

# Morgantown West Virginia

Celebrating Two Hundred Years of Education

1814 - 2014



# Morgantown, West Virginia

## Celebrating 200 Years of Education 1814-2014

As home to West Virginia University, the city of Morgantown is broadly recognized as one of America's leading centers of higher education. The city's distinction in this regard did not begin with the establishment of WVU in 1867, however, but dates back more than half a century earlier with the founding of the Monongalia Academy. From the Academy's inception in 1814 until 1867 when its assets helped found WVU, the Academy and its sister institutions – the Morgantown Female Academy and Woodburn Seminary – provided “higher” education to thousands of students from throughout the region and beyond.

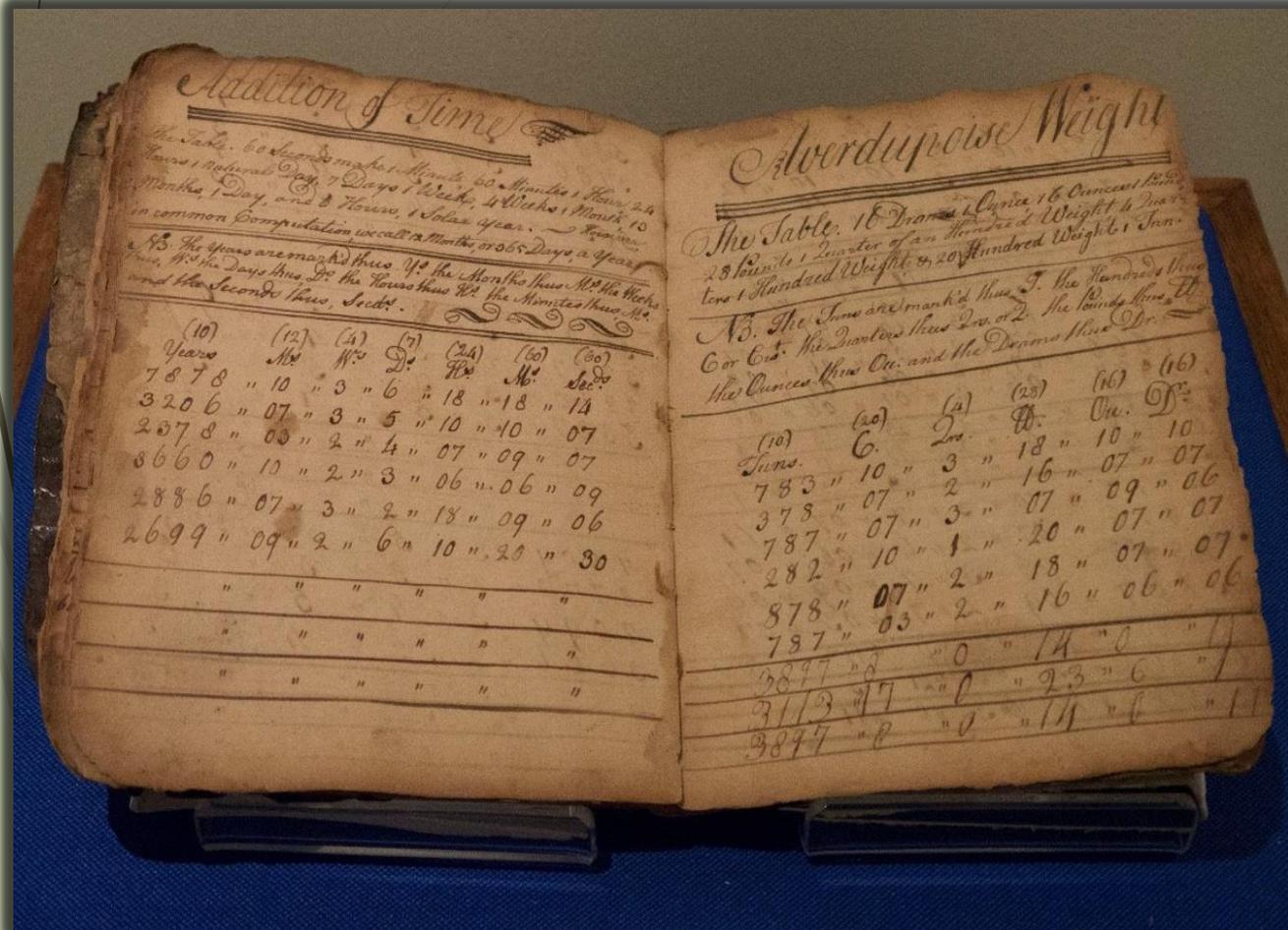
# An Early Monongalia County School



West Virginia & Regional History Collection

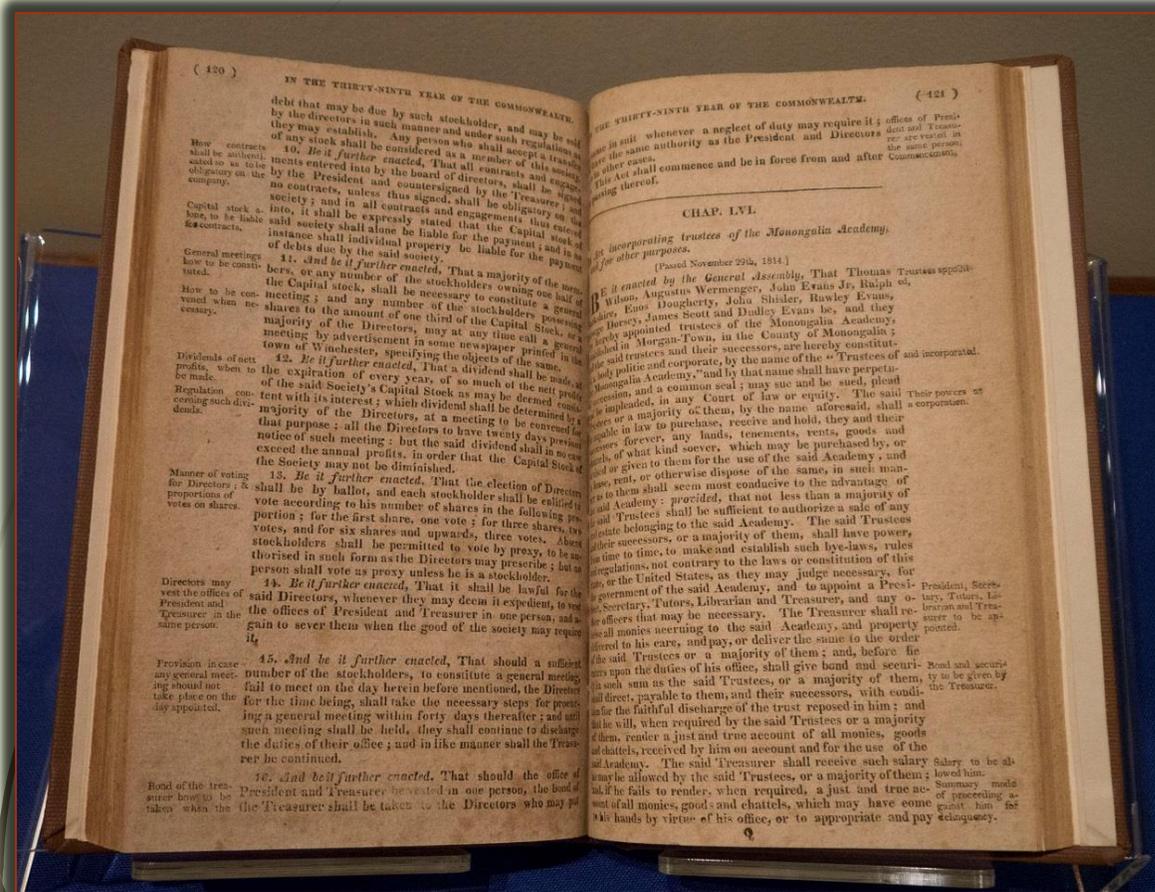
Educational opportunities on the western Virginia frontier were few at the turn of the eighteenth century. Whereas private schools and tutors abounded in eastern Virginia, such avenues were lacking in Trans-Allegheny Virginia. Where they did exist, frontier schools were often crude affairs offering only rudimentary lessons. This log schoolhouse constructed sometime in the early nineteenth century was located at Core, (West) Virginia. It was in this rustic building that the noted American educator Alexander L. Wade (1832-1904) began his distinguished teaching career.

# McKinnon Arithmetic Primer



Educational publications were rare on the frontier in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Thus, parents and teachers routinely had to make their own textbooks. This homemade primer, bound with bark, was made by Rev. David McKinnon in 1765 for the purpose of instructing his daughter Anne in arithmetic. The book, which also contains rules of grammar, hymns, and quotations, was subsequently employed by McKinnon descendants including the Rogers family of Morgantown.

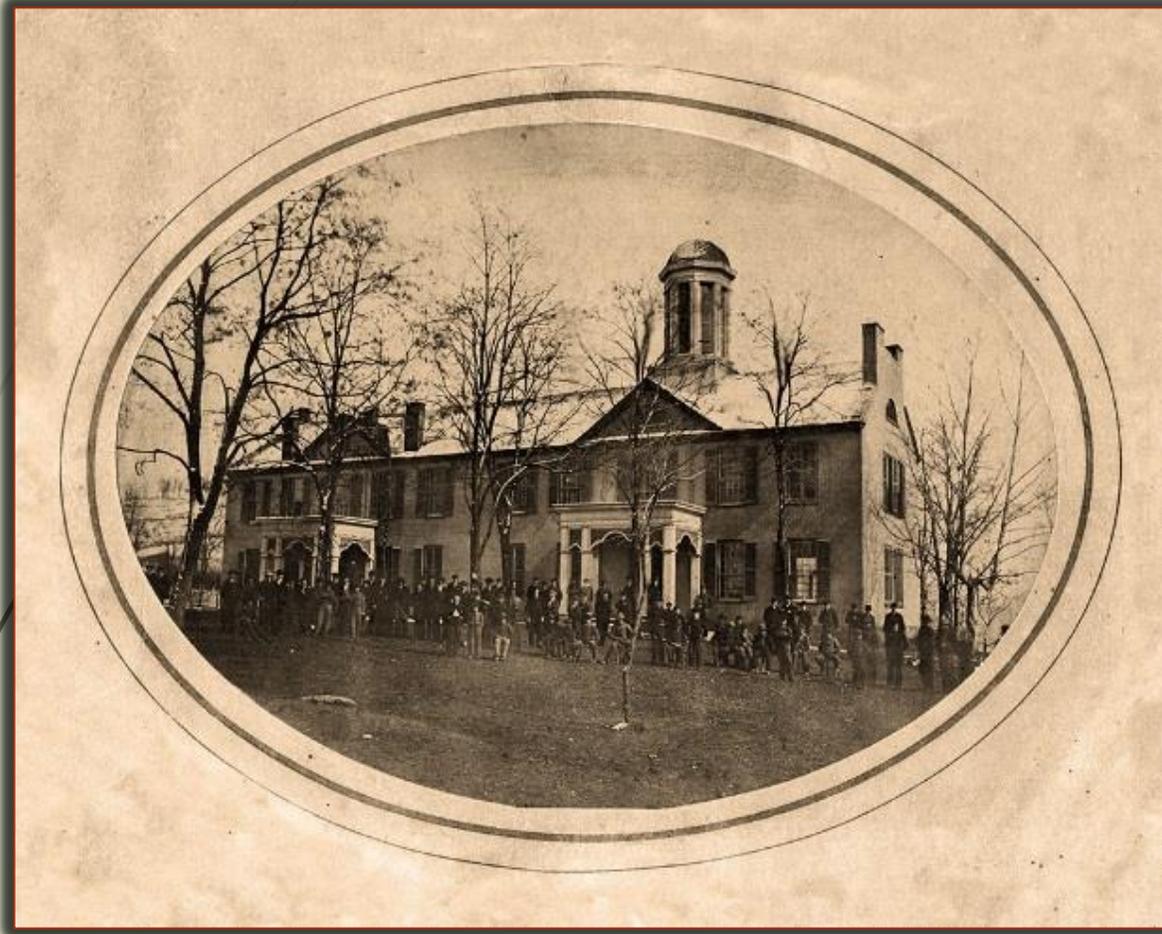
# The Monongalia Academy Officially Begins



## Legislative Act Creating Monongalia Academy

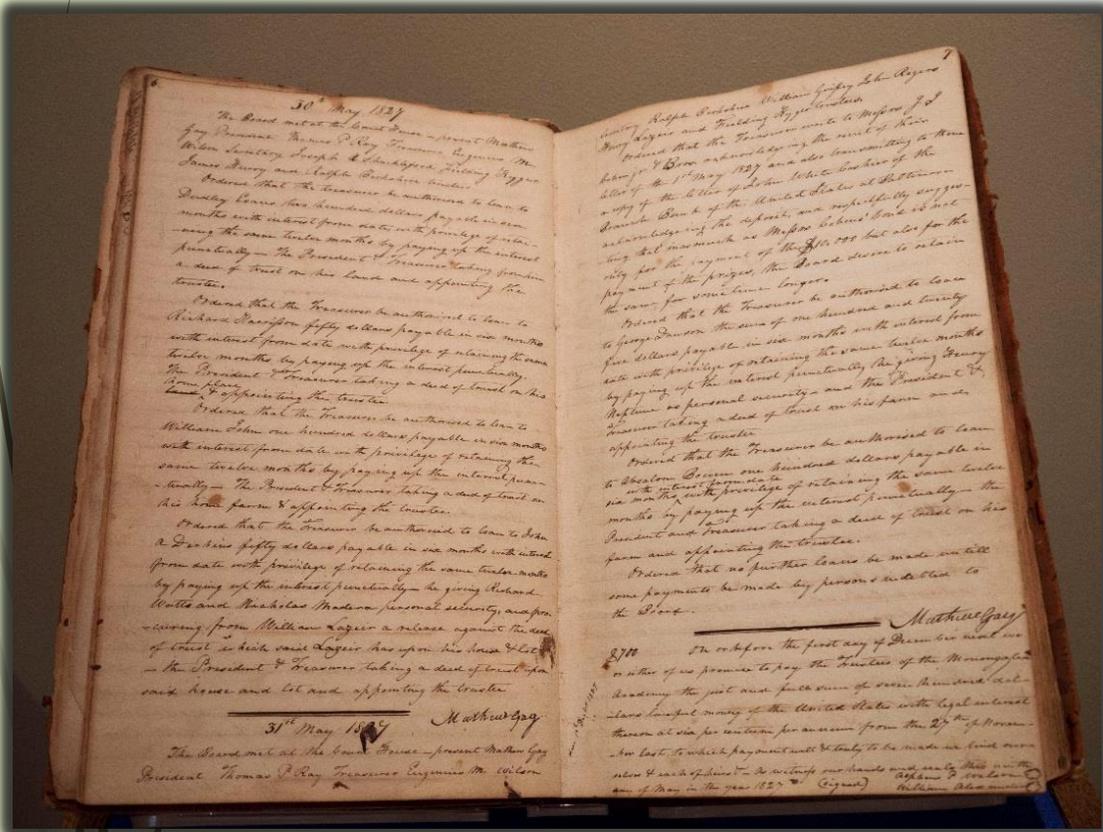
The Monongalia Academy was incorporated by this act of the General Assembly of Virginia on November 29, 1814.

# The Monongalia Academy



The Monongalia Academy's first classes are thought to have been held in a building on the corner of Spruce and Willey (then Boundary) streets. The school continued at this location until a new building was constructed by the trustees on a lot at Spruce and Walnut streets. This building (see photo at left, ca. 1860) served as the home of the Academy from 1829 until 1867 when the assets of the Academy were donated toward the establishment of WVU. The University held the property only briefly before selling it to help fund the construction of WVU's first building, University (now Martin) Hall.

# Monongalia Academy, the Early Years



## Minute Book of the Monongalia Academy (left)

Relatively little is known about the Monongalia Academy's first years as records for this period are lost. The minute book on display here was begun in 1827. It documents the purchase of a lot for and construction of a new building on the northeast corner of Spruce and Walnut streets. It also reveals the extent to which the Academy served as a local loan agency. Among the Academy's foremost clients were the trustees themselves. While the practice of money lending, to be repaid with interest, was meant to augment the treasury, it is clear that the practice was abused. Some loans were never repaid. Indeed, questionable financial practices generally, in money lending and lottery ventures, led to legal entanglements for the trustees and an indictment on at least one occasion.

**Monongalia Academy Trustees** (from left to right)  
Thomas P. Ray, Trustee and Treasurer, ca. 1827-1841  
Thomas Wilson, Trustee and Secretary, 1814-1826  
Mathew Gay, Trustee and President, ca. 1827-1857



# Funding the Monongalia Academy

This Indenture made the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May in the year 1821 between *William Boyce* of the one part, *Edgar C. Nelson* of the second part, and the Trustees of the Monongalia Academy of the third part, all of Monongalia County and State of Virginia. Whereas the said *William Boyce* and *Edgar C. Nelson* both this day executed an obligation to the said Trustees, for the sum of One hundred and fifty dollars, payable in six months with legal interest thereon from the date hereof—

And whereas the said *William Boyce* and the President of the said Trustees have mutually chosen the said *Edgar C. Nelson* as their trustee, to execute the trust and confidence hereby reposed in him—

Now this Indenture witnesseth, that the said *William Boyce* for and in consideration of the sum of one dollar, to him in hand paid by the said trustee the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and the further consideration of more effectually securing the payment of the said obligation, with interest thereon, shall granted bargained and sold, and by these presents do grant bargain, sell, alien, convey, release and confirm unto the said *Edgar C. Nelson*, his heirs and assigns forever, five acres one rood and one pole of land, situate in said county, on the waters of Swamp run, being the same land on which *Abraham Knott* and *John Conroy* to the said *William Boyce* by deed recorded and dated the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1820

To have and to hold the above described real estate with the appurtenances unto the said *Edgar C. Nelson*, his heirs and assigns forever, free from the claims of all persons whatsoever, under this special trust and confidence, that is to say, that if the said *William Boyce* or some person for him, shall fail to pay of the said obligation, with the interest due thereon, it shall and may be lawful for the said *Edgar C. Nelson*, his executor or administrators, at any time or after six months from the date hereof, upon the written request of the President of said Trustees, to sell the real estate hereby conveyed, or any part thereof, at public auction to the highest bidder for ready money, on the public ground before the front door of the Courthouse of said county, and out of the proceeds of such sale the said trustee shall deduct a commission of five per centum as a compensation for his trouble, and with the residue pay off (if sufficient) the amount due on said obligation, with the interest thereon, and the residue if any pay to the said *William Boyce*, his heirs or assigns; provided, that at least four weeks before such sale takes place, the said *Edgar C. Nelson*, his executor or administrator, affix up at the said front door an advertisement, stating the time, manner, place and terms of such sale—and further it shall be the duty of the said trustee his executor or administrator, upon a sale of the said real estate or any part thereof, to convey the same to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, and in case the said debt and interest is paid off, without such sale, he will

## Funding of the Academy (right)

The Virginia General Assembly Act that officially created the Monongalia Academy in 1814 decreed that a percentage of all surveyors' fees collected in Monongalia County would be earmarked to help fund the school. While these funds were no doubt appreciated, they were not nearly sufficient. In order to raise additional monies, the trustees of the school endeavored to augment resources through schemes including conducting lotteries and by lending money to be repaid with interest to local citizens.

## Loan in the Amount of \$150 "payable in six months" (left)

The Trustees of the Monongalia Academy used the Academy's financial resources liberally as a lending bank with the goal of financial gain through charging interest.

**PUBLIC SALE.**  
As Treasurer of the Monongalia Academy, I will sell on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1826, being a court day, at the courthouse in said county, a  
**HOUSE AND LOT IN GRANVILLE,**  
formerly the residence of *Willard Mason*, deceased; said sale will be up on credit of one year, bond and acre is wish interest from date will be required.  
**E. C. WILSON,**  
Treasurer of Monog Academy.  
Feb. 26, 1826.—12.

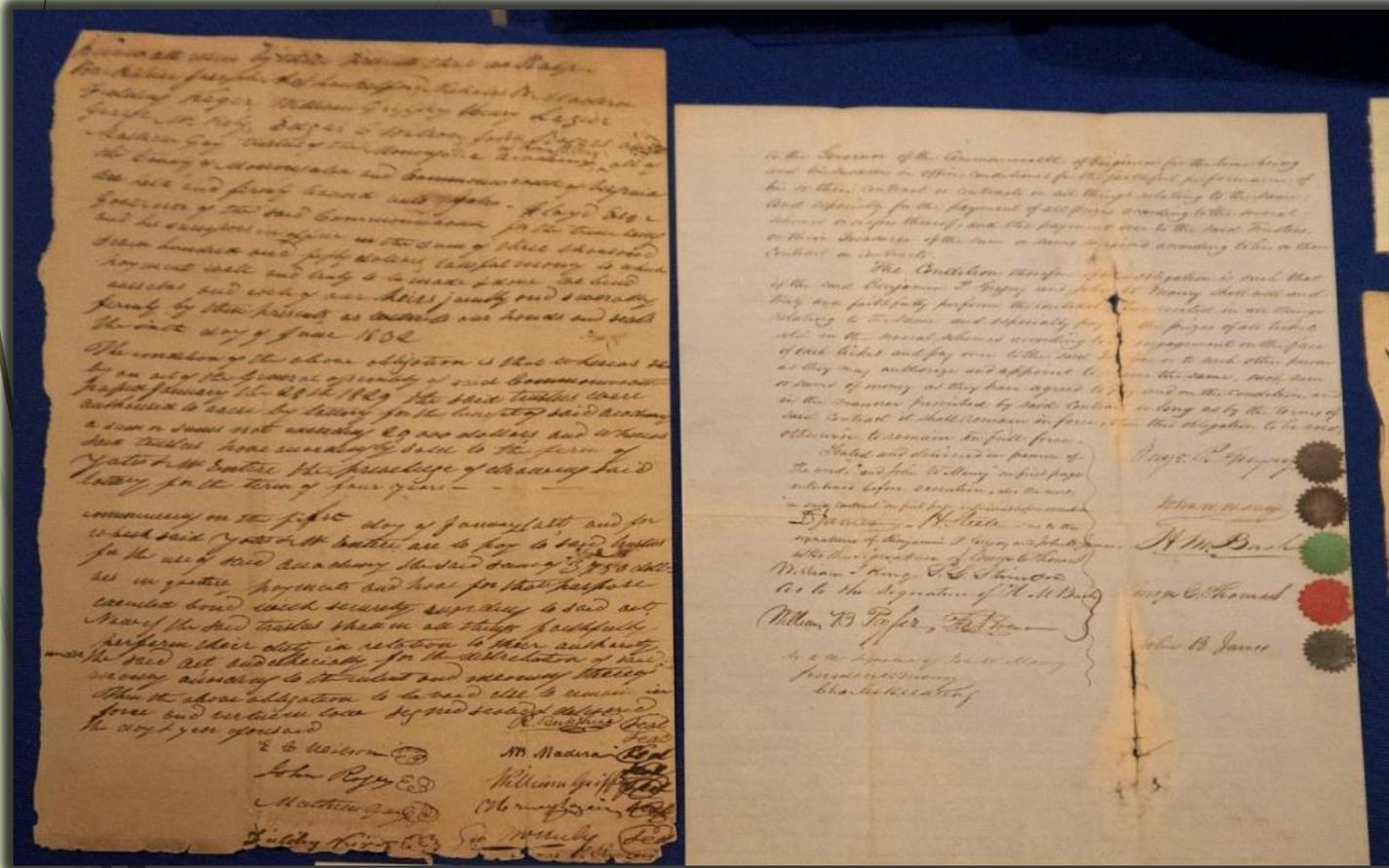
One year after date, we or either of us promise to pay to the Trustees of the Monongalia Academy the sum of \$150 Dollars, with interest thereon from this date, it being the purchase money in full for the house and lot in Granville named in the annexed advertisement, possession of which is to be delivered on the first of April next. Witnesses our hands and seals the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 1826

*E. C. Wilson*  
*Ed*

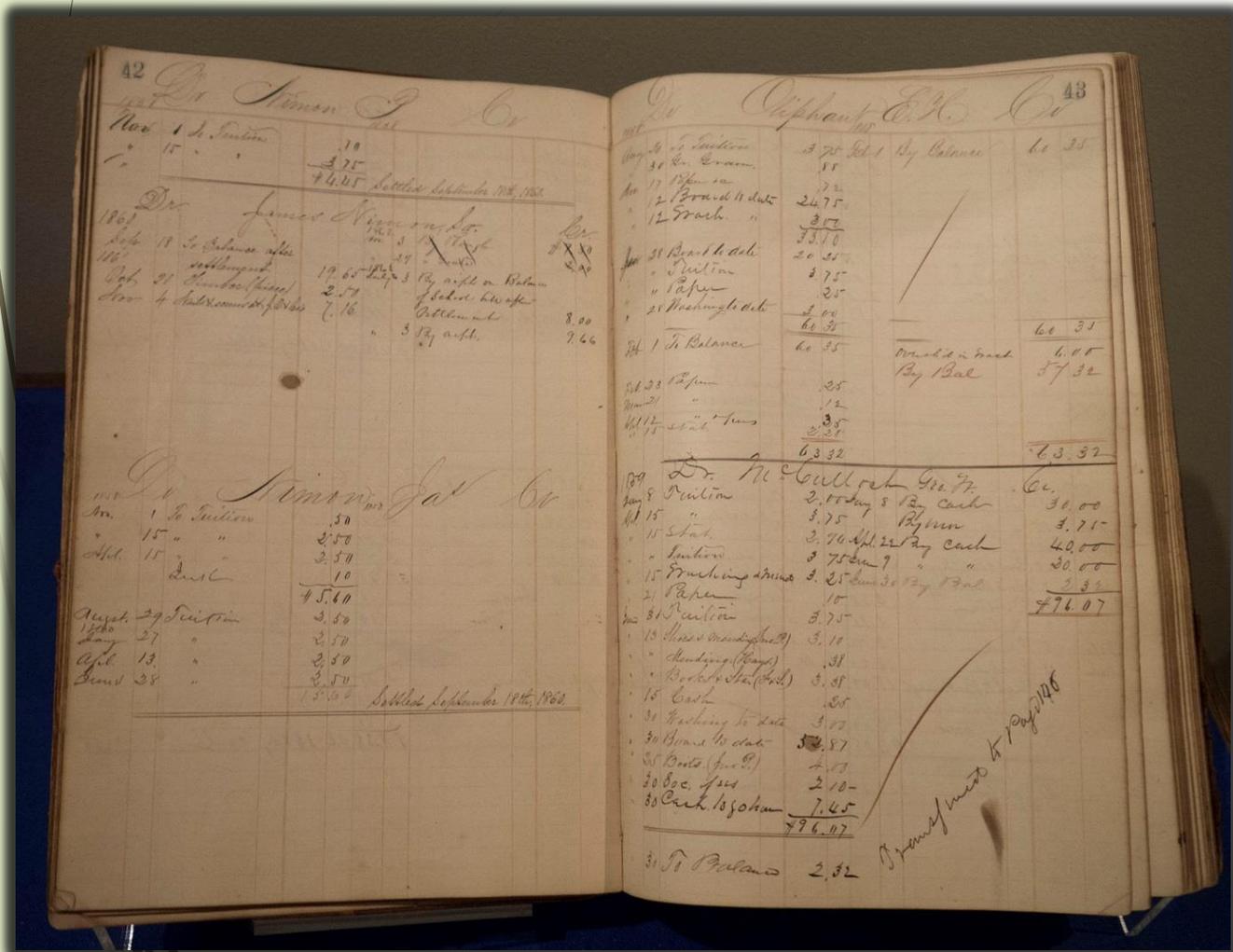
# Funding the Monongalia Academy

## Lottery Contracts

These legal agreements document the Monongalia Academy's lottery enterprises. Management of the lottery was subcontracted to external companies who were responsible for advertising and conducting the lottery. Proceeds from these ventures were a major source of funding for the Academy.

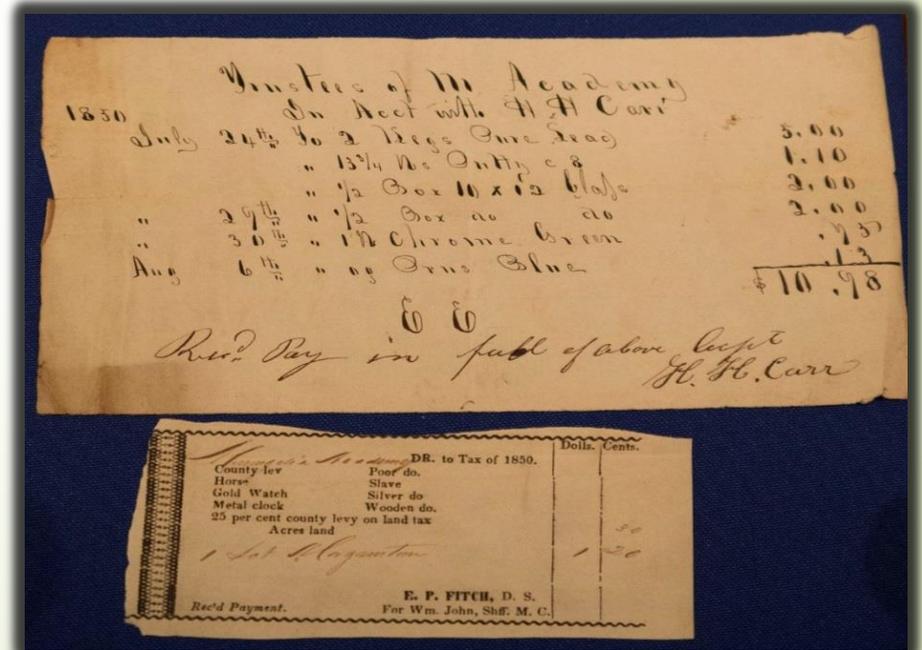


# Funding the Monongalia Academy



## Monongalia Academy Student Accounts & Other Costs

Student account records contained in the ledger at left reveal that enrollees routinely spent far more on food, shelter, clothing, laundry services, school supplies and other supplies and services than they did on tuition. The documents pictured below show the cost of supplies and the amount that the Monongalia Academy paid in taxes on its land (less than \$2).



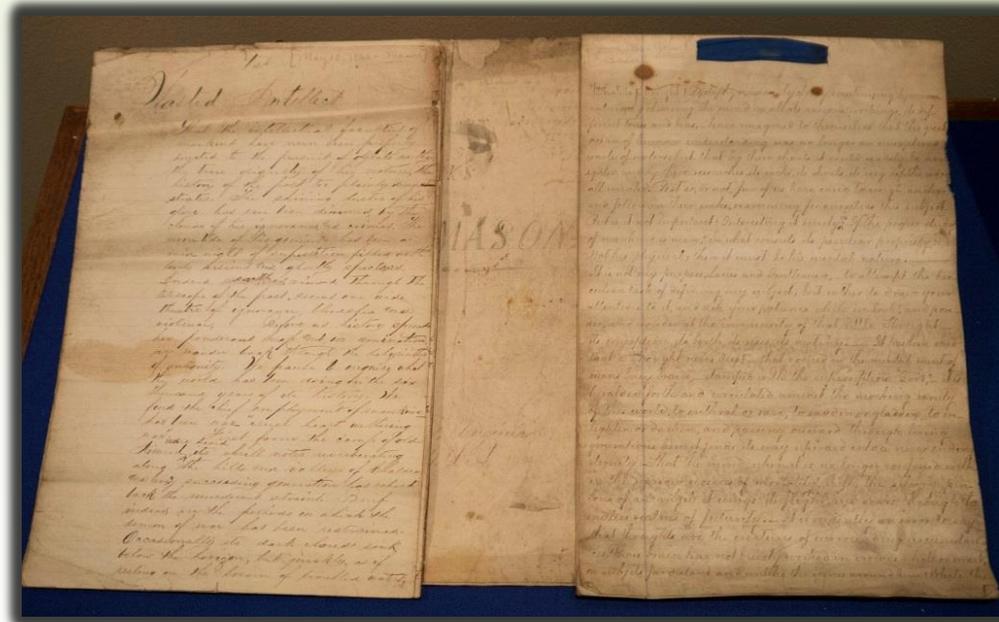
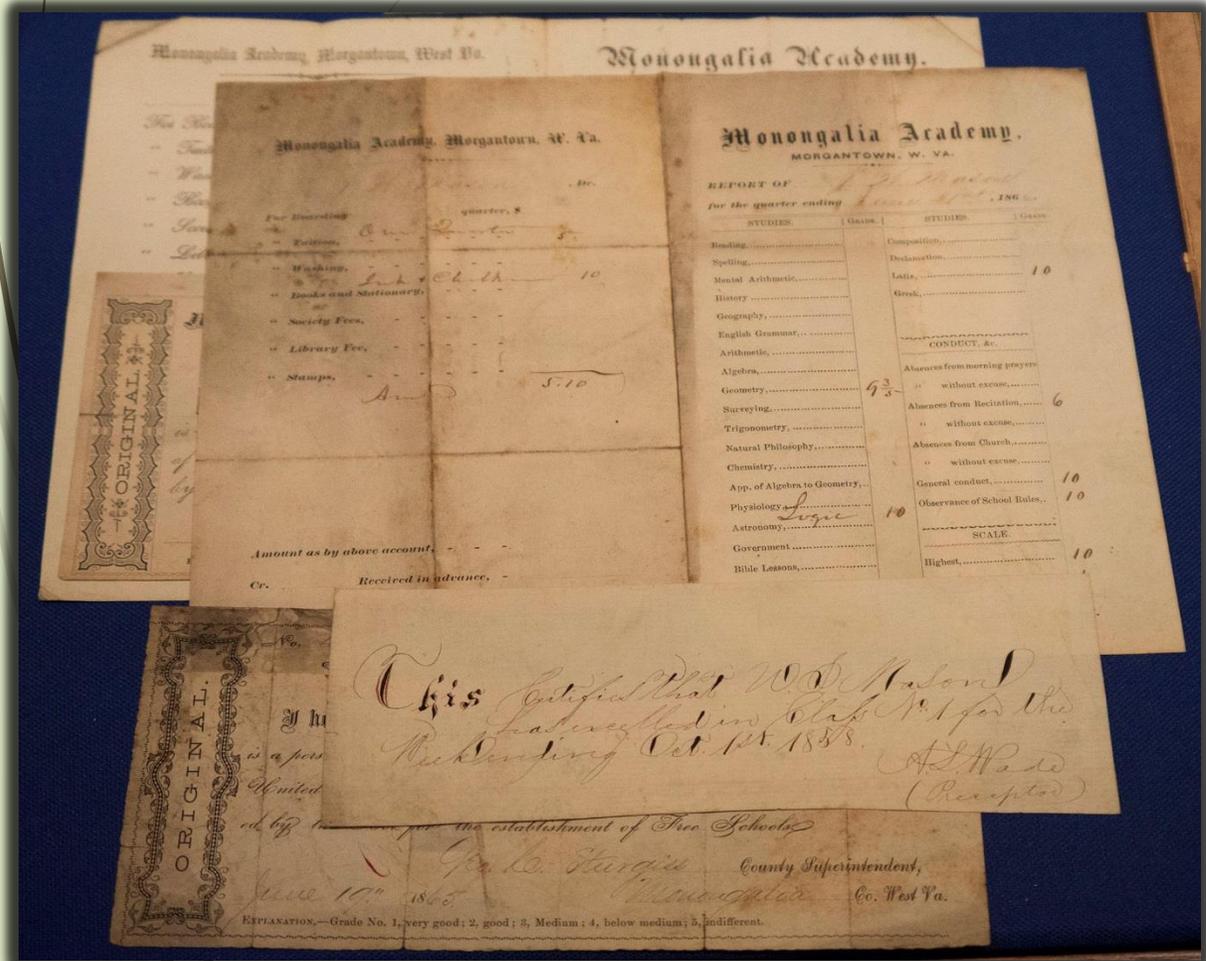
# The Monongalia Academy Building on Fire



West Virginia & Regional History Collection

The Monongalia Academy building was destroyed by fire in 1897. A grand new public school was built on this lot and opened two years later.

# Monongalia Academy Students



## Exercises and Report Card of John W. Mason

The above exercises and report cards at left, were those of John W. Mason. Mason both studied and taught at the Monongalia Academy during the mid-1860s. He went on to read law under Judge Marshall Hagans of Morgantown, winning admission to the bar in 1867. A highly esteemed attorney and judge, Mason served as Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service under President Benjamin Harrison from 1889-1893. Also included here is a note from educator Alexander Wade attesting to Mason's excellent performance in Monongalia County public school prior to his admission to the Monongalia Academy.

# Monongalia Academy: Quality and Curriculum

STUDIES.	GRADE.	STUDIES.	GRADE.
Reading.....		Composition.....	
Spelling.....		Declamation.....	
Mental Arithmetic.....		Latin.....	10
History.....		Greek.....	
Geography.....		CONDUCT, &c.	
English Grammar.....		Absences from morning prayers	
Arithmetic.....		" without excuse.....	
Algebra.....		Absences from Recitation.....	6
Geometry.....	5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>5</sub>	" without excuse.....	
Surveying.....		Absences from Church.....	
Trigonometry.....		" without excuse.....	
Natural Philosophy.....		General conduct.....	10
Chemistry.....		Observance of School Rules..	10
App. of Algebra to Geometry..		SCALE.	
Physiology.....		Highest.....	10
Astronomy.....	10		
Government.....			
Bible Lessons.....			

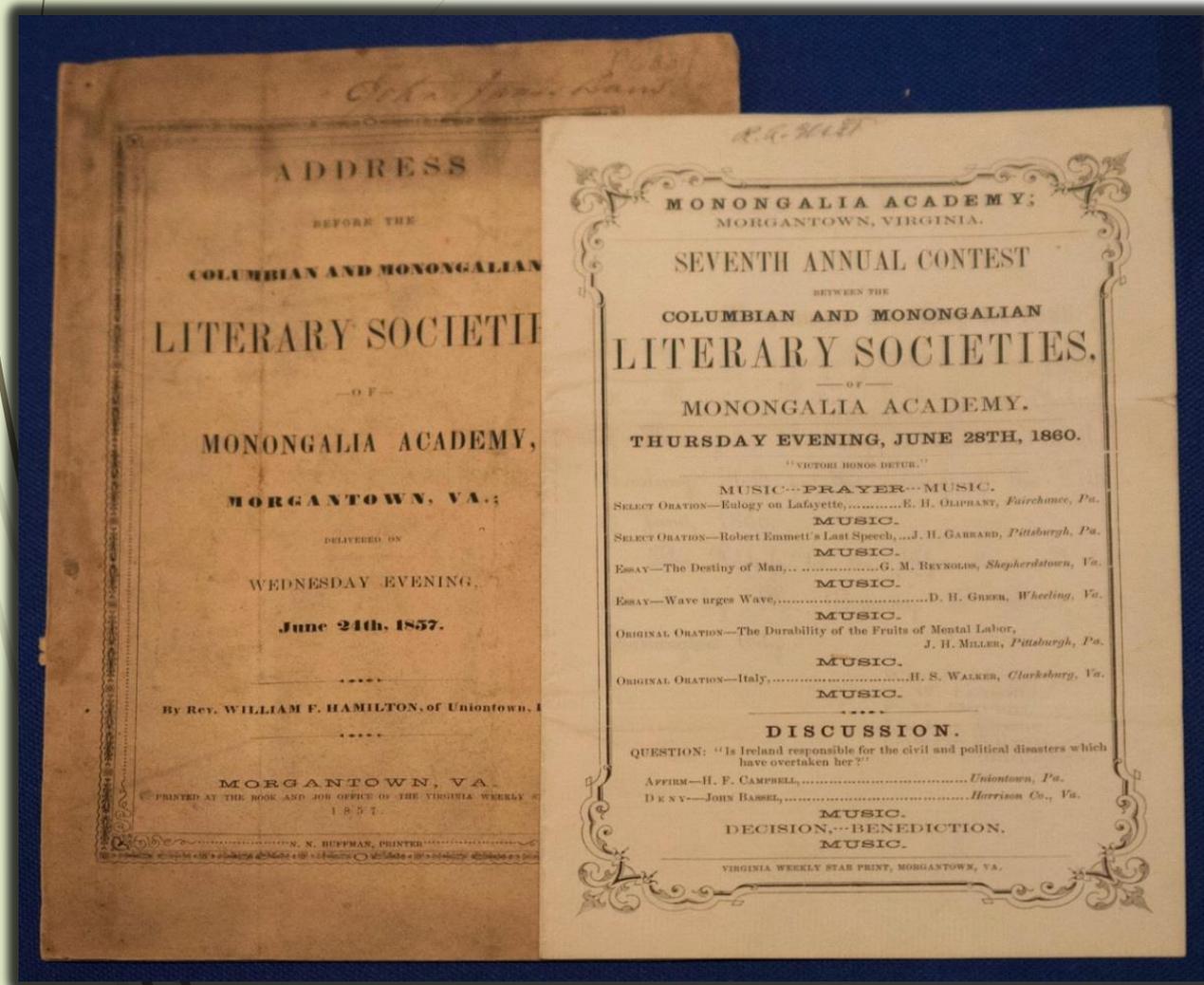
Take a closer look at the courses offered by Monongalia Academy in the 1860s. Some of these classes are still taught in schools today—some are not!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

What level and caliber education did the Monongalia Academy provide? That likely depended in great measure on the individual! While basic educational skills were required for admission, reading, writing, and spelling were standard subjects for pupils deemed to be of the first and second "class." Greek and Latin were offered to students of the fourth class, and Moral and Intellectual Philosophy to those of the fifth. Students of classes 6 through 10 studied advanced subjects including Algebra, Rhetoric, Surveying, and Navigation among others.

Many graduates used the education they received at the Academy as a springboard directly into professional careers in assorted fields. Others continued their educational odyssey at other institutions. Some fared quite well with the foundation they received at the Academy. For example, Eli Marsh Turner, class of '64, graduated as Princeton's valedictorian in 1868.

# Literary Societies at the Monongalia Academy

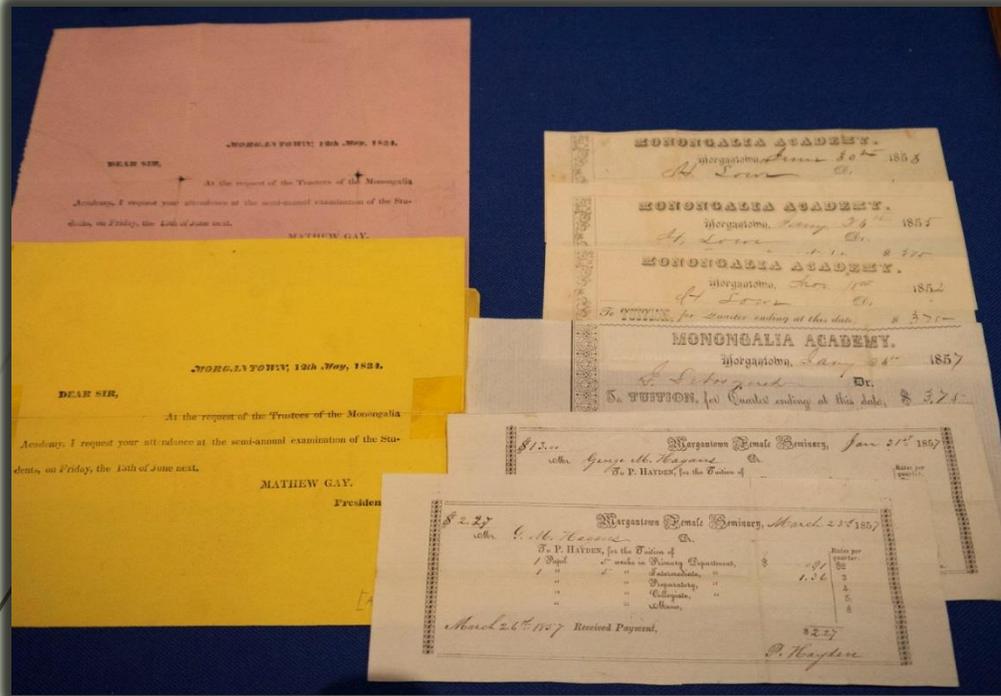


The Monongalia Academy hosted a pair of literary societies during the 1850s, the Monongalian Society and the Columbian Society. Literary societies were common at private academies and colleges during the age. They were in many ways precursors of sororities and fraternities. Members met for social occasions and programs routinely consisting of orations and music.

# Monongalia Academy Finances

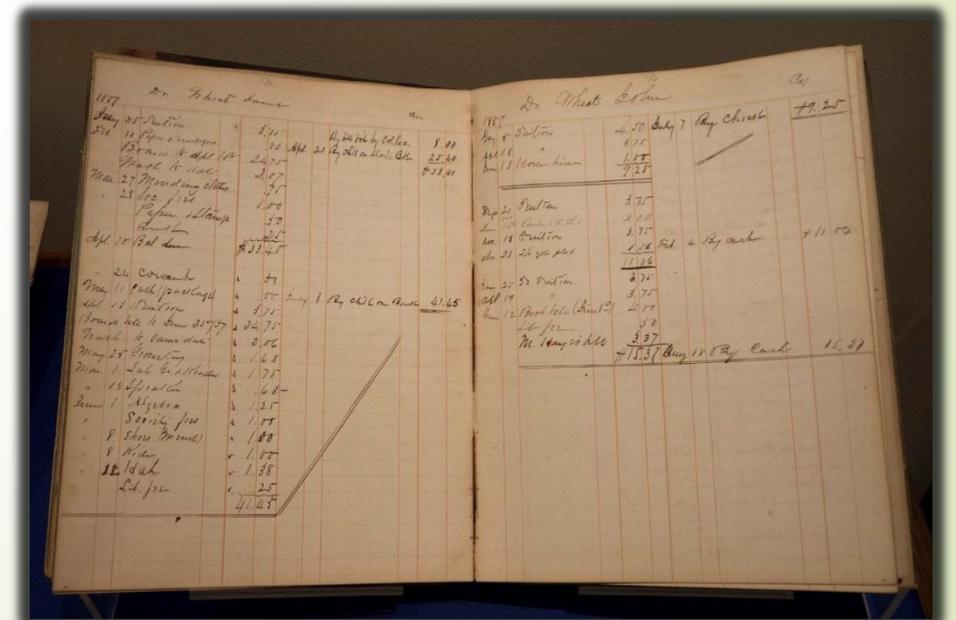
## Monongalia Academy Tuition Receipts (left)

These miscellaneous tuition receipts date from the 1850s. In 1854, the tuition rate was \$3.75 per quarter or \$15 per year. Calculating the modern value of that sum is difficult. Estimates range anywhere from \$3,000 to over \$10,000.



## Ledger of Monongalia Academy (right)

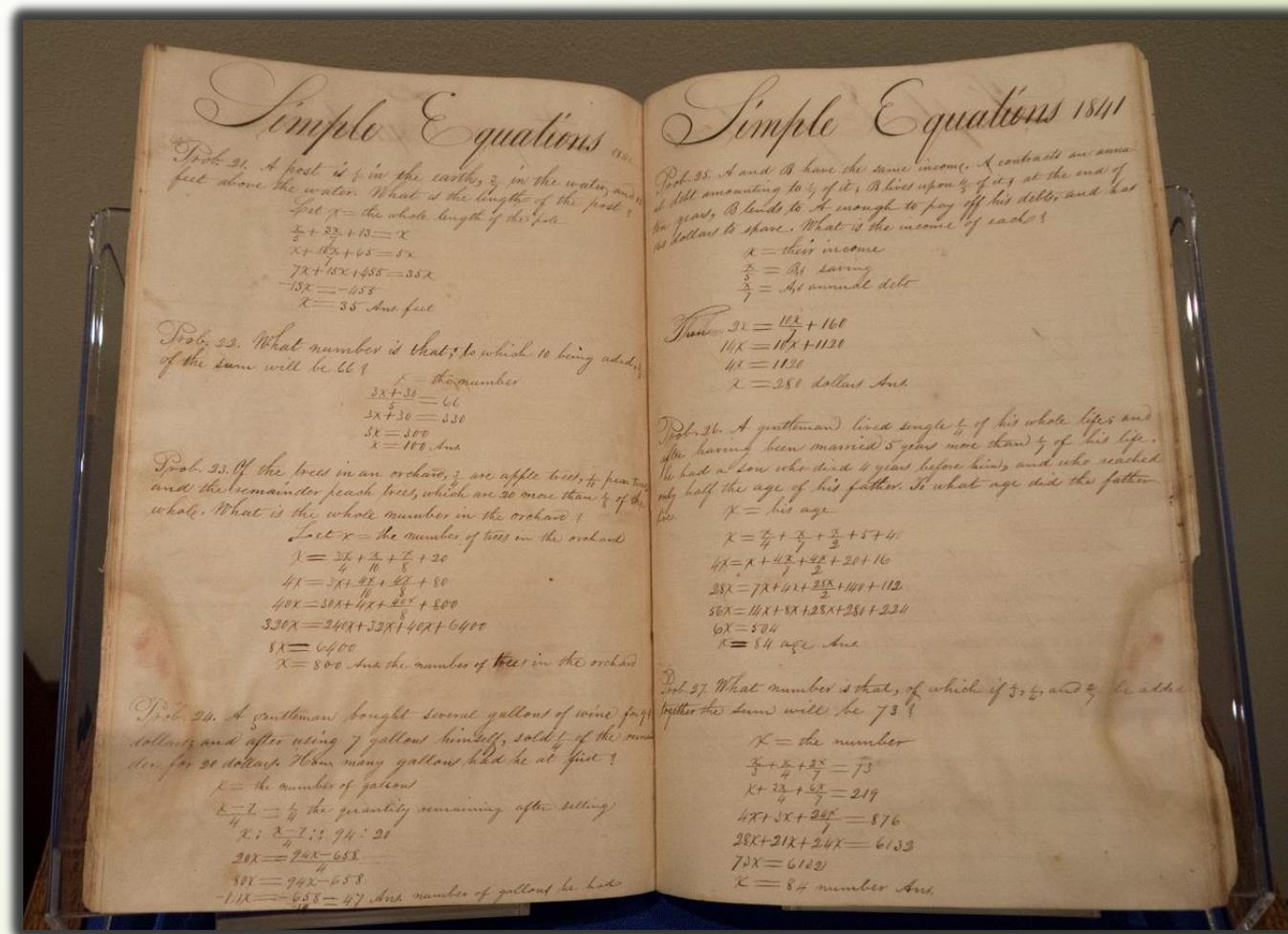
This ledger was used to record money owed and paid to Monongalia Academy.



# Mathematics

## Algebra Workbook

This meticulous algebra workbook, dating from the year 1841, was compiled by an unknown student at the Monongalia Academy. Exercises vary in difficulty from supposedly "simple equations" to complicated "reductions of radical quantities."

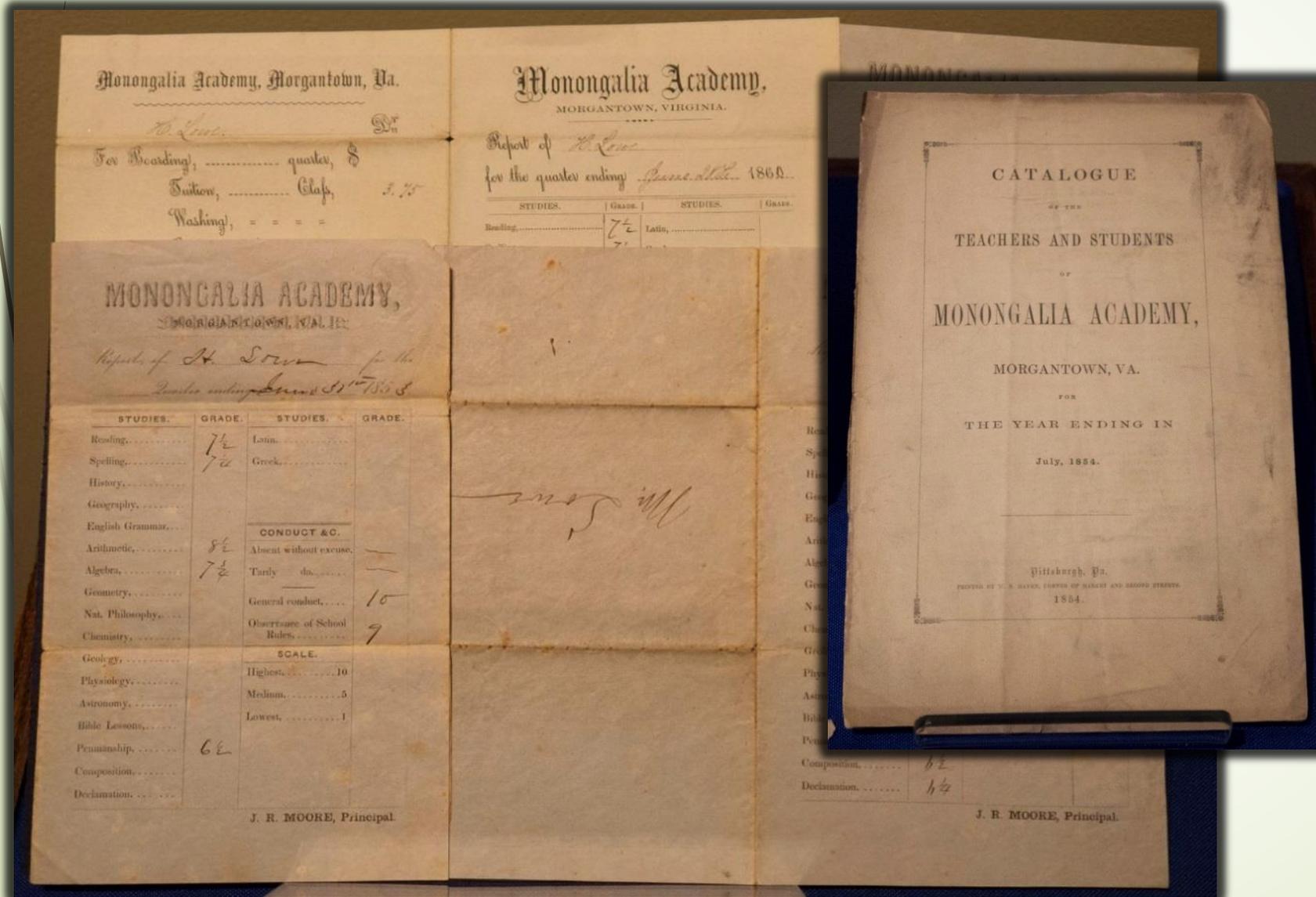


# James Robertson Moore & Elizabeth I. Moore

The Reverend James R. Moore and his wife Elizabeth I. Moore had a profound impact on education in Morgantown. A Presbyterian minister, J. R. Moore was principal of the Monongalia Academy from 1852 until his death in 1864. A Wheeling native, Mrs. Moore founded the Woodburn Female Seminary with her husband and served as principal of the institution until its assets were transferred to help found West Virginia University in 1867. Mrs. Moore subsequently purchased the Morgantown Female Academy which she operated until the school was destroyed by fire in 1889.



# Academy Students



Student Grade Reports, 1853 (far left)

H. Lowe's report cards show that he received high marks in his studies, which included reading, arithmetic, and penmanship. He also received high marks in "General conduct" and "Observance of School Rules".

Catalogue of the Teachers and Students of Monongalia Academy, Morgantown, VA. For the Year Ending in July, 1854 (left)

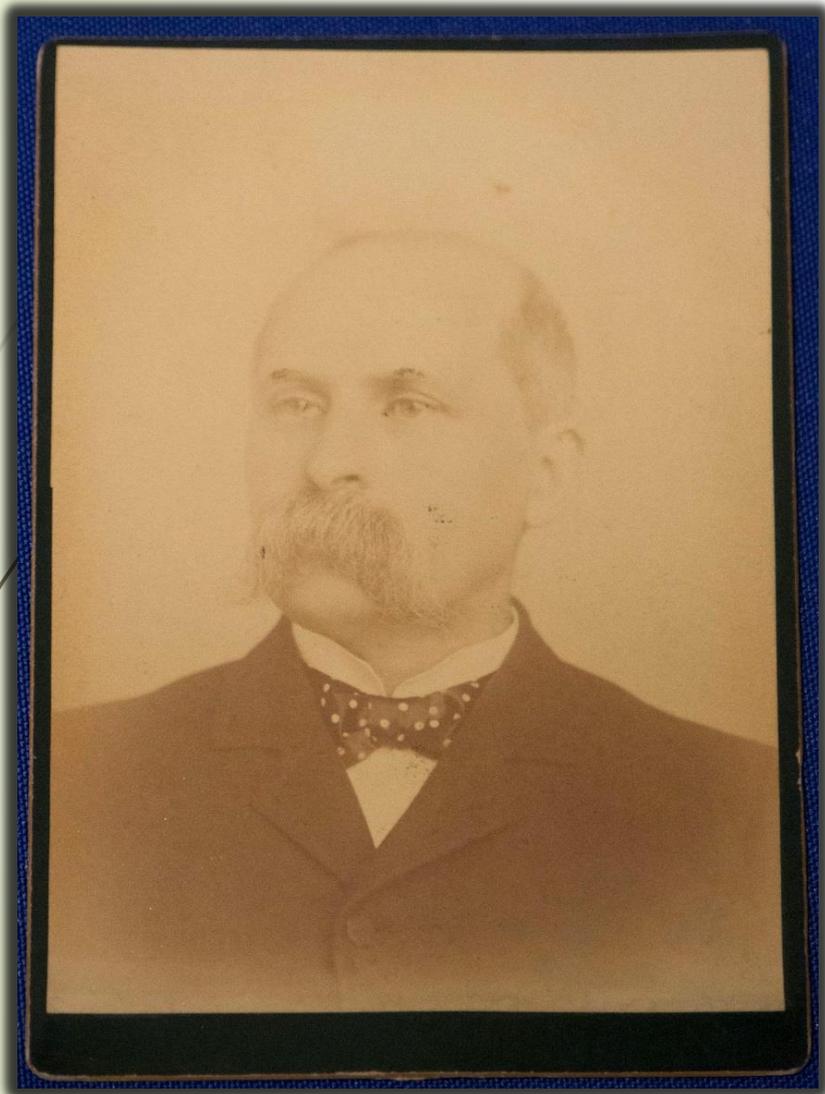
# Academy Students, Continued



## **U.S. Army Corporal Jacob Pierpoint, ca. 1861**

Jacob Pierpoint attended the Monongalia Academy in the late 1850s. He subsequently moved from his home in Morgantown to Indiana, enlisting in the army at the outbreak of the war. Pierpoint's regiment, the 19th Indiana was attached to the renowned "Iron Brigade". His last letter April, 1862 from the Shenandoah Valley, to his parents in Morgantown report the wounding of his hands and his hope to be sent home to recuperate. Sadly records show Pierpoint died later that same month, the exact cause is not known.

# Academy Teachers



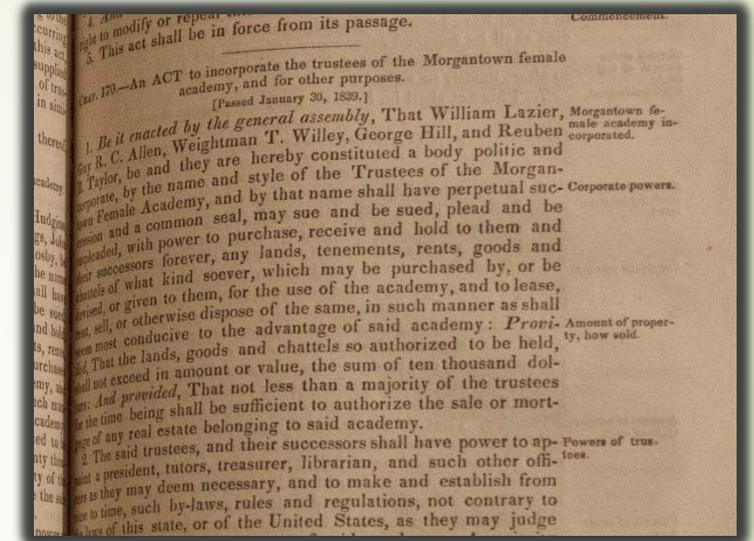
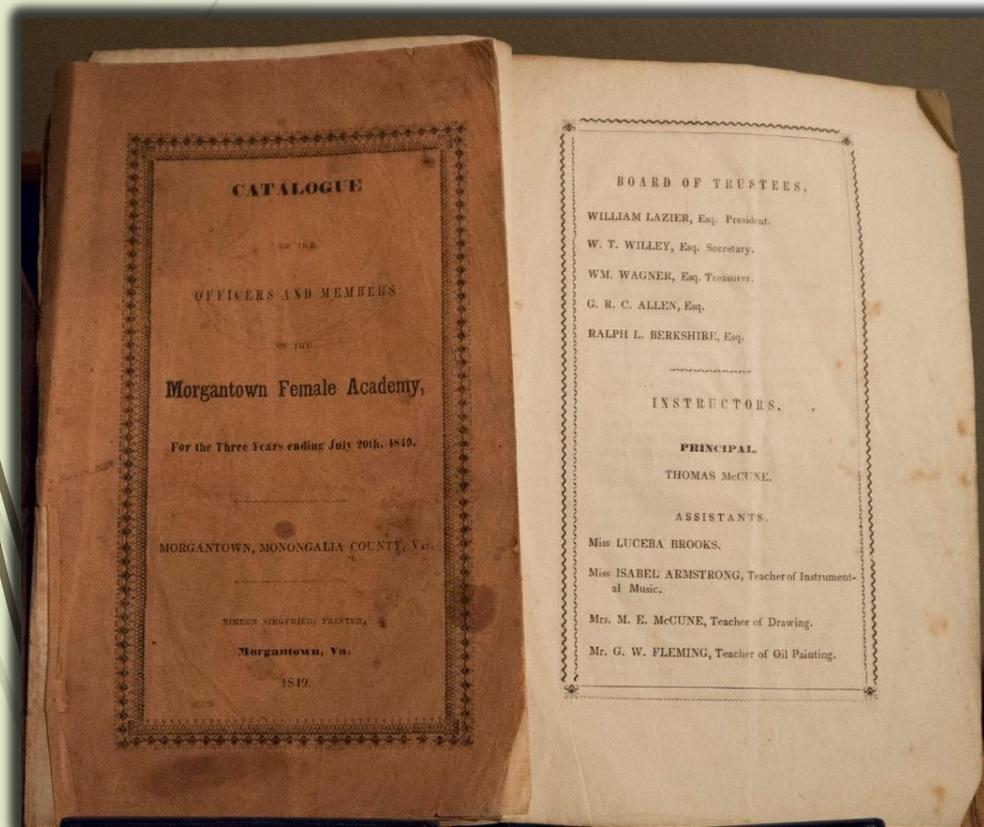
## **Adams W. Lorentz, Monongalia Academy Teacher**

A.W. Lorentz taught at the Monongalia Academy in the 1850s and 1860s and later WVU. Among his students at the former institution were future U.S. Navy Rear Admiral French Chadwick and future WVU President E. M. Turner. Lorentz was named interim principal of the Academy in 1864. After the Academy was dissolved, he served alternately as a faculty member and on the Board of Regents for WVU for the next quarter century.

# Morgantown Female Academy

## Morgantown Female Academy Catalogue, 1849 (below)

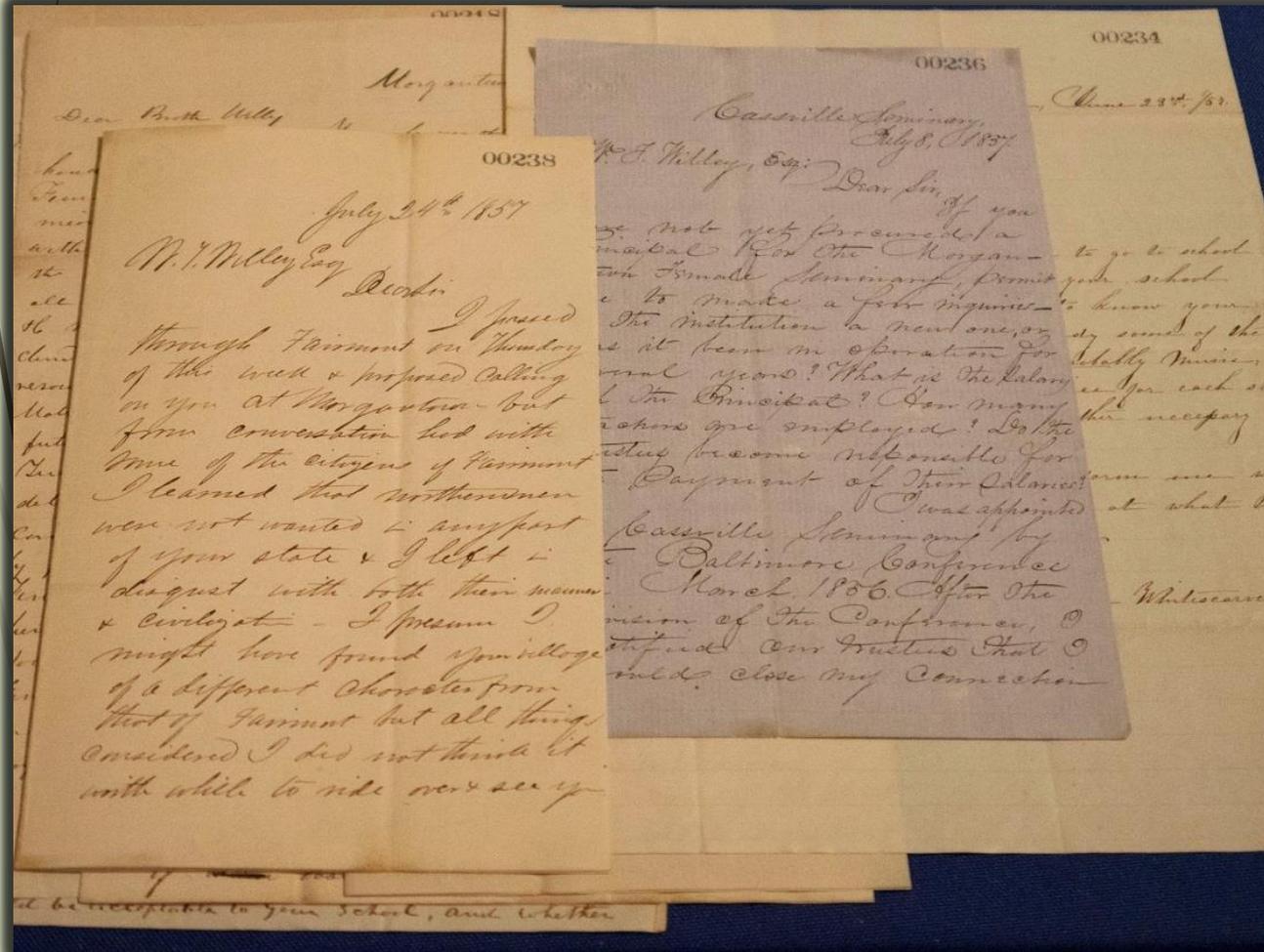
This pamphlet contains information pertaining to courses, tuition, room and board rates, textbooks, and location. It also lists faculty and the names of 143 students enrolled.



## **“Morgantown Female Academy and by that name shall have perpetual succession...” Acts of the Virginia Legislature, 1839 (above)**

Confusion abounds over the correct name of the Morgantown Female Academy during the mid-nineteenth century. The matter is settled by referring to the Act of the Virginia Legislature that authorized the establishment of the school as a distinct entity in 1839. While the school was often referred to by other titles including Morgantown Female Seminary, Whitehall Female Seminary, Methodist Seminary and Morgantown Female Collegiate Institute, no legislative authorization of a name change occurred until the school was sold to Elizabeth Moore in 1869. At that time the name was officially changed to the Morgantown Female Seminary.

# Morgantown Female Academy



**“You will please not consider me a candidate for your seminary” -- Letter from C. R. Pomeroy to W. T. Willey, July 24, 1857**

The West Virginia and Regional History Center holds a cache of letters received by Waitman T. Willey in his capacity as a trustee of the Morgantown Female Academy. The correspondence pertains to matters including courses of study, books, tuition and other costs, as well as inquiries and applications for faculty and administrative positions. The letter displayed here, by Reverend C. R. Pomeroy of New York, reveals that in at least one case, tensions between the north and south interfered with faculty recruitment. Intent on visiting his prospective place of employment, Pomeroy traveled to western Virginia by rail in July 1857. When he disembarked at Fairmont he was informed that " ... northern men were not wanted in any part of [this] state [Virginia]." He promptly withdrew his application.

# Morgantown Female Academy



Upon completion of the Monongalia Academy's new building in 1830, the Academy's trustees turned their full attention to establishing a school for female students. The Virginia General Assembly granted their petition to form the Morgantown Female Academy as a department of the Monongalia Academy the following spring. The trustees used funds from the proceeds of the sale of the Academy's old building at Spruce and Willey to construct an edifice for the newly chartered school on the corner of Fayette and Chestnut streets.

The Female Academy struggled during its first few years relying on the Monongalia Academy's resources to keep it afloat. In an effort to improve the situation by separating the two, the trustees petitioned the General Assembly to separately incorporate the Female Academy in 1838. When permission was granted, ties between the two schools were largely severed. A new board of trustees for the Female Academy was appointed including Waitman T. Willey, William Lazier, George Hill, Guy R. C. Allen and Reuben B. Taylor.

# Morgantown Female Academy

*A Report, of A. C. Werninger to the Trustees of the Morgan-Town Female Academy.*

I took possession of the lower room of said Academy on the 25th of July last by the consent & permission of the Trustees. Found it much out of repair. Seven frames of glass broken. The walls much injured. The fire place wholly out of order; so much so, that it is altogether dangerous to put fire therein. Since I have occupied it; there has been one frame of glass broken. I suppose by some persons who are in the habit of resorting here at night; a matter which I think should be taken cognizance of by you and some efficient measures taken to prevent a recurrence of it in future. There has also, some of the plastering fallen from the ceiling, in consequence of the plaster being permitted to remain on the floor in the upper room. In addition to this report I would propose to you, that you, purchase the fuel

## Poor Conditions Reported of Female Academy Building (left)

Created as a "department" of the Monongalia Academy, the Morgantown Female Academy first held classes in the Academy's old building at Spruce and Willey. A. C. Werninger, a trustee of the Monongalia Academy, documents the "much out of repair" condition of the structure. This property was later sold to build a new female academy building at Fayette and Chestnut streets.

## Handbill Advertising Reopening of the Female Academy, ca. 1854 (right)

Funds for the new building were appropriated in 1852. The new structure was probably finished in ca. 1854.

**MORGANTOWN FEMALE SEMINARY.**

**REV. A. S. HANK, A. M., PRINCIPAL,**  
*Professor of Ancient Languages and English Literature.*

**J. H. P. HANK, A. M., M. D.,**  
*Professor of Modern Languages and Nat. Sciences.*

**MISS V. S. YANDOOSE, Preceptress,**  
*Teacher of Ornamental Branches.*

*\* Teacher of Music.*

This institution will be re-opened on Monday, September 14th. Instruction will be given in the higher branches usually taught in Female Seminaries of the first grade, and special attention will be paid to the ground-works of a solid education.

**Terms--Per Session of Five Months.**

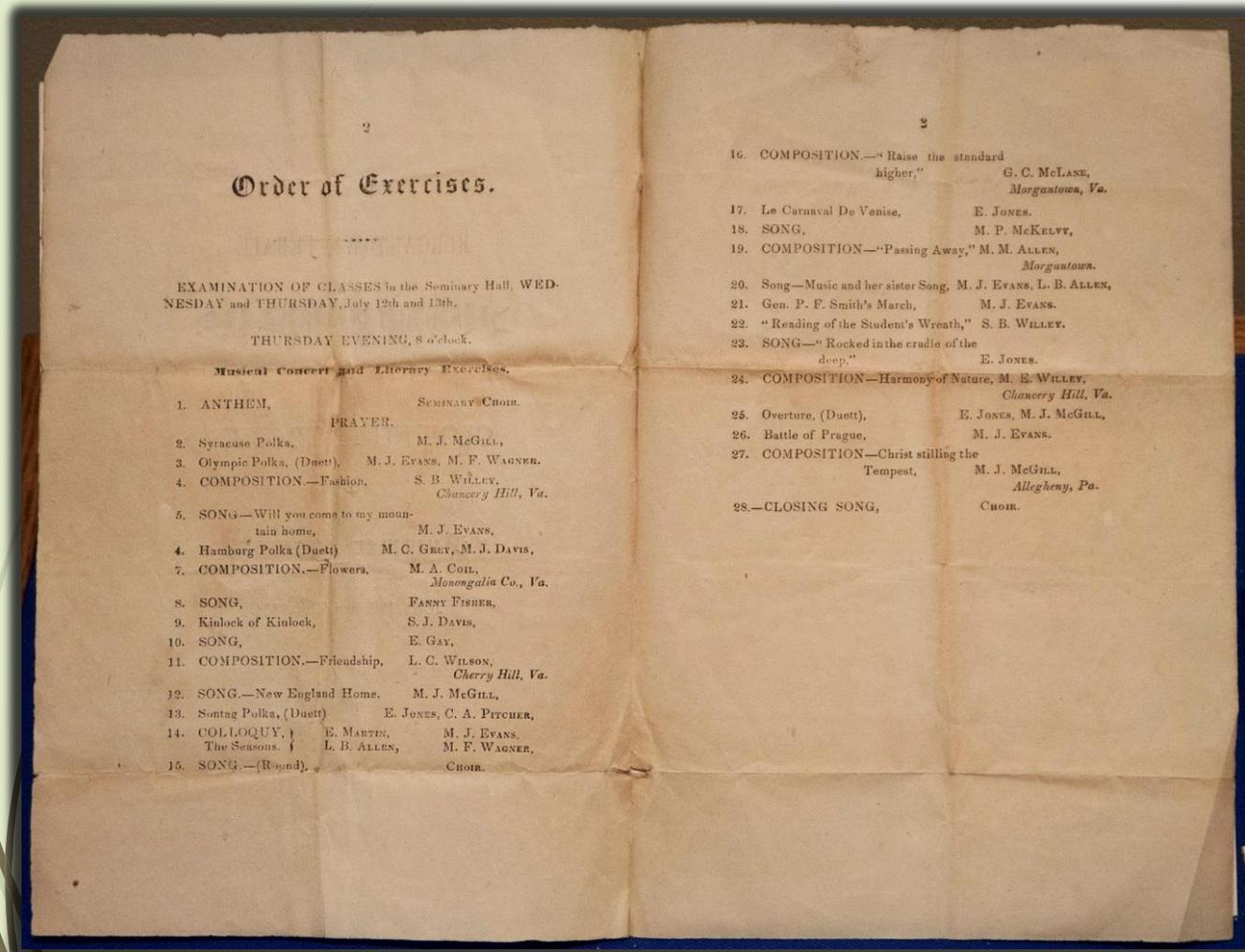
BOARD, WASHING, ROOM RENT, FUEL AND LIGHTS.....	\$55.00	
<b>TUITION, &amp;c.</b>		
Common English.....	10.00	☞ No extra charge made for Ancient Languages.
Higher Branches.....	15.00	☞ Modern Languages & Ornamental Branches, Extra.
Music, with the use of the instrument.....	20.00	☞ PAYMENTS TO BE MADE QUARTERLY.

**REFERENCES.**

FACULTY of Dickinson College. Trustees of Caswell Seminary. Trustees of Morgantown Female Seminary. Rev. BEVERLY WARREN, D. D., Baltimore. Dr. J. T. PARK, New York City. Wm. B. ALLEN, L. D. D., President of Girard College. SENATOR F. BAIRD, D. P. S., Smithsonian Institute. Hon. Mr. YANON, Late Minister to Prussia. Hon. R. L. HOWIE, Rockville, Md. Rev. B. H. NABAL, D. D., Salem, Va. FACULTY of Nat. Med. College, Washington City, D. C.	Prof. JOHN McCLYCKEN, Philadelphia. Rev. Messrs of the Baltimore and East Baltimore Conference. Rev. HENRY LATH, D. D., New York City. Dr. BAZEN, President of Allegheny College. Rev. Dr. DEWEESON, Magnolia. Rev. J. McKEESON BRAY, Pittsburgh. Dr. J. W. HANK, Baltimore. Dr. ANDREW NEWMAN, Harrisburg, Pa. Dr. F. B. STURGE, Washington City, D. C. Faculty of the University of Maryland.
---	--

\*This department will be filled before the Session begins.

# Morgantown Female Academy



## Morgantown Female Seminary Closing Exercises, July 12 & 13, 1854

Also known as the Morgantown  
Female Academy, the closing  
exercises included public  
examinations of the classes.

# Woodburn Female Seminary

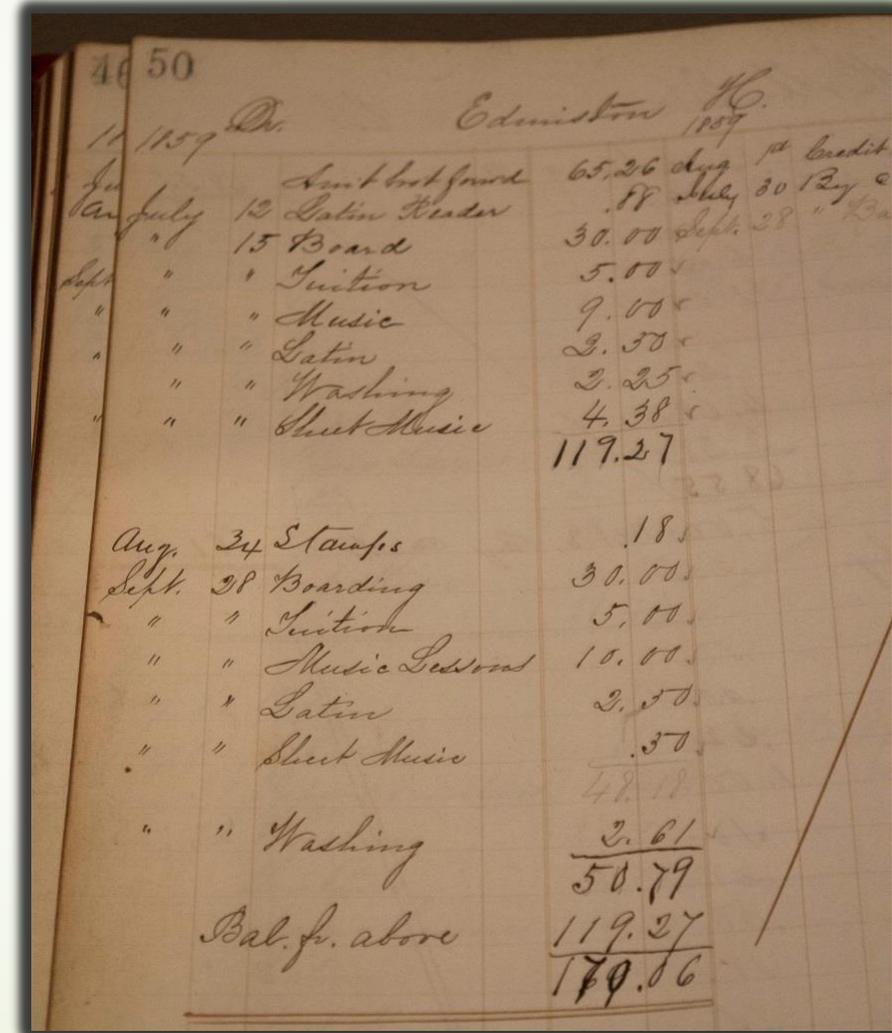
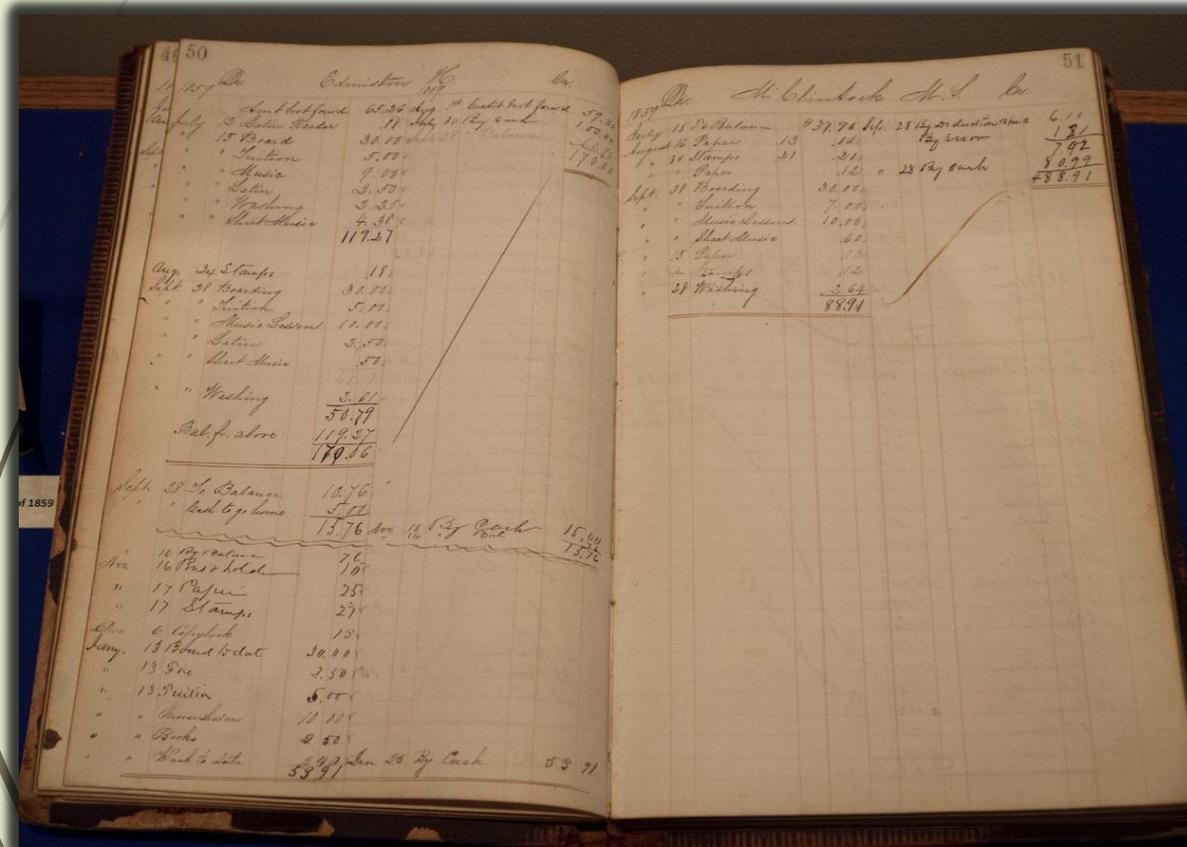


The estate of Thomas Ray was sold in 1857 to a group that included Reverend James R. Moore and his wife, Elizabeth Moore, for the purpose of establishing a female seminary. The Moores had been involved in the supervision of the Monongalia Academy since 1852 and were interested in providing for advanced education of women. The seminary was incorporated in 1858 and named the Woodburn Female Seminary. Located on a knoll overlooking the Monongahela River just north of Morgantown, Woodburn opened in May, 1858, offering preparatory subjects beyond the course of high school. The seminary was closed in 1866 and the building turned over to create the land grant state college, WV Agricultural College, subsequently West Virginia University.

# Woodburn Female Seminary

## Ledger, 1858-1861

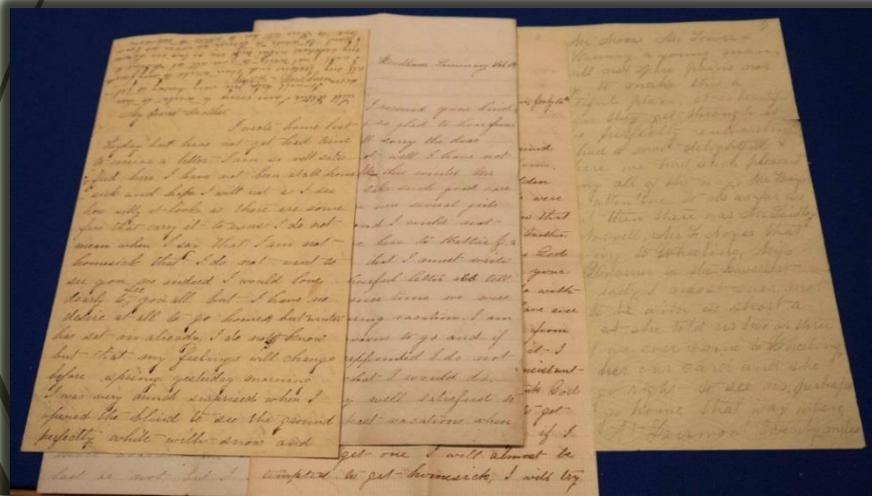
The Seminary's account book preserves records of students' debits (noted by a "Dr") and credits ("Cr"). The enlargement at right shows the charges for board, tuition, music lessons, etc.



# Emily Reed Norton at Woodburn Female Seminary

"I think this is the most delightful situation I ever saw." Letter from Emily Reed to her mother, November 12, 1858

Emily Reed, from Kanawha Salines in Kanawha County, was one of the first students enrolled at the new Woodburn Female Seminary. She wrote several letters home expressing how thrilled she was with the school, the students, the faculty, and her classes. Financial matters were her only concern. So much so she was unable to visit home after her mother died in the summer of 1859. Emily graduated in 1859.



Emily Reed Norton



Moses and Emily Reed Norton ca. 1865

# Martin Hall and Woodburn Seminary Building, WVU Campus, ca. 1870

The Woodburn Seminary (white building) was donated to the state to help found WVU in 1867. Martin Hall (brick building) was constructed to its left in 1870. The seminary building (renamed College Hall) was destroyed by fire in 1873 and was replaced with Woodburn Hall in 1876. This, the oldest section of the WVU downtown campus, is known to Mountaineers as Woodburn Circle.



# The Watchman, September 1, 1850

This issue of the *Watchman* or *Young People's Paper* was published here in Morgantown by W. D. Siegfried. The paper's masthead declared it was:

"Devoted to the Benefit and Entertainment of Young People."

Some of the articles in this issue included: "The Prince of Magicians," "More Large Peaches," "Mrs Brannerhasset" (i.e. Blennerhasset) as well as an advertisement for the Morgantown Female Seminary (Academy).

## THE WATCHMAN, OR YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAPER.

Devoted to the Benefit and Entertainment of Young People.

W. D. SIEGFRIED, PUBLISHER.

MORGANTOWN, Va. Saturday, Sept. 1, 1850.

No. 7

### TERMS OF THE WATCHMAN.

1 copy, three months, 25 cents.  
5 copies to one address, three months, 1 dollar.

After the third No., 20 cts. will entitle any one to the paper, the remainder of the three months.  
After the sixth No. 124 cents.

### The Prince of Magicians.

It is related of Signor Blitz, that wishing one day, while in Pennsylvania, to procure a draft on New York, for a certain amount, he stepped into one of the country banks of that State, and made known his wishes to the proper officer, who, by-the-way, was a stiff old Quaker. Being informed that he could be accommodated, he was asked—

"In whose name shall I draw the draft?"

"In my own, Signor Blitz," was the answer.

"Art thou the wonderful man who is performing these mysterious things?" asked the Quaker.

"The same," answered the Signor.

"And now, friend, will thee show one of thy tricks?" interrogated the Quaker.

"With pleasure," answered the magician, and taking a quarter of a dollar from his pocket, he handed it to the officer and requested him to mark it so that he would be able to distinguish it. This the Quaker did.

"And now," said the Signor, taking a glove from his pocket and placing it over the quarter, which he had laid upon the counter, "are you sure the quarter is under the glove?"

"Quite sure," answered the Quaker, gently lifting the glove, and beholding the quarter snugly ensconced under it.

"Sure, quite sure of it?" asked the Signor.

"Yes, friend, I see it with my own eyes."

answered the other.

"Lift the glove," said the magician.

The Quaker did so, and to his astonishment the quarter was gone.

"Friendly" said the Quaker, swift thou do that once more."

Again the Signor placed the quarter in the same position, and motioning the motioning the Signor to stand back the Quaker placed his eyes down upon a level with the counter, and then making a sudden dive at the glove, he lifted it up and the quarter was gone.

"Jonathan," said the Quaker, drawing a long breath, "place that money—referring to the amount received for the draft—away in the safe and lock it up, and put the key in thy pocket."

"Well," said the Signor, who was always fond of a joke, "now I will give you a proposition. If I can, standing where I am, draw that money into my pocket I am to keep it; if I cannot, I will surrender the draft, and both draft and money."

"Go thy way, friend, thou shouldst not do such things," and the Quaker politely bowed the Signor to the door.

### Questions for the Rochester Knockers.

Will Saltpeter explode on its own hook alone?

Who struck the lamented William Patterson?

How are you off for soap?

Can you account for the milk in the cocoa nut? How did it come there?

What's the price of putty?

How long will it be before that good time comes, which has been so long coming?

What was the secret of Lord Byron's wife leaving him, and why did his Lordship imbibe gin?

How many broken-hearted men are there now in California utterly cursing the hour they ever heard it named?

What is your opinion of the guilt of Hamlet's maternal parents?

Do serpents hiss?

Is it advisable to go it while you're young?

Is there a warm place down below for wicked people; and if so, when are you going back to it?

Is this a great country; and if so, what will it cost to fence it in?

Will Pain's invention enable one to light one's pipe at a pump?

What proportion of beef, dog and cat flesh is there in a pound of Bologna sausage?

What's your opinion of rats? Which is the highest, the North or the South pole?

Is it your opinion that the North pole is all of a piece, or spliced?

### MUSQUITO TRAP.

A certain old tippler, who has become entirely saturated by the worst of bad rum, has lately made an engagement to act as a mosquito bar at a porterhouse in West street. At bedtime he stations himself by a window, where the dull light of his red nose gives a doubtful illumination, which attracts the ferocious vermin; they settle on and around his nose, and after one drunk as to be unable to preside a full gain in a week—indeed, many of them die on the spot.—*New York Organ.*

"I'm afraid I shall come to want," said an old lady to a young gentleman.

"I have come to want already!" was the reply: "I want your daughter!"

The old lady opened her eyes, widely.

A distillery has been declared a nuisance in the city of New York, and ordered to be removed.

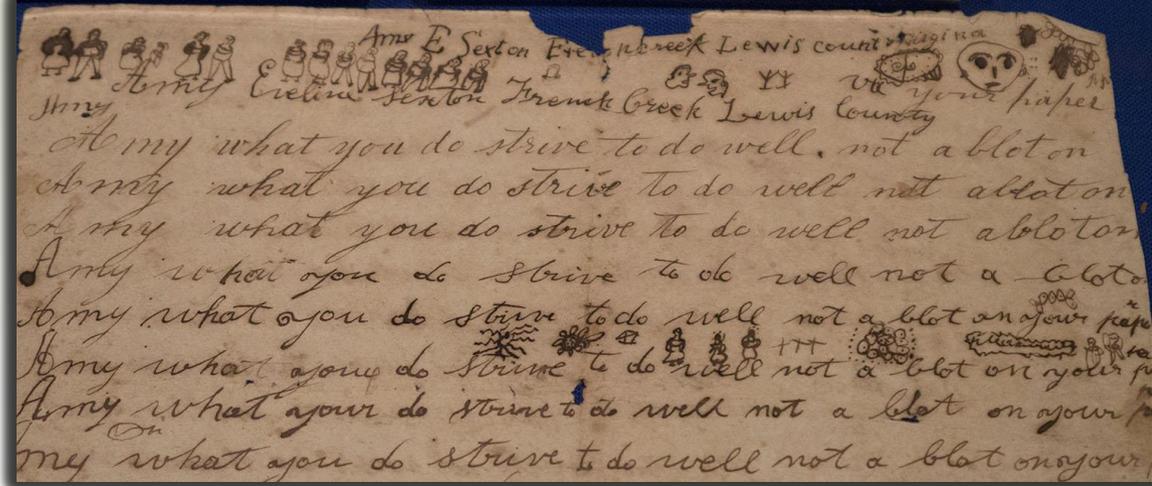
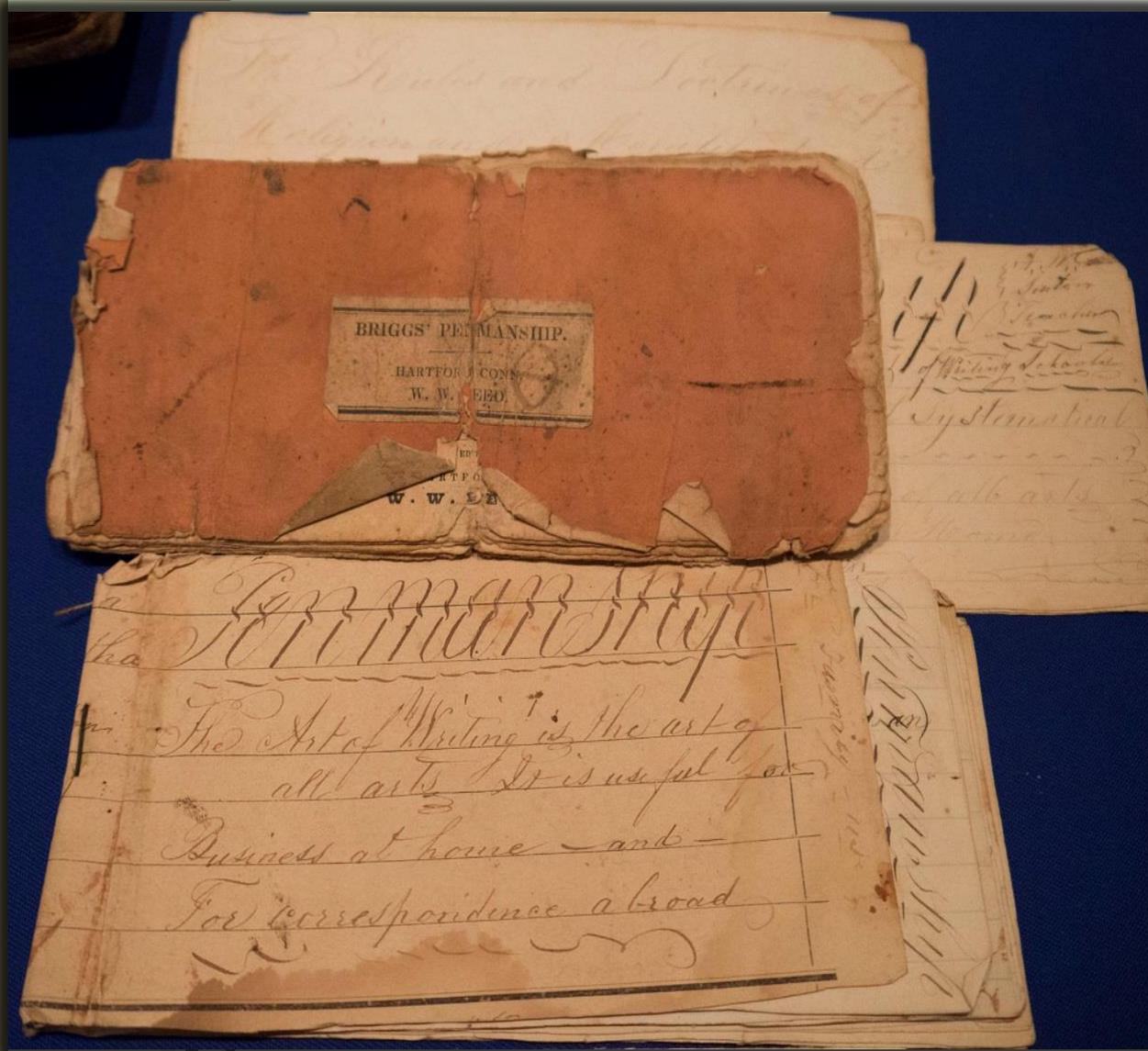
And it is a nuisance any where else except down below!

A wealthy citizen of Boston has been convicted of letting a house knowing that it would be kept as a house of ill-fame—and sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

And yet a member of the church does the same thing, in another part of the world, and is not even "sessioned" for it. *Mirror.*

FRENCH LIBERTY.—The streets of Paris being paved with large blocks of stone, after the Russ fashion, furnish fine materials for barricades, when the spirit of insurrection breaks out. The present government have just discovered that Mr Adamized streets will be much pleasanter, and the change has accordingly been ordered, and is now in progress.

# Penmanship Classes



## **Practice, Practice, Practice! (above)**

This leaf of handwriting exercises was written by Amy Eveline Sexton of French Creek, Lewis County. It is not known if Amy attended the Female Academy or Woodburn Seminary in Morgantown, but it is likely that this type of practice was required in both schools. Amy added the doodling for extra credit.

## **Briggs' Penmanship, 1839 (left)**

Penmanship was usually a course offered, along with drawing, in academies and institutions of the day. This workbook "explains analytically the movements of the arm, hand and fingers." These are examples of the "great variety of exercises" found in the book.

# Morgantown Female Seminary, 1870-1889



The Morgantown Female Seminary stood at the corner of High and Foundry streets. It was opened by Elizabeth Moore, former principal of Woodburn Female Seminary, in 1870. In this photograph Mrs. Moore is pictured on the balcony, third from left. When this building was destroyed by fire in April 1889, supporters of coeducation considered its destruction to be “a blessing in disguise.” Less than a month later, the West Virginia University Board of Regents, with an endorsement from President E. M. Turner, ordered the collegiate departments of the University opened to female students.

# Morgantown Educational Institutions Map

Colorized Photo of Morgantown in 1880



## 1897 Morgantown Map Legend:

**Blue Star** -- 1814 Monongalia Academy building located on southeast corner of Spruce and North Boundary (Willey) streets (Lot# 124-Kerns).

**Purple Star** -- 1830-1866 Monongalia Academy building located on the northeast corner of Spruce and Walnut streets.

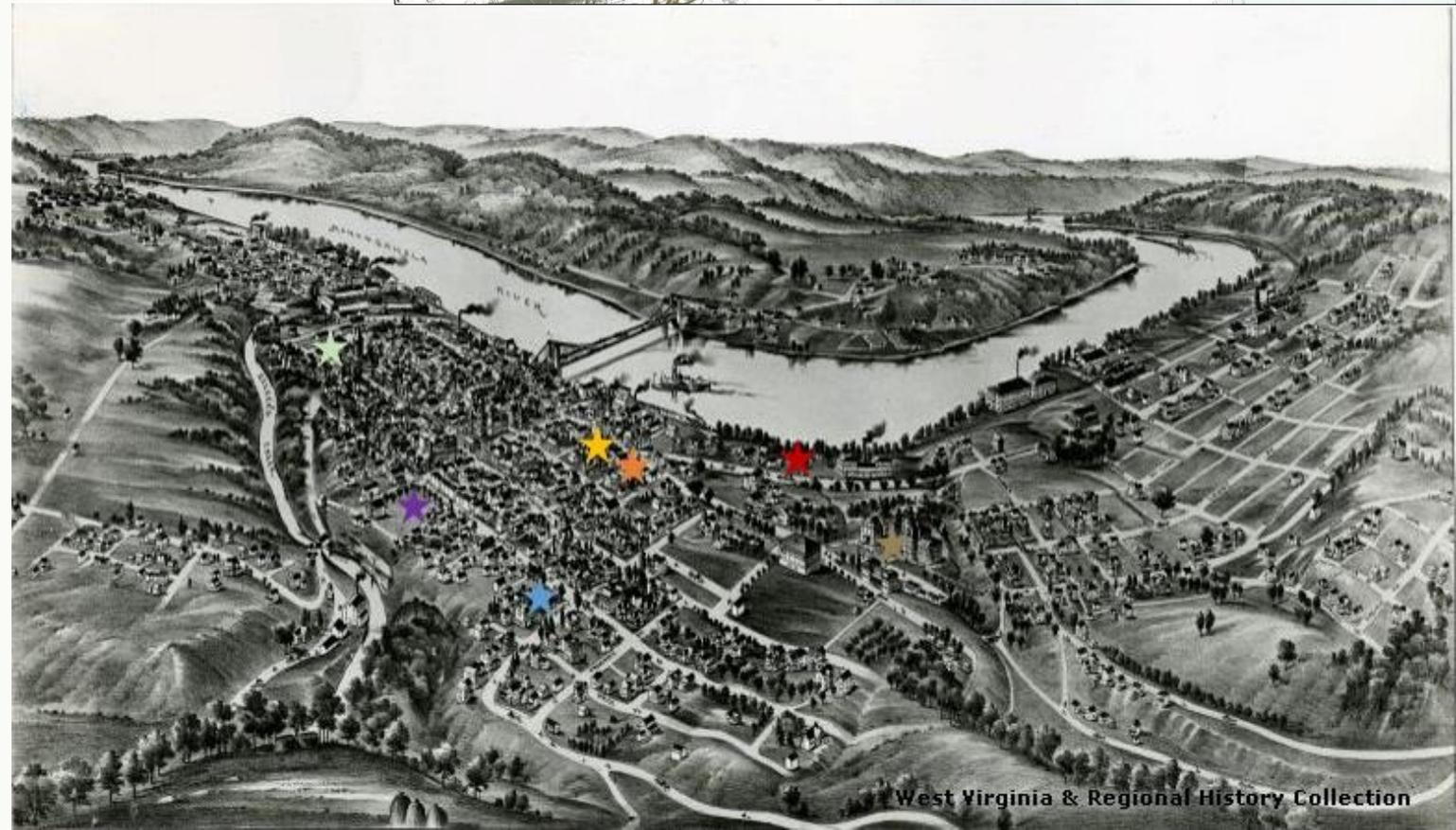
**Orange Star** -- 1833-1869 Morgantown Female Academy, located at the corner of Bumbo Lane (Fayette Street) and Long Alley (Chestnut Street).

**Light Green Star** -- 1869-1889 Morgantown Female Seminary located at Foundry and High streets.

**Brown Star** -- 1858-1866 Woodburn Female Seminary located on Front Street (University Avenue - Woodburn Circle).

**Red Star** -- 1882-1939 Beechurst Elementary (African-American School) located on Beechurst Avenue.

**Yellow Star** -- 1869-1875 Jones Methodist Episcopal Church housed the first organized African-American School in Monongalia County, located on Long Alley (Chestnut Street).



# Race and Education

## Virginia State Code of 1819

Be it therefore enacted, That all meetings or assemblages of slaves or free negroes ... at any school or schools for teaching them reading or writing ... under whatsoever pretext, shall be deemed and considered as an unlawful assembly ....

## Sisters Susan and Hattie Jones ca. 1860

Susan and Hattie ("Little Hat") Jones were the daughters of "Aunt Becky." All three were owned by Monongalia Countian Hiram Haymond. At the time of this photograph, education of slaves was forbidden by state law.

## "Stonewall" Jackson - Slave Teacher

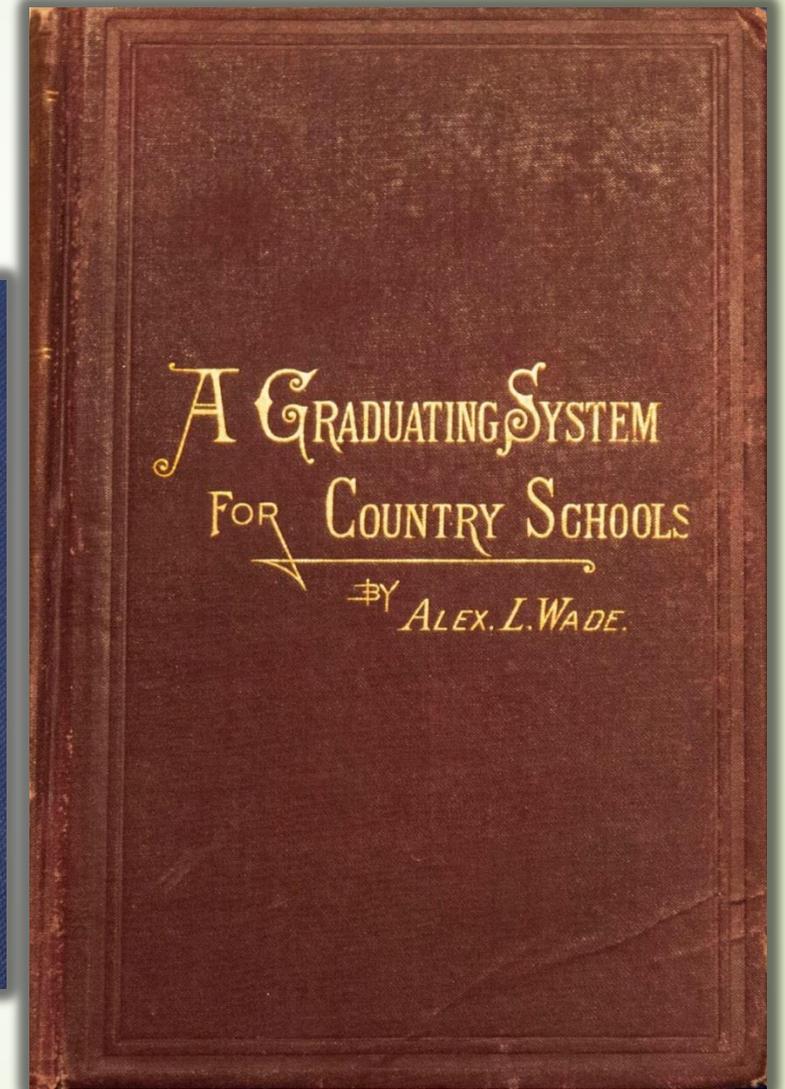
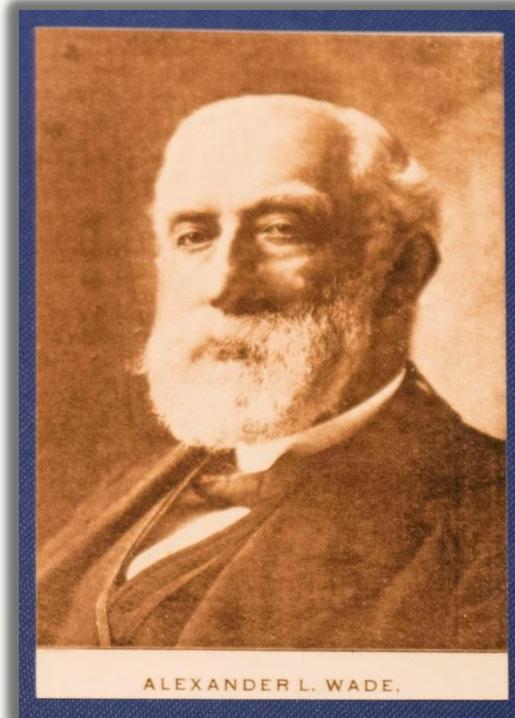
Thomas Jackson was a deeply religious man. He championed the cause of education of African Americans to enable them to study the Bible by creating a Sunday School for slaves and freedmen at the Lexington Presbyterian Church, serving as its chief instructor. Jackson sometimes met with opposition since Virginia law allowed "Negros to gather in the daylight for divine service", but forbade "schools for teaching them reading and writing." However, believing God's laws superseded man's laws, he continued to teach his class. Jackson's account books (example at left) record many tithes to his Sunday School after he left Lexington for war.



# Alexander L. Wade and the Grade System

**Alexander Wade, *A Graduating System for Country Schools*, 1881.**

Alexander L. Wade (1832-1904) was teaching in Monongalia County when he perceived the need to differentiate and formally recognize varying "grades" of educational attainment achieved by his students. It was a novel idea in an era when students of all levels studied together, each at his/her own pace. Wade proceeded to develop a system of eight progressively higher grades culminating in graduation. Publishing his method in his book *A Graduating System for Country Schools* in 1881, Wade's plan was soon adopted by schools throughout America. It is the basis for the present-day twelve-grade system.



# Morgantown African American School

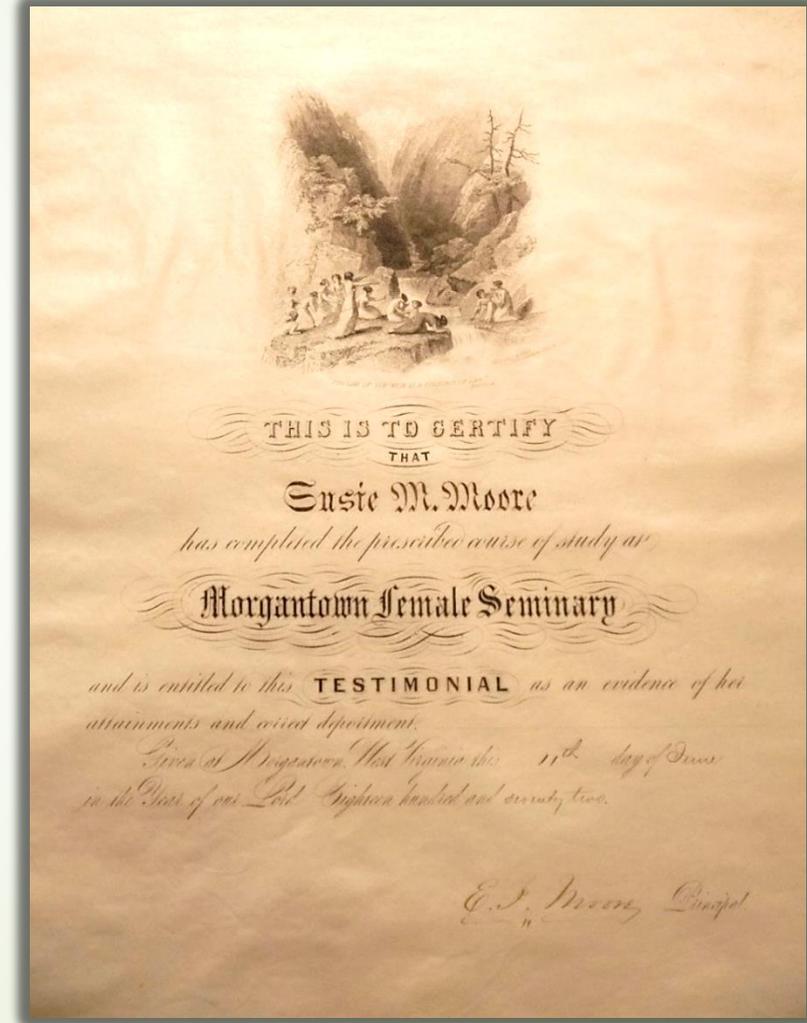


Monongalia County records suggest that educational opportunities for the county's African American population date back to the early nineteenth century. The children of slaves in Morgantown are said to have attended classes in the Monongalia Academy building at Spruce and Willey as early as 1814. Another source reports that 90% of the county's free black population was literate in 1850.

This building, which sat next to WVU's Stansbury Hall, served as Morgantown's African American school during the post-Civil War era. The nationally significant educator Alexander L. Wade (1832-1904) was among those who taught here.

# Susan Maxwell Moore

The daughter of Elizabeth and James R. Moore, Susan Maxwell Moore graduated with the Morgantown Female Seminary's Class of 1872 (see diploma at right). After further study at the Peabody Institute and New England Conservatory of Music, she taught at Mt. Holyoke and Denison colleges before returning to her hometown to accept a position as Dean of Women at WVU. She held the position for two decades, continuing to teach piano thereafter. She is pictured at left with fellow piano teacher Grace Martin Snee, ca. 1930.



# Eva Emma Boyers Hubbard (1858-1947)



Eva Hubbard (photo at left) graduated as the head of her Class of 1876 at the Morgantown Female Seminary.

The still life at right, painted around that time or shortly afterwards, displays her budding artistic talent.

Hubbard went on to a position of prominence in West Virginia art history circles.

After furthering her studies in art in Wheeling and at the Cooper [Union] Institute in New York, in 1897 she became the first instructor of art at West Virginia University where her students included

Blanche Lazzell (1878-1956).



*Rhododendrons*, Oil on artist board, ca. 1875-1885

# Distinguished Alumni of Monongalia Academy, Part 1

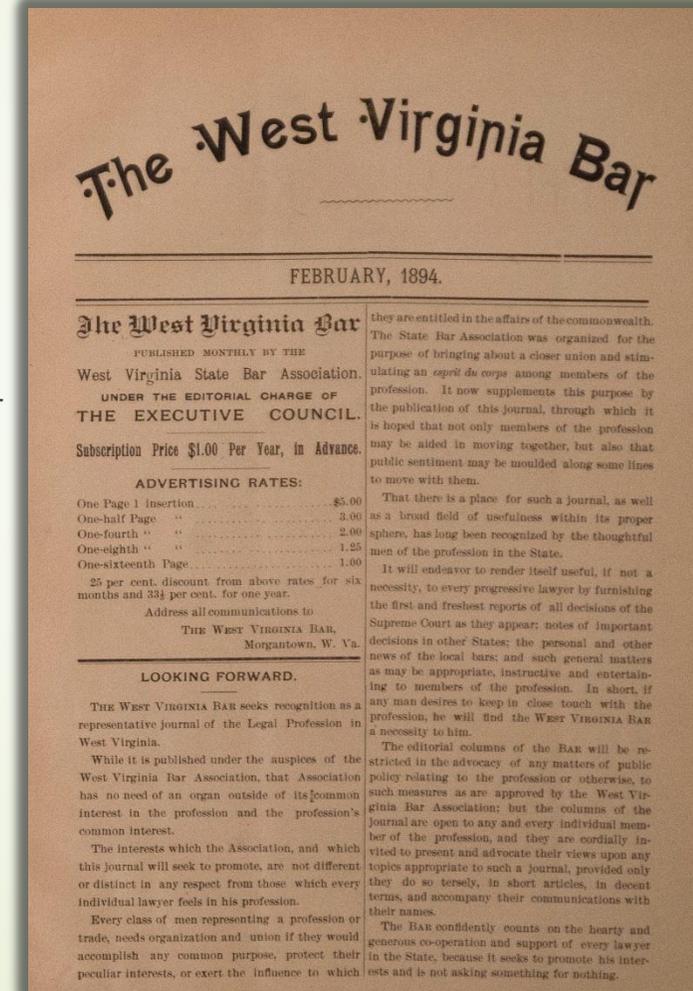


## William P. Willey (1840-1922) and Bob the dog (left)

Son of Waitman T. Willey, William studied law with his father and was admitted to the Bar in 1864. Two years later, he became Prosecuting Attorney for Monongalia County; he would continue to practice in Morgantown and later in Baltimore, Maryland. Returning to West Virginia, he served as editor of Wheeling's *Daily Register* from 1878 to 1883, when he began working at WVU. He served as a professor of Law here until 1896. Bob was Willey's pet dog, the Law College mascot and a favorite of the students.

## William P. Willey's *The West Virginia Bar* (right)

William P. Willey established *The West Virginia Bar* in 1894, and served as the editor-in-charge from 1894 until retiring in 1917. *The Bar* began as an official publication of the West Virginia State Bar Association printing monthly issues. Today known as the *West Virginia Law Review*, it is the fourth oldest law review in the United States, is no longer associated with the WV Bar Association, and is edited by students of the WVU College of Law.



# Distinguished Alumni of Monongalia Academy, Part 2

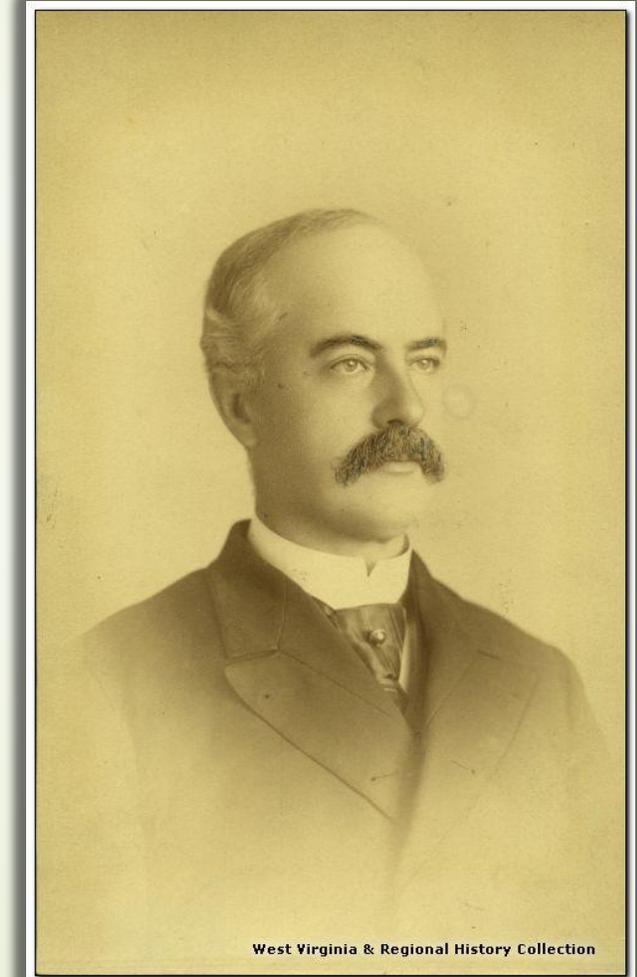


**Marmaduke H. Dent (1849-1909) (left)**

Dent was the first graduate of West Virginia University in 1870, as well as the first president of the WVU Alumni Association. He taught for a few years before studying law. He was admitted to the bar in 1875. He practiced law in Grafton and was later elected to serve in the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals from 1893 to 1904.

**Eli Marsh Turner (1844-1908) (right)**

Following his education in Morgantown, Turner studied at Princeton University (then called the College of New Jersey), graduating in 1868 as Valedictorian. He taught Greek at his alma mater for over four years before returning to West Virginia. He became active in politics, practiced law, and was elected to the West Virginia Senate in 1876. He served as President of WVU from 1885 to 1893, and was awarded a Doctor of Laws degree from Washington and Jefferson College in 1886.

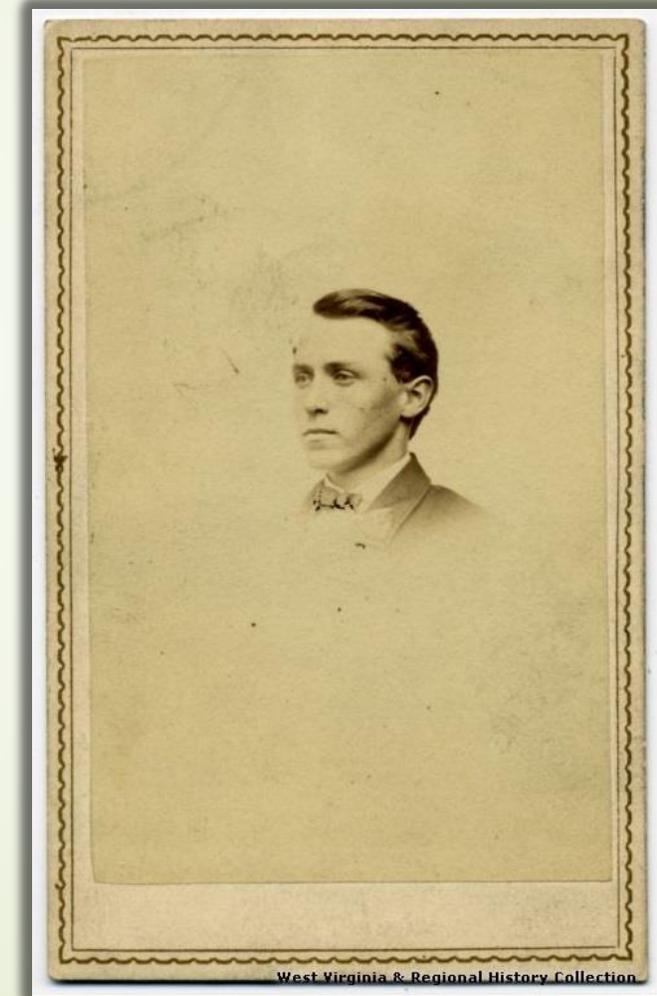


# Distinguished Alumni of Monongalia Academy, Part 3



## **French Ensor Chadwick (1844-1919)**

After attending Monongalia Academy, Chadwick attended the United States Naval Academy from 1861 to 1864. He served in the Navy from 1864 to 1906, working his way up to the rank of Rear Admiral. The bicorne hat above was part of his uniform attire. He also served as President of the United States Naval War College from 1900 to 1903. Chadwick was an avid military historian and published several books, including *The Causes of the Civil War*.



West Virginia & Regional History Collection

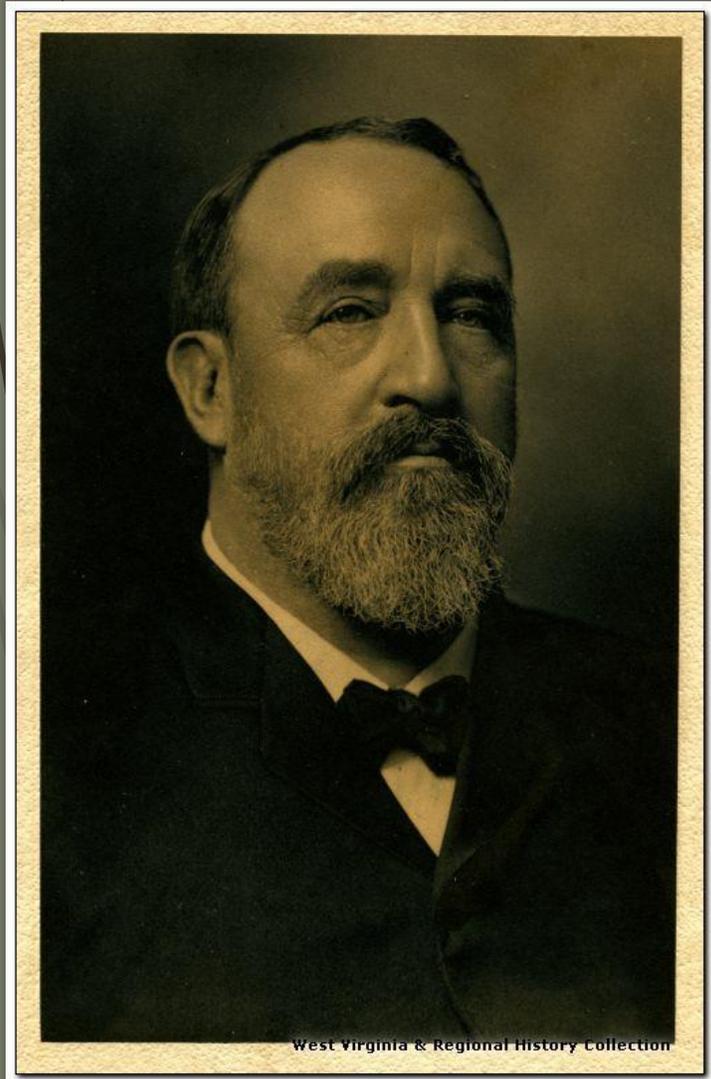
# Rear Admiral French E. Chadwick's Ceremonial Sword & Scabbard



In 1899, the Citizens of West Virginia presented Chadwick with an ornate sword, shown above with its scabbard, in honor of his heroic service during the Spanish and American War. The program for the sword presentation ceremony is on the right. Chadwick was promoted to Rear Admiral in 1904.



# Distinguished Alumni of Monongalia Academy, Part 4

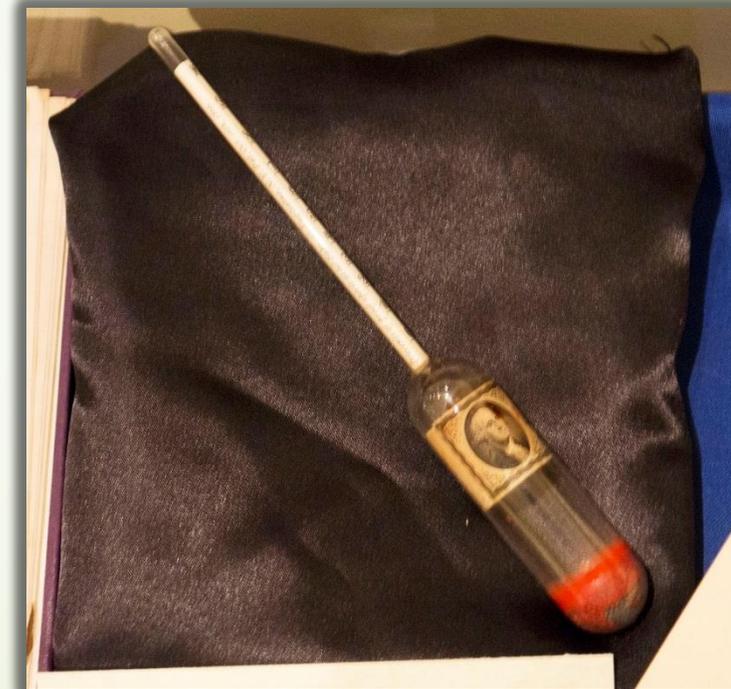


**John W. Mason (1842-1917) (left)**

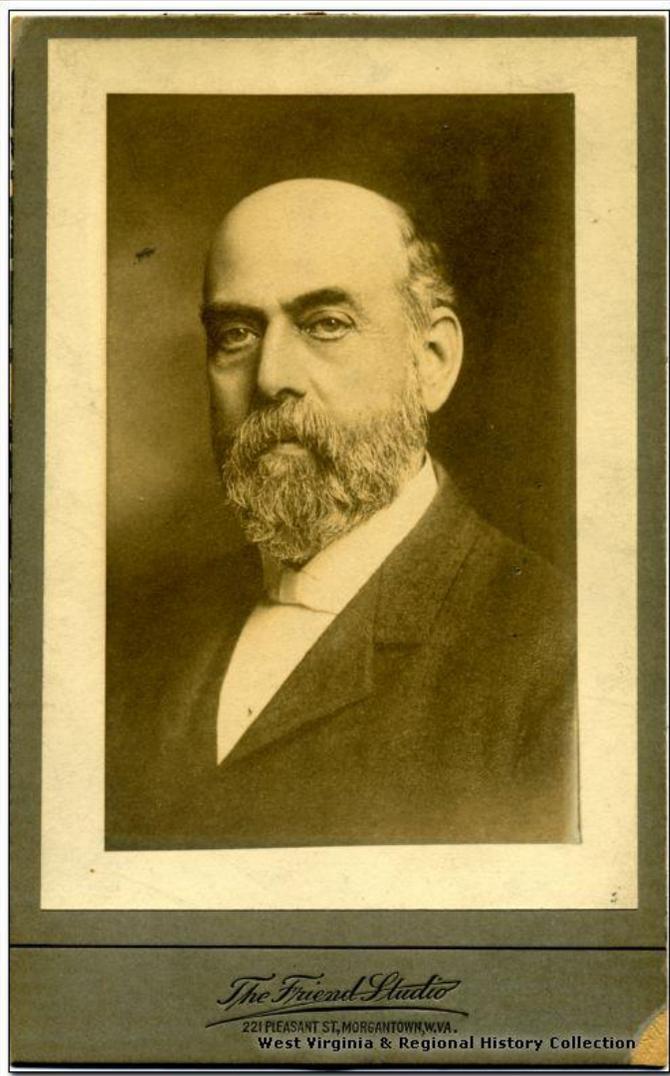
During the Civil War, Mason was a soldier in the Union army. After the war, he attended Monongalia Academy and later taught there. He read law under Judge Marshall Hagans of Morgantown and was admitted to the bar in 1867. He practiced law in Grafton from 1867 to 1889, and was then appointed Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service by President Benjamin Harrison, serving from 1889 to 1893. He served his state in a variety of other capacities, including as a Circuit Court judge, Chairman of the West Virginia Debt Commission, and member of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia.

**Commissioner John Mason's Hydrometer, ca. 1889-1893 (right)**

As Commissioner of the IRS, John Mason (Class of 1866) used this instrument to measure the alcohol content of beverages in order to determine tax by proof and to also to uncover fraud.



# Distinguished Alumni of Monongalia Academy, Part 5

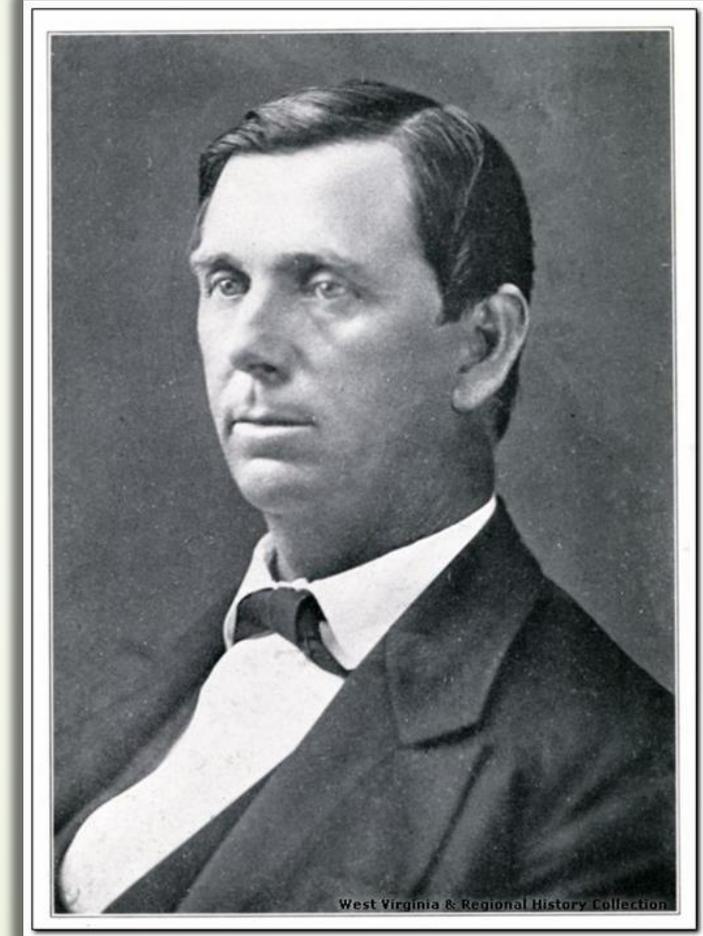


**George C. Sturgiss (1842-1925) (left)**

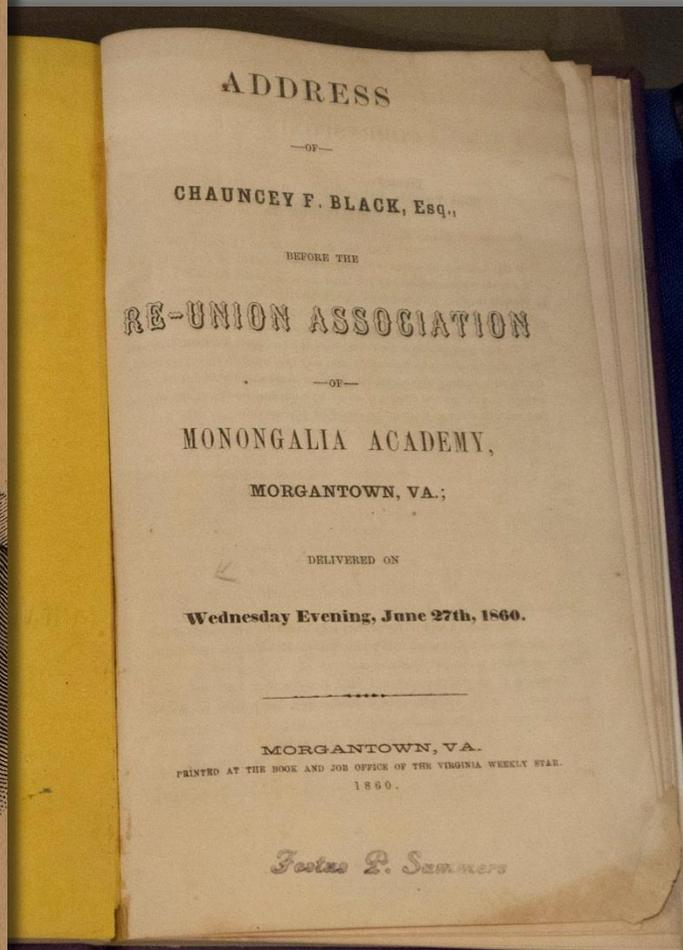
After paying his way through Monongalia Academy by teaching and tutoring, Sturgiss studied law with Waitman T. Willey and passed the bar in 1863. From 1864 to 1865, he served as paymaster's clerk in the Union Army. He also served as the first Monongalia County superintendent of public schools. His career included serving in the West Virginia House of Delegates from 1870 to 1872; serving as Monongalia County's prosecuting attorney from 1872 to 1880; as U.S. attorney for the district of West Virginia from 1889 to 1893; as U.S. Representative from West Virginia from 1907 to 1911; and as judge of Monongalia County's circuit court from 1912 to 1920. He was also secretary to WVU's first Board of Trustees, and served for four years as president of the Board of Regents.

**Samuel Woods (1822-1897) (right)**

After graduating from Allegheny College, Woods served as an instructor at Monongalia Academy from 1845 to 1849, and also took advantage of learning opportunities and the Academy library. He also studied law in Pittsburgh before settling in Philippi. Elected to represent Barbour County at the Virginia Convention of 1861, he voted in favor of Virginia's secession from the Union. During the Civil War, he was a member of the famous Stonewall Brigade in the Confederate Army. After the war, he was a member of the West Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1872. He was later appointed judge of the State Supreme Court of Appeals, serving from 1883 to 1888.



# Distinguished Alumni of Monongalia Academy, Part 6



## **Chauncey F. Black (1839-1904) (far left)**

Black entered Monongalia Academy in 1853, when he was just 14. Afterward, he was educated at Hiram College and Washington & Jefferson College. Black worked as a journalist and author, and reportedly ghostwrote *The Life of Abraham Lincoln from His Birth to His Inauguration as President* in 1872, in cooperation with Ward Hill Lamon. Later, he served as the third Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania from 1883 to 1887, and unsuccessfully ran for Governor in 1886.

## **Published Address of Chauncey F. Black, June 27th, 1860 (left)**

Black delivered this speech to his fellow Monongalia Academy alumni at the "Re-Union Association's" inauguration.