

Chapter 8 Samuel Wilson

Samuel Wilson¹ and his wife Sally Nesmith were descendants of the Pilgrims who settled in 1719 in Londonderry, New Hampshire. After thirteen years of farming, operating a sawmill and working flax in the winter, the family decided to move from the poor soil and long winters of New Hampshire to that of Cincinnati at the urging of their father's brother, David. He told them of the fertile land and mild climate and offered his assistance once they arrived. David built the first brick house in Cincinnati and owned the first carriage. Sally N. Wilson wrote in her diary; "...I think we had about \$1,100 with which to start west and this had dwindled to \$800 before we were again settled in Ohio. The friends and relatives left behind looked upon our removal as suicidal. The impression of old and young was that Ohio was beyond civilization."

They moved to Cincinnati in 1828. It took 50 days to make the trip, traveling by 2 two-horse wagons to Troy, New York, going by canal to Buffalo, New York. Then a steamer took them to Dunkirk. At Jamestown they had a flatboat built, 40 feet long for \$40. It held all of their goods as well as a crop of hops belonging to their uncle, John Wilson. At Pittsburgh the flatboat was sold and they boarded the steamer *Talisman* for Cincinnati. From the diary; "We had deck passage, cooking for ourselves and sleeping on the floor..." They first settled in Columbia. The boys cut wood, Samuel building them a house and farming, Sally sewing for "... Old Platt Evans, the leading merchant tailor in Cincinnati which then contained about 25,000 souls." Margaret made comforters for the family and for sale. After a few years they decided to move. "Glad we were to leave Columbia where society was low and a grog shop at our very door."

They purchased a farm in 1831 for \$1800 from the estate of the Rhodes family of Sycamore Township, two miles from Reading, Ohio.

"The farm contained 166 acres of which 65 had been cleared yet the berry-bushes and willows had resubjugated much of the clearing. The fences were in a state of extreme dilapidation not a gate or bar-post on the farm - no meadows - no orchard except a few abused peach trees. There was a double log cabin one part 11 years old and the other 8 - a log stable and a cooper shop. Farming utensils had to be provided new. We had two horses, a yoke of oxen, wagon and ox-cart, three cows, some twenty sheep and a few swine. Theophilus and self could plow and Jesse was forward and sharp at some kinds of work but as yet only nine years old. We had a hired man for five months at eight and a half dollars a month, and besides hired some rails made. We had a share of the corn crop of 1830 - the corn being in rail pens in the husks. The husks were useful furnishing food for the stock till the grass started. The name Yankee was then a terror and father could not get trusted for a hundred weight of hay from our neighbors. We made mats and mattress material from the husks and sold a good many dollars worth of them that spring in Cincinnati. That summer the creek swept off our fences five times wasting the corn and making us a world of extra labor. In June, I think it was, that when going to a mill on horseback with Theophilus one morning, a stage coach ran over the horse I was riding, crushing one of her legs so badly that she had to be killed on the spot. A few days after one of the oxen, which had been bitten by a mad-dog, died! Thus we were left with one horse but no team to haul in the hay we were just then cutting...That spring we lived plain. Our potatoes had failed the year before. Corn baked, boiled or fried made up much of the food...Our roofs were so bad that I remember once at least crawling under the bed to keep dry...We had fifteen acres of oats and we reaped them all cutting close to the ground for the straw..."

They decided to move to College Hill to be close to Farmers' College, where several of their children attended and taught in. The Wilsons bought land from Freeman Cary for \$1,200 that already had a three room cabin on it.

In 1849 the Wilsons built a new house that incorporated the original cabin. This house is still standing at 1502 Aster Place. It was once topped with a widow's walk that was destroyed by the 1870 tornado. Repair work on the house years ago revealed that the beams and uprights are made of black

¹ Source: John O'Neil

walnut that still has traces of the bark left. It remained in the Wilson family until 1926, when it was purchased by the O'Neil family that still occupies the house today. The last Wilson to live there was 'Miss Harriet' who taught and was the principal of the *Pig Eye* College Hill school. She started teaching in 1841 at the Findley Street school which was outside the city limits of Cincinnati at that time. She taught in College Hill from 1860-1871. Harriet was the author of a letter to Professor Siebert on the activities of the Underground Railroad.

The Wilsons were Presbyterians and left Reading because of opposition to their strong anti-slavery beliefs. Their children were abolitionists and one son, Jesse, died in the Civil War. The Wilsons were prominent educators, several teaching locally at Farmers' College and the Ohio Female College. Joseph A. Wilson taught ancient languages and literature, Rev. J. H. Wilson taught ancient languages and agricultural chemistry, John M. Wilson taught practical agriculture and Mrs. Mary Jane Pyle taught botany and geography.

David Wilson cast the first abolitionist ballot in Ohio. Their friends included the Beechers and the Stowes as well as others in the abolition movement. Harriet Wilson's letter reveals just how involved was their family and College Hill in the abolitionist movement. She was a teacher in her brother David's downtown school, commuting via omnibus to College Hill on the weekends. Prior to her trips home, Harriet was given the number of slaves on route to College Hill so that the 'stations' were ready for their arrival.

Mary Jane Pyle was a humanitarian as well as a teacher. She was known for her kindness. In her memorial program Jan. 3, 1888 she was eulogized by Mrs. Arthur H. Pounsford of College Hill who related this incident: One case there was of a poor but respectable colored family who before the war had escaped from slavery with shattered health; one young girl soon dying with quick consumption. Mrs. Pyle carried clothes and dressed her for the grave. When the plain coffin was to be carried there were not men to assist the driver, so she lent a hand, and under a burning August sun walked some distance with the heavy burden..

The house originally stood on four acres, with the home facing Hamilton Avenue. This was long before there was a side street that was first named Tacoma, and later renamed Aster Place. The barn that sheltered sleeping slaves is gone and the land subdivided. The two-story Greek Revival style house is now covered with green siding and the dirt floored basement is gone but the cabin timbers can still be seen as well as the hand hewn lintels and door frames.

Members of the Wilson family referred to in the Siebert letter (Chapter 14) are: Theophilus - lived in Indiana and was a state senate representative for Jay County, David Morrison - attended Farmers' College, Lane Seminary and was ordained at College Hill by the Presbytery of Cincinnati in 1847. (On that same afternoon he was married to Emeline Biddle Tomlinson of Mt. Healthy. They served abroad as missionaries for many years); Jesse Parsons - died during the Civil War; Mary Jane - married Rev. George W. Pyle. Mrs. Pyle was a teacher for most of her life and was a teacher for 20 years at the Ohio Female College; Harriet Nesmith - lived ninety-five years; Joseph Gardner - attended Farmers' College and later was a teacher there, relocated to Oregon to practice law and became a State Prosecuting Attorney, Clerk of the Supreme Court, served as Circuit Judge, Judge of the Oregon Supreme Court and a U. S. Congressman from Oregon.

Harriet Wilson's description of these times might not have been written but for the efforts of Professor Wilbur H. Siebert of Ohio State University. He aroused the interest of his history students regarding the Underground Railroad and that some of them were descendants of abolitionists. Siebert collected names and addresses, sent questionnaires about Underground experiences to parents and grandparents. He started his research in 1891 by grouping replies by counties and, using his vacations, traveled through Ohio counties, one east-and-west tier after another, collecting data and talking to old residents, discovering abolitionist centers and escape routes.

The Wilson House is an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture. The house's main wing exhibits a symmetrical three bay front facade that is distinguished by a large Doric portico. Its slightly recessed entrance is enhanced by a four pane transom and three pane sidelights. All four corners of the main wing are delineated by wide Doric pilasters while a deep frieze panel accentuates the simple

entrance. Basement beams are hand hewn and retain some of the original bark.

Attached to the rear of the main house is a simple two story wing built ca 1827-1831. It is possible that this wing may be part of the original farmhouse. When Samuel Wilson purchased the four acre tract in February, 1849, the deed description included “a house in which another lives.”

Sally Nesmith Wilson’s journal contains the following entry: “April 21, 1849 J. P. (her brother, Jesse Parsons Wilson) hauls the first load of lumber for new house at College Hill. June 29 new house raised. August 20 our family moves into new house.”

The house retains its original slate roof, chestnut flooring of random width pegged boards, and two pass-through cupboards. The house stayed in the Wilson family until 1926 when it was purchased by the O’Neil family. When they purchased the house, they were requested to give a home to and keep for the rest of her life Christine Gramm, who was a servant that the Wilsons considered a part of the family. Christine died in 1932 and is buried in the Wilson plot in Spring Grove Cemetery. Jack O’Neil, the last owner, passed away in Oct. 2005. His house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2000 through the research and kindness of Mary Ann Olding.



Harriet Wilson

Chapter 9 Danforth Witherby

Danforth Witherby was a Methodist minister who rode a circuit from Oxford, Ohio south into Hamilton County. On his travels down old Colerain Pike he saw the beauty and fertile soil of the College Hill area. In 1799 he bought fifty acres north and an additional fifty acres south of Colerain Pike (Belmont Avenue). By 1801 he had constructed a one and a half story log cabin with trees he cleared from his own land, which extended to Kirby Road. His family, sons Oliver, Luther, and Thomas Branch, joined him in 1802. The cabin “had a low ceilinged room, a bare seven feet high, is approximately sixteen feet square. It had three doors, east, west, and north, and four windows. In the middle of the south wall is the brick chimney...Great beams, eight inches square, were used...Here you see the neat dovetailing an the whittled pegs that served instead of spikes or bolts. The black walnut floor is still well preserved.”² Since he had to carry water uphill from his well, he decided to move closer to his water. This well was so reliable that it always remained clean and never failed during droughts. The College Hill area is atop a large aquifer which accounts for its original multitude of lakes.

He moved his cabin 1,000 feet, rotating it to face west. In 1839 he built a two-story brick north addition, with an inside stairway leading to the upper floor. The cabin was then covered by cement. A small kitchen and thirty foot dining room were added to accommodate the men that needed to be fed during threshing season. At this time the cabin belonged to his son Thomas Branch.

“There were broad fireplaces in the east parlor and the room above...The fire in the cabin room ... was never allowed to go out from the first frost until the end of the winter season, the great green backlog dragged by horses from the woods in the rear of the property...”³

Not relying on preaching alone, Danforth was a cooper during the winter months; making staves, lard kegs and pork barrels, and in 1839 a kiln to fire brick was added on his property. In the other seasons he was a farmer.

He and Aaron Burdsall preached on alternating Sundays in the school house. In Mt. Pleasant (Mt. Healthy) a plain brick church was built that was shared by all denominations until the various faiths became large enough, and wealthy enough, to build their own individual churches.

A contract dated February 1, 1835, shows his output. “One thousand kegs to be 1-inch cut head and 16-inch worked staves, and to be made out of Good Seasoned white oak staves and heads, and in the best workmanship manner at forty cents a keg.”

Danforth left College Hill for Oxford and Miami University. He, several of his children, and his second wife Lydia Yillet, are buried at Oxford.

Luther and two of his sons are buried in Gard Cemetery. Luther married Juliana Brown, daughter of Ephraim Brown and Eunice Gard, and they had nine children.

Oliver became a lawyer, going west for the 1849 gold rush. In San Diego, California he started a law practice and became a respected judge and was the president of the Consolidated Bank of San Diego.

By 1830 Thomas Branch (‘Branch’) Witherby “... was married, having brought home to the small cabin Mercy Van Zandt, first cousin of Alice and Phoebe Cary. With a growing family, more room was needed.” Branch inherited the property after his father died. Branch was a successful farmer and operated a brick plant, donating the bricks used to build Farmers’ College. A relative, John Price, contributed all the paint and labor needed to complete the College.

Ella Ferry wrote: “When Branch Witherby and his wife retired from the farm, it was leased to a dairyman and barns stabling sixty-five head of cattle were built about one hundred and fifty feet southwest of the house. These barns were destroyed by lightning and the splendid dining room built for use at threshing season was torn down by the lessee, who found it cheaper to do that than to put on a needed new roof.” Ella referred to the incident in more detail in one of her letters: “Momma used to so

² The Daily, Old College Hill Well Still Serving Thirsty, S. Winslow Bell, Sept. 5, 1927.

³ The Witherby Place, Ella Ferry from the collection of Ruth J. Wells.

enjoy it when the Rammeslberg girls dropped in for a chat with her and so often referred to Kathleen's excitement during the burning of our great barns caused by lightening in a vicious storm. You know the place was rented to a dairyman and the barns held 65 head of cattle - they were solidly built and the fire blazed for two weeks, consuming enough sawed logs for our big fireplaces to have lasted for six years and the 150 cane-seated chairs Papa bought from the Presbyterian Church when it was remodeled and new chairs were purchased for Sabbath School. We had so much company in the summertime, that Papa thought it a good idea to have plenty of chairs available..."

Branch's son, Freeman Cary Witherby, graduated from Farmers' College in 1857 and joined the father's business.

"Mr. Bagley remembers how his grandfather, Branch Witherby, used to tell of humoring the Indians to keep them on good terms. When they came around he would give them a drink of "firewater" and then entertain them. One of the sports was to stick a large red copper cent on the fence post and shoot at it with bow and arrow. He remembers his mother's telling him that she was never completely at ease, little girl that she was, until they had left the neighborhood. Going through the woods to the log-cabin school, was sometimes very fearful, she told him. His mother also remembered hearing the wolves barking in the distance on clear nights."⁴

Branch and Mercy's second child was Rosalinda who married William A. Bagley, a widower with three daughters. They lived in the house that was later owned by Captain A. D. E. Tweed.

Freeman Cary Witherby inherited the house in 1890 when his father died. Freeman was born in 1839 and had hoped to become a physician but changed his mind and stayed to help his father with the property, operating the brick plant and the thriving wooden stave business. Freeman joined the Navy during the Civil War and was part of the crew of the river packet, the **Indianola**. Down river from Cincinnati, the **Indianola** exploded on the way to aid General Grant. While he escaped serious injury, he contracted typhoid fever. Ella said; "Freeman remained at the farm with his parents until he had a serious injury at a celebration on the Hollenshade estate (you probably know it as the Larmon place on Hamilton Ave.) on the occasion of U. S. Grant's election for his second term in the White House. A cannon used in the celebration exploded and he spent months at the Good Samaritan Hospital, then at Sixth and Broadway in town, following his recovery, he did not return to the farm but was made an official of the Cincinnati Gas Company with offices at 4th and Plum Streets. This injury to his eyes was not the cause of his eventual blindness, but dread glaucoma in 1894."

Freeman loved Mollie Price who had to make a difficult decision between her two suitors. She married Philip Lishawa. Freeman remained single and when Mollie became a widow, they married in 1883. Her father, John H. Price, owned the length of Larch Street. She was born where the Robert Simpson house once stood. Price built several houses on that street, one of which for Adam Gray. The Gray's house was torn down to build the brick Baumann home.

When he stopped working due to his blindness, he would be seen walking his thirty acre property with his dog, Christina. He and the collie were a familiar sight going down Hamilton Avenue to the doctor or barber shop. Not using a leash, Chris would walk with her shoulder against Freeman's knee. At his death (1917), the property was inherited by his step-daughter, Mrs. Ella Ferry, whose letters to the Runcks reveal much of the Witherby family history.

Ella couldn't keep the property "... there was the war and then the acreage was taken into the county and the city and I was unable to pay the high assessments or even to rent the place without modern gas and water convenience, and I was forced to sell."⁵ She states in another letter: "Then Mama died in 1916 and Papa a year later; the farm property was not only taken into the County but into the City as well - taxes more than doubled as previously, there was only Township tax. I did not know what to do with the house

⁴ The Witherby Place, Ella Ferry from the collection of Ruth J. Wells.

⁵ Ella Ferry letter to the Runck family, Jan. 17, 1957, from the collection of Ruth J. Wells

as after the water mains, gas mains, &c were put into Belmont Ave., I could not afford to pipe water or gas into it and it was not only unsaleable but became unrentable without these utilities. The street on our Belmont fronts was raised eight feet and sidewalks of cement put on north side and the assessments were frightfully high...”

The house was sold to a well known building contractor, Reno Runck, in 1920 and for many years remained in his family. “Mr. Runck tells us that when he acquired the property a few years ago, the solid, hewn-out beams that were the gutters were still doing valiant service; but they were also supporting an upstart growth of young saplings...The gutters are (now) being used as feeding troughs for the chickens.” A street was opened near the Runck/Witherby house and the families wanted the street to be named Witherby. This suggestion was rejected because of a Witherby Avenue in West College Hill. When informed of this Ella responded: “You speak of the colored settlement having its Witherby Avenue. That was the beginning of our grief with the property. Charles Steele, a politician...made a proposal to Papa and to Mr. Emerson, an honorable gentleman, whose property like ours abutted on North Bend Road opposite what he (Steele) had acquired, which they firmly repudiated as unworthy and he told them then that he would ‘fix `em’ for defying him. AND HE DID by starting that settlement with huts built of railroad ties and old tin and scraps...This ruined that neighborhood and when I was forced to sell, the land - very beautiful- that Papa had held at \$1,000 an acre and hoped would remain or become more valuable, I accepted for it \$400 per acre from a German gardener... Other factors integrated and I was indeed the sufferer and lost heavily...”⁶



⁶ For a complete history of West College Hill see: To Better the Conditions: The Annexation Attempts of West College Hill, **Queen City Heritage**, Susan Redman-Rengstorf, Spring 1985, pg. 3-14.

Chapter 10 Schools

Freeman Grant Cary described what his early boyhood was like, "...three to four months of fall and winter were spent in school, studying the curriculum then adopted, reading, writing, and arithmetic...to which was added at length Geography and Grammer. Memorizing was then one of the highest attainments. Whole pages of Geography were memorized word for word, the principles embraced were entirely an after thought. The perfection of the attainment was the memory of words.

Winters being thus employed, the rest of the year was for work. And it was work, Ernest work. A plot of several acres of new ground had to be cleared, trees cut and logged, brush burned, the ground plowed, planted and tended, orchards set, trees budded and grafted, and this not one year or once in a while, but every year; new house built or the old one improved, barns, stables, corn cribs & etc. to be constructed. In the Fall, wood cut and hauled to the door, corn gathered, wheat threshed, not with the modern thresher, but with the flail, subsequently familiarly called the poverty club. Our grain, wheat, oats, and other seeds sown broadcast, all done by hand. Grain harvested with sickle and cradle, grass mowed with the scythe and raked with hand rake. Labors performed at this period required more time, and much more physical exertion than now. Indeed the labor then required it would be impossible to obtain it at the present time. And the continual round of such labors occupied our time, the time of all boys, full 8 or 9 months of the year, and we had no leisure even in rainy days. There was corn to shell, wheat to thresh, or something sure to be laid out for such days. Work, work, from early dawn to sunset was the watchword.

The last year I spent on my Father's farm was a memorable one to me. I was then sixteen (1826)... my Father and Mother with my youngest brother, Samuel F. made a journey to New England to visit relatives and once more to look upon the scenes of their youth. I took almost the whole charge and direction of the place, a cousin and his wife providing for the table and boarding the hands. I led in the hayfield in mowing and in the harvest in cradling the grain, or hooking up with the sickle the fallen grain. The hay and grain being gathered in I took my axe and cut wood for the winter. That year being a fruit year, I marketed the peaches. Apples were not worth marketing. They were so abundant, and the peaches when marketed that summer, would not pay a hired man. I spent my first night in market that summer, alone in my wagon. It was novel work and resulted quite satisfactorily. I took home quite a sum for me, and felt as independent as a millionaire. When my Father returned I had the promise of going to College, which was a motive quite sufficient to stimulate the ambitions of youth that I was to work industriously.

When he returned in some four months, I had the wood cut and piled in the yard, the wheat threshed and put away in granary, and this last was done with flail in the hottest weather in August, and all things were cared for in such way that when my parents came home they were ready to yield to my wishes, and I had gathered sufficient money to pay my tuition, board, etc..."

The early settlers of College Hill were young couples without children, so establishing a school was not immediately necessary. Freeman G. Cary, at age four, was the first child needing a school when his family moved to College Hill. Freeman attended school in a log cabin on North Bend Road 'in the Jessup neighborhood' - probably between Winton and Daly Roads. The windows were of paper greased with raccoon fat and the desks and seats were of wooden slabs that had been smoothed with an axe. Using goose quill pens and ink made from oak gall, letters were blotted with sand. Wooden water pails with gourd dippers were part of daily life. Writing exercises by Freeman at age 10 are in the Rare Book room of the Public Library. They date from 1820 and are the maxims: *Ruin Awaits the Idle; Youth is Full of Hope; Scandal is hateful; Try to Serve everyone and Wish happiness to Everyone.*

Freeman's brother, Samuel, was educated in his father's barn by Mr. Comerford. "This rude school house ... gave place to a better one about 20' square made of brick and located on my father's farm which furnished not only a school house but a place of religious meetings, for which it was used for many years, till a church edifice was built. "

About 1821 a brick school was built on Hamilton Avenue near what is now South Dixon Circle. The first generation of children living in this general area and the poetesses, Alice and Phebe Cary, were

taught here alongside of their cousins.

The first school within the boundaries of College Hill was built of brick and located in the vicinity of 5875, 5907 Belmont Avenue. This property was originally owned by the Badgleys. The school is marked on the 1847 map. According to Douglas Trimmel, "The Oaks" has as its nucleus the small, four room brick house constructed for the teacher of this school.

The first school in Cumminsville was in 1832 in a log cabin built near Badgely Road (Kirby Road). Known as the Badgely Schoolhouse, the Rev. David Root of College Hill was its teacher. He was also pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati. Later students were educated in the Union General

school. Farmers' College graduate Merriam Sherman Turrill was principal and he taught there until 1885. Emma De Serisy and Carrie S. Hammitt were teachers. The first class (1854) had as students John F. and A. F. Thomson, Janet Thomson (later De Sirsy), Anna and Sophia Ludlow.

Freeman Cary wrote; "Memory furnishes vivid pictures of our early School Masters as they were called, and the appellation was no misnomer. For Masters they were. The rod cut from an adjoining beech some 6 ft. in length was the scepter wielded to enforce obedience and maintain order. And it was often applied with force even upon the back of the young man of 20, and long did it find a place on the desk or in the corner of the schoolroom of those days. Our Masters were generally Irish, and their tempers were quick and impulsive, and the rod was often resorted to and applied in the heat of passion..."

These early teachers were paid by subscription per pupil, receiving \$8 to \$12 per month and were 'boarded round' by their parents.

A girls' high school was started in College Hill by Laura Hayes in 1843. This building stood on Hamilton Avenue, across from Groesbeck Road. Little is known about it except that the next school mistress was Mrs. Sarah B. Brooks, and was later operated in 1849 by Dr. John Scott, who left the faculty of Farmers' College to direct the Young Ladies School. He moved the school to Oxford, where he originally started his teaching career at Miami University. The Hamilton Avenue building became part of the Polytechnic Hall (1855-56) of Farmers' College. Mrs. Brooks was a faculty member of the Ohio Female College and taught literature, language and science. Mrs. Brooks bought a lot for \$677 and built the house at 1511 Groesbeck Road, whose back yard touched the Ohio Female College property. She later ran a successful girl's school from this house, which at that time was a Linden Avenue address.

The next school was a common or public one north of Hamilton and Groesbeck Roads. This frame building was outgrown and replaced with the 13th District or 'pig eye' school, nicknamed for the single round louvered gable window. Miss Harriet N. Wilson was the first woman teacher and also the principal from 1860-1871. Mrs. Mary Jane Pyle, her sister, was made assistant teacher when the building was expanded to a second classroom. Mrs. Pyle later joined the faculty of Belmont College as teacher of botany, geology and geography. It was at the 'pig eye' that Walter Aiken, later Director of Music for the Cincinnati Public Schools, began his career in 1867 as an organist. Teacher salaries at that time were \$10 - \$12/month with board.

Miss Wilson was much beloved. A newspaper clipping from Feb. 18, 1898 recounts a reunion her former pupils held for her. They sat at the same desks, sang the same songs and carried dinner buckets and baskets like they had 25 years previously as children. The hand bell used to ring in the day was again rung in her honor. A woman of small stature, she could easily discipline her students.

The 'pig eye' school was purchased in 1877 by the College Hill Presbyterian Church. Later still, this building was moved next door behind Deininger's blacksmith shop and was remodeled to serve as his house. It was torn down in 1889 and the materials salvaged were incorporated into the Presbyterian Church chapel and Sunday school. The first parish house sat on the site of this school.

As early as 1867, 1.4 acres of property extending from Cedar to Maple (Llanfair) Avenue was designated for a new school. On the 1869 map, the College Hill Colored School is also indicated on east Cedar Avenue. Nothing is to be found about this school but it was merged with the College Hill Public School between 1887 and 1893.

A new brick school was opened in September 1878 on the familiar Cedar Avenue site and was again nicknamed the 'pig eye' school for another round window had been incorporated in the building. When

the school opened, Mr. Thomas G. McCalmont was principal, with Miss Alice Ellis and Miss Alma Oyler as assistants. Two later principals who headed the school were D. L. Runyan and Andrew J. Willey. Later teachers included Mary Bryant, Mabelle Brown, Carrie E. Moores, Marie M. Blanchard, Herbert P. Aiken and Washington Smith.

Due to population growth an adjacent four room high school was built in 1903. It was constructed with indoor plumbing - a real improvement! When College Hill was annexed to Cincinnati in 1911, the high school was converted to an elementary school and the older students attended Hughes High in Clifton. Mr. William Harold 'Dusty' Altamer was the principal starting in 1906 and continued until 1937. When Mr. Altamer joined the staff, his salary was \$1,000/yr. and that of his assistants, \$750/yr. The superintendent over both College Hill schools made \$1,500/yr. New houses at that time in the community rented for \$28/mo. Those attending College Hill School in later years will remember Mr. Hillary W. Poe (1937-1969) as principal.

Long time College Hill residents will recall, circa 1914: Kindergarten, half day, Miss Bridgeman; 1st grade, half day, Maybelle Brown; 2nd grade, Miss Alice Wild; 3rd grade, Miss Mary Bryant - who began her teaching career in 1882 and which spanned over four decades; 3rd grade, Miss Loos; 4th grade, (colony buildings) Miss Margarette Gatch, Mrs. Marty Weatherby; 5th grade, Miss Strasser; 6th grade, Miss Stewart; 7th grade, Miss Besse Waldman, Miss Colvin; 8th grade, Miss Hattie Brasier.

In 1925 the old school from 1878 was demolished. The former high school was converted to industrial arts, domestic science, and lunch rooms. This building is standing today.

The current College Hill Elementary (Fundamental) School was dedicated May 21, 1927. When opened, the school housed the College Hill branch of the public library. On its stage, a young Doris Day later performed. The building was dedicated by Dr. Randall Condon, Superintendent of Schools. Mrs. Arno Beck spoke on behalf of the PTA. Mr. Walter Aiken, Director of Music, reminisced about the old school. Mr. William Shroeder, President of the Board of Education, presented the building while Charles Eisen accepted it for the community. One of the keynote speakers was Dr. J. Withrow. Today, four Cincinnati public schools are named for gentlemen present at this dedication - Aiken, Shroeder, Withrow and Condon.

Several paintings were hung in the front hall when the school opened. One, donated by Dr. Philip Van Ness Myers, is still hanging above the Rookwood tile drinking fountain, a gift of the 8th grade Civics Club 1924-27. Photographs of principals Altamer and Poe are also in the front hall.

After College Hill merged with Cincinnati, students were sent to Hughes High school to finish their education. Thomas Hughes had been born near the Welsh border. After he arrived in the country, he unhappily married. Nothing is known about his wife and he had no children. He lived on the hilly north side to today's Liberty Street near Sycamore. He lived alone on thirty acres of land, having a cabin where he earning a living as a cobbler. He died in 1824 and directed his friends William Woodward, William Greene, Nathan Guilford, Elisha Hotchkiss and Jacob Williams to use the proceeds from the sale of his property to establish a school or schools for the education of poor children. The original Hughes High school was near Fifth and Mound streets. The current school in Clifton Heights was built years later at a cost of \$100,000.

Cary Academy

Freeman Cary went beyond his College Hill education to attend Miami University in 1826. He wrote; "Old Miami, then directed by R. N. Bishop as President, or the Old Doctor, as he was familiarly called, was the place I had determined to go. Once there he decided to try to compress the normal 18 months of first year of college into six. He...secured the services of a resident Graduate, John Thompson, a son of the Rev. John Thompson, of Springfield, who to ensure his better support took charge of the common school in my home neighborhood, and by boarding at my Father's gave me a good opportunity to recite private lessons...I would here state that my securing John Thompson to teach our common school and furnishing the opportunity to study the classics, led several of my home schoolmates to enter upon a liberal course, among whom were Solomon and Roswell Howard, Brother Samuel, and Oliver Witherby, all of whom completed a College course and became eminent as teachers or jurists. S. Howard was for many years President of Athens College, and Doctor of Divinity, and Roswell is a jurist of eminence in

Green County and Gen. S. F. Cary is widely known as a Lawyer and Lecturer.

Miami University at this time was well manned. Its professors were men well qualified for their various posts. Dr. Robert Bishop, President, a man of ripe scholarship, who had been a number of years at the head of Transylvania University of Kentucky; Dr. Wm. McGuffey, then a young man of excellent scholarship in Latin and Greek was Professor of Languages; John W. Scott, a most excellent man and scholar, Professor of Chemistry and the Natural Sciences; John Anon, a graduate of West Point, Professor of Mathematics...Such then were my advantages in acquiring an education, where I graduated in the fall of 1831 in a class of seventeen, the largest up to that time that had been sent out from this University. I have spent five years, graduating at the age of twenty-one."

Dr. Bishop was born in Scotland, 1777, and educated at Edinburgh University. He came to America to teach Ecclesiastical History at a New York City College, which failed. He became an itinerant minister in Ohio and Kentucky. Offered a professorship at Kentucky's Transylvania University, Henry Clay became one of his close friends. Dr. Bishop became the President of Miami in 1824 at the salary of \$1,000 a year and free occupancy of a mansion. Bishop was known as an outstanding teacher but when he started a Sunday school for African Americans, he encountered much criticism. His views on slavery and states rights ran counter to some of those on his faculty members. The conflict had religious roots in addition to personal beliefs. The Presbyterians were more liberal while the Calvinists were strict and very disciplined. William Holmes McGuffey was a Calvinist and believer in states rights. Bishop resigned from Miami in 1841 and McGuffey and Bishop never reconciled. After 16 years at Miami, Bishop cut all his ties to Miami in 1844 and resigned his teaching positions in history and political science. When the opportunity arose to join the faculty of Farmers' College in 1844, Bishop and his close friend, Rev. John W. Scott, were ready.

Cary had planned to teach for a year, then returning to college at Yale. He had been promised a teaching position in Cynthiana, Kentucky but when he arrived there, he found that another person had been hired. Returning to College Hill, Cary taught in the public school for a year, bringing new ideas such as blackboards into his school. His teaching innovations so pleased the school directors that they increased his salary to \$20/month.

In 1832, conceived in the age of idealism, he decided to open his own high school in his home. He had a frame house (5651 Hamilton Avenue), a 16 year old wife and little means but optimism and education. The house had originally been built by John Strong in 1819 and for years after the Academy had moved, housed a succession of doctors. Where the house stands today is not the original location, it has been moved several lots north. The first day of Cary's Academy four boys, aged 12 - 15, attended. Only two of their names are known today, Lewis and Israel Gerrard. Naming it Cary's Academy for Boys, within the first month he had 10 pupils. By the end of the first term, he had all of the students he could handle for they were also housed and fed at the Academy. Cary's house at 5651 Hamilton Avenue was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1999 through the efforts of Mr. Paul Schoenharl, whose son, Scott, owns the property.

During a six weeks vacation, Cary built a brick two story building, The Academy on the triangular lot at the junction of Colerain (Belmont) and Hamilton Avenues. This building also quickly filled to capacity with students. Some that attended at this time were: E. C. Roll, Reuben E. Fenton, the Gerrard boys - sons of Jephtha D. Gerrard, Dr. Smith, Judge Torrence, George Miller and John P. Keyes.

Continuing to build to accommodate his success, a chapel, more classrooms and a frame dormitory were added. By 1838 he had forty students. Eventually the classroom building was fourteen rooms. Named Pleasant Hill Academy, the students called it the "Pork House." The Academy soon had 120 as an average enrollment and construction continued. One of the wooden dormitories was later moved down to 5646-5648 Belmont Avenue and was the home of Mr. Graham, later known as the Graham Hotel. Over 1200 young men were educated at the school during the first twelve years (1833-1845). Cary's staff was composed of Mr. Lock, engineering and science; Mr. Maloney, Latin, Greek; and John Silsby, mathematics.

In 1845 Dr. Scott encouraged Cary's enlargement of the sciences classes and approved of the increased construction. Rev. Dr. Robert Hamilton Bishop, the first president of Miami, also decided to aid

his former pupil, both coming to join Cary's staff.

Cary was unwilling to continue building to meet the Academy's demand. By now he had 8 dormitories and had invested \$10,000 of his own money. Meeting with patrons, staff and friends, Cary decided to purchase 4 acres of land across Belmont Avenue. Funds to purchase the land and erect a new building were raised by selling shares of stock at \$30 each. Subscribers were to earn interest on the stock, payable in tuition.

In August 1845 a meeting was held at Pleasant Hill Academy to choose a 15 member board and become incorporated. The 4 acres were purchased for \$700 on Sept. 25, 1845. Later land purchases brought this parcel to 7.45 acres. Farmers' College of Hamilton County was chartered by the State of Ohio Legislature on Feb. 23, 1846. The new building cost \$11,898.45, even with the bricks and paint donated, and \$600.79 was spent for furnishings. The building was an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture. A central tower was removed in 1859 and the bell was hung from an open belfry on top of the south wing.

A. B. Huston wrote; "As the Academy soon lost its identity in the College, so 'Pleasant Hill' yielded to the name of 'College Hill,' which became the post-office address."⁷

The cornerstone was laid April 13, 1846. Serving on the first Board of Directors were: Edgar Gregory, Joseph Longworth, Edward Hunt, John Matson, Algernon Foster, Jacob Dennis, Giles Richards, Charles Cheny, Thomas B. Witherby, John W. Caldwell, Paul C. Huston, John McMakin, Timothy Kirby, James Huston, and S. F. Cary.

The name Farmers' College was chosen because those purchasing the shares of stock were mainly farmers. However, Cary later said the name was "...an ill omen for in no sense was it a school especially for Farmer's sons to learn how to farm as many thought." The college did provide a liberal education with an emphasis on the sciences, especially horticulture. It also had a 6 ¼ inch reflecting telescope, second only in size to the one used at Harvard University.

The preparatory course lasted three years. Tuition for the first year was \$12 per session, gradually rising to \$15 per session in the third year. The college portion was also three years, costing \$16 per session. Rooms rented for \$2 to \$3 per session, however, some boarded with families. For those who boarded, a five month term cost \$55-\$65. Some of the students "batched" and was able to live off as little as 50 cents a week, supplemented with grapes, watermelons, chickens, etc. that were gotten during night time raids. Others, like the future Bishop, John Walden, worked for his tuition from age 13 to 18 as a carpenter and clerk.

The first graduation ceremony was held Sept. 23, 1847 for five students who had started across the street at Pleasant Hill Academy. J. J. Dennis, Lewis M. Gunkel, Victor M. King, Riley F. Stratton and E. S. Young being the graduates. It wasn't until 1855 that Farmers' College was authorized by the State to confer A. B. (now B. A.) and A. M. (now M. A.) degrees. Of the first small class, four became lawyers and one, Victor King, a minister.

The first college catalogue was published for the 1847-48 school term. In it, Cary stated how the discipline of the school would be maintained. "The government will be mild, but firm - essentially parental in its character. Private advice, warning, and expostulation will ever precede public censure and reproof. It will be taken for granted that every youth and young man is honest - that he has entered the institution to improve, and the last thing questioned will be integrity."

The Board saw that the college could not continue unless more revenue was raised. Cary had so far persuaded the professors to accept not more than \$500/yr., a low salary for their abilities, paid from tuition fees. In 1850, 160 pupils were enrolled, but more were needed. In a report to the Board on the precarious financial balance of the college, Cary mentions "As for myself, I may state that while I have \$10,000.00 invested in the enterprise, I have been content with the pittance left, if any, after paying all other expenses, and if none, by industry, strict economy, and the fruits of a few acres of ground, to eke out a bare support."

⁷ Historical Sketch of Farmers' College, A. B. Huston, the Students' Association of Farmers' College

Due to the 1850 census, a snapshot of the school, Cary family and students can be drawn. Freeman Carey is listed, age 40, and his wife, Melvina Carey (age 31). His family contained Rebecca, Estelle, Ann, William and Samuel Carey. Also were living with the family were William Cogswell, William Vandiver, George Ormsby - a teacher from New Hampshire, William Chandler - teamster (Louisiana), Harriet Davis (Maryland), Ann Lockland and James Bell - laborer- both from Ireland and John Beagardens from Germany. Living at Carey's Academy were S. Chamberlin, W. C. Gray, W. B. Lakin, W. Mant, J. S. Morris, W. L. Terry, W. S. Benton, T. L. Bowen, J. P. Conklin, P. Emert, J. M. Gregory, P. S. Conklin, J. P. Hare, W. Holsdeth, B. C. Hardin, W. Hendrich, W. R. McGill, J. S. Lane, J. Mackee, J. A. Mackee, F. C. Puckett, W. M. Richardson, L. W. Ross, A. Shira, E. Barcelow, C. P. Bonsall (?Birdsall), J. F. Bisbee, A. Coleman, F. S. Conat, E. Conklin. The ages ranged from 9 - 24.

Living at Bell's Tavern were the owners, Christopher and Margaret Bell, both born in Germany and the following students: John Hofses, J. F. Maning, Richard McClonticle, H. M. McGill, A. L. Miller, J. Noble, J. B. Miller, A. P. Stanton, J. C. Stevens, S. Stevenson, A. F. Stewart, C. Thornton, J. M. Walden, H. C. Whiting, W. E. Whiting, O. R. Orton, B. P. J. Brisbane, W. H. Brisbane, F. Brockell, C. D. Burton, R. W. Lynn, B. Cummings, I. Eversoll, W. Davis, P. S. Dunn, T. A. Frazer, W. H. Vandever, W. R. Moore, J. W. White, J. Logan, G. W. Leviston, G. W. Leonard, G. H. Lane, W. H. Kerr, N. Kerr, P. A. Houston, S. Johnston, J. B. Hoffman, F. Groff, B. Davis.

Cary's vision and dedication to the college were great but so were his sacrifices. The plan for offering a liberal education with a certain minimum of required classes and the rest as electives was introduced. Although this is the customary way of education today, at that time it was innovative.

The future 23rd President, Benjamin Harrison, attended during 1848, 1849 and 1850. He would have graduated the following year but Dr. Scott returned to Oxford to become principal of the Oxford Female Institute, and Harrison was in love with Dr. Scott's daughter, Carrie.

No graduating class was held in 1850 which was attributed to the depressing effects of the fear of cholera and small-pox in the preceding year.⁸

In September of "... that year, the Board received an unusual request from Dr. Bishop. The object of this note is merely to ascertain from you; - whether I may have 12 or 14 feet in some corner of the College lot allotted to me, to be used as a resting place to my body and the body of her who has been my companion and nurse for nearly 50 years, when our spirits shall be called to the Eternal World."⁹

One of their sons, Dr. Robert H. Bishop, who later became president of Miami University, taught for a time at Farmers' College as Professor of Ancient Languages. The Bishops had eight children, 5 sons and 3 daughters. All of the sons graduated from Miami University and two entered the clergy.

Dr. Bishop died April 29, 1855 at age 78, five days after he pointed out the spot where he wished to be buried, located in the southwest corner of the grounds. By his instruction he was placed in a plain coffin which was enclosed in another square box and placed in the eight foot mound. No memorial was erected, at his request. Tradition is that his mound was layered in alternating soil and ashes, in what was labeled thee 'Scottish manner.' Two weeks later his wife, Ann Ireland Bishop, died, and was buried by his side. In 1959 the bodies were moved to Miami University. The box enclosing the coffin of Dr. Bishop was lined with zinc. Both of their remains were in good condition. The Bishop's house was at 6256 Hamilton Avenue.

The Board assumed control of the school and property in 1852, repaying Cary \$10,000 for the grounds, buildings etc. Reorganization followed, stock subscriptions were marketed and the college was on a firmer financial footing. Cary was appointed president at a salary of \$1,000/yr. The professors received a salary of \$500-700/yr. The faculty now consisted of: Rev. Robert H. Bishop (history, economy), J. S. Henderson (mathematics, natural philosophy, astronomy), D. Maloney, R. Bosworth (chemistry and its application to agriculture and the arts), J. S. Whitwell (ancient languages), and George

⁸ Historical Sketch of Farmers' College, op cit.

⁹ Op. cit.

S. Ormsby (preparatory course). In 1851, C. Sheferstein taught modern languages. A period of prosperity for the college had begun.

Building started on more brick dormitories to accommodate the growing number of pupils. Called 'Excelsior' and 'Brick Row' by the college, the buildings were dubbed 'Rat Row' by the pupils. Nearly 87 acres of land were acquired for a "...small model, experimental farm and gardens" near the college. Cary resigned as president of the faculty in favor of accepting the presidency of the new farm department, for \$1,500/yr. Unusual specimen trees, fruit trees, shrubs, grottos and lakes were on the model farm. Cereal grains were planted and different budding/grafting techniques were explored. The grounds were landscaped by Maximilian G. Kern. Property was both purchased from and donated by William Cary and totaled 87 acres. The agricultural department called itself 'The First Complete Institution of the Kind on the Continent of America.'

Farmers' College had an outstanding faculty and curriculum. Subjects taught in 1855 were history and political economy, preparatory courses, math, natural history, astronomy, chemistry, geology, agricultural chemistry, botany, vegetable physiology, scientific and practical agriculture and horticulture. George S. Ormsby taught mathematics and built a two story brick house at 1804 Larch Avenue to be near the college. **The Cincinnatus**, a journal edited by F. G. Cary concerning agriculture and horticulture, was printed at the college during this time. It was a widely read publication and functioned as a record of the proceedings of the Cincinnati Horticultural Society, which founded Spring Grove Cemetery. Two literary societies, **Burritt** and the **Philomathean** were enjoyed at the college. The 300 students were hardworking and the college flourished. In addition to their degree, each graduate was presented with a pocket Bible.

Succeeding F. G. Cary was Isaac Jackson Allen, who later resigned citing inadequate salary. Allen was a doctor and lawyer and was the U. S. Consul General to Hong Kong and China under President Lincoln. When Allen left he entered his own law practice. He served one term as the Judge of Richland County, Ohio. From 1858-1861 he was also the superintendent for Cincinnati public schools. Allen was born in 1814 in Morristown, New Jersey and came with his family to Ohio that same year. Allen married Susan Brown on 11 August 1841, not related to the Browns in College Hill. They lived in Avondale.

Polytechnic Hall, a 19 room brick laboratory building for the farm department, was built in 1855-1856 opposite the intersection of Groesbeck and Hamilton Avenues.

Surprisingly, Cary resigned from Farmers' College in 1858. While the reason for his resignation was not recorded, it could be surmised that he was disappointed in the decline of the pupil population, continuing revenue problems and he could not see future improvement. However, when he left, the college and farm was a successful operation. He retired to a farm in Butler County, concentrating on his orchards and died in 1888.

A pivotal year was 1858 when it was determined that the college was operating at a \$2,900 yearly loss. To increase the number of students attending, women were admitted in the 1858-59 year and a Normal Department was established to train teachers. The faculty was trimmed, and an agent was hired to collect payments owed and sell stock. The subscription system was at the root of the financial problems. The first monies collected were used to buy model farm land and erect buildings. Rapid expansion, however, did not expeditiously bring in pledge repayments, and a large percentage of monies were never collected. Money that was collected paid the most immediate needs, salaries and ongoing expenses, but nothing was available for savings or investment. Another blow came when Charles McMicken¹⁰, a close friend of F. G. Cary and one of the executors of McMicken's will, promised to donate \$10,000 for a professorship and to change his will, leaving the bulk of his fortune to Farmers' College. He died before the will change was made, thus becoming the great benefactor of a rival institution, the University of Cincinnati. Farmers' College sued the estate to finally collect the money for the professorship.

¹⁰ McMicken was born in 1782 on a farm in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He was largely self taught and was a civil engineer when he rode into Cincinnati in 1803. He was attracted to business on the river and made his fortune transporting cotton and speculating in property. Never married, he divided his time among three residences; Cincinnati in spring, east coast in summer and winter in New Orleans. In 1840 he bought a home between Clifton and McMicken Avenues. He died of pneumonia while aboard a boat returning him to Cincinnati from New Orleans.

At his death in 1858 he left property worth nearly one million dollars in addition to stocks, bonds, and money. His will also freed any slaves he owned. He had a mulatto son, John McMicken, who was a teacher and principal in one of Cincinnati's African American schools.

An effort was made to relocate the Cincinnati Observatory to Farmers' College. Four acres were offered and a group pledged to raise \$7,000 but the Astronomical Society declined the offer.

In 1860 the 87.6 acres of farm lands were subdivided into 21 lots. Of these, 50 acres were offered for sale to reduce the expenses of the college and to help defray its debts.

In 1862 the enrollment had declined to 92 but by 1866 the enrollment had slid to 32. This was not caused by mismanagement, but reflected the Civil War, which emptied all colleges as males flocked to enlist. Some of the students were from southern states, the majority was from around Cincinnati and the Midwest - and all left for war. Money was tight, the country was in a depression and in 1865 the curriculum was suspended. Financial aid from the government was approved by an Act of Congress on July 6, 1862 but no money was forthcoming.

For several years, Farmers' College had been active as a station on the Underground Railroad, reflecting the views of its faculty and some students. By 1866 the college was actively selling off land, creating College Hill's first subdivision, and the original model farm concept was abandoned. The streets of Cedar and Maple (Llanfair) were platted and dedicated in June of 1866. In this year College Hill became incorporated as a village.

The land sale of 92 acres produced enough money to dispatch Farmers' College's debts and to set up an endowment to help finance the college. By now the college had shrunk to the original building constructed by Cary and the immediately adjacent land.

The old Cary Academy building at Belmont and Hamilton Avenue was sold in 1868 and demolished. Much of the brick and some of the beams were used in building the first Grace Episcopal Church on that site. This church cost \$16,000 to build.

By 1867-68 two professors were added to the faculty, J. C. Broadfuehrer and Mr. Hoffman, who retired and was replaced by C. H. Gerard.

The lowest point was 1872 when the institution faced liquidation, brought by two law suits against the college. Cary favored liquidation which must have been a difficult choice for him. However, a new Board decided to try a revival, adopting a fully co-educational plan with a co-educational faculty. This plan worked, as Ohio Female College across the street had closed, and slowly the numbers of students started to rise. The graduation class of three in 1877 was the first since 1865. Classes in French, literature, drawing, elocution and music were added. By 1878, a total of 83 were in attendance.

In the Rare Book room of the Public Library downtown is a newspaper written in Dec. 1872. Samuel Fenton Cary and Newbold L. Pierson are listed as "editors & proprietors" of **The Rising Star**. This student newspaper, published under the banner of 'Luck is a Fool, Pluck is a Hero', lists a school roll of honor: Eva O'Hara, Nettie Wilder, Nellie Wilder, Carrie Wilder, Emma Deininger, Patty Kennedy, Rosa Wheelock, Willie Hull, Daisy Blanchard, Jenny Hull, Florence Donnelly, Bertie Simpson, Ella Southgate, Nettie Harris, Mary Eversull. Also listed was the schedule for the College Hill Omnibus, leaving College Hill at 8:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. To return, it left the Gibson House (a hotel in downtown Cincinnati) at 9:12 A.M. and 4:00 P.M.

Professor Philip Van Ness Myers, as president in 1879 with a yearly salary of \$1,500 and free housing for his family, was a leader with vision who stayed with the college for eleven years and through several name changes.

A change of name from Farmers' College was considered, since agriculture was no longer part of the studies, and Bishop College was suggested - but not considered. In 1881 Garfield College was offered but not acted upon. A committee studied name changes, proposing The Southern Ohio College. It was not until 1884 that the name was adopted as Belmont College. Unfortunately, the name change did not bring the hoped for renewal. It was that time when the fronting street name was changed from Colerain Avenue to Belmont Avenue.

The first graduating class of 1884 as Belmont College was: Carrie C. Wilder, Flora Z. Howard, Daisy Blanchard - all of College Hill, and Herbert S. Vorhees. The college graduated many women teachers, several of whom taught in the College Hill schools.

A move to combine Belmont College with the University of Cincinnati, the latter to move to College Hill, was considered but the proposed consolidation never occurred. President Myers suggested (1887)

that college courses be gradually dropped and the institution become an academy (high school). The Board agreed in 1889 that the institution should be changed to a military academy starting in September 1890. The last Belmont College graduate was Charles L. McCrea. The academy opened under the name of The Ohio Military Institute, and a new building (Belmont Hall) was built next to Cary Hall, the original Farmers' College building of 1847. Belmont Hall was used for administration and cadet dormitories. A gym was built at the rear of the property in 1892.

President Myers resigned in 1890 to accept a position at the University of Cincinnati, where he was a professor from 1891-1900. Myers completed the transition from Belmont College to the O. M. I., which was actually founded by Rev. John H. McKenzie. The Institute taught Christian young men a liberal education in addition to military instruction. The cadets had to pay \$150.00 for a complete set of uniforms that contained a...trench coat, a blouse with belt and buckle insignia, two pairs of wool trousers, six gray shirts, two pairs of white duck trousers, a dress cap, an overseas cap, a sweater or jackets and a black tie. If the students stayed over at school during the Christmas vacation, they had to pay an additional fee of \$4.00 day. The graduation expense was \$10.00. Annual tuition was \$950 for cadets which included, room, board and laundry.

It was attended by the best families in and around Cincinnati. For 45 years it flourished under Col. Albert M. Henshaw. The enrollment increased, peaking at 180 students. By the 1940's the O. M. I. had a 10 acre campus with Cary Hall, Belmont Hall, Bishop Hall, Perry Gym and a parade ground. It served to prepare young men for West Point and Annapolis in addition to regular college. The O.M.I. is affectionately remembered for its Sunday dress parades, sports played in the Town Hall field and its cannon which was fired every sunrise and sunset.

During the early 1930's the board of trustees of Belmont College¹¹ were Orville Simpson, president; Frank H. Simpson, vice-president; Frank. K. Bowman; Harold Simpson; Stanley K. Henshaw; Dr. W. S. Keller; Peter G. Thomson, Jr.; Albert M. Henshaw. The faculty members and their subjects during the same time were: Albert Melville Henshaw, superintendent; Clarence B. Wood, commandant, mathematics and civics; C. A. Wile, assistant to the commandant, commercial business; S. P. Chase Roberts, headmaster, English; Philip S. Andrus, French and Latin; Theodore H. Wingett, science; Frank Thornton, English and history; Manuel Rodriguez, Spanish; F. P. Derrick, second form; Christopher Wilson, lower school; Frank Florea, lower school; R. E. Davis, quartermaster, music; Mrs. Frances Gass, secretary to the superintendent; Dr. R. F. Swing, school physician; Mrs. Frances Blair and Mrs. Lillian Radabaugh, matrons of the lower school; Mrs. Marie Davis, dietician, Joseph Phillips, superintendent of grounds and buildings.

While the term 'military academy' later became associated with students that had discipline problems, this was never true at the O.M.I. The Institute's catalog firmly stated that a student who had been asked to leave another school need not apply.

Many items from Farmers' College were carefully preserved by the O. M. I., among them the wooden telescope, and paintings of the Carys by Robert Duncanson. No one now knows what became of the objects and paintings. In the 1950's the cost of operating an aging school and ever increasing tuition costs caused the school to close. The 47.2 acre property was sold to the Board of Education and the O.M.I. closed on June 10, 1958. Aiken High School opened in Sept. 1962 next to the site.

This is a listing from College Hill and vicinity of Farmers' College graduates¹² with their later occupations and date of matrication: J. J. Dennis, lawyer (1847); A. B. Huston, lawyer (1848); D. C. Kirby, lawyer (1849); S. Caldwell, lawyer (1851); Murat Halstead, journalist, publisher of the **Cincinnati Commercial Tribune** (1851)¹³; B. C. Hardin, farmer (1851); R. W. Hendricks, lawyer (1851); M. S.

¹¹ According to the O.M.I. 1930-31, 1932 book for prospective students, the trustees were under the Belmont College name.

¹² Historical Sketch of Farmers' College, op cit.

¹³ Thaddeus Lowe was an early explorer in the use of hot air balloons. In April 1861 he accidentally landed in S. Carolina on his way from Cincinnati to the Atlantic Ocean. Murat Halstead was one of his financial backers. Halstead wrote the Salmon P. Chase, then US Treasury Secretary, about using balloons in war and

Turrill, principal 26th District school (1851); B. F. Brown, lawyer (1852), J. W. Ebersole, lawyer (1852); John S. Noble, Secretary of the Interior for President Benjamin Harrison; E. F. Strait, lawyer (1852); J. M. Walden, Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, agent of the Methodist Book Concern, often referred to as the 'Business Bishop' (1853); W. E. Whitridge, storekeeper (1852); H. M. Cist, lawyer (1858); Sidney A. Fitch, farmer (1858), Leman Roberts, teacher (1858); Hiram S. Powers, teacher (1859), E. N. Wild, lawyer (1860), A. C. Hughes, lawyer (1860); D. H. Johnson, clergyman (1861); Solomon Coombs, M. D. (1861); E. P. Marshall, insurance (1863); J. B. Kincaid, lawyer (1863); Daniel Maloney, bookkeeper (1863); Theodore W. Pyle, insurance (1864); B. Pascal Hammitt, teacher (1865); Jeannie Kennedy, clerk (1878); Ida B. Wilder (1878); Wm. H. Wilder, M. D. (1878), Mary Jane Harris (1878); Louis E. Aiken, teacher (1879); Carrie D. Blanchard, teacher (1879), Julia K. Harris, teacher (1879), Mamie Kennedy, teacher (1879); William P. Gulick; Mabele Brown, teacher (1881); Frank Dudley Emerson (1881); Jennie Griffin, teacher (1881); Abbie A. Gray (1881); J. A. Green, editor (1882); Orville Simpson, manufacture (1882); Alice Aiken, teacher (1883); Anna V. Brown (1883); Nellie Wilder (1883); Hammond Avery 1867-1868; Alice C. Hayden 1868-69; A. B. Huston 1843-1848; Daniel A. Maloney 1855; N. L. Pierson 1869-70; J. L. Pierson 1870-71; Susan Aiken Pounsford 1882-86; C. S. Rankin 1845-47.

Belmont College: Carrie C. Wilder (1884); Flora Z. Howard (1884); Daisy Blanchard (1884); Elsie May Harris (1885); Dr. Wm. H. Wilder (1885); Dr. A. J. Compton (1885); Susie M. Aiken (1886); Ellen H. Poole (1886); Jessie Roberts (1886); Charles L. McCrea (1886); Rbt. D. Betts (1888); Wm. P. Everts (1886); Lulu M. Banchard (1888); Wm. Brockaw (1888); Georgia B. Bowman (1888); Emma W. Wilder (1888); Marq G. Moore (1888); Harriet Poole (1888); Nettie West (1888); William Brockaw (1888); Charles L. McCrea (1890).

While there were only 171 graduates from 1847 - 1890, many more attended: C. Hammond Avery, Alice A. Avery, E. S. Aston, H. K. Bowman, Van Bevis, Thomas K. Badgley, John S. Crawford, Henry Deininger, Adam Gray, Alice Hayden, Wm. C. Hayden, Samuel Hannaford, A. B. Huston, Wm. S. Huston, A. J. Ludlow, Wm. B. Ludlow, Aaron V. Lane, John Ludlow, ? Laboiteaux, August Muth, N. L. Pierson, J. L. Pierson, Theodore W. Pyle, C. S. Rankin, M. B. Sargeant, Frank Strong, M. S. Turrill, Benjamin Urmston, S. R. Vorhis, Leo. Wise, Ed. Wild, John Walden, J. Gano Wright, Isadore Wise, Freeman Cary Witherby, Chas. Wild.

Presidents of the college were: Freeman G. Cary 1847-1853; Isaac S. Allen 1853-1856; Rev. Charles N. Mattoon 1856-1860; Jacob Tuckerman 1860-1866; Rev. C. D. Curtis 1866-1870; J. S. Lowe 1873-1877; Philip Van Ness Myers 1879-1890; Rev. J. H. McKenzie 1890-1894; Col. Dudley Emerson 1894-1897; Rev. John Hugh Ely 1897.

Some parts of the Last Will of Robert H. Bishop¹⁴

“...In the second place I give my body to the charge of the Directors of Farmers College, to be put in a plain coffin, and then enclosed in a strong square box and deposited in an artificial mound in a designated spot in the College yard; to consist of successive layers of earth and sand, not to be less than eight feet solid measure; - no artificial monument ever to be erected on it, unless it should be a few evergreen trees or shrubbery.

It is believed that my services in Farmers College have not been without value either to the College or the community at large; and that neither President Cary nor myself have received from tuition fees an adequate compensation for the time and labor and actual expenditure in behalf of the Institution: and we have thus far cherished the hope that when the Institution shall become public property and become permanently endowed, some adequate compensation for these services may be realised. It is believed that so far as I am concerned this adjustment may be made now as well as at any future period.

that a balloon corps should be established under Lowe's direction. After meeting with Pres. Lincoln, who was impressed by Lowe's demonstration about how messages could be carried, the Balloon Corps were founded.

¹⁴ Family History of John Bishop of Whitburn, Scotland; Robert Hamilton Bishop of Oxford, Ohio; Ebenezer Bishop of McDonough County, Ill., Stanley R. Scott, Robert H. Montgomery, 1951.

Mrs. Bishop, while she has kept me alive for these fifteen years by comfortable and good nursing, she has also had her hand and her heart open to administer to the comfort of many American youth for the last forty years. Her own family has frequently been deprived of what has been supposed to be even necessities, that some friendless student might be helped in some pressing difficulty. She has also from principle opposed the giving of entertainments to those who did not need them, that the really needy might be fed and clothed.”

...Witnessed by Samuel F. Cary and John M. Caldwell.

Other Schools

One of the main problems that African Americans had to continually face was finding opportunities for formal education. Cincinnati was no different than other cities of the 1820's - 1860's, largely because of the southern sympathizers.

During the 1848-49 legislature a set of “Black Laws” was adopted by Ohio. They covered three main points: 1) settlement of black/mulatto persons in Ohio was prohibited unless they could show a certificate of freedom and have two free persons certify to their character and maintenance, should they become a public charge. Without these documents, it was illegal to hire any black/mulatto; 2) they were excluded from the common schools; 3) no black/mulatto could be sworn or allowed to testify in any court in any case where a white person was concerned. These laws were modified somewhat to give blacks some legal standing in the courts and education for their children. African-Americans were permitted to levy a tax against black owned property to raise money for their schools.

The laws permitted integration of the schools but the predominant interest in Cincinnati was only in establishing separate facilities with an African American board of trustees to oversee these parallel schools. This proved to be unworkable and the control of the African American schools was transferred to the managers of the regular Board of Education in 1853. The African Americans refused to support this motion and in 1856 they were again permitted to elect their own trustees. The Colored Public Schools had 1,006 students in 1868 but the student number declined as the African American population increased, reflecting that those relocating to Cincinnati did not enroll their children in the public schools.

As early as 1869, 1.4 acres of property extending from Cedar to Maple (Llanfair) Avenue was designated for a new school. On the 1869 map, the College Hill Colored School was indicated on east Cedar Avenue. The school was held in the African American church at Piqua and Cedar Avenues. Both were headed by Rev. W. H. Rogers. No information has been found about this school except that it merged with the College Hill Public School in about 1888.

Benjamin W. Arnett, D. D.¹⁵, representative from Greene County Ohio, helped attain an important victory for African American education in 1887. Arnett (1838-1906) was the first African American man in the country to represent a predominantly white constituency. He had the added distinction of being the first African American foreman of an otherwise all white jury. He was a former minister of Cincinnati's Allen Temple and later became a Bishop, living near Wilberforce University.

The Arnett Act barred Ohio schools from refusing to accept African American students, but it did not abolish “all black” schools. In Cincinnati the school board endorsed separate African American schools, but on a voluntary basis. When school commenced on Sept. 12, 1887 only 20 African American children attempted to enter classes under the desegregation law. By 1888, 300 black children attended Cincinnati schools, climbing to an enrollment of 800 in the 1889-1890 school year.

College Hill was part of a pivotal test of the Arnett Act.¹⁶ In Jan. 1888 the Ohio Supreme Court ruled on “The Board of Education of College Hill vs. The State of Ohio Ex. Rel. Wilson Hunter.” The College Hill school system had told the African Americans attempting to enter their schools that the classes were already at capacity with white children. The court ruled that the school could not have a regulation “that does not apply to all children irrespective of race or color.”

¹⁵ Cincinnati's Colored Citizens, Wendall P. Dabney, 1926.

¹⁶ Cincinnati's Black People, Lyle Koehler, 1986.

Ohio Female College

In 1848 the Rev. John Covert founded the Ohio Female College (O.F.C.) on the modern site of Phoenix International. The cornerstone of the main building was laid Sept. 21, 1848 and during that year it was incorporated with full collegiate privileges and powers to provide a liberal education for women. In the United States, it was fifth in order of incorporation. In the fall of 1849 it opened its doors with former Supreme Court Justice, John McLean, as President. McLean later became an Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court. He cast the sole dissenting vote in the 1857 Dred Scott case, arguing that slavery was wrong. In 1851 the Ohio State Legislature granted O.F.C. a charter, enabling it to confer degrees. Its *Mistress of the Arts* diploma was soon much sought.

In the 1850 census it was listed as *Covert's Academy*. Rev. Covert, his wife and children were from New York. Enumerated in his household are Lucinda, his wife, Destiny, and Hiram as their children. Also are Elizabeth Curtis, age 11, student, born NY; Margaret Parker of New York; Catherine O'Brien, Edward Carroll (laborer), John Flanigan (laborer) all from Ireland; George Ayres (laborer) and his family from England, Jane and Susan; and John Sheldon, carpenter. Living in a separate household were the students: Caroline J. Davis, Jane Davis, Elizabeth Thomas, Mary B. Allen, Mary A. Bennell, Rachel Brown, Ann M. Roclin, Harriet E. Banks, Emily Butler, Margaret Bishop, Eliza J. Brown, America P. Cameron, Philena J. ??, Ann M. Crawford, Emma Cover, Ann G. Lewis, Mary Everill (Eversill?), Ann E. Everill, Susan A. Flickenger, Catherine Flickenger, Amelia H. Glancy, Eliza M. Glancy, Mary Scott, Elizabeth Hughes, Charity P. Hunter, Ann C. Houston, Harriet J. Hoffman, Sarah L. Hamilton, Agnes Lingo, Sarah Muchmore, Deborah Muchmore, Harriet Noble, Martha Noble, Martha Orange, Cornelia E. Roney, Mary Sates, Elvina A. Smith, Mary Z. Turpin, Sarah E. Turpin, Amelia Trusedale, Mary V. Banks, Caroline Lange, Mary E. Robb.¹⁷

The first faculty consisted of Rev. John Covert, Mrs. L. S. Covert, Alphonse Wood, Monsieur Rive, Madame Caroline Rive, Mrs. Sarah B. Brooks, Miss Catherine Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Mary Jane Pyle, Miss Cornelia Curtis, Miss Elizabeth Allen, and Miss Harriet Staub.

The original campus had three buildings and fifteen acres of woods and gardens. The curriculum was equivalent to that found in the best of male colleges. In addition to "the arts" there were a well stocked library, chemistry lab and a refracting telescope for the study of astronomy. At that time, the post office address was Cary's Academy.

The location was touted as being "... central, accessible, elevated, and healthy, surrounded by pleasant groves and picturesque scenery, and sufficiently far from the city to be free from its temptations and dissipating tendencies, yet near enough to enjoy its privileges."

It was supervised by a board of trustees of which Hon. John McLean was President and Samuel F. Cary was the secretary. The college President was Rev. Covert.

A second dormitory was built and furnished for \$20,000 in 1852. Also, "a new and beautiful Omnibus has been purchased by the President for the exclusive use of the Institution and pupils residing in the city or vicinity can be taken home and return under the care of teachers." A music building (1853) provided additional classrooms and accommodating 150 pupils. The admission was \$12 for the two year Preparatory course and \$14 for the four year Collegiate program. In their "Third Annual Catalogue" (1852) it was proposed; "The day is dawning in which Female Colleges must begin to be ranked with Male Colleges...Is it not the right of women to be educated?" A catalog from 1854 lists students from well known families, such as Ella Cary who later married Edward Sayre, and several Cist daughters. There was one sorority, 'The Golden Chain Society, and the school publication was called **The Dew Drop**.

By 1856 the property was 23 acres besides an "... extensive conservatory well filled with thousands of exotics, a jetting fountain and an artificial lake. There were eight buildings: main edifice, the 'Odeon' containing 12 rooms, the 'Seminary' containing, beside the Chapel, six lecture rooms and ...five neat cottage dwellings for the professors and self-boarders, containing forty-five rooms."

The main building burned in 1858. Rev. Covert sold the property to Alphanso Wood and Eli Taylor

¹⁷ Hamilton County, Ohio, Court and Other Records, Vol. III, Virginia Raymond Cummins, 1969

who started rebuilding on the same site. When they ran out of money, Samuel Cary became partial owner, replacing Mr. Wood.

The new main college building cost \$60,000. The college catalogue describes it as a main building and two wings, four stories high. "Its massive walls are constructed of nearly one million bricks! Within these walls are included ninety seven apartments, seventy seven closets and ten spacious halls. Also, over all arises an observatory, containing a telescope equatorially mounted, ninety-one feet above the ground. The view from the observatory embraces a horizon nearly fifty miles in diameter, varied and beautiful in the highest degree."

An example of a Sunday menu; Breakfast: beef, potatoes, coffee cake, light or brown bread, butter, syrup, coffee, tea, milk. Dinner: oysters, celery, potatoes, cabbage, light or brown bread, crackers, butter, dessert. Supper: fruit, light or brown bread, butter, syrup, cake, tea, milk.

Charles Cist in **Cincinnati in 1859** describes it as "... a model of architectural taste. But its chief excellence consists in a perfect system of ventilation, connected with a plan of warming by steam, so complete as to secure a uniform temperature throughout the entire building, and a change of air in every room once in 30 minutes." The 15 foot brick ventilating tower, thought to be designed by the architect Samuel Hannaford while he was a student across the street at Farmers' College, drew in air which was then passed via a brick duct under the buildings. The air was heated by steam pipes in this duct. The warmed air was discharged through flues in every room. Cupolas along the roof were vents allowing the discharge of "used" air. Thus a complete change of air was permitted every half hour. Pure air and exercise were emphasized as necessary to maintain good health.

By 1862 it was considered to be a "...first class female seminary with a special object of educating competent teachers for the increasing millions of the west so to govern the nation." Subjects included chemistry, civil architecture, philosophy, geography, astronomy, natural science, English literature, the "art of teaching and the science of government," physical education, anatomy, physiology, and hygiene. Moral and religious instruction with required Sunday church attendance completed the curriculum.

The college was a privately owned enterprise by S. F. Cary, Franklin Y. Vail and Joseph Brown until 1865 when they sold their interests and the institution was "vested in the president and Board of Trustees." This was done to ensure the continuance of O.F.C. in the event of the death of an owner and to generate funds by endowments and public subscriptions. While the Board held the charter, a proprietor administered the financial affairs. Subscriptions to Farmers' College could also be applied to tuition at O.F.C.

The main building was completely destroyed by fire April 23, 1868, however, school was continued until the close of the school year in June. The homeless were housed by residents of College Hill.

Again a brick main building with a wing on either side was constructed. This one was in the "French" style with freestone ornament and Mansard slate roof. The central building housed the reception room, library, and administrative offices. The north wing had a chapel that could accommodate 300 and seven lecture rooms. The south wing was the dining room and dormitories. Each dormitory room was large enough for two occupants and had one or two windows. The ventilation system was again used. Rooms were lit by gas and heated by steam, the boiler and gas works were housed in separate buildings. "Each story is furnished with a hose connected with the water supply, to be used in case of fire. No fires are required within the building, the kitchen being at some distance apart, and connected with the dining-room by a covered way." The school could accommodate 200 students. Rev. N. C. Burt, D. D. was elected as president of the institution.

Funding for this rebuilding was provided by James C. C. Holenshade, a contractor of supplies and manufacturer of carriages and pontoon bridges during the Civil War. Holenshade was the proprietor of OFC.

There were flower and fruit orchards, the vegetable garden furnished the dining room and the two acre lake fed from a natural spring provided opportunities for rowing and ice skating. A stable was available for horses.

The tower on the main building was called "Alumnae Tower." Each graduate furnished one of the stone quoins. The tower was topped by an observatory and the central roof was fenced to allow for

walking.

“Sickness in the Institution arises, most frequently, from the reception by the scholars of boxes from home, supplied with confectionery and other dainties. Parents are earnestly advised against the practice of sending these (1869).”

Unfortunately, the college could not afford to stay open and was sold to the Cincinnati Sanitarium, Dec. 17, 1873. That year the nearby Farmers’ College became co-educational and some of the students transferred there.

Members of the last graduating class of June 5, 1873 included: Alice K. J. Hollenshade, Linda Musselman, Isabella Hammitt, Jessie D. Strong, Martha Jones, Sallie W. Huntington, Abbie S. and Alice W. Willard.

The final faculty were: Alfred E. Sloane, president, Leptha N. Clark, Rev. W. W. Colmery, Eliza H. Austin, Dora F. Crossette, Mary J. Bannister, M. Jennie Davidson, Ferdinand Schuler, Louis Schwebel, Helen M. G. Fletcher, Emily Cutler, Bertha C. Metz, and A. Curtis.

J. C. C. Hollenshade sold the property to the Presbyterian Church, only keeping \$50,000 of its value for himself and donating back the rest. The trustees of O.F.C. from College Hill at that time were; Rev. W. W. Colmery, Rev. C. E. Babb, S. F. Cary, Charles E. Cist, A. D. E. Tweed and W. C. Huntington.

The Cincinnati Sanitarium

Cincinnati Sanitarium was founded in 1873 by three physicians, Drs. S. R. Beckwith, W. H. Hunt and Wm. L. Peck, who recognized a need for a private care psychiatric facility in the Cincinnati area. They joined with four businessmen (Mr. Val. P. Collins, Mr. John F. Elliott, Mr. Henry Prestiss, Mr. John L. Whetstone) to establish a hospital. It was the oldest private psychiatric hospital west of the Alleghenies and the largest in the state of Ohio, continuously operated for 115 years.

Purchasing the 40 acre property and the buildings of the defunct Ohio Female College in Dec. 1873, the buildings were remodeled and re-equipped for the treatment of mental illness, alcohol and opium addictions. “The consumption of opium, in some of its various forms, is becoming more prevalent every year, and is now a deadly curse in all sections of the country (1879).”¹⁸

In 1879, 81 patients were in residence. The major categories of their illnesses were: 37 of mania, 14 of melancholia, and 12 of nervous disturbances from opium or alcohol. There were almost twice as many men admitted as women. Statistics were compiled yearly as to occupations of patients. For example, in 1879, of the 413 who had been treated there since the start of the institution, 7% were clerks, 8% farmers, 24% housewives, and 18% merchants. The recovery rate was 34.4% and 87% were released in less than one year. Most stayed 30 to 90 days.

Numerous buildings were added to accommodate more patients. In addition to the main hospital, there were four two- story cottages, an amusement hall with a billiard hall in the basement (1883), a flower conservatory and several physical plant buildings. An ice house for cooling was built near to the lake and in 1890 a 100 foot water tower was built that was connected to all the buildings. There even was a station of the Cincinnati Northwestern railroad.

The hospital continued to expand, adding four acres of adjoining property on the west and fronting Hamilton Avenue. On this additional ground, Elliott Hall (1892), a stone and brick annex with steam heat and enclosed verandas were built.

The lake was described as “a living spring, never exhausted of the purest water, is also an unfailing source of pleasure as well as health to Sanitarium inmates. The Cincinnati Sanitarium “Spring Water” being as good as any in the world for physiological purposes and delicious as a beverage-if it were analyzed and a suitable pavilion built over and around the spring, there is no good reason why it should not be advertised as a “Fountain of Youth,” if not an antidote for whisky and all other habitual poisoning for which relief is sought. If drunk exclusively, in sufficient quantity, and for a sufficient length of time, a “cure” of the whisky habit might be confidently guaranteed.”¹⁹

¹⁸ Source: Emerson North brochures, Cincinnati Historical Society Library.

¹⁹ Op cit.

On April 6, 1893 workmen soldering a gutter at the base of the mansard story accidentally started a fire that spread to the dead air space between the ceiling and roof. The fire quickly engulfed the building. No one was injured but the main hospital building was gutted. As soon as possible, reconstruction started and the new building incorporated many improvements.

The Sanitarium offered the current psychiatric treatments and avoided 'all quackish or meretricious pretensions or practices'. By 1905 recoveries were up to 48% with an average census of over 90 patients. Always progressive, a telephone was installed in 1894. The following year there was an earthquake, necessitating many repairs. In 1911 a greenhouse was built for a patient population of 100. Consistent growth led to an addition onto the main hospital in 1913 and a nearby large residence adjacent to the property was purchased. Called the *Rest Cottage* it was limited to 'nervous and nutritional disorders.' The Otte family from Northside owned the Sanitarium about this time. A major change in the landscape occurred in 1927 when the lake was drained following a drowning. Known for its treatments, it was said that several Hollywood stars came there.

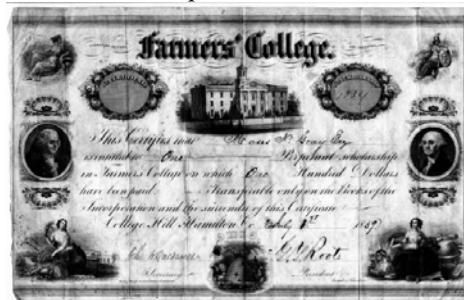
In 1956 the hospital was renamed for the late Dr. Emerson Arthur North, a pioneer in clinical psychiatry and Dean of the University of Cincinnati psychiatry department. Emerson North Hospital specialized in serving the needs of adults, adolescents, and children in providing treatment for psychiatric, behavioral, emotional and chemical dependency problems. Emerson North merged with the Franciscan Health Care System, the old building torn down and a new one dedicated June 26, 1988. Changes in the way that health care was delivered and funded led to the selling of this building by the Franciscan Hospital System to Phoenix International. It is now part of Children's Hospital.

North College Hill

The first North College Hill school was located in Gard's section at the southeast corner of Hamilton Avenue and Galbraith Road. Gershom Gard sold all of section 25 to his son Seth for \$1/acre. Seth in turn sold 50 acres to Israel Brown in 1803. When the land was sold to Brown he leased this area to the school district and sold them this property parcel in 1844. This remained the site for several later school buildings. Clovernook School was the last school on this property. It was in use until 1922 when the public school, 1731 Goodman Avenue, was built. It is in the classical revival style of architecture and located in the Sunshine subdivision - it now belongs to the Northside Baptist School.

Peter Keen owned the forfeit of Section 31, the only forfeit in today's North College Hill. In 1806 he leased this land to Moses McLaughlin who made improvements and planted an apple orchard. This land was sold later to Oliver Spenser who built a large home dubbed Spenser's Folly. Rev. D. Burnet purchased this mansion, using it for the Hygeia Female Athenium, a girl's college, 1839-1856. It was closed due to competition from College Hill's Ohio Female College. The house was located across the street from the Wise farm, between Goodman and De Armand Avenues. The school set back from Hamilton Avenue on a low hill.

Subscription Certificate



Chapter 11 Mt. Healthy

An area of medium sized family farms, Mt. Healthy became a thriving country town. Between there and College Hill existed was nothing except farmland. Rabbi Wise and *Clovernook* were considered to be in the College Hill area. It wasn't until 1905 that North College Hill per se started to be built. Families that started out in College Hill spread into Mt. Healthy and Colerain Townships as their families grew and needed more farm land. The intermarriage between the various settlers made for close family and community bonds.

One of the most unusual commercial endeavors was in Mt. Healthy. We think of silk as an enterprise of the Orient. This was not true by the 17th century. King James I of England tried to establish a silk industry in 1603. Mulberry trees had already been introduced into England 400 years earlier. James I had a problem - thousands of Huguenots were fleeing France and the Low Countries to England due to religious persecution. These refugees were settling mainly on the southern English coast. Many of the immigrants were weavers and spinners so King James I thought that if he could establish silkworm cultures, a silk industry would follow. He now had skilled people needing work with prior experience with silkworms and silk, once a major export product of France.²⁰

Unfortunately, not all mulberry trees are equal to a silkworm; the white mulberry of Italy and France are favored over the black mulberry of England. The black mulberry was winter hardy in England's climate, but the other species were not. King James encouraged all of his subjects to plant mulberry trees, but the silk industry didn't flourish.

James I had another idea - he sent silkworm shipments in 1607 to Jamestown, hoping the worms would grow in the colonies and generate income for the Crown. Silkworm shipments in 1609 and 1622 were lost at sea, inspiring Shakespeare to write **The Tempest**. Jamestown burnt along with the crop in 1608 but some shipments did arrive and survive.

By 1619 there were penalties for not planting mulberry trees in Jamestown, although the red mulberry was native to America. These indigenous trees were large enough to yield 'six pounds of silk per year from cocoons.' The slave trade started in the colony about 1619 and the slaves were used for mulberry and tobacco crops. But slowly the silk industry was overshadowed by tobacco, rice and indigo cultivation due to the high cost of slaves. Silk was labor intensive while tobacco was a cash crop that was easily grown and needed little care.

James I wanted silk to be grown rather than tobacco. In 1616 he said that tobacco use was "... a custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs, and in the black, stinking fume thereof nearest resembling the horrible Stygian smoke of the pit that is bottomless."

In 1623 James I set up silk mills. Sir Robert Murray planted a minimum of 10,000 mulberry trees and perfected growing the trees from seed. While mulberries were imported with hopes that they would flourish in Virginia, James I's enthusiasm waned, and there were insufficient instructions sent regarding how to grow the caterpillars and recover the silk from the cocoon. The difficulties in settling in a new country were underestimated - there just wasn't enough time to devote to this crop. But Huguenots coming into this country also had their silk knowledge. North Carolina and Georgia were settled, in part, by Huguenots, in 1680. Settlers received free land in the Carolinas; part of the agreement was that mulberry trees were to be planted about the settlements. Unfortunately, only a few pounds of usable silk was produced from this venture; besides being labor intensive, silk worms didn't like the climate.

Governor James Oglethorpe of the Savannah (Georgia) colony promoted silk production in the 1730's by ruling that none could serve in the colony's Assembly unless they each had a minimum of 100 white mulberry trees and produced 15 pounds of silk per acre. The silkworm, cocoon and mulberry leaf are still part of Savannah's city seal.

²⁰ The Story of Silk, Dr. John Feltwell, 1991, One Square Mile: Mt. Healthy 1817-1992, Mt. Healthy Historical Society.

AntiqueWeek, Silk Production in America was Anything but smooth, Lewis Coe, Jan. 15, 1990.

Each plantation was required by law to have one female slave trained in silk culture for every four male slaves owned. By 1735 the southern colonies started to send their regular silk shipments to England. In 1742 half of the silkworms succumbed to disease. American silk production peaked in 1767 when almost one ton of silk was shipped to the Crown. The American Revolution stopped all silk production. In Virginia silk yielded to tobacco crops, South Carolina produced rice and indigo rather than silk. Georgia, who had cultured silk the longest and most successfully, switched to rice as their major crop.

It takes a lot to feed a caterpillar - 12,000 worms need 20 sacks of mulberry leaves each day. It takes 485 pounds of leaves to yield 2.2 pounds of silk. To spin a cocoon takes 2-3 days.

The 1800's saw a return to raising silkworms - as a gentleman's hobby. The craze for tulips had passed as had raising asters, sweet peas, cactus and chrysanthemums.

Maine, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Massachusetts revived the silk industry, and based it on the white mulberry. The Mansfield Silk Company of Massachusetts built the first American silk mill in 1810. The fascination with producing silk lasted only a few decades and by 1840 it was history. First Lady Louisa Adams, wife of John Q. Adams, wound the silk from cocoons she had raised in the evenings at the White House, while her husband enjoyed astronomy as a hobby. Mulberry trees that originally cost \$5.00 each had difficulty selling for a nickel. Abandoned mulberry orchards started to develop a blight which spread up and down the coast.

America wasn't the only place having silk industry problems. An epidemic had killed the French silkworms. Louis Pasteur went to Paris to determine the cause of the silkworm plague, which was identified as a virus.

A 1948 letter to Mr. Donald Hebler from Mrs. F. Spencer Roach²¹ relates the story of Mt. Healthy's silk venture. Charles Cheny was born in 1803 in Manchester, Connecticut, one of eight children of a farmer. Little is known about his early years but in 1831 he established a 'fancy dry-goods store' in Providence, Rhode Island. There he married in 1829 Waitzell Dexter.

"He maintained this store until 1834 when monetary difficulties overtook him, brought about by the unsettled commercial and financial condition of the country resulting from Andrew Jackson's war against Nicholas Biddle and the United States Bank. Charles was forced to liquidate his business and resolved to go back to the land. His younger brothers Ralph and Ward, who had clerked for him for a time in the Providence shop, had been experimenting in raising mulberry trees and feeding silk worms, and prevailed upon him to engage in the venture gaining in popularity along the eastern seaboard."

In the late spring of 1835, Charles, accompanied by Ralph and a younger brother, Seth, set out on a tour of the American west. Charles and Ralph, for the purpose of locating a more clement climate for mulberry culture, and Seth, a young artist, joined for the pleasure of the trip. En route they stopped in Cincinnati which impressed Charles so much that he returned later in the fall to find a home for his family. Charles and Seth inspected properties in and around Cincinnati, rambling through the countryside on foot so as 'to prepare them for the plow.'

Charles found a suitable place in Mt. Healthy. He purchased from the Laboiteaux family eighty-seven acres which already had a farm house and other buildings, in the vicinity of today's Hamilton Avenue and St. Clair Street. Peter J. Laboiteaux was a tailor and merchant at this time and may have been in partnership with the Chenys. Before leaving Manchester, Cheny had mulberry trees shipped to their new farm at the cost of \$20 per hundred trees.

"Charles and his family and Seth had no sooner established themselves at Mt. Healthy than tragedy struck. The two little daughters died within a month of each other" from whooping cough. Despite this, Charles and Seth planted 3,000 white mulberry trees and started raising silkworms in the house. Seth found time to sketch and model with local clay. The silk worms arrived from China. After feeding mulberry leaves to the worms, 32 days later the raw silk from cocoons was ready to be harvested. Each step of the process needed careful attention for the health of the worms affected the quality of the silk. Silk gathered from the cocoons was processed and could be sent to Manchester or used locally to be

²¹ Letter in in the Public Library of Hamilton County, Mt. Healthy branch.

woven into cloth.

Meanwhile, Charles' brother, Ward, and their brother-in-law, Edward Arnold, settled in Burlington, New Jersey on the Delaware River, about ten miles from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They purchased two adjoining farms and erected a cocoonery and planted their land with Chinese mulberry trees, sending some to Charles' company, the Mulberry Grove Silk Company. Seth and another brother, John, joined Ward in New Jersey.

"Having²² established the source of raw materials, the Chenys now were interested in the production end of the picture. Accordingly in January 1838, they incorporated under the name of Mt. Nebo Silk Mills in Manchester, Conn. with Ralph as president. By the end of 1839 the mill was employing 20 hands...But along with other companies engaged in manufacturing silk, their greatest problem was to get adequate supplies of raw material. Even with three plantations operating, the Chenys could not keep the mill going constantly, so Ward traveled to Georgia late in 1838 to make arrangements for starting an additional plantation in Augusta. The milder climate indicated the possibility of a greater number of crops of silkworms because of the longer growing season and the greater output of mulberry leaves so induced. In the meantime Seth and Frank, the youngest of the eight brothers, and a mechanical genius, had gone to Europe to study and report on silk culture in France and Italy...

While these young men were expending all their energies towards establishing an American Silk Industry, the country as a whole was locked in the toils of the depression of 1837. But not until October 1839 "...that the depression had much affect upon silk growers."²³ By the summer of 1840, when the uproarious campaign was at fever-pitch, the enthusiasm for raising mulberry had waned such that trees were abandoned and speculators lost their shirts for lack of buyers. Contracts made the previous fall for spring delivery in time for planting could not be fulfilled - few still wanted to buy, and the prices of trees, cocoons, eggs fell so rapidly the bottom dropped out of the market.

The Chenys were caught in the avalanche, for while they were legitimate tree raisers and producers of silk, the profit derived from selling their surplus cuttings had helped to buy raw silk for the mill. With this supply cut off, their activities had to be curtailed and they were unable to meet their own obligations. The Manchester mill closed temporarily, and the Georgia venture collapsed. Ward managed to hold onto the Burlington land until late 1841.

At Mt. Healthy Charles managed to hang on to his land, but suffered the loss of his wife Waitsell in April 1841, just two days after President Harrison's sudden death, as well as the death of their third daughter born in 1840.

In spite of the bad luck they had endured, the younger brothers returned to Manchester, resolved to devote their skills to the manufacturing and of the industry. By the summer of 1843 the mill was once more operating, and the following year, 1844, Ward ventured into the dyeing end, building a separate dye house in 1845."

By 1847 they felt themselves sufficiently well established to suggest the Charles, living alone with his surviving son Frank Woodbridge (Cheny) in Mt. Healthy, return and enter into the mill with them. Charles

had not yet re-married, and appears to have struggled along with his farm, occupied quietly in aiding escaped slaves on their way to freedom. His house was a station on the Underground Railroad, and "...young Frank had vivid recollections of riding beside his father, escaped Negroes hidden behind them in the wagon, on apparently innocent trips to the next station."²⁴

A nationwide mulberry blight killed many trees in 1844. Charles sold his farm to William S. Sampson and returned to Manchester in 1847. The Manchester mill had grown to employing about 5,000 workers and the looms and other buildings covered 36 acres. The workers were housed on the site which

²² Letter from Mrs. F. Spencer, op. cit.

²³ This was the time of the William Henry Harrison presidential campaign.

²⁴ Letter from Mrs. F. Spencer, op. cit.

encompassed a total of 1,300 acres. It was a self contained city run by the family. The Cheny Brothers mill in Manchester is still in business.

The farm location was two brick houses that once stood on the east side of the mulberry grove. The mulberry grove was a local landmark until after W. W. I.

Other communities tried to establish a silkworm industry. One of the closer areas was Waynesville. There, the *Tree of Heaven* (Asian ailanthus) was imported for silkworm fodder rather than mulberry trees. This attempt to nurture silkworms also failed but the non-native tree can be found throughout the Cincinnati area.

Grace and George Hoffmann, Jan. 1909 on Groesbeck Rd.
Courtesy of Nelson M. Hoffmann



Chapter 12 Early Worship²⁵

“The first preaching I can remember on College Hill was in my father’s barn.²⁶ The preacher was the Rev. T. Thomas, a Welshman, known as an Independent or Congregationalist. He afterward became the pastor of the Welch Congregational Church at Paddy’s Run in Butler Co., where he died in 1831. Thomas E. Thomas, D.D., a distinguished Presbyterian clergyman, the late President of Lane Seminary, was his eldest son. After the building of the brick school house the Methodists had started meetings once in two weeks. There were two preachers on the Miami Circuit, and they came here alternately. This being a comparatively insignificant field, their meetings were on week days, and the attendance was very small. In 1816 Danforth Witherby, a local Methodist minister, purchased a part of the Spencer farm, built and occupied a cabin on the west side of the road nearly opposite the Gano residence. He was by trade a cooper, and erected a large shop, and with his sons made lard kegs and pork barrels.

Being a licensed preacher, but not under the control of conference, as a matter of duty and pleasure he preached often on the Sabbath at the school house. A few years later, Aaron Burdsall rented the Spencer residence, and resided there a number of years. He, too, was a local preacher, and between them we had preaching almost every Sabbath. They were very unlike in their mode of sermonizing. Mr. Witherby selected his subject, divided into two heads, and was methodical, deliberate and often very eloquent, and for a man of his education was a superior preacher. Burdsall was a good, sincere man, but very scattered and made a great deal of noise. He was a better exhorter than sermonizer. T. B. Witherby, our esteemed neighbor, who has resided here since 1816, is a son of the Rev. Danforth Witherby, who in 1831 removed to Oxford where he died at a very old age.

The first church edifice in which people of the hill were interested was at Mt. Pleasant. The house was built to accommodate all denominations who chose to occupy it. The principal contributors to its erection were Presbyterians and Universalists, and the house was occupied by them on alternate Sabbaths for several years. William Cary, David Gaston, John LaRue and Samuel Tomlinson were its temporal and spiritual pillars.

When Cary’s Academy was built the services were divided between the church at Mt. Pleasant and the chapel of the academy. About the year 1850 (note: 1853), a church was organized of College Hill.²⁷ From that time the church at Mt. Pleasant began to decline. The Gaston and the LaRue families passed away, and that field was abandoned by the Presbyterians as hopeless. The Church on the hill continued for some years to occupy the chapel of the academy, and then the chapel of Farmers’ College, until the completion of the present church edifice (1855). When this was built the number of members was small, and but few were financially able to contribute. The church cost about \$12,000, one half of which was given by William and S. F. Cary. Other liberal contributors were F. G. Cary, D. B. Thomas, John Covert and Samuel Wilson.

The house of worship at Mt. Pleasant fell into decay and by order of the Presbytery the wreck was sold and the proceeds turned over to the College Hill Church. Through the voluntary and valuable services of John W. Caldwell, Esq. the fund thus obtained enabled the church to purchase the school house and convert it into a chapel.

The Methodists procured a lot at the corner of Belmont and Laurel Avenues, but were never strong enough financially or otherwise to build a house of worship and the disposed of the lot and abandoned the field.

In²⁸ early times camp meetings were numerous in July and August, and were attended by very large

²⁵ Historical Sketch of College Hill and Vicinity, Samuel Fenton Cary, 1886.

²⁶ A 50 X 50 foot log cabin situated on the property of The Oaks.

²⁷ lead by Rev. Robert H. Bishop

²⁸ Historical Sketch of College Hill, op. cit.

numbers, many remaining in their tents for a whole week. These woods meetings originated with the Presbyterians, and were adopted and continued by the Methodists. The excitement, excesses and extravagances at a Presbyterian camp meeting at Cane Ridge in Kentucky, where the New Light sect originated, and the wonderful revivals in Tennessee, resulting in the organization of the "Cumberland Presbyterian church," brought camp meetings into disfavor with the Presbyterians. The last Presbyterian²⁹ camp meeting in the county was held near Cheviot fifty years ago. Methodist camp meetings have been held annually in the Cincinnati Circuit for sixty or more years. The only one ever held on the Hill was Howard's woods.

Our pioneer preachers were usually uneducated men and having felt they had a call to preach they relied for thoughts and words upon Him who called them.

They often spoke with great eloquence and power. The revival hymns which the whole congregation united in singing, filling the surrounding forests with weird melody impressed all thoughtful people with the deep sincerity of the leaders in the work. Remaining in camp for a whole week, engaged in singing, praying, listening to the practical sermons and fervent exhortations, it would be strange if excesses did not sometimes result. The principal reasons for holding these protracted woods meetings no longer exist, but we have no adverse criticisms to make upon their continuance. "The New Lights" were numerous on and near Winton Road east of College Hill and Mt. Pleasant. They had a house of worship near the junction of the North Bend and Winton Roads. Their church edifice, like the sect, has fallen into decay. The McCashes, the Bruins, the Snodgrasses, the Sprauges, the Finneys, the Hills, the Dodsons and Jessups, good men and thrifty farmers belonging to that sect, have gone where denominational creeds are unknown and their descendants who still live are widely scattered. It was with this sect that the exercise known as the "jerks" originated.

The Presbyterian church³⁰ was organized in 1853 by thirty-three members of the Mt. Pleasant society. Rev. R. H. Bishop, D. D., of Farmers' College, was one of the main forces in developing this church. After meeting for several years in the chapel of Farmers' College, a church building was erected about 1855, on the same site that it occupies today. Its bricks were fired on a kiln that stood where John Davey's lake once was. It was built to hold 800 because it was assumed that attendance would be great from both colleges. Samuel and Freeman Cary put up half of the money for this church, which cost \$12,000. Other contributors were William Cary, D. B. Thomas, John Covert and Samuel Wilson.³¹ In 1865 the church bell was rung so hard to celebrate the fall of Richmond that it cracked. It was recast and hung, only until 1888 when a tornado destroyed its tower and much of the church after the congregation had left. The Rev. J. H. Walker was pastor and Dr. George M. Maxwell delivered the sermon."

The congregation struggled for funds to rebuild. William Cary held the mortgage on the church and the membership didn't buy new hats and fewer new clothes in order to be able to pay off this note. Leaders in building the new edifice were Lowe Emerson, Peter G. Thomson, T. S. Goodman, John R. Davey, G. H. De Golyer, A. H. Pounsford along with the 'Ladies Aid Society'. The cost to rebuild was \$37,000. Funds were raised and the new church was dedicated in 1891, with the recovered bell rehung. Stained glass windows are dedicated to William and Rebekah Cary and to Mary (Wilson) Pyle.

Peter G. Thomson donated a sculpture and new organ in 1914 in memory of his wife, Laura.

Andrew Deininger sold his corner blacksmith shop to Peter G. Thomson on July 19, 1922. Mr. Thomson, sold the property to the First Presbyterian Church of College Hill on Aug. 4, 1922 for one

²⁹ One of the largest tent meetings was held in April 1829 in Cincinnati for a religious debate between Alexander Campbell and Richard Owen. After eight days of debates, Campbell's fame rose and Owen's followers faded away. Campbell believed that ...the owner of slaves was not a sinner. More Memorable Americans, 1750-1950, Robert B. Downs et al., 1985.

³⁰ Title Abstract of the College Hill Presbyterian Church. Symmes to Nehemiah Tunis, Oct. 1796; N. Tunis to Jabez Tunis, May 4, 1812; J. Tunis to Wm. Cary Sept. 8, 1813; Wm. Cary to John Strong, 52 acres, Jan. 30, 1819, filed Dec. 11, 1822; 5.81 acres to Roswell Hazeltine Nov. 26, 1824, Wm. Cary to Solomon Howard, 10 acres, Nov. 19, 1828 but not filed until Sept. 11 1834; Howards heirs to D. Thomas, 10 acres, Aug. 1, 1846. Thanks to Edward Stare for this information.

³¹ Also the botanist Alphonso Wood, D. B. Thomas, John W. Caldwell, Alanson and Josiah Grant, the Huntingtons and Strongs.

dollar. In 1926 the stone parish manse was built north of the church, which served until after W.W. II, when another brick parish house was built on Groesbeck Road. The church remained the same until the early 1950's when the sanctuary was enlarged and remodeled into the Gothic inspired facade that we know today.

Existing still is an old anonymous church history written at the turn of the century. The minister following Dr. Bishop was Rev. Andrew Benton, then Rev. Edward who resigned in 1850 to preach in Sandusky. The Rev. Lorenzo Cary, cousin to the Carys on the hill, was both a professor at Farmers' College and well as church minister. In 1855 Rev. Cary received his ministerial salary of \$500 plus \$700 for teaching at Farmers' College. At the end of this letter is a list of congregants and what they paid, or still owed, the church as of Jan. 13, 1853. The names are: S. F. Cary, Wm. Cary, E. G. Taylor, Geo. S. Ormsby, Alphonso Wood, D. B. Thomas, R. J. Bosworth, H. R. Strong, Josiah Grant, Sam Wilson, J. Henderson, Prof. Klemett, J. M. Walden, C. E. Harbison, John Covert, F. A. Churchhill, J. C. Jacfreys, W. A. Bagley, J. W. Caldwell, J. H. Williams, H. Gibbons, Joel Strong, Robinson Je??, Mrs. Brooks, E. DeSerresy, John Price, M(?) Huntington, Rachel Lewis, J. B. Witherby, M. M. Edwards, Andrew Benton, O. Kingsbury, Mrs. Whitside Jr., Samuel Borden, F. G. Cary, Johnathan Brook, , R. S. Bosworth, H. R. Strong, J. S. Cook, G. E. Harbison, M. Hoagland, W. G. Arnold, Mary H. Bowen.

D. B. Pierson and a few other families connected with the Protestant Episcopal Church, ...having become permanent residents of the hill, with commendable zeal, determined to have a church of their own. The present neat little chapel, the parsonage adjacent, a church organization and a regular rector are the result.

The church was founded Feb. 25, 1866. Prominent members were the Caldwell, Knight, Cist, Harbeson, DeSerisy, Tweed, Avery and Doisy families. Early services of the church were held at Farmers' College for \$20 a month rent, until the first church could be built. This brick church used timbers from the demolished Cary's Academy which was empty, and was torn down to clear the site for the new building. Gifts of money from various Episcopalians throughout Cincinnati³² assisted in the church's swift construction. Completed in 1867 at a cost of \$16,300, the church was used until 1916.

By 1890 the church needed expensive and extensive repair. Donations and pew fees were the main source of church revenues. The 'envelope' system of pledging was introduced in 1914 but it wasn't until 1928 that pew fees were completely phased out. Despite repairs and the addition of electric lights, the church was condemned in 1916 by the City of Cincinnati.

The first rector was Rev. R. T. Kerfoot. A prominent later rector was Rev. John H. Ely who also was the first rector of St. Philips Episcopal church in Northside. Additionally, Ely served a congregation in Hartwell at the same time.

In 1917 a new parish house was built from plans by Samuel Hannaford & Sons. The firm drew plans for both a church and parish house but because of W.W. I, building costs soared, so only the parish house was erected.

The old church was torn down in 1918 and weekly service was held at Town Hall until the parish house was completed in 1919. The current Gothic style church was built in 1927-28 of white Indiana Bedford stone. It was dedicated by Bishop Henry W. Hobson. The rectory, which sat west of the church on Belmont Avenue, was moved in 1957 to a site north of Aiken High school. The move down Belmont Avenue was documented by the late Rev. LeRoy Hall who gave many slides of this unusual sight to the College Hill Historical Society. Rev. LeRoy D. Hall was Grace's minister from 1953 - 1966. Where the parish house stood, an educational wing was added. Rev. Hall was a founder of College Hill Community Urban Redevelopment Corporation which planned future development for College Hill, such as the College Hill Plaza, as well as rehabilitation of blighted properties.

A church is more than a series of buildings and Grace Episcopal's niche has always been service to the community. The church women helped to fund Children's Hospital (started in 1884 as the Hospital of the Protestant Episcopal Church).

³² William Procter, Henry Probasco, and Robert Mitchell to name a few.

An interesting house occupied where the rectory of Grace Episcopal church stood. Owned by Capt. A. D. E. Tweed and later by Ellen Newton, daughter of College Hill mayor, John M. Newton, the wooden house had what appeared to be a second floor. Actually it was a false front.

The Springfield Presbyterian Church was founded in Springdale in 1823. In the first congregation are familiar pioneer names: Levi Sayre; John, Nancy, James Thomson; Jas. Sayre; Effy Pierson; Catherine and John LaRue; Isaac and Elizabeth LaRue; Robert Allison; J. Van Zant; Margaret Van Zant; Betsy Hazelton.

Ellen H. Newton House, by Caroline Williams
2-23-1941

