

Historical Essay, 1813 - 1971¹

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By 1800, Albany was a prosperous port city, doubling its population every 20 years, asserting itself as the capital of the state, and enjoying a commercial and civic building spree. But, by 1805, Albany had no university and no secondary school of any kind and this gap left a need unfulfilled and a sense of pride and prestige incomplete.²

So, on January 18, 1813, the Albany Common Council resolved “that a general meeting of the citizens be called at the Capitol...to consult on the expediency and necessity of instituting an academy in this city.” The general meeting approved and called for “a committee of fourteen persons ... to devise an eligible plan.” By the leadership of Mayor Philip Schuyler Van Rensselaer, officials moved quickly. Monies were promised and the Council asked The Regents of the University of the State of New York to issue a charter. That was done March 4, 1813. A board of trustees was named and the mayor and the recorder of the City of Albany were made ex-officio trustees. In all, the Board consisted of the Patroon, seven clergy, three judges, five lawyers other than judges, two state officers other than judges, one physician, and one merchant. The merchant was William James, one of the most successful businessmen and investors in the country.³ The first Board President was Patroon Stephen Van Rensselaer [III], Albany’s wealthiest and leading citizen.⁴ Among other trustees were Harmanus Bleecker, lawyer, congressman, grand supporter of Albany's first municipal library, John Lansing, Jr., Chancellor of the Court of Chancery, and Smith Thompson, a jurist destined for the Supreme Court.

Growth and Glory Under Beck

In 1815, Mayor Van Rensselaer laid the cornerstone for a magnificent edifice in Academy Park. Meanwhile, in a former tavern owned by Kiliaen K. Van Rensselaer, classes began on September 11, 1815. Principal Benjamin Allen taught mathematics and natural philosophy (science) and the Rev. Dr. Joseph Shaw taught Latin and Greek (1815-1824). Shaw, trained at University of Edinburgh, built the classical department into a formidable one, rivaling that of the smaller colleges. His successor was Rev. Peter Bullions, D.D., also Edinburgh, who served until 1848. Bullions was internationally known as a writer of grammars and texts. On September 1, 1817, the school occupied the Philip Hooker building. T. Romeyn Beck M.D. succeeded Allen as Principal. Beck was the first great headmaster and ran a tight ship until 1848. He was a scholar in law and medicine and a leader in the founding and continuance of many cultural institutions.⁵

In 1819, the trustees named Beck to a Chemical Lectureship. This was a national curricular innovation, fulfilling the Ben Franklin ideal of a modern academy (classics plus science). The public as well as students attended. Chemistry was also introduced as a regular subject. By 1826, the Academy offered a full mathematical and scientific department. Eliphalet Nott, president of Union College, called the Academy a "college in disguise." Seniors often entered a college's junior year or went directly to medical or law school.

The first closing ceremonies in July, 1816, celebrated the community's role in establishing the Academy.⁶ They were a major civic event. A procession of students and dignitaries marched through Market (Broadway) and State streets to the [Old] Capitol. Exercises in the Senate

Chamber included music, declamations, awards, certificates, and speeches. Guests included Academy personnel, parents, students and the Governor, Lt. Governor and Regents of the University of the State of New York. Young ladies were present in the galleries.

In the spring of 1826, a scandal unseating Professor Michael O'Shaunessy left the position of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy vacant.⁷ Principal Beck appointed a recent alumnus, the bright young scientist, Joseph Henry.⁸ His schedule included math through differential calculus and the whole range of natural philosophy as well as surveying, navigation, astronomy, and civil engineering. Still, Henry found time for ground-breaking experiments in electro-magnetism. He was assisted by friend and fellow alum Philip Ten Eyck⁹ and some students from his classes.

Henry's first teaching year was marked by the last public hanging in Albany. Jesse Strang was entangled with Elsie Whipple, Mistress of Cherry Hill. He dispensed with her husband, John Whipple, on May 7, 1827. Jesse was arraigned on July 25th, tried immediately, and was found guilty by jury on the 27th. He was hung on August 24th on the slope occupied by the "Egg" today.¹⁰ Onlookers flocked from surrounding counties, some 40,000 people, wagons and carts blocking all the streets. Joseph Henry was there. He put in a formal request to obtain Strang's body for experiments on muscle conductivity.

The school year in those days was 46 weeks, one week off at Christmas, one in May, and four in August. A "black list" of offending students was posted publically. Corporal punishment was sanctioned by the trustees. Dr. Shaw was a disciple of the old Scottish school that never spared the rod. Dr. Beck was a practitioner. "After Morning Chapel, Dr. Beck would descend from the rostrum and himself unlock the door. In his right hand he carried a rattan, from which each tardy entrant received a smart cut over the shoulders."¹¹ One day, a student conspiracy interrupted Beck's chastisements. They won him over to less exuberant remonstrance.¹²

The First Existential Crisis

In 1848, there was an abrupt change in the organization of the School. After 31 years of school leadership, Beck wished to retire. He had many other irons in the fire:

- Professor Materia Medica¹³, Albany Medical College 1840-1854, then Emeritus)
- trustee, Albany Academy, (1815-1855, President 1848-1855)
- 1850 to 1855, editor, *American Journal of Insanity*
- an original trustee, State Lunatic Asylum (1842-1855, President 1854)
- Secretary of the Board of Regents¹⁴ (1841 to 1855)
- member of the executive committee New York State Normal School¹⁵ (1850-1855)

After Dr. Beck retired, the rest of the faculty were summarily let go with four weeks' notice. Board member Rev. William H. Campbell, D.D., LL.D. was named Principal (1848-1851) with the opportunity to name his own choices to the faculty positions. This 'massacre of 1848' led to instability; the turnover of principals and faculty was high for the next two decades. Campbell did stimulate enrollment by elevating mercantile studies and establishing a primary department.

In 1863, over 4,000 students having been "received and educated," President Peter Gansevoort called for a 50th Anniversary Celebration. Col. Frederic Townsend (cy 1836) organized a procession of trustees, faculty, alumni, students, and guests, led by Schreiber's band, which marched to Tweddle Hall, a new concert hall on the corner of State and North Pearl streets.¹⁶

Among the dignitaries assembled on the stage was Herman Melville (cy 1837), established author,¹⁷ who attended the school twice between 1830 and 1837. There was much singing, many speeches, and the first organization of the Albany Academy Alumni Association.

The Second Existential Crisis From Academy to College Preparatory

Albany High School opened in a temporary building on State street on September 7, 1868, as [NB] the Albany Free Academy. Albany's Department of Public Instruction pressed the Academy Trustees to surrender their building. Principal James Mason (1863-1868) resigned. The next principal held the post one year; his successor precipitated the resignation of most of the faculty. Enrollment plummeted. That could very well have been the end of our school. Looking back on the turbulence, Ernest J. Miller, Jr. (cy 1853, Trustee 1882-1897, Treasurer, 1884-1895) wrote, "Some of the Trustees became greatly discouraged, and considered that the days of the Academy were numbered, and that no future of usefulness remained for it. It was proposed that the Academy should be turned over to the city...that its history should be ended, and that the Trustees should in that way be relieved of their onerous duties."¹⁸

However, General John F. Rathbone (cy 1831) felt differently. He sought advice from Martin Brewer Anderson, first president of University of Rochester (of which Rathbone was a benefactor and trustee). Rathbone offered the head position to Merrill E. Gates, just graduated from Rochester. Gates brought three other young men, Eugene H. Satterlee, Martin L. Deyo, and George D. Olds to teach. Albany Academy shifted its mission to college preparation.¹⁹

Gates strengthened the primary department, promoted physical education, and increased the number of prizes and incentives. After a tour of the ancient world, he introduced the use of photographs of art, architecture, and culture to stimulate student interest and inquiry.²⁰ Gates extended the school levels from eight to twelve and increased the enrollment from 184 to 310 students. At the very beginning of Gates' tenure, he capitalized on post-Civil War popularity of militias and drill and ceremonies into a formal program. Under a plan developed by Gates and Rathbone, the battalion served as a vehicle of leadership, discipline, and physical education for older boys, a morale builder, and public activity supported by the community.

Henry Pitt Warren, 1886-1919²¹

Warren was a humanitarian, a writer, interested in literature, history, and education, upon which subjects he lectured widely. He had honorary degrees from Rutgers and Williams. He extended the reach of the Humanities in the Academy. School spirit and alumni pride developed. He was an active man, leading an excursion of students to the Swiss Alps despite a collapsed lung. Warren was interested in Hampton Agricultural and Industrial School (Hampton Institute). It was founded in 1868 after the Civil War. Warren was a close friend of the founder and of the second president.²² He taught history and educational issues at Hampton during two summer sessions, and delivered the Founder's Day address in 1913. And the Academy supported a scholarship at Hampton. Warren was a career headmaster devoted to one school.²³ Warren, McCormick, and Meislahn, three men in succession would steady the school for 85 years. Only a major economic depression threatened to upset that period of stability and growth.

Dr. Henry Hun (cy 1870 Trustee, trustee, 1890-1924, President, 1906-1924) presided over the Centennial Celebration, 1913.²⁴ Class secretaries wrote all living alumni. A school banner with the words “Albany Academy” and “1813” appeared for the first time, memorabilia and photographs--most donated by returning alumni--decorated several school rooms. The battalion and 800 alumni paraded to Washington Park “where so many Academy boys, their parents, and their best girls have gathered for years.” There the traditional competitive drill and battalion review were followed by a group photograph of all the attendees.²⁵

Dr. Warren died while serving as headmaster. The Academy Cadets marched to his home to escort his body to the school for chapel services. Alumni solemnly processed from the University Club to the school. The State Department of Education closed in the afternoon in respect.

Islay McCormick, the Country Day School

Islay F. McCormick, a math teacher at the school since 1912, succeeded Warren. The next generation of great teachers emerged under his leadership, including in the Upper School Messrs. Sharp, Pike, Lindsey, Owen, Morris, Midgley, Webber, Sabisch, and Colton. In Lower School, there were Edith Jordan, Irene Russell, Mabel Swantee, Helen Henshaw, and Alice Perkins.

The advent and popularity of sports, begun under Warren, helped push the school away from the academy model into the country day school model. Under that philosophy, a school undertakes not only the academic college-preparatory program, but also physical, artistic, and even spiritual training. Thus, the school would offer the same program featured at prestigious boarding schools in academics, athletics, the arts, and moral guidance (required chapel, for instance, presided over by an eminent headmaster). But in the evening, students return home to their families and the influence of parents. Since the Old Academy building had no room for fine arts, nor campus for athletics, a move to this program called for a new campus.

So, in 1920, the school purchased fifteen acres for athletic fields on Highland Avenue. Teams were bused to and from these fields from 1922 to 1931. Frederick Townsend, Jr. (cy 1889, trustee 1897-1937, President, 1924-1937), in 1927 extended the new property to 30 acres by purchasing additional parcels for a new building. In 1929, before the stock market crash, the trustees accepted the City of Albany’s offer to purchase for \$450,000 the old building to be used for its Department of Education. A fund drive led by Winthrop P. Stevens (cy 1916) (the drive was second largest in *Albany* history) raised another \$430,000 and Marcus T. Reynolds (cy 1886) was appointed architect for the New Academy. The cornerstone was laid on November 21, 1929, by Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt. The \$1,108,352 project was just completed for a delayed opening on September 29, 1931. Highland Avenue was renamed Academy Road. On the new campus and under Directors of Athletics, Country Morris and later Alfred K. Sabisch, the physical education component of the country day school philosophy materialized: “a boy for every sport, and a sport for every boy.” Sabisch’s Gym Exhibitions for grades 4 to 6 were classic attractions for parents and prospective students in the 1930s and 1940s. Al started the swim team in the first pool in 1931 and in 1946 a soccer team. Both were firsts in the city of Albany.²⁶

The One Hundred Twenty-Fifth

Seven years in the new building, letters were sent to the 1,500 living graduates (1,000 would attend) announcing a gala 125th anniversary celebration. Gilbert M. Tucker, Jr. (cy 1898, trustee

1936-1968) was General Chairman. The Fathers and Mothers Associations (founded 1928, 1933) played a large role. Hon. Mayor John Boyd Thacher (cy 1900) presided over the Alumni reunion and was a leading member of an historical pageant's cast of 245. The *Times Union* and *Knickerbocker News* ran many articles. On Thursday, June 2, 1938, 4,000 alumni and Albanians gathered at the Washington Avenue Armory for the pageant of "historical episodes" to dramatize how deeply interwoven were the histories of Albany and the school. On Friday, to the accompaniment of school songs on the carillon of City Hall, there was a parade from Academy Park to Lodge Street, where a tablet was unveiled commemorating the location of the first classes (September 11, 1815). The School and the City were still close.

The Third Existential Crisis

In 1939, lingering debt from the cost of the new campus, competition from other schools, and the effects of the Great Depression led to bold proposals, including a corporate merger with Albany Academy for Girls, then still on Washington Avenue. Here is that story.

In the summer of 1939, an informal and secret committee of six trustees drawn from both academies developed a proposal for presentation to their respective boards. The Heads of both schools were kept out of the discussions.²⁷ To save costs under one management, the proposal would merge the two academies establishing coeducational lower grades, with older girls in one wing of the New Academy and older school boys in the other. The committee recommended to *and only to* the trustees of each school on October 16, 1939 that the two schools be merged ASAP into one corporation.²⁸ A short time was given for the full board to study the proposal and for the Alumni and Fathers' Association trustees to consult with their respective *officers*.

On November 2, the alumni representative on the AA board asked for more time before voting on the proposal. This interruption of the momentum intended by the informal committee was fatal. On November 12, 1939, the *Times Union* scooped the plan, setting off a storm of activity among faculty, friends, alumni, and parents. Subsequent news articles appeared on November 14 and 18. To put concerns and objections to rest, the informal committee mailed a statement to the wider academy community. The AA Alumni Association called an evening meeting for 28 December. 150 alumni attended. John R. Titus (cy 1926) and David Midgley spoke. The Alumni unanimously adopted the following: "The Alumni Association strongly opposes the merger unless absolute and unavoidable financial necessity be shown." The AA Mothers Association also registered their opposition and suggested alternative plans. The AA Fathers Association had remained neutral, but had conducted a poll among parents showing 80% opposition. Headmaster McCormick was opposed. The Albany Academy faculty, although divided on the desirability of coeducation, were strongly against the current proposal.

On January 11, 1940, the boards of each school abandoned the consolidation plan. The initial secrecy and haste for an irrevocable corporate change were certainly weaknesses in the merger proposal. The episode bred hard feelings and hasty judgements and made this one of the more emotional periods in our histories. It was fatal to the careers of both heads of schools and to the leadership of the AA board. The normal working relationship between the board and headmaster completely broke down. President W. L. L. Peltz (cy 1900)²⁹ had a desk installed in the school so he could monitor operations. Every trustee meeting Peltz dismissed McCormick (and later Stetson) after the school report. After the failure of the merger proposal, there was a decline in enrollment of 7% per year for three years. Despairing of new approaches, some board members

contemplated selling the building to the Catholic Diocese of Albany, paying off the mortgage, and going out of business. We know this from a letter written some years later by Col. John K. (Jake) Meneely.³⁰ He said that trustees Louis Woodward (cy 1917) and Matthew Bender III (cy 1921) led an insurrection against Peltz and the other officers. Meneely accepted the presidency, new officers were elected, new members added, and five year terms for presidents became a tradition. Rhoda E. Harris and Harry E. P. Meislahn began their long tenures.³¹

H. E. P. M.

An undefeated high school heavyweight wrestler at Brooklyn Poly Prep, a football player and wrestling captain at Princeton, Meislahn had what it took to stabilize and govern the school. He often quoted Alexander Pope: "Be not the first by whom the new is tried, /Nor the last to set the old aside." In wartime and postwar America, this conservative style fit the school very well. Similar to the effect of the Civil War upon establishing the Battalion, the atmosphere of World War II promoted its expansion and significance. The Competitive Drill and Guidon continued to give boys the opportunity to compete and to lead; parades gave the public the opportunity to judge the performance of the school's disciplined youth.³² On June 7, 1946, the Competitive Drill ceremonies were expanded to recognize the twenty-three who died of the 570 alumni who served in the War. A booklet featured pictures of the deceased and the names of all who served.

The launching of Sputnik and the election of John F. Kennedy spurred many changes, including a new interest in languages and science. Since 1963 was the year of the 150th Anniversary, a fund for new athletic and academic facilities was initiated with by John P. Hawn (cy 1944, trustee 1962-emeritus, President 1970-1973) as General Chairman. The nearly two million raised (fifteen million in today's value) provided for a language laboratory, updated science facilities, and new athletic facilities. Michael Waldbillig (cy 1953) of Waldbillig Construction as General Contractor supervised the building of the Field House for winter sports. The ice hockey rink was ready January, 1965. The formal dedication of the rink, gymnasium, wrestling room, offices, and locker areas took place in February, 1966.³³ New science facilities, classrooms, and an amphitheater style lecture room were created in 1968 from the old labs on the third floor extending through the old gym. Dedications of this Joseph Henry Science Wing were in October, 1968, and May, 1971. In 1969, the Academy entered the computer age for the first time. Steve Rogowski, youngest member of the math department, leased an RCA teletype unit that transmitted code to the mainframe computer at GE in Schenectady. Advanced math students from both campuses and the college counselor were among the first users.

Meislahn hired many alumni and this stimulated new activities. Tom Cogan (cy 1953) founded the Milit-Aires, a large glee club that performed barbershop inspired melodies at school and in the community, winning a Capital District Chorus championship. Chuck Colton (cy 1956) and student James Mann (cy 1964) founded the *Brimstone and Treacle*, a literary magazine reminiscent of the old monthly *Cue*. I started an educational journal, *Cum Laude Review*, and was faculty advisor to two new community service programs. Big Brothers - Big Sisters was a joint-schools activity. Neil Murray (cy 1962; future trustee and board President, 2003-2007) helped lead the weekend activities.³⁴ The in-school service organization, Key Club, was promoted by students Pete Wheeler and Joe Gulli (both cy 1966).³⁵ Peter Dorwaldt (cy 1958) led the baseball team to 416 wins over a 35 year period. Dave Martin's (cy 1961) 1967 swim team amassed a perfect 16-0 record. His tennis teams won twenty-five straight championships in the Colonial Council. E. Wayne Harbinger (cy 1955) donated time and became an essential support

to the athletic program as team physician.³⁶ The older faculty established a standard of high scholarship. David Midgley wrote an American History text and review book, incorporating his famous Presidential List. Herbert Schellenberger, creator of the Academy's first language laboratory, authored *Wir Lernen Deutsch*. Jim Colton, with famous Albany brain surgeon Eldridge Campbell, translated and commentated important medical works from the 13th and 15th centuries. Tom and Carroll Martin published *Legacy*, a collection of original plays.

The Turbulent Seventies

“Woodstock” occurred in the summer of 1969 and was reviewed in the *Fish and Pumpkin*. The Vietnam War provoked discussion in classes, the Student Council, and the *F and P*. A poll of former majors in 1966 resulted in an evaluation of the curricular effectiveness of the military program.³⁷ The invasion of Cambodia and the Kent State shootings brought all these issues to a head. AA and AAG students participated in city peace marches in October, 1969. Sophomore Dirk Sonneborn (cy 1972) collected 115 signatures on a statement of the war's futility, and Headmaster Meislahn appointed a committee to review the Battalion. That committee favored retention with improvements, but students in Forms I through VI then voted 221 to 90 to abolish the military program. During the 1970 Memorial Day parade, two Academy companies chanted P-E-A-C-E and “peace now” in cadence. Nine officers were demoted and representatives were shepherded to the Mayor's office to apologize. Marc Freed (cy 1970) and others led discussions in the upper school and published in the *Fish and Pumpkin* remarkable examples of student journalism and the exposition of controversial thought.³⁸ This was an issue that would resurface.

Harry Meislahn retired in June, 1971. In his 28 years of service, the school moved from debt to a surplus of financial assets, from 300 to 565 students, from 27 to 49 teachers, from 6 to 11 interscholastic sports, from 7 to 15 extra-curricular activities. Amy Kermeth, who shared leadership with the Headmaster, had retired. Amy was a grand lady, an astute educator, and an able administrator. Much of the old guard faculty left with Meislahn. Beloved custodian James “Mac” MacDonald died in 1970 after 26 years of “running” the school. Math wizard Steven Webber retired after 40 years. Al Sabisch retired after 40 years. Midgley after 46. The times ahead would bring further challenges.³⁹

¹ John McClintock (cy 1957), john@mcpdatabases.com; faculty and historian (1963-1971), archivist (2007-2012). With this essay are PowerPoint presentations providing an Archives overview and documents supporting the text.

² In 1795, Albany and Schenectady vied for an academy charter. Schenectady won. Its academy became Union.

³ William James enrolled his son Henry, who later fathered William, the great philosopher and psychologist, and Henry, the great novelist.

⁴ Stephen Van Rensselaer founded Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1824.

⁵ At various times, Beck was president of The Albany Institute, New York Medical Society, Secretary of the Board of Regents, a professor at Fairfield Medical School, and instrumental in the creation of the New York State Library, the New York State Geological Society, and the New York State Museum. Further activities are listed in the text.

⁶ Academy students did not “graduate” until 1849 when diplomas were first issued to indicate completion of a specific set of requirements. Earlier, students studied subjects relevant to personal goals, with varying tenures.

⁷ Mr. A. T. Freeman of Albany wrote to a trustee in March, 1826, that Professor Michael O'Shaunnessy [variant of O'Shaughnessy] had introduced to him a young lady purported to be of a virtuous and amiable character with the request that as he, Mr. Freeman, was taking the stage coach to New York City, would he kindly escort the young lady to her boarding house under his protection. Freeman agreed to the customary social convention, but discovered upon arrival in the City that the young woman was known to be a notorious prostitute and who practiced similar impositions upon traveling gentlemen. The Board inquired of Professor O'Shaunnessy, enclosing copies of the correspondence, offering him an opportunity to exculpate himself. Professor O'Shaunnessy replied that Mr. Freeman's

particulars were substantially wrong, that he declined to elaborate further at that time, and that after consulting with his feelings and self respect, he was tendering his resignation at the conclusion of the academic year (31 July).

⁸ That summer, 1826, Henry was on a geological tour of the environs of the Erie Canal, opened the year before. The tour was organized by Eaton, first president of R. P. I. and paid for by the Patroon, Stephen Van Rensselaer.

⁹ Philip Ten Eyck entered 1815; Henry entered 1819 as an older student. Ten Eyck went on to Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (M.D. 1825) and joined the Academy faculty in 1832.

¹⁰ The trial of Mrs. Whipple went from July 30th to August 2nd. She was acquitted.

¹¹ Dr. Alexander W. Bradford, *Albany Academy, 125th Anniversary Celebration*, p. 38

¹² *Cue*, November, 1915. Beck's recitation of the Lord's Prayer was interrupted by sniggers and guffaws, not just once, but three times, the last time cutting short Beck's chastisement of his chosen culprit at the top of his stroke. Beck suddenly realized that this was a pre-planned conspiracy and in a pique dismissed the assembly.

¹³ *Materia Medica* concerns the therapeutic use of plants; Beck is listed also as AMC Professor of the Institutes of Medicine (fundamentals: theory and practice).

¹⁴ The Secretary of the Board of Regents annually compiled and published reports on the condition of all the colleges and academies in the state. The State Library and State Cabinet of Natural History were also under the authority of the Regents.

¹⁵ The Normal School opened December 18, 1844. The first Executive Committee was Gideon Hawley, Francis Dwight, Rev. Dr. Alonzo Potter, and Rev. William H. Campbell. See *Change in Early 19th C. Higher Education in New York's Capital District*, p. 134

¹⁶ Frederick Townsend (cy 1836, trustee, 1886-1897) organized and commanded Albany Zouave Cadets, absorbed into NY National Guard 1860. Brigadier Gen., U.S.A., and New York State Adjutant-General. On the uniform see *Albany Zouaves*, p. 21 ff. On Townsend: passim and 30 ff.

¹⁷ *Typee* sold 16,320 copies in US and UK during Melville's lifetime; *Moby-Dick*, 3,715. See [Sales](#).

¹⁸ *The Celebration of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Founding of the Albany Academy*, p. 22.

¹⁹ Gates was later called to the Presidency of Rutgers (1882-1890). Professor Olds later became president of Amherst (1924-1927).

²⁰ Many of the photographs Gates collected have been restored by Douglas W. Olcott (cy 1962).

²¹ Henry Pitt Warren, b. Maine, March 21, 1946, Phillips Academy Andover, Amherst and Yale (cy 1870). He led schools in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He taught at The Lawrenceville School before coming to the Academy. His career was often interrupted by poor health with leaves for sanitarium stays.

²² Hampton's founder was Brigadier General Samuel C. Armstrong (Principal, 1868-1893). The second president was Dr. Hollis B. Frisell, (1893 to 1918). See also, *Cue*, vol. XXIII, p. 85.

²³ Warren did serve on a sub-committee of the Committee of Ten, chaired by Charles Eliot, President of Harvard, formed to study the curricula of high schools as preparation for college study. Warren's assignment was History and Government. Also on that sub-committee was Professor Woodrow Wilson of Princeton.

²⁴ Dr. Hun was the original author of the work that became *Our Academy, Students, Families, and Achievements*, 2016, by Henry Hun, Henry H. Hun, and John T. McClintock. Use the link in the next note.

²⁵ [Albany Academy History](#). Class dinners took place in local venues such as Keeler's, Fort Orange Club, and University Club. Guests then gathered in the auditorium of the new State Education building and William Rose Benet read a poem composed for the occasion. Laurence McKinney, received his prize for the song contest ("A thousand feet are marching back the old familiar ways"). The celebrants then adjourned to the Academy for "supper, smoker, songs, toasts" and the music of Gartland's band. 485 dined; 12 half-barrels of beer and 600 cigars were consumed.

²⁶ In 1934, Sabisch designed and initiated the first summer day camp of its type in the city. He ran it for 37 years, building it from fourteen campers to over 200.

²⁷ Miss Margaret Trotter, M.A. was headmistress, 1930 to 1941; Miss Rhoda Harris, M. A., 1941-1964.

²⁸ Albany Academy, *Minutes*, special meeting, executive session, 19 October, 1939.

²⁹ Trustee 1914-1943; President 1937-1943.

³⁰ Trustee, President 1943-1948; Letter, May 2, 1977. See also, *Minutes*, June 11, 1943. And letter of Harold Santee, Headmaster, May 3, 1977. Meneely was well connected. Peter G. Ten Eyck II (cy 1956) was in Meneely's brickyard office when he took a social call from his West Point classmate (cy 1915), the President, Dwight D. Eisenhower.

³¹ Harold T. Stetson, for twenty years the Latin teacher, was Headmaster (1940-1943) preceding Meislahn.

³² Decoration Day (Memorial Day), established 1868, and Armistice Day (Veteran's Day), established 1919.

³³ Prominent at the 1965 ceremony were John P. Hawn, Col. John K. Meneely and the Honorable Erastus Corning II, Mayor of Albany. A \$1,000,000 gift from the Newman family helped finish the Field House and support other school projects. The refurbished facility is now the Michael B. Picotte Field House.

³⁴ Father (later Bishop) Howard J. Hubbard coordinated the provision of "little" brothers and sisters.

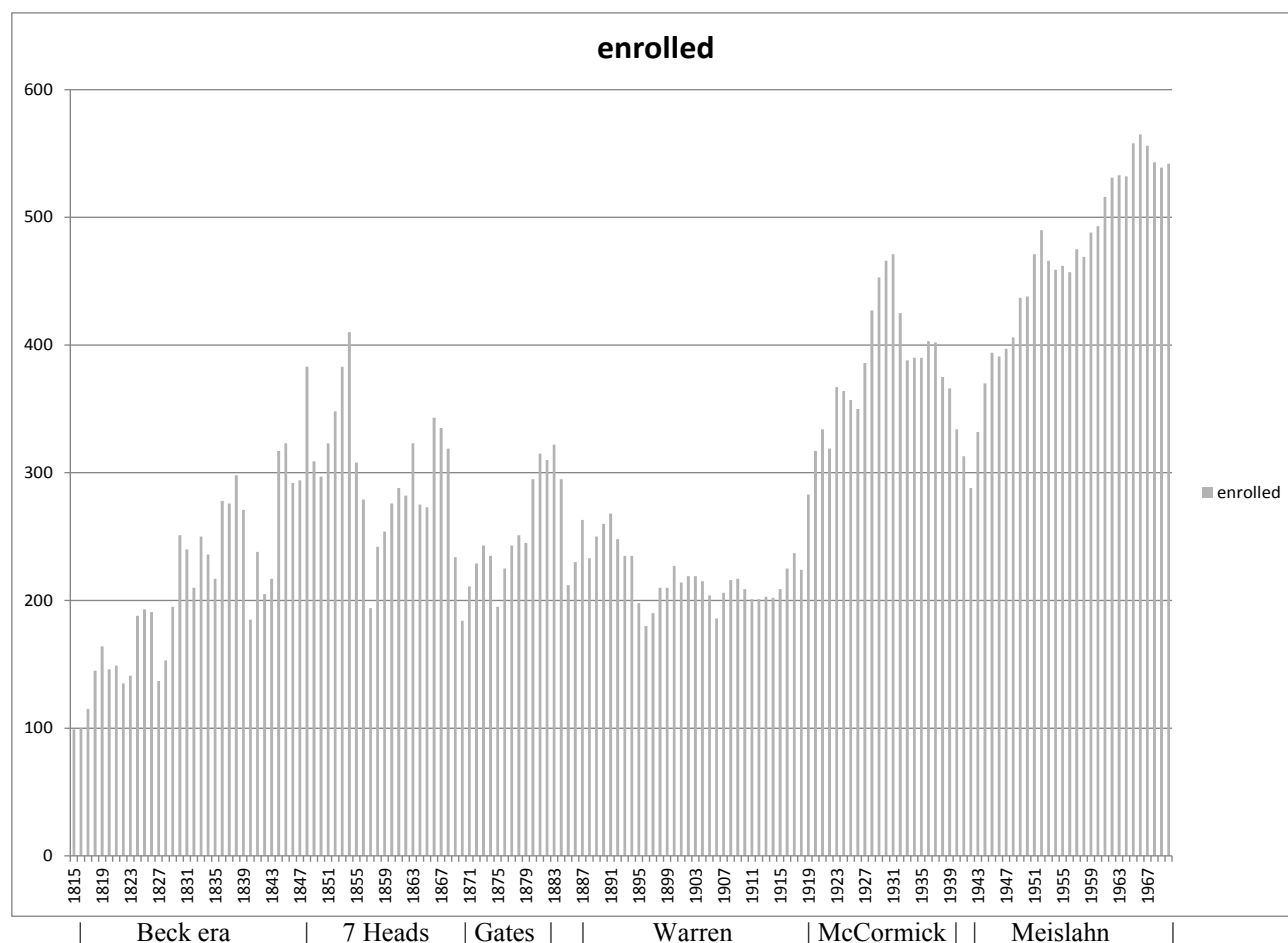
³⁵ The Joint Play had a long history, but in May, 1965, the two academies presented their first Spring Festival for the Performing Arts. In 1967, a new band became a separate unit in the battalion.

³⁶ Other grads making their contributions were Gerry Eckert (cy 1963) and George Danes (cy 1958).

³⁷ "A Report on the Value of the Battalion in the Curriculum of The Albany Academy," June, 1966, James H. Mann (cy 1964, Valedictorian, Editor in Chief, *Fish and Pumpkin*), John T. McClintock (cy 1957, Major), Cornelius D. Murray (cy 1962, Major), John Townsend Rich (cy 1961, Major, Valedictorian).

³⁸ Jeff Sharlet (cy 1960) interrupted his studies at Indiana University to enlist in the Army Security Agency. He attended the Army Language School in Monterey and served in Vietnam from August, 1963 to May, 1964. After his tour, he returned to Indiana U and became active in SDS (Students for a Democratic Society). While doing graduate work at University of Chicago, Jeff started *Vietnam GI*, the first soldier run anti-war newspaper. Jeff is featured in the film "Sir, No Sir." His brother Robert (cy 1953) donated a complete original set of *Vietnam GI* to the Archives.

³⁹ The Academy's first class began Sept. 11, 1815. Enrollment was 542 in 1970-1971. Chart below shows enrollment 1815-1971.



Contributing factors:

program shifts (classical, science, college-preparatory, country day, independent school)

new facilities (1817, 1920s fields and rentals, 1931, 1963, 1968)

grade expansion to include younger students (1850s, 1880s, 1931)

upper school grade extensions (upper and lower third (1894-1900), upper and lower fourth (1908-1931)

recessions (1815, 1837-1843, 1857, 1865-1867, 1873-1896, 1907, 1929-1933)

inflation of costs (1820, 1870, 1920s, 1940s)