

## The "Spot" is Remembered

Oliver Goldsmith in describing his schoolmaster wrote, "The very spot where he triumphed is forgot." Thousands of citizens who attended either Clarksburg High School or Towers Grade School are luckier than Goldsmith. Their school stands. And in the office of the school hangs a photograph of Northwestern Virginia Academy which stood on the site before Towers School; books of local West Virginia history describe Randolph Academy built on the ground in 1793-95. In fact, this land on the northeast corner of Hewes Avenue and Second Street in Clarksburg, West Virginia, may be the only spot west of the Allegheny Mountains where school has been held every year since 1795 except for 1862-65, when the Academy was a federal army prison and barracks.

Fifty-eight citizens in Ohio, Monongalia, and Harrison counties in Virginia (W. Va.) signed a petition, sent to the Virginia Assembly December 1, 1786, which read in part: "The Rays of Science from the University of William & Mary cannot shoot their enlightening Beams amongst us -- the intervening Mountains, our distance, & our poverty cut us off from every possible advantage to be derived from thence." The petitioners asked that the one-sixth part of surveyors' fees "heretofore directed to be paid to the College of William and Mary may be vested in Trustees for the use of a Seminary amongst us."<sup>1</sup>

The Virginia Assembly responded to the petition with an act, passed December 31, 1787, which incorporated Randolph Academy. The act agreed with the petitioners' suggestion that a percentage of surveyors' fees finance the school, named twenty-eight trustees who could help finance the school through buying and selling land "except such lands as shall be given to the said academy by this commonwealth, which shall not be aliened without leave first obtained from the legislature," and ordered the trustees to hold "their first session at Morgan-town in Monongalia county on the second Monday in May next ... to fix upon some healthy and convenient place within one of the counties of Harrison, Monongalia, Randolph,<sup>2</sup> or Ohio, for the purpose of erecting thereon the necessary buildings for the said academy."<sup>3</sup>

The trustees who met in May 1788 decided on Clarksburg as the healthy and convenient place for the school, but by September the trustees sent off a petition to the legislature asking for additional trustees because "we find ourselves at a loss for a sufficient number of trustees to make a Board that can conveniently attend upon every needful requisition."<sup>4</sup> The petition, written by John Haymond, a native of Harrison County, listed names of several Harrison Countians as possible trustees. The Virginia Assembly passed an act naming eighteen additional trustees on November 6, 1788, and a act authorizing trustees to raise by lottery money not to exceed one thousand pounds on November 12, 1789.<sup>5</sup>

Still more trustees living near enough Clarksburg to handle the business of building an academy must have been needed for an act passed by the assembly November 25, 1791, read in part: "the present number of trustees of the Randolph Academy, from their remote situation, are unable generally to attend to the urgent and peculiar concerns of the said academy: For the remedy whereof", the legislature named eight men who lived near the site chosen for the school and gave the chairman of the trustees the power to call a meeting whenever needed rather than two times a year as stated in the act incorporating the school.<sup>6</sup>

Finally, on February 23, 1793, eleven trustees, all of Harrison County, met and "Resolved that the Randolph Academy be built of wood and frame work, and be thirty-six feet in length and twenty in breadth, agreeable to the original plan, except the cupalo [cupola], and be let this afternoon to the lowest bidder, under the immediate direction of the Board, and to be completely finished on or before the first day of November next in a workmanlike manner; resolved also that the purchaser give bond with approved security; resolved also that the undertaker be paid his money by three installments, to-wit: one third when the frame is raised, the second third at finishing said house and the other third in six months after the said house is finished.

"The building of the said Academy being exposed to sale, Mr. David Hewes being the lowest bidder, undertook the same at one hundred and seventy-nine pounds, and entered into bond with Hezekiah Davisson his surety (in the sum of three hundred and fifty-eight pounds) and to complete the same on or before the first day of November next ... June 4, 1795, last payment directed to be made to David Hewes, Constructor..."<sup>7</sup>

On July 20, 1795, the board voted to hire Reverend George Towers to teach school at the rate of \$250 per year, his work to begin August 1, 1795. Tuition for each student of Latin would be \$16; of English, \$5; of grammar and arithmetic, \$6; of mathematics, \$8 per year.<sup>8</sup>

George Towers, a graduate of Oxford University and a Presbyterian minister who had migrated with his family to the United States in May 1794,<sup>9</sup> must have been satisfied with his work in the new country for he appeared before the Harrison County Court on April 19, 1796, and took the oath of allegiance to the Commonwealth and the oath of general government.<sup>10</sup> He had the largest library of anyone in the town of Clarksburg. He was an excellent teacher whose influence was such that in the 1970's when Otis K. Rice, a West Virginia historian, asked a native of Harrison County why men from Harrison County who had made notable contributions to the state and to the nation far outstripped in number men from any other county in the state, the answer was: "The work of George Towers at Randolph Academy from 1795 to 1814. He set a standard for excellence that lasted for more than one hundred years."<sup>11</sup>

The trustees throughout the years of the existence of the institution struggled to finance the school. In the early years, it would appear, William McCleery, a man who signed the petition in 1786 asking for the school and who was named as a trustee in the 1787 act of incorporation, failed to turn over the money collected either from surveyors or from a lottery. Since the name of not one of the 58 who signed the 1786 petition is prominent in the early history of Harrison County, first interest in establishing the school could have lain north of the Harrison County area. McCleery seems to have lived in Harrison County since he conveyed to others in 1798 three hundred acres on Booth's Creek in what is now Marion County and seven hundred acres in 1806-07 on the Middle Fork of Tenmile, in what is still in 1980 Harrison County.<sup>12</sup> He could have been given money to deliver to Clarksburg for the school.

However it was, on September 29, 1803, McCleery paid \$80 to George Jackson and \$100 to Nathaniel Davisson both of whom on that day delivered the money to the board. Then on March 22, 1804, the board voted to suspend suit on the property of McCleery if the man paid the clerk of the board \$200 by July 1. McCleery appeared on September 26, 1804, and paid \$100 which sum was immediately paid to George Towers. November 19, 1804, the board voted to proceed with all speed to authorize sale of McCleery's property. This brought McCleery before the board December 13, 1804, with \$150, a sum immediately paid George Towers. The board ordered that said McCleery would have respite for one year from the date to pay the balance due to the trustees. It took a vote to execute a suit against McCleery to bring him before the trustees on February 18, 1806, to pay the trustees \$400, which left \$50 still due of McCleery's debt.

If the \$880 paid by McCleery had been money collected from surveyors, they must have been prompt in payment in the early years, but by 1804 they were so delinquent in payment that in December the board authorized a letter to surveyors admonishing them for not submitting annual lists of surveys and payment of a percentage of the fees to the board. In September 1808 the trustees paid William Jackson \$2 for making a list of surveys made by him in Randolph County and \$5 each to William and Thomas Haymond for extracting lists of surveys in Randolph County.

Because of poor transportation, attracting students beyond Clarksburg was difficult. In September 1808 when boarding, washing, and lodging was \$60 a year and tuition for reading and writing, \$1.50 per quarter; grammar and arithmetic, \$2 per quarter; and languages, \$4 per quarter, the board advertised: "It is believed prices are lower than at any other public school in the Union. The low price of tuition is owing to this circumstance: that the institution is supported in part by public funds."<sup>13</sup> George Towers died in 1814. Minutes of the board that name his successor have not been found; but in 1816, Jesse Smith was employed to teach and manage the Academy for \$600 a year and in 1817 John Gibson was permitted "to teach in the Academy until further order of the board."<sup>14</sup>

By 1816 the Academy was badly in need of repairs. In the same year John George Jackson made a decision to give up his seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and to turn his full attention to his industries near Clarksburg. He became active again as a trustee.<sup>15</sup> He and Attorney James Pindall were authorized to commence suits against delinquent surveyors August 12, 1816. The two lawyers were authorized on August 15, 1818, to begin suits against defaulters in Superior Court of Chancery at Clarksburg on the first day of November 1818.

By May 11, 1819, the trustees had collected \$38.42½ from Ohio County; \$186.75, Monongalia; \$10.50, Lewis; \$10.00, Brooke County. They voted that the treasurer settle with representatives of George Towers, deceased, and with Jesse Smith any funds owed them.<sup>16</sup> Money continued to flow in from suits against surveyors since records show that a surveyor was ordered to pay \$62.23 and interest from January 1, 1820, in circuit court May 23, 1823.<sup>17</sup>

September 19, 1820, trustees voted that funds in the hands of John Webster and others be used to repair the Academy building and appointed four men to contract for the repairs and on February 3, 1821, the committee to examine repairs reported: "They find a rough plank petition [sic] run across academy which is useless; are of opinion that any claim for said plank be disallowed."<sup>18</sup> John Webster turned over \$205.56 in funds in February 1821, some of the money in banks as far away as Reading, Pa.; George Town, Ky.; and Alexandria, Va.

The bill for \$120.99 presented by Dr. William Williams, when he resigned as chairman of the committee on repairs in 1822, was authorized paid and Edward Brake Jackson was appointed to contract for finishing the Academy. The building must have been finished at the end of 1823 for in January 1824, John George Jackson was paid \$74.65 for repairs. This meeting was held on January 26, 1824, two days after the birth of Thomas Jonathan Jackson. At the meeting of the trustees were Jonathan Jackson, father of the new baby, and Dr. James McCally, who attended Mrs. Jackson at the time of the birth of the future general.

The Jacksons and most of the other members of the board had many children. They were interested in good teachers and must not have wanted a female teacher. In January 1824 Miss Steen was permitted to occupy the Academy until the end of the quarter and then continued to teach while three trustees authorized to give notice of the vacancy in newspapers, searched for a suitable male teacher. September 15, 1825, Miss Steen was notified to surrender the Academy before October 15, when John Clark would take over as instructor. The work any teacher faced was formidable if conditions were the same as in 1822 when Jesse Smith was ordered not to accept more than fifty scholars unless he had an assistant.

In 1825 and 1826 James Pindall, John G. Jackson, Jonathan Jackson, and Edward B. Jackson died. With the movers in scaring money out of surveyors gone, the board voted on June 17, 1828, to raise money by lottery<sup>19</sup>, a privilege they had already received through an act passed by the Virginia Assembly February 11, 1828.<sup>20</sup>

The board met in August 1832 to hire Silas Walker to occupy the Academy for purpose of school until further order of the board no doubt because John Clark had given up the post; and to appoint trustees to fill the places of Colonel Benjamin Wilson, Jr., deceased, and William Martin, Daniel Morris, John Brown, removed from Clarksburg. In 1834 M.D. Gittings, Charles Lewis, and G.D. Camden were appointed to dispose of the lottery granted by the General Assembly for use of Randolph Academy.

By 1835 minutes of the board show that discussion may have started as to passing the management of the school to another agency. The trustees set about to find the true boundaries of the Academy lot only to discover that part of the lot was in the possession of the Methodist Episcopal Church and other portions in the possession of private individuals.<sup>21</sup>

The minutes show acts of destructiveness and outrage on Randolph Academy and by 1839 when Francis Pierpont was ordered to buy a new grate and supervise repairs before starting to teach the Academy, the board voted that they would use their best exertions to raise funds to repair the Academy and to support proper teachers therefor. In March 1840 Francis Pierpont was authorized to retain the use of the Academy until further order of the trustees.<sup>22</sup> Pierpont taught the school until spring 1841.<sup>23</sup>

Citizens of Clarksburg and of the area nearby Clarksburg in 1841 raised through subscription \$6,000 in funds or building materials for a new school. A committee chosen by the trustees of Randolph Academy attended the Pittsburgh Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, when it met in Pittsburgh in summer 1841, to present a plan whereby the church would run the school to be built with the funds already raised. The agreement passed by the conference included stipulations that twenty-six of the trustees appointed to run the school be members of the Methodist Episcopal Church and that the conference be consulted before the trustees name professors to teach in the school. In a final statement the Pittsburgh Conference agreed to take the Northwestern Virginia Academy under its control and patronage provided that the conference assume no pecuniary responsibilities in the case.

A new charter was secured from the legislature in March 1842 to officially change the name of the school from Randolph Academy to Northwestern Virginia Academy and to increase the number of trustees, nineteen of whom would be members (ministers) of the church conference and eleven subscribers who had contributed to the building fund for the school.<sup>24</sup>

The new school rose in 1842-43 a short distance west of the Randolph Academy building. Built of brick, the 71 ft. by 44 ft.<sup>25</sup> building consisted of two stories topped by a cupola. The first floor had a large central hall on the right of which was a room called the chapel and on the left, two classrooms. The second floor was divided into five rooms. Joseph Warwick was the contractor for the building; John Cain fashioned the woodwork.<sup>26</sup> The school opened on December 4, 1843, with Reverend Gordon Battelle as principal.<sup>27</sup> The old Randolph Academy building was burned in 1844.<sup>28</sup>

When the Western Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, was organized in July 1848, the Pittsburgh Conference committed Northwestern Virginia Academy, as the only literary institution in the new conference under Methodist patronage, to the care of the Western Virginia Conference and recommended that Reverend Battelle be reappointed principal and that Alexander Martin be reappointed assistant principal.<sup>29</sup>

In a report to the conference in 1849 the trustees of the Academy stated that between 1843 and 1849 the school had had first 1 teacher, then 2, and in 1849, 3 teachers. Attendance ran 55 to 80 students per session with academic courses and some college courses offered. Tuition paid by the students defrayed the expenses and "chiefly as the result of agencies heretofore appointed by the Pittsburgh Conference, the institution is now in possession of a very valuable and efficient set of philosophical apparatus embracing the subjects of electricity, pneumatics, astronomy, optics, magnetism, etc ... the institution is in possession of a few miscellaneous volumes, designed as the beginning of an academy library."<sup>30</sup>

By 1850, when the school had 60 students and two departments with two teachers, the trustees asked for an endowment to take care of reduced funds that could occur through fluctuations in enrollment and for an additional building so that students coming from a distance could be boarded at a cost lower than that being charged in the town. The Committee on Education of the conference recommended that an Educational Fund be established with a goal of securing a sum equal to one dollar per member of the churches in the conference. Northwestern Virginia Academy would receive any interest earned by the money in the fund.<sup>31</sup>

Reverend Battelle resigned April 8, 1851, and the conference replaced him with Alexander Martin as recommended by the trustees of the Academy. The conference gave permission for a second building if the trustees could build it with the help of citizens of Clarksburg, and asked preachers to raise the \$1 per member for the endowment fund within the next five years.<sup>32</sup>

Between 1852 and 1855, when the Committee on Education of the Western Virginia Conference concentrated its interest on Northwestern Virginia Academy, the school prospered. "At no period of its history has the institution given better indications of a healthy and vigorous life"<sup>33</sup>, wrote the trustees in a report to the conference when the school in 1852 had 95 students and a Mr. Jackson as assistant to Principal Martin. The conference appointed a preacher to travel and address people in behalf of the Educational Fund and approved the report that the Educational Fund had been incorporated by the Virginia Legislature May 27, 1852, with seven trustees from Harrison County. No money as yet had been paid into the fund.<sup>34</sup>

Preachers assigned to examine the school wrote in 1853: "Some twenty-seven classes were examined in reading, geography, arithmetic, history of the United States, universal history, Davie's algebra, Bourdon's do, Latin, French, Greek, natural philosophy, geometry, trigonometry, surveying, analytical geometry, and elements of criticism. To say the examination was good, and that the pupils gave strong evidence of close application to their studies, would not be saying too much, nor all the truth... We doubt if there is any school of the same grade sustained in the same degree of usefulness simply on the funds accruing from tuition. For this result we are in a great measure indebted to the financial skill and kind attention of Nathan Goff, Esq., Treasurer of the Board. The institution is still [not] embarrassed by debt or other encumbrances, but the increased expense of living, occasioned by the large influx of strangers, which has been induced by the public improvements, and especially the North Western Railroad, now in process of construction, will require proportionate carefulness and zeal on the part of those concerned, in order to keep the institution in this desirable condition."<sup>35</sup> The conference commended the agent they had appointed the year before to solicit funds for his zeal and industry and voted to ask for pledges of money for the school "until \$10,000 is raised" for an endowment.<sup>36</sup>

For the first time in the history of both Randolph Academy and Northwestern Virginia Academy, females were admitted in 1854 thus doubling the enrollment which stood May 8, 1854, at more than 150. The conference approved Reverend Richard A. Arthur as principal to replace Alexander Martin, who resigned to enter pastoral work March 1854, and assigned as teachers Peter D. Davison, Isabella J. Davison and Helen McCaully. Nathan Goff, treasurer of the Educational Fund, reported a total of \$792 paid into the fund and all out on loan from which he expected to have \$35 in interest on July 1 to pay to the school. Although the school was reported now to be officially "Northwestern Virginia Male and Female Academy", it continued to be called Northwestern Virginia Academy in all future reports.

The first sign that the educational interest of the conference was being diverted from the Clarksburg school occurred in 1854, when the conference appointed Alexander Martin and Gordon Battelle on a committee to cooperate with men from the Erie and Pittsburgh conferences of the church to establish a Biblical (theological) department at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa.<sup>37</sup> In 1855, when Nathan Goff reported almost \$1,000 in the Educational Fund and \$40 in interest paid to Northwestern Virginia Academy, the conference reappointed Arthur as principal and also as agent to raise funds for the Academy. But the conference passed resolutions: "That we rejoice in the onward progress of Allegheny College... That we recommend the College in its various Departments to the continued and liberal contributions of our friends and members."<sup>38</sup> The abolitionist movement, which caused the division of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1844, could have caused the conference to lose interest in the Clarksburg school: "The unhappy misunderstanding and division of 1844 proved fatal to this school [Northwestern Virginia Academy]..."<sup>39</sup>

Battelle and Martin were not the only Methodists whose interests were moving beyond Northwestern Virginia Academy. Francis H. Pierpont had returned to Fairmont in 1854 and had set about to strengthen the local academy which had been formed in 1852. As chairman of the trustees he secured a graduate of Dickinson College as principal and in 1856 persuaded the Methodist Conference in session in Buckhannon, Va. (W. Va.), to assume control of the new seminary.<sup>40</sup> The conference was pleased to find Northwestern Virginia Academy in "a flourishing condition."<sup>41</sup>

In 1857, when the total sum in the Educational Fund was reported by Nathan Goff to be \$994.50, the conference voted that interest from the fund go to Northwestern Virginia Academy and that an agent to raise money for Fairmont Male and Female Seminary be hired by the conference. The trustees of Northwestern Virginia Academy reported difficulties so great that they were at a loss to know what advice to give the conference. "They [the trustees], without making any suggestions, think it best to leave the whole to the judgment of the Conference."<sup>42</sup> The report was written April 14, 1857, the day Reverend R. A. Arthur resigned as principal.

Northwestern Virginia Academy with 120 pupils in 1858 was "prospering under the care of the principal [Reverend C.C. Knowlton] and his amiable and well qualified lady, and other Assistants."<sup>43</sup>

No report was sent the conference by trustees of Northwestern Virginia Academy in 1859 and 1860. So the conference appointed Gordon Battelle, the presiding elder of Clarksburg District and preacher in charge of the Clarksburg Station, to act for the conference in behalf of Northwestern Virginia Academy and the Educational Fund.<sup>44</sup>

A few days short of three months before Union Army troops moved into Clarksburg, the Methodist Episcopal Church South ended its affiliation with Northwestern Virginia Academy when it passed resolutions instructing representatives of the conference to meet with trustees of Northwestern Virginia Academy "to demand the movable property about the building or pay for the same in case the connection between the Conference and the Trustees be dissolved... That the interest now due on the Educational Fund be equally divided between the Morgantown Collegiate Institute and the Fairmont Seminary."<sup>45</sup>

General McClellan arrived in Clarksburg June 23, 1861, when Clarksburg was designated the base of Federal military operations in the Department of (West) Virginia. The Northwestern Virginia Academy building was commandeered by the Union Army.

In 1865 the last session of the Northwestern Virginia Academy was taught by Reverend John Connor, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church. During that year the first Clarksburg public schools were taught in rooms rented in different parts of town. In 1866 the entire Academy property, consisting of grounds, building, and equipment, was turned over for the use of the public schools; but no transfer of the title was made.<sup>46</sup> Reverend John Connor was principal of the Academy public school during the term beginning in fall 1866; Julius Anderson, 1867; Dr. William Meigs, 1868-1873; D.C. Louchery, 1873-1878; C.W. Lynch, 1878-1882; John Gittings, 1882-1892.<sup>47</sup>

In 1884 the public schools graduated the first class from Clarksburg High School, a three-year school beyond eighth grade.<sup>48</sup> In 1889 the board of education paid \$10 for rental of Music Hall<sup>49</sup> for graduation exercises and the next year, and several years thereafter, paid Gay Duncan \$30 to instruct music for the event. She must have worked steadily for a number of weeks because the principal of the school received \$85 for a month's work and most of the teachers, \$40.<sup>50</sup>

The Academy building housed primary and intermediate departments and the high school. Closing exercises of the school were held in "the rooms of the Academy."<sup>51</sup> Principal Gittings had ten teachers; he reported infractions of rules of the school to the board.<sup>52</sup>

The use of the Academy building as the sole site for the education of white children<sup>53</sup> in Clarksburg continued until 1892, when a new era in education in the town was born. Until this time the principal of the school had served as superintendent of Clarksburg Independent School District. In 1892 the board hired J.R. Trotter for principal of the Academy and L.J. Corbly for superintendent, a new post with a salary of \$133.35 a month. To relieve congestion at the Academy the board rented a room in the Prichard Building in the West End for a primary school and transferred Dora Ridenour from the Academy building to teach the school.

When the board ordered in December 1892 that natural gas be placed in the hall of the Academy and that a register be cut in the floor of the superintendent's office, no one complained that the floor would be marred or weakened. The Academy was already so ramshackle as to be unsafe. March 10, 1893, the board hired M.F. Geisey, architect, at a sum of \$300 plus \$20 a trip for no more than 10 trips to draw plans for a new school building. The board had already appointed a committee to set a price on the land east of the Academy building. This they would sell for \$8,000 with a stipulation that the board could buy the land back within three years,<sup>54</sup> and this plan would circumvent the law that the board could not go into debt. P.Q. Shrake Company was given the contract in March 1894 to build the first floor to be completed by July 1894 at a cost of \$5,000.<sup>55</sup>

Henry Haymond writes that the Board of Education had added, sometime after Northwestern Virginia Academy came under its control, two rooms on the west end of the old building. "In 1894 the old building was torn away, except the new part, and the present building was constructed."<sup>56</sup> Haymond should know for as secretary of the board he signed the minutes of the board at every meeting from 1888 until July 2, 1892.

School was dismissed in March 1894 for all but high school students, who met in rooms over stores in the town, while the first floor of the new building was being built west and south of and inclusive of the two rooms already standing. No commencement was held in 1894 because the board had ruled that the requirement for graduation would be four years of study instead of three.<sup>57</sup>

John W. Davis was named principal of the Academy school in 1894 but declined the offer and was replaced by A. P. Romine. Davis was lucky not to have administered the school crammed into one floor in a half-finished building. The board had contracted in July 1894 with P. Q. Shrake to finish the second floor of the school for \$13,142, but not to work at a rate which would demand more money than the board had on hand. The school board met in the new first floor October 26, 1894, and voted "that school open for this year on Monday the 29th day of October in the new building even though it is only partially finished."<sup>58</sup> Shrake was ordered to have the building finished by September 15, 1895.

The board appointed Orie McConke principal of the high school in the Academy building July 9, 1896, at a salary of \$60 a month.<sup>59</sup> July 1897 the board named Frank L. Burdett superintendent of schools at a salary of \$100 a month.

The board awarded a contract for \$330 in 1897 to have nine rooms in the Academy painted. It purchased for \$400 the house and lot, owned by Margaret Mulheren, which adjoined the Academy lot, a house which by 1904 they would be using to lessen the pressure of too many pupils for the Academy building.

Nothing the board did helped long to relieve congestion in the classrooms for enumerations reported 1143 school-age children in 1897 and 1369 in 1900. The West End School was built at the cost of \$3,380 on the Point in 1897; the school for Negro children on Water Street at the cost of \$10,700 in 1900; and rooms were rented for schools in Broad Oaks and near the Monticello Brick Plant (South Chestnut Street) in 1900.<sup>60</sup>

Superintendent Burdett found time, in the crush of finding enough seats for new pupils, to prepare a course of study required for graduation at Clarksburg High School and presented his plan to the board who approved it May 18, 1900.<sup>61</sup> Youngsters in the crowded Academy building must have been too impatient to wait their turn at the school well or a contaminated well may have existed near the school because the board in March 1901 ordered that drinking water at the Academy would be confined to water from the well on school property. So many youngsters were to enroll in the primary department at the Academy in 1902, the year the board ordered Alta Vista School built, that in July the board took sealed bids to build a partition in the primary room at the Academy.

In 1903, when the number of school-age students reached 2034, the board ordered the chapel at the Academy partitioned for classrooms. The board ordered a special election for voters to express their wishes on a bond issue to build schools, an election where the voters defeated bonded indebtedness. So the board ordered Monticello School built and rented a house for a school at P.K. Mines. After the voters passed a bond issue in 1905, Pierpoint School on Sycamore Street and Carlile School on Virginia Street were built.<sup>62</sup>

By 1907, in the minutes of the board, the Academy building was called "Central School" with "Clarksburg High School" used only to refer to the high school housed in a portion of the structure. The high school admitted pupils from outside Clarksburg Independent School District for a tuition of \$2 per month. The board refused to admit pupils from outside the district in grades one through eight.<sup>63</sup>

When the board appointed a committee in December 1909 "to foster a bond issue to build a new high school"<sup>64</sup>, they took the first step on a project long needed. In 1908 the Men's Club on Second Street had been used by the high school as a gymnasium; in 1909 the old Armory, for boys' gym and the basement of the Methodist Episcopal Church, for the girls'. And from 1911-1913 the school board would rent the entire Goff Chapel on the southeast corner of Second and Pike Streets, vacated by the Methodist Episcopal Church, to use for various classes from Central School.<sup>65</sup>

Voters passed a \$275,000 bond issue for a new high school on July 25, 1911, but it took a citizen protest and a writ from the circuit court in August 1912 ordering the school board to build a high school and one grade school before the board bought a site on Lee Avenue in October 1912 and sent Superintendent Burdette to view schools in Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Illinois, and Michigan. The board hired William B. Ittner as architect in November 1912.<sup>66</sup> September 1914 the high school transferred to the new Washington Irving High School building.<sup>67</sup>

Central School became a grade school housing grades one through six.<sup>68</sup> The school was renamed Towers School in honor of George Towers, first principal of Randolph Academy. Lucy Robinson, who was first hired by Clarksburg Independent School District in 1905<sup>69</sup>, was named principal of Towers School in 1914. Miss Robinson served as principal of Towers School until 1952 at which time she had taught a total of 49 years in Harrison County, 37 of them at Towers School.<sup>70</sup>

## Footnotes

1. Virginia, General Assembly, "Legislative Petitions", Monongalia, Ohio, and Harrison counties, December 1, 1786.
2. Randolph County was formed in 1787.
3. Hening, William Waller, ed., *The Statutes at Large*, Vol. 12, pp. 638-41.
4. Virginia, General Assembly, "Legislative Petitions", Harrison County, September 16, 1788.
5. Hening, Vol. 12, p. 661; Vol. 13, p. 87.
6. *Ibid.*, Vol. 13, p. 292.
7. Haymond, Henry, *History of Harrison County*, p. 288.
8. *Ibid.*, pp. 288-9.
9. Virginia, General Assembly, "Legislative Petitions", Harrison County, December 12, 1809.
10. Harrison County, Virginia (W. Va.), Court, *Minute Book 1792-97*, p. 336.
11. Dorothy Davis in an interview with Otis K. Rice, August 1977.
12. Harrison County, Virginia (W. Va.), *Deed Book No. 3*, p. 328; No. 4, p. 628.
13. Randolph Academy, Clarksburg, Virginia (W. Va.), *Minutes of the Board of Trustees*, Sept. 29, 1803; Mar. 22, 1804; Sept. 26, 1804; Nov. 19, 1804; Dec. 13, 1804; Dec. 22, 1804; Dec. 30, 1805; Feb. 18, 1806; Sept. 24, 1808.
14. *Ibid.*, Oct. 13, 1816; Aug. 15, 1818.
15. Jackson had been president of the board of trustees in 1809.
16. Randolph Academy, Clarksburg, Virginia (W. Va.), *Minutes of the Board of Trustees*, Aug. 12, 1816; Aug. 15, 1816; May 11, 1819.
17. Davis, Dorothy, *John George Jackson*, p. 395.
18. Randolph Academy, Clarksburg, Virginia (W. Va.), *Minutes of the Board of Trustees*, Sept. 19, 1820; Feb. 3, 1821.
19. *Ibid.*, Je. 7, 1822; Jan. 26, 1824; Mar. 24, 1825; Sept. 15, 1825; Je. 17, 1828.
20. Virginia, General Assembly, *Acts of the Assembly 1827-1828*, p. 84.
21. Randolph Academy, Clarksburg, Virginia (W. Va.), *Minutes of the Board of Trustees*, August 26, 1832; Jl. 24, 1834; Dec. 30, 1835. "The Methodist Episcopal Church built a small brick church partially on the ground of the Randolph Academy on the brow of the hill East of the present [1909] public school building overlooking First Street where they worshiped for many years. The date this church was built is not known. It is certain, however, that it was used as a house of worship in 1827." Haymond, p. 284.
22. Randolph Academy, Clarksburg, Virginia (W. Va.), *Minutes of the Board of Trustees*, Je. 26, 1839; Oct. 14, 1839; Mar. 20, 1840.
23. In January 1841 Pierpont qualified as a lawyer before the Harrison County Court. He left Clarksburg in June 1841. Ambler, Charles H., *Francis H. Pierpont*, pp. 24-5.
24. Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Western Virginia Conference, *Minutes of the Conference*, October 1849, pp. 55, 70-75.
25. Haymond, p. 290. The conference report gives the measurements 74 ft. by 45 ft. Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Western Virginia Conference, *Minutes of the Conference*, October 1849, p. 70.
26. Haymond, pp. 290-1.
27. Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Western Virginia Conference, *Minutes of the Conference*, October 1849, p. 70.
28. West Virginia, Department of Free Schools, *The History of Education in West Virginia*, revised edition, 1907, p. 176.
29. Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Western Virginia Conference, *Minutes of the Conference*, July 1848, p. 1.
30. *Ibid.*, October 1849, pp. 70-1.
31. *Ibid.*, June 1850, pp. 91-2, 98.
32. *Ibid.*, June 1851, pp. 117-8, 124-5.
33. *Ibid.*, June 1852, p. 146.
34. *Ibid.*, 145-6, 149-50, 159-60.
35. *Ibid.*, June 1853, pp. 174-5.
36. *Ibid.*, p. 185.
37. *Ibid.*, 1854, pp. 18-20.
38. *Ibid.*, 1855, pp. 18, 21-22.
39. West Virginia, Department of Free Schools, *The History of Education in West Virginia*, 1907, p. 248.
40. Ambler, p. 32.
41. Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Western Virginia Conference, *Minutes of the Conference*, June 1856, pp. 16-20.
42. *Ibid.*, 1857, pp. 323-4.
43. *Ibid.*, 1858, p. 21.
44. *Ibid.*, April 1859, p. 17; 1860, p. 11.
45. *Ibid.*, March 1861, p. 10.
46. In 1878 an act of the West Virginia Legislature conveyed the title of all such school property as that of Northwestern Virginia Academy to public school authorities. West Virginia, Department of Free Schools, *The History of Education in West Virginia*, 1907, p. 176.
47. *Ibid.*
48. Washington Irving High School, Clarksburg, W. Va., *Senior Class, Reminiscences*, 1916, p. [8].
49. Also referred to as the "Town Hall" and located on the second floor of the building standing in 1980 on the southwest corner of Third Street and Traders Avenue, Clarksburg, W. Va.; Independent School District, *Minutes of the Board*, 1888-1896, pp. 19-20, 94.
50. *Ibid.*, pp. 19, 67, 69. M. Anna Dunn, listed as a teacher in 1888 in the first minutes of the board extant and in minutes recorded in every following year that the Academy school (Clarksburg High School, Central School) existed, asked in 1895 that her salary of \$45 a month be raised for work as teacher of 9th grade. The board refused the salary increase but ruled that if "she prefers to take another grade, the Board will endeavor to effect an exchange." *Ibid.*, p. 195.
51. *Ibid.*, p. 39.
52. "Lloyd Kester was throwing snowballs from the schoolhouse door after I had repeatedly ordered the boys to stop doing so. As he was coming upstairs I caught him by the collar to stop him to talk to him about it when he jerked away in a rude manner and went to his room. In the course of a few minutes I followed him there in order to reason with him upon his bad conduct, when he became so insolent that I ordered him to take his books and leave the school. This he refused to do. The case will have to go before the Board. Respectfully, John G. Gittings." The board ruled that the pupil be suspended from school for two weeks after which time he could return to school if he would apologize to Mr. Gittings and promise in the future to obey the principal's orders. *Ibid.*, p. 38.
53. Negro children attended a school located on a lot adjoining the Odd Fellows Cemetery on South Chestnut Street. Clarksburg, W. Va., Independent School District, *Minutes of the Board*, 1897-1907, p. 119.
54. Clarksburg, W. Va. Independent School District, *Minutes of the Board*, 1888-1896, pp. 108, 112-3, 118, 123-4, 157-8. The land adjoining the Academy again became the property of the school board July 12, 1897, Clarksburg, W. Va. Independent School District, *Minutes of the Board*, 1897-1907, p. 14.
55. Clarksburg, W. Va. Independent School District, *Minutes of the Board*, 1888-1896, p. 148.
56. Haymond, p. 291.
57. Washington Irving High School, Clarksburg, W. Va., *Senior Class, Reminiscences*, 1916, p. [8]. The three-year course was reinstated in 1896 and ended in 1900 when the four-year course was restored. *Ibid.*
58. Clarksburg, W. Va., Independent School District, *Minutes of the Board*, 1888-1896, pp. 151, 165-6, 167, 174, 186.
59. *Ibid.*, pp. 207-8.

FOOTNOTES (Continued)

60. Clarksburg, W. Va., Independent School District, Minutes of the Board, 1897-1907, pp. 7, 14, 17, 65-66, 75, 214.

61. <u>First Year</u>	<u>Second Year</u>	<u>Third Year</u>	<u>Fourth Year</u>
English Grammar	Rhetoric and Literature	English Literature	American Literature
Bookkeeping	Beginners' Latin	Latin -- Caesar	Latin, Cicero & Virgil
Mental Arithmetic	Physical Geography	Physics	Physics
Elementary Algebra	General History	Algebra, High School	Civil Government
General History	Algebra, Elementary and	Geometry, Plane	Plane and Solid Geometry
Botany	High School	Drawing	Drawing
Drawing	Drawing	Vocal Music	Vocal Music
Vocal Music	Vocal Music		

Ibid., p. 79

62. Ibid., pp. 94, 124, 131, 146, 160, 152, 192.

63. Clarksburg, W. Va., Independent School District, Minutes of the Board, June 29, 1907-June 26, 1913., pp. 33, 37. In June 1910 the superintendent reported \$144.50 collected in tuition during the 1909-1910 school year. Ibid., p. 84

64. Ibid., p. 67.

65. Ibid., pp. 39, 66, 94, 114.

66. Ibid., pp. 143-49, 165, 223-30, 236-39, 251, 256, 259.

67. Washington Irving High School, Clarksburg, W. Va., Senior Class, Reminiscences, 1916, p. [9].

68. Grades seven and eight were a junior high school taught in rooms in the new high school. Dean Ward in an interview with Dorothy Davis, July 13, 1980.

69. Clarksburg, W. Va., Independent School District, Minutes of the Board, 1897-1907, p. 208.

70. Davis, Dorothy, History of Harrison County, p. 621.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ambler, Charles H. Francis H. Pierpont ... Chapel Hill, N.C.: The University of North Carolina Press, 1937.

Clarksburg, W. Va., Independent School District. Minutes of the Board, 1888-1896, 1897-1907, 1907-1913. Harrison County, W. Va., Board of Education Office, Court House, Clarksburg, as of 1980.

Davis, Dorothy. History of Harrison County, West Virginia. American Association of University Women, Clarksburg, West Virginia, 1970. [Parsons, W. Va.: McClain Printing Company, 1970.]

Davis, Dorothy. John George Jackson. Parsons, W. Va.: McClain Printing Company, 1976.

Harrison County, Virginia (W. Va.) Deed Book Nos. 3, 4.

Harrison County, Virginia (W. Va.) Court. Minute Book 1792-1797.

Haymond, Henry. History of Harrison County [West Virginia] ... Morgantown, W. Va.: Acme Publishing Company [c1910]

Hening, William Waller, ed. The Statutes at Large ... of Virginia ... from ... 1619 ... v. 12. Richmond, Va.: Printed for the editor, by George Cochran, 1823.

Hening, William Waller, ed. The Statutes at Large ... of Virginia ... from ... 1619 ... v. 13. Philadelphia, Pa.: Published for the editor, by Thomas Desilver, 1823.

Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Western Virginia Conference. Minutes of the Conference July 1848, October 1849, June 1850, June 1851, June 1852, 1854, 1855, June 1856, 1857, 1858, April 1859, 1860, March 1861.

West Virginia Wesleyan College, Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library. Buckhannon, W. Va.

West Virginia University Library, West Virginia Collection, Morgantown, W. Va. has on microfilm, No. 1501. on microfilm, No. 1501.

Randolph Academy, Clarksburg, Va. (W.Va.) Minutes of the Board of Trustees 1803-1841, 1851.

West Virginia University Library, West Virginia Collection, Morgantown, W.Va., No. 1592; typewritten copy, No. 503.

Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library, Clarksburg, W.Va. has photo and typewritten copies.

Virginia. General Assembly. Acts of the Assembly 1827-1828, 1829-1830.

Virginia. General Assembly. Legislative Petitions, Harrison County, September 16, 1788, December 12, 1809.

Virginia. General Assembly. Legislative Petitions, Monongalia, Ohio, and Harrison counties, December 1, 1786.

Washington Irving High School, Clarksburg, W. Va. Senior Class. Reminiscences, 1916. unpagged. Fairmont, W. Va., Fairmont Printing & Pub. Co. [1916]

West Virginia. Department of Free Schools. The History of Education in West Virginia. Revised edition. Prepared under the direction of the State Superintendent of Schools (Thomas C. Miller). Charleston, W. Va.: Tribune Printing Company, 1907.

Interviews

Otis K. Rice by Dorothy Davis, August 1977.

Dean Ward by Dorothy Davis, July 13, 1980.