

## Papers Relating to Harrisburg Women

At first glance this section might appear to be papers written by women of Harrisburg – but in the English tradition the Christian name Beverly was employed for males. Accordingly, the first author, Beverly R. Waugh, was not a female – in fact he named his daughter Beverlina, which was then the accepted feminized form of the name.

In truth, Beverly R. Waugh is the *collector* and not the *author* of the articles presented in the first paper. The material reproduced in this volume of *The Chronicle* has been selected from a scrapbook kept by Mr. Waugh during his tenure as principal of Pennsylvania Female College in Harrisburg. While the scrapbook likely remained in the possession of Mrs. Waugh until her death in 1908, no one can account for its whereabouts for almost 100 years. It was purchased by the conference archives last year from a Camp Hill antiques dealer, who had recently acquired it from a collector of local memorabilia – in whose Harrisburg attic it had been stored for some unknown period of time. Hidden between the lines of the articles is a most revealing picture of the place of females in mid nineteenth century America.

Following the lead article that paints a broad picture, the remaining papers present in chronological order more detailed examinations of particular Harrisburg females and their Methodist involvements. Each is based on a document housed in the conference archives. Taken together they lead the reader on a journey through the eyes of area females from the days of the earliest circuit rider to the modern era. Except for a single gap of 40 years, the three writers Anna Hulme Price (1784-1856), Lena Elizabeth Beck Murphy (1896-1918) and Helen Eichelberger Ake (1911-) span Methodism in America from its establishment as a separate denomination at the Christmas Conference in 1784 to the present.

As we celebrate in 2006 the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the possibility of full clergy rights for women in the Methodist Church, the many graduates of Pennsylvania Female College and the three specific Harrisburg women profiled in this volume provide an appropriate backdrop for our reflections.

## **Pennsylvania Female College of Harrisburg**

by Beverly R. Waugh, 1861

editor's note: Beverly R. Waugh was the son of noted Methodist Bishop Beverly Waugh. In March 2004 the conference archives obtained the personal scrapbook of B.R. Waugh, which he began as a student at Dickinson College in 1846 and maintained until his death as principal of Pennsylvania Female College in 1861. In addition to the usual collection of period poems and sermons, the scrapbook of published items includes significant material pertaining to three areas: Bishop Waugh, female colleges in general, and Pennsylvania Female College in Harrisburg.

The focus of this presentation is a subset of the newspaper clippings relating to Pennsylvania Female College. Although not officially connected to the Methodist Episcopal Church, the institution had a Methodist orientation at all levels – trustees, staff, students, and promotion.

The newspaper clippings relating to the other female colleges, several of which enjoyed strong connections with and support from the predecessor denominations of United Methodism, provide valuable primary source documentation for institutions about which little reliable information survives. Included in this material are items relating to three institutions which existed within the present Central Pennsylvania Conference: University Female Institute in Lewisburg (Baptist), Cottage Hill College (Methodist) in York, and Tuscarora Academy (non-sectarian) in Academia, Juniata County.

Pennsylvania Female College (1853-1861) was one of several such Methodist-related institutions which flourished within the bounds of our conference about that time. Others, with their years (however tenuous) of Methodist affiliation, are given in the following table. See also the Appendix. A research paper on these institutions, some of which have no known significant surviving documentation, would make a valuable contribution to the story of area Methodism. Having evolved into Lycoming College, Dickinson Seminary is the only institution still existing with any Methodist connections – although Mansfield Classical Seminary was the forerunner of Mansfield University.

<u>school</u>	<u>years</u>	<u>city</u>	<u>students</u>
Cassville Seminary	1852-1861	Cassville	co-ed
Cottage Hill College	1856-1862	York	female
Cumberland Valley Institute	1852-1884	Mechanicsburg	male
Dickinson Seminary	1848-	Williamsport	co-ed
Emory Female College	1860-1866	Carlisle	female
Fayetteville Academy	1861	Fayetteville	co-ed
Irving Female College	1856-1860	Mechanicsburg	female
Mansfield Classical Seminary	1859-1864	Mansfield	co-ed
Rainsburg Seminary	1852-1861	Rainsburg	co-ed
Shrewsbury Classical Academy	1860	Shrewsbury	co-ed

To place the collection of articles on Pennsylvania Female College in proper context, *The Chronicle* begins with biographical comments on Beverly R. Waugh, his wife Sarah Beatty Waugh, and his father Bishop Beverly Waugh.

**Rev. Beverly R. Waugh, M.A. (1824-1861)**

Beverly Roberts Waugh was the son of Bishop Beverly Waugh (1789-1858) of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was born July 28, 1824, at Liberty MD. He graduated from Dickinson College in 1846 and was licensed to preach by the Baltimore Conference, but accepted instead the position of Professor of Mathematics and Literature at Baltimore Female College<sup>1</sup>, which was under patronage of the Baltimore Conference.

Waugh received his M.A. from Dickinson *in cursu* in 1849. This was not an honorary degree, as such, even though it is often reported that way. In the 1800's it was fairly standard for institutions to grant M.A.'s *in cursu* to graduates about three years after they received their B.A.'s – provided that they had been engaged in worthwhile occupations and/or study since graduation. This was a practice that Waugh continued with his graduates when he became principal of Pennsylvania Female College.

In 1853 the trustees of Pennsylvania Female College at Harrisburg secured Waugh as the first principal of that institution, a position he held until his death. While his move to Harrisburg corresponds with his August 1853 wedding to Sarah Beatty of that city, the connection between those two events cannot be documented. One probable scenario is that they met while the seven-year-younger Miss Beatty was a student at Baltimore Female College (if indeed she ever was) and that their relationship prompted his move to Harrisburg – and may even have been instrumental in the creation of Pennsylvania Female College. It is also possible that the two met while Waugh was a student at Dickinson.

While the scrapbook contains many news clippings that are glowing testimonials to Mr. Waugh's qualifications and dedication as principal at Pennsylvania Female College, a more interesting assessment is found in the diary of one Horatio Collins King (1837-1918), a Dickinson College student whose

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<sup>1</sup> The 1846 date for Waugh starting at Baltimore Female College, although supported by several sources, is confusing. The institution was conceived by the Baltimore Conference in 1843, but according to Baker's 1972 *History of the Baltimore Conference*, "there was no further action by the Conference on the Seminary in Baltimore until 1849." All Baltimore Female College records indicate it received its charter and opened at the northeast corner of Park Avenue and Wilson Street in February 1849. It existed under the patronage of the Baltimore Conference (at least initially) from 1849 to 1890, when the Maryland legislature ceased its annual appropriation to the school. It is not to be confused with the Woman's College of Baltimore, also founded (1884) by the Methodist Episcopal Church, on St. Paul Street next to Lovely Lane Church – it was renamed Goucher College in 1910, began relocating to Towson in 1921, and became co-educational in 1986. One plausible way to reconcile the two accounts is to surmise that Waugh operated as a point man for the institution for three years until it formally opened in 1849.

diary is preserved at that institution. The following entry is for Tuesday, December 16, 1856.

Arose at 7:30 am... At 10 o'clock the [train] cars bore away... Harrisburg after a short time was duly reached. John Carson and I jumped off at the bridge and called on Ginnie Allen and Maria Stevenson<sup>2</sup> at the Pennsylvania Female College, about ten minutes before recess. Mr. Waugh, the principal, came in very much excited and wished to know if we had any particular messages for the young ladies. If so he would take them, as the young ladies were not allowed to receive visitors during study hours, etc., etc. We kept perfectly cool, signified our intention of waiting for the recess and the girls, treated him very politely, and bowed him almost raving out of the parlor. Ha! Ha! Ha! Rather rich, I should say. Ginnie A. came down. Maria S. was so angry, however, that she wouldn't. We left in a short time, took dinner in the cars... proceeded towards Philadelphia.

Despite how it may sound, Mr. King was quite a respectable gentleman who was well connected. He was the nephew of Dickinson College president Charles Collins, went on to study law with Edwin Stanton (later Secretary of War), and was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for "conspicuous gallantry" while serving with the Union cavalry in March 1865. His father served as postmaster general in the cabinet of James Buchanan – who was a supporter of Pennsylvania Female College. The above diary continues the events of that December 1856 day as follows.

At Lancaster the President Elect, James Buchanan<sup>3</sup>, entered the cars. After a while I handed him my card. He received me cordially, asked if I received his letter, and regretted he could not meet us. We talked over old times, college affairs past and present, the morality then and now, and also a few words relative to Dr. Tiffany<sup>4</sup> – as he called the Professor. The interview was very agreeable, and especially worthy of mention. We reached Philadelphia at 7 o'clock.

### **Mrs. Beverly R. Waugh (1831-1908)**

Miss Sarah Shrom Beatty married Beverly Roberts Waugh on August 25, 1853. Her father George Beatty established a watch and clock business in the city of Harrisburg in 1808 and served as a burgess for the borough for three terms and as a member of the town council for several years. Her mother was Catherine Shrom, daughter of Casper and Catherine Van Gundy Shrom of York County.

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<sup>2</sup> Virginia C.W. Allen and Maria Stevenson, both of Carlisle, were members of the class of 1857.

<sup>3</sup> James Buchanan (1791-1868) was doubly connected to Horatio Collins King. In addition to the family friendship, Buchanan was an 1809 graduate of Dickinson – and a continuing supporter of the college, which granted him an honorary LLD degree in 1842 while he was a US Senator.

<sup>4</sup> Otis Henry Tiffany (1825-1891), a Dickinson College faculty member from 1848 to 1857, gave the address at the opening of Pennsylvania Female College in 1853.

Mrs. Waugh's sister Eliza White Beatty married noted Harrisburg historian Dr. William Henry Egle, and the relationship between the Waugh and Egle families was close in many ways. Both families were expecting children in 1861, but Beverly R. Waugh died in March of that year, before either child was born. The Egles named their son, who was born on May 2, Beverly Waugh Egle – after their beloved brother-in-law. Mrs. Waugh named her son, who was born on October 5, Beverly Roberts Waugh – after her departed husband. Both boys were baptized December 1, 1861, in the Methodist Church by presiding elder Francis Hodgson.<sup>5</sup>

William Henry Egle was also the executor of Mr. Waugh's estate and helped his sister-in-law sell their house, the former John Harris Mansion at 219 South Front Street, to Simon Cameron in 1863 for \$8,000. The building is now part of the Dauphin County Historical Society complex and houses several items and photographs relating to the Waugh family.

Little Beverly Roberts Waugh died before his second birthday – on March 9, 1863. The Waughs only surviving child was their daughter Eliza Beverlina Waugh. She was born November 21, 1855, and baptized the next month by her grandfather Bishop Beverly Waugh on December 18. She married Charles Augustus Kunkel and had two children – one of which was a son named Beverly Waugh Kunkel, after her father.

This section concludes with the Harrisburg obituary for Mrs. Waugh, who died on January 20, 1908.

#### Well Known Woman Dies at the Age of Seventy-Seven

Mrs. Sarah S. Waugh, widow of the late Rev. Beverly Roberts Waugh, died this morning at her late residence on North Front Street.<sup>6</sup> Mrs. Waugh was born in Harrisburg on the second of October 1831, and was consequently in the seventy-seventh year of her age.

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 1853 she was married to the Rev. Beverly Roberts Waugh, who was then President of the Pennsylvania Female College located in the Harris Mansion, South Front Street. Mrs. Waugh was the last surviving member of the original board of managers of the Home for the Friendless in which she always manifested a profound interest up to the time of her death.

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<sup>5</sup> Francis Hodgson (1805-1877) was the first station pastor at Harrisburg when it separated from the Harrisburg circuit in 1834. He served there again 1849-51. He was superintendent of the South Philadelphia District, which then included Harrisburg, 1859-63. He transferred to the Central Pennsylvania Conference in 1868 and served Danville, Lewisburg and Chambersburg before retiring in 1876. His son Francis Day Hodgson (1832-1899) was a member of the Central New York Conference and served Troy 1890-92.

<sup>6</sup> Following the sale of the Harris Mansion on South Front Street, Mrs. Waugh resided at 207 N. Front Street.

In the earlier years of her life she connected herself with what was then known as the Locust Street Methodist Church, located where the post office now stands.<sup>7</sup> She soon became actively involved in the spiritual work of the church, being for many years superintendent of the Infant Department of the Sunday School and in every way spending and being spent in the service of God. Her life was given to promote the comfort and good of men and to advance her Redeemer's kingdom.

As she grew older her infirmities kept her often from the services of the church, which was always a grief and deprivation to her. She is survived by an only daughter Mrs. Charles Kunkel, and two grandchildren Mrs. John E. Fox and Beverly Waugh Kunkel. Also surviving are her sisters Mrs. Egle and Miss Mary Beatty, and two brothers G. Irwin Beatty and Henry Beatty.

The services will be held on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from 221 North Front Street.

### **Bishop Beverly Waugh (1789-1858)**

The son of Revolutionary War veteran Captain James Waugh, Beverly Waugh was born in Fairfax County VA on October 25, 1789. He joined the Baltimore Conference in 1809 and served as a pastor and presiding elder in Maryland and Virginia. He was elected to the General Conferences of 1820 and 1828.

When the reform movement arose which eventually resulted in the formation of the Methodist Protestant Church, Waugh supported the notion of the election of presiding elders. As a consequence, he was not elected to the General Conference of 1824. Ultimately he adhered to the prevailing order and in 1828 was not only returned to the General Conference but also elected assistant book agent to John Emory. When Emory was elected a bishop in 1832, Waugh became the book agent for the denomination. In 1836 he was elected to the episcopacy on the first ballot.

Bishop Beverly Waugh made his home in Baltimore. Although he never served in Central Pennsylvania, he presided over several sessions of the Baltimore Conference – of which Central Pennsylvania was then a part. And he was a member of the board of trustees of Dickinson College from 1839 until his death.

At the General Conference of 1844 he tried to avert a division of the denomination by urging that the case of Bishop Andrew be deferred. Although he was a Southerner, he was opposed to slavery and adhered to the northern branch when the Methodist Episcopal Church divided.

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<sup>7</sup> This was the second church building site of what is now Grace United Methodist Church. The congregation organized in 1810 and worshiped in homes for several years – and in a “meeting house” (where Pine Street Presbyterian now stands) for which they never had clear title from 1816 until they were dispossessed in 1819. They owned church buildings at Second and South Streets 1820-1839, at Locust Street 1839-1873, and at the present State Street location since 1873.

He died in Baltimore February 9, 1858, and owing to his significance was buried in the "Bishop's Plot" at Mount Olivet Cemetery near Bishops Asbury and George and Emory, Robert Strawbridge, E. Stanley Jones, and other respected Methodist dignitaries.

Bishop Waugh is the namesake of Waugh United Methodist Church in Baltimore County MD, named for the popular bishop when he dedicated the original building in 1843. At the formation of the United Methodist Church in 1968, the Bryansville (York County PA) charge of the Susquehanna Conference included the Goodwill EUB Church, about six miles south of Jarrettsville MD. As part of the necessary conference realignments, the Goodwill congregation was discontinued and the membership "placed with Waugh Church... or any other church of their choice."

This section concludes with an article from the scrapbook about the last days of Bishop Waugh. It was submitted to the *Christian Advocate* by Robert Daniel Chambers (1823-1864), pastor of the Carlisle First ME Church. Coincidentally to this article on Pennsylvania Female College, Rev. Chambers followed his Carlisle pastorate with conference appointments as professor at Irving Female College (1859-1863) in Mechanicsburg and president of Emory Female College (1864) in Carlisle.

#### Bishop Waugh's Last Labors

Mr. Editor: As our lamented Bishop Waugh closed his ministerial labors in our midst, I have thought that an account of his recent visit to this place would be gratifying to many of your readers.

A revival of religion having been in progress in the ME Church for some weeks, Bishop Waugh was written to about the middle of January, and requested to visit us. In compliance with this request he reached here on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the same month and stopped at the house of Mrs. Seymour, an estimable Christian lady, who for years had entertained him on his visits to this place.

The bishop having signified his intention to remain with us until the following Wednesday, and his readiness to preach each day during his stay, it was thought advisable, in consideration of his advanced age, not to tax him with more than one sermon on the Sabbath. Accordingly our pulpit was occupied on Sabbath morning by Rev. Dr. Collins, president of Dickinson College, who preached a most interesting and edifying discourse. At three o'clock in the afternoon of this day, the bishop attended divine service in the chapel of Dickinson College.

At half past six o'clock in the evening the venerable bishop took his place in the sacred desk, and announced his text from St. Matthew xi:28, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He introduced himself to the audience by remarking that early in the morning he had thought of preaching upon the "terrors of the Lord," but that during the closing prayer of the morning's services the passage of Scripture which he had read in their hearing had been forcibly impressed upon his mind, and that without any special arrangement he would proceed to speak to them about the gracious invitation of the Saviour.

He seemed to be in a very happy frame of mind, and in his usual dignified and impressive manner, for an hour or more, dwelt upon the rich provisions of mercy as set forth in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At the close of the sermon, inspired by surrounding circumstances and the greatness of his theme, he made a most powerful appeal, urging upon his crowded auditory the immediate acceptance of the gracious invitation of Christ. Mourners presented themselves at the altar, and the work of salvation went forward with great interest.

On Monday evening he again appeared before the people, and presented as the basis of his discourse the passage of Scripture in St. John v:40, "And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life." For an hour and a half he unfolded the great truths embodied in the scheme of redemption, and presented the reasons why they were not available in the salvation of multitudes of the human family. During the delivery of this sermon the bishop exhibited considerable physical prostration, and found it difficult to pronounce some of his words distinctly.

When I called to see him the next morning, he alluded to this circumstance and complained of soreness in his throat. He, moreover, intimated that he had been affected in this way for some time past. Perceiving this state of things, and feeling a deep solicitude about the bishop's health, in order to relieve him measurably, I suggested that it would afford me pleasure to have an address from him in the evening to the young converts – stating at the same time that this would spare him the labor of another sermon.

Having obtained his consent, at half past six o'clock pm I called the converts around the altar. About one hundred – some advanced in life, others in the vigor of manhood, and many with the youthful bloom upon their countenance – came forward when the bishop proceeded to address them upon Christian duty. He commenced by remarking that in early life he had dedicated himself to God, and that now, as he stood before them with whitened locks and trembling limbs, he felt happy in looking forward to the period (which he was confident was not far off) when the great Shepherd of souls would bestow upon him the reward promised in the Gospel of the grace of God.

He, however, could testify to the fact that religion would comfort and sustain its possessor in the midst of the trials and sufferings of life. He said his soul rejoiced in the sight which then greeted his eyes, that he felt like thanking God for the conversion of so many souls. The address of Bishop Waugh produced a good impression, not only upon the converts surrounding him, but also upon the entire audience.

Upon inquiring of him, as he took his seat, respecting the further exercises of the evening, he remarked: "I greatly prefer preaching again before I take my leave. Notwithstanding his feeble condition, he again rose in the pulpit and announced as his text the explanation of the Philippian jailer in Acts xvi:30, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" After a few introductory remarks he proceeded to explain the way of salvation.

The delivery of this discourse, the last one which fell from his lips, occupied just one hour. It was remarkable to witness the power with which he preached. His soul seemed to be under an unusual unction from on high. God was evidently crowning with triumph the close of a long and useful life in the ministry of the Lord Jesus.



From the pulpit he proceeded to the altar, entreating sinners to seek salvation. Seeing his physical prostration, as soon as the work began at the altar, I proposed to accompany him to his lodgings. He replied by saying he felt very much fatigued, but that he preferred staying among those who were seeking salvation until the services closed. He manifested deep interest in the welfare of those who were at the altar, sometimes kneeling at their side and giving a word of instruction.

During his sojourn here, Bishop Waugh mingled freely with his brethren. Wherever he went, prayer and praise were sweetly blended with social greetings. The beautiful simplicity of his character impressed all hearts. Now that he has gone to his reward above, the remembrance of his virtues is refreshing to the soul.

Our dear and excellent Bishop Waugh closed his pilgrimage on earth in Baltimore City on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February. On the following Sabbath, a funeral discourse appropriate to the occasion was preached in the ME Church of this place by the Rev. A.A. Reese, presiding elder of Carlisle District. The discourse was founded upon the 1<sup>st</sup> Epistle to the Thessalonians iv:13,14. At the close of the sermon, which was eloquent and impressive, he gave an interesting summation of the rare virtues and excellences which adorned the character of the distinguished servant of God who so recently had broken to our hearts the bread of life. Rev. Dr. Collins, president of Dickinson College, at the same hour improved the solemn occasion by an excellent discourse in the College Chapel.

### **Pennsylvania Female College**

This institution operated from 1853 until 1861. Beverly Roberts Waugh was its first and only principal. While the college closed upon the death of Mr. Waugh, it may not have been able to survive much longer even had he lived. Mr. Waugh died March 24, 1861 – just 18 days before the first shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter. Like most such schools, Pennsylvania Female College enrolled not an insignificant portion of its students from Maryland and Virginia, and the hostilities ended the attendance of pupils from south of the Mason-Dixon line.

Little documentation concerning Pennsylvania Female College has survived. An article by Anne Marie Ickes titled “To Make them Learned and Wise: The Pennsylvania Female College, 1853-1861” appeared in the 2004 volume of *Susquehanna Heritage*. That publication is the journal of the Dauphin County Historical Society, housed in the very buildings (i.e., the John Harris Mansion complex) where the institution was located, and the article contains most of the information available from that society. The material in the Waugh scrapbook adds considerably to what is known about the college.

The Ickes article concentrates on the role of Pennsylvania Female College as “a small society of schoolgirl friendships” and its extended network of Harrisburg supporters as “a well-established society based on length of residence within the city, location of family dwellings, business connections, and marriages.” Her careful documentation of these connections and relationships notes that “of the 120 known females that attended the school – 82 were from the city of Harrisburg, 22 were sisters, and 9 were cousins.” In general, only “new”

information, and not relationships noted in the Ickes article, will be given in the material that follows.

In addition to providing documentation on Pennsylvania Female College, the news articles that follow speak volumes about the perceived place of females, female education, and general morality in the 1850's. The letter given below helps set the tone for the clippings that follow. It was written to the pastor of Harrisburg's Reformed congregation following a March 8, 1846, sermon he preached on "The Evils of Dancing." A copy of the published sermon, prefaced by the following letter, is in the conference archives. Rev. Mesick took part in the 1859 Commencement, and many of the signers of the letter were board members of the College and/or enrolled daughters there.

Rev. John F. Mesick

Harrisburg: March 11, 1846

Dear Sir,

On last Sabbath evening, 8<sup>th</sup> inst, you preached a sermon to our congregation on "The Evils of Dancing." As this is a custom which is in much practise even by those who consider themselves patterns in society, and who generally comprise the youth, and say that it is an innocent amusement, we would esteem it as a favor if you would furnish us with a copy thereof for publication, that it may be circulated in our Sabbath Schools among the votaries of dancing – the parents and friends of those who have been assenting to it – in the hope that they may read it and learn its evil consequences, and abstain from its practice hereafter, and be satisfied that its use is not in character with the present age, whatever may have seemingly commended it in former days.

John C. Bucher <sup>8</sup>	Luther Riley <sup>9</sup>	George P. Wiestling <sup>10</sup>
George Beatty <sup>11</sup>	George Zinn <sup>12</sup>	Rudolph F. Kelker <sup>13</sup>
Daniel W. Gross <sup>14</sup>	Samuel B. Keyser	Elias Zollinger <sup>15</sup>
Valentine Egle <sup>16</sup>	Jacob Shell	George Kunkel <sup>17</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> John Conrad Bucher (1792-1851) was truly a supporter of education. He was a trustee of the Harrisburg Academy, Franklin College in Lancaster, Marshall College at Mercersburg, and the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church. He was also a Harrisburg school director from the adoption of the common-school system until his death.

<sup>9</sup> Luther Reily (1794-1854), a medical doctor, was a member of the US House of Representatives 1837-39.

<sup>10</sup> George P. Wiestling (1808-1883) was in the printing business with his brother John S. Wiestling before establishing himself in the wood and coal trade. He is father of Ellen S. Wiestling '58.

<sup>11</sup> George Beatty (1781-1862) was a clockmaker and served on the city council. He was the father of Mrs. Beverly R. Waugh

<sup>12</sup> George Zinn (1810-1878) ran the family tanning business. He is the father of Mary Zinn '55.

<sup>13</sup> Rudolph Frederick Kelker (1820-1906) was extremely active in both civic and church affairs.

<sup>14</sup> Daniel Weistling Gross (1810-after 1882), a druggist who also held many civic and church positions, was a nephew of George P. Wiestling, and he married the daughter of George Kunkel.

<sup>15</sup> Elias Zollinger (1794-1857) manufactured hats and involved himself in both the wholesale and retail hat business. He was the father of Maria M. Zollinger '60.

<sup>16</sup> Valentine Egle (1813-1893) was the uncle of the historian William Henry Egle, who married Mrs. Beverly R. Waugh's sister and named their son Beverly Waugh Egle.

<sup>17</sup> George Kunkel (1784-1850) was and uncle to the Charles Augustus Kunkel who married Beverly R. Waugh's daughter Eliza Beverlina Waugh. Samuel Kunkel (1817-1892) was the father

Without further introduction or explanation, except for the accompanying footnotes, *The Chronicle* presents in chronological order a representative sampling of Pennsylvania Female College news clippings from the scrapbook. In most instances, unfortunately, principal Waugh did not record the name of the newspaper from which the article was taken.

#### 1853 – opening

The new Female College recently chartered by the legislature was opened on Monday with appropriate ceremonies. The exercises incident to the occasion were held in the Court House in the presence of a large number of our citizens, and were of an exceedingly interesting character.

It was expected that Governor Bigler, who is *ex-officio* president of the Board of Trustees, would have delivered the opening address, but owing to a sudden attack of indisposition he was prevented from being present. A portion of his remarks, which he had prepared written out, were read to the audience by Hamilton Alricks Esq.<sup>18</sup>

Mr. Waugh, the principal of the new institution, then appeared and took the oath required by the provisions of the charter, which was administered to him by Judge Pearson. He afterwards delivered a brief address, in which he referred to the pleasing auspices under which the new enterprise was about to be commenced, the responsibilities attending it, and the important interests which it sought to foster and promote.

He was followed by Professor Tiffany<sup>19</sup> of Dickinson College in a most admirable address, replete with sound and wholesome sentiments, beautiful thoughts clothed in a fitting garb, and a slight touch of pleasant sarcasm intended for those whose indiscreet zeal for what they style “woman’s rights” plunges them into the very extremes of extravagance and absurdity. With inimitable beauty he depicted the true intellectual character of woman, the nature of the sphere which the Deity intended for her to occupy, and to which she is so perfectly adapted, and the kind of education which would best qualify her for the important part she is destined to play in the great drama of human existence.

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of Charles. George and Samuel were sons of the first and second wives of German-born Christian Kunkel (1757-1823), one of the prime movers and contributors in establishing the German Reformed church in Harrisburg.

<sup>18</sup> Hamilton Alricks (1806-1893) was a trustee of the college. His daughter Annie B. Alricks was a member of the class of 1858.

<sup>19</sup> Otis Henry Tiffany (1825-1891) taught mathematics at Dickinson College 1848-57. He left to become secretary of the Maryland Bible Society 1857-60, and spent the remaining 31 years of his life serving various metropolitan Methodist Episcopal churches in places like Chicago, Washington DC, Philadelphia and Minneapolis. A contributor to major religious encyclopedias, he also published numerous sermons, addresses and articles.

His remarks in reference to the clamorous zealots of the present day – who in the vain attempt to better her condition would drag her from her true sphere, push her forward into the tumult of the busy crowd, and defile the robes of her purity with the dust of the political arena – were forcible and to the point.

We were pleased to see so large a number of our fair friends present during the opening exercises, and sorry that they were not all there. An intellectual treat such as was presented in the address of Professor Tiffany is not placed before an audience every day, and we regret that any who properly appreciate the importance of the subject should have missed his beautiful exposition.

The audience was respectable and intelligent, and the omens are favorable to the permanent prosperity of the institution. Mr. Parke's house on Market Street has been fitted up for the reception of pupils, and the character of the principal and assistants gives promise of energy and application in their duties. The board of trustees guarantee a watchfulness and competency not surpassed within the limits of our State.

#### 1854 – first annual commencement

The first annual commencement of this new and promising institution took place last week, and on the score of brilliancy took most of us by surprise. We knew that a college for females had been opened in September last, and was noiselessly and modestly pursuing the usual course and routine under the care and supervision of an energetic and competent Board of Trustees – and we had heard the principal and teachers spoken of as peculiarly qualified for their several stations and duties. But we did not expect to witness an examination and commencement that would have done honor to an older college and pupils of many years of careful training and study.

The examination took place on Monday of last week at the College, in the presence of the Board of Trustees, and in all the branches gave evidence of great care and skill on the part of the teachers, and close application by the scholars. Two of the pupils having previously passed through a seminary course of study in another school, and during the past year completed the prescribed course of study in the College, were, after a careful examination, recommended by the principal as worthy of the degree *Proficiens Studiis Liberalibus* – proficient in liberal studies – which, by the Board, was authorized to be conferred.

The public ceremonies of the commencement took place in the Hall of the House of Representatives, on the evening of Tuesday last week, in the presence of a crowded audience of our citizens and strangers – many of the county superintendents of Common Schools being present.

We speak the common sentiment of our citizens, both male and female, when we say that the compositions read and spoken by the young ladies evinced a high order of talent and a careful culture – both as to the correctness and beauty of style, and a proper mode of reading and speaking. Several of the pieces were delivered without referring to the manuscript.

We would not be understood to advocate the propriety of woman being trained to public speaking, but she *should* have such training in good reading and elocution as to be able at all times – clearly, distinctly, and with proper emphasis – to utter her thoughts. She should also be able to impart to her young boys a correct mode of reading and speaking, and thus save the necessity of eradicating bad habits of enunciation, or the mortification of seeing them carried through life.

The address of Mr. Tyson sustained his already high reputation as a finished scholar and forcible writer. It should be published, that the sound view set forth, as to the proper position of woman – her right to a sound education, and her great influence on the character and destiny of our race – may be better understood and appreciated.

Mr. Waugh, the principal of the College, in conferring the degrees, handed to each young lady, along with her diploma, a neat copy of the Holy Bible, expressing the hope that it might be a lamp and a light in the pathway of her life. We will not forget to say that the exercises were enlivened and rendered more pleasant and interesting by excellent music from the National Guard Brass Band.

#### 1855 – second annual commencement

The second annual commencement of the Pennsylvania Female College took place on the 10<sup>th</sup> instant, in the Hall of the House of Representatives. We had the pleasure to be present as a spectator, and felt it a duty to say a few words in commendation of the exercises we witnessed. The occasion drew together a large concourse of ladies and gentlemen, and the large hall was filled to its utmost capacity.

Addresses were delivered by the following young ladies, graduates of the Institution.

“Salutatory Address”	Miss Mary Louisa Gehr	Chambersburg
“Memory”	Miss Mary Zinn <sup>20</sup>	Harrisburg
“The Three Homes”	Miss Margaret B. Heyser	Chambersburg
“Woman’s Influence”	Miss Annie M. Roberts	Harrisburg
“The Unbidden Guest”	Miss Mary E. Saxton	Cumberland County
“Give Back Those Days”	Miss Emma V. Beck <sup>21</sup>	Williamsport
“The Moral, the Beautiful and the Intellectual”	Miss Annie B. Alricks <sup>22</sup>	Harrisburg
“My Country”	Miss Eliza P. Boyd	Harrisburg
“Feats of Death”	Miss Emma A. Kirk	Harrisburg
“Valedictory Address”	Miss Emma C. Winebrenner <sup>23</sup>	Harrisburg

All the young ladies acquitted themselves in a manner highly creditable to themselves and the professors of the College. Indeed, the addresses were not only well delivered, but they were sound in argument and beautiful in conception. The Pennsylvania Female College is yet in its infancy, but it already occupies a very high position as an institution of learning. We doubt not, under the careful supervision of its present able and dignified professors, it will soon be considered the best Female College in the State.

The Institution is beautifully situated on Front Street, the majestic Susquehanna River in full view, and its elevated position gives it an imposing and attractive appearance. We sincerely hope to see this excellent Institution continue to prosper in a manner commensurate with the praise-worthy efforts of those at its lead as trustees and teachers.

In connection with these remarks we might here speak of the advantages of female education, but time and space will not permit at present. On a future occasion we shall revert to this subject at some length – a subject we delight to dwell on, and which, we are rejoiced to find, is of late finding warm and able advocates in all classes of people of our State.

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<sup>20</sup> Mary Zinn was the daughter of George Zinn, mentioned in connection with the 1846 sermon against dancing. She married William H. Eckles.

<sup>21</sup> Emma V. Beck was the daughter of the honorable John B. Beck of Williamsport. Originally a newspaper publisher, Mr. Beck was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives (1853, 1862, 1863) and the Senate (1868-70) and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention of 1876 that nominated Samuel J. Tilden (who won the popular vote but lost 184-185 in the electoral college to Rutherford B. Hayes). She was married in the Pine Street Methodist Church in Williamsport on December 21, 1861, to Frederick E. Emmick. Although also supposedly from Williamsport, Mr. Emmick was at the time of the wedding a major in the 50<sup>th</sup> NY Volunteers.

<sup>22</sup> Annie Bull Alricks was the daughter of trustee Hamilton Alricks and a first cousin of Martha Alricks Johnson of the class of 1858. She married Harrisburg attorney Benjamin Law Forster.

<sup>23</sup> Emma Charlotte Winebrenner (1839-1930) was the daughter of Rev. John Winebrenner, founder of the Churches of God. Long single, she married Enos L. Christman in 1905. She preserved many of her father’s sermons and other materials, eventually donating the collection to the denomination’s seminary in Findlay OH.

## 1856 – third annual commencement

The third annual commencement of this popular institution was held in the Representative Chamber of the Capitol on Tuesday evening last, July 8, 1856. We were present by invitation, and never were we more gratified or more deeply interested.

During most of the day the rains came down in torrents, and so little did it abate in the evening towards the hour of assembling, that serious apprehensions were felt by many that it would cause a partial failure in the ceremonies. Many spectators were undoubtedly prevented by the rain from attending. But long before the appointed hour the vestibule in front of the Capitol was thronged with ladies and gentlemen, and in an half an hour after the doors of the Hall were opened, almost every available seat was occupied by a highly respectable audience, mostly ladies. Among the spectators we noticed Ex-Governor John Bigler<sup>24</sup> of California and Ex-Governor Porter<sup>25</sup>.

At 8 o'clock precisely, the chair was taken by Hamilton Alricks Esq., one of the trustees of the College, who acted as president on the occasion in the absence of His Excellency Governor Pollock, the president *ex-officio*. Seated on his right was the Rev. Mr. Hogdson, and on his left the Rev. Messrs. Winebrenner<sup>26</sup> and Gans<sup>27</sup>. After a few remarks from the chair, explaining the absence of Governor Pollock and the Honorable James Buchanan, Benjamin Parke Esq. arose and read the following letter from the latter gentleman.

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<sup>24</sup> John Bigler (1805-1871), born in Carlisle PA, was the third governor of California and served 1852-1856. The 1854 state legislature honored him by naming a lake after him, but in 1870 Bigler Lake was renamed Lake Tahoe. He was brother to William Bigler (1814-1880), governor of Pennsylvania 1852-1854 and US Senator from Pennsylvania 1856-1861.

<sup>25</sup> David Rittenhouse Porter (1788-1867) was governor of Pennsylvania 1839-1844. He defeated incumbent Joseph Ritner by a mere 5,504 votes, but easily won re-election. He played a leading role in getting the Democratic National Convention of 1856 to nominate his friend James Buchanan of Lancaster for President.

<sup>26</sup> John Winebrenner (1797-1860) was a revivalist within the Reformed Church. On July 4, 1830, he was rebaptized in the Susquehanna River by his friend Jacob Erb of the United Brethren Church. The permanently ended his affiliation with the Reformed Church and he founded the Churches of God (General Eldership, Findlay OH) denomination. A Harrisburg resident, he died in his home there. In addition to sending his daughter to the Pennsylvania Female College, he wrote statements promoting it in the *Gospel Publisher*, a periodical he founded in 1855.

<sup>27</sup> Daniel Gans was a Reformed pastor. It's difficult to determine where he was serving in July 1856 – but he appears to have had some position in the Harrisburg area, and the newspaper article suggests he was well-known to the readers. He served Hagerstown Zion 1851-55, and in 1857 he served as president of the annual meeting of the Eastern Synod of the Reformed Church. He was elected a professor of exegesis at the seminary in Mercersburg in 1868, but declined to follow the institution when it moved to Lancaster in 1872. He finished his ministerial career at Baltimore Third in 1879 when he was accused of Roman Catholic sympathies and may actually have converted to Catholicism. He never became a priest, though, and in 1880 was admitted to the Bar in Baltimore – and for a number of years was Judge of the Orphans' Court in that city.

Wheatland

July 7, 1856

My Dear Sir:

I have received the kind invitation of the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Female College at Harrisburg to attend the Commencement exercises tomorrow. Feeling a deep interest in the prosperity and usefulness of this Institution, and cordially approving its objects, it would afford me great pleasure to be present; and I have therefore to regret that it is not possible for me to leave home at the present moment.

Yours, very respectfully  
James Buchanan

At this juncture the graduating class, ten in number, entered the hall from the adjoining committee room. They were dressed in simple white, and it was a charming sight to see them as they moved noiselessly along to their places in the arena of the Hall – reminding one of the vestal trains that in days of old went up to the shrine of Minerva and thronged her temples.

But theirs is a holier, a purer worship. They had come, indeed, to lay their offerings on the altar of wisdom, but it was a wisdom which demands of its votaries no sacrifices but those of the will and the heart, and requires no devotion but that of the understanding. Simple in their attire, gentle in their deportment, without affectation, and without constraint, they looked and acted throughout the ceremonies as if they felt and appreciated the interest, inspired less by their personal charms than their mental accomplishments.

And they were *very* charming: charming in youth, innocence, grace and beauty. Charming, too, as they seemed creatures that lived and moved in the atmosphere of pure domestic and social kindness, with that ignorance of evil which is the chief blessing of their sex and years – an ignorance which is more valuable than knowledge, the loss of which is never compensated by the acquisition of all arts and sciences.

After music by the “Amateur Band,” a fervent and impressive prayer was offered to the Throne of Grace by the Rev. Mr. Hogdson. Then the following order of exercises was observed.

“Salutatory Address”	Miss Helen F. Grafton	Baltimore, Md
“The Three Voices”	Miss Hannah I. Johnson	Harrisburg
“Brighter Moments”	Miss Alice S. Naudain	Philadelphia
“De Gustibus Non Est Disputandum”	Miss Julia H. Montgomery	Harrisburg
“North, South, East and West”	Miss Sarah J. Pollock	Harrisburg
“Nature’s Silent Teachings”	Miss Sarah A. Reynolds	Chambersburg
“Old Friends, Old Letters, Old Times”	Miss Anna F. Grafton	Baltimore, Md
“Woman’s Mission”	Miss Eliza M. English	Sacramento, Cal
“Life Is Before Us”	Miss Susan M. Lawrence	Harrisburg
“Valedictory Address”	Miss Jennie H. Larmour	Alexandria, Md



Following music, degrees were conferred and the “Charge to the Graduating Class” was given by C.C. Bombaugh, A.M. M.D.<sup>28</sup> Following music and the “Parting Ode by the Graduating Class” the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. Gans.

Each of the graduates read her address with a voice of clear intonation. The Salutatory of Miss Grafton was a charming piece of composition, and elicited great applause from the audience. The Valedictory of Miss Lamour was also very neat, and affected many to tears as she alluded with emotion to the parting of her class. Each of the speakers was greeted with a perfect shower of bouquets as they conducted their several compositions.

Decidedly the most impressive portion of the ceremonies was the bestowal of the diplomas, each of which was accompanied by a small gilt-edged Bible. This office was performed by Professor Waugh in a neat Latin speech to each of the graduates.

After the delivery of the charge by Dr. Bombaugh, a little incident occurred which, although not announced in the programme, added greatly to the interest of the occasion. It was the presentation of the two silver medals, alluded to in yesterday’s Herald, to Miss English of California and Miss Reynolds of Chambersburg. They were presented to the young ladies by Robert Lamberton Esq. on behalf of Professor Waugh, in a beautiful and impressive speech which elicited universal applause.

The evidence furnished by this entire exhibition of the superior advantages of an education derived from this College is conclusive to our mind. The rule is to instruct the pupils in that knowledge which they should have, and to keep them ignorant of that which they should not have. So far as the behaviour of the graduating class could indicate this fact, it was clearly indicated. For they all expressed by their conduct the guileless simplicity of their characters.

Space forbids us to enlarge further on this topic, and we conclude with the opinion that there is no place in the Union which can boast of a better planned, better conducted, or better governed establishment for female education than the Pennsylvania Female College of our borough. [from the Harrisburg *Daily Herald*]

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<sup>28</sup> Charles Carroll Bombaugh (1828-1906) was a multi-talented individual and a very capable speaker. His father Aaron (1803-1877) was born in Harrisburg, ran the family’s limestone quarry, served as Dauphin County treasurer 1828-1844, and was an instigator for and trustee of the State Lunatic Asylum – now Harrisburg State Hospital. A young medical doctor, C.C. Bombaugh was the College’s instructor for anatomy, physiology and hygiene. His book *Facts and Fancies for the Curious from the Harvest-Fields of Literature: A Melange of Excerpta* was first published in 1875, went through many editions, and is still a sourcebook for writers, speakers and humorists.

1857 – fourth annual commencement

The fourth annual commencement exercises of the Pennsylvania Female College took place on Thursday evening last, in the Hall of the House of Representatives, before a large audience.

The ceremonies were opened with prayer by the Rev. Mr. Gans, pastor of the German Reformed Church of this place. After music by the band, the exercise proceeded as follows.

“Salutatory Address”	Miss Jane Geety	Harrisburg
“Mind, the Great Lever”	Miss Jane Culver	Cumberland County
“The Light of Science”	Miss Caroline V. Boyd	Harrisburg
“Is It the Fashion?”	Miss S. Elizabeth Montgomery	Harrisburg
“The Glories of the Nineteenth Century”	Miss Margaret Gilliard	Harrisburg
“Such is Life”	Miss Mary M. Etter	Harrisburg
“Heroism of Woman”	Miss Maria B. Stevenson	Carlisle
“Valedictory Address”	Miss Virginia C.W. Allen	Carlisle

Between the several essays the band struck up lively airs which, with the showers of bouquets that fell at the feet of the young ladies as they severally concluded, gave spirit to the scene.

After the essays had been read, Benjamin Parke Esq. read an abstract from the minutes of the Board of Trustees held in January last, recommending the above named young ladies as worthy of diplomas, which were accordingly conferred by the Principal Rev. B.R. Waugh A.M.

The Principal then awarded the honors of the class, two beautiful silver medals, in a few feeling remarks, upon Miss Jane Culver and Miss Margaret Gilliard. He also conferred the degree of A.M.<sup>29</sup> on Misses Julia Bombaugh<sup>30</sup>, Ursula Cushman<sup>31</sup> and Fannie Johnson<sup>32</sup> – after which the graduates joined in

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<sup>29</sup> The A.M. degree is either an *in cursu* degree awarded after three years of successful post-graduate experience (as in 1858 to the 10 graduates of 1855) or an honorary degree awarded to someone of distinction (as in 1859 to Miss Martha Haines Butt). The justification for the degree is not given in the news article, but it appears to be for neither of the above reasons. All three of the young women named were students but not graduates of the Pennsylvania Female College. One possibility is that they had already graduated from another female college and were viewed as extending their education at the “graduate” level.

<sup>30</sup> Julia Bombaugh was a sister to Pennsylvania Female College instructor Charles C. Bombaugh. The Ickes article, page 69, states that she was a student. She married Dr. William Grafton of Baltimore MD, whose sisters Helen and Anna graduated in 1856.

<sup>31</sup> Ursula Cushman was originally from Maine. She is related to Samuel Cushman Caldwell, Dickinson College class of 1858, who was also from Maine. Both are mentioned in the diary of Horatio Collins King (1837-1918), Dickinson College class of 1858, who was also from Maine. The diary of King, who was also author of the Dickinson College alma mater, was mentioned previously. The following entries are of particular relevance:  
1/17/1856 – “Arrived in Harrisburg at 11. Called on Misses [Maria, a relative of King] Stevenson and Ursula Cushman at Pennsylvania Female College. Spent an agreeable half hour.”  
2/22/1856 – “Went down to see Miss Ursula Cushman at Grandma Stevenson’s. She came from Harrisburg today. Talked an hour with her. Cush Caldwell and I then went down to Porter’s.”

singing the parting ode (which we publish on our first page), written for the occasion by a young gentleman of Harrisburg.

Mr. H.C. Hickok, State Superintendent of Common Schools, was then introduced and made a few appropriate remarks on the improvement of public feeling on the subject of education. He compared the present with the past, in relation to female education, in which he eulogized the spirit that now predominates in favor of Female Colleges. The time was, he said, when in this very Hall it would have been deemed madness to have asked the Legislature for a charter for a female College – but it is the glory of the present day that they are spread all over the land. His remarks were well received by the audience, and he was warmly applauded when he closed.

The ceremonies were brought to a close by the benediction, which was pronounced by the Rev. Dr. Bartine of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The entire proceedings were pleasant, interesting and harmonious, and the essays evinced a degree of ability which reflects great credit upon the graduates and honor upon the Institution. There was a freshness and vigor about them truly pleasing and entertaining. And we will be excused if our enthusiasm leads us to speak of one as an instance – viz., the essay on “Mind.” We utter no exaggeration in saying that it was fully equal to any of the productions read on like occasions at our Male Colleges.

We are glad that the Pennsylvania Female College is in a flourishing condition, and cheerfully recommend it to the patronage of the fathers and mothers in Pennsylvania who have daughters to educate. Having a personal acquaintance with the Principal, we are free to say he is a gentle man of experience and ability, and in every way qualified for his responsible post.

#### 1858 – fifth annual commencement

The fifth annual commencement of the Pennsylvania Female College took place in the Hall of House of Representatives on Thursday evening, July 2, 1858. The assemblage there was as brilliant as any that ever gathered within the walls of the capitol. The scene itself was fair and beautiful, for woman had brought thither all her smiles and loveliness to make the occasion more enchanting.

Long before the appointed hour the immense hall was filled, for every Commencement Day with us is looked forward to with earnestness and anxiety, and friends of the Institution far and near come to swell the throng at its annual festival.

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<sup>32</sup> Fannie Johnson was a sister to Hannah Johnson '56 and a cousin to Martha Johnson '58. The Ickes article, page 68, states that she was student.

The exercises were opened with prayer by the Rev. A. Atwood of Philadelphia, after which the following graduating addresses were delivered, between which the Saxonian Brass Band of this place discoursed most excellent music.

“Salutatory Address”	Miss Mary Pollock	Harrisburg
“No Excellence without Labor”	Miss Mary Elizabeth Boyer	Harrisburg
“Vacant Chairs”	Miss Ellen S. Wiestling <sup>33</sup>	Harrisburg
“There is Rest to the Weary”	Miss Emma Louisa Bull	Chester County
“Dwellings on the Banks of the River Time”	Miss Martha Alricks Johnson	Harrisburg
“Valedictory Address”	Miss Elizabeth McVey	Harrisburg

The most remarkable and noteworthy of the addresses were “Vacant Chairs” and “Dwelling on the Banks of the River Time” – although our readers may be assured that the “Valedictory Address” was no stereotyped affair. Aside from the admirable manner with which they were delivered, the intrinsic merit of the compositions was no less manifest. Their smoothness and flow of diction, beauty of expression and conception, were duly appreciated by the audience. We only regret that our fear of encroaching upon the space and patience of the *Bulletin* forbids us giving an abstract of them.

At the close of the “Valedictory Address,” His Excellency Governor Packer, President *ex-officio* of the College, introduced Robert A. Lamberton Esq. of Harrisburg, who proceeded to deliver the “Annual Address.” From Mr. Lamberton’s well known and well earned fame as a polished and eloquent speaker, we anticipated a royal bounty – and we were far from disappointed.

Mr. Lamberton has no superiority as an orator at our bar, and his effort of last evening gave renewed evidence of the greatness of his fame and position. His theme was “Our Destination – the supreme object of regard.” He spoke of the true destiny of woman; and briefly reviewing the state which she occupied in the Spartan ages of the world’s history, he passed on to the Crusades and the Feudal Ages – the golden days of romance writers and novelists – when the tournament and tilt alone decided the merits of her admirers, while truth and virtue were strangers.

Coming down to our own times, he spoke of the nearer approach of woman to her true destiny and mission, but despised the efforts in certain portions of our country to unsex her. The address was well received by the assemblage, although it came at the close of somewhat lengthy exercises.

The degree of *Proficiens Studiis Liberalibus* was then conferred upon the graduates, six in number. The honorary degree of Mistress of Arts was conferred

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<sup>33</sup> Ellen S. Wiestling is the daughter of George P. Wiestling, mentioned in connection with the 1846 sermon against dancing. Her mother was the former Margaret Berryhill – daughter of Samuel Berryhill, namesake of the Harrisburg street.

upon Miss Abby T. Woodward<sup>34</sup> of Massachusetts. And the degree in course was conferred upon the following persons<sup>35</sup>, graduates of the class of 1855:

Miss Annie B. Alricks	Harrisburg
Miss Emma V. Beck	Williamsport
Miss Eliza P. Boyd	Harrisburg
Miss Mary Louisa Gehr	Chambersburg
Miss Margaret P. Heyser	Chambersburg
Miss Emma A. Kirk	Harrisburg
Miss Annie M. Roberts	Harrisburg
Miss Mary E. Saxton	Cumberland County
Miss Emma C. Winebrenner	Harrisburg
Mis Mary Zinn	Harrisburg

The honors of the class were awarded: the first to Miss Elizabeth McVey, and the second to Miss Mary Pollock. These consisted of beautiful silver medals, struck from the College die.

The charge to the graduates was delivered by Hamilton Alricks Esq. of the Board of Trustees, and after benediction by the Rev. Charles A. Hay<sup>36</sup>, the exercises closed. [from the *Philadelphia Evening Bulletin*]

#### 1859 – sixth annual commencement

The sixth annual commencement of the Pennsylvania Female College was held June 30, 1859, in the Methodist Episcopal Church on Locust Street.<sup>37</sup> The building was filled to its utmost capacity by a brilliant audience. His excellency Governor Packer, the trustees, teachers and graduates occupied the platform.

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<sup>34</sup> Abby T. Woodward is described in another article as follows. “The recipient of this honor is one worthy of it. She is a lady of fine attainments, and is at present Principal of one of the Girls’ Grammar Schools in Harrisburg.

<sup>35</sup> This list includes all 10 graduates of the class of 1855. While it appears that none of the class had married in the three years since their graduation, another article states that Annie M. Roberts is now Mrs. Annie M. Purvis of Baltimore MD. The “degree in course” was the A.M., awarded routinely by colleges to graduates who had worked successfully and/or pursued further studies after their graduation.

<sup>36</sup> Charles Augustus Hay (1821-1893) was a distinguished Lutheran pastor and seminary professor. After graduating from Gettysburg College in 1839 and Seminary in 1841, he spent two years studying in Berlin and Halle. In 1844, at the age of 23, he was called from his pastorate in Middletown to teach at the Seminary. He pastored at St. Matthew’s in Hanover 1848-49 and Zion in Harrisburg 1849-65 before returning to the Seminary in 1865 until his death.

<sup>37</sup> Despite the strong Methodist connection, this is the first graduation held in the Methodist Church. It could be that the ceremony had outgrown the hall at the capital. The Locust Street Church had the largest auditorium in the city, and because of that was selected for a concert by Jenny Lind, the famous “Swedish Nightingale” in 1851. The church fathers agonized over the worldly use of their sanctuary on that occasion, and solved the problem by building a special platform for Miss Lind to sing from and thus not insult the sacredness of the pulpit – and they also stipulated that men and women would be segregated at the concert. Presumably no such restrictions affected this 1859 ceremony, but such thinking might explain why earlier commencements were not held at the church.

The exercises were opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Mesick<sup>38</sup> of New Jersey, after which followed the graduates addresses in order.

“Salutatory”	Miss Georgianna S. Parke,	Harrisburg
“Sunny Memories”	Miss Fannie D. Frymier	Cumberland County
“Woman’s Mission”	Miss Annie E. Pauli <sup>39</sup>	Reading
“Nature’s Teachings”	Miss Mary E. Heffelman	Chambersburg
“Valedictory”	Miss Mary Laird Bigler	Harrisburg

The addresses were excellently written and well read, while the large audience manifested their appreciation by showers of bouquets.

President William H. Allen LL.D.<sup>40</sup> of Girard College delivered the annual address, which was listened to with rapt attention. It was not only interesting, but entertaining – and delivered in the Doctor’s usual manner.

Following the addresses, the degree of *Proficiens Studiis Liberalibus* was conferred upon the graduates. The degree of Mistress of Arts was conferred in course upon Misses Jennie Larmour of Alexandria VA, Sarah A. Reynolds of Chambersburg, Julia E. Montgomery and Hannah S. Johnson of Harrisburg, all of the class of 1856. And the honorary degree of A.M. was conferred upon the accomplished Miss Martha Haines Butt<sup>41</sup> of Norfolk VA.

The college honors were awarded to Misses Mary E. Heffelman and Annie E. Pauli. These consist of beautiful silver medals cut from the college die – and are given for exemplary deportment and greatest proficiency in study.

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<sup>38</sup> Rev. John F. Mesick of Somerville NJ was formerly the German Reformed pastor in Harrisburg. A well-respected clergyman, he served as president of the 1852 meeting of the Eastern Synod of the Reformed Church. He is the one who preached the earlier referenced March 8, 1846, sermon titled “The Evils of Dancing”

<sup>39</sup> The Pauli family is noted for having supplied a long succession of pastors to the German Reformed Church. In the Reading area, Rev. Philip Reinhold Pauli (1742-1815) was the father of Rev. William Pauli (1792-1855) and Rev. Charles Augustus Pauli (1804-1871). Annie E. Pauli is a descendent of Rev. William Pauli. Her presence at the school is an exception to the general pattern of students being Methodist, and either from Harrisburg or south or west of Harrisburg.

<sup>40</sup> William Henry Allen (1808-1882) was a faculty member at Dickinson College 1836-50 before serving as president of Girard College 1850-62 and again 1867-82. In between his stints at Girard College, he served as president of Penn State (then Pennsylvania Agricultural College) 1864-66.

<sup>41</sup> Martha Haines Butt (1833-1871) was a prominent author. Another clipping in the scrapbook states the following: “The faculty of the Pennsylvania Female College of Harrisburg, at their late commencement, conferred the honorary degree of A.M. upon Miss Martha Haines Butt of Norfolk VA. Miss Butt is an authoress of considerable celebrity, but perhaps more widely known for her lively conversational power, and having the spirit of Virginia society.” Debates over the immorality of slavery intensified following the publication of Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* in 1852. Mary Henderson Eastman and Martha Haines Butt were two Virginia women who entered the political debate and wrote novels attempting to prove that slavery was a benevolent and wise institution. Miss Butt’s 1853 “*Anti-Fanaticism: A Tale of the South*” gained her immediate fame. Today she is most remembered for her 1860 volume still available from book dealers, “*The Leisure Moments of Miss Martha Haines Butt, A.M.*” The “A.M.” may well refer to the degree given her in Harrisburg in 1859.

After benediction by Rev. Dr. Bishop<sup>42</sup> of the M.E. Church, the audience dispersed. Thus closed the sixth annual commencement of our College – and one in every manner credible to the institution and its worthy principal, the Rev. B.R. Waugh, whose untiring exertions to foster the cause of female education is receiving a proper appreciation from friends of education in all parts. Although in its infancy, it is destined to take the lead among similar institutions of our land, and well and nobly does it deserve whatever the success. We cannot wish other than an abundance of it.

#### 1860 – seventh annual commencement

The seventh annual commencement of the Pennsylvania Female College took place on Thursday evening, June 28, 1860, in the Locust Street Methodist Episcopal Church. Long before the hour appointed for opening the doors, an immense crowd congregated around the church, eager to get prominent seats. Many, on account of the crowded condition of the church, were debarred the privilege of witnessing the truly interesting exercises incidental on such occasions.

On the whole, the commencement was graced with a highly appreciative audience of ladies and gentlemen. The following was the order of addresses was observed.

“Salutatory Address:

Consecrated Spots”	Miss Margie E. Righter	Columbia
“Fireside Angels”	Miss Mary C. Koser	Harrisburg
“Life, a Struggle for Something Unattained	Miss Maria M. Zollinger <sup>43</sup>	Harrisburg
“A Glimpse through Time’s Telescope”	Miss Emma L. Ettl <sup>44</sup>	Harrisburg

“Valedictory Address:

Star of Bethlehem”	Miss Josephine Saxton	Cumberland County
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The reading of the several compositions was listened to with marked attention. Had it not been for the timely injunctions of Mr. Waugh, the audience would have given vent to their manifestations of approbation.

<sup>42</sup> Rev. William Bishop served the Harrisburg Methodist congregation 1859-61.

<sup>43</sup> Maria Zollinger is the daughter of Elias Zollinger, mentioned in connection with the 1846 sermon against dancing.

<sup>44</sup> Emma L. Ettl married Bloomsburg attorney Samuel Knorr in November 1864. While a complete accounting of what happened to all the graduates of the Pennsylvania Female College would be interesting and informative, it’s generally difficult to find and trace women in historical records. Emma and Samuel had two children before she died on July 15, 1875 [and, in what was a common occurrence in those days, he married her sister Miss Mary A. Ettl five months later]. The Knorrs were active Methodists. Their daughter Mildred Knorr extended the concept of female education to another generation and another level by attending Vassar College.

The Salutatory subject was well chosen, and the language chaste and beautiful. Although Miss Righter faltered at first, and seemed to shrink from the five hundred pairs of eyes which gazed upon her, she rallied as she proceeded. Her picture of some consecrated spots was vividly and forcibly portrayed. It is hardly necessary to give an abstract of her address, as one can reasonably suppose what eloquence could be brought to bear on such a subject. Her tribute to the College, its professors and trustees was clothed in very pretty ideas which were brought out in the most beautiful language. At the conclusion, Miss Righter was complimented by a perfect shower of bouquets.

We had an idea – a sort of vague, undefined one – that a fireside angel was the one who cooked out victuals, but Miss Koser, in a clear voice, demonstrated the fact that there are others. The pious mother struggling with a worldly-minded son to fly from the wrath to come, and the dutiful and uncomplaining wife were depicted in a strong light as fireside angels. These and others were the angels sent by God to spread peace and happiness in the world. Miss Koser's effort was very successful. She spoke with great self-possession and clear enunciation. At the conclusion of her address a large number of bouquets were thrown upon the stage.

Life is a struggle, and not a dream as some suppose. The burthen of Miss Zollinger's address was on the various struggles in life, which she portrayed in a manner rather new – although the subject is somewhat hackneyed. Her address, although well-written and equally well delivered, advanced no new theory on how to fight the battle of life. But it was full of hope and encouragement for everyone to “fight on, fight ever” and to struggle to the end, more especially for that crown of glory promised to the righteous in the end. She received quite a number of bouquets, and also a basket of beautiful flowers.

Miss Ettla very appropriately commenced her glimpse before the Creation, when all was chaos, and after a tribute to the Creator she dwelt upon the decay of Thebes, Nineveh, Assyria and Rome – and the fall of ancient Egypt, once the seat of science and the arts. Her address evinced thorough knowledge of classical history, but it shed no new light upon the decay and fall of empires. Her reference to the rise of the Star of Bethlehem, when the world was shrouded in pagan darkness, was very beautiful. Her retrospect came down to the landing of the Pilgrims, the Revolution, Washington, and the progress of our country. The printing press was referred to in the most eloquent and glowing terms. Her glimpse was an elaborate one, and a most decided success in that her oratorical abilities were exceedingly good, and her subject admirably carried out. The *exordium* was Chaos, the *peroration* was Light. Miss Ettla was also complimented with an armful of nosegays.

The thesis of Miss Saxton was a eulogium on the birth of our Saviour, and was very beautiful. Her valedictory address, like all school valedictories, was a feeling and affectionate farewell to trustees, classmates and the audience, together with a final and most finished tribute to the College and its professors. At the conclusion of the valedictory the stage was literally covered with beautiful bouquets by Miss Saxton's enthusiastic admirers.



The principal, Beverly R. Waugh, A.M., next conferred the degrees upon the graduating class, presenting to each a small Bible.

Mr. Waugh announced the distribution of the class honors awarded to students, who by arduous study merited the same. These honors are silver medals, struck from a die engraven expressly for the College. The first class medals were awarded to Miss Righter and Miss Ettl, and were presented by Colonel Herr in a few neat and very appropriate remarks.

The success of this Commencement, notwithstanding the graduating class was very small, was marked and decided – and gave great satisfaction to the trustees, faculty and friends of the College. It is to be regretted that the architect of the Methodist church knew very little about the science of acoustics, as it takes very strong lungs to fill the building – a volume of voice not supposed to be encompassed by ladies, hence the disadvantages they labored under may be judged.

We cannot close this notice without complimenting the State Capital Brass Band for their very excellent music.

The next term of the College commences on the fifth of September, 1860, and a line addressed to B.R. Waugh will place any person in possession of any information desired.

#### 1861 – death of principal Beverly R. Waugh

Unfortunately the scrapbook was not continued, and this section must end without any newspaper accounts of the death of Mr. Waugh and the fate of Pennsylvania Female College. Since Principal Waugh died in March and there were other instructors, it is possible that the school was able to continue operations long enough to hold an eighth annual commencement in June. Because it was Mr. Waugh (i.e., not Pennsylvania Female College) who had purchased the Harris mansion in 1855, both for his residence and for classroom space, the building was placed up for sale to settle his estate and the school did not re-open in the fall.

**Appendix.** Representative pre-Civil War conference journal reports on Methodist-related seminaries within the Central Pennsylvania Conference.

1853 Baltimore Conference

Cassville Seminary, situated in Cassville, Huntingdon County PA, under the direction of Rev. R. Pierce, has been built upon the stock principle, and is offered to the patronage and control of the Conference, entirely unencumbered by debt. Its charter requires that five of the seven trustees constituting the board shall be Methodist, and that the preacher in charge of Cassville circuit is to be *ex-officio* one of the number. During the past year there has been a revival of religion in the school, and thirty of the students have professed conversion and joined the church.

1854 Baltimore Conference

Cassville Seminary (for male and female) commenced under favorable auspices. Received to the patronage of this Conference but twelve months ago, it has now upwards of one hundred students.

Cottage Hill College (for ladies), invitingly situated in the vicinity of York PA under the management of its proprietor and principal Rev. John F. Hey, is enjoying a state of prosperity unprecedented in its history. Besides the day scholars from the borough, it numbers twenty-six boarders.

Dickinson Seminary (for male and female), of which Rev. Thomas Bowman D.D. is principal, has enjoyed good prosperity during the past year. A large proportion of the older students are professors of religion, and a number were converted during the past winter. The trustees ask for a special agent to assist them in carrying out the vigorous measures to liquidate the debt, which they contemplate during the ensuing year. Dickinson Seminary, a namesake and to some extent a feeder of Dickinson College, is beautifully situated in the pleasant town of Williamsport PA.

1857 Baltimore Conference

Cottage Hill College is under the control of Rev. John F. Hey. In view of domestic affliction, it would be gratifying to the principal if the Conference would assume the entire control of the college, by its purchase upon accommodating terms. This proposition has been duly considered by the committee, and they deem it inexpedient at the present, especially in view of the division of the Conference [into the Baltimore and East Baltimore Conferences, with the Pennsylvania appointments now in the East Baltimore (later, Central Pennsylvania) Conference]. It is located at York PA and numbers about 60 students.

1858 East Baltimore Conference

Dickinson Seminary at Williamsport PA, in addition to an able faculty of nine professors, has 436 pupils enrolled, sixty of whom were converted this year. The trustees desire this Conference to recommend the appointment of an agent to attend to its pecuniary interests.

Irving Female College, situated at Mechanicsburg PA, is a young but promising school. It has a faculty of seven professors under the presidency of Rev. A.G. Marlatt. It has already from 80 to 90 students, 40 of whom were converted to God during the past year. It is chartered with full college privileges to confer degrees and grant diplomas. This infant college asks the patronage of this Conference.

#### 1859 East Baltimore Conference

Cottage Hill College, under the supervision of Rev. J.F. Hey A.M., located in the suburbs of the healthy borough of York PA, is still enjoying its well-merited prosperity.

Cumberland Valley Institute, for the education of young men, is located in Mechanicsburg PA. The faculty consists of president Rev. B.C. Lippincott A.B., A.F. Mullen A.B., and T.S. Reese A.B. This institution is of recent origin but rapid growth, and promises much to the cause of Christian education. The buildings are large and convenient. We recommend it to public patronage.

#### 1860 East Baltimore Conference

Shrewsbury Classical Academy, under the supervision of Rev. Thomas Rees Vickroy, is situated in the borough of Shrewsbury, York County PA. Although just struggling into existence, success is beyond a doubt. We commend it to public patronage. [editor's note: Rev. Vickroy later rendered his middle name Rhys, to conform to its original spelling as a family surname. An 1855 graduate of Cassville Seminary (and Dickinson College), he later became United Brethren and the first president of that denomination's Lebanon Valley College 1866-1871 in Annville PA. He is also known to have conducted Bryansville Academy, another early York County boarding school.]

#### 1861 East Baltimore Conference

Fayetteville Academy is located in Franklin County PA. We have had an interview with principal Rev. Joshua Kennedy respecting the transfer of said property to our Conference. We recommend the appointment of a committee to examine the property and, if in their judgment the proposition will conduce to the interests of our Conference, to pledge the patronage of the Conference – provided that no pecuniary responsibility is assumed thereby.

Relevant Conference appointments include the following.

- Dickinson Seminary, Williamsport PA: Rev. Thompson Mitchell, president; Rev. William H. Dill, professor.
- Irving Female College, Mechanicsburg PA: Rev. A.G. Marlatt, president; Rev. R.D. Chambers, professor.
- Rainsburg Seminary, Rainsburg PA: Rev. W.W. Brim, principal.

#### 1863 East Baltimore Conference

Cumberland Valley Institute, located in Mechanicsburg PA, is under the faithful management of Rev. O. Ege and sons and has enjoyed a year of prosperity unequalled in its former history.

#### 1864 East Baltimore Conference

Emory Female College is located in the classic town of Carlisle PA, on the Cumberland Valley Rail Road. It was opened in September last, under the able superintendency of Rev. R.D. Chambers A.M., assisted by professor S.D. Hillman and others. The entire faculty is competent and experienced. The classes have been regularly organized, and everything is working as harmoniously as in institutions which have been long established.