Iowa Institution for the Deaf and Dumb

Benjamin Talbot
His Brigade Commander (General Matthias,) passing along the charging line and witnessing his novel method of "approaching the enemy" and admiring the soldierly spirit which prompted it, often afterward took occasion when meeting him in the presence of others, to narrate this "pursuit of duty under difficulties,"—fierce from without and feeble from within—with ample embellishments, especially of that portion about his "charging the enemy on all fours," much to the confusion of the modest veteran who could stand the assaults of rebel soldiers with more calmness than these flattering notices of his commanding general.

Captain Shepherd is an old resident of Iowa City.

STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF IOWA.

IOWA INSTITUTION FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

BY PROF. BENJAMIN TALBOT, SUPT.

Our State Institution for the Deaf and Dumb is entitled to some notice in the pages of the "ANNALS," and the following sketch has been prepared for the information of its readers.

The Institution was first opened about the middle of November 1854, by Mr. W. E. Ijams, who had been a teacher in the Illinois Institution at Jacksonville. Previous to that time the Iowa Legislature had appropriated a certain sum for the education of each deaf mute in the State, at first $50, and afterwards $100 per annum. With this help a few of the deaf and dumb (not to exceed ten,) had been sent to school in the Institutions of Illinois and Wisconsin.

Mr. Ijams opened the school in Iowa City as a private enterprise, being encouraged to hope that the next General
Assembly would make it a State Institution, which hope was realized in January 1855, an act to that effect being approved January 24th, and becoming valid by publication January 31st. The Institution was duly organized and opened as a State Institution on the 3d of February, with Mr. Ijams as principal, and his mother Mrs. M. A. Ijams, as matron.

Twenty pupils were admitted at the start, to be educated at the expense of the State. The attendance more than doubled in the course of the first two years. Forty-four were present at the date of the first biennial report, Dec. 3, 1856. Since that time the number of pupils has gradually increased, so that during the last school year, which closed in June, seventy-five were in attendance.

The first appropriations for the Institution were $5,000 a year. Subsequently the Legislature granted $7,000 and $8,000 a year, according to the supposed exigencies of the Institution and the financial condition of the State. In 1862 a more equitable arrangement was adopted, making the amount of the appropriation depend on the number of pupils in attendance. The law passed in that year gave the Institution $3,000 per annum for general expenses, whose amount could be foreseen, such as salaries, rents, &c.; and in addition to this, $25 per quarter for each pupil. These rates being found insufficient for the proper support of the school, were raised in 1864 to $4,000 per annum for the general expenses, and $30 per quarter for each pupil. The yearly cost of the Institution, with the present number of pupils, is therefore about $12,000.

The results thus far achieved by the Institution are to be found in whatever good has been gained here by its pupils. One hundred and ninety-seven in all have been connected with the school thus far, for longer or shorter periods. Their attainments depend of course very much upon their native ability and their application to study. They compare favorably with those of like pupils in other institutions, and of many who have enjoyed only the education afforded by the common schools of the State. A smart pupil who has im-
proved the advantages afforded here is able at the end of the course to read intelligently common books and papers, and has acquired in other respects sufficient education to fit him for the transaction of ordinary business. Geographical, historical, political, moral and religious knowledge, each and all are duly imparted to the pupils that they may be fitted to take their places in society, from which if uneducated, they would of necessity be excluded. Those, who make good use of their privileges, become respectable and useful members of society.

The act creating the Institution located it at the Capital of the State, then Iowa City, where it has remained since the removal of the Capital to Des Moines, but no buildings were provided for it, and the school has been kept in such quarters as could be hired for the purpose. The Institution now occupies its fourth set of premises, (having been three times removed to gain larger accommodations,) cornering upon the grounds of the State University, in a pleasant and healthy part of the city, but with many inconveniences and disadvantages. The want of suitable buildings has been a constant drawback on the efficiency of the Institution, and the Eleventh General Assembly took a step forward in 1866 by the passage of an act locating it at Council Bluffs, and appointing commissioners to procure a site and plans for buildings, with estimates and contracts for the same, subject to the approval of the next legislature. The wisdom of the location on the western border of the State may well be questioned, but the urgent necessity of suitable buildings cannot be, and it is earnestly to be hoped that the coming Assembly will take prompt and decisive action in favor of their immediate erection. Our noble Iowa should no longer remain so far behind her neighboring sisters, all of whom, excepting Nebraska, have large and commodious buildings for their deaf and dumb. May the legislature decide that our deaf mutes shall no longer lack this boon.

OFFICERS OF THE INSTITUTION.

[The law establishing the Institution makes the Governor,
Secretary of State and Superintendent of Public Instruction, members of the Board of Trustees, ex-officio. The Principal, for the time being, is also a Trustee.]

TRUSTEES.

APPOINTED. RETIRED.

William Penn Clarke.............................1855 1860
John C. Culbertson.............................1855 1858
Rev. F. A. Shearer.............................1855 1860
William Crum.................................1855 1860
J. P. Wood.....................................1858 1865
Henry Murray, M. D............................1860 1863
Thomas J. Cox.................................1860 1864
H. D. Downey.................................1860 1861
George H. Jerome..............................1861 1866
N. H. Brainerd................................1863
Thomas M. Banbury............................1864
J. Howard Branch......................1866 1867
M. B. Cochran, M. D..........................1866
Thomas J. Cox.................................1867

PRINCIPALS.

APPOINTED. RETIRED.

William E. Ijams...............................1855 1863
Benjamin Talbot................................1863

TEACHERS.

Perry Barnes.................................1855 1858
DeWitt Tousley................................1856 and 1859 1858 and 1860
Edwin Southwick..............................1858
J. H. H. Ijams.................................1858 1863
Sue McClure, (now Mrs. Zorbaugh,) 1858 & 1863 1859 and 1866
Mrs. W. E. Ijams..............................1862 1863
Dana F. Stone.................................1862
Conrad S. Zorbaugh............................1865
Ellen J. Israel................................1866
Lou J. Hawkins, (now Mrs. Turton,).........1866
Henry A. Turton..............................1866

MATRONS.

Mrs. M. A. Ijams...............................1855 1863
Mrs. Mary B. Swan............................1863
ASSISTANT MATRONS.

Mrs. C. E. Stone..............................................1863 1865
Mrs. Mary M. Askew.................................................1865

PHYSICIANS.

Henry Murray, M. D..............................................1855 1856
M. B. Cochran, M. D..............................................1859 1861
T. S. Mahan, M. D..............................................1861

IOWA INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.—LOCATED AT VINTON, BENTON COUNTY.

Number of Students in attendance during the present year, 40.

Number who having finished their educational course, and from other causes, have taken leave of the institution since the biennial report of the trustees in 1865, 69.

OFFICERS AND TEACHERS.

Trustees—James McQuinn, President; Rev. James L. Geddes, Secretary, vice Rev. Reed Wilson; James Chapen, Esq., Treasurer; Hon. C. H. Conklin, vice Robert Gilchrist; Hon. Elijah Sells; Joseph Dysart, Esq.


Assistant Teachers—Miss Jennie Wilson, vice Mrs. L. S. B. Wilkinson; Miss Eliza Kedor, vice Miss Amelia Butler.

Teacher of Music—Prof. S. H. Price, vice Jacob Niermeyer, Mrs. Jose. P. Cisna.

Teacher of Mechanics—John Cisna.

Teacher of Bead Work, etc.—Miss A. M. Ritgers.

Matron—Mrs. N. A. Morton.

Steward—, vice T. W. Perkins.

Physician—W. Meredith, M. D. vice W. P. Lathrop, M. D.

Extract from the report of the Trustees in 1865:

"NOTICE TO APPLICANTS.—This school is strictly educational and not for the treatment of disease. The annual term commences the first Wednesday in September, and closes the fourth Wednesday in June, giving July and Au-
gust as a vacation, in which the pupils may visit their homes and friends.

"Scholars from Iowa of a suitable age and capacity for education, and who conform to the regulations of the institution, will receive their boarding and instruction at the expense of the institution. Their friends will be expected to furnish them with a competent supply of clothing and to be at the expense of their traveling to and from the institution.

"Pupils may be admitted from other States upon payment of $170 per annum.

"Applications should be addressed to the Principal, [James L. Geddes,] Vinton, Benton Co. Iowa, and should contain answers to the following questions:

"1st. What is the name, age, residence, nativity and cause of blindness of the applicant? Who is the nearest friend and to what Post Office should the reply be sent?

"2d. Is the applicant of sound mind, free from contagious diseases, and of sufficient physical strength to receive an education?

"3d. Is he or she totally blind? If not is the degree of blindness such as to prevent the acquirement of an education in a school for the seeing?

"4th. How has the applicant been heretofore employed? What instruction has he or she received, and at what age did he or she become blind?

"5th. Who will provide clothing for the applicant and take charge of him or her during vacation?

"Upon proper answers to the foregoing questions, parties interested will be notified as to the result of the application."

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY.

BY THE EDITOR.

The Fall Term of this institution has opened under very favorable auspices. The Faculty has been increased by the addition of Prof. S. N. Fellows, who takes charge of the Normal Department; and Prof. Charles A. White, the present very efficient State Geologist, who takes charge of the class
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