

THE ACADEMIES

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The Piedmont section of South Carolina, along with the rest of the thirteen states, underwent trying times in the years immediately after the Revolutionary War. It was probably almost the beginning of the nineteenth century before the establishment of any schools in the area, other than an occasional "old field" school started in a convenient vacant log cabin by some itinerate minister or schoolmaster. However, in the lower part of the state, some progress was made as the South Carolina Society and the Winyah Indigo Society of Georgetown were chartered to start schools. In 1787, the Mount Zion Society of Winnsboro organized and opened a school which has had the longest continuous life of a school in the state, now being the Winnsboro High School. The following year education societies were established in Camden and Cheraw. In the upcountry early schools were the Fairforest Academy established at Union and the Mount Bethel Academy in Newberry.¹

The most noted early academy which attained almost national recognition for its age was the upcountry academy of Moses Waddell. This young Presbyterian preacher of Scotch-Irish parentage graduated from Hampton-Sydney Virginia College in 1792.² In 1795, he visited the Calhoun settlement in Abbeville where he fell in love with and married the daughter of Patrick Calhoun. Shortly thereafter, he opened the Vienna Academy in Abbeville District where young John Caldwell Calhoun became his student at the age of thirteen. The fame of the academy grew, and Waddell later moved to Willington in the same district. There it had its greatest period of service with a student body of some one hundred fifty boys who boarded with the neighbors and attended the academy. Among his students, John C. Calhoun went on to Yale and became South Carolina's most famous son of the nineteenth century, while George McDuffie became Congressman and governor of the state, and James

¹South Carolina, State Board of Agriculture, *South Carolina: Resources and Population, Institutions and Industries* [Harry Hammond, editor?] (Charleston: Walker, Evans, and Cogswell, 1883), p. 449.

²Hugh C. Bailey, *The Upcountry Academies of Moses Waddell*, p. 36.

Pettigru emerged as one of the intellectual leaders of the state. His graduates achieved recognition in the leading universities of the North, Calhoun being the first of many.

Meantime, over the state, some progress in education was being made. General Thomas Sumter and Richard Furman advertised on May 4, 1786, that the seminary of learning designed for Statesburg was open and that the gentleman who would preside brought remarkable testimonials from America and Europe.¹

In the early nineteenth century some attempts were made state-wide for free school systems, beginning in 1811. Due to insufficient appropriations and lack of supervision, little progress was made until after the War Between the States. Looked down upon by the well-to-do and not accepted by the poorer families, these free schools were called pauper schools in derision and made little if any progress.²

In our home district of Greenville, in a little village of 400 population, a movement was started in the eighteen-teens to form some academies. As a historian notes:

Very little was done toward educating the youth of Greenville for many years after it became a village. In the homes of the more wealthy, private tutors were employed to instill the rudiments, and an occasional young man was sent away to one of the Northern colleges, but no effort seems to have been made until 1817 or 1818 to establish anything in the nature of a public school. But so much association with the culture and refinement which poured into the community during the summer turned the thoughts of the villagers to education; and about 1818, a few of the leaders among them undertook to secure by private subscription enough money to build two academies, one for the boys and one for the girls.³

William Bullein Johnson, who was to be the first principal of the Female Academy, said "the suggestion of several wealthy

¹David Duncan Wallace, *South Carolina: A Short History*. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1966, or. pub., 1951), p. 458.

²*Ibid.*, p. 460.

³James McDowell Richardson, *History of Greenville County, Narrative and Biographical* (Atlanta: A. H. Casson, 1910), p. 63.

summer visitors decided the villagers to erect the academies."⁴ Thus, in 1819, Greenville was to start its first community venture in education. Forty-nine public spirited citizens of the community subscribed approximately \$5,000.00 to build two brick academy buildings. Subscribers contributed amounts from \$500.00 down to as little as \$3.00 for this purpose. With this amount subscribed the leaders approached Vardry McBee requesting that he donate a site.⁵ In August 1820, Vardry McBee deeded to Jeremiah Cleveland, William Toney, William Young, John Blassingame, Spartan Goodlett, and Baylis J. Earle, thirty acres of land adjoining the village for the purpose of establishing the Greenville Male and Female Academies.⁶ In 1821, these seven and Thomas G. Walker were named trustees in the charter obtained from the legislature.

A most interesting record of these academies is found in the original minute book of the Board of Trustees covering the period of September 4, 1821, through December 25, 1854, when the academy lands were conveyed to Furman University.⁷ The bylaws created a board of seven members, the board being self-perpetuating with vacancies being filled by selection of the replacement members by those board members who were still active. Under the bylaws, the trustees were to meet every two months, and members were to be fined fifty cents for missing meetings. If a member missed three meetings, he was considered to have resigned. The trustees appointed a standing visiting committee of two. According to the bylaws they were: "To visit them [the Academies] occasionally, and to attend the recitations of the scholars, to observe their deportment and progress, to watch over the management of the schools, they shall make

⁴William Bullein Johnson, "Reminiscences of William Bullein Johnson," *Baptist Courier*, April 30, 1836. These "Reminiscences" are being republished serially in *Journal of the South Carolina Baptist Historical Society* edited by J. Glenwood Clayton. The first two segments appear in volumes four (1978) and five (1979).

⁵Stephen Stanley Crittenden, *The Greenville Century Book* (Greenville, S. C.: The Greenville News, 1903), p. 29.

⁶*Ibid.*, p. 28.

⁷"Minutes of the Board of Trustees of the Greenville Academies," September 4, 1821-December 25, 1854. Hereinafter cited as "Minutes."

report of their observations to the board at each meeting and suggest such regulations as they deem expedient."¹⁰ It appears from subsequent minutes, however, that this visiting committee was rather remiss in its duties since they frequently reported that they had not visited between the meetings. Thus, began the Greenville Male and Female Academies of Greenville.

The trustees, under the arrangement, faced a very difficult problem in that they were trustees for the school buildings but had no power to levy any taxes. It appears, therefore, that income for keeping up and enlarging the schools had to be derived from subscriptions, and the minutes of this period denote nine separate campaigns for subscriptions for specific purposes. Children of the subscribers were allowed to attend the school by paying only the tuition fees, while the trustees established an entrance fee of one dollar per quarter charged to the children of non-subscribers.¹¹ The trustees, by resolution, maintained that any person who in the opinion of the board should contribute something to the academies must be required to become a subscriber for that purpose. Thus, these trustees operated the schools on the basis of subscriptions, entrance fees of non-subscribers and the proceeds from an escheated property within the county. The minutes, however, reflect but one occasion of escheated property during the life of the academies. In effect, the trustees employed the principal and teachers of the academies who could use the buildings free of charge and whose compensation consisted of tuition fees of their students.

Accounting for entrance fees was a constant source of friction between the trustees and the teachers as the teachers often failed to turn in a written report of entrance fees collected. There are several references in the minutes of requests made to the principal for an accounting. The trustees also faced the problem of keeping up the property. One device was to require students to pay for damage to the property. One resolution in the minutes on this subject reads:

¹⁰Ibid., September 4, 1821.

¹¹Ibid., June 30, 1821.

Resolved that any scholar in either branch of the academy committing any injury to the buildings, such as the breaking of glass, defacing the walls, or any species of damage to the buildings, or tables or seats for use of the schools, is liable to a fine fully equal to repair, the fine shall be laid at the discretion of the trustees.¹²

The academies early attracted students from out of town. William B. Johnson, the first principal of the Female Academy, who has sometimes been called "the father of female education in South Carolina," came to Greenville at the invitation of the trustees in 1823 and served as principal of the Female Academy until 1830. This outstanding Baptist minister was born near Charleston, received a classical education, read law but never practiced, and was converted to the Baptist faith in 1804. Prior to coming to Greenville, he was chaplain of the South Carolina College, helped organize the First Baptist Church in Columbia in 1809 and helped build its first building in 1811. He helped found the South Carolina Baptist Convention and served as first president. Later he founded the Johnson Female University in Anderson, South Carolina.¹³ While here, he helped found the Greenville Baptist Church, later renamed the First Baptist Church.

Early in the life of the academies there was attracted to the Male Academy one of the foremost citizens of Greenville of the nineteenth century when Benjamin Franklin Perry entered the Greenville Academy in 1823.¹⁴ In his *Reminiscences*, Perry states that he decided "to read the Iliad and pursue mathematics and natural philosophy under the Rev. Mr. Hodges." Here he joined with George F. Townes, Randall and Theodore Croft, Elias Earle, William Thompson and others as students of the Greenville Male Academy.

Of the Greenville academies Robert Mills wrote in 1826: "The education of youth has latterly been very much attended to. Two academies, one for males, the other for females, have been

¹²Ibid., June 23, 1822.

¹³Hortense Woodson, "Johnson, William Bullein," *Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists* (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1958), 1:709.

¹⁴Lillian Adèle Kibler, *Benjamin F. Perry, South Carolina Unionist* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1946), p. 38.

established in the village of Greenville, and are not only well supported but have very able teachers."¹³

Apparently, there was friction from time to time between the principal, the teachers, and the trustees, not only over entrance fees but also as to the use of the property as well as its upkeep, necessary repairs and who was to make them. Also criticism of the teachers and principals by the public from time to time required the trustee mediation. Basically, however, in view of the problems and difficulties, these academies served their purpose. By 1836 it became necessary to change the tuition charges, and the trustees voted to increase the tuition for the lower branches from \$2.50 to \$3.00 a quarter.¹⁴ In addition to playing the tuition charges, the parents had to purchase the textbooks for their students in the academy. Various merchants sought this business. E. R. Stokes, who operated a book and stationery store, advertised that he had all the school books used in the Greenville academies, as well as stationery and drawing supplies and paper.¹⁵ J. Powell and Company advertised that "we are now receiving a great variety of school books bought expressly for the use of the Greenville academies, together with music, musical instruments, paint boxes, camel hair pencils, slates, slate pencils, bristol board, drawing paper, velvet sample cloth, quills, ink, paper, etc."¹⁶

Discipline was very strict in those times and corporal punishment was permitted but the minutes reflect only one instance of a serious disciplinary problem. It appears that one of the students had been suspended for improper conduct by the principal, Mr. Leary, and the minutes state:

The trustees inquired into the facts of the case and concluded that he should be reinstated and that Mr. Leary be requested to make such remarks to such student, also, to the other one engaged in the difficulty with him, as he might think fit. It was then resolved "that any student of this institution who shall be seen with any warlike

¹³Robert Mills, *Statistics of South Carolina, Including a View of Its Natural, Civil, and Military History, General and Particular* (Charleston: Harbison and Lloyd, 1826), p. 576.

¹⁴"Minutes," November 19, 1836.

¹⁵"The Greenville (S. C.) Mountaineer, September 29, 1837.

¹⁶*Ibid.*, January 28, 1837.

weapon (other than an ordinary pocket knife) shall be instantly suspended by the principal."¹⁹

It seems that co-education did not work well, although the students were in separate buildings. In 1837 the trustees deemed it desirable that the lands belonging to the academies should be equally divided between the Male and Female departments. At a subsequent meeting, this equal division was reported and the board passed a resolution that Mr. Leary be authorized to close a road running between the Male and Female Academies by running a fence across it if he chose to do so.²⁰

By 1838, total enrolment of the academies was sixty-five boys and forty-four girls, and it was apparent that an additional room would be needed at the Female Academy. The trustees authorized the enlargement which was subsequently reported on August 10, 1838, as having cost \$289.77.²¹

It appears from the record that some of the children developed the habit of going to the shopkeepers of the village and obtaining credit for certain items which were not authorized by their parents. Consequently, on January 8, 1839, the board passed the following resolution: "On motion, it was ordered by the board that the secretary give public notice to the merchants and shopkeepers in the village requesting them not to credit pupils at the academies without an order from the teacher, parents or guardians."²²

For many years the students of the academies celebrated May Day with the selection of a Queen and a full day's program. A brief account of the May 3, 1839, program is as follows:

This annual festival was honored by the young ladies of the Greenville Female Academy, in a manner beautiful and appropriate. The Queen and her attendant nymphs, all fresh and lovely as the flowery chaplets which they wore, at an early hour gathered in one fairy assembly at the academy, where the Queen was enthroned, and

¹⁹"Minutes," May 26, 1837.

²⁰*Ibid.*, July 4, September 5, 1837.

²¹*Ibid.*, April 17, August 10, 1838.

²²*Ibid.*, January 8, 1839.

worthily she bore the sceptre of roses. Not Victoria, nor Queen of any earthly realm could boast such subjects; an empire where, from the royal head herself to the humblest of her train, all was bright and joyous and happy. To witness such a scene, one might easily in imagination deem himself in some fairyland where the grosser vestiges of mortality have entered not, or in some garden of the fabled Elysium. The delightful music with which they were favored by some gentlemen of the village, was calculated to add to the sweet illusion which such an exhibition could produce. Such music, softly sweet in Lydian measures fell upon the ear "that hearing and sight both drank in delight." Nor was there wanting the material luxury of cake, fruit, et cetera, to refresh and gratify the "mortal mixture of earth's mould" in the persons of the spectators.

From the academy, the Queen and her train, followed by a procession of the students of the Male Academy, with numerous spectators, marched to the Baptist Church to hear the interesting and appropriate address of the Rev. E. T. Buist delivered on the occasion. The young ladies then returned to the academy and spent the evening in social intercourse with the numerous friends who were invited to meet them. Music and the dance prolonged the proceedings until ten o'clock in the evening, at which hour all retired to dream of the delightful amusements of the day. The poetry repeated by the Queen and her attendants will be found in the order in which it was recited.²³

Affairs at the school rarely went smoothly. On July 7, 1840, Major E. D. Earle reported from the Visiting Committee: " . . . Said the Male Department was going to his entire satisfaction . . . Spoke in high terms of the new teacher, Mr. Stewart . . . Said the Female Department appeared to be well conducted as far as the recitation of lessons were concerned but there might be some improvement in the arrangement, order of deportment and personal neatness of the pupils." After deliberation of the report of the Visiting Committee, the board instructed Major Turpin to "address a kind and respectful note to Mr. Hallenquist inviting his attention to the importance of strict discipline and particular regard to the personal neatness of the pupils."²⁴ Things, however, continued not to work out to the satisfaction of the trustees as to the Female Academy. Thus, on November 2, 1841, they passed a resolution to get a new principal for the Female Academy, even

²³Greenville Mountaineer, May 3, 1839.

²⁴Minutes, July 7, 1840.

though Mr. Hallenquist had not resigned: "Resolved that the prosperity and welfare of the Female Department of the Greenville academies demands that the trustees shall forthwith advertise for a principal to take care of that department. The secretary was directed to send Mr. Hallenquist a copy of the resolution and advertise in the *Mountaineer* and any other two papers he might think proper."²³ He did subsequently resign, however, and it was November, 1842, before they elected Miss Charlotte Payne principal for the Female Academy.²⁴

The courses of study at the two academies in 1844 and tuition fees were most interesting, as listed in the minutes of the board:

The following rates of tuition for the next year was established by the board in both institutions for the quarter:

Orthography, Reading, Writing and Arithmetic - \$3

The above with English Grammar, Geography and History, Composition - \$6

The above with Natural History, Natural and Moral Philosophy Natural Theology and Moral Science - \$7

The above with Astronomy, Chemistry, Rhetoric, Botany, Logic and Belles Lettres - \$8

The above with ancient languages, use of the Globes and Mathematics - \$10²⁵

It appears that Mr. Leary resigned as principal of the Male Academy about 1838, but almost ten years later Mr. Leary was re-elected and stayed with the academy until the Male Department was discontinued shortly after the coming of Furman University in 1852.²⁶ However, the Female Academy continued to give problems to the trustees. Rev. Gailliard resigned from the Female Academy in 1850, and after continuing trouble in 1851, the board resolved that the Female Academy, together with furniture and apparatus, be rented to a suitable person.²⁷

After the coming of Furman University to Greenville with its very fine preparatory department under the guidance of

²³Ibid., November 2, 1841.

²⁴Ibid., November 7, 1842.

²⁵Ibid., March 4, 1844.

²⁶Ibid., November 15, 1848.

²⁷Ibid., August 27, 1850; December 30, 1851.

Professor Peter C. Edwards and Charles Hallette Judson, and the resignation of Mr. Leary on November 16, 1852, the Boys Academy closed. The trustees, however, continued to operate the Female Academy. Apparently, however, faculty jealousies arose and several resignations are noted in the minutes.¹⁰

In June 1854, the South Carolina Baptist Convention broached the idea of establishing a Female College in the city and the citizens of Greenville expressed a real interest in this proposal. On June 23, 1854, at a called meeting of the board a resolution was offered by Benjamin Franklin Perry to transfer the academy lands to the Baptists for this purpose saying in part:

The Furman University has entirely overshadowed the Male Academy and almost destroyed the school, nor is there any prospect for a change for the better in the conditions of these schools, the one having at this time only ten or fifteen pupils and the other not as many, while the property is worth fifteen or twenty thousand dollars, and whereas, there is now a prospect of having a female college located in our village which will entirely supersede the necessity of the female academy. That the whole community here has expressed a desire to secure the location of the proposed female college in our village and subscribed a very large sum of money to effect this purpose. Two-thirds of the citizens over the age of twenty-one have petitioned the trustees of the academies to transfer the lands and buildings to aid in the securing of this college, and the original donor of the lands, Mr. Vardry McBee himself has united in this application to the trustees and subscribes one thousand dollars to the college provided the transfer is made . . . and likewise to advance the cause of female education by substituting a college for an academy, believing that the academy can never flourish again without endowment and that the lands are too valuable to be kept for such paltry schools. Provided, however, there is an express guarantee by the said Baptist Society that a male and female college shall always be kept by them in the village of Greenville where boys and girls may learn all the ordinary branches of education usually taught in male and female academies: thereby, carrying out strictly the original design of the donor in giving the academy lands as well as accomplishing the purpose of the voluntary contributors for the erection of the buildings themselves.¹¹

The board took up the resolution at a subsequent meeting in

¹⁰*Ibid.*, *passim*, 1854.

¹¹*Ibid.*, June 23, 1854.

July, and seven trustees voted for the resolution with G. F. Townes and T. M. Cox voting "no." Basis, however for the minority vote was advanced by G. F. Townes and T. M. Cox as follows:

First, because they do not agree that the academies have ceased to answer the purpose of their establishment, and that in fact, said academies, even during the present year, had entered in them about 100 pupils, male and female, notwithstanding the adverse influence against them during the present year and they are of the opinion that the statements in the resolution of the board are mistaken in facts: *Second*, because they regard the proceeding of the board as a breach of the trust reposed in all the trustees and a violation of the charter of incorporation under which they hold their appointments: *Third*, because they are particularly opposed to surrendering property and interest in which the whole community is interested, against the feelings and wishes of a respectable minority of the citizens, to a religious denomination: *Fourth*, because they do not think it consistent with the original trust, the charter of incorporation, the constitution of the state and the customs of the country to force an unwilling contribution of any portion of the community to the purposes of any religious denomination and to subject our citizens and original subscribers to the academies who may object to patronize any particular denominational school, be it a Baptist school, or any other, and they do not agree that a Baptist or other denominational school alone will satisfy the wants and wishes of a large portion of this community who now have a common interest and privilege in the academies . . . because the proposed transfer will extinguish the male school of the academies and gain no other in its place. The Furman University having been long since established in the town and is destined to be kept on different premises, the transfer would therefore extinguish the male part of the school and substitute entirely a different trust in different hands. They also suggest that the donor of the lands of the academies cannot be considered as occupying a more authoritative right to control the destination of the academies than other contributors of an equal or larger amount of money or other property.²²

Termination of the Greenville academies is evidenced by the resolution of December 25, 1854, which was stated: "The object of the meeting was to sign a deed making a transfer of the academy lands to the trustees of the Furman University under the decree of the court of equity and in accordance with an act

²²Ibid., July 1, 1854.

of the legislature passed at the last session. "" Thus ended Greenville's first school, the Male and Female Academies, with the feeling that the Baptist colleges with adequate preparatory departments could more adequately serve the students of the town, and that without some method of endowment, the academies could not continue to exist, especially in view of the competition with these new schools.

As soon as the resolutions were duly passed and deed prepared for Furman University, a notice by Dr. James P. Boyce appeared in the Greenville papers stating that the share to be raised by the Greenville District for the Female College would be \$25,000. The notice listed a committee of twenty-five with Vardry McBee as chairman, and includes seven former members of the Board of Trustees of the academies; F. F. Beattie, Col. E. S. Irvine, Major B. F. Perry, T. B. Roberts, Thomas M. Cox, J. W. Brooks and Dr. A. B. Crook. It appears that Thomas M. Cox who cast one of the two dissenting votes with reference to deeding the academy lands to the college had changed his position and was now willing to cooperate fully in the establishment of the Baptist Female College.¹⁴

With the closing of the academies, however, a number of private schools continued. A school for girls was announced in 1859 under the guidance of Miss Redfern, while on the same date, an announcement appeared that "the undersigned will open a school for boys the 11th of January 1859 in the basement floor of the Presbyterian Church . . . a strict attention and unremitting industry will be bestowed upon every student. Signed - James H. Carlisle."¹⁵ It appears from this notice that possibly Dr. James H. Carlisle who later became famous at Wofford College, operated a Boy's School in Greenville. Also, Dr. Gailliard, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, set up a school called the Gailliard School, and notice of the end of its first session listed eighty-five pupils and three teachers other than the principal, Dr. Gailliard. This school was located on

¹⁴Ibid., December 25, 1854.

¹⁵*Southern Enterprise* (Greenville, S. C.), March 14, 1858.

¹⁶Ibid., January 13, 1859.

Pendleton Street near Green Avenue and trustees were listed as: T. Edwin Ware, W. K. Easley, T. C. Gower, J. F. Kearns and W. P. Price.³⁸

Also, on the eve of the War Between the States, Miss Eliza Powell, in the newspapers, thanked her patrons for the use of her school.³⁹ About the same time, Mrs. William Young opened a Female School at the stone house five miles above Greenville, teaching "English, Oriental painting, waxwork, leather work, etc."⁴⁰

At the beginning of the War Between the States, in 1861, Furman University closed its doors, as practically all the students who were members of the University Rifles joined the Confederate Army.⁴¹ Furman had no students for the year 1862, and was closed for the duration of the war. Of the remaining faculty members who had not gone to the army, Dr. Edwards conducted a school for boys in his residence; Dr. James C. Furman became acting president of the Woman's College, while Dr. Charles H. Judson taught in the same school.

At the end of the war, Furman reorganized and started again. Professor John B. Patrick returned from the army and was elected teacher of English at the university and head of the preparatory department. Financing the resumption of operations by Furman was extremely difficult, and in 1868 the President James C. Furman appealed to the citizens of Greenville to subscribe twelve scholarships to be given to students at Furman University and to facilitate the finances of the college. This appeal was answered by the Greenville citizens as the twelve scholarships were subscribed by eleven citizens.⁴²

However, finances of the college became worse and the trustees discontinued the preparatory department in 1869. In its place, Captain Patrick and the trustees entered into an agree-

³⁸Ibid., June 28, 1860.

³⁹Ibid., July 17, 1860.

⁴⁰Ibid., March 11, 1858.

⁴¹Robert Norman Daniel, *Furman University, A History* (Greenville, S. C.: Furman University, 1951), p. 80.

⁴²Ibid., p. 82.

ment making his school the preparatory department of the university under the name Greenville High School.⁴¹ Later, Capt. Patrick was to establish in Greenville the Greenville Military Institute operating independently. He was formerly an officer and instructor in the South Carolina Military Academy and had associated with him, Lt. T. Q. Donaldson, Lt. Thomas Gary, Lt. John Patrick and Lt. A. G. Miller.⁴² A native of Barnwell, he had graduated from the South Carolina Military Academy in 1856, and after graduation, became a member of the faculty at the Citadel in the department of Mathematics. During the war he was on duty with the Cadets and came to Greenville at the end of the war to begin the Greenville High School.

The Baptist *Courier*, in an article, says:

After the war, Col. Patrick made his home in Greenville where he operated a school for boys. For awhile he was head of the preparatory department of Furman University which was discontinued when Capt. Patrick opened his high school, known for awhile as the Peabody School, where he was assisted by Professor G. W. Walker, H. T. Cook and R. C. Goodlett. Many of the Furman students in those days were taught in this school, and they entered college well trained and prepared for the higher classes. After several years, Capt. Patrick opened the Greenville Military Institute in the former residence of Dr. James P. Boyce. He received a liberal patronage from Greenville and other parts of the state. In 1887, he moved to Anderson and opened the Patrick Military Institute, the school building used at one time by Dr. W. B. Johnson as a female college. Here, associated with his son, Capt. John M. Patrick, he built up a fine school of which he continued the head until his death.

Col. Patrick was one of the most successful educators in the state, and as a manager of boys and young men, he had few equals. He was wise, firm, cautious, and always a gentleman. The young men loved him and respected and obeyed him. He loved young men and was never happier than trying to help them to a higher life.⁴³

Education for the poorer people, however, suffered during Reconstruction. There is a record that Capt. Patrick's High School was aided to some degree by the Peabody fund, and it was called by some, "The Peabody School." The record also indicated that the Freeman's Bureau owned eleven buildings in

⁴¹Ibid., p. 87.

⁴²Mildred W. Goodlett, *Links in the Goodlett Chain* (privately published, 1965), p. 285.

⁴³*The Baptist Courier*.

the state and one in Greenville, probably Alien School for Negroes, at about the same time.⁴⁴

In the year 1883, under survey made for the governor, it was reported that in Greenville the Patrick Military School under Capt. Patrick was operating, and that in addition, the Business College of J. M. Perry with sixty-five students, a private school operated by Misses Trescot, the Gowansville Academy in north-east Greenville County by Rev. S. J. Earle with fifty-five students, Grier's Academy under J. W. Kennedy with forty-five students, Grover Military Academy in the lower part of the county with forty students and the Piedmont High School with fifty students at Piedmont, South Carolina.⁴⁵

Some three years later, under the leadership of Thomas Claghorn Gower, the Greenville Public Schools were initiated, beginning their operation in 1886. With the public school system in operation, some of the private schools gradually disappeared. However, the Gowansville Academy continued almost through the nineteenth century, and probably others did too. Several private schools continued to operate.

Furman University operated its preparatory department intermittently, but in 1900, it set up the Fitting School as a separate preparatory school with Hugh Charles Haynsworth as Headmaster, assisted by Harvey Tolliver Cook, Andrew Hill Miller, Columbus Ben Martin and C. M. McGee. This institution operated continuously and successfully into the spring of 1916. This preparatory school was quite popular with Greenville boys, many of whom prepared for their college work in the Fitting School.⁴⁶ One other academy should be mentioned which although not in Greenville, attracted patronage from this section, and that is the Bailey Military Institute which had begun in Williston in 1891; later, moved to Edgefield in 1898 and finally to Greenwood in 1912. This was an exceptionally fine preparatory school and operated until 1936 when, due to a

⁴⁴John Furman Thomason, *The Foundations of the Public Schools in South Carolina* (Columbia, S. C.: The State Company, 1925), p. 202.

⁴⁵State Board of Agriculture, *South Carolina*, p. 449.

⁴⁶Daniel, *Furman University*, p. 115.

disastrous fire, all the buildings in the institute were burned except the dormitory. After operating in temporary quarters for the rest of the session, the institute was closed.⁴⁷

Thus, we have traced some of the efforts of early education of the nineteenth century in and around the town of Greenville. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the courage and vision of our ancestors in starting these early academies and for their tenacious courage through very difficult times and adverse circumstances to afford the young people of Greenville as good education advantages as they could.

⁴⁷Letter of Major Ravenel B. Curry in author's possession.