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EAST FLORIDA SEMINARY - MICANOPY

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For some eight years there existed in Florida, less than thirty miles apart, two schools founded at approximately the same time and bearing similar names: the one, "East Florida State Seminary, located in Ocala and controlled by the State; the other, "East Florida Seminary", established in Micanopy and, at least nominally, under the care of the Florida Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. This Conference, it may be said in passing, extended at the time from Key West to Albany and from the Atlantic to Apalachicola, thus covering all Middle and East Florida and that part of Georgia lying south of Fort Gaines, Albany and the Altamaha River. In spite of the vast area over which it had jurisdiction, it had, however, in February, 1845, only thirty-one ministers.

In this connection it is well to remember that at the time of the founding of the two seminaries the advantage of location was with Micanopy, which was then the largest settlement in that part of Florida, whereas, in 1850,-and there is no reason to believe that conditions changed greatly during the next two or three years-Ocala numbered only "from twelve to fifteen families and had a court house built of pine poles, which served for all public purposes: church for all denominations, public hall and theatre, a small hotel, three stores, a post office and a doggery [a low drinking-house]." ¹

1. "Fifty-two Years in Florida" by John C. Ley. Publishing House of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1899. See under date, Feb. 6, 1845, and page 74.

Micanopy on the other hand was, at least in the opinion of the spokesmen of the Methodist institution, almost an ideal place for establishing a school. These representatives, Messrs. T. N. Gardner and R. H. Howren, had been appointed, at what was probably the first meeting of the Board of Trustees, "A Committee to prepare An Article for publication". The article they wrote appeared (but copied from the *Southern Christian Advocate*) in the issue of May 1, 1852, of the *Floridian and Journal*, of Tallahassee. From this one can see that the two reverend gentlemen were enthusiastic about the advantages Micanopy offered. They waxed eloquent with words that remind the reader forcibly of much that was said in Miami during the days of the Florida boom. In their "appeal to the generosity and liberality of the citizens of East Florida for aid" one reads:

"You are blessed with a productive soil, a mild and salubrious climate! Nature has favored you above your fellows of any other portion of our happy land. Providence smiles upon you. The earth pours her rich treasures at your feet and fills your coffers. A great and glorious destiny awaits you."

The writer may be pardoned for saying in parenthesis that a large part of the "article" is taken up with a similarly worded impassioned appeal for financial assistance. It might well serve to illustrate an essay on tropical style.

Speaking more particularly about the site of the proposed Seminary, the Committee states that the agent had been "authorized to purchase forty acres of land, on a beautiful healthy location", and, in another part of the article declares that "This institution will be located in the garden spot of Florida. Micanopy is situated on a healthy eminence in the

heart of as rich a body of land as can be found anywhere, consisting almost entirely of hammocks. Micanopy, in our humble opinion, is destined, in a few years, to be the largest town in East Florida. It is contemplated to build a Rail Road from St. Mary's to Tampa Bay, which will it is said run through or near this town."

It is hard to explain why the Methodists, who must have known of the steps being taken at the time by the State to found at least one of the two seminaries, one east and one west of the Suwannee River, which had to be established in accordance with the terms of what was virtually a contract with the United States, selected the name they did for their academy.

The founders of the school may have cherished the hope that the State would finally take over their East Florida Seminary. It will be remembered that its opening antedated by some months that of the Ocala institution. This may have influenced them in the selection of a name for their academy. No confirmation of this guess has, however, been found. Nevertheless, altho this would be in direct violation of the statements made with regard to its being a Methodist institution, it may be that the authorities in charge of the school did later make an attempt to have the State Seminary moved to Micanopy and consolidated with their own. Otherwise the following passage from the Senate Journal of 1856, dated December 23 and to be found on page 171, is difficult to explain:

"Mr. President presented the Petition of sundry citizens of Alachua county, on the subject of the location of the State Institution for the promotion of education at Micanopy."

This was at once referred to the Committee on Schools and Colleges who on the following day in

a report submitted by Chairman W. J. Keitt recommended "that the prayer of the petitioners be denied."* It is of course doubtful whether, the petition had reference to the Seminary.

Because of the similarity of names the two schools have in later years been confused by a number of people, some in Gainesville and some, perhaps through local patriotism, in Micanopy maintaining that the East Florida Seminary, which from 1866 to 1905 had its home in Gainesville, was the outgrowth of the Methodist school in Micanopy and not of the State-supported academy in Ocala. It may therefore be worth while to give a historical sketch of the less well known institution.

The only source not already mentioned that has been used in the preparation of this account are sixteen pages, two of which are blank, of the minutes of the Board of Trustees of the East Florida Seminary, of Micanopy. It should perhaps be added that the Rev. John C. Ley, author of "Fifty-Two Years in Florida", was for a time a member of the Board and the next to the last principal of the school.

The records of the sessions of the Board of Trustees have unfortunately been destroyed, only the sixteen pages being, as far as known, in existence. These were found in a desk belonging to Mrs. J. W. (Annie F.) Smith, of Micanopy, and by her presented to the State Museum in Gainesville. The pages were originally unnumbered. They have been damaged to a certain extent by water and the bottom of numbers eleven and twelve, as now arranged, is frayed and torn, one or two words of the next to the last line of number eleven and all but one word

*Sen. Journ., 1856:, p. 185.

and a part of another of the last line of number twelve being lost.

The writing of the four secretaries whose names are recorded is good and easily legible. They agree, however, in believing that punctuation is to a large extent an unnecessary refinement and they pay little attention to proper abbreviation, capitalization and syllabification. Their spelling judged by modern standards is at times faulty. Only a few corrections in the first wording of their sentences have been made and only a few words have been omitted and afterwards added above the line. Their uncertainty as to which of the four spellings of the name of one "Prest.", and later Agent, of the Board is to be excused, for this gentleman himself seems to be undecided whether to spell it "Houren" "Howren" or "Howrin". The minutes of two of the sessions are not signed either by secretary or president, the others are signed by "William M. Kennedy Secty. Protem.", "Geo. W. Boston Sect.", "Thos. N. Gardner Sect.", or by "John Penny Sec."

Pages 4 and 14 of the minutes are blank. The remaining fourteen pages contain the transactions of eleven sessions of the Board of Trustees, nine of which are complete. Missing, in both cases from the beginning, are probably more than half of the records of one meeting and a very small part of those of another. Thus it is impossible to tell from the minutes when and where two meetings were held or to be certain as to the attendance upon them of the trustees whose names are not mentioned in the transactions. The newspaper article to which reference has been made gives, however, the date and place of one of these. It also proves that the order of pages 1 and 2, as numbered by the State Museum authorities, should be reversed.

The second of the eleven sessions was held at "Fot" Call on July 10, 1852; the fourth at Newnansville on February 10, 1855; the seventh on January 5, 1856, at Bainbridge, Georgia; the date and place of the third is unknown; the seven others were in Micanopy on March 6, 1852; July 25 and 26, 1855; April 15 (two sessions-morning and afternoon), April 29 and October 1, 1856.

Because of the meagerness of the sources in the hands of the writer, he is unable to answer satisfactorily many questions about the institution. Diligent search has been made by more than one person for a copy of its charter; none has been found, altho it is certain that one was prepared with the expectation that the Legislature would be asked to make it a legal document. Mention of this is made in the article prepared by Messrs. Gardner and Howren:

"In order that the public may see the principles upon which this institution is founded, and that they may act understandingly, the committee deem it proper to give the most important features of the charter, to be asked for from the Florida Legislature, at its next session, and which is to be regarded as the constitution of the Board of Trustees until the Legislature shall have acted upon it." It is believed, however, that application to the Legislature for a charter was never made.

Who were the original promoters of the school is also not known. It is reasonable to suppose, however, that there had been considerable discussion by the people living in the neighborhood of Micanopy and in the town itself about the lack of educational advantages within reach of their children. Finally some one probably exclaimed: "Why not start a school ourselves?" With the point of view then

prevailing the next step would be to try to interest some church in the enterprise. This seems to be a legitimate inference from a passage in Gardner and Howren's communication to the Southern Christian Advocate:

"Observation and experience have taught, that an institution of learning cannot be sustained unless controlled by some denomination. Hence the community about Micanopy have kindly, as we believe, wisely asked the Florida Conference to take the matter in hand. The Conference believing that the safety and the perpetuity of our civil and religious institutions must depend upon an educated community, have consented to take charge and labor to build up this institution."

The community was, nevertheless, not unanimously *in* favor of this measure. Even Gardner and Howren realize that at first it will have hard sledding, for they write: "The public will see that the 'East Florida Seminary' has an existence, and will succeed to a limited extent, at least, in spite of the opposition of some and the croakings of others". Farther along in their article they say: "The Committee apprehend that objection will be urged against the institution because of its sectarian character. Objections of this kind, the Committee apprehend, come from persons who are either a half century behind the age or are influenced themselves by sectarian prejudices."

The Committee also found it necessary to defend the action of the majority against insinuations that the Methodist Church was seeking control of the proposed institution, for we find: "It is understood that the 'East Florida Seminary' is to be a literary and not a *theological* institution. Here pupils are to receive an English and Classic education, and not to

be taught Methodism. The different denominations of the Christian church are doing much to promote the cause of education. If the Methodist Church does more than any other, she merits the greater honors and the confidence of the public in the efforts to establish an institution of this kind."

The probability is great that the school was not placed under the charge of the Conference, for the conditions under which this was to be effectuated were never met:

"The institution is to be under the perpetual control of the Florida Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South. An article of the charter secures the institution to the Conference and the community by placing it beyond all future incumbrances and legal action, after the liabilities incurred in its erection shall have been met."

How close the connection became between the Seminary and the Conference is impossible to tell from the minutes. There is nothing to show that at any time the Conference gave financial or other assistance, except perhaps its moral support, to the school or had it visited by the Committee on Education. Title to the property of the Seminary was vested in the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees was self-perpetuating: on July 25, 1855, the resignation of E. L. King was accepted and W. J. Turner was, because of non-attendance at the sessions, declared no longer a member; Brawley Oates and W. J. Duval were "nominated" and elected to fill the vacancies thus occasioned. Of the "Afternoon Session" on April 15, 1856, the first item of business to be recorded reads:

"A vacancy having ocured in the Board through Rev. J. W. Duval having joined the Fla. [evidently

a mistake] Con that vacancy miss filled by the election of Bro Geo Lightner who was also appointed to the Executive Committee”

On October 1, 1856, “Bro Ley presented the resignation of Bro G. E. MacLellan, which was accepted & Bro F. A Carn was elected to fill his place”. Nevertheless on page 82 of Ley’s “Fifty-Two Years in Florida” is found: “The Conference for 1856 had appointed a new Board of Trustees”. This does not harmonize with the erroneous assertion made on the same page that the Seminary was “started about 1857” and deserves but little consideration.

There is nothing in the minutes or in the “article” to tell by whom the Board of Trustees were selected or to whom, if to any organization, they were responsible. How many members there were is also not stated, altho internal evidence proves that there were at least eight. There were never more than six and never less than five present at any one of the nine dated meetings. A large majority of the eighteen men who at one time or another are mentioned in the minutes as members are known to have been clergymen. They met quarterly, probably at the time of the Quarterly Conference, and at the call of the chair.

Messrs. Gardner and Howren in writing of the organization of the school state:

“The Board of Trustees are to prescribe the course of studies, employ and arrange the salaries of teachers, make by-laws for the government of the seminary, and such other regulations, as, in their judgment, may be necessary. It is understood that a liberal education, as good as can be had at any institution of like character and as at fair rates, is to be imparted here.”

According to "brothers Gardner and Howren", as they are called in the minutes, "The Board of Trustees met at Micanopy, March 6, (1852,) and organized by the election of the Rev. R. H. Howren, Chairman, Geo. W. Boston, Secretary, William J. Turner, Treasurer". From the part of the minutes of this meeting which is still in existence it is evident that Mr. Boston was not present, that "William M Kennedy" was chosen to act as "Secty. Protem.", and that an Executive Committee was appointed to transact business between meetings. It may also be inferred that at a meeting held previously of those interested in the proposed school a constitution had been adopted, arrangements made for the solicitation of funds by an Agent employed for the purpose and the Board of Trustees themselves appointed.

Owing to the selection of the Agent by others than the Board friction soon arose. The first business, of which there is record, transacted at the third meeting of the Board was:

"Therefore resolved that under the circumstances we will submit to the Arrangement & hereby Make it legal with the distinct understanding we will disapprove of any act done by any one in the future without a clear & distinct authority for such act from the Board". The arrangement to which the Board submitted, it can be seen from the context, grew out of what was considered an irregularity on the part of the Agent. Determined to settle once for all the matter of the Agent's position, a little later at the same meeting the Board took the following action:

"Resolved as the sense of this Board that the Board of Trustees as a Board have the power to

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elect dismiss or control their Agent in all his financial transactions”

The minutes of the Board, as arranged by the writer, begin with a resolution intended to make it easier to obtain money by offering something in return:

“On Motion ordered that Any person or Association of persons paying into the hands of the Treasurer or Agent the Sum of One Thousand dollars shall be entitled to one perpetual schollarship in the Seminary free of tuition fees” In referring to this action Gardner and Howren with their initial enthusiasm and optimism write: “It is hoped and expected that several thousand will be raised in this way.”

The first response to the appeals made for financial assistance must have been fairly satisfactory. In the article published in the Southern Christian Advocate we read:

“The agent was authorized to purchase forty acres of land, on a beautiful healthy location, and after reserving ten acres, to have the remainder laid out in lots and sold. He was also authorized to collect subscriptions and donations, and as soon as one-half in cash and the other half in good notes can be secured, to have erected on the school premises one building for school purposes.”

In the minutes of the first meeting we read: “On Motion ordered that One building be erected for the present 40 by 26 feet two Stories to be build of brick provided the brick Can be obtained Conveniently & that the Committee Make Such other Arrangements as May be Necessary.”

Those in charge of the plans for the proposed East Florida Seminary hoped to realize great profits from the sale of land and thus make possible its

establishment on a firm basis. Messrs. Gardner and Howren wrote: "It is in contemplation to build two commodious two-story buildings of brick, if the material can be obtained, for the institution and a chapel, in connection with the citizens of the town." The mention of the chapel may, let it be said in passing, have been the cause of the: opposition, croakings and sectarian prejudices of which the two gentlemen complained.

So great were the hopes of the authors of the "article" that they add immediately after the quotation just given:

"It is expected that the school will open on the first Monday in January next. That all this will be accomplished there can be but little doubt with the prospects before us."

Upon what some at least of these prospects were founded can be seen from the next paragraph:

"It is understood that a sufficient amount has been promised to put up one building, and more will be obtained. It is thought by the agent that he will succeed in erecting both buildings this year; so that at the opening of the school, the male and female departments, will be separate. The agent expects to realize a handsome sum from the sale of lots, as it is understood that several persons are waiting to purchase on the school premises."

Inasmuch as at the time of the first meeting the land had not been purchased by the Board, these hopes seem rather premature. The lots were yet to be surveyed and laid out: "On Motion the Executive Committee Are Authorized to have surveyed the ground to be purchase & lay out the premises & Advertize lots for public sale"

It is also of interest to note that the Agent was not to go unrewarded: "On Motion the Agent be

allowed in Connection with the Mission his disciplinary Allowance”

Financial prospects continued to be roseate. So good were they indeed that a “Call-meeting” was held at “Fot” Call on July 10. At this “On Motion of Thomas W. Cooper the Agent was requested to report the amount of notes in hand, and subscriptions. The Agt. reported Threethousand and seventy five dollars as the amount.”

Delighted at this report the Board straightway took the following action: “On motion, Resolve, that the executive Committee, be ordered to erect two buildings of brick, 28 by 40 ft two stories. The lower story to [the last word with caret and, above the line] be 12 ft the upper 10 ft in height, Upon lot 14, the building for The Male School to be erected, and upon Lot 26. the building for the Females to be placed. Both fronting south.

“The above motion was unanimously carried.”

The building for the “Females” was, however, never begun.

Real estate speculation and shrewd financing were also not unknown in Florida at so early a date as July, 1852. “Brother Jno. M. Hendry, submitted a proposition from Revnd Mr. Chiles, proposing to sell forty acres of land more or less, said lan, adjoining, seminary landz. Upon which the following order was ishued, from the Board [viz] That Bro Henry Propose in the name of the Board, to take the land at \$25 Dollars pr acre, said Board, not to pay for said Land [above line] untill they they the [above line] said Board, can realize from the sale of said [above line] lots, the amount necessary for the Liquidation of said purchase.”

Other mention of land is found in the minutes for April 15, 1856: “On Motion resolved that the

contract between Joel H. Smith & the Agent for the E. F. Seminary be spread on the minutes of present meeting". This contract as recorded is contained in an undated letter addressed "To Rev. J. M. Hendry LL" offering to sell "forty acres of Land at the rate of twenty five dollars per acre, on consideration, or condition that the interest on the amount be paid to Me Annually in Tuition Fees as it becomes due"

If, however, "the Trustees or proper Constituted Authorities. should prefer to discontinue the interest they may do so by paying to Me the Principle

"And it is understood that the titles to said land shall contain all the Clauses in regard to the sale of Spiritu Liquors contained in the Decree of the Court in partition of Said Section of Land of which the above named forty acres of Land shall be a part"

This "contract" is somewhat unsatisfactory to the reader of the minutes, for it leaves him in doubt as to what section of land is under discussion, altho it does impress him with a sense, of Mr. Smith's magnanimity and informs him that the land has been in litigation and that in Florida even in those days there existed an antipathy against the sale of liquor. From the first paragraph it may perhaps be inferred that the land in question was that on which the Seminary was established and that the letter itself was written in 1852 before a site for the school had been chosen. The paragraph begins: "With a view of advancing the interest of Education in this Section of Country, I submit for your consideration. . ."

This inference becomes almost a certainty because of an item recorded in the minutes of the undated meeting:

“On Motion Gardner King & Penny were appointed to solicit from bro Joel B Smith a title for Seminary lands”

More difficulty in selling their real estate was encountered than had been anticipated and question also arose as to their legal right to convey title. At the meeting just mentioned the Board declared: “On Motion it is the sense of this Meeting that the Authority to convey titles to lots is fully delegated to Executive Committee in Act VI of the ByLaws of the Board”. Mention is also made in a report from John Lewis that. the Executive Committee, of which he was chairman, had “sold lot No 29 for \$100.00” and had “Made titles to No 7 sold by former Ex Com.” At this meeting it was also “On Motion ordered. . . .that the Executive Com-b/erenestructed to sell Nos 25 26”. It will be remembered that “upon Lot 26 the building for the Females [was] to be placed.”

On February 10, 1855, the Board “On Motion Resolved that the unsold lots pertaining to the Seminary be sold so soon as practible, to help meet the demands against the Seminary”

Getting desperate. . . how desperate may be inferred when we read: “Ordered that the Sec be required to post a notice that the School will open at the regurar time”-the Board on July’ 25, 1855, “On Motion. Ordered that the unsold lots pertaining to the school be offered for sale. at Public Auction on the first Monday in September.” The next day, July 26, a special meeting of the Board was held at which the only business transacted was the thankful acceptance of “Bro W. M. Kennedy’s proposition to purchase two of the Seminary’s lots.”

The financial difficulties began early. At the second and third meetings, that is soon after the found-

ing of the Seminary, the Board ordered, probably unlawfully, the size of the campus to be reduced, the first time to six and the second to four acres, thus overriding section 4 of their own constitution, which called for ten acres and showing that the cost of maintaining the campus and the possible sale of the lots thus made available were -factors of importance.

The Board may have had trouble with their treasurer. At the second undated meeting this action was taken: "On Motion the office ad Treasurer was declared vacant & John Lewis was elected to fill said vacancy". On January 5, 1856, it was "On Motion resolved. That Bro Penny go before the Comt. of Education [of the Conference] to report verbally on the state of the school, as to its indebtedness & assets, and urge the great necessity for having an financial Agent appointed". This may have been only a plea for financial support from the Conference and not a surrendering of any of the Board's prerogatives.

How much needed was this assistance is evident from motions passed at the same meeting: "Resolved that the indebtedness of the School for publishing the circular (the amount being thirty dollars) be acknowledged and said debt be paid so soon as funds can be raised

"Resolved. If we can raise funds sufficient. after liquidating prior debts. We will make Bro Good-all a reasonable compensation."

Further mention of the bill for the circulars is found in the minutes for April 15 of the same year: "Resolved that the following. (being a part of the proceedings of a Meeting not before recorded-be adopted & spread upon our minue

“Brother Penny presented a receipt from Justice Cooper for the sum of thirty dollars paid by him to take up former [sic] an execution against E. F. Seminary for printing Circular

“Rev R H Houren paid ten dollars received of Rev P. P. Smith being that part of the donation of Rev E Myers held by him

“Rev R H Houren also advanced twenty dollars from his own funds”

Mr. Howren’s liberality seems all the greater inasmuch as he was no longer a member of the Board. It is not known for what services Bro Goodall was to receive compensation, possibly he had been acting as agent.

Another financial item of interest is recorded on July 10, 1852: “a proposition from Brother Bernard. . . .to give to said Board [above line] of Trustees a negro man [above line] Valued at five hundred. dollars, said Board paying Bro. Bernard one Hundred dollars, Upon which the following order was issued [viz] that Brother Jno. M Hendry, be and is hereby authorized to take said negro man. . . . and dispose of him to the best advantage for Eat Florida Seminary”

The financial condition of the school can be realized best, perhaps from small things. On January 5, 1856, when a debt of thirty, dollars was acknowledged but could not be paid, it was “Resolved that we purchase for the use of the Seminary. from Bro Penny. the stove loaned by him to [above line] & now in the School”. The following item from the undated meeting needs explanation: “On Motion J M Hendry was requested to collect the tuition of Cothron’s school”. From the resolution of the same date: “On Motion the action of Ex. Com. in purchasing books was approved & that the books

on hand be received as the property of the Board & paid for", it is inferred that the school lent, rented or sold textbooks to the pupils, altho it may imply that the establishing of a Seminary library was being begun.

Taking the financial condition of the Seminary into consideration we must praise highly the generosity of the Board in declaring at the same meeting that it was willing "to receive the application of indigent persons" and find proper the provision that "this application be made to the Executive Committee and that they decide as to the fitness and number of such applications".

Little seems to have been done to advertize the school. Mention has already been made of the circular the bill for which was not paid until after litigation. At the first meeting "brothers Gardner and Howren were appointed A Committee to prepare An Article for publication"; at the undated meeting "On Motion the President was requested to write a communication to S. C. Advocate on the Condition of the School & recommend the Agent & School to the favorable Notice of the public"; on April 15, 1856, "Resolved that Brothers Ley & Tydings be authorized to have printed. 1000 circulars, soliciting donations to meet our liabilities, finish the buildings & furnish an apparatus, chemicals & for the Seminary"; on October 1 of the same year "Secretary instructed to send to Charleston to have printed 500 circulars". It is not certain that Brother Tydings at the time was a member of the Board of Trustees. It would be interesting to know if the printing establishment in Charleston was the same firm that had had trouble in collecting payment of the bill for thirty dollars.

The reason for this lack of advertising is evident.

With the scarcity of newspapers in Florida and the small number of readers better results could be obtained by appeals from the pulpit and from solicitations by the financial agents.

The Board must, however, have believed that the thousand circulars ordered printed on April 15, 1856, would be very effective, for, in spite of their practically bankrupt condition, on the 29th of the same month they "Resolved that we proceed to have, the following work completed so soon as possible." Then follows a rather long and detailed list of the repairs, alterations and improvements to be made, among which may be mentioned the placing of "14 Stone pillars under the building", the construction of "Two chimneys with four fire places", the removing of partitions, the plastering of walls, the changing of a door and Stair-case, the erection of outhouses, the providing for a Stage and book board and of Twelve desks and 25 benches, the inclosing of the Campus with a fence and one cross fence. For each of these minute directions are given, for instance, the exact dimensions of the "pannels", railing and posts of the fence are stated and it is further provided that this fence is to have four "principle entrances" and is to be "capped" and neatly "whit-washed" but not planed. Even the beautification of the campus is ordered. Great is faith!

At the second meeting of the Board it was reported that applications for teaching positions had been "recd" from "B M Powell of Micanopy T. B. Russell of Oakbowry Ala and Miss Cropland. . . . and laid over until the next meeting of the Board". At the undated meeting "G I Arnow was elected Principal G. Watson jr Assistant & Mrs H. Hall Preceptress for Next scholastic year The Principal

was allowed \$700 Watson \$1000. Mrs. Hall \$500." And "On Motion. G I Arnow was allowed at the rate of \$700. for his Services the last Scholastic year". On February 10, 1855, "Rev Geo Arnow Principle of the school made a statement in reference to the state of the school as follows: That there are about thirty scholars and that the schools indebtedness is about one thousand dollars". Mrs. Hall had been dropt, or had perhaps resigned because of non-payment of her salary, and "The prosperity of the school requiring the services of a preceptress and Bro Howren presenting the application of Miss Andrews. She was duly elected to fill said Office". What had become of Mr. Watson is not known and it is probable that Miss Andrews failed to serve, for no further mention is made of her. We are not surprised that on July 25, 1855, "Rev Geo Arnow Principle tendered his resignation of said Principeship which was received." "The report of statistics" as presented by the "Principle" showed that the school owed Mr. Arnow \$711.11, or more than a year's salary; Mrs. Hall, the former preceptress, \$267.95 and Miss E. Partridge, the present preceptress, \$160.00, or more than what was due for eight and one-half months of service. There seems to have been nothing in the treasury, but there was \$700.00 as "Assets in avelable accounts for tuition fees".

No provision was made for paying Mrs. Hall, except that by the magnanimous action of the Board "The uncollected accounts were ordered to be handed over to Bro Arnow to be by Him collected and to be used when collected to meet far as theythe above indebtedness". It was further "Resolved that the Sec be instructed to furnish the Rev

Geo Arnow & Miss Partridge, Certificates" [of indebtedness?]

Miss Partridge was probably more insistent upon the payment of her salary than were the other teachers. Because of this we find it "Ordered on Motion that the Prest be Authorized to pay over (out of the monies he may collect - to Miss Partridge \$160.00 the amount due her for her services"

The Seminary began its work with three teachers; we have seen that this number had been reduced to two, but that these two were still to receive fixed salaries. Now it was "By order of the Board resolved that the Rev. R H Houren be authorized to provide a Teacher or Teachers to open the School at its next regular commencement the first Monday in October next-Said Teacher or Teachers to take the school for its Tuition fees as Salary".

Affairs were apparently desperate by April 15, 1856, on which date the Board held both a morning and afternoon session. The teacher or teachers had probably resigned, perhaps because of non-payment of salaries, and in the emergency it was "Resolved that Rev J. C. Ley be authorized to employ a Teacher temporarily at the rate of \$50.00 per month". It was further "Resolved that we approve of the action of Bro Ley in reference to procuring Teachers & Meeting funds for use of Seminary & that we further authorize him to continue his exertions". What his action had been is not evident.

In spite of their financial straits the Board immediately went into the "Election of Principles", there being, strange to say, applications from several persons.

It was finally moved "That the Prest open a correspondence with Messers Price &, Purifoy &

employ one or the other". Mr. Purifoy was selected, but on October 1, of the same year, "The President, informed the Board of the failure of Mr. Purifoy] in not [above line] complying with his agreement to take charge of the Seminary" and "On Motion-Resolved that Bro John. C. Ley [President of the Board] & Mrs Martha S Ley be requested to take charge of the school, & receive as compensati[on] the tuition fees, The invitation was accepted".

Whether or not Bro Ley had resigned from the presidency of the Board on being elected "Principle" is not known. It is to be presumed that he had not.

There are only a few regulations concerning tuition fees. At the second undated meeting two measures were passed, the first ordering that "student" entering within two weeks of the beginning of a session "be charged as if they had entered at the commencement. . . ." the second [and this was written by one of the teachers] that students shall be required to pay one-half of their fees in advance, "and present his receipt to the Principal before being permitted to enter". What these fees originally were is not known. Upon the election of Mr. and Mrs. Ley tuition fees were reduced for three of the four classes, after which they ranged according to class from \$8.00 to \$20.00 per term of five months. Other charges for the same length of time were: French (extra), \$5.00 ; Music, \$20.00 ; Use of instruments, \$2.00; Drawing, \$10.00; Ornamental work, \$5.00; Incidental expenses, \$.50. Mr. Ley was allowed "to sell Stationary and books" and this may have added a little to his income. What "Ornamental work" signified may perhaps be inferred from one of the financial reports which men-

tions the sale of Paints and oils [probably left over from the building operations] and "Other articles for embroidering. . . \$.73".

It may be worthy of mention that the school had "one week's vacation at Christmas and one between the two Sessions."

The final entry for the last recorded session of the Board reads: "There being no further business the Board closed its Meeting".

Other mention of the school is found on page 82 of Mr. Ley's book. After erroneously stating that the Seminary was "started about 1857", the author goes on to say:

"A substantial house had been erected, and school opened, but some debts upon the building, and those increased by deficiency on teachers' salaries, had accumulated until there seemed but little hope of saving the property. The whole would not have sold for enough to liquidate the debts. The Conference for 1856 [held later in the year than the last recorded meeting of the Board] had appointed a new Board of Trustees. We obtained time and had nearly liquidated the debts, with a respectable nucleus for endowment, and a patronage of over one hundred students; but discord among patrons caused me to resign at the close of 1859. The local troubles, and the war, which called off most of the young men, caused the seminary to be closed in the latter part of 1860. After the war the fearful state of finances forced it to be sold for a trifle, and thus it passed from our hands."

The Seminary building was, according to Mr. J. K. Feaster, of Micanopy, bought by a Mr. George Riggs, who used the lower floor for his wheelwright shop and lent the second floor rent free to the public school authorities of the county. It was used

for educational purposes until Mr. Sheats became State Superintendent of Public Instruction. During his term of office a public-school building was erected in Micanopy. The old structure finally passed into the hands of Mr. W. W. Geiger, who after a time had it torn down. His home, in the construction of which he used the corner stone and one sill of the Seminary building, now stands on the spot. -