenty-six of whom, from the Upper School (grades nine through twelve), live in the Lane-Johnston Building. The remaining 490 boys are day students who live in the Washington Metropolitan area. The school has five times as many applicants as it accepts.

At St. Albans there has been continuity of growth in various directions. One administration followed another in orderly procession. Earl L. Gregg was Headmaster 1909-1915. He was succeeded by William Howell Church who served from 1915 to 1929. Canon Albert Hawley Lucas then served as Headmaster for twenty years. He was followed by Canon Charles Martin, Headmaster since 1949.

Curriculum in 1973

For grades nine through twelve the curriculum consists of English, mathematics, French, Spanish, German, Latin, Greek, history, economics, psychology, anthropology, elementary penology, biology, chemistry, physics, music, and art. St. Albans has honor courses and accelerated courses in mathematics.

Physical development and growth of a spirit of co-operation and fair play are not neglected. Athletics are not overlooked. The school has football, basketball, wrestling, soccer, lacrosse, track,

crosscountry, and baseball teams which play the teams of other schools.

At St. Albans in 1973, as in all the years since the School was opened nearly sixty-five years ago, in 1909, there is unusual opportunity for training in music.

Her Goal Achieved—Top-Quality Educating, with Emphasis on Church Music

At St. Albans School the emphasis is on reverence, classical education, and church music, from fourth grade to high school graduation. The study of Latin and/or a modern language is required, along with English throughout the curriculum, and one laboratory science in the Upper School, which corresponds to the grades nine through twelve (St. Albans refers to them as Forms III to VI). Mathematics is required through the eleventh grade, and much weight is placed on the study of history.

St. Albans School is in a world center. Boys come to the School from many lands, thus deepening its atmosphere of intellectual inquiry and compassionate understanding of human beings.

Even though a boys' school, St. Albans has some of the advantages of coeducation. It joins in extra-curricular activities, such as Glee Club and dramatics, with the National Cathedral School for Girls, also located on the Cathedral grounds.

There are thirty Cathedral Choir boys at St. Albans. They receive excellent musical training. A boy admitted to the Cathedral's Choir of Men and Boys receives almost a full tuition scholarship at St. Albans and excellent training in choral music, a gift from Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston. The school today is largely a top-quality preparatory institution which disciplines its students to prepare themselves for high-level responsibilities and inspires its graduates to pursue careers of service. In short, St. Albans devotes itself to the task of transforming boys into men of integrity and leadership.

Nearly every St. Albans graduate goes to college. The school has high academic rank among private schools for boys in the United States and a high rating among college deans. As a result, approximately half of the graduates go to leading universities.

St. Albans has for many years been accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Following university study a large percentage of St. Albans graduates enter a career of law, and a slightly smaller number enter the medical field.

The emphasis at St. Albans School on choir music, on reverence, and on intellectual discipline would no doubt be a great satisfaction to its founder. The school is a shining example among institutions which train dedicated leaders.

Recognition

The 1959 yearbook, *The Albanian*, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of St. Albans School, summed up with singular felicity the personality and imaginative legacy of Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston. Beneath a large reproduction of the John Henry Brown miniature of her in its opening pages, it printed the following inscription.

HARRIET LANE JOHNSTON

1830-1903

FOUNDER AND BENEFACTOR

A gracious lady, she not only maintained the traditions of an illustrious past but also anticipated the needs of a challenging future.

This is fourth and last in a series of articles on Harriet Lane Johnston. The others include: "To What Extent did Harriet Lane Influence the Public Policies of James Buchanan" Vol. 74 No. 1, 1970, "The Passing of a Great Lady: Mrs. Harriet Lane Johnston" Vol. 75 No. 1, 1971, and "Harriet Lane Johnston: Pioneer Advocate of Special Care for Children with Chronic Diseases" Vol. 76 No. 1, 1972.