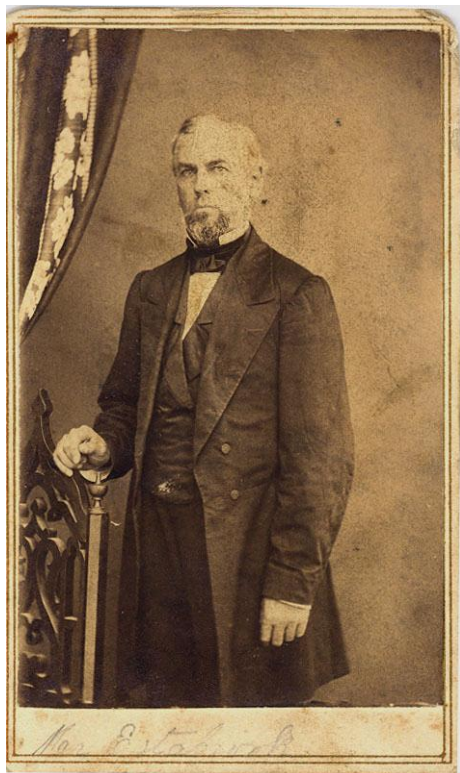


LINCOLN'S SPRINGFIELD

SPRINGFIELD'S EARLY SCHOOLS
(1819-1860)



Spring Creek Series.

Richard E. Hart

Front Cover: Photograph of school teacher Abel W. Estabrook taken by Springfield photographer Christopher Smith German in the 1860s and mounted as a *carte de visite*.

Back Cover: Photograph of Edwards School at the northeast corner of Spring and Edwards Streets. This was the Third Ward School, which opened on April 14, 1856.

By law, the sixteenth section of every township was to be used for school purposes, but there being little or no sale for land, and the government price of \$1.25 per acre being all that could be realized from its sale, the income to be derived from it could amount to but little. Subscription schools, therefore, had to be depended upon.¹

For my grandson "R. E."

Lincoln's Springfield: Springfield's Early Schools (1819-1860)
Spring Creek Series, a series of booklets about early Springfield history.
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¹ *History of Sangamon County, Illinois*, Inter-State Publishing Company, Chicago, 1881, p. 479.

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Introduction

Photographs are wonderfully evocative. I recently acquired a small photograph (*carte de visite*) of a distinguished looking man, taken by Springfield photographer Christopher Smith German. At the bottom of the card, written in faint pencil, is the name "Abel W. Estabrook." I had a vague recollection of Estabrook being one of young Robert Todd Lincoln's teachers, and the photo image of the stately gentleman prompted me to learn more about him. My research not only confirmed that he was an early Springfield school teacher who indeed taught young Robert Todd Lincoln for three years, but that he was an early abolitionist.

Most of the information I found about Estabrook was from Springfield's newspaper of the time, the *Journal*, where Estabrook advertised his school and teaching services. Some of the advertisements named other teachers associated with Estabrook and named schools where he taught and served as principal. This drew me into an expanded search for details on the early schools of Springfield and their teachers. Again, most of the information I found came from advertisements in the *Journal* and to a lesser extent from its sister newspaper, the *Register*. The *Journal*, unlike the *Register*, has been indexed and that made the *Journal* search fairly easy. I did not do a complete read of the microfilmed *Register*, and the material from that source is no more than random findings of mine and others.

When I assembled the information I found in chronological order, an interesting story of early Springfield schools emerged. It also revealed facts that compelled partial correction of a previously accepted account of Robert Todd Lincoln attending a school taught by Estabrook at the southeast corner of Seventh and Edwards. Estabrook did teach Robert, but it was at the Springfield Academy on the west side of Fifth Street, between Monroe and Capitol. Estabrook never taught at the Central Academy at the southeast corner of Seventh and Edwards. With such similar names — both were academies — it is easy to see how the error was made. Hopefully, in future publications, Lincoln scholars will note the correct name and location of Robert's three year attendance at the Springfield Academy. The Springfield Academy site on Fifth Street merits recognition in Springfield's pantheon of Lincoln sites and perhaps a story board could be placed there to note its significance.

From their earliest days on the Illinois frontier, the people of Springfield and Sangamon County sought education for their children. Between 1819 and 1860, Springfield had over 54 teachers and at least 20 named schools. In rude log cabins and rented rooms, teachers set up classes in reading, penmanship, and mathematics. Several of the instructors, male and female, came direct from England or northeast America, where they had taught for years. Their scholars learned to write and deliver original poems and speeches, and to behave with civil decency. If not, whippings were common and expected by parents.

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The early schools were private and supported by paid fees. Until 1856, these were all private schools charging tuition. They reflected social biases of the era, separating students by race and gender. By the 1840s, some schools offered college-preparatory instruction in classical languages, science, and philosophy. Leading citizens, such as Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln, sent their children to local schools. Finally, in 1856 the private system was replaced by a system of public schools which remain the principal engine of Springfield education today. In the 1850s a public school system emerged and Springfield had its first college, Illinois State University.

From 1819 until 1860, the schools and the teachers shared a number of common characteristics — the organization, opening and success or failure of each school. Each school started out with great optimism, tightly organized and structured with grandiose statements of purpose and courses of study. But they tended to be short lived, with principals and teachers coming and going.

Schools and teachers are a basic building block of any civilized community and nation. Indeed they are perhaps the most important of such blocks. They are the transmitters of culture and the trainers of the “next generation” of every time period. They are the institutional engine for achieving the American dream of every boy and girl having an equal chance. The early schools of Springfield are a magnificent expression of the community’s efforts to achieve these noble American values.

I owe thanks to Curtis Mann and Linda Garvert at the Sangamon Valley Room at Lincoln Library. Their knowledge of the source material on early Springfield history is unmatched, and I thank them for their assistance and sharing of information. I am also indebted to Will Howarth, Springfield native and Princeton professor, for his helpful review and editing. There is no better proof reader than my assistant, Sheila Sullivan, who did the final review. Thanks to you all.

This is not intended to be final in the sense that everything about early Springfield schools has been found. But it is a beginning which I encourage others to add to and expand the knowledge of the schools of Lincoln’s Springfield.

Richard E. Hart
June 17, 2007

1819-1828: The First Decade

During the first ten years of Springfield's existence (1819-1828), five men, Jabez Capps, Andrew Orr, Erastus Wright, William Mendenhall, Mr. Howe and Thomas Moffitt, taught in private subscription schools in log cabins. There were no public schools.

The Issue of "Firstness"

One of the common hallmarks of 19th century local histories is their attempt to designate the official "first" of everything. The first settler, the first marriage, the first doctor, the first minister. The Sangamon County histories of that genre crowned several persons as Springfield's "first teacher." So, if you are looking for the definitive answer to who was Springfield's first teacher, don't look here. I don't know. What I do know starts with Jabez (John) Capps in 1819.

1819

Jabez (John) Capps Sangamon County's First Teacher

Jabez Capps was born in London, England on September 9, 1796. He came to America with other family members in the summer of 1817. Almost two years later in the spring of 1819, 22 year-old Jabez² settled in what would become Springfield, and according to at least two 19th century Sangamon County histories was the first school teacher in Sangamon County and in addition was the town's first shoemaker.³ If he was the first school teacher in Sangamon County, I assume such firstness is based upon his teaching in Springfield, and if so, then he was probably the first school teacher in Springfield.⁴

² (9/9/1796-1896) Obituary: *Journal*: April 5, 1896.

³ *History of the Early Settlers of Sangamon County, Illinois*, John Carroll Power, 1876, p. 185. (Hereinafter cited as "Power.") *History of Sangamon County, Illinois*, Inter-State Publishing Company, Chicago, 1881, pp. 197 (Stuart), 987, and 997. (Hereinafter cited as "1881 History"). *Here I Have Lived*, Paul M. Angle, The Abraham Lincoln Association, Springfield, Illinois, 1935, p. 24. (Hereinafter cited as "Here I Have Lived.") *Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln*, Abraham Lincoln Association, 1953, v. III, p. 391. (Hereinafter cited as "Collected Works.") *Description of Springfield*, Zimri Enos, Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society, Vol. 14, 1909, p. 200: store and shop on the north side of Jefferson, between 1st & 2nd. S.W. Cor. of 3rd & Jefferson. Log house: two story. Merchant in Springfield: 1827-1836. 1826: Laid out town of Mt. Pulaski. Voted 1830. Grocer.

⁴ Ball Township in southern Sangamon County also claims that it was there that the first Sangamon County school was built and taught in 1821. Charles Wright, a New Englander, was the school's first teacher. "He taught school a few years in Sangamon county, at one time in the neighborhood of the Drennans, on Sugar Creek." Wright was born on July 21, 1799 at Bernardstown, Massachusetts and brought up in Vermont. He and his brother, Erastus, arrived in Springfield on November 21, 1821. *Power*, p. 788. *1881 History*, p. 792. The issue of "firstness" gets very complicated.

1821

**Andrew Orr Teaches First School in Log Cabin
on North Side of Washington Between Pasfield and Lewis**

The *1881 History* of Sangamon County declares that "The first school in Springfield was taught by Andrew Orr, in 1821."⁵ Orr taught a school in a log cabin on a hill on the north side of Washington Street, between Pasfield and Lewis streets.⁶ Orr taught until about 1825.

Zimri Enos⁷ was a student at Orr's school and years later he recalled the experience.

I remember going to school in a little old round-log cabin, situated on the top of the hill on the north side of what is now Washington street and between Pasfield and Lewis streets. At that time there was no recognized street west of First street but Jefferson...The road to the school house turned off from Jefferson street, opposite to Klein street, and ran southwest to the crossing of the town branch at Washington and Pasfield streets. There was no bridge over the branch, and only some small logs laid lengthwise with the branch for the use of wagons in crossing. The road continued on the same course south of west, and the path from the branch to the school house turned to the right from the road, and went up to the top of the hill to the school house in the center of a thicket of hazelnuts, crabapples, plum bushes and grapevines, where a space some 40 or 50 feet square had been cleared off a cabin built. Its dimensions were about 14 by 16 feet, with door on the east side, a stick and mud chimney at the north end, and one log cut out some 6 or 8 feet on both the south and west sides for windows, and slabs for benches, and rough boards for desks.

... I remember the teacher, as a threat to punish a scholar, told me to go out and get a switch. I took him at his word and went out and hunted around and finally picked up a hazel switch some 4 or 5 feet long, and over one-half inch thick, and brought it to him, which created such a laugh among the scholars at my expense, that I remember the circumstance. I also remember the high stake and rider fence, not more than a hundred feet west of the school house, around the lot in

⁵ *1881 History*, p. 585.

⁶ This site was on the north side of Washington in the block to the east of the present Springfield High School. A marker in front of present Springfield High School declares that here in 1821 was built the first school in Springfield. School Master: 1821-1822 Andrew Orr, 1822-1824 Erastus Wright, 1824-1826 William Mendenhall, and 1828-1827 Thomas Moffett. The marker was erected by the Springfield Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, April 19, 1918. The dates of the School Masters do not coincide with Zimri Enos' recollections.

⁷ Zimri A. Enos was born on September 29, 1821, the son of Pascal P. and Salome Paddock Enos, natives of Connecticut and Vermont. Pascal Enos moved to Springfield with his family in September, 1823, where as Receiver of the Federal Land Office, he opened the land office in a double log cabin, at what is now the northwest corner of Third and Jefferson streets. He was one of the four original proprietors of Springfield.

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which Mr. Erastus Wright kept his elk, and of climbing up on that fence to see the elk. ...these incidents could not have happened later than the summer or fall of 1825.⁸

1825

Erastus Wright Teaches

In about 1825, Erastus Wright, followed Andrew Orr as the teacher at the little school with about 50 pupils.⁹ Wright was born at Bernardstown, Massachusetts on January 21, 1779. He was an abolitionist and taught school for many years.¹⁰

⁸ *Early School Experience: Incidents In My Earliest Recollections of Springfield*, Zimri Enos, Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society, Vol. 14, 1909, pp. 201-208. (Hereinafter cited as "Zimri Enos Account.")

⁹ *1881 History*, p. 585.

¹⁰ *Power*, p. 788. The family is a very ancient one for New England. Erastus left a history of the family, which he always kept written up, giving the genealogy of the family for nearly two and a half centuries, beginning with Deacon Samuel Wright, who came from England and settled at Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1641. The parents of Erastus Wright left Bernardstown, Massachusetts, and went to Derby, Vermont, in 1802... Erastus remained with his father on the farm, with no other advantages for education than the country schools afforded, until the spring of 1821, when he started west, in company with his brother, Charles. They traveled ... until they reached Buffalo, New York. There they embarked on a schooner for Fort Dearborn, now Chicago, Illinois. From Fort Dearborn they started on foot, making a preliminary survey of the route now occupied by the Illinois and Michigan canal, touching the Illinois river near where LaSalle now stands. They then descended the Illinois river to Fort Clark, now Peoria, and from there to Elkhart Grove, where Judge Latham resided. From there they came to Springfield, arriving Nov. 21, 1821. It had been selected as the county seat on the 10th of April before, but there had not then been any town laid out. A log court house had just been completed. Mr. Wright describes the town, as it first appeared to him, in these words: "Elijah Iles had about five hundred dollars' worth of goods in a log cabin, ten by fourteen; Charles R. Matheney and Jonathan Kelly lived in log cabins not a quarter of a mile distant. The Indians—Kickapoos and Potawatamies—often came along in squads, and when others had built cabins near, called the place 'log town'" Mr. Wright went with Judge Latham from Springfield to Elkhart Grove and taught school there during the winter of 1821-2. He bought a claim of Levi Ellis and entered it as soon as it came into the market in 1823. From notes on the flyleaf of a New Testament, in the handwriting of Mr. Wright, he says: "I built the first frame house in what is now the city of Springfield." In 1824 he built a park and traded eighty acres of land in Schuyler county for an elk. Old citizens remember that Mr. Wright rode that elk and drove it in harness, the same as a horse, although he says in a note that he was rough to ride, and not very kind in the harness. Mr. Wright spent three or four years in the lead mining region of Illinois and Wisconsin, and while there he laid out the town of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, using a bed cord for his chain. He was married June 15, 1831, in Fulton county, to Jane Gardner, whose parents were from Saratoga, New York. Mr. and Mrs. Wright had three children. Mrs. Jane G. Wright died Jan. 24, 1841, and Erastus Wright married Lucy Barrows, who died ...and Erastus Wright was married March 23, 1868, to Mrs. Lucy F. Carpenter ... He died in

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Zimri Enos recalled his teacher, Erastus Wright.

There is one other incident connected with that school that I remember. It was in cold weather, when the children were crowding around the fire to warm, that a cousin of mine, three years older than myself, who was living in our family, as there was no school in his neighborhood, was pushed into the fire and his wrist was very badly burned. This must have occurred in the winter of 1825 and 26, as I find among my father's papers a receipt from Mr. Wright, for the tuition of three scholars dated April 6, 1826, which could only have been for my brother, my cousin and myself. I do not recollect the teacher, but from what my mother has since told me, know he was Mr. Wright, and that he took great interest in teaching me on account of my being so young. He taught me my letters and to spell in the abs.¹¹

1826

Mr. How's School at Old Masonic Hall

By the summer of 1826, Zimri Enos was attending a school taught by Mr. How on the second floor of a log house on the south side of Jefferson between Second and Third streets.

My next school experience was with Mr. How in the summer of 1826, who had his school in the old Masonic hall, which was the upper room of a two story log house, with an outside flight of stairs on the west end of it. The building was on Lot 2, Block 8, O. T. P., south side of Jefferson street, about half way between what is now known as the Western hotel and the St. Charles hotel. Our house was on the north side of the street immediately opposite.¹²

Thomas Moffitt Teaches in Log House at Fifth and Jefferson

Thomas Moffitt arrived in Springfield on November 14, 1826, and succeeded Erastus Wright as the teacher at the little log school house on Washington Street. Moffitt was 29 when he arrived and began teaching. He studied law at the same time. Like many of the early Springfield residents, Moffitt was born in Kentucky—Bath County.¹³ Zimri Enos attended this school during the winter of 1826-27.

Springfield, Illinois, Nov. 21, 1870, on the forty-ninth anniversary of his residence in that city. For ten years he filled the office of school commissioner of Sangamon county. During that time a large amount of money, derived from the sale of government land for school purposes, passed through his hands. He was one of the earliest Abolitionists, and was always fearless in advocating its doctrines. He acquired considerable wealth, and was liberal towards all benevolent objects, and every public enterprise was sure to elicit his co-operation.

¹¹ *Zimri Enos Account*, p. 202.

¹² *Zimri Enos Account*, p. 202.

¹³ *Power*, p. 528. *1881 History*, pp. 50, 77, 78, 83, 84, 111, 274, 282, 298, 431, 439, 605, 849, 885, 164. Sangamon County in the Winnebago war of 1827, and in 1832 was captain of a company in the Black Hawk war. He served two years as county commissioner, and from 1843 served as Judge of the Probate Court. Under the constitution of 1848, he was elected County Judge for four years.

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[I] was not sent to school any more until the winter of 1826 and 1827 when Judge Moffett opened a school in the double log house at the northeast corner of Jefferson and Fifth streets.

The only events in connection with this school that are impressed upon my memory are the talk and wonder expressed by the scholars at the four Arthur Watson children coming to school regularly a mile and half across the open prairie from their home (now Converse place) in all kinds of weather, in rain, snow and the severest cold. Mrs. George Pasfield's mother was one of the four.¹⁴

1827

Thomas Moffitt's School Exhibition

Zimri Enos recalled preparing for a school exhibition to be given at the court house at the northeast corner of Sixth and Adams streets.

Near the end of the school term Mr. Moffett (*sic*) concluded to close with a school exhibition and assigned pieces to different children to declaim and they practice speaking their pieces before the school. One boy, Nat Boyd, had a poem beginning

Ever charming, ever new
When the landscape tires the view.

And he caused great amusement and laughter whenever he attempted to speak his piece. He would, in spite of all Mr. Moffett's efforts, rattle it off so rapidly and in such a sing-song tone that a roar of laughter would be created. I had a piece to speak, which I learned, beginning

You'd scarce expect one of my age
To speak in public on the stage.

And practiced at home. In the evenings after supper when the table was set back, I would be placed in the middle of the room and orated for the amusement of the family. The exhibition took place in the spring, in the old frame court house at the northeast corner of Adams and Sixth streets, and was considered a grand affair, but neither Nat Boyd nor myself took part in it.¹⁵

The last school term Moffitt taught was in the first Sangamon County court house at the northwest corner of Second and Jefferson streets.¹⁶

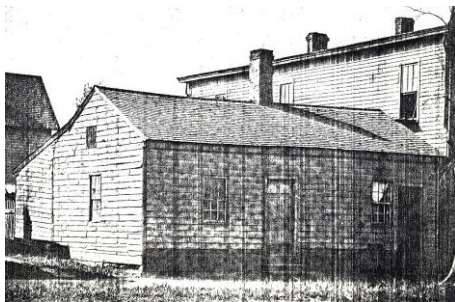
He was for many years a Ruling Elder in the Second Presbyterian church, Springfield's abolitionist church.

¹⁴ *Zimri Enos Account*, p. 202.

¹⁵ *Zimri Enos Account*, p. 203.

¹⁶ *1881 History*, p. 585.

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Sangamon County Court House at Second and Jefferson¹⁷

1828

Log School House Built at Second and Adams Streets

In 1828, a school house of rough logs was built near the corner of Second and Adams Streets. The building was a community center serving as a school, a church and a place for other public gatherings.¹⁸ Zimri Enos attended this school.

The last school I attended, previous to the deep snow, was in the log school house built in the intersection of Adams and Second streets. Its greatest length was from east to west and the door was in the middle of the south side. In going to this school we had to cross the deep channel of the branch at the alley on Second between Washington and Adams streets, and the crossing was on a big log some four or five feet above the water, and the log was only roughly leveled off a little on the top. There are two things connected with this school that are vividly impressed on my memory. One was that the teacher would for a few minutes permit the children to study aloud, when the school would become a perfect Babel. The other was, that in addition to the regular intermissions he would permit the boys, six or eight at a time, to go out ostensibly to study their lessons under the clump of big shade trees that stood a few rods northwest of the school house. We little boys used to employ the time playing marbles and mumble peg under a splendid big sugar tree until we were called in. I suppose these peculiarities were intended for relaxation and relief from the fatigue of the long twelve-hour school, more than anything else. Our teacher was no hard disciplinarian but a very kind hearted and intellectual man. One who, if his ambition and energy had equaled his mental qualifications, would have been the leading man in Illinois in his day.¹⁹

¹⁷ *Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library*, Photographic Division, Springfield, Illinois.

¹⁸ *1881 History*, p. 585.

¹⁹ *Zimri Enos Account*, p. 204.

1829-1838: The Second Decade

During Springfield's second decade, at least a dozen private schools opened, each with a single teacher. These were called "subscription schools" and sometimes "slipper schools." Jane Bergen opened such a school in 1829 and was Springfield's first female teacher. In addition, two private schools, Springfield High School and Springfield Academy, opened with multiple teachers and printed courses of study. There were no public schools.

1829

First Lady School Teacher, Jane Eliza Bergen, Opens School on Washington Between Fourth and Fifth Streets

Jane Eliza Bergen was born in 1813, in Madison, New Jersey, the daughter of the Rev. John G. and Margareta M. Henderson Bergen. In 1828, Jane came with her parents to Springfield where her father built a house on the south side of Washington Street, between Fourth and Fifth Streets. The school had about 60 pupils. Here Jane taught school from 1829 until the fall of 1832. "That was believed to have been the first school taught by a lady in Springfield." In April, 1833, Jane married Col. Robert Allen and retired from teaching.²⁰ Zimri Enos attended Jane Bergen's school.

I also went to school to Miss Jane Bergen, who taught in a little frame school house on the south side of Washington street midway between Fourth and Fifth streets. The only thing impressed on my memory in connection with this school is the punishment I received for misconduct.²¹

In 1829, but one school had been sustained in the place. During that year Miss Jane E. Bergen opened a school in her father's house, which she continued until the fall of 1832. At that time, a fatality, not entirely unknown to modern female teachers, overtook her—she was married. The school was continued under charge of a Mr. Chase, who was at the same time rector of the recently established Episcopal Church. He remained in the school about two years [1832-1834], and was followed by Mr. Clark, who continued until the summer of 1836. [1834-1836] Thus, for six years [1829-1836], two very good schools had been sustained, each numbering about sixty pupils.²²

John B. Watson Opens School at Sixth and Adams Streets

In the summer of 1829, John B. Watson opened a school in the "old frame court house" at the northeast corner of Sixth and Adams Street. Zimri Enos attended this school.

I do ...remember going to school to Mr. John B. Watson in the old frame court house, but there are only three things connected with it that

²⁰ *Power*, p. 114.

²¹ *Zimri Enos Account*, p. 204.

²² *1881 History*, p. 586.

Springfield's Early Schools (1819-1860)

are impressed upon my memory. One is that we had to get over the prairie slough running through the southeast part of the present court house square on a few rails thrown across it; another was the sever [sic] whipping Mr. Watson gave one of the boys for some outrageous conduct, which made a great talk among the scholars; and the third was the delight and fun some of the bigger boys had in teasing and provoking Eliza Robinson until she would become so angry she would take after them, and then they would run out of her way. The date of this school was probably the summer of 1829, Mr. Watson having moved here in the spring. He was subsequently county surveyor and the first to keep any records of surveys.²³

John B. Watson, born Feb. 10, 1800, in York District, South Carolina, and came to Illinois with his father, settling somewhere in Randolph county. He was married in Kaskaskia, April 9, 1829, to Mary Gillis, who was born in Wilmington, Delaware, Jan. 31, 1814. They moved to Springfield, soon after they were married, Mr. Watson having been to Sangamon county, in 1827, to look at the country. Of their seven children, all born in Springfield, the eldest died in infancy. J. B. Watson taught school the first year he resided in Springfield. He was afterwards county surveyor and engineer of the Great Western railroad. He went to California in 1849 and returned in 1852. Mr. Watson and his two daughters died of Asiatic cholera, August 11, 1852. Ellen C. died at half-past one o'clock A. M.; Margaret at half-past seven o'clock A. M., and their father died at half-past nine o'clock P.M.²⁴

1830

John Calhoun Teaches School

"In 1830, John Calhoun conducted a school in another part of the city [other than the log school house near the corner of Adams and Second Streets.]"²⁵ Calhoun was born in Boston, Massachusetts in 1806, and moved to the Mohawk Valley, New York in 1821. There he attended Canajoharie Academy and studied law in Fort Plain. In 1830, he moved to Springfield, where he studied law and taught school. After serving in the Black Hawk War in 1831-32, he was appointed the surveyor of Sangamon County and trained Abraham Lincoln as a surveyor. He was a Democrat and held a number of public offices, including Mayor of Springfield from 1849 to 1851. The 1840 Springfield Census listed him as a lawyer, school teacher and surveyor.²⁶

²³ *Zimri Enos Account*, pp. 203-204.

²⁴ *1881 History*, p. 585. *Journal*, August 9, 1852, p. 3, cl. 2. Obituary.

²⁵ *1881 History*, p. 585.

²⁶ *Abraham Lincoln*, Ida M. Tarbell, McClure's Magazine, Vol. 6, No. 3, February 1896. *Power*, p. 167 and 240. *Here I Have Lived*, pp. 63, 67, 64, 110, 115, 131, 205, 211, and 213. *1840 Census*. *1881 History*, p. 611.

1831

Jonathan Wadley's School Room

The Friends of Learning are requested to meet at Mr. Wadley's school room, on Saturday evening next, at early candle-light, where he will explain to them the mode of teaching English Grammar by lectures, and offer proposals for making up a class.
Oct. 10²⁷

1832

Mary J. Cowardin's English Female School

On April 9, 1832, Mary J. Cowardin opened an English female school in the "lower part of town, near main street [Jefferson Street], in the upper room of a house formerly the property of col. [Thomas] Cox [northeast corner of First and Jefferson Streets].²⁸ Her advertisement in the *Journal* of April 1 is the first of many such advertisements for "slipper" and other schools. Spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic and needle work were taught for tuition of \$2.50 per quarter with an additional charge of \$3.00 for grammar and geography. Only boys under 10 were also admitted.

<p>SCHOOL. MARY J. COWARDIN respectfully in- forms the citizens of this place, that she will commence an English female school, on Monday, the 9th inst. in the lower part of town, near main street, in the upper room of a house formerly the property of col. Cox. TERMS—Spelling, reading, writing, arith- metic, needle work, \$2 50 per quarter ; with the addition of grammar and geography. \$3 00. A punctual discharge of scholastic duties may be expected. Boys under ten years of age will be admitted. Springfield, April 4, 1832.</p>	<p>22</p>
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Journal Notice of Mary J. Cowardin's English Female School²⁹

²⁷ *Journal*, November 17, 1831, p. 3, cl. 2.

²⁸ Thomas Cox: Register of land office, appointed by President Monroe in 1823. Finest residence in village in 1823, a double hewn log cabin with porch kitchen and brick chimney. Old Tavern. In 1828, the residence of Col. Cox. *Enos Description of Springfield*, p. 197: "his hewn log dwelling house with a hall and brick chimneys, one the finest houses in the county. He also erected a two story building adjoining the back of his dwelling."

²⁹ *Journal*, April 1, 1832, p. 4.

1834

1834 was a big year in Springfield education. Jane Bergen's school continued under Mr. Clark. Miss A. Chapin opened a school for young ladies and the Springfield Academy opened.

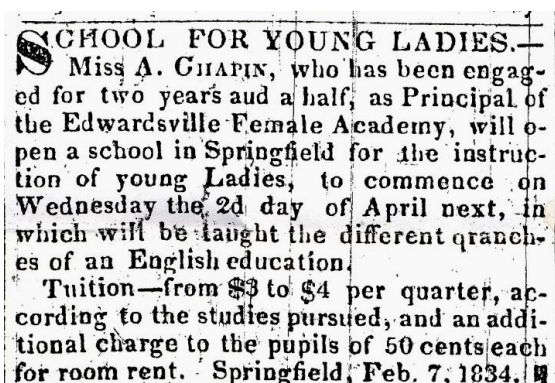
Jane Bergen's School Under Charge of Mr. Clark

... the fall of 1832. [Miss Jane E. Bergen's school] was continued under charge of a Mr. Chase. He remained in the school about two years, and was followed by Mr. Clark, who continued until the summer of 1836.³⁰

Miss A. Chapin Opens School for Young Ladies

About this time, several smaller schools were started by young ladies; among others, one for misses, by Miss Chapin.³¹

On April 2, 1834, Miss A. Chapin opened a school in "the different branches of an English education" for the young ladies of Springfield. For the previous 2 ½ years she had been the principal of the Edwardsville Female Academy in Edwardsville, Illinois. Tuition was from \$3 to \$4 per quarter, depending on the studies pursued, and 50 cents for room rent. This is the first Springfield appearance of Miss A. Chapin.



SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES.—Miss A. CHAPIN, who has been engaged for two years and a half, as Principal of the Edwardsville Female Academy, will open a school in Springfield for the instruction of young Ladies, to commence on Wednesday the 2d day of April next, in which will be taught the different branches of an English education. Tuition—from \$3 to \$4 per quarter, according to the studies pursued, and an additional charge to the pupils of 50 cents each for room rent. Springfield, Feb. 7, 1834.

*Journal Notice of Miss A. Chapin's School for Young Ladies*³²

James H. Wofle Principal of Springfield Academy

On May 31, 1834, the Springfield Academy published notice in the *Journal* that James H. Wofle was the principal and that each school term was a session of five months. The instruction and tuition charges are set out in the following advertisement from the *Journal*. The notice states that it is to announce changes in the terms of the school. This implies that the

³⁰ 1881 *History*, p. 586.

³¹ 1881 *History*, p. 586.

³² *Journal*, February 7, 1834.

Springfield's Early Schools
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Springfield Academy existed prior to this notice, yet this is the first evidence of its existence that I have found.

SPRINGFIELD ACADEMY,
SANGAMON CO. ILLINOIS.
JAMES H. WOFLE, Principal.

THE terms of the above school are changed, as follows. For further particulars, see advertisement on the first page of this paper.

For session of 5 months.	
In Orthography and reading	\$6 per do.
Writing and Arithmetic, {	8 per do.
with the above,	
English Grammar and {	10 per do.
Geography,	
History and Belles lettres,	11 per do.
Greek and Latin, or either,	12,50 pr do.
French an extra charge.	
Springfield, May 31, 1834.	

Journal Notice of James H. Wofle's Springfield Academy³³

John B. Watson Announces Fourth Quarter of School

In June, 1834, John B. Watson announced in the *Journal* that the fourth quarter of his school would commence on July 7, 1834. His tuition per quarter was: \$3.00 for spelling, reading and writing; \$3.50 for arithmetic and geography and \$4.00 for English grammar and Latin. There was no extra charge for room rent. "...taught here until 1834."³⁴

WATSON'S SCHOOL.—The fourth quarter of my school will commence on Monday, the 7th day of July next.

Terms per quarter :

Spelling reading and writing,	\$3.00
Arithmetic and Geography,	3.50
English Grammar and Latin,	4.00

No extra charge for room rent, &c.

JOHN B. WATSON,
Springfield, 29th June, 1834.

Journal Notice of John B. Watson's School³⁵

1836

Rev. Samuel Chase Teaches at Jane Bergen's School

³³ *Journal*, May 31, 1834, p. 3, cl. 6.

³⁴ *1881 History*, p. 585.

³⁵ *Journal*, June 1834.

Rev. Samuel Chase, the new first minister of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, opened a school on May 2, 1836. Tuition for each session of 20 weeks was sixteen dollars. A maximum of 20 boys and girls were admitted to the school. School hours were from 8 to 12 and 2 to 5.

[Miss Jane E. Bergen's school] was continued under charge of a Mr. [Samuel] Chase who was at the same time rector of the recently established Episcopal Church [June 1835]. He remained in the school about two years...³⁶

An April 20, 1836 announcement published in the *Journal* described the courses offered and the educational philosophy.

REV. MR. CHASE'S SCHOOL,
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS.

STUDIES.

ENGLISH.—Reading.—Orthography.—Punctuation.—Grammar; *Murray's*.—Composition.—Declension.—Geography; *Woodbridge's* & *Ward's*.—History; *Tytler's* or *Worcester's with chart*.—Rhetoric; *Jamison's*.—Logic; *Hodge's*.—Astronomy.—Natural Philosophy; *Blake's* or *Cavalli's*.—Chemistry.—Book Keeping by the most approved authors.

CLASSICAL.—Latin Grammar.—Liber Primus.—Jacob's Latin Reader.—Cicero.—Sallust; *Anthon's*.—Gicero.—Virgil.—Horace.—Tacitus.—Greek Grammar; *Vulgate by Anthon*.—Jacob's Greek Reader.—Greek Testament.—Neilson's Greek Exercises.

MATHEMATICAL.—Arithmetic; *Adam's*.—Algebra; *Day's*.—Plain Trigonometry.—Mensuration; *Day's*.—Surveying.—Navigation.

FRENCH.—Vanostoch's Grammar.—Boisjars's Fables.—Tienmeque.—L'Histoire de Charles XII.

In prosecuting the above course of studies, which has been selected with particular reference to the formation of practical as well as scientific scholarship, the pupils will be required by regular recitations, and frequent examinations, to evince not only a critical and familiar acquaintance with the theories of the several studies they may pursue; but also to show their practical application; in this they will be assisted by plain illustrations and familiar lectures from the instructor. In addition to the exertions of the instructor for the development of the intellectual character of those who may be entrusted to his tuition, much and solicited attention will be given to their general deportment and moral habits.

Persons are most respectfully solicited to visit, occasionally, the school; since they may thus obtain more correct information of the facilities of instruction, and progress of the pupils, than from any regular and prepared examinations.

Terms of Tuition.—Charge for tuition per session of twenty weeks, fifteen dollars. The number of scholars is limited to twenty, and consists of male and female. School hours from eight to twelve, and from two to five.

Patrons of the current session will be entitled to a preference—and those who do not intend to continue their pupils, are requested to make it known as early as convenient, that their vacancies may be filled. The ensuing session will commence May 2d, 1836.

(33) SAMUEL CHASE.

Journal Notice of
Rev. Mr. Samuel Chase's School³⁷

³⁶ 1881 *History*, p. 586. <http://phi.kenyon.edu/Khistory/chase/biography/> “... the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield began in March 1835, when the Diocese of Illinois was formed with the Right Reverend Philander Chase, the retired Bishop of Ohio, chosen as the first Bishop. At that time the Episcopal Diocese of Illinois was the entire State of Illinois.”

<http://www.episcopalspringfield.org/Diocese/Cathedral.htm> “By June of 1835, Philander Chase, newly elected Bishop of Illinois, heard that this small group desired to organize a parish and secure the services of clergy. On June 19, 1835, nineteen persons organized themselves as the “Parish of St. Paul’s, Springfield.” Bishop [Philander] Chase gave them his apostolic blessing, leaving his nephew, the Rev. Samuel Chase in charge of the new congregation.”

<http://anglicanhistory.org/usa/fcmorehouse1892/04.html> “It was about this time that the diocese of Illinois was formed. ...The primary convention was held on March 9th, 1835, and Bishop Chase was elected Bishop. Leaving his family on the farm in Michigan, and accompanied by the Rev. Samuel Chase, who had lately been ordained by Bishop Griswold; and by Mr. [Samuel] Chase’s wife, the Bishop started by stage for his new diocese ...to Springfield, where Mr. [Samuel] Chase remained, and where, on the 28th of June, 1835, Bishop Chase celebrated the Holy Communion for the first time.”

³⁷ *Journal*, April 30, 1836, p. 3.

1837

Springfield High School Organizes and Opens

In February 1837, Springfield High School was organized by S. M. Sill and H. D. Towne, who acted as principals and teachers. Classes commenced on May 1, 1837. The tuition for a year was \$200. The year was divided into two terms of study. The summer term began on May 1 and the winter term on November 1. Boarding students were to provide their own bed and bedding (bedstead excepted). There were plans to create a library.

A large and commodious building has been procured, in a retired part of the town, and where the pupils will find ample room for their necessary recreations.

SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.—We are gratified to learn, that so great has been the success of this new institution, and such its favorable prospects, that confidence may be placed in its permanence. The number of students is quite respectable—both from the town and country. Public opinion is settled as regards the qualifications and “aptness to teach,” of the gentlemen to whose care the institution is assigned; and we are only discharging a duty to the community, when we state it as our sincere belief, that justice will be done in all cases, to students committed to their charge. Their terms, and other matters relating to the school, can be found in an advertisement in another column.

Journal's Springfield High School Editorial Comment³⁸

Springfield High School.

THIS Institution will commence its first Session on the first day of May next, under the supervision of the subscribers.

The departments of study will be six :

First. The English, including Orthography, Reading, Penmanship, Arithmetic, Book Keeping, Geography, History, English Grammar, Composition and Elocution.

Second. The Latin and Greek Languages.

Third. Mathematics, including Algebra, Geometry, Plane and Spherical Trigonometry, Mensuration, Surveying and Navigation.

Fourth. The French and Spanish Languages.

Fifth. Natural Science, including Natural Philosophy, Astronomy, Chemistry, Botany, Mineralogy and Geology.

Sixth. Moral and Intellectual Philosophy, Rhetoric and Criticism.

Government. It is believed that [voluntary] effort alone can be highly successful,—that the pupil advances to the full extent of his ability only when he applies himself with cheerfulness and delight ;—that order and propriety of conduct, prompt and willing submission to necessary restraint can be best secured by enlightening the understanding and improving the heart. Our government will contemplate these facts. It will be characterized by subverting kindness, an affectionate exhibition of moral motives, and by a uniform and decisive adherence to established rules.

The pupils from abroad will reside in the family of the principals, where they will meet with that kindness, and receive those maternal attentions so necessary to youth in the absence of their parents.

It will be the constant aim of the principals to inculcate both by precept and example, the necessity of forming pure habits and cultivating exemplary moral character.

In the employment of teachers special regard will be had to their *aptness to teach*, the correctness of their principles and deportment, and their energy and decision of character.

A large and commodious building has been procured, in a retired part of the town, and where the pupils will find ample room for their necessary recreations.

As soon as practicable a Library will be selected, with an exclusive reference, to the benefit of the pupils.

The year will be divided into two terms of study. The Summer term will commence on the first day of May, and the Winter term, the first of November. Vacations—the months of April and October.

Terms. \$200 00, per annum. \$50 00 payable at the commencement of each session.

Pupils are expected to furnish their own beds and bedding (bedsteads excepted) and to have their clothing distinctly and permanently marked.

Such Books as will be used in the Institution will be kept constantly on hand for the convenience of the pupils, and afforded to them at the lowest Book store prices.

The central situation of Springfield in relation to other important towns in the State, its healthfulness and the excellence of its society render it a peculiarly desirable location for such an Institution.

S. M. SILL,
H. D. TOWNE.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 25, 1837. 278

Journal Report on Springfield High School's Organization and Opening³⁹

³⁸ *Journal*, April 8, 1837, p. 2, cl. 1.

³⁹ *Journal*, March 4, 1837, p. 3, cl. 4.

Springfield Seminary Organizes and Opens

In August 1837, the Springfield Seminary was organized with W. T. Hatch and L. Graves as teachers. It was organized pursuant to a resolution adopted at the "Illinois Annual Conference held at Rushville, Illinois," but the name of the founding organization is not stated. I believe it was the Methodist Church, as the trustees named, C. R. Matheny, G. R. Weber and Dr. F. A. McNeil, were all members of the Methodist Church and annual conferences were part of the Methodist governance process.

Classes were to begin on the first Monday of October. There were to be two 22 week terms each year, each preceded by a four week vacation. The charge for each term was \$10. There is an interesting statement in the advertisement.

Learning is established with the view of preparing students for an introduction into the College which is now being erected in the place, under the auspices of the Illinois Annual Conference, as well as to secure to children such an education as parents may desire, who are not able or disposed to give them a full collegiate education.

What happened to the plans for a college "now being erected in this place"?

SPRINGFIELD SEMINARY.
In pursuance of a resolution of the Illinois Annual Conference at its last session, held in Rushville, Illinois, the subscribers have established an institution of Learning in this place [Springfield, Illinois] and have secured the services of Messrs. W. T. HATCH and L. GRAVES, who, as teachers and conductors of a public school, are favorably known in this community. This institution will commence its first session on the first Monday of October. The departments of study will be as follows: viz.

TEXT BOOKS.
PRIMARY BRANCHES.—Eclectic series, comprising the reading book; Webster's Orthography; Smith's Geography; Goodrich's United States and Worcester's Universal History; Adam's new Arithmetic; Smith's productive Grammar. Declamation and composition.
NATURAL SCIENCE.—Comstock's of Blake's Natural Philosophy; Wilkin's Astronomy; Comstock's Chemistry; Eaton's Botany.
BELLES LETTRES.—Paley's Moral and Upham's Intellectual Philosophy; Hedge's Logic and Watts on the mind; Neuman's Rhetoric. Also, Colburn's or Day's Algebra; Preston's Book Keeping; Adam's Latin Grammar; Jacob's Latin Reader; Goodrich's Greek Lessons.

It may be necessary to remark, that this institution of Learning is established with the view of preparing students for an introduction into the College which is now being erected in this place, under the auspices of the Illinois Annual Conference, as well as to secure to children such an education as parents may desire, who are not able or disposed to give them a full collegiate education. In reference to the government of this School, it is only necessary to remark that it shall constitute at all times an object of faithful and diligent effort, to cultivate the moral and religious, as well as the intellectual improvement of the students.

Terms and Vacations.—According to present arrangements there will be two terms in every year, each of 22 weeks, commencing on the first Mondays of October and April, and each preceded by a vacation of four weeks.

Every term will be divided into two quarters of eleven weeks each, with no vacation between them.

It is desirable that all students should enter at the commencement of the quarter, as no student will be received for a less term than one quarter or eleven weeks.

Hours for school in the summer season will be from 8 to 11 o'clock A. M. and from 2 to 5 o'clock P. M. In the winter season, from 9 o'clock to 12 o'clock A. M., and from 1 to 4 o'clock P. M.

Expenses.—Primary branches alone per term of 22 weeks, \$10. For all the other branches proposed to be taught, either in connection with the English branches or otherwise, per term \$12. The tuition fees will be exacted at the end of every quarter, (11 weeks.)

Pupils from the country can obtain boarding in towns at respectable private houses.

Such books as are recommended can be procured at any time, by the parent or either of the gentlemen having charge of the school.

C. R. MATHENY,
G. R. WEBER,
Dr. F. A. MCNIEL, } Trustees.
Springfield, August 30, 1837. 304—f

Journal Report on Springfield Seminary's Organization and Opening⁴⁰

⁴⁰ *Journal*, September 2, 1837, p. 2, cl. 7.

Springfield High School Winter Session

In October of 1837, teachers S. M. Sill and H. D. Towne published a notice in the *Journal* that the winter session of Springfield High School would begin on the first Tuesday in November for a period of five months. Pupils from outside of Springfield could reside with the family of one of the principals, provided they furnished their own bed and bedding. The charge was again \$200 per year. The school had a department for the instruction of teachers.

Parents of students who had just completed the school's summer session endorsed school. The parents so endorsing were:

N. H. Ridgely, Edward Roberts,
John G. Bergen, James M.
Bradford, Benjamin Ferguson,
James L. Lamb, John Todd,
Thomas Houghan and A. G. Henry.

SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.
THE Winter session of this institution will commence on the first Tuesday of November next, to continue five months.
The course of studies includes the elements of improved English education, the Latin, Greek, French and Spanish Languages, Mathematics, Natural, Moral and Intellectual Philosophy, Belleslettres, &c.
Pupils from abroad will reside in the family of one of the principals.
Terms for pupils from abroad will be charged \$200 per annum—\$0 payable at the commencement of each session. Day scholars \$15 per session—half payable in advance.
Pupils from abroad will furnish their own beds and bedding.
A department is attached to this school for the instruction of Teachers. S. M. SILL & H. D. TOWNE.
References— Col. Thos. Mather, Rev. J. G. Bergen,
Dr. Jas. Todd, Hon. S. T. Logan,
Dr. Gersham Jayne, Jas. L. Lamb, Esq.

—
Springfield, October 4, 1837.
The undersigned, parents and guardians of some of the pupils of Messrs. SILL & TOWNE, attended the examination recently held by them, and were much gratified with the evidence given of the well grounded improvement of the scholars generally.
From an attentive observation of their course of instruction, their discipline, and general attention to the welfare of their pupils, and the progress made by our children, we have the fullest confidence in recommending these gentlemen to our friends and the public, as eminently qualified instructors of youth.
N. H. Ridgely, James L. Lamb, &
Edward Roberts, John Todd,
John G. Bergen, Thomas Houghan,
James M. Bradford, A. G. Henry,
Benj. Ferguson.
Springfield, Ill., Oct. 5, 1837, c69-4f

Springfield High School Winter Session⁴¹

1838

First Annual Examination of Students of Springfield High School

On March 24, 1838, S. M. Sill and H. D. Towne announced in the *Journal* that the first annual examination of the students of Springfield High School would begin on Wednesday, March 28, 1838 and end on Friday, March 30, 1838. The examinations took place in the Campbellite or Christian Church. Surprisingly, the citizens of Springfield were invited to be present.

⁴¹ *Journal*, October 1837.

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

The first annual examination of the Students of the Springfield High School will be commenced on Wednesday the 28th, and terminate on Friday the 30th inst. The Campbellite or Christian Church has been kindly offered and will be occupied for that purpose.
The citizens of Springfield and others are respectfully invited to be present.
March 19, 1848. SILL & TOWNE.

*Journal Notice of First Annual
Springfield High School Student Examinations*⁴²

W. T. Hatch Announces Summer Session of Select School

On April 14, 1838, W. T. Hatch announced that the summer session of his school would begin on Monday, April 9. All branches commonly studied in High School would be taught. The tuition was \$10 for a 22 week session. It is not known if this was a part of the Springfield Seminary, under which name Watson conducted a school in August 1837, or a new school opened by Hatch.

SELECT SCHOOL.
FOR YOUNG LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.
THE subscriber would inform his friends and patrons, that the summer session of his school will commence on Monday the 9th of April. All branches commonly studied in High School will be taught.
The strictest attention will be given to the lucid explanation of such departments of science as the student may pursue, giving him a clear conception of each step as he advances.
No pains will be spared for the improvement of such young ladies and gentlemen placed under his tuition both in science and morality.
Tuition 10 dolls per session of 22 weeks.
Parents are invited to call and visit the school from time to time.
W. T. HATCH.
Springfield, April 3, 1838. cc7-1f

*Journal Notice of W. T. Hatch's Summer Session of Select School*⁴³

⁴² *Journal*, March 24, 1838, p. 2, cl. 7.

⁴³ *Journal*, April 14, 1838, p. 3, cl. 5.

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

Penmanship Lessons Offered By S. Ruckel Wiley

S. Ruckel Wiley published a notice in the April 14, 1838 *Journal* that he had removed to the rear of W. T. Hatch's school room where he now received pupils to "instruct in the art of Penmanship."

PENMANSHIP.
THE subscriber respectfully informs his pupils and the public generally, that he has removed to the room in the rear of Mr. Hatch's school room, where he is now ready to receive pupils to instruct in the art of Penmanship.
Gentlemen wishing to improve their hand writing, will be instructed in a neat, florid, and expeditious style, suitable for the counting room, or store.
To ladies, he will impart the Lady's Epistolary, Note, Italian, Light and Slender Secretary and various fancy hands.
Also the Antique, Hers an Text, Tuscan, Double Paragon, English, Italian, and various fancy styles of printing.
Terms moderate. Tuition day, or evening.
Ladies attended at their residence.
Title pages to Albums, At Home, Address, and Visiting cards executed with neatness and despatch.
Enquire at C. Birchard & Co's. Book Store, or at his room, where specimens can be seen, and improvement of pupils.
April 4. **S. RUCKEL WILEY.**
As Mr. W. does not think the rudiments of the art can be acquired in six, nine, or twelve lessons, he will teach by the quarter.

S. Ruckel Wiley's *Journal* Advertisement for Penmanship Lessons⁴⁴

Summer Session of Springfield High School

The 1838 summer session of Springfield High School conducted by S. M. Sill and H. D. Towne began on May 1, and ran for five months. Day pupils were charged \$15 per session.

SPRINGFIELD HIGH SCHOOL.
THE Summer Session of this institution will commence on Tuesday the first day of May next, and continue five months. It is desirable that all the pupils be present at the opening of the session, that they may be arranged in the regular classes.
Those who board in the institution furnish their own bed and bedding. Terms \$3.00 per annum—\$ payable at the commencement of each session.
Day Scholars are charged \$15 per session,—in all cases half payable in advance.
SILL & TOWNE.
Springfield, 14th April 1838. 323

Journal Notice of Summer Session at Springfield High School⁴⁵

⁴⁴ *Journal*, April 14, 1838, p. 3, cl. 6.

⁴⁵ *Journal*, September 29, 1838, p. 1, cl. 7.

Halcyon Seminary Opened By S. Ruckel Wiley

Apparently W. T. Hatch's school did not succeed. It was to have begun on April 9 and continue for 22 weeks, but S. Ruckel Wiley advertised in the *Journal* that his Halcyon Seminary would open on June 25, 1838, in the school room recently occupied by Mr. Hatch. Tuition was \$10 for five weeks.

Mr. Wiley also taught a class in handwriting for men. They would be taught to write in "neat, florid and expedition style, suitable to the counting room or store." Classes would be held four evenings a week for 36 lessons and the tuition was \$6 per quarter.

Journal Announcement of the Opening of the
Halcyon Seminary⁴⁶

John Waters and Caleb Williams Teach School

John Waters taught a school for a term, and also Caleb Williams, in 1838.

Mrs. Sheldon's School for Young Ladies

In the fall of 1838, Mrs. V. M. Sheldon appears to have conducted a "School, for Young Ladies." In February 1839, she advertised that she would begin the second term on February 25.

⁴⁶ *Journal*, September 29, 1838, p. 1, cl. 7.

1839-1848: The Third Decade

During the third decade, private, single teacher schools continued, but in addition the decade saw the emergence of institutional private schools with principals, multiple teachers and printed courses of study. The Mechanics' Union was organized and supported education. The Springfield Academy built a two-story brick school that accommodated 150 students. Reverend Francis Springer, Abel W. Estabrook and Reverend John F. Brooks, three major leaders in early Springfield educational affairs, arrived and began their Springfield teaching careers.

1839

Mrs. V. M. Sheldon's School for Young Ladies Announcement in *Journal*

On Monday February 25, 1839, Mrs. V. M. Sheldon opened a "School, for Young Ladies" at the school room near Rev. Mr. Bergen's. The tuition ranged from \$4 per term for the juvenile department to \$5 per term for the Philosophy, Chemistry, Geology, Botany, Rhetoric, Logic, Intellectual and Moral Science. Each session was 12 weeks.

SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES.
THE second term of Mrs. SHELTON'S School, for Young Ladies, will commence on Monday February 25th, at the school room near Rev. Mr. Bergen's.
Terms per quarter of 12 weeks—juvenile dept. \$4 00
Those pursuing common branches, including Latin, Geography, Grammar and Arithmetic, Higher branches, including natural philosophy, Botany, Logic, Chemistry, Geology, astronomy, Rhetoric, Intellectual and Moral Science, 7 00
Particular attention will be paid to the accommodation of those who may attend from abroad.
A class in Mezzotint Painting will be attended to should a suitable number wish to be instructed in the same.
Every effort will be made to render the school pleasant and beneficial, and the fundamental branches of education receive that attention their importance demands.
As all knowledge is important just in proportion as it contributes to life's great end, a due attention will be paid to the inculcation of the principles of virtue and piety.
Testimonials of her qualifications may be seen by those interested at her room, at Mr. Abel's Boarding House.
N. B. No charges will be made for less than half a term.
Feb. 18, 1839. 18-82

Journal Announcement of Second Term of
Mrs. V. M. Shelton's School for Young Ladies⁴⁷

She offered a class in Mezzotint Painting should a suitable number wish to be instructed in the same.

A mezzotint...presents halftones. ... in this type of intaglio (nonrelief) print, subtle gradations of light and shade, rather than lines, form the image. "The copper-plate it [the mezzotint] is done upon, when the artist first takes it into hand, is wrought all over with an edg'd tool, so as to make the print one even black, like night: and his whole work after this, is merely introducing the lights into it; which he does by scraping off the rough grain according to his design, artfully smoothing

⁴⁷ *Journal*, February 18, 1839.

Springfield's Early Schools (1819-1860)

it most where light is most required ...” William Hogarth, *The Analysis of Beauty* (1753)⁴⁸

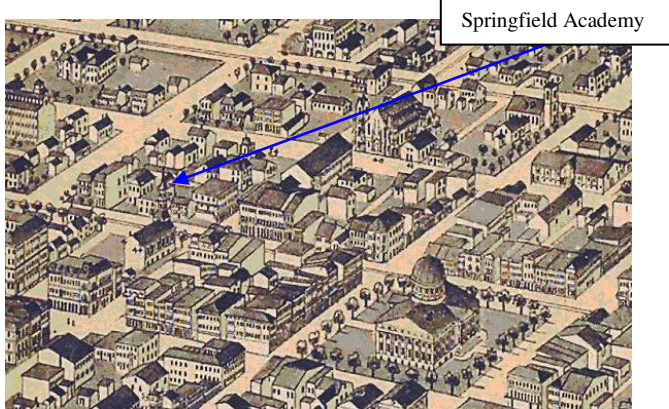
Springfield Academy Established

On March 1, 1839, the Springfield Academy was incorporated as a joint stock company. The members of the first Board of Trustees were Washington Iles, F. Webster, Jr., Stephen T. Logan, John F. Rague, Nicholas H. Ridgely, Robert Allen, Jane Bergen’s husband, and Charles R. Matheny, President.⁴⁹

Thus far all schools had been sustained by individual effort. No good school house had been erected, and no attempt made to establish a permanent institution. It was evident that the growing wants of the community, its safety at home and its reputation abroad, demanded better educational advantages. Many of the prominent citizens felt this want, and determined to meet it. Accordingly, a joint stock company was organized, and an act to incorporate the Springfield Academy was approved March 1, 1839.⁵⁰

Springfield Academy Buys Lots on Fifth Street Between Monroe and Market

On April 27, 1839, the Springfield Academy purchased two lots on the west side of Fifth Street, between Monroe and Market (Capitol).⁵¹ The Board of Trustees of the Academy paid Elvira L. Edwards \$1,000 for the two lots and began construction there of a two-story brick building that would accommodate 150 students.



Mrs. Lee Teaches

⁴⁸ http://www.metmuseum.org/TOAH/HD/mztn/hd_mztn.htm

⁴⁹ *1881 History*, pp. 586-587.

⁵⁰ *1881 History*, pp. 586-587.

⁵¹ Lots 11 and 12 in the Elvira Addition to the City of Springfield. Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, Book O, p. 568. Copy in the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

On June 21, 1839, Francis Springer announced in the *Journal* that his school would be held in the school room recently occupied by Mrs. Lee,⁵² thus implying that Mrs. Lee was a school teacher in Springfield prior to this.

Rev. Francis Springer Opens English and Classical School

In May 1839, Reverend Francis Springer and his family moved from Maryland to Springfield,⁵³ and he began to teach soon after his arrival. On June 24, 1839, he opened the "English and Classical School." Springer advertised his school in the *Journal* and stated that it would be held in the school room recently occupied by Mrs. Lee. Tuition ranged from \$4 to \$7 per quarter depending upon the course of study. Francis continued to teach and preach until 1847, when he moved to Hillsboro, Illinois, as President of Hillsboro, College.⁵⁴

English and Classical School,
BY REV. FRANCIS SPRINGER.
THIS school is designed to furnish the means of a thorough English and Classical education. Those who patronize it may rest assured that every suitable exertion will be made to render it an efficient auxiliary in the cause of mental and moral improvement.
The school room is that which was lately occupied by Mrs. Lee. The school will commence on Monday 24th June.
Terms.—Reading, Writing and Arithmetic, per quarter, \$4 00.
English Grammar, Geography, Descriptive Astronomy (with use of globes), History, Rhetoric and Composition \$6 00.
Latin and Greek languages, Mathematics, Chemistry, and Natural Philosophy, Mental and Moral Science, and Evidences of Christianity \$7 00.
Springfield, June 20, 1839. 399-1f

Journal Announcement of Rev. Francis Springer's School⁵⁵

In February 1840, Francis bought a lot and soon after built a house at the southeast corner of Eighth and Jackson Streets.

⁵² *Journal*, June 21, 1839, p. 3, cl. 1.

⁵³ Reverend Francis Springer, *The Father of Lutheranism in Springfield*, 1991 Sesquicentennial Years, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Springfield, Illinois. *Springer Vertical File*, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

⁵⁴ *Power*, p. 675. These were both under the direction and patronage of the Lutheran church.

⁵⁵ *Journal*, June 21, 1839, p. 3, cl. 1.

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Francis Springer Residence at Eighth and Jackson Streets



Rev. Francis Springer was born on March 19, 1810, at Roxbury, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. As a young man, he learned sign and ornamental painting. He was educated at Pennsylvania College and studied theology at the Theological Seminary of the Lutheran church, both located at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He also studied under two distinguished ministers, one at Otsego and the other at Schohaire, New York. He paid his expenses by occasionally working at his trade, and teaching school. On October 18, 1836, he was licensed to preach by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Maryland and was ordained by the same body on October 17, 1837.

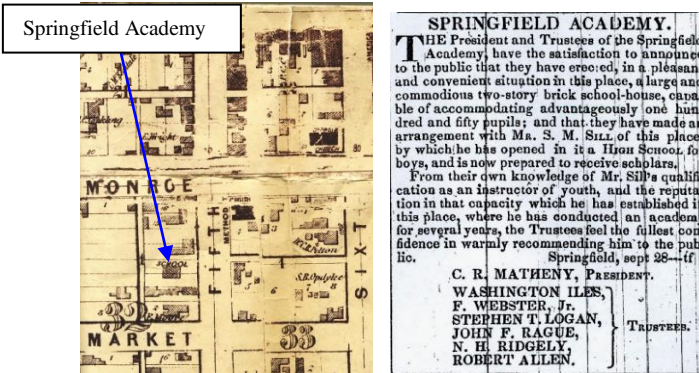
He was married on April 11, 1837, to Mary Kreigh, at Clear Springs, Washington County, Maryland. She was born on February 28, 1815, in that county. He taught school and preached in that vicinity from October, 1836, for about two and a half years. Francis and Mary had one child in Maryland, and moved to Springfield, Illinois, arriving in May, 1839, where four children were born. In 1847, they moved to Hillsboro, Illinois, where

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they had two children, and in 1855 moved back to Springfield, where they had one child.⁵⁶

Springfield Academy for Boys Opened on South Fifth Street

By September 28, 1839, even before the two-story brick building was fully completed, the Springfield Academy opened as a “High School” for boys. S. M. Sill, who had operated an “academy” in Springfield for several years prior to this under the name Springfield High School, was the teacher.⁵⁷



1858 Map of Springfield Showing Location of the Springfield Academy⁵⁸
Springfield Academy's Advertisement, *Register*, October 28, 1839⁵⁹

1840

Mechanics' Union Chartered

The charter of the [Mechanics'] Union was granted on February 3, 1840, the same day that the town of Springfield received its charter as a city. The charter, drawn and sponsored in the legislature by Abraham Lincoln, gave as the purposes of the Union: "Relief to the sick and disabled members thereof, and to the widows and orphans of deceased members; for the establishment of a common school and a public library, and for the promotion of literature, science, and the mechanic arts."⁶⁰

Springfield Mechanics' Union Postpones Plans for School

⁵⁶ Power, p. 675.

⁵⁷ *Illinois' Fifth Capitol*, Sunderine (Wilson) Temple and Wayne C. Temple, Phillips Brothers Printers, Springfield, Illinois 1988, p. 8. *Here I Have Lived*, p. 200.

⁵⁸ *City of Springfield, Sangamon County, Illinois, 1858 Map*, Surveyed and Published by William Sides, City Engineer. (Hereinafter cited as "1858 Map.")

⁵⁹ *Register*, October 28, 1839, p. 3.

⁶⁰ *The Springfield Mechanics' Union 1839-1848*, Harry E. Pratt, Journal of Illinois State Historical Society, Vol. XXXIV, Number 1, March 1941, pp. 130-134. (Hereinafter cited as "Pratt.")

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

In 1840 [Mechanics' Union] school plans were postponed because of the "peculiar pressure of the times."⁶¹

Springfield Female School Opened by J. H. and M. E. Triplett

In May of 1840, the Springfield Female School was opened with the assistance of the Rev. Charles Dresser and with J. H. and M. E. Triplett teaching. The Journal advertisement dated May 5, states that the school was prepared to receive 10 or 15 additional pupils. The tuition was \$15 for a 5 month session.

SPRINGFIELD FEMALE SCHOOL.
THE subscribers would respectfully inform the public, that having secured the assistance of the Rev. Charles Dresser, they are prepared to receive ten or fifteen additional pupils in their school.
The course of study, will comprise all the branches of Education, usually taught in such institutions.
Terms of tuition fifteen dollars per session of five months, payable one half in advance.
Drawing, painting, and musick, an extra charge.
Pupils will only be charged from the time of engagement to the expiration of the session.
Pupils from abroad, can be accomodated with board in respectable families.
J. H. TRIPLETT.
M. E. TRIPLETT.
May 5, 1840.

Journal Notice of J. H. and M. E. Triplett's
Opening of Springfield Female School⁶²

⁶¹ Pratt.

⁶² *Journal*, May 15, 1840, p. 3, cl. 3.

Springfield Academy Building Completed and Rev. John F. Brooks Named Principal

In September 1840, the Springfield Academy published a notice in the *Journal* that the Academy building had been finished and was "prepared for the accommodation of schools for pupils of both sexes according to the original design." The school was on the west side of Fifth Street, between Monroe and Capitol (formerly Market). A lot, 80 feet by 160 feet, had been purchased and \$7,000 spent in building a two-story brick sufficient to accommodate 100 pupils. The school rooms and the playgrounds were separated for boys and girls. The school opened on October 12.

The notice stated the background for establishing the school. "...a number of the inhabitants of this place, under the influence of the difficulty which had been experienced in the attempt to establish schools, from the want of rooms suitable for their accommodation, have formed an association for the purpose of erecting a good school-house."

Rev. John F. Brooks, late of Bellville and Waverly, was called to Springfield to take charge of the Springfield Academy, and from its opening in October 1840 until the spring of 1843. He and two assistants conducted the Springfield Academy as a school open to both boys and girls.⁶³

Springfield Academy.

THE Academy having been finished, and prepared for the accommodation of schools for pupils of both sexes according to the original design, the Trustees have engaged Mr. John F. Brooks, (late principal of the Academy at Waverly, Ill.) to take charge of it as Principal and Superintendent of both schools; and the institution will go into operation on the 15th day of October next. For terms and other particulars, they refer to the advertisement of Mr. Brooks.

Most of the citizens of Springfield are acquainted with the circumstances under which the Academy has been erected; but in making the above announcement, it is thought proper, for the information of those who have recently come among us, to state briefly that a number of the inhabitants of this place, under the influence of the difficulty which had been experienced in the attempt to establish schools, from the want of rooms suitable for their accommodation, have formed an association for the purpose of erecting a good school-house, and have under a charter obtained for the purpose purchased a lot 80 feet by 160, on an airy, pleasant and convenient part of the city, and at an expense of \$7,000 erected thereon a substantial two-story brick house of sufficient capacity to accommodate comfortably one hundred scholars, and so constructed that the room to be occupied by the boys and girls, and their play-grounds, are entirely separated — thus of the results which the association expect from this accomplishment of their object in providing a good school house is that of obtaining for it teachers of high character and qualifications; children who are designed for college may be well prepared, and those for whom an English education only is designed may receive it, at home, and the necessity which has heretofore existed of sending them to other places may be obviated. They have also a higher expectation in the speedy accomplishment of which they are not without a hope, that they are laying the foundation of an institution which will rank high among similar institutions, and obtain a reputation which will be the means, not only of relieving them from the necessity of sending their children abroad, but will concentrate the support of the surrounding country.

These desirable results, however, the Trustees have felt to be mainly dependent on their selection of the person to whose charge the institution is confided, and they think that they have been fortunate in obtaining the gentleman whom they now announce. Mr. Brooks has been long known as an instructor of youth in our State, having been for several years engaged in that capacity in Bellville and Waverly; and is universally regarded, wherever he is known as peculiarly qualified for the responsible avocations which he has chosen. Some of the Trustees have long been aware of his qualifications and character, and others have made particular enquiries, of persons who have been his pupils and otherwise, and the result is, that the fullest confidence that, in his hands, and with that support from the public which it is believed he cannot fail to receive, the Academy must soon fully realize all that has been desired from it.

With this belief the Trustees commend Mr. Brooks and the institution to the parents and guardians of the community.

WASHINGTON ILES,
STEPHEN T. LECHEMAN,
ROBERT ALLAN,
F. WEBSTER, Jr.,
JOHN F. BAGUE,
N. H. RIDGELY,
S. M. TINSLEY,
Trustees.

September 14, 1840.

4th-6w

Springfield Academy
Journal Announcement⁶⁴

⁶³ 1881 History, pp. 598-599, 687.

⁶⁴ *Journal*, September 18, 1840, p. 3, cl. 1.

SPRINGFIELD ACADEMY.

THE undersigned has accepted an invitation from the Trustees of the Springfield Academy to take charge of their institution. And in expectation of one male and two female assistants, proposes to furnish instruction to pupils of both sexes in separate departments—one of which will occupy the lower, the other the upper story of the building, and each be accommodated with a separate play-ground. There will be no communication between the pupils of the two departments, the connexion existing only in the general arrangement, the system of instruction, and the supervision of the principal. No pupil will be received who is not able to read with facility.

Instruction will be given in all the English branches commonly taught in Academies, and in the Latin and Greek languages so far as is necessary for a thorough preparation for college.

The chief attention will be given at present to the solid and most essential parts of education, and no effort will be spared to develop the powers of the mind and lead the pupils to think with independence and accuracy. It will be the constant aim to secure a thorough knowledge of what is taught rather than to pass rapidly forward at the sacrifice of this indispensable requisite of good education.

Great care will be taken to adopt the best text books as well as the best mode of instructions; and parents are requested not to purchase books for the pupils until informed by the instructors what ones are desired.

There are to be four sessions in a year; and the First will commence on Thursday the 15th of October.

The tuition of each scholar is \$7 50 per session payable in advance.

As the year is divided into short sessions, it is hoped that the pupils will be able to give punctual attendance during the continuance of each, and with as little diversion of mind as possible from the business of study.

JOHN F. BROOKS,

September 14, 1840.

455-6w

John F. Brooks Principal
of Springfield Academy⁶⁵

Rev. Brooks was a remarkable man and his biography from John Carroll Powers *Early Settlers of Sangamon County* follows:

Rev. John F. Brooks was born on December 3, 1801, in Oneida County, New York. His parents were New Englanders, but emigrated to New York in 1792, when the whole region was a forest, with here and there a small settlement. In 1828, John graduated from Hamilton College, in that county, and later studied for three years in the theological department of Yale College. In the autumn of 1831, he was ordained as a minister by Oneida Presbytery, and was married soon after to a daughter of Rev. Joel Bradley. They immediately left for Illinois, under a commission from the American Home Missionary Society. They traveled by canal, lake and stage to Pittsburg, thence by steamboat, down the Ohio river to New Albany, Indiana. At New Albany, Brooks purchased a horse and "Dearborn," ...a one horse wagon with stationary cover. They crossed the Wabash river at Vincennes. After passing a skirt [border] of timber on the west side, they entered the first prairie of Illinois, in the midst of a furious storm. They were far from any house, with only the carriage as a protection, and that in danger of being upset by the gale. They weathered the storm, however, by turning the back of their carriage to it, but the prairie was covered with water, and they could only discern the path by observing where the grass did not rise above the water. They sought a house to dry their garments, and that night arrived at Lawrenceville, where Rev. Brooks preached his first sermon in Illinois, the next day being Sabbath.

About three days later they arrived at Vandalia, the State capital, having been five weeks on the way from the vicinity of Utica, New York. After visiting several towns and villages, Brooks located for the winter at Collinsville, in the southern part of Madison County, preaching, alternately,

⁶⁵ *Journal*, September 18, 1840, p. 3, cl. 1.

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there and at Belleville. In the spring of 1832 he moved to Belleville, where he lived for five years, preaching there and at several other points in St. Clair and Monroe counties.

About the second year of his residence at Belleville, he and his wife opened a school, which increased so rapidly they employed an assistant. They taught all grades, from A, B, C, to the classics and higher mathematics. In 1837 Brooks was chosen principal of a Teachers' Seminary, being established in Waverly, Morgan County. He taught there with success, but the Financial Panic of 1837 caused the enterprise to fail. During the time he was teaching he tried to preach one sermon every Sabbath, but the double labor induced bronchial affection, from which he has never fully recovered. In 1840, John Brooks was called to Springfield to take charge of the Springfield Academy.

John Brooks was one of seven young men who banded together, while in the theological school at Yale to establish a college in Illinois. Illinois College, at Jacksonville is the result of their exertions. Mr. Brooks has been one of its trustees from the first.⁶⁶

Beaumont Parks Teaches in Home at Fifth and Miller Streets

Beaumont Parks came to Springfield in the fall of 1840 and taught school at his residence at Fifth and Miller Streets.⁶⁷ Parks was born on January 1775, in Norwich, Connecticut. He was an orphan at age 12. As a young man he traded with the French Canadians and Indians and used his profits to pay for his education. He and his brother-in-law, Rev. Mr. Bacon, worked and traveled by rivers and lakes from Vermont to the Georgian Bay and Lake Huron region. In preparation for approaching winter, he built a house. Col. Dunham, commander of the U. S. Fort, at Michilimacinac, found him and was astonished at seeing a boy of fourteen or fifteen years preparing to winter alone in that inhospitable region. Parks told Dunham that he was trying to raise money to pay for his education, and Dunham offered him a home with his family and promised to help him with his education. Parks accepted, went to the Fort and remained there for three or four years.⁶⁸ This was probably Jane Bergen's school.

**James C. Sutton's Shop in Old School House
South Side of Washington Between 4th and 5th**

James C. Sutton, a carpenter, came to Springfield in the fall of 1840 and opened his first shop in an old school house, which stood a few feet east and on the opposite side of Washington Street from the Chenery Hotel.⁶⁹

⁶⁶ *Power*, p. 144.

⁶⁷ *The Sangamon Country*, Helen Van Cleave Blankmeyer, Sangamon County Historical Society, Phillip Bros. Inc., Springfield, Illinois, 1965, p. 71.

⁶⁸ *Power*, p. 553.

⁶⁹ *1881 History*, p. 720.

1841

Springfield Mechanics' Union School House Fundraising Fails

A year later [1841], a subscription paper which was passed among the members [of the Mechanics' Union] and the business men of the city failed to raise \$450 needed to build a frame schoolhouse.⁷⁰

1842

Samuel R. Allard and George Kimball Open Male Department of Springfield Seminary

Samuel Richardson Allard⁷¹ followed Rev. Brooks as head of the girls Springfield Academy and Allard was followed by George Kimball. The *Journal* of February 18, 1842 contained a notice that the "Male Department" of the Springfield Seminary would open on March 7 under the supervision of Samuel R. Allard and George Kimball. The first term was for the months of September through December, the second term from January through April and the third term from May through August, excepting three weeks. The tuition was \$16 per year for the "Common English branches," \$24 per year for the "English Classics" and \$28 per year for Latin and Greek Language.

The Springfield Seminary.
THE Male Department of this institution will be opened on the 7th day of March next, under the regulation and instruction of Messrs. Samuel R. Allard and George Kimball.
The first term of instruction will consist of the months of September, October, November and December to the 25th.
The second, of January, February, March and April, excepting the last week.
The third, of May, June, July and August, excepting three weeks.
PRICE OF TUITION.
Common English branches at the rate of \$16 pr. yr.
English Classics:—Rhetoric, Logic, Natural and Moral Philosophy, &c. \$24 per year.
Latin and Greek Language, \$28 per year.
WASHINGTON ILES, Pres't
Feb. 16, 1842. of the Board of Trustees.
As the Seminary does not open according to the above arrangement of terms, there will be no vacation until the summer one.
Bills for tuition will be presented at the middle of the opening term.
ALLARD & KIMBALL.

Allard & Kimball Announce Opening
of Male Department of the
Springfield Seminary⁷²

A Springfield Seminary had originally opened in August 1837 as an institution of the Methodist Church. It is unclear if the Springfield Seminary advertised here is the same as that of 1837. It is interesting to note that Washington Iles is President of the Seminary advertised in 1842. He was not an officer of the 1837 Seminary, but had been a Trustee of the Springfield Academy in 18___. Confusing, to say the least.

**Springfield Mechanics' Union Buys Old First Presbyterian Church:
Opens School (Springfield Academy/Springfield City School)**

⁷⁰ Pratt.

⁷¹ Samuel Richardson Allard was born on May 29, 1809. He died on about 1899. His father was Isaac Allard, born on September 25, 1775, in Templeton, Worchester, Massachusetts. His mother was Achsah Maynard, born on December 22, 1777, in Philipston, Massachusetts. *Genealogy of Richard Haven*, Josiah Adams, 1843, p 38.

⁷² *Journal*, February 18, 1842, p. 3, cl. 3.

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In May, 1842, the First Presbyterian Church laid the cornerstone of a new church at the southeast corner of Third and Washington streets. The church, anxious to dispose of its old building, located just south of the new structure, offered to sell it to the [Mechanics'] Union for \$500. The deal was made, the Union paying \$212 in State Bank paper-worth but 75 per cent of its face value-and giving a note for the balance. The contract was signed in December, 1842, for the Union by Caleb Birchall, John Connelly, S. S. Kegwin and Thomas Lewis.

After the building was acquired, Michael Barry was employed at \$250 a year as teacher of the school. A school board was chosen, "'consisting of Eli Cook, John Brodie, G. R. Weber, E. R. Wiley and Caleb Birchall.'" Tuition fees were set low enough for all mechanics. For \$2.00 a quarter, a pupil could study spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, and composition. For \$4.00, the school offered geometry, chemistry, Latin, Greek, natural philosophy and the history of the United States. Immediately popular, the school's enrollment rose to 130.

Until an addition to the building could be erected in the fall of 1844, the girls were taught in the basement of the new Presbyterian Church [at the southeast corner of Third and Washington Streets]. Though deep in debt, the Union erected a five-foot fence to separate the boys' and girls' playgrounds.⁷³

Abel W. Estabrook Begins Teaching in Springfield at Springfield Seminary

In 1842, Abel W. Estabrook received an A. B. degree from Illinois College at Jacksonville⁷⁴ and moved to Springfield where he began a teaching career. On August 26, 1842, George Kimball of the Springfield Seminary published a notice in the *Journal* that he and Abel Estabrook will "re-open the male department of the Springfield Seminary on Monday next." Apparently Allard moved on, as there is no further evidence of his teaching in Springfield. This would have been the beginning of the fall term that ran from September through December. The notice stated that "Music, both in its elements and practice, will be taught, without additional charge, as a regular branch of Education in this school, by Mr. Estabrook."

⁷³ Pratt.

⁷⁴ Illinois College records in the Public Relations Office, Jacksonville, Illinois.

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SPRINGFIELD SEMINARY.
MR. KIMBALL, associated with Mr. ABEL ESTABROOK will re-open the male department of the Springfield Seminary on Monday next. Terms of tuition the same as at the last session, to wit:
Common English branches at the rate of per yr. \$10.00
English classics—Rhetoric, Logic, Natural and Moral Philosophy, &c. \$20.00
Latin and Greek languages, \$25.00
Music, both in its elements and practice, will be taught, without additional charge, as a regular branch of Education in this school, by Mr. Estabrook.

Mr. Kimball and Abel W. Estabrook Announce
Re-Opening of Springfield Seminary⁷⁵



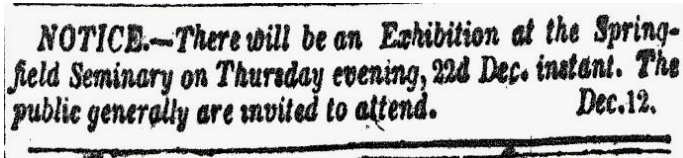
Carte de visite of Abel W. Estabrook
by Christopher Smith German
Circa 1860s

Public Invited to Exhibition at Springfield Seminary

⁷⁵ *Journal*, August 26, 1842, p. 2, cl. 7.

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The December 16, 1842 edition of the *Journal* contained an invitation to the public to attend an Exhibition at Kimball and Estabrook's Springfield Seminary on December 22.



Journal Notice of Exhibition at Springfield Seminary⁷⁶

1843

Rev. John F. Brooks Resigns as Head of Springfield Academy

In the spring of 1843, the Rev. John F. Brooks resigned as head of the Springfield Academy due to failing health. This ended his tenure that began in 1840. From the spring of 1843 until the fall of 1853, the Springfield Academy was exclusively for females.

Birth of Robert Todd Lincoln

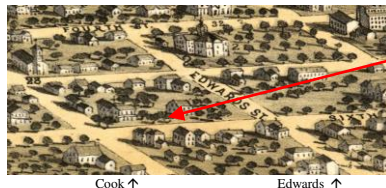
Robert Todd Lincoln, the son of Abraham and Mary, was born on August 1, 1843.

Rev. John F. Brooks Opens School for Young Ladies

In the fall of 1843, Rev. John F. Brooks continued teaching, however, opening a school for young ladies in a small room near his house on the west side of Fifth between Cook and Edwards Streets.

The applications soon outran the size of the room, which he enlarged, and his wife again assisted him.⁷⁷

After this he labored for two years under direction of Presbytery supplying vacant churches in this and adjoining counties. His health was now much impaired, and designing light labor, he opened a school for young ladies in a small room near his own house.⁷⁸



John F. Brooks
Residence

1867 View of Fifth Street from Cook Street to Jackson Street

⁷⁶ *Journal*, December 16, 1842, p. 3, cl. 2.

⁷⁷ *1881 History*, pp. 598-599.

⁷⁸ *1881 History*, p. 598.

**Mrs. Sheldon's Select School for Young Ladies
Announcement in *Journal***

On Monday, November 6, 1843, Mrs. V. M. Sheldon opened a "Select School for Young Ladies" at the former residence of J. W. Keys. The tuition ranged from \$5 per term for the Juvenile department to \$5 per term for the Philosophy, Chemistry, Geology, Botany, Rhetoric, Logic, Intellectual and Moral Science, and the higher branches of Mathematics. Each session was 11 weeks.

Select School for Young Ladies.
MRS. V. M. SHELDON, would inform her friends former patrons, and the public, that she will open a School for Misses at the former residence of J. W. Keys, Esq. on the first Monday in November.
TERMS.
Juvenile department, \$3 00
Primary branches, including writing, Geography, Grammar, Arithmetic and History, 40
Philosophy, Chemistry, Geology, Botany, Rhetoric, Logic, Intellectual and Moral Science, and the higher branches of Mathematics, 5 00
Per session of eleven weeks. Payable in advance. —
If not paid till after the close of the quarter one dollar will be added to the above charges.
N. B. No deduction will be made for absence unless in cases of protracted sickness
Springfield, Oct. 24, 1843. 6371f

Journal Notice of Mrs. V. M. Sheldon's Select School for Young Ladies⁷⁹

1844

**Rev. Francis Springer Heads Springfield Academy
(Springfield Mechanics Union School)**

The Rev. Francis Springer succeeded Rev. John F. Brooks as head of the Springfield Academy (Springfield Mechanics' Union School.)

From 1844 until 1847, Rev. Francis Springer operated the Springfield Academy. He was succeeded by Abel W. Estabrook.

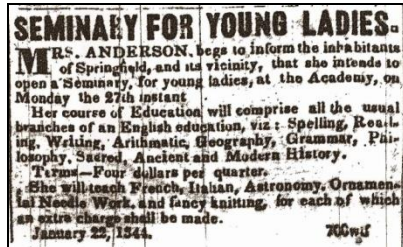
The Reverend Francis Springer...was employed [by Mechanics' Union] in 1844 at an annual salary of \$500. Miss Hutchins, teacher of the girls, was paid \$200 per year, and Miss Torrey and Miss Cook, her assistants, \$6.25 each a month. Firewood at \$1.75 a cord was the greatest school expense next to the salaries.⁸⁰

⁷⁹ *Journal*, October 24, 1843.

⁸⁰ Pratt.

Mrs. Anderson Opens Seminary for Young Ladies at the Academy

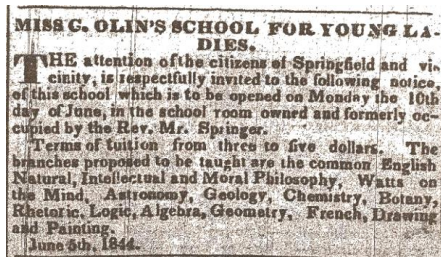
On January 27, 1844, Mrs. Anderson opened a Seminary for young ladies "at the Academy" on the west side of Fifth Street, between Monroe and Capitol (Market) Streets. The tuition was \$4 per quarter. In addition to the usual courses, she taught French, Italian, astronomy, ornamental needle work and fancy knitting, for an extra charge.



Mrs. Anderson Announces
Opening of Seminary for Young Ladies at the Academy⁸¹

Miss G. Olin Opens School for Young Ladies

On June 10, 1844, Miss G. Olin opened a school for young ladies in the school room owned and formerly occupied by Rev. Francis Springer. She charged \$3 to \$5 per pupil per term. Would this have been at the corner of Eighth and Jackson?



Miss G. Olin's *Register* Announcement of Opening of School for Young Ladies
at Rev. Springer's Former School Room⁸²

Mr. Sheldon Opens Select School for Young Ladies at the Seminary

On June 11, 1844, Mr. Sheldon opened a "School for Misses at the Seminary." The tuition ranged from \$3 per term for the Juvenile department to \$5 per term for the Philosophy, Chemistry, Geology, Botany, Rhetoric, Logic, Intellectual and Moral Science, and the higher branches of Mathematics. Each session was 11 weeks.

⁸¹ *Journal*, January 22, 1844.

⁸² *Register*, June 18, 1844, p. 3.

Select School for Young Ladies.
MR. SHELDON would inform his friends that he
has opened a School for Misses at the Seminary.
TERMS.
Juvenile department, \$3 00
Primary branches, including writing, Geography,
Grammar, Arithmetic and History, 4 00
Philosophy, Chemistry, Geology, Botany, Rhet-
oric, Logic, Intellectual and Moral Science,
and the higher branches of Mathematics, 5 00
Per session of eleven weeks Payable in advance.
If not paid till after the close of the quarter one dollar
will be added to the above charges.
N. B. No deduction will be made for absence unless
in cases of protracted sickness.
Springfield, June 11, 1844. 6371f

Mr. Sheldon's Select School for Young Ladies Announcement in *Journal*⁸³

Rev. John F. Brooks Opens School for Girls on South Fifth

By the fall of 1844, Rev. John F. Brooks' school for young ladies had outgrown the small room where he had taught since 1843. He moved his school to his own residence on Fifth Street.⁸⁴

The applications soon outran the size of the room, which he enlarged, and his wife again assisted him.⁸⁵

Addition to Springfield Mechanic's Union Building

Until an addition to the building [Mechanics' Union] could be erected in the fall of 1844, the girls were taught in the basement of the new Presbyterian Church.⁸⁶

Springfield City School (Springfield Academy) Student Examinations

On Thursday, September 26, 1844, the Springfield City School conducted student examinations in the school room in Mechanics' Hall on the east side of Third Street, between Washington and Adams. Evening exercises in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church at the southeast corner of Third and Washington Streets included speeches by students and an address by E. R. Wiley on behalf of the Trustees of the School and by Mr. Springer, principal teacher.

⁸³ *Journal*, July 4, 1844, p. 3.

⁸⁴ *1881 History*, p. 687.

⁸⁵ *1881 History*, pp. 598-599.

⁸⁶ *Pratt*.

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

This becomes confusing. Springer had just taken charge of the Springfield Academy and remained in charge until 1847. Mr. Wiley was an officer of the Mechanics' Union. Pratt's article says that Springer was hired as principal of the school supported by the Mechanic's Union. So it appears that the Springfield Academy may have also been known as the Springfield City School and it was under the egis of the Springfield Mechanics Union.

Springfield City School.

An examination of the pupils of this school will take place on Thursday, Sept. 26th, in the school room in Mechanics' Hall.

Parents, and the public generally, are invited to attend.

The exercises in the evening will be conducted in the basement of the first Presbyterian church, where several original speeches will be delivered by the scholars; also an address by E. R. Wiley on the part of the Trustees of the school, and by Mr. Springer, the principal teacher.

By order of the Board of Trustees.

Sept. 18, 1841.

Springfield City School (Springfield Academy?) Examinations⁸⁷

1845

**Springfield City School Opens Under Patronage of
Springfield Mechanics' Union**

An announcement in the May 24, 1845 *Journal* informed the public that the "Springfield City School" would open on Monday, June 2, 1845 under the patronage of the Springfield Mechanics' Union. V. M. Shelton was principal of the Male Department and Mrs. Shelton was principal of the Female Department. Tuition ranged from \$2 to \$4 per term, depending on the course taken. Mr. B. R. Biddle, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, was responsible for collecting the tuition at his shop on the south side of the Public Square.

The announcement thanked the Mechanics' Union for its patronage and stated that this was an experiment in establishing a school at reduced tuition so that the tuition was within

SPRINGFIELD CITY SCHOOL

Under the patronage of the Mechanics' Union.

THE regular session of this school, for the ensuing year, under the patronage of the Mechanics' Union, will commence on Monday, June 2d, 1845.

Mr. V. M. SHELTON, Principal of the Male Department.
Mrs. SHELTON, Principal of the Female Department.

TERMS:

Spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, English grammar and composition, per quarter,	\$2 00
History of the United States, general history, chemistry and natural philosophy,	3 00
Geometry, algebra, and intellectual and moral science,	4 00
The school fund will not be deducted from the above prices.	
Pupils may be entered at any time, and will be charged only from the time of entering to the end of the quarter in session.	

⁸⁷ *Journal*, September 19, 1844, p. 3, cl. 2.

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

the means of all the people, or nearly all the people. During the preceding school year, five orphan children had been given free instruction and the Mechanics' Union pledged to continue "as large a number of that unfortunate class in the school as circumstances will permit." Note is made that the school is not just for the children of members of the Mechanics' Union, as some believed.

Mr. and Mrs. V. M. Sheldon were employed in May, 1845 to take complete charge of the school. They were allowed seven-eighths of the income for the services of themselves and their assistant. The remaining eighth was to be used by the Union for incidental expenses of the school.

...The efforts of the Union to establish a library did not have much success. Inability to provide a permanent place of meeting was one cause, but lack of interest among the members was the chief of failure⁸⁸

Application for admission and payment of tuition may be made to Mr. Sheldon, principal of the male department, or to Mr. B. R. Biddle, secretary of the Board of Trustees, at his shop, south side of the public square.

In giving notice of the commencement of another year, the Trustees, embrace the opportunity of expressing their gratitude to the public, on behalf of the Mechanics' Union, for the very liberal patronage that has been extended to both departments of the school. The experiment of establishing a school, at such reduced rates of tuition as those adopted by the Union, having thus far proved successful, placing the means of instruction within the reach of all, or nearly all, who are disposed to extend the blessings of education to their children and wards, it is not doubted that the public will continue to appreciate the object, and freely contribute their influence to its permanency and usefulness.

It is not designed by the Mechanics' Union to make the school a source of revenue. The entire proceeds of the school will be appropriated to its support, reserving barely sufficient to meet the incidental expenses—such as fuel, repairing of rooms, &c. Five orphan children have had gratuitous instructions, during the past year, and it is the intention of the Union to continue as large a number of that, unfortunate class in the school as circumstances will permit.

As the impression prevails, to some extent, that the school is intended exclusively for the benefit of the children of the members of the Mechanics' Union, the Trustees take this occasion to say that no preference is given to any—the children of all enjoying equal privileges, and equal efforts being employed for the intellectual and moral instructions to all.

A sufficient number of competent teachers will be employed to assist the principals, in the tuition of any number of pupils that may be present in the school, so that ample justice will be done.

JOHN CONNELLY, S. S. BROOKS, B. R. BIDDLE, JNO. B. WEBER, M. McCORMACK,	} Trustees.
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Springfield, May 23, 1845.

Springfield City School
and Mechanics' Union⁸⁹

1846

Birth of Edward Baker Lincoln

Edward Baker Lincoln, the son of Abraham and Mary, was born in Springfield on March 10, 1846.

Common School Convention at Springfield

On December 16, 1846, a common school convention was held in Springfield. Teachers, youth and friends of education were invited to attend. Francis Springer, Mason Brayman, I. S. Britton, J. M. Sturdevant, and William H. Williams constituted the Committee of Arrangements. John B. Watson was secretary of the Convention.⁹⁰

⁸⁸ Pratt, pp. 130-134

⁸⁹ Journal, May 24, 1845, p. 3, cl. 1.

⁹⁰ Journal, December 31, 1846, p. 2, cl. 7.

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

A Common School Convention
Will be held in the City of Springfield, on the 16th of December next. Teachers of youth and the friends of education generally, are expected to be in attendance. A subject of greater importance to the people of Illinois, could not engage public attention. The proposed Convention, it is expected, will be highly interesting and of great utility; but it can bear this character only in proportion to the number and the public spirit of those who may participate in its deliberations.—The undersigned have been appointed a committee of arrangements for the occasion, and they extend to those may come to attend the Convention, the hospitalities of the citizens of Springfield.

FRANCIS SPRINGER,
M. BRAYMAN,
I. S. BRITTON,
J. M. STURDEVANT,
WM. H. WILLIAMS.

Nov. 26, 1846.

Common School Convention at Springfield⁹¹

1847

Abel Estabrook and H. D. Brigaam Teach at Springfield Academy

On November 23, 1847, Abel Estabrook and H. D. Brigaam published a notice in the *Journal* that they had “taken the Academy” [the Springfield Academy] where they would teach young men. The school was divided into two departments, Classical and Primary, and the school year was divided into four quarters of 11 weeks each. Tuition per quarter ranged from \$2.00 to \$4.00 for the Primary Department and from \$4.00 to \$5.00 for the Classical Department depending upon the courses taken. The school was intended to be a college preparatory school for young men.

SPRINGFIELD ACADEMY.--A. W. ESTABROOK and H. D. BRIGAAM would announce to the citizens of Springfield and vicinity, that having located in this city with the view of engaging permanently in teaching: they have taken the Academy, where they will endeavor to furnish to all who may be placed under their tuition the rudiments of a good English education. It is also designed to make this school one of the higher order, so that young men wishing to pursue a liberal course of study, shall be prepared to enter any College in the land.

There will be two departments in the Institution.—a Classical and a Primary—each under the care of well qualified instructors.

And under such direction it is hoped the school will be such as the community may desire; and the teachers promise that no pains will be spared to make it such.

The Academic year will be divided into four quarters of 11 weeks each.

Terms per quarter in the Primary Department:

Reading and Spelling.	\$2 00
English Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic and Geography.	4 00

Terms per quarter in the Classical Department:

Latin, Greek and Algebra.	\$5 00
Reading, Writing, Arithmetic and English Grammar.	4 00
All other branches.	4 50

Springfield, Nov. 23, 1847.

Abel W. Estabrook and H. D. Brigaam
Announce Opening of Springfield Academy⁹²

⁹¹ *Journal*, December 3, 1846, p. 3, cl. 4.

⁹² *Journal*, November 25, 1847, p. 2, cl. 4.

State Bank of Illinois Releases Lien on Springfield Academy Property

On November 27, 1847, the State Bank of Illinois transferred its interest (probably releasing a mortgage) in the Springfield Academy property on South Fifth Street, "being the premises on which the Springfield Academy now stands," to the Trustees of Springfield Academy⁹³ for \$750. The building alone cost \$7,000 when it was constructed in 1840, so this \$750 must have been the pay-off amount on a debt owed the State Bank.⁹⁴

Rev. Francis Springer Moves to Hillsboro, Illinois

In 1847, Reverend Francis Springer and his family moved from their Springfield home at Eighth and Jackson Streets to Hillsboro, Illinois, where Francis served as President of Hillsboro College.

1848

Robert Todd Lincoln Attends "Slipper School"

Robert Todd Lincoln is said to have attended a "slipper school." Robert would have been five years old on August 1, 1848, the age when today's youngsters would begin kindergarten. If the same was true in the 1840s, Robert probably began his first schooling in the fall of 1848 under "the slipper-guardianship of a School mistress" and continued such until the fall of 1850 when he entered Abel W. Estabrook's Springfield Academy.

[Robert] recalled, "I have a dim recollection of being under the slipper-guardianship of a School mistress until 1850," and then for the next three years he was in attendance at an academy operated by a Mr. [Abel W. Estabrook] Esterbrook.⁹⁵

...before this academy training [in the fall of 1850], Robert had started his education in a little primary "slipper" school taught by an unnamed lady who enforced discipline upon her charges by spanking them with her slipper.⁹⁶

⁹³ Albert Hale, James Lamb, Nicholas H. Ridgley, Erastus Wright and Peleg C. Canedy.

⁹⁴ Lots 11 and 12 in the Elvira Addition to the City of Springfield. Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, Book AA, p. 12. Copy in the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

⁹⁵ *Robert Todd Lincoln*, John S. Goff, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman Oklahoma, 1969, p. 17. *Autobiography of Robert T. Lincoln*, manuscript, Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

⁹⁶ *Abraham Lincoln: From Skeptic to Prophet*, Wayne Temple, Mayhaven Publishing, Mahomet, Illinois, 1995, p. 45.

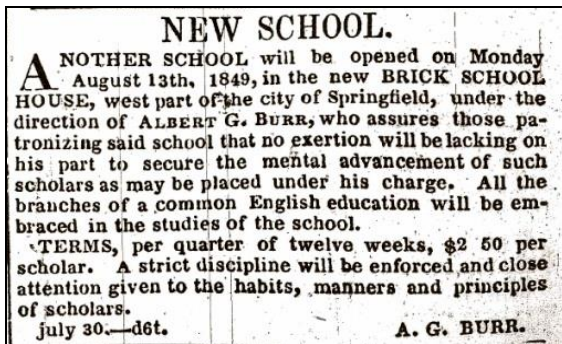
1849-1861: The Fourth Decade

During the fourth decade, the Illinois State University moved from Hillsboro to Springfield where a large brick school building was erected on the north side of Springfield. The Central Academy emerged in 1853 and faded in 1858. The emergence of a public school system spelled the end of private subscription schools, for the most part. Separate schools for the "colored children" emerged, both privately and publicly.

1849

Albert G. Burr Opens Brick School

On Monday, August 13, 1849, Albert G. Burr opened "another school," a new brick school house in the "west part of the city." "All the branches of a common English education will be embraced in the studies of the school." Tuition was \$2.50 per pupil for a twelve week quarter.



Albert G. Burr's *Register* Notice of New School in Brick School House⁹⁷

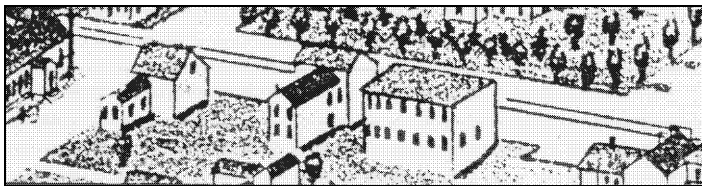
Rev. John F. Brooks Opens Female Seminary at Fifth and Edwards

In two recorded transactions, in August of 1849 and January 1850, John F. Brooks purchased a two story frame building at the northeast corner of Fifth and Edwards Streets.⁹⁸ In the fall of 1849, he opened a Female Seminary in the newly purchased building with three assistants and Mrs. Brooks teaching the primary department in "the room he previously occupied." He taught there for four years, until 1852.

⁹⁷ *Register*, August 4, 1849, p. 2, cl. 4.

⁹⁸ Lots 1 and 2, M. L. Knapps Addition. Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, Book DD, p. 299 (January 7, 1850) and Book DD, p. 300 (August 13, 1849). Copy in the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)



View of Northeast Corner of Fifth Street and Edwards Street

His [Rev. Brooks'] school increased, his health improved, and he purchased the property on the corner of Fifth and Edwards streets, re-arranging the two story frame building internally to suit the purposes of a school. This he opened as a Female Seminary, the autumn of 1849, with three assistants, and Mrs. Brooks in charge of the primary department, held in the room he previously occupied.

In addition to the usual course, Mr. Brooks added drawing, painting and music; two pianos were introduced, and this is believed to have been the first effort at teaching music in the schools of Springfield. This seminary prospered for four years, when Mrs. Brooks' health failed, and it became necessary to close the institution.⁹⁹

**Reverend Francis Springer Sells Residence
at Eighth and Jackson Streets to Charles Arnold**

In 1849, Reverend Francis Springer sold his residence at Eighth and Jackson Streets to Charles Arnold, who retained ownership until the 1870s.¹⁰⁰

1850

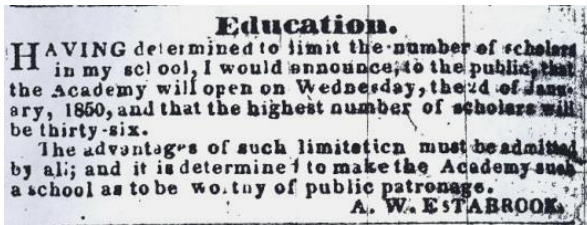
**Abel W. Estabrook Announces Beginning of School Term
at the Springfield Academy**

On Wednesday, January 2, 1850, Abel W. Estabrook opened his school at the Springfield Academy building on the west side of Fifth Street, between Monroe and Market (now Capitol). He announced that he had "determined to limit the number of scholars in my school" to 36.

⁹⁹ 1881 *History*, pp. 598-599. After Mrs. Brooks' death in 1860, Rev. Brooks devoted a large part of his time to hearing classes and giving private lessons.

¹⁰⁰ *Restoring the Historic Arnold House*, George L. Painter, Historian Lincoln Home National Historic Site, The Lincoln Newsletter, Spring 1993. 1854 Hart Map. 1858 Map. Wooden U-house and wooden rectangular outbuilding. Lot 1, Block 11, E. Iles' Addition. Arnold, Charles. gentleman (miller). *Springfield City Directory and Sangamon County Advisor, for 1855-6*, compiled by E. H. Hall, Springfield, Illinois, 1855. (Hereinafter cited as "1855-56 City Directory."); sheriff of Sangamon County. *Williams' Springfield Directory, City Guide and Business Mirror, for 1860-61*, compiled by C. S. Williams, Springfield, Illinois, Johnson & Bradford, Booksellers and Stationers, West Side of Public Square, 1860. (Hereinafter cited as "1860-61 City Directory."); saw mill. 1860 *Census*, p. 123 (Mass.) (52). \$5,000/\$500.

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)



Journal Announcement of Abel W. Estabrook's Academy Opening¹⁰¹

Death of Edward Baker Lincoln

Edward Baker Lincoln died on February 1, 1850, at age 3 years and 11 months.

“Colored School” Seeks Funds

The following resolution was published in the June 14, 1850 edition of the *Journal* and is the first evidence of the presence of a separate school for Springfield's African-American children. The article announced that a Public Supper to aid the “colored school” would be held on June 20th at the Colored Baptist Church. The ladies were to solicit donations “among our white friends.”

COLORED SCHOOL.

Whereas the people of color in this place desirous of educating their children, and finding themselves too weak in point of numbers to sustain a school permanently amongst them, therefore we, the Trustees of this the Colored School, in view of our weakness, propose giving a PUBLIC SUPPER, in aid of this School, on Thursday, the 20th of this month, at the Colored Baptist Church, in this city. We have appointed a committee of females to solicit donations among our white friends towards making the Supper, and we hope that their claims will not be disregarded.

Thomas Cox,
Jno. Jackson,
Wm. H. Butler,
H. W. Baylor,

James Blanks,
Wm. Baker,
Aaron Dyer,
S. S. Ball.¹⁰²

Seventh and Edwards Street Sold to Second Charge Methodist Episcopal Church Trustees

On July 22, 1850, Charles and Louisa Arnold sold the northeast corner of Seventh and Edwards to the Trustees¹⁰³ of the “Second Charge Methodist

¹⁰¹ *Journal*, January 22, 1850, p. 2, cl. 5.

¹⁰² *Journal*, June 14, 1850, p. 3, cl. 1.

¹⁰³ Levi Hodge, Seth L. Cornell, John W. Weir, George R. Honold, Newton E. Bateman, John S. Condell and Absalom Kalb. *1881 History*, p. 1005: Absalom Kalb was favorably known in the county and city of Springfield, for the time of over sixteen years, to the day of his death, January 7, 1865, for his

Episcopal Church” for \$200.¹⁰⁴ The deed required the Trustees to build a “house or Place of Worship for the use of the members of the Second Charge Methodist Episcopal Church.” They did and the structure became the location of the Central Academy in 1853.

Abel W. Estabrook Teaches Robert Todd Lincoln at Springfield Academy

At the beginning of the 1850-1851 school year—probably in September of 1850—Robert Todd Lincoln entered Abel W. Estabrook’s Springfield Academy on the west side of Fifth Street between Monroe and Capitol (Market).¹⁰⁵ Robert was seven years old and he would continue his education at the Springfield Academy for three school years, from the fall of 1850 until the end of the 1853-1854 school term when he was nine.¹⁰⁶ There is a tradition that when Robert was learning Latin at this time, his father studied along with him and the two declined nouns together.¹⁰⁷

This must have been a stressful time in the Lincoln household. Robert’s brother Eddie died on February 1. Mary was six-months pregnant and would deliver William Wallace on December 21. Abraham was on the circuit and away from home for many days during the year. He was in Springfield from September 1 until September 12.

George Latham, Robert’s friend, also attended the Academy.

Abel W. Estabrook had been teaching in Springfield since he graduated from Illinois College at Jacksonville in 1842. In 1850 Estabrook received an A. M. degree from Illinois College¹⁰⁸ and the 1850 United States Census for Springfield listed him as a 35-year-old school teacher who has property valued at \$1,500. Living with him were his 22-year-old wife Laura who was born in New York and a 14-year-old boy named Lyman Moose (Moore?) who was born in Illinois.

Ossian Parks’ School House on North Fifth Street, Near Union

zealous adherence to the cause of the Union, as also for his fervency in the church of his early choice. The M. E. Church always found in him a true friend and liberal supporter, for more than sixty years.

¹⁰⁴ Lot 8, Block 6, E. Iles’ Addition. Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, Book EE, p. 206. Copy in the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

¹⁰⁵ Wayne Temple says at page 45 of his *Abraham Lincoln: From Skeptic to Prophet* that the Estabrook Academy was located at the northeast corner of Seventh and Edwards Street. This is not the case. Estabrook’s Academy was on the west side of Fifth Street, between Monroe and Market (Capitol).

¹⁰⁶ Robert Todd Lincoln was born on August 1, 1843.

¹⁰⁷ *Robert Todd Lincoln*, John S. Goff, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman Oklahoma, 1969, p. 17. *Autobiography of Robert T. Lincoln*, Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

¹⁰⁸ Illinois College records in the Public Relations Office, Jacksonville, Illinois.

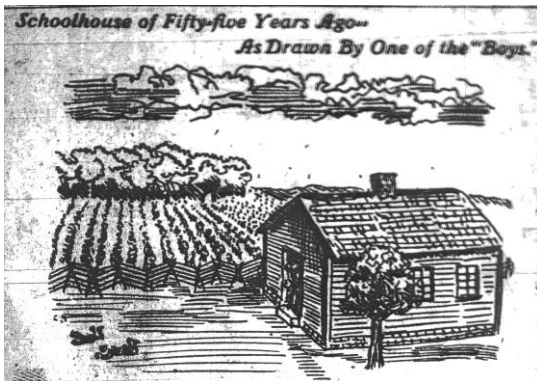
Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

The following article describing a school house on north Fifth Street, near Union, appeared in the October 7, 1905 edition of the *Springfield News*:

Fifty-five years ago a school house stood on North Fifth street near Union, where many of the—boys acquired the rudiments of education.

The old school house of 1850 has been preserved to the present generation through a pencil sketch... It was presented to the *Springfield News* by A. W. Arnold, one of the "boys" who attended the school and who, although not a professional artist, has reproduced the scene with remarkable fidelity to detail.

An inscription under the picture reads: "Mister Parks standing in the door of the empty school house watching the scholars as they study on the prairie at Fifth and Union streets fifty-five years ago." As shown in the picture, Fifth street was closed north of this point by a rail fence, enclosing a cornfield, so that the old school house stood at the very northernmost limit of the city. The school was kept by Ossian Parks, a school master of the old regime who maintained order, as Mr. Arnold remembers with the aid of a certain leather strap which he doubled and wielded with great force and accuracy. The boys used to take their books out into the school yard and study there. It was on some such occasion Mr. Arnold relates, that instead of studying his lesson he had caught a bumble bee and was proceeding to bury it in the soft prairie soil when the watchful Parks slipped up behind and landed on him with the strap, leaving marks that turn red and tingle in imagination, whenever the memory is recalled.¹⁰⁹



Ossian Parks' School House on North Fifth Street, Near Union Street

¹⁰⁹ *Springfield News*, October 7, 1905, Part II, A. W. Arnold reminiscence, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

First Presbyterian Church Establishes School

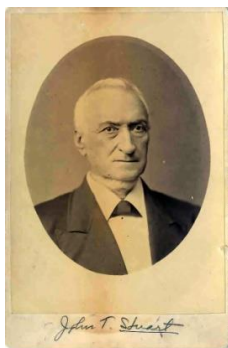
In 1850, the First Presbyterian Church established “a parochial school, the opening of the fall term being announced in the press. It is not known how long this school was operated.”¹¹⁰

Birth of William Wallace Lincoln

William Wallace Lincoln, the son of Abraham and Mary, was born on December 21, 1850.

1851

Beginnings of Illinois State University



John Todd Stuart¹¹¹

In 1851 the citizens, under the leadership of John T. Stuart, had bestirred themselves to secure for Springfield the academy and college which the Lutheran Church was planning to establish. When the children of Pascal P. Enos, one of the town's original proprietors, donated ten acres of ground in the northeastern part of the city, and others made subscriptions towards the construction of buildings and the establishment of scholarships, the location was assured.¹¹²

1852

Illinois State University Opens in Mechanics' Union Building

In April 1852, Illinois State University opened a school in the Mechanics' Union Building, just south of the corner of Third and Washington. The first class of the “preparatory” department had 79 students. The college had 3 students enrolled in the freshman class.

In 1852 a group of enterprising, public-spirited citizens of Springfield, Illinois, witnessed the consummation of an ambitious project—the

¹¹⁰ *Ten Ministers, A History of the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Illinois 1828-1953*, Roger E. Chapin, p. 22.

¹¹¹ *Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library*, Photographic Division, Springfield, Illinois.

¹¹² *Here I Have Lived*, pp. 202 and 203.

Springfield's Early Schools (1819-1860)

establishment of a Lutheran college in their community. Satisfied as to the need for such an institution, and envisaging a grand future for it, these citizens, led by John T. Stuart, James C. Conkling, Thomas Lewis, S. W. Harkey, and others, convinced the Board of Trustees of Hillsboro College at Hillsboro, Illinois, that the transfer of the institution to the capital city of Illinois would assure the school not only permanency, but also adequate financial support. The trustees willingly agreed to the wisdom of such a move, although Hillsboro College was then free from debt and in possession of a building valued at \$6,000. As a further inducement to the board, the civic-minded people of Springfield subscribed the sum of \$37,000, which was to be used for a building and for student scholarships.¹¹³

Illinois State University began operations in Springfield in April 1852, in the building formerly occupied by the Mechanics Union.... A new edifice was at once placed in process of construction, occupying a beautiful and commanding site about one mile northeast of the public square.¹¹⁴



James C. Conkling

In April, 1852, the institution, under the name of the Illinois State University, admitted its first students. Until its own building, which was commenced at once, was ready for occupancy, classes were held in the Mechanics Union at the corner of Third and Washington Streets. During the first year seventy-nine students enrolled in the preparatory department and three were admitted to the freshman class of the

¹¹³ *Illinois State University, 1852-1868*, Harry Evjen, Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Vol. XXXI, Number 1, March 1838, pp. 54-55. (Hereinafter cited as "Evjen.")

¹¹⁴ 1881 *History*, p. 480. *The American Origin of the Augustana Synod, From Contemporary Lutheran Periodical, 1851-1860*, Augustana Historical Society, Rock Island, Illinois. *Augustana Lutheran Church in America, Pioneer Period, 1846 to 1860*, Oscar N. Olson, Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Illinois, 1950, pp. xvi, 397. *The Diamond Jubilee History of Carthage College, 1870-1945*, William Carl Spielman, Carthage College Historical Society, Carthage, Illinois, 1945, reviewed in the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society, Volume XXXIX, Number 2, June 1946, pp. 278-279. *The Miracle of Carthage: History of Carthage College 1847-1974*, Harold H. Lentz, The C.S.S. Publishing Company, Lima Ohio, 1975, pp. 35-54. *Evjen*.

Springfield's Early Schools (1819-1860)

college. Tuition charges were \$30.00 for a forty-week year in the college and \$25.00 in the academy, unless one wished to undertake the "learned languages and more advanced sciences," in which case an additional fee was collected. Most of the students were from Springfield, and the few who came from outside the city provided their own room and board. The college urged them to club together, and assured prospective students that on the basis of the first year's experience, the entire cost of living for a thrifty student would not vary greatly from seventy-five cents a week.¹¹⁵

Rev. Francis Springer President of Illinois State University

In 1852 when Hillsboro College was moved to Springfield and renamed Illinois State University, Rev. Francis Springer moved also and was its first president.¹¹⁶ Springer had moved from Springfield to Hillsboro in 1842 where he was the President of Hillsboro College.

John Milton Hay Enrolled at Illinois State University

Seventy-nine students enrolled at Illinois State University during its first school year. One of the students was John Milton Hay of Warsaw, Illinois, who remained such until the end of the 1854-1855 school term. His tuition and board were provided by his Springfield lawyer uncle, Milton Hay.

In 1852, [John] Hay [age 13 or 14] went on to college at Springfield—a promotion which might well seem to the lad as the introduction to a larger world....In the college at Springfield, which was really no more than a preparatory school, Hay studied so well that, by the spring of 1855, he began to think of going to a university. His schoolmates envied his capacity for "getting his lessons without apparently any study." An unusual memory enhanced his innate brightness. He was "bookish," in that he devoured books for pleasure, but he was no grind.¹¹⁷

Illinois State University Scholarship Purchased by Abraham Lincoln

In order to secure financial support for the University, the trustees had authorized, in 1852, the sale of perpetual scholarships for the sum of \$300. The owner of a scholarship enjoyed the permanent privilege of sending one student to college without further charge of tuition. If the owner did not wish to pay the principal of the scholarship, he could enjoy the same privilege providing he paid the interest amounting to six per cent each year. The latter plan was used by Lincoln to send his son, Robert Todd, to this new school. The college ledger reveals that Lincoln purchased on October 1, 1852, the scholarship of P. C. Canedy, a Springfield druggist. The payments of interest were prompt and complete, continuing until April 27, 1860.¹¹⁸

¹¹⁵ *Here I Have Lived*, pp. 202 and 203.

¹¹⁶ *Evjen*, p. 65.

¹¹⁷ *The Life and Letters of John Hay*, William Roscoe Thayer, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, 1908, Vol. 1, pp. 21-22.

¹¹⁸ *Evjen*, pp. 58-59.

**African-American Meeting
Opposes Public Funding of Separate Colored Schools**

On November 8, 1852, a group of Springfield African Americans met and unanimously adopted the following resolution concerning common schools.

Springfield, Nov. 8, 1852.

At a meeting of the colored citizens of this city, on the 8th instant, after having deliberated over the matter concerning our interests, common schools, etc. had occasion to notice the following, which we must speak of in bold terms; and which, after a vote was taken, was unanimously adopted:

The undersigned having just noticed an article written for the paper entitled, the "Western Citizens," by the "Wood River Colored Baptist Association," and also the Minutes of the same, wish to make the following reply:

Whereas the "Wood River Colored Baptist Association," having met at Jacksonville, Illinois, devised ways and means for the purpose of establishing a system of common school education, under the cloak of the colored people of the State of Illinois;

We, as a portion of the colored people of this State, in Springfield, do not desire any such system of common school education, under the name of one distinct sect or denomination; nor will we join in with it; nor give our support to it; but will do everything that is in our power to indemnify ourselves against any of the above proceedings that may have been conjured up in this association;

That we deem it an injury to our present established schools, and that it will hinder the energy of those who are willing to aid, and have already aided in the support of our respective schools; and that we do not wish to give our aid in any measure that will hinder our progress that has already begun;

That we, as a portion of the colored population, representing its claims, feel a deep, very deep interest, in our schools, and think it the only sure way to redeem ourselves from the bondage we are now in, sympathize with our race, and will do everything that is in our power to educate our children by our exertions, and without the boldness to ask aid from the people of the State;

And that in examining the Minutes of the Association, we notice an article proposing to establish a press, which will be attached to the Institution, and put into operation as soon as the amount of funds necessary for its support can be raised. In regard to this we can say, that it reminds us of the bill which was handed into the Legislature two years ago—coming, in part, from the same source; and consequently we do not feel willing to embark in any such enterprize; ner shall we.

After reading the above, what patriot, as he is called, can enlist in the resolutions which that Association have gotten up, without the consent of any persons but themselves?

Springfield's Early Schools
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James Reynolds, David Callyhan, Gilbert Johnson, Isaiah Chambers, Michael Millington, Wm. McCoslin, John Handsom, J. W. Hill, Aaron Dyre (Dyer), A. J. Petete, John Lee, Spencer Donnigan, Andrew Broadwaters, James Hendrix William Lee, Wm. Donnigan Patterson Bannister, George Burras, Benjamin Williams, James Blanks.¹¹⁹

1853

Presley L. Donegan Petitions Legislature Requesting Black Exemption from the School Tax

On January 11, 1853, a petition signed by Presley L. Donegan and other Springfield African Americans was presented to the Illinois General Assembly praying that African Americans be exempted from school tax and assuring the legislators that the African Americans would provide for their own schools.

...divisions within the ranks of the blacks occurred on the issues of whether they should pay a school tax and, if so, whether the tax should be returned to them and for what purpose it should be used. Three schooling petitions from blacks or blacks and whites were presented in the General Assemblies of 1853 and 1855. The first, from Presley L. Donegan and other blacks of Springfield, presented on January 11, 1853, prayed that the blacks be exempted from the school tax and assured the legislators that the blacks would then "sustain" their own schools.¹²⁰

The legislature took no action on the petition.

Birth of Thomas (Tad) Lincoln

Thomas (Tad) Lincoln, the son of Abraham and Mary, was born on April 4, 1853.

Abel W. Estabrook Purchases Springfield Academy Property

On April 13, 1853, Abel W. Estabrook purchased the Springfield Academy property on the west side of Fifth Street between Monroe and Capitol [Market] "being the same premises on which the Springfield Academy (so called) now stands."¹²¹ He paid \$1,800.

Central Academy Opens in Second Charge Methodist Church at Seventh and Edwards Streets

¹¹⁹ *Illinois Daily Journal*, November 11, 1852, p. 3, c.1.

¹²⁰ *The Black Struggle for Public Schooling in Nineteenth-Century Illinois*, Robert L. McCaul, Southern Illinois University Press, Carbondale, Illinois, 1987, p. 23.

¹²¹ Lots 11 and 12, Block 1, E. Edwards Addition. Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, Book LL, p. 51. Copy in the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

CENTRAL ACADEMY.

THIS Institution—recently established in the city of Springfield—will be opened in the 2nd Methodist Church, for the reception of students, both male and female, on Monday, May 2nd prox.

The Trustees of the Institution have secured the services of the Rev. R. ANDRUS, A. M., as Principal, whose experience and success in teaching will commend him to the confidence of the community.

The rooms of the Academy building are convenient and pleasant. Facilities for the rapid improvement of the students, will be provided as they may be demanded.

DEPARTMENTS.

The course of study is divided into Primary and Regular Departments.

The Primary department comprises Orthography, Reading, Mental Arithmetic, Primary Geography and History.

The Regular Department comprises all those English and Classical branches taught in the higher seminaries.

EXPENSES.

Per Quarter of ten weeks, payable in advance,

Primary Department,.....	\$3.00
Regulardo.....	4.00
Incidental expenses,.....	25

No deductions will be made for absence, only in case of protracted sickness.

Students are desired to be in attendance at the opening of the session. They will, however, be admitted at any time, and tuition will be charged at the above rates for the time they are in attendance.

No pains will be spared to render the government of the Institution satisfactory to all its patrons.

ap30:w4w:pd2\$ J. S. CONDELL, Sec'y of Trustees.

*Journal Advertisement for Central Academy*¹²²

On May 2, 1853, the Central Academy opened in the Second Charge Methodist Episcopal Church, located at the northeast corner of Seventh and Edwards. Rev. Reuben Andrus was the principal of the school which accepted boys as well as girls. The school had a Primary and a Regular Department. Each quarter was 10 weeks. The Primary Department tuition was \$3.00. Regular Department tuition was \$4.00. Incidental expenses were assessed at 25 cents. The newspaper notice was signed by J. [John] S. Condell, Secretary of the Trustees.¹²³

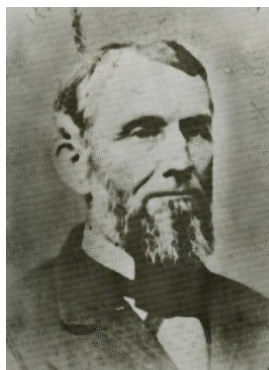
¹²² *Journal*, April 20, 1853, p. 3, cl. 2.

¹²³ *Lincoln's Friend and Biographer: Joseph Hartwell Barrett*, Joseph R. Nightingale, *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, Autumn 2003, footnote #62. In the early 1940s the writer's parents purchased a home in Springfield at 607 S. Seventh St. [southwest corner of Seventh and Edwards]. In ...researching the 1999 article, the writer saw in Dr. Wayne Temple's *Abraham Lincoln: From Skeptic to Prophet*, Mahomet: Mayhaven, 1995, pp. 422-3, that Louisa Todd Keyes, the next-door neighbor at 603 S. Seventh, "was certainly one of the last Todds who had actually known Robert Todd Lincoln to some degree." ...Mr. Keyes once attended school [on the northeast corner as well] with Willie and Tad Lincoln.

Springfield's Early Schools (1819-1860)

The Rev. Reuben Andrus, a clergyman and educator, was born at Rutland, Jefferson County, New York, on January 29, 1824. At an early age, he came to Fulton County, Illinois. He spent three years (1844-47) as a student at Illinois College, Jacksonville, but graduated at McKendree College, Lebanon in 1849. He taught for a time at Greenfield, and entered the Methodist ministry. In 1850, he founded the Illinois Wesleyan College at Bloomington, where he was a Professor from 1850-52.

He later re-entered the ministry and held charges at Beardstown, Decatur, Quincy, Springfield and Bloomington. He was a mathematics professor at the Illinois Conference Female College (renamed Mac Murray College) Jacksonville, Illinois before becoming the second president from 1855-56. He left Mac Murray in 1856 to serve ministerial appointments with the Methodist Episcopal Church.



Reuben Andrus¹²⁴

In 1867 he was transferred to the Indiana Conference and was stationed at Evansville from 1867 to 1870 and Indianapolis from 1870-1872. From 1872 to 1875, he was President of Indiana Asbury University (DePauw) at Greencastle, Indiana. He was temporary President of Quincy College. He died at Indianapolis, on January 17, 1887.¹²⁵

Second Charge Methodist Episcopal Church Sells Property at Seventh and Edwards to Trustees of Central Academy

On May 9, 1853, Trustees of the Second Charge Methodist Episcopal Church¹²⁶ sold the northeast corner of 7th and Edwards "with the Church

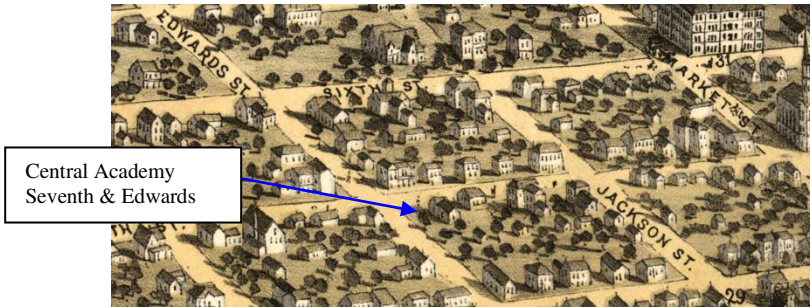
¹²⁴ <http://www.phigam.org/history/Articles/Asbury.htm>

¹²⁵ <http://www.rootsweb.com/~ilgwrefs/bios/ilbios1915-1/a.html>. *Biographical and Memorial Edition of the Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois*, Volume I, by Newton Bateman, LL.D. and Paul Selby, A. M. and Special Authors and Contributors. Chicago: Munsell Publishing Company Publishers, 1915.

¹²⁶ Enos M. Henkle, Absalom Kalb, John S. Condell, Joseph W. Duncan, James Good, Joseph Knotts and Thomas Condell.

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

building thereon” to the Trustees of the Central Academy¹²⁷ for \$426.48.¹²⁸ Thomas Condell retained a mortgage on the property dated February 6, 1852, in the amount of \$280.80.



Illinois State University's Second Year in Mechanics' Union Building

During the second school year of Illinois State University, ending on June 29, 1853, there were 144 students enrolled and the school was conducted in the Mechanics' Union Building.¹²⁹

Central Academy's Second Year
(1853-1854)

The Trustees of the Central Academy¹³⁰ published a notice in the *Journal* dated August 11, 1853, announcing that the second school year would begin on September 5, 1853. Rev. R. Andrus's term as principal had been a short summer one, as the superintendent was now Rev. J. S. Barwick, assisted by competent teachers. There were two departments, the Primary and the "Academical." The school year was divided into four quarters of ten weeks each. Tuition per quarter was \$4.00 for the Primary Department and ranged from \$10.00 to \$2.00 for the Academical Department. Lessons were also given in ornamental painting.

¹²⁷ Noah Matheny, R. Andrews, G. S. Manning, Joseph Knotts, William Hickman, John S. Condell and Absalom Kalb.

¹²⁸ Lot 8, Block 6, Iles Addition. Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, Book LL, p. 72. Copy in the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

¹²⁹ *1881 History*, p. 480.

¹³⁰ The trustees of the Central Academy were: E. M. Henkle, G. S. Maning, N. W. Matheny, J. B. Fox, G. M. Harrison, ____ Daws, Jon. Knotts, J. S. Condell, J. D. Harper, J. F. Cassady, Daniel Short, [John A.] Chestnut.

Central Academy.

THE second year of this institution, located in the city of Springfield, will begin on the first Monday of September, 1853, under the superintendence of Rev. J. S. Barwick, A. M., late professor of ancient languages in Illinois Conference Female College, whose experience in teaching and literary qualifications are such as to insure perfect satisfaction to patrons. He will be assisted by as many competent teachers as the interests of the institution may demand.

The trustees of the academy have secured a commodious and pleasant building, situated in a convenient part of the city, and they intend to make all necessary additions of buildings, apparatus, &c., as they are needed.

The course of study is divided into Primary and Academical Departments. The primary department comprises orthography, reading, mental arithmetic, primary geography and history.

The academical department comprises all those branches, English and Classical, usually taught in the higher seminaries.

The year is divided into four quarters of ten weeks each. There will be but one vacation, which will take place at the end of the year.

Prices of tuition per quarter are as follows:

Primary department,.....	\$4 00
Academical department,.....	6 00
Drawing, extra,.....	2 00
Music on Piano Forte and Guitar,.....	10 00

Lessons will be given in ornamental painting to those who desire it.

It is desirable that pupils should begin with the year, but will be admitted at any time, being charged from the time they enter until the close of the quarter, no deduction being made for absence except in case of sickness.

The bills of tuition will be made out at the close of each quarter, when it is expected prompt payment will be made.

TRUSTEES.—E. M. Henkle, G. S. Manning, N. W. Matheny, J. B. Fox, G. M. Harrison, — Daws, Jos. Knotts, J. S. Condell, J. D. Harper, J. F. Cassidy, Daniel Short, — Chesnut.

Springfield, Aug. 11, 1853.—*edly*

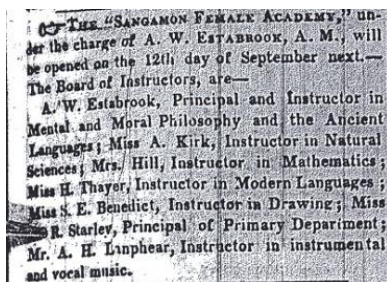
Journal Notice for Central Academy, Rev. J. S. Barwick, Principal¹³¹

**Abel W. Estabrook Announces Opening
of Sangamon Female Academy at the Academy on South Fifth**

On September 12, 1853, Abel W. Estabrook announced that he would open the "Sangamon Female Academy" and that he would be the principal. He taught Mental and Moral Philosophy and the Ancient Languages. In addition to Estabrook, Miss A. Kirk taught natural sciences, Mrs. Hill taught mathematics, Miss H. Thayer taught modern languages and Miss S. E. Benedict taught drawing. Miss R. Starley was the Principal of the Primary Department. Mr. A. H. Lanphear taught instrumental and vocal music. The Sangamo Female Academy was located in the Springfield Academy Building on the west side of Fifth Street, between Monroe and Capitol (Market) Streets.

¹³¹ *Journal*, August 11, 1853.

Springfield's Early Schools (1819-1860)



Abel W. Estabrook Principal of Sangamon Female Academy¹³²

Mary Lincoln Describes Robert's Studies at Abel W. Estabrook's Academy

In [the fall or winter of] 1853, when Mary Lincoln described her son Robert to an old friend, she expressed her pride in academic terms: "Our eldest at ten is studying Latin and Greek." The emphasis, of course, was on the words at ten. At the time Robert was learning classics at Springfield's best academy—the misnamed Illinois State University. By comparison to Transylvania and even Madam Mentelle's, it was third-rate. At some point the Lincolns decided that Robert must go not only to college but to the best institution in the country.¹³³

Rev. John F. Brooks Closes Female Seminary at Fifth and Edwards

In 1853, Rev. John F. Brooks closed the Female Seminary at the corner of Fifth and Edwards Streets.

... [Rev. Brooks'] seminary prospered for four years, when Mrs. Brooks' health failed, and it became necessary to close the institution.¹³⁴

1854

John Milton Hay Elected Vice-President of Philomathean Society at Illinois State University

In February 1854, John Milton Hay was elected vice-president of the Philomathean Society at Illinois State University.¹³⁵

¹³² *Journal*, August 19, 1853, p. 3, cl. 1.

¹³³ *Mary Todd Lincoln, A Biography*, Jean H. Baker, W. W. Norton & Company, New York, 1987, p. 123. (Hereinafter cited as "Baker.")

¹³⁴ *1881 History*, pp. 598-599.

¹³⁵ *Evjen*, p. 65. Anniversary celebrations, *Journal*, February 21, 1853, p. 3, cl. 1; March 25, 1856, p. 3, cl. 1; publishes *University Star*, February 6, 1856, p. 3, cl. 1.; Reynolds accepts honorary membership in, February 16, 1856, p. 2, cl. 3; exhibitions, August 15, 1857, p. 3, cl. 1, March 22, 1858, p. 3, cl. 1, March 26, 1858, p. 3, cl. 1; debate with Utilior Society, February 22, 1859, p. 3, cl. 1; literary contest with Utilior Society, February 15, 1860, p. 3, cl. 3; reunion, June 28, 1860, p. 3, cl. 2.

Rev. John F. Brooks Sells Property at Fifth and Edwards

On February 28, 1854, John F. Brooks sold his two story frame building at the northeast corner of Fifth and Edwards Streets¹³⁶ where he had taught since the fall of 1849.

J. S. Barwick's Receipt for Tuition at Central Academy

Mrs. Cook

To Central Academy Dr

For tuition of son H.F. 1 1/10 qrs Feb 4th, 1854 \$6

For tuition of daughter Mary 1/2 qr. \$2

\$8

Received pay

J.S. Barwick¹³⁷

Springfield Public Schools Authorized

At one time there was quite a fight over the "free school" issue. However, by the 1850s all that had died down

By the amended charter, approved March 2, 1854, the city of Springfield was placed in the Springfield school district, and the City Council authorized to establish and maintain free schools for the education of all white persons between the ages of five and twenty-one.¹³⁸

William Henry Herndon Elected Mayor

On Tuesday, April 4, 1854, William Henry Herndon was elected Mayor of Springfield on a reform agenda that included "laying the ground work for a public school system."¹³⁹

He was elected on a reform agenda that attracted both Whigs and Democrats and undertook several needed initiatives, such as installing gas lines for lighting, expanding the police force by turning the mayor and aldermen into police officers, renting a new city hall, and laying the groundwork for a public school system.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁶ Lots 1 and 2, M. L. Knapps Addition. Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, Reference number 32756. Copy in the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

¹³⁷ Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

¹³⁸ *1881 History*, p. 587.

¹³⁹ *Lincoln Day By Day, A Chronology 1809-1865*, Earl Schenck Miers, Editor-in-Chief, Morningside, Dayton, Ohio, 1991, p. 14.

¹⁴⁰ *The Young Eagle*, Kenneth J. Winkle, Taylor Trade Publishing, Dallas Texas, 2201, p. 290.

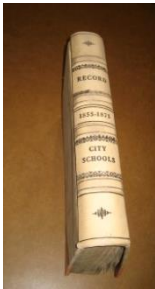
Springfield's Early Schools (1819-1860)



William Henry Herndon

In long-range results the most important of Herndon's acts as mayor were his efforts to start a public school system. Billy fully understood the real need "that all the children in the city, the high and the low, the rich and the poor, may...receive a good, practical English education." It was a project in which he was especially interested, and he named himself chairman of the council's committee on education. Personally investigating the various sites suggested for the new public school buildings, Herndon supervised the expenditure of thousands of dollars to buy suitable lots in each of the city's four wards. Though the schools did not begin operation until later, the Springfield educational system owed much to Billy's forceful advocacy.¹⁴¹

School Board Created and Ward School Districts Defined



**Minute Book of the
Springfield School Board
1855-1875¹⁴²**

On August 21, 1854, an ordinance was passed defining the powers of the School Board and dividing the city into school districts. Lots had already been purchased in each ward for school purposes, and the initial steps taken for the erection of school buildings in the First and Third Wards. These building were completed in the spring of 1856.¹⁴³

Central Academy's Third Year (Seventh and Edwards) (1854-1855)

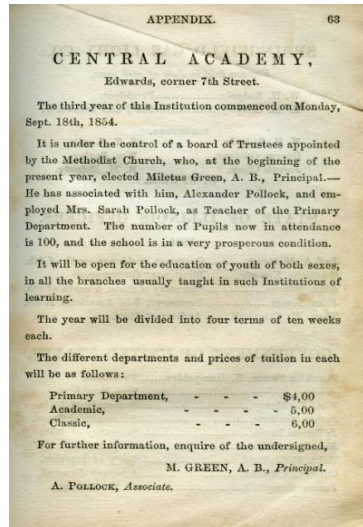
¹⁴¹ *Lincoln's Herndon*, David Donald, Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1948, pp. 68-69.

¹⁴² Illinois Regional Archives Depository, Brookens Library, University of Illinois at Springfield, Springfield, Illinois.

¹⁴³ *1881 History*, p. 587.

Springfield's Early Schools (1819-1860)

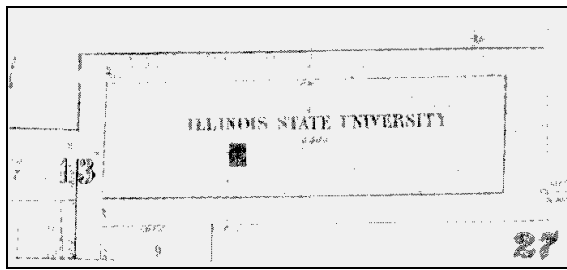
The Central Academy published a notice in the *1855-56 Springfield City Directory* announcing that the third year of the school would begin on September 18, 1854, at Seventh and Edwards. The Academy was governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Methodist Church. The principal was Miletus Green. Associated with him were Alexander Pollock and Sarah Pollock, teacher of the Primary Department. There were 100 male and female students in attendance. The school year was divided into four terms of ten weeks each. Tuition etc.



1855-56 Springfield City Directory
Advertisement for Central Academy¹⁴⁴

Illinois State University's Third Year Move to New Building North of Town

In the fall of 1854, Illinois State University moved to its new building at the north edge of Springfield and began classes with 160 students.¹⁴⁵



1858 Map Showing the Campus of Illinois State University

¹⁴⁴ *1855-56 City Directory.*

¹⁴⁵ *1881 History*, p. 480.

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)



Illinois State University as Planned



Illinois State University As Built

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

**Robert Todd Lincoln Enters Preparatory Department
of Illinois State University**

In the fall of 1854, eleven year-old Robert Todd Lincoln and his friend George Latham entered the preparatory department of Illinois State University. He was one of the youngest of fifty-two fellow students. Classes were held in the Mechanics' Union Hall on the east side of Third Street between Washington and Adams.



Robert Todd Lincoln, Circa 1858¹⁴⁶



Photograph of Illinois State University¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁶ *The Lincoln Family Album*, Mark E. Neely, Jr. and Harold Holzer, Doubleday, New York, 1990, p. 43.

¹⁴⁷ Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

Second Charge Methodist Church Approves Sale of Church Building to Central Academy

In the fall of 1854, a Committee of the Second Charge Methodist Church¹⁴⁸ reported on the sale of property at Seventh and Edwards to the Trustees of the Central Academy, approved the transfer and conceded that the Trustees of Central Academy now had a good title. There is then this cryptic statement:

In view of the weighty educational responsibilities already upon us as a Conference, your committee do not feel at liberty to recommend that the Conference accede to the proposal of the Trustees, "to take the institution out of their hands and assume its present liabilities," but we recommend the institution to the fostering care of this Conference, and the confidence and support of the friends of education in this city and our people generally.

The following report was adopted by the Trustees of the Second Charge Methodist Church, Springfield, Ills., on the 10th day of November, 1854.

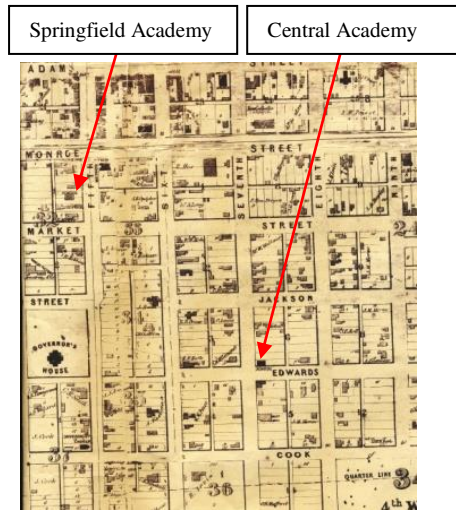
The Committee to whom was referred the "Joint Statement of the Trustees of the second charge M. E. Church and Trustees of the Central Academy, Springfield, Ills.," beg leave to report.

Having carefully examined the documents relating to the sale and transfer of the Church property of the second charge in Springfield to the Trustees of the Central Academy, we are of opinion so far as we can judge from the statute law in the case and the documentary evidence which has been before us, that the whole transaction was conducted in a regular and legal manner; and that said Trustees of Central Academy have now a genuine and valid title to said property.

In view of the weighty educational responsibilities already upon us as a Conference, your committee do not feel at liberty to recommend that the Conference accede to the proposal of the Trustees, "to take the institution out of their hands and assume its present liabilities," but we recommend the institution to the fostering care of this Conference, and the confidence and support of the friends of education in this city and our people generally.

H. BUCK
R. E. GUTHRIE
WM. J. RUTLEDGE } Committee.

Committee Approves Sale of
Central Academy¹⁴⁹



1858 Map of Springfield Showing the
Springfield and Central Academy¹⁵⁰

¹⁴⁸ H. Buck, R. E. Guthrie and Wm. J. Rutledge.

¹⁴⁹ *Journal*, November 2, 1854, p. 3, cl. 2.

¹⁵⁰ *1858 Map*. This map shows a rectangle and the name "School."

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

1855

Illinois State University Description, Faculty and Students

Illinois State University published a description of the school, its faculty and students in the 1855-56 *Springfield City Directory*, probably written in 1854 and printed for distribution in 1855.¹⁵¹ The article stated that classes thus far had been held in the Mechanics' Union and that the fully described new building was in the process of construction.

APPENDIX.		59
COLLEGES, SCHOOLS, &c.		
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY.		
The duties of instruction, thus far, have been performed in the building formerly known as the 'Mechanics' Union.' The new edifice, now in process of construction, occupies a beautiful and commanding site, northeast of the city, about one mile from the State House. The spot that has been selected for it is high, having an elevation, it is said, of 20 feet above that of the Capitol. The first part of the building to be completed is the main centre, seventy feet in front, and sixty-five rear, with four angle stories in height. The entire edifice, when completed, will present a front 152 feet in length; the whole cost of which will not vary materially from the sum of \$35,000. It is designed to carry into effect, as soon as practicable, that provision of the charter which authorizes the Trustees to "establish separate departments of the learned professions, the sciences and arts, including, besides the usual departments of Theology, Medicine and Law, a department of Mechanical Philosophy, and also of Agriculture." The object to be attained is the establishment of a university fully capable of furnishing, to all the great interests and pursuits of man, the rich blessings which learning, science, and skill can impart.		
BOARD OF TRUSTEES.		
Hon. John T. Stuart, <i>President</i> , Springfield, Ill.	"	"
Rev. Edmund Miller, <i>Secretary</i> ,.....	"	"
Mr. Thomas Lewis, <i>Treasurer</i> ,.....	"	"
Hon. Chas. C. Concklin,.....	"	"
Mr. Elijah Iles,.....	"	"
John M. Barkham,.....	"	"
E. R. Wiley,.....	"	"
Jacob Divehlis,.....	"	"

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Mr. David Miller,.....Springfield, Ill.	"
John B. Weber,.....	"
Rev. James Smith, D. D.,.....	"
Albert Hale,.....	"
R. V. Dodge,.....	"
Francis Springer,.....	"
S. W. Harkey, D. D.,.....	"
C. B. Thannemel,.....Gap Grove, "	"
L. P. Esjorn,.....Andover, "	"
G. J. Donmyer,.....Boone Vista, "	"
N. J. Stroth,.....Mt. Morris, "	"
Ephraim Miller,.....Fern, "	"
A. A. Trimpe,.....	"
C. Kuhl,.....Mt. Carmel, "	"
E. Schwartz,.....Jonesboro, "	"
James M. Harkey,.....Quincy, "	"
Paul Anderson,.....Chicago, "	"
Mr. Abalom Cress,.....Hillboro, "	"
J. P. Lilly,.....Oregon, "	"
Dr. J. C. A. Steeger,.....Bardstowen, "	"
Rev. S. L. Harkey,.....Mendon, "	"
FACULTY AND INSTRUCTORS.	
The Faculty of Instruction, as at present organized, embraces the following gentlemen:	
Rev. Francis Springer, A. M., President and Professor of the Natural Sciences and Political Economy.	
Rev. S. W. Harkey, D. D., Professor of Theology, and also for the time being, Professor of Mental and Moral Science, Belles Lettres, and the German Language.	
Rev. Edmund Miller, A. M., Professor of Mathematics and Principal of the Preparatory Department.	
Rev. Daniel Garver, A. M., Professor of the Latin and Greek Languages.	
Niels Larson, Tutor in the Preparatory Department.	
Rev. Richard V. Dodge, A. M., assistant Professor of Mathematics, &c.	

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STUDENTS.	
THEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.	
Bowers, George A.,.....Mt. Carmel.	"
Holtkamp, Henry,.....Dubois county, Ind.	"
Lingle, John M.,.....Hillboro.	"
COLLEGIATE DEPARTMENT.	
Sophomore Class.	
Hay, Augustus, L.,.....Warsaw.	"
Hay, John M.,.....Warsaw.	"
Larsen, Niels,.....Chicago.	"
Freshman Class.	
Arnold, Charles D.,.....Springfield.	"
Butler, Speed,.....Springfield.	"
Carpenter, George,.....Springfield.	"
Dean, George W.,.....Circleville, Ohio.	"
Denny, John, E.,.....Springfield.	"
Quard, John L.,.....N. T. Stephensburg, Va.	"
Johnson, Walter C.,.....Springfield.	"
Latham, William H.,.....Springfield.	"
Olson, Christian,.....Chicago.	"
Smith, Hugh,.....Springfield.	"
Spear, James D.,.....Springfield.	"
There is at present, a school containing about 140 Pupils, in which all the English Branches are taught. It is in a flourishing condition—commenced October 9th.	
THE PRICE OF TUITION.	
Is \$30 for the whole period of forty weeks. No abatement of charge is made for tardiness at the beginning of the session, nor for loss of time during its progress, except in cases of <i>protracted illness</i> . [*] Students entering at different dates, will be required to conform to the existing arrangement of classes. Pupils will be received into the Preparatory school at any time, for a term not less than one-fourth of the whole session, and they will be charged accordingly. The charge in this department, to those not studying the ancient and foreign languages, and more advanced sciences, is \$25 per year.	
There is also a Preparatory class in English Literature, which is given at \$20 per annum.	
[*] One month or more is the practice.	

¹⁵¹ 1855-56 *City Directory*.

Teacher Sought For “Colored School”

An 1855 Illinois law required that in townships with Negro residents the school taxes paid by Negroes be used for colored children.¹⁵² On April 13, 1855, the *Journal* reported that Landen C. Coleman, a 25-year-old African-American Springfield shoemaker,¹⁵³ and M. Donnegan, as Trustees of the Springfield Negro School, sought a teacher for the colored school. Applicants were to be made at Coleman's, probably his shoe shop in the 200 block of South Sixth Street—one door east of the American House at the southeast corner of Sixth and Adams Streets.

School Teacher Wanted

Coleman and M. Donnegan, trustees, desire to employ a teacher to teach a colored school. A competent teacher, will be well paid. Apply to L. Coleman, one door east of American House.¹⁵⁴

John Milton Hay Leaves Illinois State University and Enrolls at Brown University

So Hay went back to Warsaw, his schooling over [end of 1854-55 school term], to discuss with his parents his future career. As the 'scholar' of the family, all agreed that he must continue his education at a university. ...They decided that he should go to Brown University, at Providence, Rhode Island, where Mrs. Hay's father, David Augustus Leonard, had graduated as Class Orator in 1792. His uncle, Milton Hay, who had paid for his education during the past four years [185_-1855], promised to support him through college, and accordingly, towards the end of the summer [of 1855], John journeyed eastward in order to matriculate at Brown when the first term of the academic year began, on Friday, September 7, 1855. He still lacked a month of being seventeen years old.¹⁵⁵

Professor Thomas Clarke Buys Seventh and Edwards Streets and Opens Springfield Central Academy

On August 25, 1855, the Trustees¹⁵⁶ of the Central Academy sold the Springfield Central Academy property at the northeast corner of 7th and Edwards to Thomas Clarke, a teacher with 24 years of teaching experience

¹⁵² *Lincoln And The Negro*, Benjamin Quarles, Da Capo Press, New York, 1990, p.27.

¹⁵³ *1860 Census*, p. 185. Coleman was a native of Kentucky. 1854 Hart Map. 1858 Map. Wooden: two rectangles. S. 1/2 of Lot 8, Block 2, Mitchell's Addition. residence. 1860-61 *City Directory*: east side of 4th, between Madison and Gemini. 151 Washington, north side, between 12th and 13th -0-. In 1860 the firm of Coleman and Donnegan, shoemakers, was located at the northwest corner of 7th and Mason Streets

¹⁵⁴ *Journal*, April 13, 1855, p. 2, cl. 5.

¹⁵⁵ *The Life and Letters of John Hay*, William Roscoe Thayer, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, 1908, Vol. 1, pp. 21-22.

¹⁵⁶ Noah W. Matheny, Gilbert S. Manning, John S. Condell, Absalom Kalb, Isaac C. Kimber, Enos M. Henkle, John F. Cassidy and David Short.

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

in England.¹⁵⁷ The purchase price was \$1,500. Clarke announced that the Academy would open on the property as a co-ed school on Tuesday, September 3. He would conduct two 22-week sessions. The tuition was \$10 for one session in the first class or \$5 for a quarter, \$15 for one session in the second class, or \$7.50 per quarter. Mrs. Clarke assisted him in teaching the younger pupils. Tuition for the third class was \$20 for a session, or \$10 per quarter.

Springfield Central Academy.

PROFESSOR THOMAS CLARKE, RESPECTFULLY IN-
forms the citizens of Springfield and vicinity, that he has purchased the above named property, which he will open for the reception of pupils of both sexes, on Tuesday the 3d of September next.

Prof. C. having had upwards of 24 years constant experience as a teacher in some of the most eminent literary establishments of England, feels confident that, with the cordial co-operation of the citizens of Springfield, he will be able to establish in their midst, a school of a high standing. The academic year will be divided into two seasons of 22 weeks each.

TERMS:

First class \$10 for the session, or \$5 for quarter.

In addition to the usual branches of an English education, this class will have the privilege of learning Latin grammar, first Latin reader and Latin exercises, with Algebra as far as simple equations, and the second book Euclid, and either German, French or Italian, at the option of the parent.

Second class \$15 for the session, or \$7½ for quarter.

In addition to the above, this class will be taught the Latin classical authors, with Latin composition, both in prose and verse; the metres of Horace; the Greek grammar and first Greek reader; two of the above modern languages; the higher mathematics, the elements of Philosophy, Elocution, &c., &c.

Third class \$20 for the session, or \$10 for quarter.

The higher Greek classical authors, with composition in Greek prose and the metres, will be taught in this class, in addition to the foregoing; also the Hebrew grammar and bible, with three modern languages—philosophy, animal physiology, elocution, the Helio's letters, &c., &c.

To accommodate parents, younger pupils will be received into the preparatory department, under the direction of Mrs. Clarke and competent assistants at the usual charge for such services.

Music and painting, with books and stationery, will be the only extras, and no reduction will be made for lost time, unless in cases of protracted sickness.

Springfield, August 28th, 1855.

dawly.

Register Advertisement for Professor Thomas Clarke's
Springfield Central Academy¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁷ Lot 8, Block 6, Iles Addition. Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, Book TT, p. 389. Copy in the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

¹⁵⁸ *Register*, August 29, 1855, p. 2 cl. 5. *Journal*, August 28, 1855, p. 2, cl. 4.

Willow Grove Seminary Opens at Fifth and Madison Streets

On September 3, 1855, the Reverend William Sym and Miss Anna M. Sym opened the Willow Grove Seminary in a "large and commodious" house located at Fifth and Madison Streets. Tuition varied with the department—Primary Department was \$3.00 per quarter of 11 weeks; Junior Department was \$4.00 per quarter; and Senior Department was \$5.00 per quarter. Vocal and instrumental music was taught at "Professors' prices."

WILLOW GROVE SEMINARY.
CORNER OF FIFTH AND MADISON STREETS.

Rev. WM. SYM, } Associate Principals.
Miss ANNA M. SYM, }

THE next academic year of this Institution will commence Monday, September 3, 1855. This Seminary is pleasantly situated, possessing all the advantages of the city, with comparative retirement from its excitement, while the beauty of the grounds renders it attractive to the public. A thorough and comprehensive course of mental and moral training is pursued in the school; and thus care taken to unite *solidity with polish.* The house being large and commodious, a limited number of pupils can be admitted as boarders; and no pains will be spared to render every thing attractive and home-like.

TERMS OF TUITION:
Primary department—per quarter of 11 weeks, \$3 00
Junior " " " 4 00
Senior " " " 5 00

Vocal and Instrumental Music at Professors' prices.
No deduction made, except for protracted illness.
Further particulars may be had at the seminary.
Springfield, July 23, 1855.—45w.

Register Advertisement for Willow Grove Seminary,
Rev. William Sym and
Miss Anna M. Sym, Principals¹⁵⁹

Sangamo Female Seminary's Second Year (Academy Building) Abel W. Estabrook Principal (1855-1856)

Abel W. Estabrook advertised in the 1855-1856 *Springfield City Directory* that the second year of the Sangamo Female Seminary would begin on September 11, 1855, in the Academy Building on Fifth Street, near Monroe Street. He announced that a few pupils could board at his residence. Estabrook was principal. Miss Hester Thayer was the Assistant Principal. Miss R. E. Dayton taught drawing. Miss Jane E. Chapin was the Principal of the Primary Department. No tuition is stated. The course of study is described in advertisement to the right.

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SANGAMO FEMALE SEMINARY,
Sub, near Monroe Street.

BOARD OF INSTRUCTION.
A. W. Estabrook,.....Principal.
Miss Hester Thayer,.....Assistant.
Miss R. E. Dayton,.....Drawing.
Miss J. E. Chapin,.....Prin. of Primary Depart.

COURSE OF STUDY.

SEMINARY DEPARTMENT.

First Class.
Conic Sections, Rhetoric, Evidence of Christianity, Sallust, Logic, Governmental Instructor, Cicero.

Second Class.
Trigonometry, Astronomy, History of France, Virgil, Geology, Moral Philosophy, Chemistry.

Third Class.
Geometry, Physiology, History of Rome, Caesar, Botany, Mental Philosophy, History of England.

Fourth Class.
Higher Arithmetic, Ancient Geography, English Grammar, Latin Lessons, Algebra, Natural Philosophy, History of Greece, Vell Rome.

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT.
Reading, Writing, Spelling, Mental and Written Arithmetic, Modern Geography, Primary Grammar, United States' History.

Instruction in Music will be given by some of the Music Teachers in the city.

The second year of this Institution will commence on Monday, the 11th of September next.

Board can be obtained for a few pupils in the family of the Principal.

1855-56 *Springfield City Directory*
Advertisement for Sangamo Female
Seminary¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁹ *Register*, July 23, 1855, p. 2 cl. 4. Also appeared in the *Journal*, July 21, 1855, p. 2, cl. 4.

¹⁶⁰ 1855-56 *City Directory*.

Rev. Francis Springer Resigns as President of Illinois State University

Rev. Francis Springer resigned as head of Illinois State University in 1855 and S. W. Harkey was appointed president in his place.¹⁶¹



Illinois State University, Circa 1855¹⁶²

¹⁶¹ *Power*, p. 675. He was afterwards school commissioner of Sangamon county, and was superintendent of schools for the city of Springfield, which position he resigned, and became chaplain of the 10th Ill. Cav., soon after the beginning of the rebellion in 1861. A short time after the battle of Prairie Grove, Ark. — Dec. 7, 1862—he united with Dr. James Johnson in raising a loyal regiment in Arkansas, of which he became chaplain. It was the 1st Ark. Inf. He was appointed in 1863 post chaplain at Fort Smith, which he held until 1867, when he resigned, and returned to his family, at Springfield. In 1870 he moved to Irving, Montgomery county, Ill., and continued preaching until the fall of 1873, when he was elected superintendent of schools for Montgomery county, with his office at Hillsboro, Ill. He continues to preach, as opportunity offers, and fully believes that the only reforming influence in the world is Christianity. Rev. Francis Springer is a man of lively sympathy with the rest of mankind, without regard to race, color, nationality or religion. He has large faith in the perfectibility of the human race by means of the labors and experiences of the life that now is, and the hereafter. His orthodoxy, as a religious man, does not descend to the minute particulars of a creed, but confides mainly in the cardinal fact of Christianity, that the only true ennobling of the race must be wrought out under the recognized leadership of the word's Redeemer "the Christ of God." The degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on Rev. Francis Springer in 1869 by Wittenburg College, Springfield, Ohio.

¹⁶² *The Miracle of Carthage*, p. 53.

Springfield's Early Schools
(1819-1860)

1856

First and Third Ward Schools Open

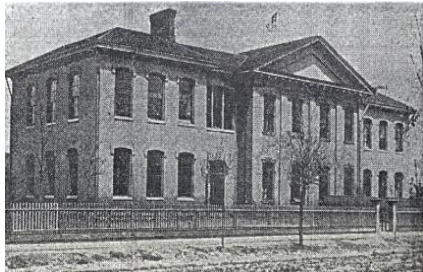
On April 14, 1856, the First and Third Ward Schools were opened with 739 pupils. The Springfield School Inspectors reported that:

...the schools in the First and Third Wards will be opened on the 14th of this month....the First and Fourth Wards are constituted one district, to be styled the First District and the Second and Third Wards another, styled the Third District.¹⁶³

**First Ward School (Palmer)
Constructed and Opened on Mason, Between 12th and 13th Streets**

On April 14, 1856, Springfield's first public school building, the First Ward School pictured below, opened. Its principal was Rev. Francis Springer, who had resigned the year before as president of Illinois State University. It was located on East Mason, between 12th and 13th Streets and was later known as the Palmer School. The building was two stories, the lower with four rooms and the upper included a large hall, two recitation rooms and two smaller rooms. .

The First Ward school building is situated on Mason, between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets. The lot is 320 feet fronting on Thirteenth. The building is of brick and two stories high. The lower floor contains four good school rooms, capable of accommodating in all one hundred and eighty pupils. The second story embraces one large hall, two recitation rooms, and two small rooms suitable for library and apparatus. Its capacity is for the accommodation of one hundred and forty four pupils, making for the entire building, accommodations for three hundred and twenty four pupils. Cost of ground and improvements, about \$12, 000.¹⁶⁴



The old Palmer School shown above was the very first public school erected in Springfield—opened April 14, 1856. The location was East

¹⁶³ 1881 *History*, p. 587.

¹⁶⁴ Rev. Francis Springer was appointed superintendent for the year 1860-61. 1881 *History*, p. 588. Named for Ninian W. Edwards, the first state superintendent of public education. Razed in 1914. 1858 *Map*. Brick rectangle; name: "School Lots"—extends from Spring to 1st Street. Present site of Illinois State Museum.

Springfield's Early Schools (1819-1860)

Mason Street, between 12th and 13th ... Originally known as the First Ward School, it comprised two floors—the lower with four rooms and the upper including a large hall, two recitation rooms and two smaller rooms....As will be noted, it was a plain, rather severe-looking structure, typical of its period, with a paling fence enclosing the grounds. The first principal was Rev. Francis Springer, and among his successors the following may be mentioned as outstanding in the time of this building: Andrew M. Brooks, A. W. Esterbrook...”¹⁶⁵

Third Ward School (Edwards) Constructed and Opened at Edwards and Spring Streets

The Third Ward school house [Edwards School], situated on the [northeast] corner of Edwards and Spring streets, occupies a lot measuring three hundred and twenty feet on Edwards, and one hundred and fourteen on Spring street. This building is in all respects after the same pattern as that of the First Ward, and, together with its grounds, cost about the same amount of money.¹⁶⁶ The Third Ward School principal was Abel W. Estabrook.¹⁶⁷



**Third Ward (Edwards) School at the
Northeast Corner of Spring and Edwards Streets¹⁶⁸**

¹⁶⁵ *Vertical File Number G-21, 330*, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

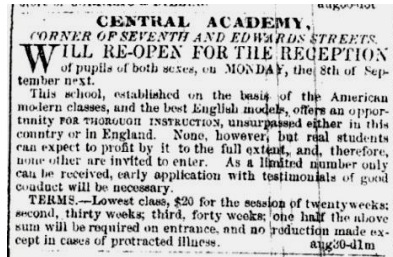
¹⁶⁶ *Illinois State Register*, August 19, 1940.

¹⁶⁷ *1881 History*, p. 587.

¹⁶⁸ *Vertical File*, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

Central Academy Re-Opens at Seventh and Edwards Streets

On August 30, 1856, the Central Academy announced in the *Journal* that it would re-open on Monday, September 8, at the Seventh and Edwards site and would receive pupils of both sexes. Tuition was \$20 for a twenty-week session. The newspaper announcement printed below is the last that I have found for a private Springfield school in the period 1819-1860.



Journal Notice That Central Academy Will Re-Open in September¹⁶⁹

German Lutheran School Begins

The German Evangelical Lutheran Church records show a parish school as far back as 1856, shortly after the church was organized.¹⁷⁰

Robert Todd Lincoln Elected to Philomathean Society at Illinois State University

In December 1856, Robert Todd Lincoln was elected a member of the Philomathean Society at the Illinois State University.¹⁷¹

New Years Eve: Citizens Meet to Establish Female Seminary

In the evening of Wednesday, December 31, 1856, a number of citizens in favor of establishing a Female Seminary in Springfield met at the Court House. John T. Stuart is appointed president. Stuart, Lincoln and Mr. McKeever of Pennsylvania spoke, and a general discussion followed. It was then resolved that a committee of one from each ward be appointed to inquire further into the matter.¹⁷²

1857

Abel W. Estabrook Sells Springfield Academy Building on Fifth Street to Joseph Thayer

On July 17, 1857, Abel W. Estabrook sold the Springfield Academy building on the west side of Fifth Street, between Monroe and Market (now Capitol) to Joseph Thayer.¹⁷³

¹⁶⁹ *Journal*, August 30, 1856, p. 2, cl. 4.

¹⁷⁰ *Vertical File Number G-21,259*, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

¹⁷¹ *Evjen*, pp. 62-63.

¹⁷² *Journal*, January 1, 1857, p. 2, cl. 2.

¹⁷³ Sangamon County Recorder of Deeds, Book ZZ, p. 378. Copy in the Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

Springfield's Early Schools
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Two New Public School Buildings Built

Two school houses, for city free schools, one in Second, and one in Fourth ward; built of brick; two stories and basement; each building 45 by 75 feet; planned by T.J. Dennis, built by Armstrong and Conly; are to cost when completed, each \$12,000; already expended about \$15,000 on the two. The brick work was done by J. P. Irwin. They are designed to accommodate about 400 scholars each, and will be a credit and ornament to our city.¹⁷⁴

Second Ward School Constructed on Mason Street

In 1857, construction of the Second Ward School (Trapp School) began on Mason Street between First and Second Streets.

The Second Ward school house is also on Mason street, between First and Second streets. The lot is three hundred and fifty feet fronting on Mason, and one hundred and fifty-seven feet each, on First and Second. The building is of brick, and is three stories high. When completed, its capacity for pupils will be about four hundred. Cost of grounds and improvements, about \$12,000.¹⁷⁵

This old school building which stands decrepit and forlorn, with its windows boarded up and grounds unfenced, and which is now used merely as a warehouse for a tent and awning company, was once one of the largest attended and most popular of the Springfield grade schools. It was also one of the earliest schools of the city, having been completed in the Fall of 1858. Edward L. Clark was its first principal.¹⁷⁶

¹⁷⁴ *1857 Improvements*, p. 8.

¹⁷⁵ *1881 History*, p. 588.

¹⁷⁶ *1881 History*, p. 588. Northeast Corner: 1854 Hart Map. No improvements, but name: "J. Johnson". 1858 Map. Brick-rectangle. Lots 5, 6 and 7, Block 8, Mason's Addition. Photograph in the *Register* of August 19, 1940. It was known as the Second Ward School until 1882, when it was named the Douglas School in honor of Stephen A. Douglas. The school was renamed the Trapp School in 1887, for Dr. Albert H. Trapp, prominent physician here and for several years a member of the Springfield Board of Education. Dr. Trapp declined the honor, but the school name stuck until 1913, when it was officially changed again to the Douglas School. By that time the building had outlived its usefulness and it was soon abandoned, the school site being moved to Walnut and Reynolds Streets, where a new building was erected in 1916. During its approximately 60 years in this building, the old Trapp School had many of the best known teachers in the system. Among the principals held in fond recollection by the many "old grads" of the school were Mr. [Edward L.] Clark, the first incumbent, Lucius Kingsbury, A. J. Smith (later superintendent of schools), Edward Anderson and J. Ed Taylor (later county superintendent of schools).

Fourth Ward School Constructed at Market and Twelfth Streets

In 1857, construction of the Fourth Ward School began at the corner of Market and Twelfth Streets.

The Fourth Ward school house, on the corner of Market and Twelfth streets, is constructed precisely on the same model as that of the Second Ward. The size of the lot is two hundred and forty feet on Market, by one hundred and fifty-seven feet on Twelfth. The expenditure of grounds and improvements, as also the capacity of the house are the same as that of the Second Ward.¹⁷⁷

Building Improvements at Illinois State University

The *Journal* reported on Springfield building improvements made during the year 1857, including this description of the improvements to buildings at Illinois State University.

Improvements on Illinois State University buildings, by H. G. Fitzhugh & Co.; Willard & Zimmerman, painters; McCalley & Bricker plasterers. cost 1,350 dollars.¹⁷⁸

Angle Describes Illinois State University in 1857

In five years the college was fairly well established. An "elegant four story edifice," with the first story of cut stone and the balance of brick, provided class-room facilities for 119 students, thirty-three of whom were taking college courses. Four professors, all ministers, a principal of the grammar school and a steward made up the faculty. The curriculum was exclusively classical. The freshman started with Latin and Greek grammar, Livy, Xenophon, algebra and universal history, and the senior would up on Terence of Plautus, Sophocles, the evidences of Christianity, mineralogy and geology, and a general review. Studies in the Greek Testament, and "English Composition and Declamation," were continued throughout the entire four years. In the college catalogs it all looked very academic and imposing, but local youths like Robert Lincoln and Clinton Conkling, and John Hay, who came from Pittsfield to enter, learned to their disappointment that the combined efforts of four ministers, sincere though they might be, still fell short of the august requirements of Harvard and Yale and Brown.¹⁷⁹

However, Hay was admitted to Brown in September 1855.

¹⁷⁷ 1881 *History*, p. 588.

¹⁷⁸ 1857 *Improvements*, p. 8.

¹⁷⁹ *Here I Have Lived*, pp. 202 and 203.

1858

**Professor Thomas Clarke Offers Church and Seminary Property at
Seventh and Edwards Streets for Sale**

Professor Thomas Clarke did not last long as the principal of his Springfield Central Academy that he began in September of 1855. By July of 1858, he had decided to close the school and sell his "church and seminary property" at the northeast corner of Seventh and Edwards Streets. The advertisement for the sale of the property appeared in the *Illinois State Democrat* of August 11, 1858, and stated the purchase price as \$4,000, \$1,000 or \$500 down and the balance in payments "to suit the purchaser" at 10% interest. The ground alone was said to be worth at least \$1,500.

CITY PROPERTY FOR SALE.
UNPRECEDENTED OFFER!!!
PROFESSOR CLARKE
NOW OFFERS HIS SPLENDID
CHURCH AND SEMINARY PROPERTY,
SITUATED on the corner of
SEVENTH AND EDWARDS' STREET,
FOR
FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS :
\$1,000 or \$500 in hand,
And the balance in payments to suit the purchaser,
AT TEN PER CENT. INTEREST.
The improvements alone are
Worth more than the Money Asked,
And the ground on which they stand is worth at
least
FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS.
A Rare Chance for an Investment!
TITLE PERFECT.
July 28. 1m

Professor Thomas Clarke Offers for Sale the Church and Seminary Property at
Seventh and Edwards Streets¹⁸⁰

¹⁸⁰ *Illinois State Democrat*, August 11, 1858, p. 3.

The Springfield Seminary Opens at Springfield Academy Site on Fifth Street

The trustees of the Springfield Seminary held their first meeting on notification [on September 2, 1858] at the Third Presbyterian church, present, Dr. John G. Bergen, Dr. John Brown, Rev. Albert Hale, Rev. C. P. Jennings, Rev. John F. Brooks, Mr. E. R. Wiley, Mr. John Armstrong, Mr. John E. Owsley, Mr. James Campbell, Mr. J. S. Vrendenburg. The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. Dr. Brown and the board was organized by the choice of the Rev. Albert Hale as president; Rev. C. Jennings, vice-president; John Brooks, secretary; and Colonel John Williams, treasurer.

Resolved, That the executive committee (Officers, John Owsley and J. S. Vredenburg) be directed to proceed immediately to procure the use of a suitable building and to see what arrangements can be made for instructors and what other provision is necessary to open a school without delay and that they report to the board at the next meeting.

They next met on September 9 and the business committee reported "that the Academy building on Fifth street owned by J. Thayer could be obtained as a school for \$400; that Mr. Thayer would make all necessary repairs. They therefore recommended that the building be engaged, and that a salary of \$500 per annum be offered Miss E. C. Bradley as first teacher, \$400 to Miss H. A. Thayer as second teacher, and \$400 to Miss Sophia Chapin as third teacher."¹⁸¹

Second Ward School (Trapp) and Fourth Ward School Opened

Construction of the Second and Fourth Ward Schools continued through the spring and summer of 1858, and on September 20 of that year both opened along with the First and Third Ward Schools. There were 853 pupils and 22 teachers.

In the spring and summer of 1858 buildings for the ward schools were erected in the Second and Fourth Wards, at an expense of \$10,000 each, and on the 20th of September, 1858, free schools were opened in each of the four wards of the city. Twenty-two teachers were employed.¹⁸²

Ursuline Order Buys Building at Sixth and Mason Street for School

In 1858, the Ursuline Order secured a building at the corner of Sixth and Mason Streets which was used as a parochial school and academy until the close of the Civil War.¹⁸³

¹⁸¹ *Springfield News*, August 16, 1902, p. 5c2. *Private Schools Vertical File*, Sangamon Valley Collection, Lincoln Library, Springfield, Illinois.

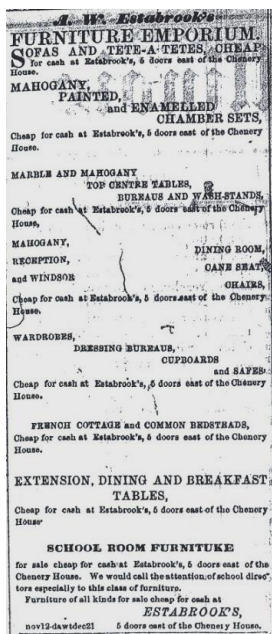
¹⁸² *1881 History*, p. 587.

¹⁸³ *Here I Have Lived*, p. 199.

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Abel W. Estabrook Opens Furniture Store

By November of 1858, Abel W. Estabrook had opened a furniture store on the north side of Washington Street, between Fourth and Fifth Streets. Ironically, he was selling school room furniture. Perhaps the furniture came from his Academy.



Abel W. Estabrook's Advertisement for His Furniture Emporium

1859

First Public Colored School Opened at Fifteenth and Madison Streets

On January 10, 1859, a separate public school for colored children opened at Fifteenth and Madison Streets in what was known as the "Cottage District." Thomas York was the teacher and principal.¹⁸⁴

The authentic record show that our first [public] colored school was established in the Cottage Garden district on North 15th St. just north of Madison St. It was built in 1859 and its corps of teachers included Prof. [Thomas] York, (1859 to 1867). The old building, a silent monument of an ancient dispensation has resisted the ravages of time and still [1926] stands in its original location.¹⁸⁵

¹⁸⁴ *Here I Have Lived*, p. 201.

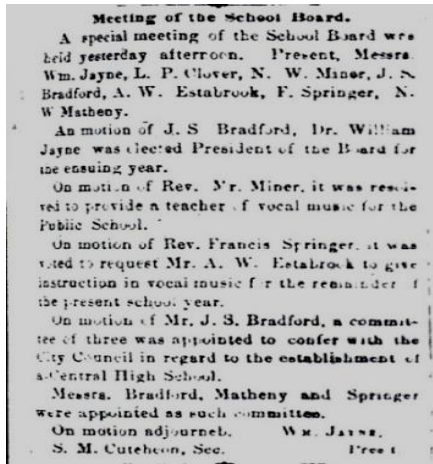
¹⁸⁵ *History of the Colored People of Sangamon County*, an inclusion in the 1926 "Directory of Sangamon County's Colored Citizens," W. T. Casey.

High School at Springfield Academy Building and Springfield Colored School on North Fourth Street

The High School occupied a building on Fifth street, between Monroe and Market [the old Springfield Academy], while the colored children were compelled to attend school in a shanty in the rear of the African church, on North Fourth street. This African school was established the year previous [1859], under Mr. Cutcheon's administration. Says Superintendent Springer of it in his first report: "Humble as it is, the school it contains has furnished the most satisfactory evidence of the capacity and aptitude of the colored children to acquire the rudiments of a good education. In rapidity of advancement and propriety of behavior, these youthful descendants of the African race compare very advantageously with the more favored children of Caucasian blood"¹⁸⁶

Springfield School Board Meets and Appoints Committee to Establish Central High School

On April 22, 1859, a special meeting of the Springfield School Board was held. Present were William Jayne, L. P. Clover, N. W. Miner, J. N. Bradford, Francis Springer and Noah W. Matheny. Dr. William Jayne was elected President for the ensuing year. The Board authorized a music teacher, A. W. Estabrook was requested to teach vocal music for the remainder of the school year, and a committee of three, Bradford, Matheny and Springer, were appointed to confer with the City Council with regard to establishing a central High School.



Journal Report of Special Meeting
of School Board¹⁸⁷

¹⁸⁶ 1881 History, p. 588.

¹⁸⁷ *Journal*, April 23, 1859 p. 3, cl. 1.

Robert Todd Lincoln Leaves Springfield for Phillips Exeter Academy and Harvard

Robert Todd Lincoln completed his courses at Illinois State University in the spring of 1859. In the late summer of 1859, Robert traveled east to Cambridge, Massachusetts where he took and failed the Harvard entrance examinations.

Rarely did the sons of even Springfield's wealthiest families venture across the prairies to eastern universities. Among Robert's contemporaries only a handful did so. Ninian Edwards sent his oldest son to Yale, where Clinton Conkling, Merece's son, and Vergie Hicks [Hickox] went as well. (Later, when Vergie ended up in the state insane asylum, Springfield blamed college life at Yale.) John Hay, Lincoln's secretary in the White House and a future secretary of state, went to Brown, and two other sons of Springfield attended, though did not graduate from, Union College in Schenectady, New York. So it was highly unusual when in the summer of 1859 sixteen-year-old Robert left for Harvard, where he failed fifteen of his sixteen entrance exams and needed a postgraduate year at Phillips Exeter Academy before his admission in 1860.¹⁸⁸

1860

Public Schools Open on September 10th

On June 20, 1860, the *Journal* reported that the School Board had met in a Special Meeting and that Francis Springer had been elected Superintendant for the ensuing year. For the first time, the four ward elementary schools, the high school and the "colored" school were all ready to open at the end of the summer vacation on September 10, 1860. Teachers and principals were named for the six schools and committees for each school, other than the "colored" school, were named to conduct the annual examinations "next week." Abel W. Estabrook was named Principal of the First Ward School (Palmer).

¹⁸⁸ Baker, p. 123.

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Public Schools.
OFFICE OF SCHOOL BOARD, }
SPRINGFIELD, June 19, 1860. }

A special meeting of the School Board, was held to-day, all the members being present.

The committee on examination of teachers having reported, the Board proceeded to the election of teachers for the ensuing year, with the following result:

Francis Springer, Superintendent.

First Ward School—A. W. Estabrook, Principal. Anna G. Roberts, Francis Cassatt, F. L. Babcock, Nora J. O'Leary, Fliza McManus.

Second Ward School—E. L. Clark, Principal. Mary J. Jennings, Martha K. Noyes, Margarette Morris, Mary E. Lewis.

Third Ward School—W. Burgett, Principal. Mary P. Barrows, Jane E. Chapin, Anna McCrillis, Mary E. Hughes, Amelia Wiley.

Fourth Ward School.—A. M. Brooks, Principal. A. M. Eastman, S. F. Bennett, S. J. Higby, Jane A. Roberts, Fanny Wiley.

Central High School.—George M. Tourtellot, Principal. Sophie Chapin, Sarah P. White.

Colored School.—Thomas York.

The following committees were appointed for the annual examinations to take place next week.

First Ward.—P. P. Enos, Chairman. Rev. Francis Springer, Rev. B. C. Suesscrodt, E. B. Hawley, R. J. Coats.

Second Ward.—G. A. Sutton, Chairman.—Wm. Jayne, M.D., Rev. A. J. Kane, Wm. H. Herndon, Z. Enos.

Third Ward.—Rev. L. P. Clover, Chairman. N. W. Matheny, W. H. Bailhache, Rev. J. F. Brooks, S. B. Moody.

Fourth Ward.—Rev. N. W. Miner, Chairman, Rev. J. H. Brown, C. S. Shelton, M.D., I. S. Britton, A. M. Gregory.

Central High School.—J. S. Bradford, Chairman, Rev. Albert Hale, C. H. Lanphier, Rev. James Leaton, Alex. Pollock, M.D.

On motion, it was voted to extend the summer vacation to September 10th.

*Journal Report of June 19, 1860 School Board Meeting*¹⁸⁹

Abraham Lincoln Becomes Trustee of Illinois State University

On June 28, 1860, Abraham Lincoln became a member of the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University. The minutes of the board read as follows: "Abraham Lincoln was elected for a term of one year to fill the unexpired term of Rev. R. Dodge."¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁹ *Journal*, June 20, 1860, p. 3, cl. 3.

¹⁹⁰ *Illinois State University*, p. 75. *Illinois State Journal*, July 3, 1860. *Williams' Springfield Directory, City Guide, and Business Mirror, for 1860-61*, 1860, p. 39. *Minutes*, Carthage College, Carthage, Illinois.

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Faculty and Students at Illinois State University

The Faculty and students at Illinois State University were listed in the
1860 Springfield City Directory.

Faculty:

Reynolds, William M., Dr.
President of Illinois State University
Lutheran Clergyman: English Lutheran Church: pastor.
northwest corner of 11th and Madison (Mason)
1860 census, p. 140 (Penn.)(48).
Croll, Luther H., Professor of Mathematics.
boards Harrison G. Fitzhugh's.
Suesserott, Benjamin C., Professor
residence northwest corner of Mason and 8th.
1860 census, p. 201 (Penn.)(27)
1860 C.D. Principal of Springfield Female Seminary
north side of Mason, opposite 8th

Students:

Bertzen, S. boards at University.	Jacobson, Abraham boards west side of 5th, between Washington and Adams.
Carnell, S. P.	
Clark, William T.	Jenson, Isaac
Cook, J. J.	Johnson, Amon
Dodds, Alexander R.	Kossenbader, E.
boards west side of 5th, between Washington and Adams.	Larson, S. G.
Easterday, F. R.	Lipe, W. A.
Easterday, L. F.	Mahard, William
Eichaltz, C. S.	McCoy, T. H.
Esping, S. P.	Musser, J.
Gotterman, John	Olsen, George
Harcher, John	Pherson, John
Headly (Hedly), J. N.	Rape, John C.
1860 census, p. 191 (Ill.)(18).	Schmitt, W. A.
southwest corner of Edwards and College.	Schnur, J. P.
Holland, B.	Schnur, G. H.
Hologue, T.	Sunison, O.
	Wible, Frank

Lincoln Writes to George Latham: Harvard Turn Down

On July 22, 1860, Abraham Lincoln wrote to George Latham about
his failure to be admitted to Harvard.

My dear George Springfield, Ills. July 22. 1860.

I have scarcely felt greater pain in my life than on learning
yesterday from Bob's letter, that you had failed to enter
Harvard University. And yet there is very little in it, if you
will allow no feeling of *discouragement* to seize, and prey
upon you. It is a *certain* truth, that you *can* enter, and

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graduate in, Harvard University; and having made the attempt, you *must* succeed in it. "Must" is the word.

I know not how to aid you, save in the assurance of one of mature age, and much severe experience, that you *can not* fail, if you resolutely determine, that you *will not*.

The President of the institution, can scarcely be other than a kind man; and doubtless he would grant you an interview, and point out the readiest way to remove, or overcome, the obstacles which have thwarted you.

In your temporary failure there is no evidence that you may not yet be a better scholar, and a more successful man in the great struggle of life, than many others, who have entered college more easily.

Again I say let no feeling of discouragement prey upon you, and in the end you are sure to succeed.

With more than a common interest I subscribe myself Very truly your friend,

A. Lincoln.¹⁹¹

Mary A. Corcoran Teaches

The 1860 *Springfield City Directory* lists Mary A. Corcoran as a teacher.

1861

**Abraham Lincoln Leaves Illinois State University Scholarship
Certificate With Robert Irwin**

February 9?, 1861

Abraham Lincoln leaves with the under-signed for safe keeping, and to receive interest, the following papers—....
One certificate of Scholarship in Illinois State University.
Robert Irwin.¹⁹²

¹⁹¹ *Collected Works*, Vol. IV, p. 87.

¹⁹² *Collected Works*, Vol. IV, p. 189.

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Alphabetical Listing of Teachers

Allard, Mr.	Cowardin, Mary J.	Sheldon, V. M. Mr.
Anderson, Mrs.	Dayton, R. E.	Sill, S. M.
Barry, Michael	Estabrook, Abel W.	Springer, Francis
Barwick, J. S., Rev.	Graves, L.	Starley, R., Miss
Benedict, S. E., Miss	Green, Miletus	Sym, Anna M., Miss
Bergen, Jane E.	Hatch, W. T.	Sym, William, Rev.
Bradley, E. C., Miss	Hill, Miss	Thayer, Hester
Brigaam, H. D.	Hutchins, Miss	Torrey, Miss
Brooks, John F.	Kimball, Mr.	Towne, H. D.
Burr, Albert G.	Kirk, A., Miss	Triplett, J. H.
Calhoun, John	Lanphear, A. H., Mr.	Triplett, M. E.
Capps, Jabes (John)	Lee, Mrs.	Wadley, Mr.
Chapin, A., Miss	Mendenhall, William	Waters, John
Chapin, Jane E.	Moffitt, Thomas	Wiley, S. Ruckel
Chapin, Sophia	Olin, G. Miss	Williams, Caleb
Chase, Mr.	Orr, Andrew	Wofle, James H.
Clark, Edward L.	Parks, Beaumont	Wright, Erastus
Clarke, Thomas, Professor	Parks, Ossian	York, Thomas, Prof.
Cook, Ms.	Pollock, Alexander	
Corcoran, Mary A., Miss	Pollock, Sarah	
	Sheldon, Mrs.	

Alphabetical Listing of Schools

Brick School	Seminary for Young Ladies at the Academy
Central Academy	Springfield Academy
Colored School	Springfield Central Academy
Female Seminary	Springfield City School
Halcyon Seminary	Springfield Female School
Illinois State University	Springfield High School
Old School House	Springfield Mechanics' Union
Sangamo Female Seminary	Springfield Seminary
Sangamon Female Academy	Ward Schools: First, Second, Third, Fourth
School for Young Ladies	Willow Grove Seminary
Select School For Young Ladies	

Springfield's Early Schools
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Chronological Listing of Schools

1819	Jabez (John) Capps, teacher
1821	Andrew Orr
1824	William Mendenhall
1825	Erastus Wright
1826	Thomas Moffitt, teacher Mr. How, teacher
1828	log school at 2 nd and Adams
1829	Jane Eliza Bergen's school John B. Watson's school, 6 th & Adams
1830	John B. Calhoun's school
1831	Jonathan Wadley's School Room
1832	Mary J. Cowardin's English Female School
1834	Mr. Clark's school John B. Watson's school Miss A. Chapin's School For Young Ladies Springfield Academy, James H. Wofle, Principal
1836	Samuel Chase's school
1837	Springfield High School Springfield Seminary
1838	R. Ruckel Wiley's Halcyon Seminary W. T. Hatch's Select School Mrs. V. M. Sheldon's School for Young Ladies John Waters Caleb Williams
1839	Rev. Francis Springer's English and Classical School Springfield Academy Mrs. Lee Rev. Francis Springer's English and Classical School
1840	Springfield Female School, J. H. and M. E. Triplett Beaumont Parks
1842	Springfield Seminary, opened by Samuel A. Allard and George Kimball; Abel W. Estabrook begins teaching at Springfield Academy, Mechanics' Union opens
1843	School For Young Ladies, opened by Rev. John F. Brooks Select School For Young Ladies, opened by Mrs. Sheldon
1844	Seminary For Young Ladies at the Academy, opened by Mrs. Anderson School For Young Ladies, opened by Miss Olin Select School for Young Ladies, opened by Mr. Shelton School For Girls, opened by Rev. John F. Brooks Springfield Academy: Springfield City School, Springfield Mechanic's Union School
1845	Springfield City School, opens under patronage of Springfield Mechanic's Union
1849	Albert G. Burr's Brick School Female Seminary, opened by Rev. John F. Brooks at 5 th and Edwards
1850	Springfield Academy, Abel W. Estabrook opens School at; Robert Lincoln attended for three years Colored School Ossian Parks' School House First Presbyterian Church establishes school
1852	Illinois State University, opens in Mechanics' Union Building
1853	Central Academy, opens at 7 th and Edwards Sangamon Female Academy (Seminary), Abel W. Estabrook buys Springfield Academy building and opens
1854	Robert Todd Lincoln attends Illinois State University in Old Mechanics' Union Building
1855	Willow Grove Seminary Springfield Central Academy, Thomas Clarke buys 7 th and Edwards and opens
1856	First and Third Ward Schools open Female Seminary, citizens meet to establish German Lutheran School opens

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- 1858** Second and Fourth Ward Schools open
Ursuline Order buys building at 6th and Mason Street for school
Springfield Seminary, opens at Springfield Academy site
- 1859** First Public Colored School
High School

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School Year	First School	Jane Bergen's
1823-24	Andrew Orr	
1824-25	Andrew Orr William Mendenhall	
1825-26	Erastus Wright William Mendenhall	
1826-27	Thomas Moffitt	
1827-28	Thomas Moffitt	
1828-29	Thomas Moffitt	
1829-30		Jane Bergen Opens
1830-31		Bergen
1831-32		Bergen
1832-33		
1833-34		
1834-35		Clark
1835-36		Clark
1836-37		Clark Chase
1837-38		Chase

School Year	Springfield Academy West Side of 5 th between Monroe & Capitol	Francis Springer House 8 th & Jackson	Brooks Residence 5 th between Edwards & Cook	Mechanics Union 3 rd near Washington	Springfield Central Academy 7 th & Edwards	Illinois State University
1834-35	James H. Wofle, principal					
1835-36						
1836-37						
1839-40	Chartered, opens, buys property; Town & Sills	Springer opens				
1840-43	Brooks, heads	Springer		Chartered; Postpone plans		
1841-42	Brooks, heads	Springer		Fail to raise funds to build school		
1842-43	Brooks, heads; Mr. Kimball; Estabrook	Springer		Buys old 1 st Presbyterian Church		
1843-44	Brooks resigns; Mr. Allard; Mr. Kimball	Springer	Brooks			
1844-45	Springer heads; Mrs. Anderson; Mr. Sheldon	Miss G. Olin	Brooks	Springer		
1845-46	Springer heads		Brooks	Patron of Springfield City School		
1846-47	Springer heads					

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1847-48	Springer moves to Hillsboro; Estabrook heads; H. D. Brigaam					
1848-49	Estabrook heads					
1849-50	Estabrook heads	Springer sells house	Female Seminary opens at			
1850-51	Estabrook heads		Female Seminary		2 nd Charge M. E. Church Buys	
1851-52	Estabrook heads		Female Seminary			
1852-53	Estabrook heads; R. Lincoln attends		Female Seminary Closes	Illinois State University opens at	Opens	opens at Mechanic's Union; Springer President
1853-54	Estabrook buys property; R. Lincoln attends; Mr. Kimball Sangamo Female Academy				R. Andrus & J. S. Barwick open in 2 nd Charge M. E. Church; Trustees buy	at Mechanic's Union
1854-55	Estabrook heads; Sangamo Female Academy				Miletus Green	at new building; R. Lincoln attends; Springer resigns as head
1855-56	Estabrook heads; Sangamo Female Academy				Thomas Clarke (Buys and teaches)	R. Lincoln attends
1856-57						R. Lincoln attends
1857-58						
1858-59						
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1860-61						A. Lincoln trustee

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