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### History of the Class of 1894

Mary Louise (Gayle) Bland

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History of Class of 1894  
State Female Normal School  
Farmville, Virginia

HISTORY  
FIFTY YEARS OF THE JUNE CLASS 1894  
of  
STATE FEMALE NORMAL SCHOOL  
now

STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE OF FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA

Begun by MARY FITZHUGH (Mrs. Matthew Lyle Eggleston)

Assembled by MAUD POLLARD (Mrs. Robert L. Turman)

After the death of Mrs. Eggleston in May 1945

Presented to STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE, FOUNDERS DAY March 1947

by

ALMA HARRIS (Mrs. Thomas M. Netherland)

PAULINE HARRIS (Mrs. Arthur E. Richardson)

For the CLASS OF JUNE 1894

CLASS ROLL

Lizzie Bennett

Lola Bland

Mabyn Branch

Mattie Buchanan

Jennie Chandler

Mary Fitzhugh

Loulie Gayle

Virginia Greever

Alma Harris

Pauline Harris

Julia Harrison

Emma Higgins

Ruby Hudgins

Julia Leache

Mary Sue Oglesby

Maud Pollard

Mabel Roberts

Janie Staples

Lena Trower

Georgia Wescott

Cathie Wilkie

## HISTORY OF CLASS

June, 1894

By Mary Fitzhugh Eggleston

The class of June, 1894 -- called by Dr. J. L. Jarman "That Famous Class" and by the husbands "The Twenty Wonders" -- had its beginning in the Practice School of the State Female Normal School, now the State Teachers' College, Farmville, Virginia, in February, 1891, when a slip of a girl, Mabyn Branch, thirteen and a half years old, entered the Practice School.

The President, Dr. John A. Cunningham, was much amused when he asked her why she came in February, to hear her reply, "So that I can finish in June." The course was three and a half years, of seven semesters -- E. D. C. B. A. -- and a Professional year, with promotions in February and June. Also a Practice School with eight grades, under Miss Reynolds, where the students taught one period each week during their last year as practice work in teaching.

Dr. Cunningham arranged and mapped out the courses as he thought best to carry out the purpose of the school -- that of training young women to become teachers. The State Female Normal School was at that time the most progressive educational institution in Virginia (due to the progressive ideas of Dr. Cunningham). Among his other duties as president of the school, he taught Psychology, which at that time was such a new science that even the men's colleges of the state did not have a chair of Psychology.

Mabyn had not figured on going into the Practice School, but that was where Dr. Cunningham put her. However, in two days he promoted her to the E. class. In that class I entered in September, 1891, also the twins, Alma and Pauline Harris of Dinwiddie, Mattie Buchanan and Virginia Greever of Smyth, Mabel Roberts of Accomac, Janie Staples of Prince Edward, Lola Bland and Loulie Gayle of Gloucester, Jennie Chandler of Caroline County, Ruby Hudgins of Mathews County, and Cathie Wilkie, Orange County, and Lena Trower of Accomac. Those mentioned were among the sixty-five composing the D. class at that time.

And so, fifty years ago, this was to be our home for the next three years. Many changes have taken place in Farmville and in the school since that time.

At first there was only one building -- the original one with its old fashioned parlor, wide hall and stairway, Practice School, dining room, butler's pantry, kitchen, Mrs. Morrison's suite

of rooms, and some extra bedrooms for the students. To this had been added an "all" in which was a large Assembly Hall, Dr. Cunningham's office, a library, laboratory, and class rooms, Miss Sarah Spencer's room and more bedrooms. There was no running water, so each room was equipped with a wash-stand on which was a white bowl and pitcher. When we wanted hot water, we took our pitchers down to the butler's pantry and got it. One night Mary Sue and I were on our way down when she suggested that we get molasses, which we did. After Mrs. Morrison had poked her head into our darkened room, as was her nightly custom, and had said, "All in bed?", we got up and made candy with the molasses!

All the girls could not be taken care of in the building, so homes were found for them in town. All the members of our class except Mattie Buchanan, Virginia Greever, Maud Pollard and Ruby Hudgins and Georgia Wescott stayed in the building. The same regulations were required in the homes as in the school.

Dr. Cunningham did not think it best for the president and his family to live in the school building, or that the teachers should room there. The teachers found rooms and board in town, and Dr. Cunningham and his family had a home of their own about two blocks away, on what is now High Street.

Mr. Ben Cox, the secretary, who also supervised the upkeep of buildings and grounds, met the train and gave us our first welcome to Farmville. Mrs. Portia Morrison, head of the Home, had entire charge of the girls, and the management of the Home. She was our foster mother, and made a real home for us. A wonderful companion, she laughed and joked and teased with us. On Sunday afternoons, she studied the Bible with those who wished, and after supper on week days, before our study hour, she had prayer service after which she read aloud to us or we listened to one of the girls read from some interesting book. I was privileged to belong to both groups.

Phillip, the cook, with his helpers, gave us three good substantial, old fashioned meals a day, breakfast, dinner and supper, with dessert twice a week, and chicken on Sunday. Sometimes in the week, Mr. Cox surprised us with a special treat, such as oyster stew, and occasionally apples were passed around.

Milton, a family servant of Mrs. Morrison, had charge of the dining room. I can picture him now in his long white apron, with a big brass bell in his hand, ringing vigorously, calling us to our meals. Better not be late or the door would be locked and we would go hungry! That was my hard luck once! One of the girls and I went walking, getting back a minute too late -- the door was locked! We didn't go hungry, thanks to one of the girls who smuggled out our supper.

Miss Sarah Spencer, Mrs. Morrison's assistant, had charge of the maids. She made daily rounds to see if they were on their jobs, and if the girls had straightened their rooms and made up their beds. She also handed out pills and soap, distributed the mail, and checked our laundry bags in and out. Our laundry was done by colored women who lived in the vicinity.

There were no rules -- so none to break. We knew what was expected of us as young women to be intrusted with the management and molding of young lives, so we were trusted to conduct our own -- a kind of honor system, due to Dr. Cunningham's idea of self discipline.

Dr. Cunningham believed in the natural punishment and urged us, when we became teachers, to see to it that we did not administer unnatural punishment. By way of illustration, he said that when he was a boy, the favorite punishment of teachers was to assign columns of the dictionary to be copied after school. He went on to say that such punishment had had the effect of making him dislike the dictionary so much that he never referred to one if he could help it! If he didn't know how to spell a word, he'd use some other word, rather than look it up in the dictionary.

I remember one rainy Saturday two of us went to spend the afternoon and have dinner with one of the town girls. Of course, the boys came around! When we suggested leaving, they all said, "Why go so early? Aren't you having a good time?" Each time we started to go there would be similar remarks. Finally our hostess whispered in my ear, "It's twelve o'clock!" Our anxiety was somewhat lessened by the boys saying they would put us in through the window. Only the high parlor window was unfastened. Just as the boys were ready to put us in, I had a vision of those two boys lifting me and my long legs through that window, so I rushed around to the door and rang the bell. Miss Sarah let us in, wearing a very stern look on her face. The next morning Milton whispered to me, "Mrs. Morrison wants to see you." After hearing my explanation, she said with a smile, "Don't let this happen again." She was a darling!

Life was simple but free. Our time was our own. From 3:30 until 6:00 in the afternoon we did as we wished. Between supper and study hour we danced or walked on the grounds. We went to bed at ten o'clock and were up in time for breakfast at eight. Several times a year the dining room was cleared and we had a big dance. In 1892 we had a colonial ball when Miss Sarah took the part of Martha Washington. No boys were allowed inside the ballroom, but were at the windows peeping in. We had no chance to chat with them with Mrs. Morrison, Miss Sarah and Dr. Cunningham around!

We could have dates and go out on Friday and Sunday nights. We

could accept invitations from our friends in town and the county for meals, to spend the day or night, or for week-ends. And did we enjoy those privileges!

Our faculty was an outstanding one. They gave us tests all during the year, but no final examinations were held, and only one test a day was allowed. Dr. John A. Cunningham taught Psychology, as only he could. His unique way of presenting his subject, and his power to impart his knowledge made it a wonderful privilege to be a member of his class. And it was the first hour after lunch, which was a tribute to his ability to keep us from going to sleep after a bountiful mid-day meal!

Miss Virginia Reynolds taught Geography and Physiology, as well as being head of the Practice School.

Miss Martha Coulling taught Art, and Miss Madeline Mapp Group Singing, Music, Phonetics and Calisthenics.

Miss Dunturff, Botany.

Miss Bessie Gaines, Chemistry.

Miss Fennie Littleton, Laboratory professor. I recall one lab period -- At that time, some of the girls puffed their hair. We were busy with an experiment when we heard a bloodcurdling scream and a great commotion -- one of the girls' puff was on fire!

Miss M. F. Stone taught English. When the editors of the school magazine, called "Greetings", made a poll of the class, asking each girl to say what book had influenced her life most, Maud Pollard answered, "Puck." Miss Stone was so shocked that she asked Maud if she were serious about that or whether she was just trying to be funny. Maud's reply was, "So far as I am conscious of it, no book has ever influenced my life to any extent, but I do know that "Puck" has certainly influenced my conversation more than any other book." One of the girls on one occasion suggested that Maud should send some of her jokes to "Puck" and be paid for them. Dr. Cunningham with a twinkle in his eye said, "Perhaps you have overlooked the fact that "Puck" might not be willing to pay twice for the same jokes!"

Miss Minnie Rice, Latin and Algebra.

Miss Vickroy, English.

Miss Celeste Parrish, a wizard at Math and a marvelous teacher, one who taught in a way new, wonderful and true, was our Math teacher. She knew your ability, and expected you to live up to her expectations. One day as we entered Trig class, Miss Davis asked if I had worked the second part of the first example. I replied that I had not, said she, "Miss Parrish is going to call

on me for it and if I say, 'No', she will call on you. We can't both say, 'No.' " That was exactly what happened. Miss Parrish first called on her and then told me to go to the board. I went and when I had finished, she said, "Beautifully done." Miss Davis turned to me when I sat down, and said, "You told me you didn't work it." I replied, "I didn't -- she just scared it out of me!" Another day we knew she was due to give us a test, but Miss Coulling had told us she was going to give us one, and we had her before we went to Miss Parrish's class. As we entered Miss Parrish's room we were ready to burst into laughter when she said, "Bring your books to the front." There was a chorus of, "We have had a test!" "What on?" Another chorus, "Drawing!" "Pshaw!" she said, "Bring your books to the front." We were so surprised that the bell rang for the end of the period before we got our minds working! Dr. Cunningham said Miss Parrish could give the most testing tests of anyone he had ever seen, but she never gave but three or four questions, with an a., b., c., and d. We realized what terrible papers we had handed her, and that night we got ready to face her the next morning. As we entered the room she said, "Bring your books to the front. I will give you another test. I was disgusted with your other papers." We all got 100!

All of our teachers were Christians and taught in Sunday School and tried in every way to influence us for good. Each week day we assembled at a quarter of nine for a fifteen minute devotional service led by Dr. Cunningham or a visiting minister. This was followed by ten minutes of quotations given by students under the direction of Miss Mapp. These were of our heroes and great men. No holidays were given, so the only holiday we had was Christmas Day. Dr. Cunningham said he believed they would rather we spend the day working. He didn't think the girls could afford to waste their time or had the money to spend going home.

In September, 1892, Lizzie Bennett returned and joined the class, having been out for a year on account of her mother's illness, during which time she had taught. Mary Sue Oglesby came back that fall too. She dropped out on account of the death of her father. I roomed that year with Mary Sue and her cousin, Nancy Crockett.

I had heard of the wonderful Christmas boxes received by the girls, but as I had spent my first Christmas with one of my room-mates in Richmond, I hadn't enjoyed them. Nancy lived on a large farm. I must tell you of her box. It was a huge packing trunk, used by her mother for picnics. It contained a large roasted turkey, baked hens, fried chickens, chicken salad, a gallon of potato salad, sweet and sour pickles, preserves, currant jelly, several large cakes, small cakes, large and small pies, beaten biscuit, several two-pound moulds of maple sugar, one-half peck of chestnuts, a large baked ham, sausage,

spare ribs, apples, nuts, and candy! That's all I can remember of Nancy's box -- just add to that Mary Sue's box and mine.

Every night after Mrs. Morrison made her rounds, we got up and, by special invitation, our friends joined us and we feasted. That Christmas we were allowed to go around in the neighborhood singing carols. Mrs. Grute gave us a large cake.

We tried to play a joke on Dr. Cunningham. We hid the hymn books and the top of the stove. Much to our chagrin, Dr. Cunningham said, "Someone has tried to play a joke on us, but since it is not too cold to spend fifteen minutes in here, we can sing the hymns we know." So he turned the tables on us.

Another thing we greatly enjoyed was the oyster roasts. The girls from the Eastern Shore had barrels of oysters sent them. That was real fun!

This year the first society, "Daughters of the Virginia Literary Society", was formed. Most of our class were members; some held office. Mabel Roberts was associate editor of the society's magazine, "Greetings", Lizzie Bennett was business manager, Pauline Harris, treasurer, Janie Staples, secretary.

Also the first Botany class was formed that year and taught by Miss Dinturff. We spent many happy hours with her roaming the fields, hunting wild flowers, learning their botanical and common names, and pressing and mounting them. Our last trip was to Mount Willis, quite an oddity, since it is one hundred miles from any other mountain. One Saturday we girls hired a hack and with Mr. Cox and Miss Dinturff, taking our lunch with us, we roamed the mountain all day. What a treat that was for us mountain girls, and what a wonderful experience for those who had never seen a mountain! The Botany class did some outstanding work in mounting. Mabel Roberts won the prize.

Each year the class got smaller. In 1893 there were only fourteen of us: the three irregular members, Georgia Wesscott, Elizabeth Bennett, and Mary Sue Oglesby (Suckey); the four professionals, Julia Harrison and Emma Higgins, graduates of the Portsmouth High School, and Maud Pollard, a graduate of the Richmond High School, and Julia Leache, a public school teacher from Pulaski, entered to make us the twenty wonders -- twenty-one members who finally received their diplomas in June, 1894. I would not call it an especially outstanding or brilliant class. We had no prodigies, but we did have three distinguished members, Maud Pollard, a sister of Governor John Garland Pollard, Lola Bland, sister of Hon. S. Otis Bland, congressman from the first district of Virginia, and Mattie Buchanan, sister of Senator Buchanan. We were just a group of wide-awake girls, trying to get the most out of life and to give their very best, but

full of fun and pranks and mischief, and outstanding in initiative and originality. We were the first to have class colors -- Nile and olive green -- a class pin, a small leaf enamelled in the two shades of green, a class song, a class play, and a class letter. The class play was written by members of the class but was never actually given on account of the death of one of the students who passed away the morning of the day we were to have had the play, her body being at the time in the school building.

Our class picture was taken on the lawn in front of the main building one afternoon just as we came out from the last class of the day. As we were arranging ourselves and "trying to smile and look pleasant", someone suggested that Maud, who had several books in her hand, open one of them and appear to be studying, whereupon Maud replied, "I'm not going to do any such thing! Didn't you hear Dr. Cunningham say he wanted us to look natural?"

Farmville was a small town of about twelve thousand population, but the people had such big hearts and gave us a warm welcome into their town and homes, and made us feel that we were really one of them.

There were four churches in the town -- Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, and Baptist, each girl being allowed to attend the church of her choice, which we did almost 100 per cent. We were rewarded by a Christmas party!

Farmville is a tobacco town. Some of us had the rather unusual experience of visiting the factories and warehouses, seeing Negro men and women at work and listening to them singing, as only Negroes can sing, the spirituals and songs of their people, as they carried on their work. The man who took us around was a bee fancier. He had many bees there which he showed us and told us many interesting things about tobacco and bees.

Farmville had few amusements to offer. There was one small theater, and Hampden-Sydney College and Theological Seminary were seven miles away. There were no vehicles for hire, but there was a hack that came down in the morning and went back to Hampden-Sydney at six each evening. But what is a seven mile hike for a school boy whose girl is at the end of the journey? There were beautiful walks through the town and surrounding country, and especially did we enjoy the one mile hike to the Lithia Springs where we drank from the largest dipper I had ever seen!

Then there was Mr. Chappell's Confectionery store, with attractive display of fruits and candies, drinks and school supplies, and Mr. Chappell, spick and span, standing in the doorway with his welcoming smile, opening and shutting the door, bowing you in and bowing you out! A splendid example of perpetual motion!

The last year we were in Faraville, Hon. Phillip McKinney completed his term as governor of the state, and returned to his home in Faraville. The whole town turned out to meet him, and assembled in the theater to bid him welcome. Since he had been instrumental in getting so much for the S.F.N.S. from the state, Dr. Cunningham took the faculty and entire student body to the theater and when he entered, we arose and gave the school cheer three times as a tribute to him. He stood a moment, and then said, "I am too full to speak," and sat down.

At that time Faraville did not have a fire department, but had erected a large fire bell just outside of the theater so as to give the alarm in case of fire. There were a dozen or more Negro men who would pump the water in time of fire, but they had to be paid in advance.

On one occasion, Mr. Cox took a group of us girls to see "Richard III." At a most exciting part in the play the fire bell rang furiously! We all left the show and Mr. Cox took us to the fire. To us it seemed a very large one. It was Mr. Wall's beautiful house and the stable, just back of his store on Main Street. The hose was connected to a plug in the middle of the street and a number of Negro men pumped the water, singing Negro spirituals while they pumped.

There were no flower shops but everyone seemed to love flowers, and when possible had a flower garden and raised beautiful ones. Their generosity with their flowers gladdened our hearts many times. I will never forget a bouquet of lillies-of-the-valley sent me by Miss Ida Thaxton, the sister of the dentist, Dr. Thaxton. It was as large as a dinner plate and the stems were eight or nine inches long! No doubt all of you will remember how Miss Ida used to walk past the school with her cook's little picininy carrying her train. She would stop and talk to us and make the little picininy courtesy. Everyone wore sweeping dresses then.

Our English teacher, Miss Stone, boarded at Dr. White's. Mrs. White offered a bouquet of her loveliest flowers to the one who wrote the best review of a Sunday sermon. One of the class was the happy winner of the prize -- Loulie Gayle.

One Sunday Dr. Cunningham called us into his office and informed us that we had satisfactorily finished the course and would be graduated in June. Now we cried when he gave us his last talk in class!

Since the S.F.N.S. was at that time a school and not a college, we were not ready for caps and gowns, but we wanted something to mark us as Seniors. Miss Coulling was about to make a trip to New York, so we asked her to get something for us. She brought

us back Oxford caps. Soon afterwards the Glee Club of Hampden-Sydney gave a play at the theater and pulled off jokes about our caps, much to our amusement!

While we were Seniors we were not changed a bit, not even Julia Leache, who had taught before coming to Farmville. She wanted to share a box with us, so, after Mrs. Morrison had made her rounds, she sneaked to our room with a plate of good things.

One of the dining-room maids was tall, with a very high forehead, and walked on her toes with a springing motion that made her resemble a cat dressed up like a woman! One Saturday Mrs. Morrison and Miss Sarah were away attending a wedding and didn't get back in time for supper. Mary Sue went into the butler's pantry and, picking up a tray, proceeded to pass the coffee, all the time imitating that maid! The room was in an uproar when Mrs. Morrison and Miss Sarah stepped in!

They played a joke on me. I had some special studying to do and so I asked "Suckey" not to bring anyone to our room, as I couldn't study while they talked. She left the room and soon returned, bringing with her one of our class, then the other girls came laughing and talking. I kept moving about the room, and finally perched on my trunk, all the time casting black looks at "Suckey". The girls were all in on her joke and so they directed most of their remarks to me. They kept this up for ten or fifteen minutes, when Mary Sue opened the closet door and brought out a bunch of luscious bananas, a big treat in those days! After we had enjoyed the treat, I was left to my studies.

Believe it or not, it was our first attempt at hazing. Of course there was nothing serious in what we did. We'd just go from door to door, making the girls dance or sing or hop around the room on one foot, or make a speech or something of that sort. Emma Higgins and Julia Harrison roomed together and were terribly frightened! When we found out they could sing, we asked them to join us. When they refused, we forced them, and I think they thought we were going to murder them!

Bishop James Cannon was a young minister at that time and pastor of the Farmville Methodist Church. The Saturday afternoon before we left he gave a delightful party to the Methodist girls and their teachers. There was plenty of fun, cake, ice cream and fruit. Just before starting to the party, I took down my new and only summer hat -- a white milan straw, trimmed with white ribbon and snow drops. As I lifted the hat from the box, all the blossoms fell on the floor! A little mouse had eaten the glue which fastened the blossoms to the small green stems and the tiny leaves! I was horrified, for seniors have little money left by commencement time. I thought of my tube of fish-glue which I had used to make a geographical figure, so I soon

had each little blossom stuck back on its stem and my hat was as good as new!

At commencement time the Board of Trustees met at the school and were entertained at dinner. Mrs. Morrison had some of us meet the trustees and go in to dinner with them. I drew a widower with three grown sons!

It is now the night before commencement. We begin to realize that the time has come to leave; to say goodbye to our friends, the faculty, Dr. Cunningham, Mrs. Morrison, Miss Sarah, and all those we had come to love so dearly. We are reminded of what Dr. Cox said to us soon after we arrived at school. When the girls were blue, lonesome and homesick, he said, "Just you wait till the time comes for you to leave and you'll hate to go just as badly as you hate to stay now." How true that was!

Loulie's account of her experience will give you an idea. She had left Norfolk on an early morning train, her first train ride. She was realizing her long-cherished desire of going off to school. She arrived in Farmville before noon -- just a timid little girl among strange scenes, sounds and faces -- not a familiar face in the whole crowd. She was almost overcome with homesickness, a feeling almost akin to what a prisoner must feel when he first realizes his imprisonment. She wept, but so many others were weeping that nobody seemed to be disturbed by her tears. Soon Miss Sarah took her to her own room and instructed her as to getting to the dining-room, the ringing of the bell, etc. She then left her alone since her roommates had not arrived. She soon heard the dinner bell but, thinking that someone would come for her, she remained in her room. When supper time came she was hungry, and so went to the dining-room with some friendly girls, and that was the beginning of a friendly atmosphere. The next morning came the harrowing experience of entrance examinations, her first experience with an examination, as she had been taught in a one-room, old-field school where she had gotten her foundation by thorough teaching and much drilling.

I had escaped most of these unpleasantities as Mary Sue had written her friends that I was coming, and my roommate came a few minutes after. She was in the E. class and the other, Mary Crew, was in the Professional class, so I was well cared for. Mary Crew's in-laws lived at Longwood and we spent many happy week-ends there.

After a few days came the love period -- such spooning! Dr. Cunningham warned us of that, and of the old quotation, "Familiarity breeds contempt." He said, "I say: 'Familiarity breeds despise.'" Julia Harrison was smitten with "Suckey", though

they were as different as two girls could be. Julia wanted to be with "Suckey" all the time. One day "Suckey" was sick and Julia was terribly concerned. She brought her flowers and many other little things. Finally she came in with an ounce bottle of whiskey which she had brought with her from home, and asked Mary Sue to try a little of that. Without a word, Mary Sue turned the bottle up to her lips and drained the last drop, and then lay back on her pillow! Julia, horrified, left the room and Mary Sue and I went into hysterics!

Later on that year a joke was played on us. All of us had dates and when we returned we found our room a sight -- meal was in our beds, salt on our tooth brushes! But fortunately next day was cleaning day and so we didn't mind so very much. We found out who the culprits were, so right after supper we rushed up to their room and turned it upside down! After we had done all the damage we could, we rushed out on the lawn, locking arms with them, and walked around until the study bell rang. After we returned to our rooms, these girls came running to us to come and see what someone had done! We went with them and stood amazed, and as innocent as lambs! And so the days passed by.

At commencement time many of the local people sold their flowers so that our friends could make us happy. I hated to throw my flowers away and since I had no one to give them to, I carried them home in a large split basket. Can you imagine doing that today?

It is now commencement night and the girls look lovely in their white graduation dresses. Dr. Cunningham had told us that he looked forward to the time when every girl would make her own graduation dress, which ought not to be elaborate, and then added, much to our amusement, that the prettiest girl he ever saw had on nothing but a plain white dress and a blue sash. And that too in the days when every girl wore several petticoats and many ruffles!

Our diplomas were delivered to us that night, June 4, 1894, by Dr. J. L. M. Curry, who was not only a trustee of the S.F.N.S. but also the Director of the Peabody Educational Fund and afterwards our Ambassador to Spain. His statue is now in the United States Hall of Fame in the Capitol at Washington, as one of the two most distinguished citizens of Mississippi, his native state. He had formerly been professor of English at Richmond College, the chair which Maud's father held at that time. As Maud stepped forward to receive her diploma, he stopped and shook hands with her and added, "For your father's sake."

On commencement night Miss Reynolds said to the Harris twins,

"If I were a man I would want to marry both of you!"

Mabel Roberts, Lizzie Bennett, Loulie Gayle and Julia Leache were the class essayists. We were happy as we sat there listening to the girls read their well prepared papers, listened to the chorus and waited to receive our diplomas. After congratulations were received and goodbyes said, I went to my room and had a big cry!

Before leaving, we decided to have a class letter. It was Lena's idea. She made rules and regulations, order in which it was to be sent, and wrote the first letter. It has made its regular rounds every three or four months for over fifty years -- a tie that has held us together as with hoops of steel and we can join in singing, "Blessed be the tie that binds."

And so we bid farewell to the dear old S.F.N.S. and went our separate ways.

Let's follow this eager group of girls and see what use they made of their lives.

JOHN MABYN BRANCH SIMPSON. John Mabyn Branch entered the State Normal School in February 1891. She was only fourteen years old so was placed in the Practice School. After a few weeks she was transferred to the E. class.

When interviewed by Dr. Cunningham why she entered in February, he was amused when she replied that she wished to be a June graduate. He immediately asked her if she thought she could do it.

Mabyn taught six years after her graduation in both public and private schools in her native county in Brunswick, Virginia. She married Mr. John C. Simpson, a lumber merchant from Norfolk, Virginia, in April 1900 where she has continued to live. Three daughters and one son were born from this union. Her son is now a Field Director with the Red Cross in Italy. She has six grandchildren.

After her husband's death in 1923, she became interested in the school lunchroom and has been dietitian in one for the past 22 years. Until this year she has been active in Sunday School, where work in the Junior Department as Superintendent kept her interest up in the adolescent age of children.

FLORENCE MABEL ROBERTS (Mrs. Samuel Dunton Tankard). Mabel spent her child and girlhood days in Bridgetown, Northampton County, Virginia. In September 1891, at the age of sixteen, she entered the Female Normal School at Farmville. She took classes D. and C. the first year, B and A the second year, and two terms of Professional the third year. She was a conscientious student and earned the privilege of graduating at the head of her worthy class with honor as valedictorian.

After graduation she taught for eight years. She was married February 18, 1903, to Mr. Samuel Dunton Tankard, a merchant of Franktown, Virginia. Here, she resided the forty years of her happy married life. They were blessed with four sons and one daughter. The youngest son, James William Tankard, M.D., is with an Army Evacuation Hospital in England. A few months ago he received the distinguished honor of being elected into the American College of Surgeons.

Mabel was interested in all community organizations and betterment, particularly her church, and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. To these activities she gave freely of her time and talent.

On the morning of April 1, 1943, she passed away as the result of a severe heart attack. One friend said, "As each life writes its own epitaph, so I think hers might be, 'Man looketh upon the outward appearance, but God pondereth the heart.' "

LENA E. TROWER (Mrs. Edward Abner Ames). When Lena was nineteen she matriculated at the State Female Normal School at Farmville, Virginia. She did not attend Practice School, but entered class D in September 1891, after she had successfully passed the entrance examination. She took class D and C the first year, classes B and A the second year, and two terms of Professional the third year. During this time she was a member of the Literary Society.

Just before we left school in 1894, she conceived the idea of promoting the deep and abiding friendship of our class through the medium of a perpetual class letter, which she started when she went home.

The next year she taught school at Onley, Virginia, and was married May 15, 1895 to Mr. Edward Abner Ames, a produce merchant of Onley, Virginia. Previous to her marriage she lived in a neighboring community of Onley, where her home has been in or near ever since. To this union were given two sons and two daughters, the second son, Edward Abner Ames Jr., is a successful lawyer and is now commonwealth attorney for Accomac County, Vir-

ginia. One little grandson, Edward Abner Ames III, is a great pleasure. For several years she taught the Young Womens Bible Class at Onley Methodist Church, and held various offices in the Womans Missionary Society and Womans Christian Temperance Union. Mr. and Mrs. Ames had the satisfaction of knowing they had accomplished their mutual desire of educating their children, all four of them being college graduates. Lena's life companion passed away November 5, 1939. Whenever the class of 1894 of S.F.N.S. has reassembled, Lena has always been present, since the reunions are such big events in her life, she says.

MATTIE BUCHANAN. Mattie was born on a farm in Rich Valley, Smyth County, Virginia. She went to public schools, summer private schools, and had two years of high school in Stonewall Jackson Institute before entering the Normal in September 1891.

She and Virginia Greever roomed and boarded the first two years at Dr. White's. Mrs. White introduced them to many lovely people in town and at Hampden-Sydney. They were invited for week-ends in the country and to social functions in the town.

Mattie was an ugly duckling at home, she says, and had no accomplishments and never shone as an outstanding scholar.

Both her father and mother were gone when Mattie entered school, so when she finished she had no money and no special home. She taught a few years -- taught during the winter and did other work during the summer. She kept books, taught in summer schools, and one summer was matron in a Presbyterian Orphanage in Lynchburg.

Always wanting to be a nurse, Mattie finally went in training in Hot Springs, Arkansas. Thinking she wanted to take special work in TB nursing, she went to Denver, Colorado, to take her State Board. She got a position there in the Oaks Home, one of the TB hospitals, but was offered a nice position as superintendent of a hospital and training school in Kansas. She had this kind of position in three hospitals in Kansas during the next fourteen years. Then she went to Rochester, Minnesota, for post work. She did private duty in a large hospital there for six years. She came from there to Georgetown, Kentucky, to take charge of a hospital which employed only graduate nurses. She was there twelve years.

Mattie was injured in an auto accident in Lexington, Kentucky, which left her foot and ankle crushed. The bones are now pinned together with metal pins, and Mattie is doing private duty when able to leave home.

While in Hot Springs and Rochester, she nursed many celebrities,

among them Mr. Elihu Root, Chief Justice Hughes, Ex-President Taft, a federal judge from Alaska, Bob La Follette, and Senator Lenroot's wife.

She had many lovely trips during vacations, travelling in every state except Texas and South Carolina. While in Minnesota, she went abroad for three months as a delegate to the International Convention in Helsinki, Finland. There twelve nurses went on a Cook's Tour over nine of the countries. Another nice thing happened while Mattie was in Rochester. She took a Canadian General's wife home and a patient to Pasadena, California. She remained seven weeks out there, staying with friends, and was driven over five thousand miles over the state and down into Mexico. She visited the Big Tree reservations and many of the beaches. She had several functions given for her, among them a luncheon in Long Beach, one in Santiago, one in Santa Ana, picnics and dinner parties. She had a wonderful time.

Mattie says that nursing is living a full, satisfying, contented life. In it there is much sadness, but many thrilling adventures. Over a hundred of her babies from different states are now in different branches of the service. Some have been killed, some wounded, but Mattie hopes many will be spared to come home.

MARY FITZHUGH (Mrs. Matthew Lyle Eggleston). Although Mary, or Fitzhugh, as she was familiarly called by her classmates, and Julia Leache were from the same county, they never knew each other until they went to Farmville. Having many mutual friends and interests, they were soon drawn closely together.

I think I should like to call Mary "our mother and homemaker" of our group, writes Julia Leache, as she, Janie and Emma have the distinction of possessing families of seven children each. Mary and Janie have been spared to see their efforts and devotion to home and family bear fruit, while Emma's life with her family was very short.

Mary always let her home come first, and after the death of her husband in 1935 she made a home for her children until the youngest child was married in 1939. Since then she has lived in Bedford, Virginia, with her daughter, Lucy (Mrs. W. G. Cawbeck), and visits around among her other children as she desires.

Two years after leaving Farmville, Mary gave up teaching in her home county and married Matthew Lyle Eggleston, a druggist of Hampden Sidney. After spending several years at Hampden Sidney and at the old Eggleston homestead at Worsham, where their first child was born, they moved to Portsmouth, Virginia, where Dr. Eggleston owned and operated a drug store for 35 years until he

retired in 1933 at which time the family moved to Roanoke.

Mary truthfully says her outstanding life work was done in the home and in the church. What could be nobler! In the church's activities she held office until she moved away from Portsmouth.

Outside of her church and home there are two accomplishments of which Mary was very proud. First, the winning of a \$50.00 Squib prize among 40,000 entries from 36 counties and all the states represented. Second, that, as Vice-President of the Womans Club of Portsmouth, she was instrumental in raising the first money, \$97.50, towards the building of the nurses home of the King's Daughters Hospital, which they now have.

**JULIA LEACHE.** Julia, our teacher, entered State Normal School at Farmville, September 1893.

She spent the first 24 years after graduation teaching in Pulaski City. In 1918 she retired from teaching and went to Roanoke to live.

The last 26 years have been spent in helping to rear her two nephews, Charles and John Downs, who were reared by her sister, Mrs. J. B. Baskerville and Mr. Baskerville after her sister Sallie's death.

Julia is a fine Christian woman and her influence over the boys had done much to mold their lives and develop them into the splendid men they are.

Julia is an active member in the U.D.C. and D.A.R., having held many offices in these organizations.

**PAULINE AND ALMA HARRIS** (Mrs. Arthur Edwards Richmondson, Mrs. Thomas Montague Netherland). It was in November 1890 when the twins, Pauline and Alma Harris, entered the Normal School at Farmville, Virginia. These two shy girls with their mother were ushered into Mr. Cunningham's office with another older girl from Dinwiddie County and were questioned about their attainments. After the older girl told all the wonderful things she knew, he turned to the twins and said, "And how about you?" Pauline spoke up quickly and said, "We do not know anything." Mr. Cunningham threw himself back in his chair and gave one of his characteristic laughs.

On account of not being able to get in the Richmond Female Institute (afterwards called the Womans College), they decided to enter the Normal School, rooming on the fourth floor next to the Flemings. They were active in the affairs of the school,

the Literary Club, the King's Daughters, and the Cotillion Club. Mr. Cox said he thought the twins must have been born dancing! Once they hired a band to come up from Petersburg to render music at a dance at which all of the teachers participated and some of the trustees of the school. No boys were allowed.

They were members of Miss Coullings' and Miss Mapp's Sunday School classes and joined the M. E. Church in Farmville. At one time there were three Harris sisters in school -- the twins and Marie Harris. Later on two more attended, Laura and Julia. Two families in the town who were especially nice to these girls were Dr. W. E. Anderson and Col. Fitzgerald, friends of their father.

On the night of their graduation, Miss Reynolds, one of the teachers, had them stand in front of her and remarked, "If I were a man I would want to marry both of you."

Pauline taught school three years before marrying Arthur Edwards Richmondson, a lumberman and later Commissioner of Revenue of Dinwiddie County for twenty years. She has three children, two sons and a daughter. She has five grandchildren. Alma taught in her home county, Dinwiddie, and Amelia County for eighteen years and married Thomas Montague Netherland, a tobacco salesman who retired from business on account of his health and for a number of years has been Supervisor of the County.

MAUD POLLARD (Mrs. Robert Lee Turman). The daughter of Dr. John Pollard, a Baptist minister and professor of English at Richmond College (now the University of Richmond), Maud joined our class in September of 1893, after having graduated at the Richmond High School. She, along with Julia Leache, Julia Harrison and Emma Higgins, coming for the last year, received only Professional Diplomas.

Maud was the only member of the class who did not reside in the college dormitory, but lived in the home of her uncle, Dr. George F. Bagby, pastor of the Farmville Baptist Church. She was the elocutionist and raconteur, specializing in Negro dialect and appropriate jokes. She was so given to telling jokes on all occasions that when the editor of the college magazine made a poll of the class to learn what book had influenced their lives most, Maud replied, "Puck." This was at the time the leading humorous magazine. Our English teacher, Miss M.F. Stone, was so shocked at Maud's answer that she asked her if she really meant that or if she were just trying to be funny. Maud's reply was that so far as she knew, no book had influenced her life to any extent, but that she was certain that "Puck" had influenced her conversation more than any other book.

Upon one occasion one of the girls suggested that Maud might send some of her jokes to "Puck" and receive pay for them, but Mr. Cunningham, who happened to be present at the time, with a merry twinkle in his eye said, "Perhaps it never occurred to you that 'Puck' would not be willing to pay twice for the same jokes!"

Since Maud was the daughter of a minister, she was not required to sign the agreement to teach for two years in the public schools of the state. However she did do some tutoring in Richmond, and the year before she was married she taught expression and physical culture at Cox College, in College Park, a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia.

It was at a Valentine Party in Atlanta where she recited James Whitcomb Riley's "That Old Sweetheart of Mine" that she met Mr. R. L. Turman, a young business man of Atlanta, whom she married the following October, and has continued to live there ever since.

Maud came from a family of teachers, her father and both her brothers being college professors, so it is not surprising that her public activities since her marriage have been in citizenship instruction, especially when she had, in the last years of the struggle for votes for women, joined the ranks of the suffragists. She took special courses both at Emory University and at the University of Georgia, and also conducted Round Tables at both institutions in their Citizenship Institutes. Realizing that the newly enfranchised women were untrained in the essentials of government and citizenship, she compiled a pamphlet entitled "Studies in Citizenship for Georgia Women", the only assembled information of its kind ever provided for the state's women citizens. She taught the lessons contained in the pamphlet, and was in demand as a speaker in citizenship and legislative subjects.

Maud was a charter member both of the Atlanta League of Women Voters and the Georgia League of Women Voters, becoming president of the Atlanta League, serving three terms -- 1925-26-27. She has served almost continuously on the board of the state League of Women Voters and for two years was the southern representative on the board of the National League.

In 1936 she was made president of the Southwide Association of Consumers whose immediate objective was to organize the women consumers of the south to work for the removal of the unfair restrictions on the manufacture and sale of margarine made of our own domestic fats and oils.

At the present time her special activities, besides continuing her deep interest in the work of the League of Women Voters, as an officer in the organization of the Democratic women of her

county and state, a member of the board of the Council of Church Women, and a charter member of the Southern Regional Council, concerned with promoting the progress of all citizens of the south, regardless of race or creed. She has done so much active work for reform legislation that she was recently introduced to an audience as "the best lobbyist in Georgia", though she repudiates the implications! Maud takes great pride in her husband who is the namesake of the great Confederate leader, Robert E. Lee, and in her three children and two grandchildren. All three of her children -- two sons and a daughter -- are college graduates, the daughter having graduated at William and Mary College.

It is worthy of note that at one time -- from 1930 to 1934 -- the June class of 1894 had the distinction of having as the Governor of Virginia Maud's brother (John Garland Pollard) and the representative of the First Virginia Congressional District, the brother of our classmate, Lola Bland, the Hon. S. Otis Bland, who still so honorably holds that position of trust.

ELIZABETH S. BENNETT entered the State Normal School in September 1890. Because of examinations in her home county of Loudoun, there were very few questions to answer before being put in the D. class. Having done some high school work she was excused from some of the D. and C. work that year, but to fill up vacant periods, took E. history and arithmetic, but no tests. In September of '91 because of her mother's health, she did not return to Farmville, but in September of '92 entered again and thus became one of the final 21'ders. She was excused from first year Latin, but Miss Parrish would not excuse her from algebra so her work with Miss Parrish was mostly repetition. She was on the staff of "The Virginian", belonged to the DVS and was a member of Miss Mapp's SS class. Having relatives living nearby, her holidays were spent with them, so formed no friendships in the town. Her final essay, "The Pendulum Swings" was one of the four read on graduation night.

While at Farmville, she took lectures in English under Prof. Thom in what was then called University Extension, which was later discontinued.

After graduation, she taught nine years in the public and private schools of her home county, and three years in Pulaski.

In her private school work, she prepared several girls and boys for entrance directly into college -- Randolph Macon and Sullins.

She was a member of the Methodist Church. She has since belonged to various Missionary Societies and as long as her health permitted, taught in many Sunday Schools. On the death of her parents, she retired from teaching to make a home for her younger

sisters and brothers.

JANIE STAPLES (Mrs. W. E. Chappell) taught school five years near her home of Prince Edward County, Virginia, and then one year near her new home after marriage to W. E. Chappell (near Meherin, Virginia). She had seven children, four daughters and three sons, all of whom were educated at S. T. C. and Hampden-Sydney College. Janie gave the class its one preacher -- her youngest son, Charles William Chappell, a Methodist missionary to the Belgian Congo in Africa. She has four grandchildren.

Janie is active in local, county church and Sunday School work, serving officially in the Home Demonstration Club, County Council of Religious Education. For fifteen years she was clerk of elections in her home precinct, delegate for years to the Institute of Public Affairs in Charlottesville, and by request of Gov. Byrd a delegate to Commission on Higher Education in Richmond. She is a member of the Committee on Inter-racial Relations.

MARY LOUISE GAYLE (Mrs. H. Sam Bland). On the appointed day for the opening of the State Normal School in September 1891, a tiny, timid girl from Gloucester County, Virginia, made her first appearance on the campus. It became a memorable day, one of new experiences. She had boarded the train in the gray dusk of morning, in Norfolk -- her first ride on a train -- and had met "new" girls on the journey, among them Mabel Roberts, who later became a classmate and friend.

The day brought to fulfillment a long cherished hope, that of going away to school, yet this arrival was devoid of happiness. Everything was strange, scenes, sounds, and faces, not one familiar face in all that crowd. Acute homesickness and a feeling akin to that of a prisoner when he first realizes his imprisonment, seized her and she lifted up her voice and wept. She was not alone in that exercise, however, (other new girls were expressing their grief in the same way) and no one seemed disturbed by the weeping.

In due time she was conducted to a back room on the third floor, a large, bare room, with no roommates present as yet. After receiving instruction as to the way to the dining room and the ringing of the bells for the approaching meal, she was left alone. Surely some one would come by and go down with her. The big outside bell rang. Fifteen minutes later the hand bell swung vigorously by one afterwards known as Milton and five minutes later the same bell was rung, giving the last call. No one came for her and she remained in the room. By supper time, hunger and the moral support of a few, friendly girls made the trip to the dining room easy and the evening meal marked the beginning of the congenial school atmosphere that lasted through the years.

The entrance examination was a formidable experience for the "new" girls. However, though the subject of this sketch had been taught in a one room, old field school in which examinations had no part, thoroughness in teaching and much drilling had given her a good foundation, and she passed the examination. She was promoted from class to class in the regular order, graduating with the honor of being one of the four essayists of her class.

Each year she entered school in September and stayed until June, not going home even at Christmas. No social contacts outside of school were made except regular church and Sunday School attendance at the Methodist Church. She joined Miss Coulling's circle of the King's Daughters, later became a member of the WCTU. Mrs. Morrison's vesper services are recalled as a hal-  
lowed influence.

Dear Mr. Cunningham, loved and honored, Mrs. Morrison, Miss Sarah, Mr. Cox, the teachers, the girl friends -- all still hold their places in the heart of this member of the June Class 1894. Grateful remembrance is given to Gen. William B. Taliaferro, illustrious citizen of Gloucester County, and President of the Board of Trustees of the school, for his interest and influence in making it possible for Mary Louise Gayle to enter the State Normal School at Farmville, Virginia.

After graduation "Loulie" taught four sessions in the public schools. In 1898 she married H. Sam Bland, native of King and Queen County, who was in mercantile business in Gloucester. After four years they moved to Buena Vista (Cologne P.O.), an old homestead in King and Queen, where Mr. Bland has engaged in general merchandise and in farming to the present time. They are active members of the Methodist Church. She has been teacher of a Bible class and president of the Womans Society of her church over a long period of years. She is a charter member of the Womans Club of King and Queen County and was its president for two years.

"Loulie" has three children -- two daughters and one son -- and seven grandchildren.

LOLA BLAND. Lola entered the State Normal School at Farmville, September 1891 from her home county of Gloucester. Prior to her entrance to the Normal School her entire school life had been under private tutelage either in her own home or in that of her uncle.

While very proud to be going away to school, the probability is that timidity and homesickness would have been her undoing had not her waning courage been boosted by the companionship of two other Gloucester girls whom she knew, Linwood Stubbs and Olivia

Coleman. She did not then know Loulie Gayle who was to be a future classmate and friend.

After taking the entrance examination she was put in the D. class, completing the course with the other 21-ders in 1894.

After graduation she taught for seventeen years, eleven in the public schools of Gloucester, two in the primary department of the Marion (Va.) High School, and two as principal of a two-room school in King William County.

She retired in 1916 to help her mother who was a semi-invalid for a long period. After her death in 1930, Lola went to Gloucester C.H. to live with her only sister who was also an invalid to the time of her death in December 1937.

Since then, she has kept house for her brother-in-law in his cottage on York river where they are now living.

KATHIE WILKE. Our Irish Girl, bright, happy smiling Kathie, was the first to leave us. She taught several years in the public schools in Orange County and died July 31, 1897.

EMMA MAYHEW HIGGINS (Mrs. T. E. Johnson). Emma was the next to leave us. After teaching one year, she married Mr. T. E. Johnson of Gilmerton and went there to live. Mr. Johnson owned and ran a general merchandise store. Emma was a homebody, devoted to her husband and children, of whom there were seven. She died in 1906 after an illness of a few hours. Her children have made fine men and women.

RUBY HUDGINS (Mrs. C. S. Diggs) entered the State Normal School at Farmville as a state student from Mathews County, September 1891. She had attended only private schools and was well drilled by Mrs. Mary Randolph Tabb in the fundamentals of education. Not being able to get a room in the school, she roomed and boarded at Mrs. Berkeley's nearby for two years. The last year she was in the school dormitory, roomed with Virginia Greever and finished with the 21-ders of Class 1894.

Gen. William A. Taliaferro, President of the Board of Trustees, Dr. John A. Cunningham, Principal of the State Normal, Mr. Cox and the teachers will always be gratefully remembered for their influence on her life.

After graduation she taught two years in Mathews County. She was married on November 17, 1896 to C. S. Diggs, a merchant of Hampton. She carried her sister, Pamlea Hudgins, to her new home in Hampton where Pam lived for twenty-three years or until she was

married. Four children, two boys and two girls, blessed the house, all of whom responded to high school and college education.

She was a charter member of the Womans Club and chairman for several years of the Garden Department of the Club. Flowers have always held a soft spot in her heart. She was active in the work of the First Methodist Church, teaching in the Sunday School and was President of the Womans Missionary Society for over twenty years. The Womans Christian Temperance Union was always dear to her heart. She was quite proud of the fact that Gov. Trinkle made her a delegate to the Anti-Saloon League Convention, meeting in Washington, D. C.

Twelve grandchildren have been graciously received in this group.

JANNIE CHANDLER (Mrs. J. T. Coleman). Jennie taught for several years before she married a Mr. Carpenter who lived only a few years. Later she married Mr. J. T. Coleman of Massaponax, Virginia, where she lived until her tragic death in the spring of 1936. Jennie was the only member of the class to marry twice.

Jennie was a great flower lover, like several others in the class, and took great pride in her flower garden, striving only for the generous praise and appreciation of her husband who never failed her.

JULIA HARRISON (Mrs. Norman Owens Pedrick). Julia joined our class in September 1893, after having graduated at the Portsmouth High School. For several years after graduating at Farmville, Julia taught in the public schools of Portsmouth. It was in 1899 that she married her girlhood lover, Norman Owens Pedrick, also of Portsmouth. There they continued to live until 1902, when they, along with their little son, Parks Brinkley Pedrick, moved to New Orleans, Louisiana, where her husband had a position with a steamship company as its Assistant Local Manager. Some years later her husband was made General Manager of the Mississippi Shipping Company, trading with Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina.

Julia contracted that dread disease tuberculosis, and for a number of years was a semi-invalid, tho her wonderful spirit and will power kept her going when many a less courageous soul would have given up in despair.

Julia was a devoted Christian. Her unselfishness and spiritual development, as well as her strong desire to be helpful to others, were the most outstanding characteristics of her noble nature. It was in the fall of 1920 that she passed away. She was buried in the cemetery lot of her beloved uncle, Admiral Brinkley, who after the death of their parents had reared both Julia and her sister who, with her husband, followed the Pedricks to their new

home in New Orleans.

Shortly after the close of the first World War, as typical of her sympathetic nature, Julia adopted a little French orphan, Paulette Daire. Tho Julia and her little French ward never saw each other, Julia continued to send money to the French family until her death. Mr. Pedrick continued Julia's beneficence, and years later, when he visited France, he met the Daire family.

Mr. Pedrick passed away in 1942 but the son, Parks, continues to live in New Orleans where he married and where his two children were born. Parks now fills an important position with the steamship company with which his father was president at the time of his death.

VIRGINIA HOLMES GREEVER (Mrs. Edgar Lee Greever) was born and reared on a farm at Chilhowie, Smyth County, Virginia. She was the daughter, and only child living to maturity, of Capt. James G. Greever, and his wife, Mary Scott Greever.

After finishing school she returned home to a life of ease, a almost affluence. Her father died and Virginia and her mother then traveled extensively in the USA; they never went abroad.

She had an amiable disposition and gifted with a captivating personality, was hospitable, gracious and made friends easily.

Her distinguished ancestry identified her with many patriotic organizations, namely: A member of the Colonial Dames, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the U. S. Daughters of 1812, Daughters of American Colonists, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Order of the Crown Barons of Runnymede.

On December 29, 1913 she was married to a distant cousin, Edgar Lee Greever of Tazewell, Virginia, who was a very distinguished lawyer.

On December 27, 1934 she had a major operation for a serious ailment in a Richmond, Virginia, hospital. She was never able to leave the hospital and there passed away on March 6, 1935.

The bulk of her inheritance was the lovely blue grass stock farm on which her home, a brick colonial, stood. She left this estate to Emory and Henry College, a Methodist school in Washington County. This was sold in 1944 for \$80,000. The remainder of her property, including antique furniture, was left to her husband.

GEORGIA HOWARD WESCOTT married J. Will Stockley of Keller, Virginia in July 1896. One child was born to them but died in infancy. Georgia taught school for a number of years in Fox Hall, Phoebus and on the Eastern Shore. She retired from teaching in 1923, loved by the populace, respected by everybody. She had given of her best to the school and in the community. She was a member of St. George's Episcopal Church, from where her funeral was held in 1926.

MARY SUE OGLESBY, our president, was our farmer girl. She was a woman of poise, dignity, a unique personality, and a fine Christian. One of strange unusual attractiveness, strength, energy and courage. One who fought for the highest ideals, and was a public benefactor. After graduation she taught for several years in the public schools of her community. She owned and managed a large farm in Draper's Valley. She revelled in the grand scenery, gorgeous sunsets and natural beauty of her surroundings. It was her ambition to make it an ideal farm. Her brother Will, a bachelor, helped her to reach her goal.

My brother-in-law and I were driving to Sytheville on one occasion and decided to stop by Mary Sue's on our way home. Just before we got there, we encountered a terrible storm. The rain came down in torrents, and my brother-in-law said, "We cannot get to the house now." I replied, "I bet there is a hard gravel driveway to the door." "Why do you think that?" he asked. "Because a woman runs that farm," I replied, and I was right.

Mary Sue passed away in February 1943. She was the last of her family.

### Reunions

Next I must tell about the reunions, five in all.

The first one was in 1903, nine years since we parted. It was a small gathering but quite successful. Maud wrote that she was going to Buckroe Beach on an excursion from Richmond, and hoped some of the class would be able to meet her there for the day. Accordingly, Ruby, living near Buckroe Beach, invited all who could to join her for a picnic and day with Maud, and that she'd be glad to have as many as could go home with her for the night and next day together. Ruby with her nurse and children, Georgia, and I with my nine months old baby, met Maud and had a delightful time together. Maud went on to Norfolk, as she had planned, and we went home with Ruby for the night and next day.

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The second reunion was in 1907, at the time of the Jamestown Exposition, and was held at the home of Mabyn Branch who lived across the river from me, "so near and yet so far." I was ill with typhoid fever and could not attend.

### REUNION OF THE S.N.S. ALUMNAE

"Tho not the biggest, certainly one of the most unique and interesting of the reunions brought about by the Jamestown Exposition was that of the class graduated at our State Normal School in June 1894. Half of the class (numbering twenty, since the death of one several years ago) were present, and two or three others were expected during the time, but failed to appear. This attendance after the lapse of thirteen years and the marriage of thirteen members was considered most gratifying. They spent an informal jolly day with Mrs. Mabyn Branch Simpson, of Norfolk, Virginia, last Wednesday.

By an odd coincidence the hostess had that morning opened the newly arrived Class Letter. During the ceremonies this letter (which is a sort of round robin, and keeps going the circle of the class) was passed around with the resolution that more strenuous efforts would henceforth be made to circulate it quickly, and that it should never die so long as there were two left to keep it going -- with its treasured photographs, newspaper clippings of weddings, school commencements, etc., samples from the new bride's trousseau and perhaps an account of the last trip taken, the latest book read, and even baby's newest tricks.

The class pin, with its motto, "Finished Yet Beginning" (which Dr. Cunningham admired so much) was worn by all except those who had the misfortune to lose theirs. Mrs. Maud Pollard Turman, of Atlanta,

Georgia, who could not be present, added to the pleasure of the occasion by a letter of greeting written in her own inimitable style. She wishes to know the address of our deceased Scotch class mate, Cathie Wilkie, in order to send to her family a class pin presented by the class. The others who could not be present were Misses Virginia Greever, Mattie Buchanan, Julia Leache, Mary Sue Oglesby, Lizzie Bennett, Mesdames Louise Gayle Bland, Mary Fitzhugh Eggleston, Jennie Chandler Carpenter, and Ruby Hudgins Diggs. The absent they are not forgotten, the name of each one being incidentally mentioned and her unavoidable absence regretted. Besides the hostess, those present were Mesdames Julia Harrison Pedrick of New Orleans, Lena Trower Ames, Georgia Wescott Stockley, and Mabel Roberts Tankard of the Eastern Shore, Janie Staples Chappell of Briery, Emma Higgins Johnson of Gilmerton, Pauline Harris Richardson, and Miss Alma Harris of Dinwiddie C.H. and Miss Lola Bland of Gloucester County, Little Barnard Tankard, the only baby of the class who attended the reunion, was voted "the best baby ever seen" and the absent husbands were thanked for taking such excellent care of their "better halves." In memory of Auld Lang Syne some class songs were called for, a bit of the most popular being "Tall maidens from over the mountains, Short maidens from down by the sea, Wee maidens from Midland Virginia, Truehearted Virginians are we." "The girls have been earnest and clever, The girls have been clever and more, But none of the classes have ever Surpassed the June Class ninety-four."

As this most enjoyable and long to be remembered day was drawing to a close, Mrs. Simpson served refreshments and the girls bade each other goodbye to meet the next day at the Virginia Building on the Exposition Grounds.

-- from a Norfolk paper

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The third reunion was in 1917 at Farmville when the class presented the college with a portrait of Dr. John A. Cunningham who was the president of the college when we were there. Maud had come all the way from Atlanta, and Dr. Cunningham's son Richard had come from Richmond to be with us, and also his oldest daughter Martha had come to pay tribute to their father and to receive the homage which our class was paying their father. His daughter Mary could not attend, as she was a hopeless invalid. Again I was prevented from attending, since I could neither take with me nor leave behind my seven children.

Virginia Greever was so distressed over not being able to attend the reunion and the presentation of the portrait that she claimed the privilege of placing a silver plaque under the picture, giving the names of the members of the class, all of whom had contributed to the cost of the portrait.

Members present: Mrs. Alma Harris Netherland, Mrs. Pauline Harris Richardson, Mrs. Mabel Roberts Tankard, Mrs. Maud Pollard Turman, Mrs. Janie Staples Chappell, Mrs. Jennie Chandler Coleman, Mrs. Lena Trower Ames, Mrs. Ruby Hudgins Diggs, Mrs. Maby Branch Simpson, Mrs.

Louise Gayle Bland, Miss Lola Bland.

Members absent: Miss Mattie Buchanan, Miss Julia P. Leache, Mrs. Julia Harrison Padrick, Miss Elizabeth Bennett, Miss Mary Sue Oglesby, Mrs. Virginia H. Greever, Mrs. Georgia Wescott Stockley, Mrs. Mary Fitzhugh Eggleston, Mrs. Emma Higgins Johnson, deceased, Miss Cathie Wilkie, deceased.

Mrs. Maud Pollard Turman made the presentation speech. In clear, ringing tones, audible in the farthest limits of the auditorium, she said:

"Those of you who were born in Virginia and who have had the good fortune never to live anywhere else, may not be able to appreciate the feeling of an exiled Virginian who comes back home. That story about the man who went to heaven doesn't seem to me to be such an exaggeration after all. They say that a man went to heaven and was being shown around by a guide appointed for the purpose. He was enjoying the delights of heaven when he discovered a man who was chained to a tree. He was so filled with curiosity that he interrupted his guide to ask for an explanation.

" 'Will you please tell me why that man is chained to that tree? I had never supposed that anybody would be bound in heaven.'

"The guide replied, 'Well, you see, that man is from Virginia, and we are afraid that if he were loose he would go back home.'

"I haven't been to heaven; just to Georgia, but as I wasn't chained I have come back home, and I must say it is a great joy to be here.

"You know it is characteristic of old people to be reminiscent and to love to dwell in the past and to tell marvelous tales of what happened when they were young. Now, I have no desire to impress you with my great age. In fact, I have but two desires this evening. One is creditably to represent my class, of which I am genuinely proud, and the other is very lovingly and very reverently to pay a tribute to the memory of him who was an inspiration to each one of us.

"A few years ago Sir Alexander Arbuthnot, a noted English educator, said if he were asked to single out the one greatest character of the 19th century, he would not name a statesman, a soldier nor a man of letters, but Dr. Thomas Arnold of Rugby, a schoolmaster.

"The time has come for us to think more of our schools and of our teachers, for what other influence outside of the home itself is more powerful in shaping the lives of our young people? One of the members of our class said in a recent letter, 'I feel that I owe some of the strongest traits of my character to Mr. Cunningham. He seemed to be able to look down into my very soul and to know me then as I am now.' He had a wonderfully keen insight into human nature. He saw within us the power to become something better and finer than we were then. He saw the good in us. He even

saw good in me, a characteristic which was not shared by all of his contemporaries, but the fact that he did believe in me has been an incentive to me to be the kind of woman I knew he expected me to be.

"When I came on the campus today and was told by perfectly reliable and trustworthy persons that this is the State Normal School -- the institution from which I received my diploma twenty-three years ago -- I am sure that nobody except Rip Van Winkle could appreciate my feelings. Nothing looked familiar. Does that mean that there is nothing here today to show for Mr. Cunningham's years of efficient service? Ah, no! When a building is to be erected, the first work is done on the foundation, and the larger and finer the building, the deeper and stronger and broader must be the foundation. When a skyscraper is to tower above the other buildings around it, the work goes on for months and months and months before any part of the building appears above the surface level. Mr. Cunningham was here in the foundation days of this institution, and just as an architect sees in his mind's eye the completed building before the work begins, so Mr. Cunningham, being a man of imagination and of far-seeing vision, saw in his mind's eye this enlarged campus, those larger and more spacious buildings, filled with girls from all over the state, who should go out from the Normal School equipped to teach and to inspire the youth of Virginia. What we see today is but his dream come true!

"The artist who painted the portrait has labored under a great disadvantage, for she never saw Mr. Cunningham in life, and was dependent upon photographs. Those of you who knew Mr. Cunningham will remember that when he had his picture taken, he usually turned his face away from the camera and gave the photographer as poor a chance as possible. He was kinder to the girls in his classes, for we not only remember exactly how he looked but his personality is indelibly fixed in our minds and hearts. Emerson said of Thomas Arnold: 'There was something about him that was finer than anything he ever said or did and that was his personality.' I feel that the same is true of Mr. Cunningham. I wonder if I am artist enough with a few bold strokes to give you a delineation of the man as we knew him? I shall try it anyway, not just to glorify him, but because I believe he had the traits which make for success, not only in the vocation of teaching, but in any other calling in life.

"He was innately modest, and shrank from being conspicuous. He was a man of sincere and earnest purpose, and he hated sham and pretense and superficialities. He was an honest seeker after truth, and never deemed his education finished. His reverence for sacred things was so marked as to be unmistakable. I have already said that he was a man of imagination and vision, traits without which there can be no success. He also had a keen sense of humor. A blessed trait! If you haven't it, see that you cultivate it, for it will act as a shock absorber in the many vicissitudes of life. He had a hobby. I am not saying that to amuse you, but because I believe we would all be better off physically, mentally, and morally, and perhaps spiritually, if we had something outside of our

regular work in which we could take real interest and find genuine pleasure.

"He was a man of high ideals -- not an idealist in the sentimental sense of the word, for he worked out his ideals; and as he was unselfish, he was constantly planning and working for others. He had learned self control. Though he bore the responsibilities of the whole school, and looked after many of the details, I never saw him when he was even slightly irritated.

"He had enthusiasm. When I tell you that he taught us psychology the first period after dinner, and that we studied Sully's Psychology -- as dry as bone dust -- you will readily understand that nobody but an enthusiast could have held our attention and kept us from going to sleep.

"He was a man of influence and he used that influence for good. The very fact that nineteen women, many of whom have not seen each other for twenty-three years, and scattered not only over the state of Virginia, but one is as far west as Kansas and one as far South as New Orleans, and yet we have been bound together by a common tie, and with unanimous purpose have planned and worked together in order that we might give to this institution and to the world, some evidences of gratitude for what he has meant to our lives, bears upon the very face of it the best evidence that his influence has been strong and abiding.

"And now it is with a feeling of genuine pride and pleasure that, as a representative of the June Class, '94, I now present the portrait of Dr. John A. Cunningham to this institution which for nearly a decade he loved so ardently and served so efficiently."

Dr. Jarman, in behalf of the school accepted the portrait with a brief address.

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The fourth reunion was held May 1930 in Hampton, Virginia, at the home of Ruby. Maud was again to be in Richmond, and so she took the liberty of writing Ruby, asking if a reunion of the class could not be held while she was in Virginia. Ruby very promptly replied, "I have already written all the girls living anywhere near Hampton to come to my house for lunch to meet you on next Thursday."

Accordingly, on a lovely May day seven of us arrived and spent a most delightful day at Ruby's hospitable and charming home. After lunch was over, some of Ruby's friends drove us to Langley Field and to the Hotel Chamberlyn at Old Point.

Just as we were about to part, a telephone message came from Mabel Roberts, saying, "I am coming over on the seven o'clock boat. Keep Maud till I get there." Whereupon Maud replied, "Just tell Mabel that I am a Dixie Flyer and not a Virginia Creeper, and that I can't wait but must be on my way back home."

Those present were, besides Ruby Hudgins Diggs, Maud Pollard Turman, Lena Trower Ames, Mary Fitzhugh Eggleston, Alma Harris Netherland, Pauline Harris Richardson, Mabyn Branch Simpson. Mabel finally did arrive, but too late to see most of the others. We thought it remarkable that, after thirty-six years, seven of us could arrange to get together on such short notice.

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The next reunion was in Farmville in March 1934, on our fortieth anniversary and on the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the college. At that time all past members of the faculty and all of the Alumnae were invited to be present, especially those who graduated in years ending in 4.

As an added inducement, a silver loving cup was offered to the class having the largest percentage of members present for this auspicious occasion. This cup was won by the June Class 1894, since there were nine of us in attendance.

It was pouring rain when Julia Leache and I left Roanoke, and our spirits were not heightened when we failed to find either Mary Sue Oglesby or Virginia Greever aboard the train. Mary Sue was not well enough to come, and Virginia was ready to start when her husband was taken ill. But we had a big send-off by the girls who went with us to the train and who instructed us to be sure to have a good time. On the way we were joined by other Farmville Alumnae, and when we arrived, we were given a cordial welcome by Dr. Jarman, Misses Camper and Taliaferro, and our old schoolmate Jennie Tabb. We were joined by Alma, Pauline, Janie, Mabyn, Lena, and Mabel, who had arrived just a little ahead of us.

We were shown to our rooms by one of the students, and were assigned to the guest rooms so as to be near each other. After we arrived we learned that two others who had intended to be there were at the last moment prevented from coming. Jennie Chandler, who lived in the country, was not able to drive to the station on account of a deep snow, and Ruby was visiting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and was prevented by illness. Loulie Gayle drove thru the snow and joined us for the day, so that we had nine class members present.

Alma called a meeting of the class to make plans and to read to us a letter which she had received from Mr. Pedrick, the husband of Julia Harrison, inclosing \$10 for the building fund. To this was added \$7, making our gift from the class \$17. Alma was asked to present it. I was asked to present our gift, which was Dr. Squires' books, a set of three volumes, given in loving memory of Mrs. Morrison. My speech follows:

Dr. Jarman, honored guests, and members of the Alumnae:

The class of 1894 has kept in close touch with one another and the school by means of a Class Letter which has gone its rounds for 40 years, reaching each member two or three times a year. The old let-

ter is replaced by a new one, and photos, snapshots, and clippings of family and school. By reunions, we have had five. One in Norfolk, during the Jamestown Exposition, two at Hampton, and this is the second here in Farmville.

By having representatives at Founders' Day and at Finals, after which a detailed account is written and enclosed in the next Class Letter. These things have strengthened our love and loyalty for the College and for each other.

During my first year at Farmville, Gov. McKinney's term expired and he came home to live. The town assembled in the theater to welcome him. Dr. Cunningham, who was then president of S.F.N.S., took the entire school. When Gov. McKinney walked upon the platform, the school rose and gave the cheer three times. He stood a moment and then said, "I cannot talk", and then sat down. So I feel tonight as memories of the past rush upon me.

The three years which I spent here were happy years. As I look back over those 40 years and view again the happenings during my stay some important personages figure conspicuously in those pleasant memories. Dr. Cunningham, whose memory we honored seventeen years ago. After being away 23 years we returned and presented the school with a portrait of him. Mr. Cox, whose daughter, Miss Mary, we knew as Mary White Cox in the Practice School. Miss Coulling, Miss Mapp, Miss Rice, Miss Reynolds, Miss Tabb and others, but the most outstanding was a little figure in black, Mrs. Portia Morrison, a woman of refinement and culture, of unusual poise and dignity, coleric of temperament, cool and self composed, one who seemed to possess the rare gift of being able to put herself in the other fellow's place. Her judgment seemed to be formed from that viewpoint. I never heard one of the girls say an unkind thing of her or criticize her adversely. She was a Virginian, a typical Southern woman, one who enjoyed the fine arts and appreciated good literature.

I think of the evenings as we gathered in her room to read together for a half hour some good book. I think of her on Sunday afternoons as we gathered in one of the classrooms to study the Bible.

The Class of June 1894 in selecting a gift to present in loving memory and appreciation of her could think of nothing more appropriate than a set of books by a Southern author. We have selected a set of three volumes by Dr. W. H. J. Squires of Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Squires is one of our outstanding Presbyterian ministers, a teacher, lecturer, historian, a student and a scholar who has spent much time and money in research. He is a Southern gentleman and from the same county as Mrs. Morrison, a Hampton-Sidney man. We all knew how dear Hampton-Sidney was to her heart. Dr. Jarman, having known Dr. Squires and Mrs. Morrison as I do, it is with pleasure that I present for the June Class of 1894 this set of books, knowing they will give pleasure to hundreds who will have the privilege of reading them.

In accepting the cup for the June Class of 1894, I assure you our joy does not exceed our pride, after being away for 40 years, to come back

and win the Jarman Cup. At our next reunion ten years from now, we will come back and win it again!

The next morning we attended the graduation exercises. That afternoon we enjoyed open house and gymnasium exercises, and at night the class play, which was excellent. The Alumnae was at 9:30 the next morning. As we left the room, all who wished to do so were given an opportunity to give a nickel or a dime to help raise a purse for Phillip.

Founders Day exercises were at 10:30 and were most attractive and interesting, at the conclusion of which gifts were presented to Dr. Jarman for the Founders Day Fund. Alma very sweetly presented ours.

Then Dr. Jarman presented Phillip a diploma for 50 years of faithful service to the college. Phillip made a splendid speech of acceptance, and did so well that I turned to Julia Leache and said, "I hope I do as well." Phillip was also presented with a purse of \$25.

After mid-day dinner Sunday we gathered in Dr. Jarman's office and enjoyed him until it was time for us to leave. It was the opinion that the class reunion was a great success.

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The sixth reunion of the Class of June 1894, the most important and dramatic one of them all, was held at the College on POUNDERS DAY, March 1944, which was the fiftieth anniversary of our graduation.

Our of the 13 living members of the class of 21, ten of us were present, and hence our class again won the Jarman Loving Cup, as we had done the ten years before. To have won the cup in two successive reunions, ten years apart, was just another evidence of the unusual vigor and loyalty of our class.

Maud Pollard Turman was chosen to receive the cup and to respond in the name of the class. She closed her brief remarks with, "We shall be back in 1954, and I dare any of you young things to take it away from us then!"

At that time we presented the College with a picture to be hung on the wall of the Alumnae Room. It is a beautiful scene by the ocean side, and Mrs. Coyner says it is an inspiration to her as she works day by day with and for the Alumnae of the College.

As a souvenir of the occasion -- we were the oldest class represented -- each member of the class was presented with a Wedgewood cup and saucer showing the Rotunda of the College on the cup. We shall hand these cups down as treasured heirlooms in our families.

Those present at this reunion were the twins, Alma and Pauline Harris (Did any class ever before have twin presidents?), Mabyn Branch, Janie Staples, Mary Fitzhugh, Loulie Gayle, Lola Bland, Lena Trower, Ruby Hudgins, and Maud Pollard. And we all plan to be back in 1954!

### A Record In Loyalty

In an inspiring half century of service, the conclusion of which it celebrated last week, Farmville State Teacher's College has set up many records, but none more truly unique than the one it added during the semi-centennial exercises. The Class of 1894 graduated forty years ago, consisted of twenty-one members. When they left the "Normal School", as it was then called, these girls pledged themselves to keep in touch with one another. They did so. Six of their number have died since their distant graduation, but of the fifteen who remain, nine were present at the exercises Saturday. If that record was ever excelled, we do not know when or by whom.

-- Dr. Douglas Freeman  
Richmond News-Leader

It is inevitable that life should lose its glow for those who are not dominated by some great purpose. Lesser aims may produce temporary enthusiasms, but these soon die away. The search for pleasure, the pursuit of wealth, the enjoyment of some glittering novelty, all may give a passing thrill, but they do not permanently satisfy. They cannot give an abiding zest to one's daily living. To be possessed by a great purpose, however, puts into the soul an enthusiasm that grows brighter as the years pass. The goal may still be afar off, may in fact be unattainable, but it ever shines in the distance, and we must live with our faces towards it. Like the great apostle, we must always say that we have not yet attained, but like him also, we press on towards the mark. Such a life retains its zest until the end.