

# The Institute Monthly

*Anniversary Number*

May, 1911

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IN THE DIVISION OF PRINTING



VOLUME IV

# The Institute Monthly

NO. VI

: : : : Devoted to the Interests of the West Virginia Colored Institute : : : :  
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MAY, 1911

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# Some Letters From Our Graduates

Communications for publication should be given or sent to  
the Editor, or Managing Editor. All news will reach  
these columns through the Editors. : : : : : :

EDITOR  
MANAGING EDITOR  
BUSINESS MANAGER

BYRD PRILLERMAN  
S. H. GUSS  
J. M. CANTY



BOAT LANDING AT INSTITUTE





THE FACULTY OF THE WEST VIRGINIA COLORED INSTITUTE



## FOREWORD



THIS ISSUE OF *The Institute Monthly* HAS BEEN PREPARED IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FREQUENTLY asked by those interested in the school and the race. The question is: "What Do Your Graduates Do?" We have tried to answer this question by having the graduates to speak for themselves. They were asked to give a brief account of their work since leaving school. Their answers are to be found in in this issue of *The Monthly*. Since the school has graduated more than 200 young men and women, it will be seen that only a limited number responded to the request in time to be printed in the very brief period allotted for the issuing of this number. The graduates of the school are to be found laboring all over the state of West Virginia at their various occupations and professions.

Among those from whom letters have not been received, but whose positions in life warrant creditable mention, are:

C. C. POINDEXTER, Normal '96, Academic '99, B. Sc. Agr. O. S. U, '02, Professor of Agriculture at Fisk University.

H. H. RAILEY, principal of Simmons Graded School, Montgomery, W. Va.

REV. OSCAR JONES, '96, B. D. Union University, Richmond, pastored in Fairmont, W. Va., Milledgeville, Ga., Charlottesville, Va., and is now filling the pulpit of a flourishing church at Portsmouth, Va.

ARAMINTA ROTAN TOPSIN, '97, is engaged with her husband in the tailoring business in Cincinnati, Ohio.

BELLE TURNER WINSTON, '98, is among our most representative home builders in Huntington, W. Va.

MR. R. L. BROWN, '98, is our electrician, a local property owner, and the proprietor of a successful grocery business in the village.



HORACE PRESTON, '02, and afterward took his A. B. degree from Dennison University, is a professor in the schools of Muskogee. Oklahoma.

KATHARINE MCROBERTS, '03, taught at Eckstein-Norton, Ky., State Normal, Montgomery, Ala., and is at present teacher in Millinery at Wilberforce University.

H. C. HARGROVE, '04, M. D. Howard University, is a promising physician at Sylvia.

MR. FLOYD J. PRICE, '05, is teacher of Smithing in the Mayesville Institute, Mayesville, S. C.

✓ ETHEL B. JONES, a certificate holder in Millinery from the Department of Domestic Arts and Science, is teaching Millinery at St. Paul Normal and Industrial Institute, Lawrenceville. Va.

NANNIE L. COBB, '09, Training Teacher, Johnson City, Tennessee.

S. DEWITT MOSS, '09, with the Pioneer Printing Company, Pittsburg, Pa.

ALEXANDER GREGORY, '09, (Student in Agriculture at Tuskegee) employed during vacation period as Private Estate Gardener at Finncastle, Virginia.

✓ RICHARD L. BROWN, '10, is a young man of artistic temperament and the ability to transfer his visions to canvas. He finished the course in painting, and is now in New York City practicing his profession and studying his art.

DELBERT McCULLOCH PRILLERMAN, '09, after doing special work here in 1910, entered Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tenn., and is doing creditable work for a degree.

✓ POINDEXTER SMITH, '02, (peace be to his ashes), spent two years in graduate work at Tuskegee. He afterwards went 2,000 miles up the Nile, and while working at and teaching his trade—Smithing, he died.





# LETTERS FROM GRADUATES

TO PRESIDENT BYRD PRILLERMAN

LEE R. JORDAN, '97

*Teacher*

Clarksburg, W. Va.,  
May 6, 1911.

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

I do not know that my career as a teacher since leaving that institution will be of interest to any reader of the *INSTITUTE MONTHLY* but by your request I submit the following:

In June of the year of 1897 I graduated from the West Virginia Colored Institute, and in the same year began teaching in the rural schools of Mercer County, and continued teaching in the counties of Mercer and Summers until the year of 1900 in which year I began teaching at St. Albans in Kanawha county. I taught there three years as principal of the Amanda-ville Graded School. At the expiration of this time I was elected principal of Langston School of Point

Pleasant, the county seat of Mason County. It was there I began work as teacher of high school. I remained at Point Pleasant four years, graduating two classes from High School. I was elected and begun on my fifth year at Point Pleasant, but resigned to take the principalship of Water Street School in Clarksburg, the position which I now hold. This school has an enrollment of 205 pupils, employs six teachers, and gives a four-years' course in high school.

Last year; we graduated a class of three from the high school. This year, we will graduate a class of 6.



MRS. F. DONNALLY RAILEY, '96

*Teacher*

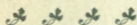
Montgomery, W. Va., April 30, 1911

President Prillerman,

In reply to yours of a recent date, will say that



after graduating I taught sewing in the Institute three years, after which I married and came to this town, and opened a dressmaking shop. I followed that four years then I began teaching at Donwood, and was there five years, and I have just closed my first year at Smithers.



ALBERT C. SPURLOCK, '98

*Machinist and Teacher*

*St. Paul Normal and Industrial School*

Lawrenceville, Va.,

May 4, 1911

Prof. Byrd Prillerman,

My Dear Sir:—

I am in charge of the Engineering Division of the St. Paul Normal and Industrial School, Lawrenceville, Virginia. I give instruction in stationary engineering and applied electricity. I operate the electric plant, water works, ice plant and machine shop. I have direct supervision of all machinery belonging to the colored school, which includes: Steam

Laundry, Planing Mill, Brickyard and Heating Plant. The town of Lawrenceville is furnished current from our electric plant.



RUTH PRESTON-FIELDS, '98

*Teacher and Dressmaker*

Charleston, W. Va.,

May 9, 1911

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

I taught the first four years, and have been sewing ever since.



R. W. JAMES, '00

*Agriculturist, St. Paul N. I. & I.*

Lawrenceville, Va.,

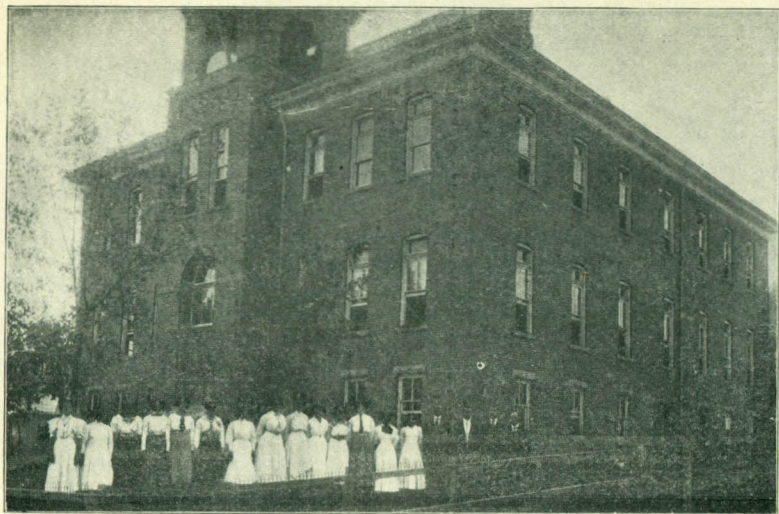
April, 4 1911

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

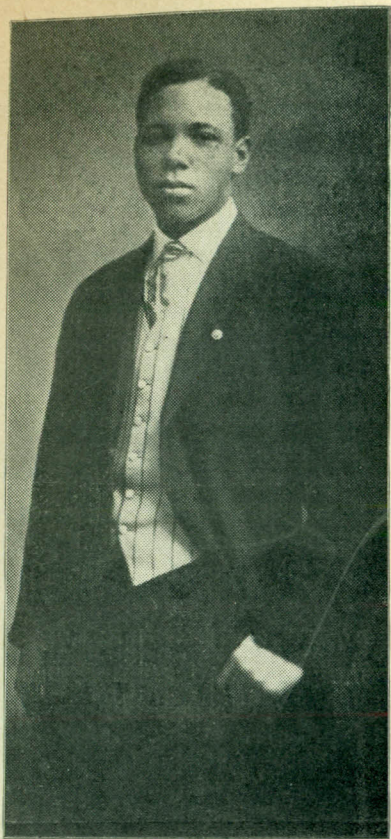
Replying to yours of the 24th, inst., with reference to my work at this school.



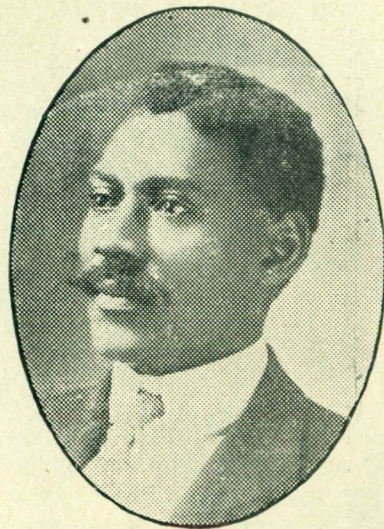


THE WATER STREET HIGH SCHOOL, CLARKSBURG, W. VA.  
LEE R. JORDAN, PRINCIPAL.





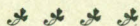
WIRT J. JONES, CLASS OF '07



H. H. RAILEY, CLASS OF '96



I have been employed here as Instructor in Dairying and Horticulture since September, 1908. There are three students in the Division of Dairying, one to graduate in May, 1911. We have seven milch cows, one heifer, five young calves, and one registered Holstein bull. Our butter is always in demand and brings a good price. There are four students in the Division of Horticulture. This Division furnishes the school vegetables, consisting of cabbages, onions, tomatoes, lettuce, radish, beets, corn, cauliflower, egg-plant, beans, and peas. We have twenty acres in our truck garden. We have put out this year 10,000 cabbage plants, 3,000 tomato plants, with 7,000 to follow. In the Academic Department I teach Nature Study and Physical Geography: Nature Study two periods per week, Middle and Junor classes.



C. B. ANDERSON, '00

*Physician*

Mount Hope, W. Va.,  
May 4, 1911.

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

After my graduation at the West Virginia Color-

ed Institute in 1900, I entered Shaw University, Raleigh, North Carolina, and graduated from the medical department in 1904.

I began the practice of medicine at Winona, West Virginia, after passing the State Board of Health. I remained there for one year. I then moved to Mount Hope, west Virginia, where I purchased property. In 1906 I married Miss Fannie Wilkerson, of the class of 1903, West Virginia Colored Institute.

At Mount Hope, I operate a Drug Store, which is doing a good business. I find Mount Hope a good field financially owing the large settlement of colored people. The people are industrious and intelligent, and are building homes, but some are very ignorant of the laws of health and the unsanitary conditions of their homes.



WILLA M. LEE, '00

*Teacher*

Clarksburg, W. Va.,  
May 3, 1911

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:

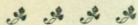
Since I left school in 1900, my time has been giv-



en to school and church work.

I began teaching here in the fall of 1900, and am still teaching here. I have attended summer school at Marietta College and at the West Virginia Colored Institute. I know of nothing that is worth your while to print, but I have worked earnestly and conscientiously, and am still striving to instill within my pupils the principles that will help them in their every-day living.

I hope you are well and wish you abundant success with your work.



W. W. WILLIAMS, '01  
*Teacher and Farmer*

Red Sulphur Springs,  
May 8, 1911

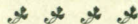
President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

In response to your request, I will say that since I left Institute I taught school four years at Alderson, W. Va., and six years at Red Sulphur Springs, and must say I have been quite successful. I have

been Superintendent of one Sunday School ten years.

During the vacations I was head waiter at the Red Sulphur Springs Hotel for two summers. I have followed carpentry for three or four summers, but now I am engaged in practical farming.



R. W. CHILES, '01  
*Insurance Agent*

Buena Vista, Va.,  
April 28, 1911

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

On leaving the institution with the Class of '01, with but very little finance, and comparatively no aid, but to depend upon what I had learned in class room and the shop, I almost immediately sought and found employment with the York Manufacturing Co., at pipe-fitting, then installing an ice plant at Quinnimont, W. Va.

Completing that job, I began school teaching, which I followed for four consecutive years at Stone Cliff and Quinnimont.

For my interest and activity in the political

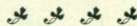


affairs of Fayette county I was awarded service in the West Virginia State Legislature as cloak-room keeper to the Senate.

Was assigned to the position as guard by Sheriff E. B. Hawkins, of Fayette county, to the County Prison, a position of imminent peril, requiring at all times vigilance and trustworthiness.

In the year 1908 I went to Buena Vista, Va., where I begun work as agent for The Southern Mutual Aid (insurance) of Alabama. I was promoted to the superintendency of the Lexington district, which position I am at present the incumbent, with permanent residence at Buena Vista, Va.

The surging struggle for existence, and the mighty waves of business competition have not washed away or swallowed up the religious teachings I received in the Y. M. C. A. at Institute.



AMANDA D. GAMBLE, '01  
*Teacher of Dressmaking*

Institute, W. Va.,  
President Byrd Prillerman,  
Having graduated from the West Virginia Col-

ored Institute in 1901, I was appointed teacher at Cedar Grove, a mining town about nineteen miles from Charleston, West Virginia. After closing a successful term of seven months, I returned to my Alma Mater and took a post graduate course.

The summer of 1902 I made a visit to my home in Charlottesville, Va., and while there accepted a position to teach in the High School. For two years I found the work very pleasant, profitable, and helpful. Owing to my father's feeble condition, I was compelled to give up the work. It is to Mrs. Alice Scott of Charlottesville, that I owe the greater part of my success as a dressmaker, having been assistant to her for two years. Four years have been spent at Washington, D. C., at my trade, in some of the best families.

The summer of 1909 I attended Summer School in Atlantic City, N. J., and improved in Art Needle Work under the directions of Mrs. Morrow of New York, and Mrs. Ida Washington, of Atlantic City.

In the fall of 1910 I returned to the West Virginia Colored Institute to take up the work of Miss Mary Eubank, Superintendent of Domestic Science and Arts, while she was away for two months' medical treatment. In January, 1911, I was appointed



teacher of dressmaking in the above named institution.

I am arranging to attend Summer School this year at Chicago University or Columbia University.



J. A. SHIELDS, '01

*Teacher*

St. Albans, W. Va.

May 9, 1911

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

Upon graduating from the West Virginia Colored Institute I worked in Pennsylvania and on Paint Creek during the summer and winter of 1901 and 1902. Took the examination at St. Albans in the summer of 1902 and secured a No. 1 Certificate.

I was elected Principal of the Amandaville school the same year. Joined the Baptist church in the fall of 1902, and was elected deacon of same three months thereafter.

I taught the Amandaville school the years of 1902 and 1903. In 1904, I was elected to teach at Winifrede, W. Va., and in 1905 was again elected to

the principalship of the Amandaville school, which position I held during the years of 1905-9. Several students who advanced of this school far enough to attend higher institutions of learning are represented in this and other states.

In 1900 I was elected to teach at Wevaco, W. Va. In the same year I was appointed by the American Workingman's Insurance Company as deputy organizer for W. Va., which position I now hold.

I own three lots and a house in St. Albans and hold an interest in two lots at South Charleston.



JOHN J. TURNER, '02

*Teacher, Minister and S. S. Worker*

Mt. Carbon, W. Va.,

May 12, 1911

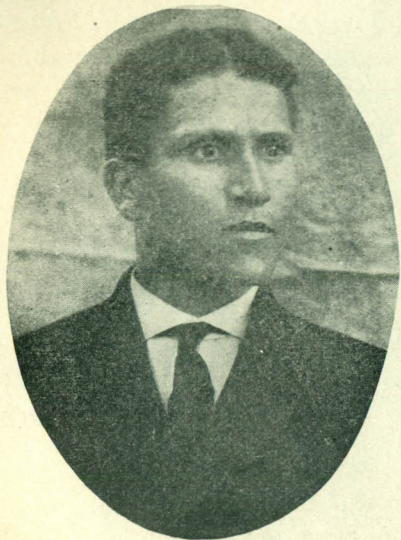
President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

After having satisfactorily pursued the course laid down in the curriculum of the West Virginia Colored Institute, I entered upon such vocation as Providence directed.

A few days prior to the Commencement of 1902,





A. C. SPURLOCK, CLASS OF '98



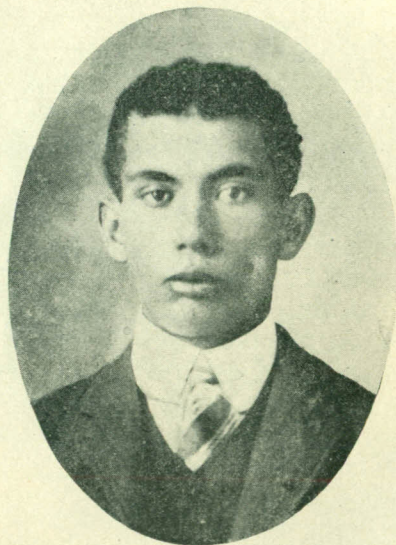
REV. J. J. TURNER, CLASS OF '02



(2) B



C. B. ANDERSON, CLASS OF '00



R. W. JAMES, CLASS OF '00



the Executive Board of the West Virginia Baptist Sunday School Convention informed me that my services were desired as District Sunday School Missionary. The heterogenous condition of our people in the state made the position everything but desirable, it being sought by those only who could deprive themselves of home comforts, face the perils among the floating classes of the people and labor for a meager salary. The first of these sacrifices could be very easily made by me, for as to home comforts, I had no home, and as to the danger of being thrown into precarious circumstances, I was encouraged to venture by the promised presence of God, who said, "Lo, I am with you alway," and who stood with Paul among the raging billows. I learned to say, with Mary Brown:

"I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord,  
Over mountain, or plain, or sea;  
I'll say what you want me to say, dear Lord,  
I'll be what you want me to be."

The field of operation assigned for the first summer included Marion, Harrison, Barber, Upshur, and Lewis counties. This being new territory, as well as a new man in a new appointment, the work was largely prospective.

After noting conditions carefully and putting them before the Board, plans were outlined and put into operation for bringing the people together under the influence of the spirit of Christ. The efforts have resulted in the establishment of several Sunday Schools, out of which strong, self-supporting churches have been organized.

The Colporteur Department which has been added to the Sunday School Missionary work, is a means by which destitute schools are furnished with working supplies, and Bibles are left in as many homes as we are able to give. Hundreds of copies of books and tracts are distributed each year. The District Missionary work proved to be so helpful as well as satisfactory, that the whole state of West Virginia has been placed under my supervision. In serving in this capacity, it becomes necessary for me to visit all the towns in the state and keep before the schools progressive ideas. Much has been done toward closing the breach between the Sunday School and Church and the organization as a whole, has become a greater man-making and soul-stirring agent.

My voice has been heard in almost every church of my denomination in the state. I have spoken in all the annual ecclesiastical gatherings in the state,



several of which I have served as Secretary. These organizations have often thrust upon me peculiar distinctions, having once appointed me as a delegate to the National Baptist Convention which represents all the Negro Baptists in America, several provinces in Africa, and the Islands of the sea. In 1910, I was chosen as the only Negro delegate from West Virginia to the World's Sunday School Convention, at which 24 different countries were represented.

My efforts are being directed along such channels as to increase the efficiency of our Sunday School, so that the lives of our boys and girls will come under the influence of such principles and lead them into noble and useful callings.



W. H. LOWRY, '02  
*Teacher*

Institute, W. Va.,  
May 10, 1911

Prof. Byrd Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

I graduated from the West Virginia Colored Institute June 12, 1902. I returned to Clarksburg and

resumed my former position as headwaiter at the Traders's Hotel. In September of the same year, I was elected principal of the Fairmont school. I succeeded in getting the Board of Education to erect a modern four-room brick building in the place of the old structure.

Following the closing of school in May, 1903, I attended Summer School at the Emmanuel Missionary College at Berrien Springs, Mich. In June of the same year the Board of Regents elected me Commandant of Cadets at the West Virginia Colored Institute, which position I still now retain.



JAMES A. BOOKER, '03

*Agent Farmer's Cooperative Demonstration Work  
Under the U. S. Government*

Mound Bayou, Miss.  
May 2nd, 1911.

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

I take great pleasure in attempting to say something of the work I have been conducting here for



the past three years under the United States Government. In this work I have under my supervision 208 farmers cultivating approximately 5000 acres of land, and I keep in touch with the work by visiting practically every man on his farm once each month to inspect the work and to give instructions for further operations.

This is known as The Farmer's Cooperative Demonstration Work which is under the Bureau of Plant Industry of the United States Department of Agriculture.

The aim of this work is to place a practical object lesson before the masses illustrating the best and most profitable methods of producing the standard farm crops and to secure such active participation in the demonstrations as to prove that the farmers can make a much larger average annual crop and secure a greater return for their toil. This work shows also that there is no necessity for the general deterioration of farms and the common poverty of the rural masses.

In beginning my work here I had two difficulties, these were first, the task of convincing many of our people of the possibilities of improvement along the line of the various farm operations, and

second, that I could really benefit them in their work. These difficulties for the most part have been overcome and the work is making rapid progress.

Prior to the introduction of the Demonstration Work the average yield for corn was not more than 20 bushels per acre, now the average is about 40 bushels per acre, one man making as high as 80 and 1-5 bushels last year, no fertilizer being used at all. The increase in cotton yields has been about 35 percent or more. Very little attention was paid to hog raising, practically none to the use of pure breeds, the same is true of poultry and nearly all live stock. Only Spring gardens were to be seen instead of for the entire year, and many other evidences of needed improvements we might mention.

We are glad to say that the growing of better hogs, cows, poultry, better preparation of the land, use of pure seed, the best methods of the cultivation of crops, the field selection of seed in the fall and the improvement of the home and surroundings are all given more attention each year until now there are many farmers who formerly were obliged to depend every year upon securing advances by way of provisions and some money from their "Mer-



chant" (as he is called) in order to make their crop, now are able to furnish themselves and help others by following the Demonstration methods of work. Our farmers are now realizing the possibilities of the soil and their opportunity for accumulating and are taking advantage of the same.

Probably the greatest improvement has been along the line of soil preparation, cultivation of crops and the raising of home supplies. The crop prospects and general condition at present are the most encouraging of any previous year.



BENNIE MALLORY, '03

*Teacher and Dressmaker*

*National Religious Training School and Chautauqua  
for the Colored Race*

Durham, N. C., April 28, 1911

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

I have charge of the Domestic Science Department of the National Religious Training School, and this course embraces some practical work in cooking,

plain sewing and dressmaking.

The course as outlined in the Bulletin of the school covers four years. This does not refer to the special students.

Some very creditable work has been done this school term, and the department promises to be a leading feature of the Girls' Industries of this school.

I wish you much success in your Commencement this year.



BESSIE E. CAMPBELL, '03

*Teacher*

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

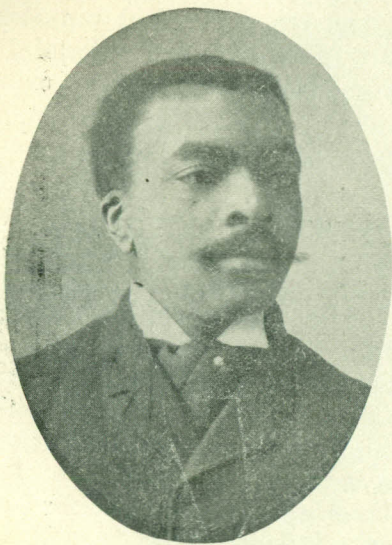
I graduated June 11th, 1903, and opened my first school at Winifrede W. Va., September 14th, 1903.

The next year, I taught two schools at Mucklow, W. Va.

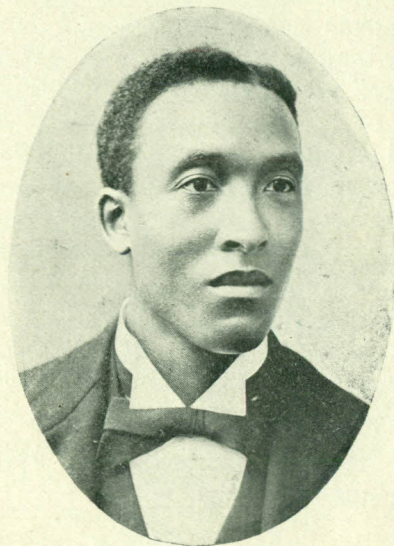
This school was discontinued after four months because there was not a sufficient number of children their. The next year, I taught two schools—one at Beckwith, W. Va., and the other at Lawton.

I then accepted the school at Windew, and taught





J. A. SHIELDS, CLASS OF '01

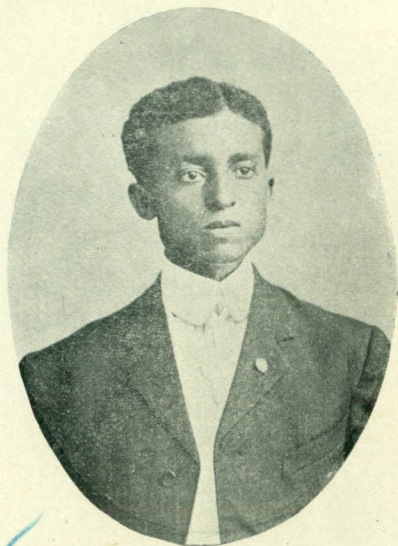


W. W. WILLIAMS, CLASS OF '01





ALBERTA MCCLUNG, CLASS OF '03

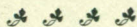


✓ ALBERT G. BROWN, CLASS OF '03



there three terms.

I am thoroughly in love with the work of teaching and am now trying to better prepare myself by taking a course in methods and plans of teaching at the West Virginia Colored Institute.



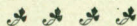
ETHEL C. BROWN, '03

*Teacher*

Montgomery, W. Va.,  
May 8th, 1911

President Prillerman,

I have been engaged in teaching since my graduation, and I have also tried to be of such other service to the community as I could.



ALBERTA McCLUNG, '03

*Teacher*

Parkersburg, W. Va.,  
May 9, 1911

Dear Mr. Prillerman:—

I graduated from the West Virginia Colored

Institute in 1903. I taught at Monongah three years. I attended summer school at Marietta College, Ohio, and at Institute, W. Va. I have been intermediate teacher at the Summer School since 1906.



G. B. COUSINS, '05

*Buisness Man*

Ronceverte, W. Va.  
May 8, 1911

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

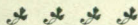
When I left school in 1905, I secured work with a lumber company of this place. In 1907, I bought a horse and a wagon and put a dray on the street. I have been very successful with my dray. I think it is because I am not afraid or ashamed to work. In this time, I have made two thousand two-hundred dollars (\$2,200) with my horse and dray and I have not worked in bad weather.

I put into practice some of the many things I learned while at Institute. I live out from town a little way, have a good garden and raise chickens. I



have a good stock of chickens and sell many eggs at a good price, for setting. I keep account of everything I do, to see if it pays. I have a good home and a wife and three children—two boys and a girl. I have been Superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School for the last four years. I give much of my time to the Church and the lodges. I keep busy but like it.

One of the best things I learned at Institute was to work.



ANDREW ROBINSON, '07

*Teacher, Plasterer and Bricklayer*

Lewisburg, W. Va.,

April 29, 1911

Dear President Prillerman:—

I was exceedingly glad to hear from you, and also glad to hear that the West Virginia Colored Institute is in a most prosperous condition since you have assumed the presidency. In answering your letter concerning my work since I left school, it can be told in a few words.

The first year after I left school, in the fall of 1907, I taught school in Bakersville, a little village

about a mile and a half from Lewisburg. I had twenty-four pupils enrolled. The people were so well pleased with my work the first year, that I taught there three consecutive years, and could have taught a fourth year, had I not been offered a better position as one of the assistant teachers in the Lewisburg Graded School at fifty dollars per month.

The Lewisburg Graded School is regarded by many as one of the best equipped Graded Schools (colored) in the state. In the summer vacation I am very busy, in fact I get all the work I can do at plastering and bricklaying. I have plastered over a score of houses owned by the best white and colored people of my town, besides building flues and running cement side walks.

I have contracted to lath and plaster a large hall and local lodge room for the colored people here as soon as my school is out.



CHARLOTTE R. CAMPBELL, '07

*Teacher of Cooking, W. V. C. I.*

President Prillerman,

It gives me great pleasure to tell you of my



work since graduating from the West Virginia Colored Institute in 1907. In the winter of 1907-08 I taught school at Marytown, McDowell county, and must confess to a feeling of gratification when at the close of my nine month's term I received considerable commendation for my efforts. In the fall of 1908 I began teaching a six months' school at Marlinton, Pocahontas county. At the expiration of this term I opened school at Alta, a little settlement some eight miles from Lewisburg.

In July, 1909, I entered Chicago University and took a course in Cookery. In the fall of the same year I was appointed instructor in Cooking at the West Virginia Colored Institute, which position I now hold.

This branch of Domestic Science has long since been my favorite work, when I realize that such little thought is given by the majority of people to this subject, and realize how they fail to see that the work of the home is the work of the world. I am imbued with an intense desire to help cause this work to stand on an equal with any other branch of science, which, in years to come, shall change not only the complexion of the idea of Culinary Art, but of the home in its very broadest sense.

CHARLES PAGE, '07

*Teacher*

Moundsville, W. Va.,  
May 2, 1911

President Prillerman,

Dear Friend:—

Having graduated from the West Virginia Colored Institute in the Class of '07, and in the fall of the same year upon being recommended by the late president, J. McHenry Jones, I came to Moundsville to teach the colored school of this city. Beginning with the fall of 1907, I have taught this school four consecutive years of nine months each.

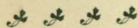
In the four years my school work has varied, being a one-room school, the grades ranged from the primary to the eighth grade. Some of my pupils are now making good in the Wheeling High School.

During the vacations of 1908-10, I was employed as bookkeeper in a Wholesale Hay, Grain and Produce Store, owned and conducted by S. W. Wade (colored), and have offer of the same position when my school work is closed in June.

I have taken an active part in the church and Sunday School work, serving as teacher and Superintendent in the latter.



I am now, and have been for the past few months, connected with the Sunday School work in the West Virginia prison as one of the teachers, having a very large class of men, who, less fortunate than some who are not confined within grim walls and behind bars, are willing and anxious to work.



L. N. SPURLOCK, '03  
*Machinist*

Peoria, Illinois,  
May 2, 1911

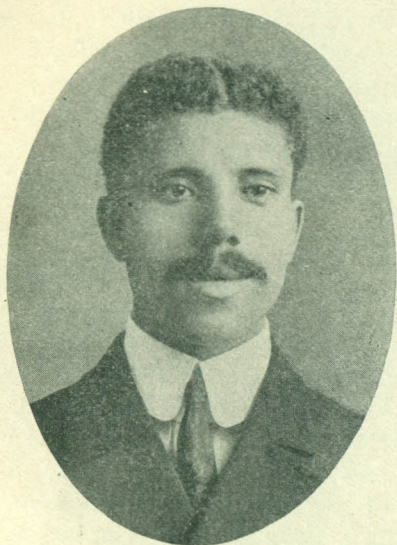
President Prillerman,

I graduated at Institute in 1903 and remained there part of the summer installing the present boiler plant and the pipe work for the same. After finishing my work there, I went to Pratt, W. Va., where I worked for the Railroad Company until September. I came home for a few days' rest, and to greet my many friends before leaving for Tuskegee Institute, where I entered the Machine and Engineering Department. My experience gained at Institute from my four years in the shop at Steam Fitting and Smithing gave me an advantage over my fellow

workmen. During my stay there I was placed in charge of the shop work while our instructor, Mr. H. E. Thomas, was on his vacation to the St. Louis Fair. I finished there in 1905 and accepted a position in Kansas where I remained two years as Director of Industries at Western University, but wishing to become more proficient in my trade, I accepted a position with the North Western Improvement Company, of Roslyn, Washington. While there I had an opportunity to work on the different types of machinery. We installed the light plant, one First Motion Arm Engine, and seven 150 H. P. Babcock & Wilcox Water Tube Boilers. We did all the steam fitting and plumbing. I remained there until we completed our work. Roslyn, situated on the summit of the Cascade Mountains, 13 miles north of the main line of the Northern Pacific Railway, is said to be one of the largest mining camps in the Northwest. I spent some time on the Pacific Coast, since it had been my fancy since childhood to see the "Land of Flowers." I left Tacoma, Washington, for San Francisco, where I spent several weeks viewing the ruins of those magnificent buildings caused by the earthquake.

I have been in Peoria three years, employed at



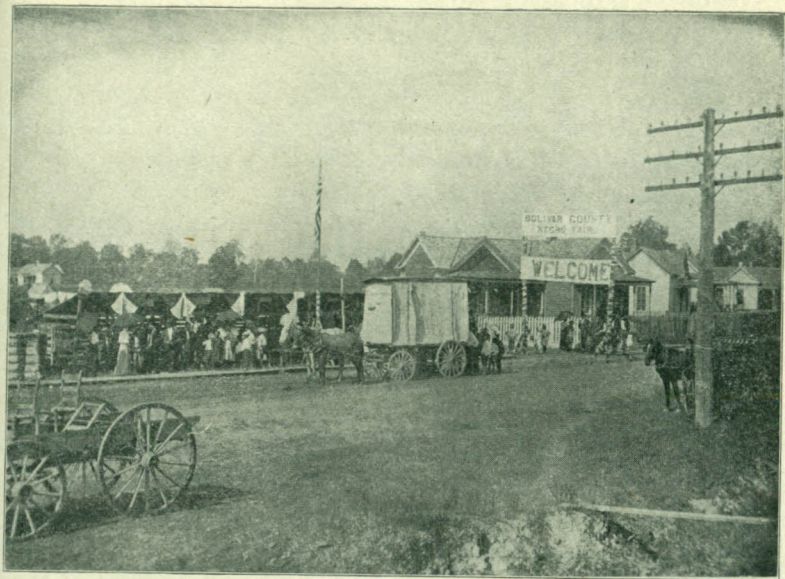


L. N. SPURLOCK, CLASS OF '03

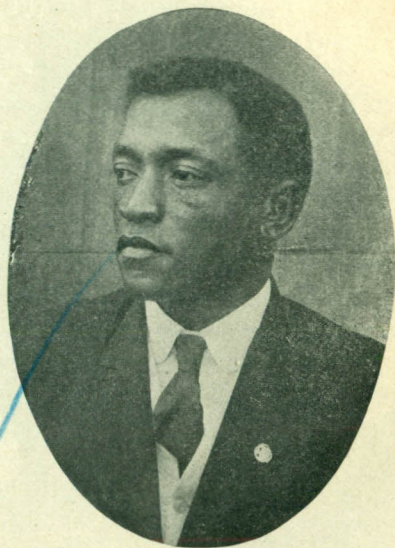


BENNIE MALLORY, CLASS OF '03





COTTON EXPOSITION AT MOUND BAYOU, MISSISSIPPI.



JAMES A. BOOKER, CLASS OF '03



the United Box Board Paper Company. The repair gang is to a plant what the physician is to the sick patient. He must diagnose the case and treat accordingly; so it is with the repair gang: we keep in repair the lame machinery and the leaky joints in the pipe. We have just finished installing our new boiler plant, which consists of four 350-H. P. boilers, each to be equipped with mechanical stokers made by the Green Engineering Company of Chicago. They are to be fed by an over-head bunker with a capacity of 100 tons. The hoppers are connected to she bunker by down spouts opened and shut by a lever. We also have a storage bunker with a capacity of 500 tons to be used in case the overhead bunkers should become empty. The Stokers are run by two 6-H. P. engines with the latest improved grates. The ashes drop into pits below, and are wheeled to the elevator which empties them into a tank outside of the building. This tank has a capacity of 20 tons—large enough to hold a 24-hour run. We erected two smoke stacks, 5 ft. 6 in. in diameter, which insures plenty of draught. Our flues are baffled in order to get a complete combustion. The boilers are connected into the header by quarter bends with two valves—one, an automatic, which

cuts the boiler on and off the line as the tender may desire; the second 10-inch valve is used to insure safety when working in the heads, drilling tubes, which must be done every three or four weeks. This is the most convenient plant in the city.

On October 14th, 1909, I married Miss Annetta Gertrude Mills, also a graduate of Institute, the class of 1905, who, after taking apost-graduate course, taught dressmaking and millinery at Central Texas College at Waco, Texas. Our union has been blessed with one child—Eloise Mills Spurlock.



✓ MINNIE B. CARR, '08

*Teacher*

Elberton, W. Va.

May 8, 1911.

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

After graduating from the Normal Department of the West Virginia Colored Institute, in June 1908, I was selected principal of the public school at Eagle, W. Va. To futher improve myself, I took the Teachers' Review work at Institute in 1909. Again



I was appointed principal of the Eagle school. Here I taught music and conducted a night class also. I attend the Teachers' Summer School at Institute in the summer of 1910. I taught at Harewood last winter and I am now teaching my second term at Sewell.



ADA M. WRIGHT, '08

*Dressmaker*

Montgomery, W. Va.,  
April 30, 1911

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

Since I left school, I have been busily engaged at my trade of dressmaking. In October 1909, I was employed as dressmaker by the Keystone Supply Company, of McDowell county, W. Va. As near as I can estimate, I have made 279 dresses, not including shirtwaists and skirts. In September of last year, I was employed by the West Virginia Colored Institute to assist in making the girls uniforms, I am now busily engaged at my trade.

KATHERINE BROWN, '08

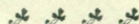
*Teacher and Dressmaker*

Montgomery, W. Va.,  
May 8th, 1911

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

I have been teaching since I left school, and am engaged in dressmaking during the summer.



DANIEL L. FERGUSON, '09

*Teacher*

Institute, W. Va.,  
May 5, 1911.

President Prillerman,

I graduated from the West Virginia Colored Institute in the year of 1909. I took the State Uniform Examination and secured a No. 2 Certificate. I secured the position as teacher of the Nuttal Colored School, Sept. 24th, 1909. After teaching a successful term, I attended the State Summer School at the West Virginia Colored Institute in 1910.

I was again chosen teacher of the same school and taught a very successful term.



MRS. TERRY SINCLAIR, '09

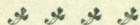
*Teacher*

Bancroft, W. Va.,  
May 3, 1911

President Prillerman,

Kind Sir:—

After leaving the West Virginia Colored Institute, May 9th, 1909. I was elected to teach the school at Bancroft, W. Va. I began teaching in September, 1910, and taught a term of six months. I succeeded myself in 1910, thus having taught two successful terms of school since leaving the West Virginia Colored Institute, and much of my success was largely due to the training I received while there.



NEPORTIA ALLEN, '09

*Teacher*

President Prillerman,

Dear Sir:—

After leaving school last June, I opened school Sept. 5, at Welch, McDowell county, W. Va., with an enrollment of 60. After teaching one month, I found

that it was impossible for me to teach so many, with the classes ranging from beginners to the eight grade. I reported conditions to Supt. R. A. Reigs. He took up the matter with the Board and another teacher was employed.

The term lasted eight months and it was said by the people in the community that the school was left in better condition than it had ever been before.



LILLIE A. FOSTER, '09

*Teacher*

Greenville, W. Va.,  
May 3, 1911

Dear President Prillerman:—

Since finishing school in 1909 I have been principal of a two-room graded school at Greenville, Fayette county. Mrs. J. M. Ellis was my assistant; we had sixty pupils enrolled.

Aside from the regular course, I had the pupils devote a few minutes each day to vocal music and drawing. They enjoyed this very much, and made rapid progress. The first year I had a literary program every other Friday. The second year, to create



new interest, I had my school to organize and conduct their own literary society which they named "The Phyllis Wheatley Literary Society." This Society rendered programs alternately with the "Merry Band" I organized in the school.

Mrs. Peterson, a temperance worker from Texas, supplied us with all the necessary literature pertaining to the life and care of dumb animals. We had parents' meeting, which proved helpful. I taught a small class of beginners instrumental music. I usually played for the Sunday School and church.

On the last day of school we had an exhibit of the pupils' work in numbers, composition grammar, arithmetic, drawing and basketry. We had many compliments passed by the members of the Board of Education, teachers from other schools, and parents.

I have attended Summer School each summer since I have been out of school and have made every effort to improve myself and my service.

I have found what knowledge I have had in music very helpful, and am continuing the work under Mrs. C. E. Mitchell.

WIRT J. JONES, '09

*Teacher*

Parkersburg, W. Va.

Dear President Prillerman,

In 1910 the Board of Education of Parkersburg passed a resolution establishing the Commercial Course in the High Schools of this city. By this act the Commercial Department of Sumner High School was created. From the beginning it was placed on the same basis as the Parkersburg High School, thereby giving the same advantages and opportunities to the young colored boys and girls as the whites.

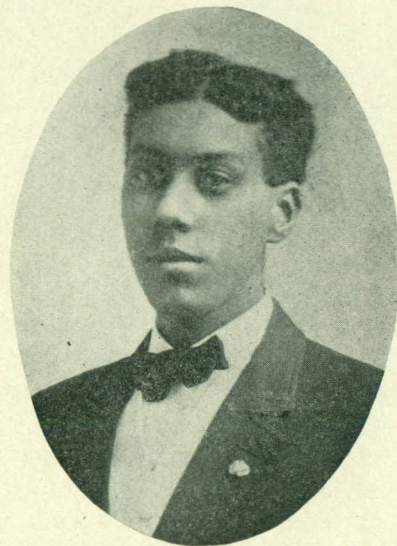
Our course of study embraces Shorthand, Type-writing, Bookkeeping, Commercial Geography, History of Commerce, Economics, Commercial Arithmetic, Commercial Law and Business Forms. Sadler-Rowe's revised edition of Commercial and Industrial Bookkeeping is used. All books are furnished pupils free of charge. Our equipment consists of all appurtenances necessary to the teaching of Commercial branches, and we boast of the finest equipped Commercial Department in the state.

The straight Commercial course requires four years to complete. Only two, so far, are enrolled.



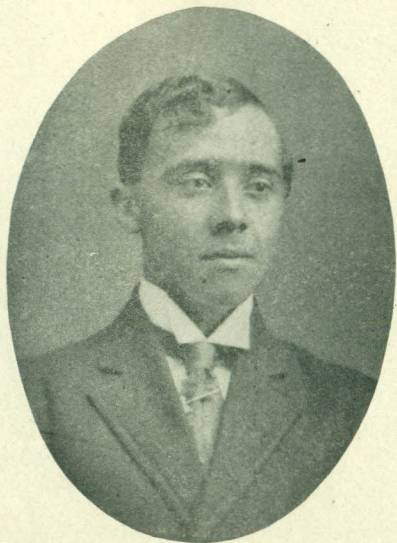


VIRGINIA CLEVELAND, CLASS OF '09

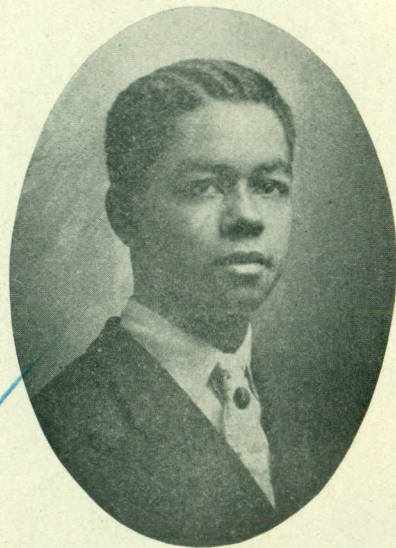


CHARLES A. PAGE, CLASS OF '07



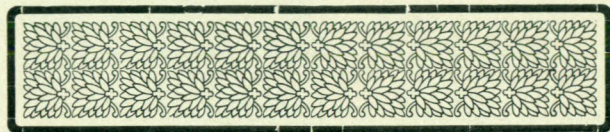


LEONARD T. BROWN, CLASS OF '10



RICHARD L. BROWN, CLASS OF '10







# HOME MAKERS GUESTS OF HONOR

AT FIRST ANNUAL OF THE TEACHERS' READING CIRCLE

The Teachers' Reading Circle held its first annual function at the residence of President Prillerman the night of May 15, from 8 to 10:30 P. M.

The Home Makers Club, was the especial guest of the Literary Circle on this evening, and at the conclusion of the program, expressed an opinion of generous gratification for the evening's pleasure.

The appended program was rendered, to which we add as worthy of special mention, the Review of the Circle's work.

## THE PROGRAM:

Response to roll call by quotations from authors studied this year .....

The Welcome .....  
S. H. GUSS, Master of Ceremonies

Recitation ..... *Dunbar*  
MISS GAMBLE

Vocal Duette .....  
MRS. DORSEY and MISS CAMPBELL

Recitation and Explanation of "To Water Fowl" ..... *Bryant*  
MISS JESSIE F. EMBRY

Story of Evangeline ..... *Longfellow*  
MR. J. M. CANTY

Instrumental Solo .....  
MRS. E. M. MITCHELL

Lincoln's Gettysburg Speech .....  
MR. W. H. LOWRY

Review of the Circle's Work .....  
PRESIDENT BYRD PRILLERMAN

Vocal Duette .....  
MESSRS. BURGESS and JONES

## REVIEW OF THE CLUB'S WORK:

The Teachers Reading Circle of the West Virginia Colored Institute is the outgrowth of the President's



desire for their intellectual and social improvement. A careful study of the Masterpieces in literature cultivates and refines the taste and develops and heightens the expression of emotion. With this thought in mind, the President requested that all members of the Faculty meet once a week for intellectual and social improvement.

The members of the faculty cheerfully responded to the request to take up this in the fall term.

The first author studied was William Cullen Bryant, in the month of November. The productions selected were "Thanatopsis," "The Forest Hymn," and "To a Waterfowl." The exercises were conducted by the President in his office. Professor S. Hamlin Guss was then selected as leader. In the month of December, Whittier's "Snowbound" was studied. We then followed in January with "The Raven" and other poems, by Edgar Allen Poe, and the "Bunker Hill Monument," by Daniel Webster. In the month of February, we took up the Gettysburg address and the second inaugural address, by Abraham Lincoln; "The Vision of Sir Launfall," by

James Russel Lowell; "Evangeline." by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. This was followed by "The Chambered Nautilus," "My Hunt for the Captain," "The Ploughman," and other poems by Oliver Wendell Holmes. We next took up "Self Reliance" and "Rhodora," by Ralph Waldo Emerson. The last author studied was Paul Laurence Dunbar.

Then the members were requested at the next meeting, to name what they regarded the ten best negro authors in America. The names presented at this meeting evoked a lively discussion, and various opinions were advanced as to who constituted our ten leading negro authors.

Early in the winter, the place of meeting was transferred to the President's house and the sessions were conducted from 6:30 to 7:30., and later on, from seven to eight.

The method has been to assign the biography of the author to some one member and the various productions of this author to other members, to be presented by them. The attendance has usually been good, the smallest at any meeting being twelve.



# SCHOOL HISTORY

READ BY PROF. J. M. CANTY, MAY 3, 1911

You were told a year ago that the schools begun its first session May 3rd, 1892 with one department, two instructors, including the Principal, twelve students, one building and thirty-one acres of land. The total value of the plant including buildings and land was \$10,000, which was the amount of the first state appropriation. In the beginning the annual federal appropriation was \$3,000. This amount was used for salaries, shop and farm equipment. But no equipment had been purchased when the school opened on the 3rd of May, 1892.

During the history of the institution it grew in Departments from one to eight; in divisions from one to fifteen; in executive and teaching forces, from 2 to 24.

At the close of school last year laundering was discontinued as an industry for instruction, leaving at present 7 departments established as follows:

Literary Department, May 3rd,..... 1892

Mechanical or Trades Department, for boys, February 5th..... 1893  
Domestic Science and Arts Department 1895  
Agriculture..... 1899  
Department of Music..... 1899  
Department of Military Science..... 1899  
Commercial Department..... 1903

Most of the Departments have each several divisions, namely:—

English, Academic, and Normal courses, constitute the Literary Department.

Printing, Carpentry, Blacksmithing, Mechanical Drawing, Wheelwrighting, Brickmasonry and Plastering, and Painting are the divisions of the Mechanical Department.

The department of Domestic Science and Arts comprises Plain Sewing and Dressmaking, Millinery, and Cooking.

Agriculture and Dairying are the divisions of the



Agriculture Department. In other words, the school has seven departments subdivided into into fifteen divisions. Diplomas are granted to students who complete the English, Academic, Normal and Commercial courses. Trade certificates are given by six of the seven divisions of the Mechanical Department. A certificate from the Agriculture Department is granted each student completing the work in that Department, while the Domestic Science and and Arts Department gives three different kinds of certificates.

Following the demise of the late President Jones, Sept. 22 1909, Mr. Byrd Prillerman was promoted from teacher of English to the presidency of the institution without the employment of an additional instructor. Last June the service of one teacher was dispensed with when laundering was eliminated. At same time the position of Resident Physician was changed from that, to the position of School Physician. These changes reduced the faculty from 24 to 21. This year Miss Amanda Gamble was employed as teacher in dressmaking, making number of officers and instructors employed for the year 22.

Mrs. E. M. Jones, former teacher of music; Mr. James Patton, recent instructor in blacksmithing; and

Dr. I. R. Whipper, the resident physician, severed their connection with the school last summer. Last August Mr. J. B. Bragg, was elected instructor in blacksmithing. The following month Mrs. C. E. Mitchell was elected music teacher.

Mr. George Collins, former instructor in painting died March 14th of the present year. This position is now being temporarily filled by Mr. Harry Davis who is a graduate of the Division of Painting of this institution.

Including the 22 members of the present faculty, there have been only 42 officers and instructors connected with the institution during the 19 years of its history. Eight persons have served as assistant teachers; This indicates that there have not been many, or frequent changes in the teaching force. Four persons, including the present incumbent, have been elected executive heads of the school. Two of these are dead, one of whom died in the service of the institution. The officers and teachers who died while connected with the school were the late President, J. McHenry Jones; Samuel D. Brown, printer; and George Collins, painter. There are some instructors who have served the school continuously nearly 19 years.



The following courses and subjects have been taught by two or more teachers in different years.

1. Printing—J. S. Matheny (white), W. Wellington (white), Samuel D. Brown, and E. M. Burgess.

2. Carpentry—J. M. Canty and W. A. Spriggs.

3. Military Science—J. M. Canty, J. H. Hill, and William Lowry.

4. Music—Mrs. Mary Campbell, Mrs. Etta Hill, Miss Mary Pogue, Mrs. Elizabeth M. Jones, and Mrs. C. E. Mitchell.

5. Smithing—J. M. Canty, Isaac Carr, Solomon Brown, James R. Patton, and J. B. Bragg.

6. Mechanical Drawing—J. M. Canty, and A. G. Brown.

7. Dressmaking—Miss Mary M. Booze, Miss Flavia D. Brown, Miss Jean Madison, Miss Mary Eubank, and Miss Amanda L. Gamble.

8. Commercial Department—C. H. Barnette, F. J. LeMain Duglass, and C. E. Mitchell.

9. Cooking—Miss Bessie V. Morris, and Miss Charlotte Ruth Campbell.

The persons who have served as matrons are; Mrs. Etta Hill, Miss Blanche M. Jeffries, and Mrs. Emma Cousins Dorsey.

The school graduated its first class from the

Literary Department in 1896. There were 8 young women and 6 young men in this class. Every class has some distinguishing feature. This one has two; aside from being the first class to graduate, one of its members now has a boy attending this institution. The total number of graduates from all departments is 229. Forty-three of this graduated last year. The largest Normal class graduated in 1903. Mr. A. G. Brown, our instructor in Mechanical Drawing was its valedictorian.

Seventeen students have graduated from the Commercial Department. The first graduated in 1906, Miss Ethel Spriggs is one of the two members of this class. The largest class in numbers graduated in 1908.

Thirty-eight students have received certificates from the Department of Mechanical Industries. Eleven young men who did not receive certificates are following the trades they pursued here. The institution was not granting certificates when they were in school. Mr. Solomon Brown, instructor in Wheelwrighting, was a student in Carpentry and Blacksmithing at that time. He since completed the course in Wheelwrighting at Hampton.

The Domestic Science and Arts Department has



given certificates to 58 young women for dressmaking, Millinery and Cooking.

Seven students have graduated from the Agricultural Department. Most of them received instruction in both Agriculture and Dairying.

The total number of certificates granted by the Departments of Mechanical Industries, Domestic Science and Arts, and Agriculture is 103. Many graduates from these Departments are engaged in the work for which they equipped themselves while in school.

The enrollment of students for the last ten years is as follows:

1902 .....	145
1903 .....	150
1905 .....	197
1905 .....	201 ✓
1906 .....	218
1907 .....	216
1908 .....	230
1909 .....	228
1910 .....	251
1911 .....	265

On account of the failure of the last session of

the Legislature to appropriate for a building to be used exclusively for kitchen, dining hall, and store room, the number of buildings remain—seven.

An appropriation was made to buy 10 acres of land; therefore, the school now owns ~~77~~ acres of land.

The entire appropriation made by the state this year for the institution for two years is \$61,550.

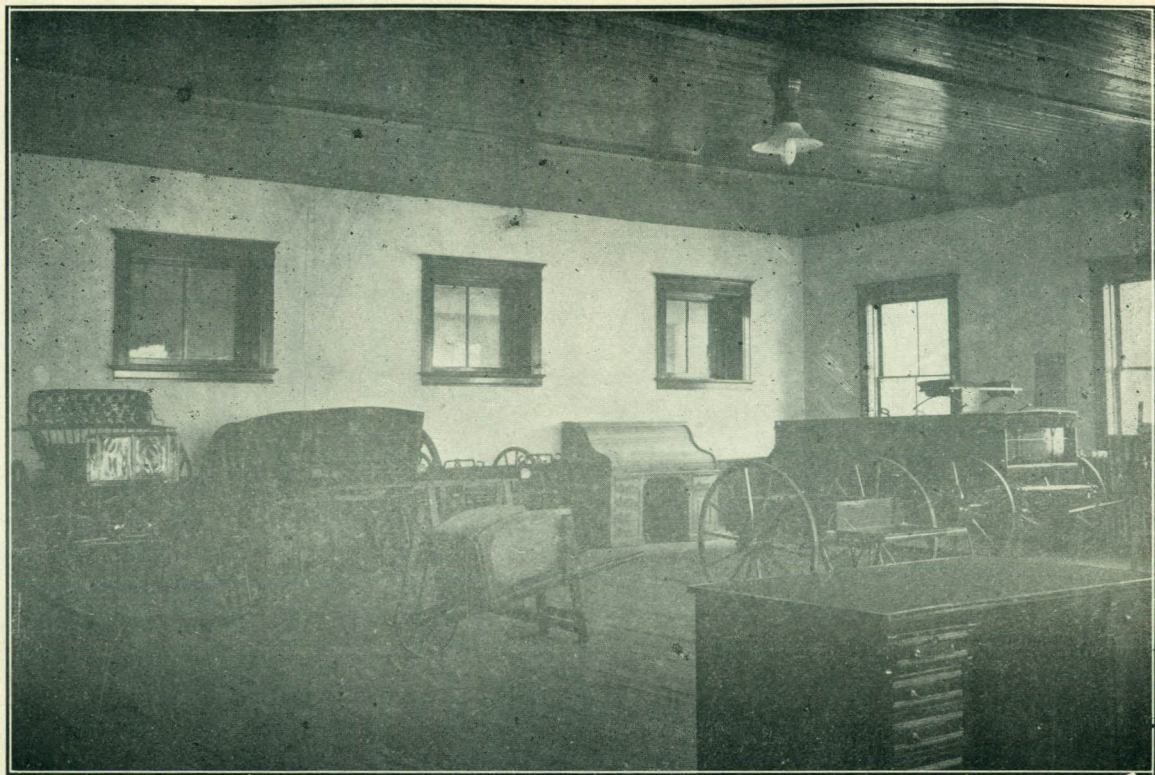
The United States annual appropriation for the year is \$9,000.

The sum of the previous appropriations made by the state and Federal Governments is \$512,910,82 If we add to this amount the appropriations made this year have the grand total of \$583,460,82.

If the school were called upon to render a complete account of the money received because of liberality of the Federal and State Government, it would not choose to dwell long on its buildings, as magnificent as we think they are, nor would it linger long pointing to the acres we are trying to make fertile; but the school would rather call the roll of the graduates, some of whom are illustrious, and exalt their virtues.

For, after all, money is not the standard and measure of good character and citizenship.





A CORNER IN THE EXHIBIT ROOM





A CLASS IN AGRICULTURE