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08 Miscellaneous Notes on the History of Education in Chester County

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Miscellaneous Notes on the History of Education in Chester County

This file contains assorted facts from Chester County history collected by students in the HIS480 "Computer methods of historical research" class at West Chester University. Each fact consists of specific information, a reference note to its source, and a date. The "facts" are organized in chronological order.

This file has not been completely proofread, nor have the sources been verified, so use this material with caution.

Collected by Jim Jones, David Flogaus, Kelly Kulp-Bosler, Mike Wolford and Bob Gialanella (Spring 1995). Additional information collected by Jim Jones, Christopher Waychunas and John Morrison (Spring 1996). Last edited by Chris Waychunas (April 29, 1996).

1793 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 98.

A Roman Catholic congregation was established in West Chester in 1793.

1800s Source: Frazier, E. Franklin, BLACK BOURGEOISIE: THE RISE OF A NEW MIDDLE CLASS (New York: The Free Press, 1957), 20.

Negro upper class consisted mostly of northerly educated former slaves that benefited from northern philanthropy. This Negro upper class contained a few teachers, doctors, ministers, and small businessmen.

1800 Source: W. W. Thompson, editor, County Pennsylvania and its People (Chicago and New York: The Union History Company,

1898), 374.

The Friends School of West Chester was founded in 1800.

1800s/early Source: W. W. Thompson, editor, County
Pennsylvania and its People (Chicago and New York:
The Union History Company, 1898), 376.

Joshua Hoopes (12-2): "at one time principal of a boarding school at West Chester, and a distinguished authority on botanical subjects." He was educated at the Friends School of West Chester.

p385 Joshua Hoopes opened the "Downingtown Boarding School For Boys" in 1817, moved it to West Chester in 1834 and closed it in 1862 when he became too old to operate it.

1830 Source: William Darlington, DIRECTORY OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER, FOR 1857: CONTAINING A COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE BOROUGH FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME.. . (West Chester, PA: Wood & James, Publishers, E.F. James, printer, 1857, 37

The plans to build the West Chester Railroad led to the construction of Price's Boarding School for young ladies in 1830. By 1857, it was flourishing under Misses Evans. It

1832 Source: William Darlington, DIRECTORY OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER, FOR 1857: CONTAINING A COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE BOROUGH FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME.. . (West Chester, PA: Wood & James, Publishers, E.F. James, printer, 1857, 37

The plans to build the West Chester Railroad also stimulated the construction of the spacious Hotel, or Mansion House in 1832 by Wm. Everhart, Esq, at the southeast corner of Market & Church Streets.

1834 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 106.

The Act of 1834 authorized the construction of public schools so that the sons of poor men would obtain preparation for college.

1834 Source: William Darlington, DIRECTORY OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER, FOR 1857: CONTAINING A COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE BOROUGH FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME.. . (West Chester, PA: Wood & James, Publishers, E.F. James, printer, 1857, 39.

The veteran teacher Joshua Hoopes opened the Boarding and Day School in West Chester in 1834.

1850s Source: Found on the Internet (THE HACHER FAMILY LEDGER, MMS 340)

Medical schools were expensive and varied widely in the quality of instruction. The frontier medical student often studied with a practicing physician, accompanying him on cases, mixing the medications, and reading his books.

1850s Source: "Profile Piece On Sharpless M. Paxson" in "Daily Local News," (West Chester: August 13, 1927)

Paxson's father was a dealer in meats and provisions, as well as the owner of a slaughterhouse. Young Sharpless worked there during after school hours. He also worked as a newsboy.

From his experience in the slaughterhouse, he was able to learn the trades of buying livestock, and selling "dressed" meat.

1851 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 103.

Ercildoun Seminary was founded in 1851 by Smedley Darlington as a boy's school, but it soon changed to an all-girls school.

1854 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 106.

The position of County Superintendent of Schools was created in 1854 against the opposition of many school masters, and the first man to hold the position was Robert Agnew Futhey of Parkesburg. (JJ: J. Smith Futhey wrote a book indexing biographies of Chester County citizens. It is in the library.) ...

p107 ... Other superintendents were: Franklin Taylor (1857-1860), W. W. Woodruff (1860-1869), George L. Maris (1869-1872), Hiram F. Pierce (1872- 1876, 11 December), Jacob W. Harvey (1877-1887), Joseph S. Walton (1877-1896 September), Frank P. Bye (1896-1900), George W. Moore (1900-1914), Thomas A. Bock (1914-1920 December), and Clyde T. Saylor (1920-).

1857 Source: Darlington, William, DIRECTORY OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER, FOR 1857: CONTAINING A COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE BOROUGH FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME ... (West Chester, PA: Wood & James, Publishers, E.F. James,

printer, 1857), 102.

Under the heading of libraries, Daniel Niels was listed as vice-president of the Working Men's Institute.

1857 Source: William Darlington, DIRECTORY OF THE BOROUGH OF WEST CHESTER, FOR 1857: CONTAINING A COMPLETE HISTORY OF THE BOROUGH FROM ITS FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME.. . (West Chester, PA: Wood & James, Publishers, E.F. James, printer, 1857, 39.

The author expressed the fear that Philadelphia might soon engulf West Chester as a result of railroad construction.

Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 103.

Smedley Darlington's younger brother, Richard Darlington, bought the Ercildoun Seminary in 1861 and operated it successfully until it was destroyed by a tornado in 1877.

1870s? Source: "Obituary of Sharpless M. Paxson" in "Daily Local News," (West Chester: May 5, 1930)

Sharpless M. Paxson was a member of West Chester Rifle Team, and a good shot.

1871 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 105.

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary founded the Villa Maria Academy in West Chester in 1871.

1871/09/25 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 104.

The State Normal School opened on 25 September 1871 under Dr. E. H. Cook (1871-1872), Dr. W. A. Chandler (1872-1873), ...
p105 ... Professor G. L. Maris (1873-1881), Dr. George Morris Philips (1881-1920), and Dr. Thomas Andrew Smith (1920-?).

1877 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 104.

In the summer of 1877, after the school was destroyed by a tornado that struck its original site, Richard Darlington

moved the Ercildoun Seminary to a location just outside of West Chester and renamed it the Darlington Seminary.

1879 Source: "Obituary of E.L. McKinstry" in "Daily Local News" (West Chester, March 30, 1951).

E.L. McKinstry attended the Chester Springs Soldiers Orphan School of Chester County when he was twelve years old.

1880s Source: "Obituary of E.L. McKinstry" in "Daily Local News" (West Chester, March 30, 1951).

E.L. McKinstry attended the Friends Central High School in Philadelphia for one year.

1881 Source: "Obituary of E.L. McKinstry" in "Daily Local News" (West Chester, March 30, 1951).

At the age of 14, E.L. McKinstry entered the newspaper office at Newtown, Bucks County and began to learn the printing trade.

1884 Source: Shirley Macauley, "W. Chester's squares failed as rectangles" in "Daily Local News" (November 13, 1972), 84. NOTE: Centennial issue n01 of 5 by the Daily Local News

In 1884, the West Chester Women's Christian Temperance Union was founded, the first such group in Chesco. They met at the First Baptist Church. Sixty women attended the first annual meeting.

1887-1890 Source: "Obituary of Sharpless M. Paxson" in "Daily Local News," (West Chester: May 5, 1930).

In tribute form: they said of Sharpless M. Paxson, "filled with credit the office of Recorder of Deeds of Chester County" particularly his excellent penmanship. He was a "paragon of neatness and accuracy."

1890 Source: "Obituary for L.S. McKinstry" in "Daily Local News" (West Chester, March 13, 1940).

L.S. McKinstry attended Unionville Academy High School. In 1890, she graduated from West Chester State Normal School (WCU). She first taught in Bucks county, and then in West Coatesville and then Valley Twshp.

1890 Source: "Obituary of E.L. McKinstry" in "Daily Local News" (West Chester, March 30, 1951).

E.L. McKinstry graduated from West Chester Normal School in 1890 (now WCU). He was chosen historian of his class.

1890 Source: "W. Chester is biggest district" in "Daily Local News" (November 15, 1972), 60. NOTE: Centennial issue nø3 of 5 by the Daily Local News
The first black graduate of a West Chester school was William Moore in 1890. "Moore wasn't able to gain apprenticeship in any of the trades in West Chester, and went on to Howard University. He later became a teacher and principal of an all-black school in Cape May, N.J."

1890?-1892? Source: "Obituary of E.L. McKinstry" in "Daily Local News" (West Chester, March 30, 1951).

E.L. McKinstry taught school for 2 years. He served for one year at Newportville and one year at Rockville, Bucks County.

1890s Source: Gerald R. Fuller, June Markus Hoopes & Lillian Fredsall Webster, compilers and editors, THE HOOPES FAMILY RECORD, Vol. I, The First Six Generations (Houston, Texas: The Hoopes Family Organization, Inc., 1979), 574.

Josiah was a trustee of the West Chester State Normal School. He was listed in "Who's Who, 1897-1942. He was the author of BOOK OF EVERGREENS (New York: Orange Judd Co., 1868).

1891/09/17 Source: Source: County Historical Society, Clipping File.

R. E. Monaghan was a Trustee of West Chester State Normal School.

1893/01/16.fam.educ. Source: County Historical Society, Clipping File.

Jonathan J. Monaghan (the brother of R. Jones Monaghan) attended Lafayette.

1894 Source: "W. Chester is biggest district" in "Daily Local News" (November 15, 1972), 60. NOTE: Centennial issue nø3 of 5 by the Daily Local News
The Gay Street School (later Fugett School) was built in 1894 for \$25,000. It had seven teachers and a principal. It was renovated in 1910 and rebuilt in 1956.

1894/08/20 Source: Daily Local News (August 20, 1894)

The workers at the PRR station made preparations for "the handling of trunks next Monday when the Normalites return." (Normalites were the students and faculty at the West Chester Normal School.)

1894/06/29 Source: notes, not dated, not signed

Robert E. Monaghan born 1822/07/24 died 1894.06/29. He was the uncle of R. Jones Monaghan and son of James Monaghan by his second wife, Catherine Streeper. Robert E. Monaghan was born in West Fallowfield. His father was from County Fermagh and came to America about 1799. R. E. Monaghan taught school, represented Chester County in state legislature, and was one of the original promoters of Public School System. He also ran for US Congress in 1868, but lost to Washington Townsend. Finally, R. E. Monaghan invented a machine called the "Vox Populi."

1898 Source: "W. Chester is biggest district" in "Daily Local News" (November 15, 1972), 60. NOTE: Centennial issue nø3 of 5 by the Daily Local News

The Model school (later the "Demonstration School") opened on the West Chester Normal School campus in 1898.

1901 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 104.

Richard Darlington he sold the Darlington Seminary (former Ercildoun Seminary) to Frank P. Bye, one-time Superintendent of Schools in Chester County, who continued to operate the school up to the time of publication of this book.

1905/11/23 Source: Daily Local News, in Chester County Historical Society

J. Preston Thomas died of illness. During his lifetime, he was elected to the Directors of the Poor in 1887. He was also a graduate of Haverford College, and in 1870, he was elected director of National Bank of Chester County. He became the vice president of the bank on 1895/01/11, and on 1901/11/01 he became president of the bank. He served on the Board of Trustees of the West Chester Normal School, helped found the Chester County Hospital, served on their Board of Managers, and was a member of the Downingtown Friends Meeting.

1911 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 106.

In 1911, Dr. George M. Philips of the State Normal School

played a large part in drawing up the School Code to standardize public education in the county.

1914 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 105.

In 1914, the Villa Maria Academy moved from West Chester to its present location at Immaculata and was chartered by the state of Pennsylvania in 1921.

1918 Source: Shirley Macauley, "W. Chester's squares failed as rectangles" in "Daily Local News" (November 13, 1972), 84. NOTE: Centennial issue n01 of 5 by the Daily Local News

The Boy Scouts were chartered in Chester County. Their headquarters was located in the Farmers and Mechanics Building in West Chester.

1920s Source: Gerald R. Fuller, June Markus Hoopes & Lillian Fredsall Webster, compilers and editors, THE HOOPES FAMILY RECORD, Vol. II, The Seventh and Eighth Generations (Houston, Texas: The Hoopes Family Organization, Inc., 1979), 250.

Josiah Morgan Hoopes, son of Joshua Hoopes, graduated from St. Agnes High School in West Chester and attended Villanova University. He became a landscape architect and the West Chester borough Tree Commissioner.

1921 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 105.

The Villa Maria Academy at Immaculata was chartered by the state of Pennsylvania in 1921.

1926 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 104.

The Darlington Seminary operated in West Chester under Superintendent Frank B. Bye, since 1901.

1926 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 105.

The State Normal School originally possessed ten acres of land, but by 1926 it had about sixty acres. Construction costs of the buildings was around \$1,000,000.

1926 Source: Charles William Heathcote, HISTORY OF CHESTER COUNTY
PENNSYLVANIA (West Chester, PA: Horace F. Temple, 1926), 31.

There is an excellent public school system, one of the best in the state. The Friends maintain well-organized schools. There is also a fine parochial school system organized from the grades to the high school inclusive. One of the best State Normal Schools in the United States is located here, having a student body of twelve hundred.

1927 Source: Shirley Macauley, "W. Chester's squares failed as rectangles" in "Daily Local News" (November 13, 1972), 84.
NOTE: Centennial issue n01 of 5 by the Daily Local News

The Girl Scouts were chartered in Chester County at the suggestion of Mrs. Herbert Hoover following a "tea" held at the home (named "Greystone") of Mrs. P. M. Sharples.

1927/05/20 Source: "Eightieth Birthday piece on Justice Paxson" in "Daily Local News," (West Chester: May 20, 1927)

Paxson enjoyed fishing, even in his old age. However, he thought that the Brandywine River had become polluted since he was a boy. "When I was a kid, let me tell you there were some whoppers taken from it".

1927/08/13 Source: "Profile Piece On Sharpless M. Paxson" in "Daily Local News," (West Chester: August 13, 1927)

Sharpless M. Paxson considered the money given to him by his father (when he worked in the meat shop) as more of a gift than compensation for the work performed. The newspaper business, he said, was different. He was working for his own wage, and came to understand the value of his labors. The Philadelphia papers he distributed were the Bulletin, and the "Press."

1940 Source: "Obituary for L.S. McKinstry" in "Daily Local News" (West Chester, March 13, 1940).

Lorraine Stone McKinstry's son was Hugh Exton McKinstry. He was an alumnus of West Chester High School, Haverford College, Harvard University, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

1951 Source: "Obituary of E.L. McKinstry" in "Daily Local News," (West Chester, March 30, 1951).

E.L. McKinstry's son was Dr. Hugh Exton McKinstry. In 1951, he was a geologist and member of faculty of Harvard University.
