Ballston Spa Daily Journal.

VOLUME XXXI—NO. 9,120 | BALLSTON SPA, N. Y., WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1924 | THREE CENTS

GRADUATION OF THE CLASS OF 1924

Ballston Spa High School Has Largest Class In Its History

This year's graduating class of the Ballston Spa High School has the distinction of being the largest class ever graduated from the local school. The large number in the class caused an unusual demand for tickets for the exercises, with the result that no doubt many were disappointed in not being able to attend, as the time arrived for the opening of the exercises every seat in the Methodist Episcopal church, where they were held, was filled and additional chairs had been requisitioned to seat others.

There are twenty-four members in the class and another unusual thing about this class is the large number of young men, there being eleven and thirteen young ladies. The church platform had been very prettily decorated with a profusion of huge bouquets of white and red peonies and ferns.

Promptly at 8.15 the march was started by the orchestra and President Wheeler, of the Board of Education, the speaker, Mr. Hague, Supt. Andrews and Principal Schneible, marched down the aisle and took their places on the platform, followed by the class in twos, the class taking seats on the left side of the church. Prin. Schneible announced the numbers on the program, which was as follows:

Overture—"Graduation," Orchestra

Salutatory Essay—"The Early Days of Ballston Spa," Abba Verbeck Newton.

Essay* — "Revolutionary Battle Fields in Our Vicinity," Dorothy Lois Arnold.

Valedictory Essay—"Music, Its Origin and Development," Katharine Marguerite Newton.

Music—"In the Starlight," Orchestra.

Address—John B. Hague, Division of Archives and History, Education Department.

Music—"Adoration Waltz," Orchestra.

Presentation of Class of 1924 to the President of the Board of Education.

Award of Diplomas.

Music—"Mignonette," Orchestra.

*Excused.

Class of 1924

Following are the members of the class with the course of study in which they have graduated:

English Course—Leah Helen Buchdahl, Thorman Archer Nelson, Lillian Edith Gorman, Lois Charlotte Merchant, Mary Louise Schwinler, LeRoy Smith Robinson, Henry Gardner Ellsworth, William Thomas Prock, Earl Frank Gates, Abram Earl Sharp, William Henry Whalen, Howard Andrews Weed, LeRoy Hillman DeLong.

Scientific Course—Harold Irving Baumes, Joseph William Allen.

Classical Course—Katharine Marguerite Newton, Abba Verbeck Newton, Dorothy Lois Arnold, Bertha Gladys Wilsey, Ruth Elizabeth Sowle, Elaine Chandler Shattuck, Julia Elizabeth Snyder, Margaret Gorman Dohig, Marion Vaugh Coombs.

Only two of the graduating essays were delivered, the Misses Newton having the distinction and honor of winning the two highest places in so large a class. Their essays were delivered in a clear and pleasing manner, the subjects being splendidly handled and of a most interesting character. They are given in full today. Owing to ill health, Miss Arnold was unable to deliver her essay, which is much to be regretted.

Supt. Andrews in a few words introduced the speaker of the evening, John B. Hague, of the Division of Archives and History of the State Department of Education, speaking of him as one who could discourse with authority on the history of this section.

History, however, was the last thing Mr. Hague had in mind when he got up to speak as he said at once, "I'm not going to talk to you on history." He took for his subject, "Problems that Confront the High School Graduate of Today," saying a young man always likes to give advice and that's what I'm going to do.

He expressed the hope that each graduate would select a lifework in which they believed; that there is always some line in which a person can be a success if they choose wisely. He said he would not advise them all to go to college, for that is for each one to decide, many factors entering into the making of such a decision.

Mr. Hague then gave the class some advice in regard to life in college, if they decide to go, particularly as to the profitable employment of their spare time, the joining of the right fraternities and the forming of lasting friendships, warning them against going just for a good time. He then encouraged those who do not go to college to continue their education by proper courses of reading and study, so that they could develop themselves mentally almost as well as those who go to college.

"It is up to us to so develop our lives," said Mr. Hague in conclusion, "that though we may not be a shining star, we shall be successful in our lifework. Develop yourselves mentally. Develop self control. I hope that each one of you will continue on a broad development. My hope for you, my young friends, is that success in its broadest sense will be yours."

At the conclusion of the address, Prin. Schneible presented the class to President Wheeler, of the Board of Education, who expressed his pleasure in greeting so large a class and gave to each member the much coveted diploma.

Following the presentation of the diplomas the members of the class held an informal reception and received the congratulations of their friends and relatives. This evening the class will be entertained at the Community House by the Juniors.

SALUTATORY ESSAY

"The Early Days of Ballston Spa"—Abba Verbeck Newton

Every town has an interesting early history and this is certainly true of Ballston Spa and the surrounding country.

To begin with, the Indians frequented this section long before white men appeared here. Originally most of Saratoga County, although claimed by the Mohawks, was open to all Indians, because of the beneficial effects of the water of the springs. This practice continued until the Mohawks, stirred by the wars between the French and English, broke the tradition of their ancestors.

An Indian trail from the Mohawk River to Lake Champlain and the St. Lawrence, ran through this very village. This route was important because Indians could travel with canoes without much land carriage.

The name of the creek, the Mourning-Kill, reminds us of the tradition that a battle was fought between the Algonquins and the Iroquois near its headwaters. Yearly as late as 1770 Indians returned to celebrate mourning rites for their dead. Hence the early settlers named the creek, the Mourning-Kill.

The first settlers in this section were Michael and Nicholas McDonald, who in 1763 settled on the edge of Ballston Lake. Until 1770 they were the only settlers. Finally Mr. Ball, a Presbyterian minister, accompanied by one family of his congregation, came from Connecticut and settled on the east bank of Ballston Lake. One interesting thing concerning Mr. Ball is that he was a second cousin of George Washington. Later more joined them, until a thriving settlement was founded.

In 1767, before these settlements, Sir William Johnson visited the spring at Ballston Spa. This is the first authentic record of a white man's visit. The original spring, later called the Public Well or Iron-railing Spring, was near the location of the present Iron Spring. Following the Indians' advice, Johnson, afflicted with gout, came here. Although he was well pleased with the effects of the water, it did not become famous for years.

In 1770 several surveyors at work near by, feeling thirsty, wished to get water from the Gordon Creek. Walking along the bank, they found the spring. From then on the spring had visitors each year, among them noted men.

In 1783 General Washington, accompanied by Governor Clinton and Alexander Hamilton, set out to visit this spring. When some distance from it, they lost their way. Therefore, seeing a man, Tom Connor, chopping wood in front of his cabin, they stopped for directions. When the information was given them, they proceeded. Since they again became confused, they returned to Connor—Washington acting as spokesman. This time Connor angrily replied, "I tell you, turn back and take the first right-hand path into the woods and then stick to it—any fool would know the way." When he found out whom he had so addressed, he was chagrined but his neighbors did not let him forget this incident for a long time.

For accommodation of visitors to the spring, in 1787 the father and grandfather of Stephen Douglas built a two-room log house just west of the Gordon Creek. Because of its popularity, soon they erected an addition of four rooms to be rented. In 1792 they built on the same site a large house, which with later additions still stands and is now known as "Brookside."

Some years previous, this section was disturbed by events of the Revolution. Most of the attacks on Ballston were made by daring Joe Bettys, who had lived here before the war. First he joined the patriot cause, but later deserted to the British. Repeatedly, with a band of men, he came to burn houses, steal cattle, and enlist men in the British army. Once he was captured, but afterwards freed, because of the pleadings of his parents. However, he immediately resumed his treachery. In 1780 two hundred Tories and Indians marched southward to raid Ballston. Although Bettys did not lead this raid, he probably planned it. Many homes were burned, much booty was carried away, and many prisoners captured.

In 1781 Ballston was again raided by Bettys himself. More damage was done and, since most of the able-bodied men were at war, the inhabitants were at the enemy's mercy.

Finally the marauder, when visiting a Tory, was captured, taken to Albany, and on April 1, 1782, hanged. Thus the settlement was relieved of the fear of attacks from him.

Another event, the murder of Jane McCrea, is interesting because her brothers were settlers near this village. She was engaged to a Lieutenant Jones of the British army. One version of her murder is that while she was visiting a Tory family in Ft. Edward, she and the woman with whom she was staying, were carried away by Indians and that she was accidentally shot by a party sent for her rescue. Another version is that her lover sent some Indians to bring her to the British camp, offering them some rum for doing this. While returning to camp either that party quarreled among themselves over the rum, or another party, hearing about the offer, decided to share the reward and quarreled. At any rate, an Indian shot her. The news of this murder quickly spread and induced many to join the patriot cause against the British who employed savages against their own kinsmen.

Finally the horrors of war passed away and the little setlement of Ballston Spa was once more peaceful. Now many more settlers came. The first person to build a house within the present limits of Ballston Spa was Jonathan Peckham. In 1783 he built a log cabin on the site directly opposite the Community House. In 1787 he erected another house on Church Avenue.

So little by little, through many interesting and exciting events, the settlement grew, until at length that part nearest the original spring became the thriving village of Ballston Spa.

PRESIDENT'S COUSIN

This is Miss Mary F. Cooledge of Atlanta, Ga., the pretty southern cousin of President Coolidge, who has been entertained at the White House. She's the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Cooledge, and the Civil war caused the loss of her grandfather's fortune. When he started a new business and had a lot of stationery ordered, the printer misspelled his name, making it "Cooledge." Rather than lose all the paper, he decided to let the new spelling stand.

HONOR ESSAY

"Revolutionary Battlefields in Our Vicinity"—Dorothy Lois Arnold

The inhabitants of Saratoga County are fortunate in dwelling in a neighborhood so rich in historical interest, and teeming with memories of the past, near places where, during the struggle for independence, events gripping and startling took place. Even today we thrill to hear the story of those memorable deeds, and like to wander about the battlefields, red with the blood of martyrs, and to picture to ourselves the scenes of that battle whose outcome decided so favorably the fate of the colonial troops.

In visiting or studying the battlefield, a brief account of the battle is essential. The British were centering their activities on New York State, for they rightly thought that if they could shut off New England from the rest of the colonies, the colonial cause would be weakened. Therefore, a three-fold plan was evolved; that Howe should march up the Hudson from New York, that St. Leger should march eastward from Lake Ontario, and that Burgoyne should advance from the north. Then, after conquering all the territory through which they passed, they would converge at Albany.

But the plan miscarried, for Howe never received his instructions, and St. Leger, encountering difficulties, never reached Albany, while Burgoyne, after success in the north, met with defeat at Old Saratoga, now Schuylerville. The first battle of September 17, 1777, occurring near the farm of Isaac Freeman, was indecisive. In the second battle, which took place on the seventh of October, Gates was the American commander, Arnold and Morgan his subordinates. Burgoyne's chief subordinates were Fraser and Reidesel. After a brilliant attack by Arnold, who not soon after proved a second Iscariot and who had taken charge of affairs and saved the day for the colonial cause when he saw that a leader was needed, the British gave way to overwhelming defeat. In the interim between these battles, the battles of Bemis Heights and Stillwater had been fought.

The victory came at a critical period of the Revolution. It frustrated the British plans, enlisted the aid of the French, altered the policy of Parliament and the King, and saved the colonial cause.

That year it was stated that the battles of Bemis Heights and Saratoga formed a niche in the temple of Liberty, which patriotism would one day fill with an appropriate monument. Actuated by this sentiment, patriotic men met half a century later, and formed the Saratoga Monument Association, whose object was the erection of a monument on the spot where Burgoyne had drawn his sword from its scabbard and presented it to General Gates, which he silently returned.

So enthusiastic were the members of the Association that Congress and the State Legislature appropriated large sums of money for the erection of the monument, and the rest of the money was donated by patriotic individuals.

The cornerstone was laid in 1877, and eventually the handsome memorial was completed. It stands on a high bluff, two hundred and fifty feet above and overlooking the Hudson, making it four hundred feet above the river, proving the efficacy of the remark that "Monuments make as well as mark, the civilization of a people."

From its lofty summit a superb view is obtained. Immediately below is the battlefield, the pretty village of Schuylerville, and the gleaming Hudson, while farther on are the lines of the Green Mountains. The Monument is made of granite with the features of Gothic architecture combined with those of an Egyptian obelisk.

At the base is a room twelve feet square, with a tiled floor of unique, historic design. The stairs and doors are bronze and the panels richly adorned with Revolutionary scenes. Four large bronze cannon taken from the British attract considerable attention. There are four large niches, one containing a bronze figure of Schuyler, another one of Morgan, the third one of Gates, but the last is vacant, merely having the name of Arnold inscribed beneath.

Not far from the Monument is a knoll covered with small trees, which is the remains of earthworks thrown up by Morgan's men. South of the Monument, in Victory Woods, are hundreds of feet of British breastworks, in an excellent state of preservation. Opposite these are the American defenses, which have also been preserved. The ancient elm is still standing, where Burgoyne signed the agreement to surrender.

The Marshall house still stands, in the cellar of which Baroness Reidesel, her children, and many wounded soldiers crouched on the day of battle, expecting the walls to crash before the bombardment of the colonial troops, who thought Burgoyne's headquarters were located here. The beams and rafters, pierced by cannon balls, may yet be seen.

In the Schuyler mansion, among other interesting relics, is the gruesome skull of the Tory Loveglass, who had been hanged as a spy, and buried beneath the oak tree where he paid the penalty for his services to the British and from where the bones were finally evacuated, some years later.

That part of the field known as Freeman's Farm, is a most noteworthy place. Here it was that the initial encounter between Morgan's troops and those of the British general, Ackland, took place. Here is situated the old battle well, whither so many brave soldiers had dragged themselves to quench their burning thurst, and been found dead.

Various tablets of granite depict such scenes as Burgoyne addressing the Indians, a town-meeting, the wives of the British officers travelling through the wilderness, Mrs. Schuyler firing her wheat fields, Schuyler himself felling trees to obstruct the enemy's march, Burgoyne surrendering his sword to Gates, George III in Council. There is a memorial denoting the spot where the Indians who were conducting Jane McCrea to her lover, quarreled over the promised reward, and scalped her, increasing the hatred of the colonies for Burgoyne, because he hired Indian troops, thus putting the lives of their wives and children in jeopardy.

Now let us close with heartfelt gratitude to those who unselfishly gave their time and money that future generations might ever remember those days when our country, in its youth, conquered tyranny, and won for democracy a place in the annals of history.

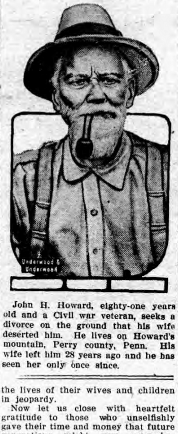
Find House Built of Mud 200 Years Ago

Philadelphia.—After weathering the sunshine and storms of perhaps two centuries, a two-story house, built of mud from foundation to roof, has been discovered by a building inspector and condemned.

Close examination of the unique structure, which stands at 322 Buttonwood street, revealed that builders of 200 years ago used the same methods of pouring mud into wooden molds as is used today in the construction of modern concrete buildings.

To the generations of men, women and children that have passed it, the house has stood as a landmark, but not one of noteworthy history. A week ago it was to the passing citizenry only a house on a street, "that's been there for many years."

OLD BUT ASKS FREEDOM



John H. Howard, eighty-one years old and a Civil war veteran, seeks a divorce on the ground that his wife deserted him. He lives on Howard's mountain, Perry county, Penn. His wife left him 28 years ago and he has seen her only once since.

VALEDICTORY ESSAY

"Music, Its Origin and Development,"—Katharine Marguerite Newton

Music exercises more influence over us than we realize. It enters almost every phase of our lives; at church, in school, in social pleasure and in recreation. Yet most of us know little about its development through the ages; how man caught some sense of rhythm and melody and developed it, first through the primitive, then through the barbaric, and finally into the civilized stage.

The term "music" contains two ideas: first, "a pleasing modulation of sounds", and second, inspiration from some inner light.

The history of music is divided into two periods, the Ancient, when music became a living factor in man's existence, and the Modern, during the Christian era.

The first instrument was the drum, made of a hollow log covered with skin, by which some savage peoples believed they might learn the sacrifice their gods desired, while others worshipped a spirit dwelling therein.

Then came the pipe, the precursor of all wind instruments, originally made from reeds. Since horns were first used to frighten the enemy, endeavors were made to increase their noise. The flute, another pipe, was a sweet-sounding instrument used in courting.

Next came the parent of stringed instruments, the lyre, which was a frame strung with wires and used to accompany the voice. After primitive and barbaric music, the civilized stage began.

In Egypt there were even orchestras, and though they made more noise than melody, they were a great step in musical advancement. There was also a small harp which, since always played by women, was probably soft and sweet.

In Assyria we must drop the name "orchestras" and call the groups of instruments "bands" for the Assyrian music was loud, martial and spirited.

Hebrew music was entirely dissimilar. The ancient prophets gave their prophecies both in song and verse. In the Temple service chanting was used, the priests forming one chorus and the Levites another.

The music of the Chinese people was different in type. They believed that there were eight musical sounds in nature. For each of these, therefore, they made some instrument; from metals, bells; from skins, drums; from stones, castanets; and so forth. Their legend of the arrangement of music is exceedingly interesting. A King commanded the famous Lyng-lun to arrange musical notes. Lyng-lun went to the land where the bamboos grow, and there cutting one, blew out the pith. When he blew into the hollow he recognized the same note as the sound of his voice and as the note of the roaring waves of the neighboring river. So Lyng-lun decided that that was the fundamental sound. Just then, the magic bird, Funghoang, came in with its mate and sang the same note. Then all the birds and all the winds in the world were hushed to listen to the magic song. As each bird sang six notes, Lyng-lun cut bamboos, tuned them to the sounds and obtained his musical scale.

Crossing an ocean from China, we come to Peru, where the music consisted of songs, dancing and flute-playing. In Mexico, on the other hand, the music was loud, pompous and deep-toned.

The religious Aryan music of Central Asia was not so pronounced, though thought much of. The people respected the composers of their hymns and thought no greater honor could be given to a God than to call him a "bard," meaning "singer."

The Greeks, too, thought much of music. They attained a delicacy in singing which even we, advanced as we are, can not yet reach. In music the dance was considered important since dancing is really related to music, both being expressions of rhythm. There were also great choruses which sang in religious festivities. They performed the strictly choral part of the ceremonies, while actors played the dramas.

The music of Rome developed from Greek music as well as from that of other nations, for it is a blending and a mixing of all pagan melodies. The emperor Nero was a professional singer who was so devoted to music that he sometimes neglected business to study melody. However, he found time to persecute the Christians and for this reason they held their services in secret places whence issued the subdued sounds of a different music. Unknowingly, and though mostly uneducated in art, they were fashioning the world's new music. The development of this is the theme of the modern period.

This modern period includes the advances made in vocal and instrumental music up to our own time. The church was the first to cultivate music during this period. Then secular music arose, and later the magnificent opera and oratorio were developed. Our piano in its present form, in spite of its importance, is only two centuries old.

And so we have traced the development of music through the ages. Through all this time music was vastly affecting human life. In both its recreational and religious phases, there is nothing to take its place because it is the fullest expression of man's emotions. Longfellow has truly said that "Music is the universal language of mankind." And it is even more than this; it is the universal heart-beat; it is the emotion of millions of souls welling into one great out-pouring. It is the love and the passion, the zeal and the fire of human hearts breaking forth in one great fountain of song.

Five Killed In Ship Explosion

Naptha Catches Fire in Oil and Gas Cargo of Egremont Castle

New York, June 25.—Five men were reported missing and eight others were seriously injured late yesterday by an explosion of naptha on board the British freighter Egremont Castle, at her Brooklyn dock.

The vessel's cargo included 100,000 gallons of high test airplane gasoline, 100,000 gallons of naptha and a large quantity of minor oil. The blaze spread so rapidly that firemen feared other explosions and the freighter was towed into the East River and ordered sunk.

As the tugs caught hold of the vessel the hatches were ordered battened down, ending the last slim chance for life of the five men trapped in the hold. Chas. Keller, an inspector for the Standard Oil Company, was among the missing. The vessel, belching heavy black smoke and flame from its funnels and port holes, was convoyed toward Erie Basin, but a decision to beach her there was abandoned, because of the proximity to the United States arsenal on Governor's Island.

Later the efforts of the fire fighters began to have an effect and it became apparent that the blaze could be confined to the after hold, where it started. Then orders were given to head the burning ship toward Gravesend Bay and beach her out of the path of the shipping. The fire boats, William J. Gaynor and New Yorker, remained on the side of the burning ship and literally flooded her holds with water.

Man's Arm Torn by Boar Held to Protect Crowd

Alexandria, Va.—Fearlessly thrusting his right arm into the path of a wild boar as he attempted to escape into the packed tent, Doc Brenan, veteran lecturer on the freaks of a show on North Washington street, suffered severe lacerations and for a while was at the mercy of the ferocious hog's three-inch tusks. Brenan was rushed to the Alexandria hospital.

More than a hundred women and children were in the tent when the animal went on a rampage as the lecturer opened the cage door to handle the "pet." With an ugly snarl the animal rushed for the door. Brenan, realizing the danger, thrust his arm in the path of the animal and, as calmly as possible, summoned aid. The hog was subdued finally by Charley Docen, its tamer, but not before Brenan's arm had been badly wounded.

At the hospital it was said that several of the wounds in the man's arm were of a dangerous nature. The largest laceration extended the entire length of the forearm and was more than an inch deep in places.

Trail of Mother Love May Lead Around World

Atlanta, Ga.—The trail of mother love that may lead around the world was blazed through Atlanta the other day when Mrs. W. C. Shropshire, Lexington, Ky., passed through here in search of her eighteen-year-old son.

The boy disappeared from his home several months ago. He was happy and apparently contented one day, Mrs. Shropshire said, and the next he was gone—leaving no trace of how or where he went.

Shortly afterward the mother started out alone on her pilgrimage. She has made a tour of practically the entire country, she said, stopping in all the large cities, but has found no trace of her son, whom she is confident of finding, even though she may have to search the world over.

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W. S. WHEELER'S SON

Galway Street, Ballston Spa, N. Y.

Notice to Contractors

State Department of Public Works, Bureau of Highways, Albany, N.Y.—Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 30, Laws of 1909, amendments thereto, and Chapter 867, Laws of 1923 sealed proposals will be received by the undersigned at No. 55 Lancaster street, Albany, N. Y., at one o'clock p. m., advanced standard time which is twelve o'clock noon, eastern standard time on the 11th day of July, 1924, for the improvement of the following highways:

SARATOGA COUNTY.

Highway No. 8184; name of highway, East Galway-Saratoga, pt. 1.; type, concrete; approximate length 6.44.

Maps, plans, specifications and estimates may be seen and proposal forms obtained at the office of the bureau in Albany, N. Y., and at the office of Division Engineer Perry Filkin, 110 Hamilton street, Albany, N. Y.

Special attention of bidders is called to "General Information For Bidders" in the proposal, specifications and contract agreement.

Proposal for each highway or contract must be submitted in a separate sealed envelope with the name and number of highway plainly endorsed on the outside of the envelope.

Each proposal must be accompanied by cash, draft or certified check payable to the order of the New York State Bureau of Highways for an amount equal to at least three per cent of the amount of the proposal. The retention and disposal of such cash, draft or check by the State Bureau of Highways shall conform with subdivision 2, Section 130 of the Highway Law, as amended by Chapter 623, Laws of 1919.

The successful bidder will be required to execute the contract and comply in all respects with Section 130 of the Highway Law, as amended.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids.

A. W. BRANDT,
Commissioner of Highways

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