THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OF TERRE HAUTE 1816-1860

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I. THE Earliest provisions for education
in Terre Haute in 1816

A. The Founding of Terre Haute

The year, 1816, is of significance in local as well as in state history. Terre Haute was laid out in that year; Indiana was admitted into the Union.

1. The Terre Haute Land Company. On September 19, 1816 the Terre Haute Land Company consisting of Cuthbert Bullitt, Thomas Bullitt, Jonathan Lindley, Abraham Markle, and Hyacinth Laselle purchased the tract of land now occupied by Terre Haute.1

This purchase was recorded by the company's agent, Joseph Kitohell before E. Stout, Justice of the Peace, Knox County, Vincennes, Indiana, on October 25, 1816.2

2. Original Plat. The original plat of said Town showed that portion of Terre Haute bounded on the north by Eagle Street, on the east by Fifth Street, on the south by Swan Street, and on the west by Water Street, with the Wabash River farther west, without any further location or description, of the land platted.3

3Ibid., p. 457.
Although this land comprised only thirty-five blocks, the proprietors were interested in the welfare of the future citizens. One block was reserved "for a Public Square, of another for Church, and of another for Seminary."

3. Seminary Lots. The seminary lots were located on the northwest corner of Fourth and Mulberry Streets and are the present site of the James Hook School. The first school on that site was erected in 1857; until that time the lots lay idle or were leased to the townspeople.

B. The Enabling Act 1816

Several months prior to the founding of Terre Haute, Congress had passed an Enabling Act which was approved on April 19, 1816.

1. Provision for Education. The provision made for education was to have a later bearing on the progress of learning in this community.

Section 6 of this Act reads:

"And be it further enacted, That the following propositions be, and the same are hereby, offered to the convention of the said Territory of Indiana, when formed, for their free acceptance or rejection which, if accepted by the convention, shall be obligatory upon the United States.


"First: That the section number sixteen in every township, and when such section has been sold, granted or disposed of, other lands equivalent thereto, and most contiguous to the same, shall be granted to the inhabitants of such township, for the use of schools."

C. The Constitution of 1816

The Congressional provision for education was made more specific by the makers of the first state constitution. Perhaps the most notable feature of the new plan of government was the following article dealing with the subject of education:

"Article IX

"Sec. 1. Knowledge and learning generally diffused, through a community, being essential to the preservation of a free Government, and spreading the opportunities and advantages of education through various parts of the country being highly conducive to this end, it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to provide, by law for the improvement of such lands as are, or hereafter may be granted, by the United States to this State, for the use of schools, and to apply any funds which may be raised from such lands, or from any other quarters to the accomplishment of the grant object for which they are or may be intended. But no lands granted for the use of schools or seminaries of learning shall be sold by authority of this state prior to the year eighteen hundred and twenty; and the moneys which may be raised out of the sale of any such lands, or otherwise obtained for the purpose aforesaid, shall be and remain a fund for the exclusive purpose of promoting the interest of literature, and the sciences, and for the support of seminaries and public schools. The General Assembly shall from time to time, pass such laws as shall be calculated to encourage intellectual, scientific and agricultural improvement, by allowing rewards and immunities for the promotion and improvement of arts, sciences, commerce, manufactures and natural history; and to countenance and encourage the principles of humanity, honesty, industry, and morality."

"Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the General Assembly, as soon as circumstances will permit, to provide by law, for a general system of education, ascending in a
regular gradation, from township schools to a State University, wherein tuition shall be gratis, and equally open to all.

"Sec. 3. And, for the promotion of such salutary end, the money which shall be paid as an equivalent by persons exempt from militia duty, except in times of war, shall be exclusively and in equal proportion applied to the support of county seminaries; also, all fines assessed for any breach of the penal laws shall be applied to said seminaries in the counties wherein they shall be assessed."

When Indiana was formally admitted to statehood on December 11, 1816, the little frontier village of Terre Haute on its northwestern borders had been platted. Both the state and the little settlement had shown a great interest in education.
II. EARLY SCHOOLS IN TERRE HAUTE TO 1832

A. Lack of Funds

1. A Local Problem. For many years after the founding of Terre Haute the state did nothing of a practical nature toward solving school problems. The settlers had to build their own schools and hire teachers or see their children grow up in ignorance. They put forth many efforts toward "educating the youth of the community. There was, however, no wealth, either public or private in the county then,---nearly everyone was poor---and in the erection of school buildings the utmost care had to be exercised."¹

The growth of the village was assured when Terre Haute became the county seat. This resulted after Vigo county was erected January 21, 1818.² More lots were sold and the town grew from two cabins in 1817³ to about fifty houses in 1823.⁴

Often no separate building was considered in the earliest years: "The order was, first the home cabin, and then the log


²Blackford Condit, op. cit., p. 56.

³Ibid., p. 54.

schoolhouses, both of which were used for church purposes, till a church building could be put up."5

It is of interest to note according to Bradsby, "There were men here at the very beginning—before Vigo County was created even—who gave their children all the advantages that the schools could give. There were few, then, who had no appreciation of any education, as there are people now, and who reared illiterates."6

Rev. W. M. Modesitt, a pioneer, produced the following fact—that "while the State at that time had nothing to do with educating the children—paying no part of the tuition fees and built no schoolhouses—in the face of the fact that no one was then rich and all were poor and struggling to make a start in the new country, yet there were no beggar children then, whose parents were so poor they could not think of sending their children to the short chance terms of school then offered them. These primitive people had not then been taught to lean upon the State or the public to help them rear their young, or fit them for the struggle for life when they should go out from the parental roof-tree."7

2. State Legislation and Enforcement. Although state control of the schools was slight, during this early period, many legislators realized that knowledge and learning should be spread.

5Blackford Condit, op. cit., p. 91.
6H. C. Bradsby, op. cit., p. 525.
7Ibid., p. 525.
On February 1, 1819, the legislature passed a law for the equitable distribution of school funds within the counties. This law provided that on the first Mondays of May and November of every year, the school teachers in every incorporated congressional township were to turn in a certified account of the number of students in their respective schools. These lists were to govern the treasurer and board of school trustees in the proper apportionment of the education funds. 8

Harrison Township, in which Terre Haute is located, was made a congressional township April 19, 1816. It was organized as a civil township March 12, 1818. 9 As a result of the law of 1819, Harrison Township was entitled to receive small sums of money from the state. 10

On February 13, 1822, the sheriff of Vigo County was ordered by the Vigo Board of Commissioners to advertise an election to be held at the house of Robert Hamion in Terre Haute on the first Monday of March next, for the election of three trustees. One of these trustees was to be designated Treasurer for Township No. 12 North of Range No. 9 West. 11

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8 Wm. F. Cronin, op. cit., Volume III, p. 75.
9 Vigo County Commissioners Record, No. 1, p. 3, Auditor's Office, Vigo County Court House, Terre Haute, Indiana.
11 Vigo County Commissioners Record, No. 1. In use from May 13, 1818 to November 11, 1826, p. 179.
The following notice was published in the village newspaper:

"Notice"

"To the persons holding leases on the School Section No. 16, in Town Twelve, North of Range Nine West--to be prepared to deliver to the Board of Trustees for said section their improvements with fencing and buildings in good tenantable repair on the first day of January, 1824, on which day, their terms will expire; each improvement to be enclosed separate (sic) with a lane at least 36 feet between the two improvements, the lane to run East and West, dividing the South East and North East qr. of said section.

"No timber to be removed from said section unless permission in writing from the board of trustees.

"Given under our hands and seals the 13th day of October, 1823."

J. Colman,
Joseph Mark,
I. Wm. Marrs,

Oct. 13, 3w."12

Another notice of local interest was as follows:

"To Rent"

"The Trustees for the School Section No. 16, in Town Twelve North of Range Nine West, will rent all the improved Land on said Section for One or Two years and will take in payment for the rent good sound merchantable Corn, to be delivered in a crib to be provided by the Trustees on said section,—application may be made at any time between this date and the first day of March next, on which day if not rented it will be sold to the highest bidder payable in Corn as above stated—Further particulars will be made known by applying to William Marrs living in

Terre-Haute.

J. Colman,
Joseph Mark,
Wm. Marrs,

Terre-Haute, January 19, 1824, 24, sw."13

12 Western Register and Terre Haute Advertiser. December 17, 1823.

13 Ibid., January 28, 1824.
In 1824, another school law was passed. Not only were three Trustees to be elected in each township, as was stated in the "vaguely permissive and wholly inefficient law" of 1816, but they were also to have control of the school lands and school funds. In addition to these duties, the township officers were to examine teachers and were to grant licenses. The examination covered the subjects of reading, writing, and arithmetic, with an occasional subject, as geography, petitioned for by the patrons.

A legislative act of 1828 gave the inhabitants of any township the power to decide, by vote, if they wanted to sell their school lands. The money obtained from the sales was to be put at interest for the support of the schools of their township.

A school commissioner for each county was an additional officer of school affairs according to the law of 1829. He was to be a financial agent for the local school corporations and was to hold office for a term of three years.

Land sales advertised by the school commissioner were numerous in the early newspapers of Terre Haute.

15 Indiana, Statutes, Chapter XCVII, Eighth Session.
17 Indiana, Statutes, Chapter LXXX, Sec. 3, Twelfth Session.
18 Ibid., Chapter CLXXIV, Sec. 5, Sixteenth Session.
19 Wabash Courier, June 10, 1848.
B. The First Schoolmasters

"Joseph Thayer, who taught in a little log house on the Modesitt lot at Water and Ohio Streets, was the first teacher to open a school in Terre Haute." This is confirmed in the reminiscences of Captain Wm. Earle, a mariner, who is claimed to be the first male child born in the village of Terre Haute. In regard to Mr. Thayer he says, "Joseph Thayer was my first schoolmaster. He was a man of very steady habits during vacations, that is steady at the whiskey bottle; but in term time he was never known to drink. We boys had to mind how we carried sail or we would get our head sheets flattened on the wrong tack. Yet he was kind."

Again Earle writes: "We once had a schoolmaster by the name of Rathbone. I remember nothing of him, except that the big boys locked him in one Christmas and burned brimstone beneath the floor. This was great sport."

Captain Earle tells of another teacher, a Mr. Brown, "who took the starch out of our sails."

These all related to what happened previously to 1823; but no exact dates are given.

20C. C. Oakey, Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County Closing the First Century's History of City and County, (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1908), I, 100.

21Blackford Condit, op. cit., p. 91.


23Ibid., Volume III, p. 130.

24Blackford Condit, op. cit., p. 92.
In 1823 on the northwest corner of "Fifth and Mulberry Streets, was a rough hewed-log schoolhouse, and west of the schoolhouse was a two-story log residence."  

According to the most ancient records, R. W. Gail (Gale) was teaching in Terre Haute in 1824. He advertised in Osborn's Western Register and Terre Haute Advertiser of that year, as follows:

"Tuition"

"R. W. Gale, has commenced his School, at his Old Stand, in Gen. Allen's District, where he continues to Teach Spelling, Reading, Writing, English Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography & the use of the Globes, etc., at the rate of $2.50 per quarter, payable in produce of most kinds. Those who place their children under his care may depend on the most unremitted attention.---Decent boarding for students can be had in the neighborhood. P.S. All orphan children are particularly solicited to attend gratis. Harrison Prairie, 16th of May, 1824."  

"It might have been possible in that day to have seen a well-grown youth on his way to the temple of learning with a sack of beans on his shoulder to pay his way. Some years ago

25 C. Oakey, op. cit., p. 100.
26 H. C. Bradsby, op. cit., p. 524.
27 Western Register and Terre Haute Advertiser, May 19, 1824.
a very ancient pioneer related that he had paid the teacher in 'warnuts' that he had gathered and packed on foot some miles from the walnut grove."\textsuperscript{28}

On July 4, 1827, Charles I. Noble and Samuel Hedges published a joint card in the village newspaper \textit{Western Register}. Among other things, they said:

"The subscribers, believing that schools in which youths are taught those branches that enable them to transact the customary business of life, are preferable to those Sunday schools, at which recitations of spiritual hymns and songs are the principal exercises, do hereby give notice that they will attend at C. T. Noble's schoolroom on Sundays of each week, and give instructions gratis in the branches usually taught in common schools, and in algebra. ... Strict attention will be paid to scholars that may be entrusted to their care."\textsuperscript{29}

\textbf{C. The First Public School Building}

1. \textbf{The Stock Company}. During this same year (1827), a "joint stock company" was formed to make plans for the erection of a building "which was intended for church, for Sunday school, as well as day school purposes."\textsuperscript{30}

Markle states, "The association did not contemplate the carrying on of a school, but the erection of a suitable building for school purposes, there being at the time no suitable structure and the need being evident."\textsuperscript{31}

\textsuperscript{28}H. C. Bradshy, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 525.
\textsuperscript{29}Ibid., p. 526.
\textsuperscript{30}Blackford Condit, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 92.
\textsuperscript{31}A. R. Markle, \textit{op. cit.}, Chapter VII, May 10, 1931.
The prime movers in this enterprise were Judge Amory Kinney, John F. Cruft, Elijah Tillotson, Moody Chamberlain, Thomas Houghton, Russell Ross, Enoch Dole, and Matthew Stewart. 32

"It stands on record that the 'people liberally all contributed their mite to this important building.' But little money was subscribed. Some subscribed brick, others lumber, and still others a certain number of days' work." 33 In the lists of the stockholders are the heads of nearly every family in the village. 34

2. **The Brick Schoolhouse.** This resulted in the building of the Brick School, the first public school building, at the northwest corner of Fifth and Walnut Streets where now stands the St. Joseph's Academy and Church. "Here in 1831, two lots were bought by the stockholders of the 'Terre Haute Schoolhouse' and a four-room brick building was erected." 35

Judging by the date of the bills it was completed in 1831, "William Rampage's bill for painting is dated June, 1831. This was the people's school truly," and was "a proud monument to their devotion to the cause of education." 36

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D. Teachers in the Old Brick Schoolhouse

"Mr. Charles I. Noble was among the early teachers in this school. He was not only active himself, but instrumental in interesting others in school work. He came to Terre Haute in 1823 and spent the early years of his manhood as a teacher; but afterwards was active in town affairs."§7

"Another teacher in this school was Honorable W. D. Griswold, who later was a lawyer and a prominent railroad man. He was a native of Vermont, was educated, and a typical Terre Haute gentleman."§8

E. Pupils in the Old Brick Schoolhouse

Among the well-known men, who as boys attended this school, were General Charles Cruft, Francis S. McCabe, D.D., Rev. Welton M. Modesitt, and C. W. Barbour.µ9

However, even though this building had placed Terre Haute far in advance of the times, the venture was short-lived. The property was disposed of through a commissioner a few years later,µ0 and in time belonged "to the Rev. Father Lalumiere and to the Sisters of Providence. The site and the old building incorporated in the present buildings represent the oldest structure in the county still used for schools."µ1

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§7Blackford Condit, op. cit., p. 92.
§8Ibid., pp. 93, 115.
µ9Ibid., pp. 93-94.
µ0A. R. Markle, op. cit., Chapter VII, May 10, 1931.
µ1Ibid., Chapter VII, May 10, 1931.
III. FURTHER GROWTH TO 1853

Although there were very few "free schools" during this early period from 1832 to 1853, many notable changes and interesting incidents occurred in the little town and its surroundings. All of these had an important bearing on not only the progress of Terre Haute, but also on the development of the public schools therein.¹

A. Side Lights of Terre Haute and Vicinity

1. Population. The population of Vigo County in 1830 was, according to the United States census, 5,737. Of these, 5,606 were white and 131 colored. Of the whites, nearly one-fourth, or 1,238 were under five years of age.

In 1832, the population of Terre Haute totaled about six hundred and included some very able and energetic men. The bulk of the population was confined almost entirely to the row of blocks surrounding the public square. On the outer streets there were but few houses.²


²Ibid., p. 86.
"Wild deer could be seen gamboling where the Terre Haute House now stands, and the prairie wolves had a pre-emption claim on all the country east of that point. On the north Horace Blinn occupied a residence being the first house beyond what was called 'Sand Hollow,' and resting on the hill on Market Street. He was regarded as quite an 'outsider.' All that part of the city north of Mr. Blinn's was then a dense forest--the 'range' for cattle and horses, and the resort for those who could spend an hour in shooting the feathered tribe with which the woods then abounded. These suburbs were constantly vocal with the ringing of cowbells, and many of the citizens could be met morning and evening, in search of their cattle, listening for the familiar sound of the musical instrument appended to their necks."3

The first census of the growing town of Terre Haute was made in the summer of 1835 by Charles T. Noble of his own volition.4 This census included the total number of inhabitants living on the inlots and outlots. The result showed a total population of 1,200 as represented by 182 families. These families consisted of 444 males and 350 females over ten years of age; 197 males and 162 females under ten years of age; 25 negro males and 22 negro females. No record was made of the ages of the negroes.5

B. Further Growth

1. Transportation and Travel. An issue of the village newspaper, in 1831, says:

3 Judge S. B. Gookins, op. cit., p. 87.
4 A. R. Markle, op. cit., Chapter XLIV, January 24, 1932.
5 Ibid., Chapter XLIV, January 24, 1932.
"Eight years ago the first steamboat ascended the river; since the first of December, last we have had 36 arrivals from below this place, and 27 from above—in all 63. (From the best information within our reach, we believe that about 1,700 flat-boats have descended the Wabash this spring.) The boats without cargoes, valued at $100 each, would amount to $170,000. Estimating cargoes at $500 each, the total amount of value that descends this stream will be $1,200,000, taking no account of the downward freight of steamboats."6

Improvement was also being made in land travel which was to affect the future growth of Terre Haute. The building of the National road was prominent in the history of internal improvements. Early in the century the "General government" agitated the building of a grand thoroughfare which was to connect the city of Baltimore with the Mississippi river. "Indiana was alert to the advantages that would accrue to her citizens; and Terre Haute as before estimated, was inspired with new life and energy. In 1834, a force of workmen began the construction of the road through Vigo county. The roadbed was thrown up, stone culverts built, bridges erected, all of which, meant much for our county and town as well as for the State."7

In March, 1835, a triweekly mail was established between Terre Haute and Evansville.8 Mail stages in 1835 ran three times a week via Indianapolis to Cincinnati, three times a week to Louisville and Evansville, twice a week to Lafayette, and once a week to Springfield, Illinois.9

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6Judge S. B. Gookins, op. cit., p. 85.
8Judge S. B. Gookins, op. cit., p. 91.
9Ibid., p. 91.
A bill providing for a survey for a canal from Lafayette to Terre Haute was introduced into the Legislature in January, 1835. The canal was dug, and when the first boat arrived in the town through the Wabash and Erie Canal on the twenty-fifth of October, 1849, a grand celebration was held. The river town was connected with the Great Lakes as well as with the Gulf of Mexico; future growth was inevitable.

During this time, another internal improvement, the Terre Haute and Richmond Railroad, was being constructed. In 1852 this railroad was completed and on May tenth of that year was the first time any person ever went from Terre Haute to Indianapolis and returned the same time by daylight.

G. A Famous Visitor

An event of great local interest was the visit of Henry Clay to Terre Haute in October, 1831. Many of the townsfolk enjoyed the occasion and were able to remark years later, in 1844, when Clay was a presidential candidate, that they had aided in giving him a hearty welcome.

The famous personage was met several miles from town by a large number of citizens and escorted to his lodgings.

10 Indiana Statutes, Chapter XVI, Sec. 15, Nineteenth Session.

11 Judge S. B. Gookins, op. cit., p. 104.

12 Ibid., p. 106.
"His approach was announced by the roar of artillery. He stopped at the famous Eagle and Lion tavern which stood on the southeast corner of First and Main Streets. An address and reply were among the proceedings of that occasion. A public entertainment was tendered and declined."\(^1\)

D. The First Chapter

Terre Haute entered a new phase of its history in the year of 1832. An act of the legislature approved January 26, 1832, it became an incorporated town.\(^1\) "In pursuance of this act a meeting of the citizens was held at the courthouse on the 25th day of March, 1832, at which time James McCall presided and William Taylor acted as clerk. The meeting proceeded to divide the town into five wards, and to elect a trustee for each ward. ... These trustees, on the 7th of April following, proceeded to organize and put into operation the new municipal government. ... The new corporation entered upon its existence under very favorable circumstances."\(^1\)

The first charter was in effect for a period of six years, from 1832 to 1838. It separated Terre Haute from Harrison Township in all matters, except those that were educational.

\(^{13}\)Judge S. B. Gookins, *op. cit.*, p. 85.

\(^{14}\)Indiana, Statutes, Chapter CXXXIII, Sixteenth Session.

\(^{15}\)Judge S. B. Gookins, *op. cit.*, p. 86.
E. More Interest in Education

1. Congressional Aid. At the same time that the little village was incorporated as a town, Congress authorized the State Legislature to sell the salt lands granted to the state in 1816 and to appropriate the proceeds to the support of common schools.16 There was realized from the sale of the salt springs and the lands reserved for the proper working of the same, about $85,000.00—the Saline Fund.17

2. State Legislation. Other progress was shown in 1832, by a legislative act "to provide a fund to encourage common schools,"18 and a sale was ordered of those lands held by non-residents upon which taxes had become delinquent. The proceeds of these sales were to be set aside to form the nucleus of a permanent State fund.19 Although no considerable revenue accrued from this source, the passage of the act showed that the state recognized her responsibility for the education of youth.

Further interest was created by the law of February 2, 1833. This law, entitled "an act incorporating congressional townships and providing for public schools therein,"20 retained the school commissioner in each county, and one or more trustees

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16 Richard G. Boone, op. cit., p. 31.
17 A. R. Markle, op. cit., Chapter LXXV, August 28, 1932.
18 Indiana, Statutes, Chapter CLXXIV, Sixteenth Session.
19 Ibid., Chapter CLXXIV, Sixteenth Session.
20 Ibid., Chapter LXX, Seventeenth Session.
in each township as the case might be. There was an additional requirement of three sub-trustees in each district. These new officials were to hold office for one year. The county treasurer might be made school commissioner, and such arrangement prevailed in most counties. If the inhabitants of the township approved, money derived from the sale of lands might be lent to the residents of the township, or elsewhere in the county. Also, the money might be deposited in the State "loan office" at Indianapolis. 21

The enumeration of children, the examination of applicants, and the employment of teachers were left to the district trustees. 22

F. Local Enforcement of School Laws

James T. Moffatt, clerk, reported the receipts and expenditures for the town of Terre Haute from the first Monday of March, 1832, to the eighteenth day of February, 1833, inclusive, 23 as follows: "receipts $376.31., and expenses $322.92." 24 According to the treasurer's record, $25.50 had been lent from the school fund on January 7, 1833. 25

21 Indiana, Statutes, Chapter LXX, Secs. 3, 12, 17, 74, Seventeenth Session.
22 Ibid., Chapter LXX, Secs. 161, 172, 173, Seventeenth Session.
24 Judge S. B. Gookins, op. cit., p. 91.
School lands were advertised for sale in the Wabash Courier, the town newspaper. William Wines, commissioner, gave public notice on the twelfth day of July, 1832, that Section 16, Township 11, North Range 10 West would be offered for sale on the eighth of September, following. This sale was postponed on August thirtieth until further notice. However, other school lands were advertised for sale on September twentieth of this same year. These lands were sold during February and April, 1833. Although Terre Haute did not lie in many of these tracts of land that were sold, people were drawn to the town because the sales were held at the "court house door."

G. Public School

When the first sales of school lands were being made, John Brown posted the following notice in the town:

"Public School

"Mr. Brown will commence his Second quarter, at the School House in Terre Haute, on the first Monday of April next. Applications for admission will be received previous to that time, and no scholars admitted during the quarter, unless by special consent.

Thos. Houghton) Trustees
D. H. Johnson

3-28-1833"

27 Ibid., p. 16.
Another quarter of the "Terre Haute Public School" was advertised on November 29, 1834.  

H. The Press

The press was a valuable agent in enlightening the public during this early period. Attitudes toward public schools in the various states of the Union and especially those in Indiana were published in the local paper, The Wabash Courier. Wiley records:

"On February 8, 1833, Mr. James Farringtion issued a 'Circular' through the Wabash Courier giving an account of legislation at Indianapolis as follows: ... The school bill has been revised and improved by many valuable amendments. It comprises rising 200 sections, and will be found much more clear and explicit in its provisions than the former law. It is to be published separately, and copies to be furnished to each board of district Trustees, as well as Trustees of the Township."  

An editorial worthy of insertion in connection with the educational efforts of the early days is as follows:

"October 16, 1834

Education Conventions

Money for Schools

'From Georgia to Maine, complaints are universal that appropriations for Schools do not produce the results desired, or which might be expected. (Most of the States of the Union are here mentioned, where somewhat liberal appropriations had been made by the

29 Ibid., Chapter IV, p. 11.
Legislatures for public education, with indifferent, and in some cases harmful results,) Voluntary efforts for the promotion of education are compared with those supported by taxation, much to the disadvantage of the latter method. In many, very many instances, parents refuse to send their children, from the conviction that the injury they will receive at them will be greater than the benefit. They, of course support private schools, and, by that means, withdraw their support and influence from schools which they ought to elevate, not depress in character and usefulness. Results in England are not here noticed. The teacher is to be educated, and trained, and honored in his calling. The community is to be aroused and urged to make a fair trial of the education of all the people at public expense. Facts fully prove what would seem to be the evident dictate of reason, that until public sentiment is awakened on the subject of education, legislatures may enact laws, appropriate funds, furnish teachers, supply books, and provide the whole paraphernalia of schools, academies, lyceums, colleges, universities, trained teachers;--it will all be in vain. If such are the facts, why not adopt at once, and in every place the natural, if not the only measure to awaken and enlighten public sentiment, to-wit: Call public meetings, institute public discussions, make public inquiries, call upon the public and upon every individual for co-operation--for mutual and personal efforts--for self-instruction--self-education--... and the whole of intellectual and moral education and dignity of noble manhood.'"30

One of the proprietors of The Wabash Courier was Thomas Dowling. Wiley relates:

"He was an enthusiastic school man--an effective worker in the cause of public school education in the city. In after years as the leader of the Council he secured the election of Trustees who revolutionized the schools.

"An article in one of the newspapers of March, 1835, on 'Knowledge' is made to drive home to our people the desirableness and the necessity of its

general diffusion amongst all classes, especially the laboring classes. The paper further quotes approvingly the educational work of the Indiana legislature for the encouragement of common schools, approved February 2, 1832.

"The above was followed upon the 9th of March, of this same year with a resume of the work of Public Education in Massachusetts for the year 1834-5 with a good degree of detail, evidently with a view to the enlightenment of the public." 31

The primary schools of Pennsylvania were also discussed. The article was closed "with the significant statement, which most likely was intended for local application, that 'the system which insures the establishment of an adequate number of schools for all the people is the only one which can cure the evil of ignorance is Pennsylvania' (or Terre Haute)." 32

1. School Books and Supplies. "Nor did the paper, in this connection, neglect to run a long-time notice of school books and supplies for sale at the Terre Haute Book and Stationery Store." 33

"Nor were the book men idle during these days of earnest endeavor in behalf of the children of the village. An advertisement in display type, appeared in the papers, on the 18th of September, 1834, as below:

"School Books
"A large assortment of School Books, including the most improved kinds, just received at the Terre Haute Book Store." 34

32 Ibid., pp. 36-37.
33 Ibid., p. 37.
34 Ibid., p. 38.
In these early days, the emphasis was usually placed on the "three R's," Reading, "'Riting," and "'Rithmetic." Among the books used were Webster's Elementary Spelling Book, the English Reader, Dillsworth's and Pike's Arithmetic, Murray's English Grammar, any history of the United States or geography that could be obtained and the Bible. 35

In 1836, the famous McGuffey readers began to be compiled and were introduced a little later. 36

Later the following book advertisement was published. It also shows that book men were trying to increase their sales.

"Books! Books!! Books!!!

"The subscriber has just received from his faithful correspondents in New York and Philadelphia, an extensive assortment of New And Valuable Books, embracing every department of science and choice literature, together with the whole range of School Books now in use from the Juvenile to the highest academical studies—also, a splendid assortment of fine Stationery and Blank books of every size and description. All of which will be sold on the most reasonable terms, for cash, or approved credit.

Sept. 11-1-4t. Erastus Flint." 37

Another notice of the same date respectfully solicited the attention of "Trustees, School Committees and friends of education." They were informed that a list of new school books


36 Ibid., p. 499.

37 Wabash Courier, October 2, 1841.
had been published by Morton and Griswold of Louisville, Kentucky. Goodrich's First, Second, Third, and Fourth Readers were for sale in any quantity.38

A notice of a full supply of the Eclectic Series of School Books appeared later in the local paper. Goodrich's and Cobb's readers; Smith's, Mitchell's and Olney's Geography; Universal Atlas, and "Maps of every description: 2,000 Elementary Spelling Books, and 2,000 Cobb's do."39

In April of the following year a bookdealer requested everyone "to call and settle, pay off old scores, and begin the year 1842 with a clear conscience."40 He also requested that he be paid better and more punctually.41

The attention of the citizens of Terre Haute and of the surrounding districts was again attracted by the bookdealers in the following notice:

"Food for the Mind
Books! Books!

"The subscriber has just returned from the Eastern Cities, with a large and full supply of New Books, Stationery, embracing extensive catalogues of every kind of School Books, from the smallest juvenile up to the highest Classical and Academical Studies.......

"Among his miscellaneous works are a few copies of President D'Aubigne's History of the Great Re-

38 Wabash Courier, September 25, 1841.
39 Ibid., October 30, 1841.
40 Ibid., April 30, 1842.
41 Ibid., April 30, 1842.
formation, price $1.00. This is a work of great excellence. No work ever published in this country has received such universal patronage.

"Spectacles"

"A beautiful assortment of this article is offered for sale, which for cheapness, beauty and durability, have never been excelled in this market.

May 13, 1843-36-3m. Erastus Flint."42

I. Private Schools

Lack of money and organized effort resulted in meager returns for those advocating public schools. The private schools continued to flourish in the growing town. Often they were "advertised by their loving friends." However, many of these schools were advertised in the local paper, where branches taught, cost of tuition, and other items of interest were listed. The terms were $1.25 to $3.00 each quarter. 43

On July 2, 1832, a "select school" was opened "for the instruction of youth" by the Misses E. and M. Harris who had recently returned from the East. Reading, writing, geography, arithmetic, grammar, history, rhetoric, composition, marking, and needlework were taught. 44

Cyrus Fisher on the eighth day of November, 1832, rented the "School House" in Terre Haute and advertised that he would

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42 Wabash Courier, June 24, 1843.
44 W. H. Wiley, op. cit., p. 3.
open school therein as soon as the necessary repairs could be made. 45

A "New School" was to open "at the house now occupied by James Brodt" on the first Monday in May, 1833. Mrs. P. Murphy and Miss C. McClellen were to "teach the different branches usually taught in schools." Tuition for small scholars was $1.25 each quarter. Needlework, embroidery, and painting would be taught "young ladies wishing to pursue the above mentioned branches." The tuition for the "young ladies" was $2.50.46

A little later in the month of May, 1833, the Wabash Courier advertised that J. R. Wheelock was to open a seminary in Terre Haute about August first. Instruction was to be given in penmanship, orthography, English, grammar, rhetoric, geography, natural and moral and intellectual philosophy, evidences in Christianity, ancient and modern history, chemistry, arithmetic, astronomy, geometry, composition, Latin, and Greek. The cost of tuition was from three to five dollars each quarter.47

The Dole house, on the northeast corner of Third and Mulberry Streets, was used for a girls' school in 1833. Later, it was located in a building on Third Street, between Ohio and Wabash Avenue.48

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45 W. H. Wiley, op. cit., p. 5.
46 Ibid., pp. 19-20.
Another subscription school was taught in the Universalist Church by Newton J. Dungeon and Professor Starr.49

In 1835, Miss Ann T. Hayden announced the opening of a school in the "Methodist meeting house."50

About the same time, Miss Phoebe Miller taught a school for small children on West Chestnut Street.51 The school house was a small log cabin with a puncheon floor. "The children sat on long wooden benches, without backs, with their feet dangling towards the floor, except when they stood up in line, before the teacher, and spelled to their own delight: b-a, ba; b-e, be; b-i, bi; or, b-a, ba, k e r, ker, baker."52

Miss Asenith Bishop taught a term in 1836. Her school was located on "Fifth near Eagle."53

Later, a Mr. Moses Beach "kept a school in the south part of the village, below Mr. Murrain's tan yard." This schoolmaster's pride was to make good readers and spellers. Each scholar strove to "go up head," by spelling down his less successful competitors. It was no small triumph to reach the head of the class, especially if there were several "good spellers." But to hold the place on Friday night, and

51 Blackford Condit, *op. cit.*, p. 95.
52 Ibid., p. 95.
53 W. H. Wiley, Chapter IV, p. 36.
take your place at foot of the class on Monday morning, was a triumph 'worth all it cost."54

J. The County Seminary

Provisions for the support of a county seminary had been made as early as 1816.55 "An act respecting public seminaries, and for other purposes" was approved January 26, 1818.56 This "County Seminary Law of 1818" incorporated the first steps of any kind, taken by the State, looking toward public education.

The law stated that the Governor of the State was to appoint a "trustee of seminary funds" in each county. It should be the duty of this trustee "to call at once upon, and receive from the county treasurer, and such other persons as have, or by law ought to have, any fines in his or their hands belonging properly to the county for the use of a public seminary therein, and place to the credit of said seminary."57

Another law of importance was approved February 4, 1831.58 It provided that when the available funds should amount to $400 (later this was increased to $500) the commissioners in each county should proceed to the erection of a building. If the

54Blackford Condit, op. cit., p. 95.
55Constitution of Indiana, Article 9, Sec. 3.
56Richard G. Boone, op. cit., p. 43.
57Ibid., p. 43.
58Indiana, Statutes, Revised Code, Chapter XC, Fifteenth Session.
The building was to be "a common seminary of learning, and equally free and open to all the citizens of the county for purposes of education." The religious meetings of the neighborhood, public speaking on social and political questions, lyceums, debates, Sabbath schools, and sessions of the court (in many of the newer counties) were held in the county seminary.

Although the privileges of this "school of secondary and elementary education," as it might be called, were "equally open to all within the county" tuition was charged. The public funds were not large enough to pay all of the expenses of maintaining a seminary.

In Vigo County, in September, 1831, the seminary trustees purchased Out Lot No. 43 for the sum of one hundred dollars for seminary purposes. This "Seminary Lot" is located on the east side of Sixth Street, between Mulberry and Eagle Streets, and is the present site of the Indiana State Teachers College.
A public meeting was called for May 9, 1835\(^{65}\) at the Court House\(^{66}\) in Terre Haute. Those persons interested in "considering the propriety of erecting a county seminary building"\(^{67}\) were to be present.

In June, 1844, the county board contracted with William Wines and William Naylor to build the Vigo County Seminary.\(^{68}\)

When this building was nearly completed, an advertisement of September 1, 1847 offered it to the teachers free of charge.\(^{69}\)

However, public sentiment was against the County Seminaries and, within a few years, they were closed.\(^{70}\)

The fund derived from their sale, and the moneys and properties held for such seminaries, were turned into and formed a part of the Common School Fund.\(^{71}\)

In August, 1853,\(^{72}\) the city of Terre Haute purchased the Vigo County Seminary, including the seminary lot, building, and fixtures, at a public sale at the Court House door. The property sold for \$7,600 and the fixtures, for \$31.\(^{73}\)


\(^{66}\) Blackford Condit, op. cit., p. 97.

\(^{67}\) Judge S. B. Gookins, op. cit., p. 133.

\(^{68}\) R. C. Bradsby, op. cit., p. 527.

\(^{69}\) The Terre Haute Express, September 1, 1847.

\(^{70}\) The Constitution of 1851, Article VII, Sec. 2.

\(^{71}\) Ibid., Article VII, Sec. 2.

\(^{72}\) R. C. Bradsby, op. cit., p. 527.

\(^{73}\) School Records, 1853-61, p. 20, August 1, 1853.
K. More Interest in Public Education

That the law-makers were not wholly indifferent to the educational condition of their State was clearly shown by an act of February 6, 1837. This law stated that the school funds could not be distributed except to such district as had "a school-house already provided (either built or adopted) of convenient size and with sufficient light, and so furnished as to render the teachers and pupils comfortable."

The act also provided that the "Circuit Court was to appoint annually three 'examiners,' whose duty it should be 'to certify the branches of learning each applicant was qualified to teach.'" This duty had before fallen to the district trustees, and might yet be performed by them, if they so desired; or it might be performed with the co-operation of the examiners.

Local records show that this law was executed in Vigo County. The Vigo Circuit Court in the May Term of 1840 "ordered that Joseph I. Jenckes, Samuel B. Gookens (sic) and Charles T. Noble be and they are hereby appointed examiners of teachers of common schools."

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75 Ibid., p. 37.
76 Ibid., p. 37.
77 Order Book No. 4, June, 1838-December, 1840, Vigo Circuit Court, 14 J. 520.
In 1838, Terre Haute was granted a new charter by the Legislature.\textsuperscript{78} This charter provided for the election of a mayor and ten councilmen and was to be submitted to a vote of the citizens for its rejection or adoption. It was accepted by a majority of sixty-three votes at an election held March 17, 1838. Elijah Tillotson was the first mayor.\textsuperscript{79}

However, the educational matters of the town were to remain under the "direction and control of a township board of three members, elected by the people for three years. This board had a general oversight of educational affairs in the township; and upon request of its citizens, was authorized to appoint three trustees for each district."\textsuperscript{80} These officers and their duties were mentioned in the law of 1833.\textsuperscript{81}

\textbf{M. Land Sales}

In 1839, steps were taken to sell the sixteenth section, or "school section," as it was called. Since 1829, this land had been cared for by a school commissioner,\textsuperscript{82} whose duties consisted mostly in "protecting the timber on the school

\textsuperscript{78}R. G. Bradby, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 440.  
\textsuperscript{79}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 440.  
\textsuperscript{80}W. H. Wiley, Chapter IV, p. 3.  
\textsuperscript{81}Indiana, \textit{Statutes}, Chapter LXX, Seventeenth Session.  
\textsuperscript{82}\textit{Ibid.}, Chapter LXXXIV, Sec. 8, Thirteenth Session.
sections from being stolen and in renting the land for such use as might be made of it."

1. The Sixteenth Section in Terre Haute and Harrison Township. In Terre Haute and Harrison Township, this is the land "lying between Locust Street and Maple Avenue west of Seventh Street. A portion of it lies on the west side of the river as the latter flowed when the survey was made, but owing to the changes in the bed of the river in the century that has passed since that time, very little if any of it lies west of the Wabash. The more valuable land, now as at the time of the sale, lies east of First Street." This land "was divided into ninety-six lots of varying sizes and sold at auction to private owners."

Of all these ninety-six lots that formed the original source of the Common School Fund in Terre Haute and in Harrison Township, "only lot No. 34 is to-day occupied by a structure devoted to educational purposes." This Lot is the site of the Rea School which is located on Fourth Street and Fourth Avenue.

It was at this sale of "school land" that the town of Terre Haute bought the portion of Woodlawn Cemetery lying

84 Ibid., Chapter LXXV, January 24, 1932.
85 Ibid., Chapter LXXV, August 28, 1932.
86 Ibid., Chapter LXXV, August 28, 1932.
87 Ibid., Chapter LXXV, August 28, 1932.
south of the entrance. There, the first publicly owned burial ground of the town was established. From a study of the early records, this is the "first public expenditure made by the town of Terre Haute for school purposes." The money, so spent, went into the Common School Fund.

The commissioner required one-fourth of the purchase money, and 6 per cent interest on the balance, before the sale was closed.

Often the school lands were forfeited by their purchasers, because of irregular payments of interest and purchase price. Newspapers contained many advertisements of such "public sales," which were held by the commissioner at the "Court House door" of Terre Haute.

Notices, such as the following were seen in the local newspaper.

"School Commissioner's Sale

"The undersigned will sell at Public Sale on the 2d day of September, in the year 1843, at the Court House door, in the town of Terre Haute, between the hours of ten o'clock A.M. and six P. M., Lots No. 1 & 8, of section 16, in township 10, north of range 8 west. The same having become forfeited for the non-payment of interest. "Terms of Sale regulated by law.

C. W. Barbour, School Commissioner

June 10, 1843"
"Sale of Forfeited School Lands

"Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will offer at public sale, at the Court House door in Terre Haute, Vigo County, State of Indiana, between the hours of 10 o'clock A.M., and 4 o'clock P.M., on the 5th day of August, A.D. 1848, the following tracts or lots of lands forfeited for the non-payment of the interest due on them to the Congressional Township in which they are situated to-wit: Lots No. 3 and 15 in section 16, township 13 North, of range 9 West. "Terms of sale regulated by law.

W. N. Hamilton, Auditor
June 3, 1848 40ts. (Pr's. fee $3.62½)"94

N. A Public School

The public school movement was again attempted in April, 1839, when the trustees for the Fifth District in Harrison Township announced that a school would open in the basement of the church. This church was the Old Asbury Chapel which had been built on Fourth and Poplar Streets. The lots comprising this site had been set aside for religious purposes in the original plat of the town.95

No mention was given of the teacher or teachers in charge. However, in addition to the schoolmasters already mentioned others of this earlier period were Rev. Edwin Ray, Addison Smith, Rev. Robert Croes, James Gardner,96 Mr. Provost,97 Nathaniel Preston,98 and Seymour Gookins.99

94Wabash Courier, June 10, 1848.
96Judge S. B. Gookins, op. cit., p. 85.
97Blackford Condit, op. cit., p. 95.
98Ibid., p. 93.
99Ibid., p. 97.
O. Terre Haute in 1840 and Later

An interesting entry in a diary about Terre Haute in 1840 is that of a contemporary, John Parsons, who made a trip to the "Western country." 100 After he had visited Terre Haute in July, 1840, he wrote in his diary as follows:

"In the matter of schools, this, for a town of its size, does not compare, it seems to me, with others I have viewed, though I am told there are several private schools, in one of which Mr. Griswold, as he told me, taught when he first came to Terre Haute." 101

His descriptions and other impressions of Terre Haute are full of "local color." He continues:

"Our next burst of laughter was at the sight of a drove of hogs coming down the street.

"'Behold, Mr. Parsons,' said Mr. Griswold, (one of the earlier schoolmasters) in tones of mock solemnity, "behold a vision of Porkopolis. Mayhap you have not heard that in spite of our culture, our schools, our professions, the real source of our prosperity lies in our pork-packing establishments, of which we have so many. Can it be that none has as yet vouchsafed you a view of those elegant edifices, those - slaughter houses, our pride, that cluster on the river's brink? ..."

"As he burlesqued tragedy in his tone, we stood at attention on the sidewalk, watching the surging mass of porkers go by, a sight well worth the seeing. First, went a man on horseback, scattering corn and uttering at intervals in a minor key the cry 'Pig-oo-oo! Pig-oo-oo!'. All along the sidewalk, at street crossings and at alley ways helpers were stationed to keep in line the pigs that were driven forward from the rear by drovers with long sticks. The rear was brought up by the very fat porkers who had to have special attendants, and a wagon followed for those who became too tired to walk. 'Twas an interesting sight, and we stood until they had entirely passed.

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100 John Parsons, A Tour Through Indiana in 1840, (From a Diary kept by Mr. Parsons, edited by Kate Milner Habb.) (New York: Robert M. McBride & Co., 1920), p. 333.

101 Ibid., p. 333
"Space is lacking for more than a brief mention of one item that has impressed me much, the multiplicity of businesses that I have found in this small city--, more, I believe, than in any other I have yet viewed. I have already mentioned the pork-packing, a great industry in itself, the stores of general merchandise, a most excellent market. There are also a wagon yard, a brick yard, shoe-making is carried on, coopering, and hat-making and there are several mills."

No doubt scenes such as John Parsons described were common-place to the eyes of the younger and older citizens of Terre Haute. For many years the town continued to grow as a "pork center"; other businesses were thriving; yet practically nothing was done by the community to establish public schools. The indifference shown in Terre Haute was typical of many sections of Indiana, for the time had not then come when free schools could be supported by local taxation.

During the latter part of the next decade there were no public schools, yet the hog industry continued to increase until it became a nuisance.

The following article in the local newspaper expresses the sentiment of that day:

"A Public Nuisance -- It is a notorious fact, that the number of hogs are so largely on the increase within corporation limits that it is almost impossible to leave a gate open 10 minutes without having a swarm of real slabsided skeleton hogs pouring into the garden, and destroying more in a few minutes than can possibly be replaced in a whole season.

"There is another feature of this kind of nuisance that appears to be on the increase and that is the practice of letting horses loose with empty stomachs during the night."

102John Parsons, op. cit., pp. 327-328.
"In conclusion, we, on behalf of more than two-thirds of our citizens, ask the Board of Council to consider this matter and give us an ordinance that will protect our city from these evils; keep up the horses and drive every hog out of the corporation limits, for they are the most consummate nuisance ever introduced into village, town or city."103

Records show that the above-mentioned article brought results, for a hog ordinance was passed by Common Council on June 15, 1858.104

P. Later Schools

1. Few Free Schools. Between the years of 1840 and 1853, there was a noticeable increase in the number of private schools in Terre Haute. Much of this was due to the indifference toward "free schools," the continued lack of funds for them and to the rapid growth in population.

As already cited, the population in 1835 numbered 1200 persons; in 1840, 2,300;105 an increase of 91.7 per cent; and in 1850, 4,061,106 an increase of 76.1 per cent.

In 1843, the total income of the city from taxes was $1,089.14.107 Local taxation for school purposes was not levied until several years later. However, the tax levies of this period were of much concern to the citizens then, as they are to present day citizens.

103The Daily Union, June 1, 1858.
104Council Records, Volume 1, p. 374.
105H. C. Bradsby, op. cit., p. 433.
106Seventh Census of United States, p. 777.
The rate of taxation for the year, 1848, as "ordained by the Common Council of the Town of Terre Haute" was eight cents on every one hundred dollars' worth of property, and the poll tax was fifty cents.\textsuperscript{108} The rate for 1850 had been increased to fourteen cents on the one hundred dollars.\textsuperscript{109} "Schools and the means of education" were neither supported nor encouraged. "Learning was at a discount."\textsuperscript{110} For the year 1846-1847, more than 60 per cent of the State's children, between the ages of five and twenty, were not in school a single day.\textsuperscript{111} The public funds distributed were thirty-four cents per scholar.\textsuperscript{112} Hence, it is not to be wondered at, that free schools were not maintained.

2. \textit{Private Schools}. In September, 1841, a private school was advertised as follows:

"New High School

"A Seminary for young Ladies and Gentlemen will be opened in Terre Haute on the 1st Monday of October, under the instruction of G. W. Jewett and Lady. "The better to promote the interest of the students, it is designed to have it consist of two departments, male and female, having no connection with each other. Mr. Jewett will give his immediate attention to the male department, and have a general supervision of both. Mrs. Jewett will take the direct charge of the female department. "A Lady of distinguished musical attainments has been engaged to give lessons on the Piano Forte.

\textsuperscript{108}\textit{Wabash Courier}, June 3, 1848.
\textsuperscript{109}\textit{Ibid.}, May 11, 1850.
\textsuperscript{110}Richard G. Boone, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 90.
\textsuperscript{111}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 90.
\textsuperscript{112}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 90.
"The courses of instruction will embrace all the branches usually taught in the higher Seminaries in the country.

"Tuition per Quarter

"For the common branches, $5.00
Higher branches and the Languages $6.50
Drawing and Painting $7.00
Music with the use of Piano ----

"The system of instruction is intended to be of the most thorough stamp—the discipline "mild but firm"; and no efforts will be spared, in each department, to render it worthy the general confidence and patronage of the public.

"Inquiries may be satisfactorily answered, by application to J. D. Early, ......."113

In an advertisement for the second quarter of the "New High School," beginning the first Monday in January, an additional charge of three cents each week per scholar was made to meet the expense of fuel and taking care of the school rooms.114

It was provided (1841) that the householders of a district might, by a two-thirds vote, levy a tax to continue a school for more than three months, and that inhabitants maintaining private schools, might in the absence of public schools, draw their proportion of school funds.115

Terre Haute encouraged private schools by carrying out the latter provision of this law.116 That the trustees also

113 Wabash Courier, September 25, 1841.
114 Ibid., January 8, 1842.
115 Indiana, Statutes, Chapters XXII, Sec. 4; XXIII, Sec. 5; Twenty-Fifth Session.
116 W. H. Wiley, op. cit., Chapter IV, p. 47
Terre Haute, June 10, 1843.
3. Local Responsibility for School Funds. Counties, in 1843, were made locally responsible for the school funds in their custody, and for the uniform and timely payment of interest thereon. As a result of this law many land sales were published in the local newspaper.

4. Terre Haute in 1843. According to the reminiscenses of Col. Richard Thompson, a contemporary, no mention was made of education. He came to Terre Haute in these early days and later was prominent in national as well as in local affairs. However, in 1843, there were six common schools and one high school in the town, according to records found in 1890 in the corner stone of the old Court House.

5. More Interest in Private Schools. Nor was there any reason for any of the inhabitants to be "poor writers." The following notice was an appeal to the older as well as to the younger citizens of the town.

"Mr. A. L. Morrison is now in Terre-Haute and will positively commence his first Session on Monday the 3rd of July. Room upstairs in Scotts row four doors from Mullikin's corner, where he will be pleased to have lovers of Penmanship, call and examine his specimens.

Hours of tuition from 8 to 11 A.M., and from 1 to 3 P.M.

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118 Indiana, Statutes, Chapter XC, Twenty-Seventh Session.
119 Wabash Courier, May 14, 1842.
120 Col. Richard Thompson, "Recollections of Early Terre Haute," Terre Haute Gazette, (June 9, 1893).
121 H. C. Bradsby, op. cit., p. 434.
"To the Public

"Having examined Mr. A. L. Morrison's system of Commercial Penmanship, we as citizens of Cincinnati, do not hesitate to say that it surpasses any we have ever noticed. The simplicity, beauty and rapidity of execution, is worthy of public attention.

J. Low,
J. Armstrong,
A. Hunt,
Professors.

"N.B. Mr. Morrison will attend to ornamental Engraving on Silver or Gold Spoons, Rings, ... .
"Ladies will be attended to at their residence if required.
"Sure in its flight, though swift as Eagles' Wings,
"The pen commands and the bold figure springs;
While the slow pencils discontinued pace
Repeats the stroke, but cannot reach the grace.
"Terre Haute, July 1, 1843-43-3t."122

St. Vincent's Academy was opened by the Sisters of Providence on the second Monday of December, 1848.123 The tuition was three dollars to eight dollars each quarter. It was advertised again in the Wabash Courier in the issue of January 27, 1849.

Advertisements of schools, such as the following, which might be classified as both elementary and secondary attracted the attention of interested citizens.

122Wabash Courier, July 1, 1843.
123Ibid., December 9, 1848.
"Wabash Female Seminary

The fall Session of this School will commence on Monday, September 4th.

Tuition for the 1st Department per quarter, $5.00
  2d  $4.00
  3d  $3.00

No deduction for absence, except in case of sickness. The public are sufficiently acquainted with the character of this Institution, to require no promises of its teachers. We would however say, that no pains shall be spared to secure to the pupils the same advantages which this school has afforded.

Seraph Warren, Principal.

Terre Haute, Aug. 12, 1845-50-53

"Vigo Collegiate Institute

The fall session will commence on Monday, September 11 at 9 o'clock A.M., and will continue for 22 weeks. A punctual attendance of the students is of great consequence both to them and their teachers. ....

E. T. Baird, A.M., Principal.

August 26,--'48 52-3w

Another session of this was to open on January 10, 1848.

"Notice

Welson M.Modesitt, assisted by William S. Taggart, will resume his school on Thursday, Sept. 20th.

Terms per quarter of eleven weeks,
Reading and Spelling, $3.00
Grammar, Geography and Arithmetic, 4.00
Philosophy, Astronomy and Algebra, 5.00
Latin and Greek 6.00
In the grammar and first lessons 5.00

Terre Haute, September 15, 1849

124 Wabash Courier, September 6, 1848.
125 Ibid., September 16, 1848.
126 Ibid., January 8, 1848.
127 The Courier, September 22, 1849.
"School Notice

"The Second Term of my School will commence on Wednesday, the 27th inst. The classification and exercises of the School will be such as to make it very important for pupils to enter at the commencement.

J.B.L. Soule.
Mar. 23-30-2w."128

6. Culture in 1850. In 1850, "the highest culture of the people of Terre Haute was essentially southern."129 Not only had a large number of her people come from there, but also, nearly all of Terre Haute's early commercial dealings had been with that section.

"However, in 1850, education was still on a par with selling soap and bacon. Anyone with the price of an advertisement in his pocket might set up to teach.... The work was carried on much as that of music teachers and business colleges is now."130

7. Schools in 1852. In January of 1852, James Hook, the trustee of District No. 5, announced the opening of a school in the basement of the Baptist church. McGuffey's works were to be used and parents were requested to have their children enter school as early in the first week as possible.131

128Wabash Courier, April 13, 1850.
130Ibid., p. 253.
The Wabash Express of February 12, 1852 states that an excellent school was being kept in the basement of the Universalist church.132

On March 10, Terre Hauteans also read that a school for "young ladies and misses" was to be held in the basement of the Congregational church.133

Q. The Sibleytown School (1850-1864)

The name, Sibleytown School, was familiar to most of the Terre Haute citizens, both young and old, during the period from 1851 to 1864. This well-known school was located on the south-west corner of Third and Locust Streets.134

The site for the school was purchased in 1850 of the Sibley heirs by a school board composed of Henry Rockwell, Calvin Gobin, and William Naylor,135 Trustees of District No. 6.136

The building was a brick structure 34 feet by 50 feet and consisted of two school rooms. When the school was opened in the fall of 1851, Henry Teel was the first teacher.

133 Ibid., Chapter VII, May 10, 1931.
134 "The Sibleytown School," A newspaper clipping found in Scrapbook Number 9, Memorial Fairbanks Library, Terre Haute, Indiana.
135 Ibid.
Mr. Teel was a well-known personage in the little community of Sibleytown, for he taught in the Sibleytown School ten years. 137

This structure was still used for school purposes after the city took over the charge of school affairs. 138

On October 10, 1864, after the completion of the Fourth Ward school, later known as the Vorhees School, on North Fifth between the Vandalia and Big Four Railroads, the old building was sold. 139

Since that year, 1864, it has been used as a residence.

R. Benjamin Hayes

No list of early teachers would be complete without mentioning Benjamin Hayes, "Uncle Benny" Hayes, as he was most often called. Prior to 1835 140 he came with his wife from New England 141 and taught both in the subscription schools and in the public schools of the town. 142

Condit relates:

"School teaching was not, as with so many others, a stepping-stone to something supposed to be better; but it was Benny Hayes' life work. Many of the earlier residents could say: 'I went to school to Benny Hayes.'

138 School Records, 1853-61, p. 64, August 10, 1854.
139 "The Sibleytown School," Scrapbook Number 2.
141 Blackford Condit, op. cit., p. 94.
Some would add: 'when he taught in the County Seminary,' others, 'when he taught in the white frame schoolhouse on the northwest corner of Sixth and Cherry Streets,' while still others, 'when he taught in the basement of the Congregational Church.' Mr. Hayes' dictum was: 'A boy must go through the arithmetic three times, do every sum, before he can be said to know how to cipher.' He was not a man of fine finish, but of strength. He possessed a sturdy character, and was a man of great moral worth.\(^{143}\)

In an article named "The Old Seminary--A Memory of Terre Haute of the Long Ago,"\(^{144}\) a former pupil writes:

"One of the teachers whose name is inseparably linked with the Old Seminary is that of 'Uncle Benny' Hayes, the last of the old time private school teachers who held sway before the day of free public schools. One of the boys in Uncle Benny's school says, 'Mr. Hayes was a good conscientious man, although rather severe at times. ... During recitations at the old Seminary, classes were arranged along one side of the room, the boys and girls standing side by side. We had great times, especially during the spelling matches, when the person spelling correctly 'went ahead' of those who misspelled a word. Sometimes the one 'at the foot of the class' would go to the head, everyone having missed that particular word. On Fridays we would 'choose up' and have spelling matches; then when a boy or girl would mis-spell a word he would 'go out' and have to take his seat.'

"Mr. Hayes had several ways of punishing a refractory pupil. He had hickory switches about 2 feet long, one-half to three-fourths inches in diameter and tapering to a point. If he would catch us in any devilment his 'Yah, yah, careful, Master Stewart, I'll give you a little oil of birch,' would stop the racket instantly. He had a few of the traits Dickens gives his schoolmasters, for if we failed to have our lessons we might pick cherries or saw wood over at his residence which was across the street.'

\(^{143}\)Blackford Condit, \textit{op. cit.}, pp. 94-95.

\(^{144}\)"The Old Seminary, A Memory of Long Ago," Scrapbook Number 9, Fairbanks Memorial Library, Terre Haute, Indiana.
"Mr. Hayes' wife was a most excellent woman, very kind and generous. She would often lighten the task of the boys who were sent over to the house to work because of unprepared lessons."145

The principal games of the old seminary days were "'town ball, bull pen and shinney, but bull pen was the greatest."146

Wiley says:

"This veteran in the cause of education was chosen to be one of the few chief teachers during the first years of the successful establishment of the free pupils schools in this community, and was honored, besides, with a term as trustee of the same. 'Uncle Benny Hayes' was on the first teachers' pay-roll in 1853; he returned to teaching in private schools in his declining years.

"In short 'Benjamin Hayes was the crowned head of the pedagogues about the year 1857, and a conscientious votary of the rod for the government of the child.' Dr. W. W. Parsons, for many years president of the Indiana State Normal School went to 'Uncle Benny' Hayes for two years, 'studying reading, writing, spelling, a little arithmetic, and something that was called parsing,' and fully confirms the 'lickin and larnin' programme of the day."147

The following editorial pays further tribute to the well-known schoolmaster:

"Once in a great while a natural teacher locates in such a community. Such a man was Benny Hayes. He fit in perfectly with conditions here. He came when most needed. He was accorded an honorable position in the community from the very beginning, and now after 60 years have come and gone he is still gratefully remembered. ... But scattered throughout the length and breadth of the land are hundreds of successful men whose memories linger lovingly about the character and career of Old Benny Hayes."148

145 "The Old Seminary, A Memory of Long Ago," Scrapbook Number 9.
146 Ibid.
148 Terre Haute Morning Star and Express, September 2, 1904.
S. Increased Interest in Public Schools

1. Opposition to "Free Schools." "Free schooling" was thought by many citizens of Indiana to be dangerous to the state because it would improve the status of the individuals therein; hence, it was undemocratic. In this respect, the belief was similar to that of one of the colonial governors of Virginia, William Berkeley, who said, "I thank God there are no free schools ... and I hope we shall not have them these hundred years; for learning has brought disobedience and heresy into the world." He also said it was easier to govern ignorant men than those who were educated.

One member of the General Assembly, in 1837, remarked, when taxation for school purposes was under discussion, "When I die I want my epitaph written, Here lies an enemy of free schools."150

This attitude was prevalent during the 1840's, 1850's and is noticeable even to-day.

According to the sixth census (1840), Indiana stood sixteenth in the scale of literacy in a union of twenty-six states. In less than ten years it fell to the twenty-third place.151 Conditions in Terre Haute, no doubt, contributed to this low rating.

150 Richard G. Boone, op. cit., p. 87.
151 Ibid., p. 87.
A contemporary living in Indiana said: "The state of common education is truly alarming. Only about one child in eight between five and fifteen years is able to read. The common schools and competent teachers are few."152

Dr. Joseph F. Tuttle, the esteemed president of Wabash College for many years, described the condition of affairs in these words:

"In 1840 there were 273,784 children in the State of school age, of whom only 48,180 attended the common schools. One-seventh of the adult population could not read, and a large proportion of those who could read did so imperfectly. In spite of the constitutional provision of the State and the famous 'sixteenth section,' the common schools of Indiana were in bad condition. As late as 1846 the State rated lowest among the free states as to its popular intelligence and means of popular education. Even the capital of the State did not have a free school until 1853, and then one was kept open only two months."153

During the years between 1846 and 1852, much interest was aroused by practical arguments for "free schools."

2. Caleb Mills. The duty of the General Assembly was plainly stated in Caleb Mills' message, remarkable in its criticisms and suggestions. It was entitled "An Address to the Legislature of Indiana," and signed "One of the People." Its motto was, "Read, discuss, and circulate"; its theme was "Education and the schools of Indiana."154

152 Richard G. Boone, op. cit., p. 87.
154 Ibid., pp. 81-82.
Through this message and five others, Caleb Mills became the champion of "free schools" in Indiana.

As one author so ably writes: "Caleb Mills ... deserves to be held in grateful remembrance by Indiana teachers, Indiana children, Indiana Legislatures, and all who have interest in Indiana schools or the public morals incident to intelligence."\(^{155}\)

Many citizens of Terre Haute have had a special interest in the career of Caleb Mills. He was the father of Mrs. Blackford Condit, whose husband wrote the valuable little book, *The History of Early Terre Haute From 1816 to 1840*, to which frequent reference has been made in this thesis.

His messages brought before the legislators the educational need of Indiana, the demand upon the state, the duty of the Legislature, and the need of public taxation for schools.

At present, two grandchildren, Miss Helen Condit and Allen Condit reside in the family home located at 629 Mulberry Street, at which place their grandfather was a frequent visitor.\(^{156}\)

Chauncey Rose, a philanthropist of Terre Haute and an earnest advocate of public school education, furnished the money for the printing of one of the six messages to the Legislature. Indianapolis printers and David Daniellson, a Terre Haute printer, published these six pamphlets which did so much to awaken an interest in public school legislation.\(^{157}\)


\(^{156}\)Interview with Miss Helen Condit, granddaughter of Caleb Mills.

\(^{157}\)Ibid.
Hence, Terre Haute can rightly feel that she has contributed much in the cause of free schools.

Caleb Mills stated that the inefficiency of the Indiana policy concerning schools was due to four causes: (1) need of suitable texts, (2) want of competent teachers, (3) "lack of community interests in education, and (4) want of adequate funds."\(^{158}\)

Beginning with the year 1846, there was more interest aroused in favor of public education.

3. Local Interest. A citizen "who cared" sent the following article to the local newspaper.

"Who Knows and Who Cares?"

"Who knows what amount of money arises from cash due for the sale of sixteenth section and interest on surplus revenue? and
"Who cares whether said interest is faithfully collected?"
"Who knows whether the Township Treasurer faithfully receives said interest? and
"Who cares whether he distributes it according to law?"
"Who knows if the Township be divided into districts? and
"Who cares whether each district has its Trustees?"
"Who knows whether the Trustees are suitable men? and
"Who cares whether they perform their duties or not?
"Who knows if any of the Districts have schools? and
"Who cares for the qualifications of the teacher?
"Who knows what amount of money is drawn by the district treasurer? and
"Who cares how that money is expended?"

\(^{158}\)Richard G. Boone, op. cit., p. 93.
"In fact, Mr. Editor, who knows or who cares anything about our district school system, except such persons as the scribbler, who claims to be nothing more than One of the Rabble.

"Terre Haute, Sept. 3, 1847."159

Newspapers, educational conventions, the writing and addresses of friends of education, and the growing illiteracy convinced the Legislature that immediate action was necessary.160

The thirty-first session of the Legislature (1848) passed a law authorizing the people to vote for or against a tax for the support of "free schools."161

The residents of Terre Haute read of this "forward step" in the local newspapers.162

"The provisions for the improvements of common schools were as follows:

"Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That the voters of the State shall, at the annual election, on the first Monday in August, 1848, give their votes for or against the enactment of a law by the next Legislature for raising by taxation an amount which, added to the present school funds, shall be sufficient to support free common schools in all the school districts of the State for not less than three nor more than six months each year.

"Sec. 2. The inspectors of elections at the several places of voting shall propose to each voter presenting a ballot the question, 'Are you in favor of free common schools?' And those who are in favor of the enactment of a law for taxation as aforesaid shall answer in the affirmative, which answer shall be duly recorded by the clerk of such election; and the results of the voting shall be duly recorded by the

159 Wabash Courier, September 4, 1847.
161 Indiana, Statutes, Chapter XLIX, Thirty-Second Session.
162 Wabash Courier, August 5, 1848.
clerk of such election; and the results of such voting shall be certified, as is provided in other cases of voting at general elections, to the Secretary of State, and by him certified to the Governor, who shall report the same to the Legislature on the first day of the session.\textsuperscript{163}

In 1847, a permanent State Educational Society had been organized. It appointed Judge Kinney, of Terre Haute, a special agent in May, 1848 "to travel throughout the State and deliver addresses, and endeavor to awaken an interest in behalf of free common schools."\textsuperscript{164}

Free, tax-supported schools were held up to be the poor men's friend, the State's best stronghold, and every one's right. Objections to free schools were that they were too expensive; no State could long meet such lavish drain upon its resources. Another group objected to free schools because it would make education "too common." Schools of any kind were, or should be, for the few, and chiefly for those who could afford private instruction. Most of the vigorous objections came from those who needed free schools worst, -- "the improvident, the needy, the hand-to-mouth laborer, and the ignorant." Others said, "The bait is to give our children an education; the chief object is to religiously tradionize them, and then unite the Church and State."\textsuperscript{165}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{163}Wabash \textit{Courier}, August 5, 1848.
\item \textsuperscript{164}Richard G. Boone, \textit{op. cit.}, p. 103.
\item \textsuperscript{165}\textit{Ibid.}, pp. 104-105.
\end{itemize}
In 1848, the publication committee appointed by the Indiana State Educational Society asked the co-operation and assistance of the press in "this crisis of affairs." 166

The society urged the press to set forth the superior advantages of the "Free School System" over every other plan devised to educate the whole people. If this were done, the citizens in every school district in the state could vote understandingly upon the question, and there would be an overwhelming vote in favor of "Free Schools." 167

The "conductors of the public journals" in the state were also requested to call the attention of the people to this great question immediately, so that a spirit of inquiry would be awakened. Hence, the advantages of the "Free School System" would be so evident that every "virtuous, intelligent voter" would know how to vote on the "momentous question." 168

The society further appealed to the intelligence, the philanthropy, and patriotism of the press of Indiana, to urge the people to vote for "Free Schools," and by so doing, to elevate the "character of our State, and thousands, yet to be, will bless your memory." 169

4. The Election of 1848. Returns from the election of August 1848, showed that the majority of Vigo County's citizens were in favor of free schools. "The total number of votes cast

166 Wabash Courier, June 17, 1848.
167 Ibid., June 17, 1848.
168 Ibid., June 17, 1848.
169 Ibid., June 17, 1848.
"TABLE VI
SHOWING THE VOTES CAST FOR AND AGAINST FREE SCHOOLS IN VIGO CO., IND. 1848*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Township</th>
<th>Votes cast for Free Schools</th>
<th>Votes cast against Free Schools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harrison</td>
<td>511</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar Creek</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prairie Creek</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otter Creek</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linton</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevins</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pierson</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayette (Clark's)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honey Creek</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Creek</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riley</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fayette (Wolf's)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1015</strong></td>
<td><strong>939</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Found in Wabash Courier, August 12, 1848, taken from Thesis No. 40, A Survey of the Schools of Honey Creek Township, Vigo County, Indiana, by Ella Marea Meehan Fogg, p. 23.
in Vigo County was 1,954. Fifty-one and nine-tenths per cent voted for free schools while 48.1 per cent voted against them. Vigo County ranked fifty-eighth in the state of Indiana on this vote. 170

Although thirty-one counties had returned a negative vote on the question, "Are you in favor of free schools?", the advocates of a public school system were encouraged.

5. The Legislative Act of 1849. The next session of the Legislature passed "An act to increase and extend the Benefits of Common Schools. Approved January 17, 1849." 171

This law was to be accepted or rejected by counties at the polls in the summer of 1849. The total vote cast in Vigo County was 2,287. Of this number, only 50.2 per cent of the voters accepted the school law; by a close margin Vigo County was in favor of legalizing public taxation for the support of schools. 172

6. Further Legislation. During the next few years further progress is noted in providing for public school education in Indiana.

The state constitutional convention gathered October 7, 1850, and continued in session until February 10, 1851. 173

171 Indiana, Statutes, Chapter CXVI, Thirty-Second Session.
173 Ibid., p. 129.
Simultaneous with the meeting of the convention was the publication of Caleb Mills' Fifth Message, which could not have appeared at a more opportune time.

"In the prosecution of your labors of constitutional revision," said Mr. Mills, "the subject of Education will claim a share of your attention. There is no portion of constitutional provisions more worthy of your careful consideration, - none involving more vital interests, - none more intimately connected with the highest welfare of the people in all their relations and pursuits, civil, social, and commercial, none which, wisely and liberally defined and incorporated in the fundamental law of the commonwealth, will reflect greater honor on your body, or that you will recall in after years with higher satisfaction. . . .

"... Our resources are sufficiently developed to authorize all reasonable and necessary drafts on them for the support of a wise and efficient system of Popular Education."174

As a result of the earnest efforts of Caleb Mills and of other interested citizens, Article VIII was written in the new constitution, and has been in force since November 1, 1851.175

Article VIII, Section 1, Constitution of 1851, provides that "it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to encourage, by all suitable means moral, intellectual, scientific, and agricultural improvement; and to provide by law, for a general and uniform system of Common Schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge, and equally open to all."

In conformity with the requirements of the new constitution, the General Assembly passed an Act on June 12, 1852 to form a system of "public free schools." 176

The General Assembly also granted Terre Haute a new charter on the eighteenth of June, 1852, in which the Common Council was given "power to make other by-laws not inconsistent with the laws of this State, and necessary to carry out the objects of the corporation." 177

176 Indiana, Statutes, Chapter XXIX, Thirty-Sixth Session.
177 Ibid., Chapter XIII, Thirty-Seventh Session.
IV. THE ESTABLISHING OF FREE SCHOOLS IN
TERRE HAUTE, 1853 TO 1855

A. The Popular Vote

In December, 1852, the citizens of Terre Haute were notified by the Common Council that a vote was to be taken in regard to the establishment of graded schools. On January 3, 1853 at the conclusion of the voting, returns showed that 329 had voted in favor of graded schools while 32 had voted against them.\(^1\)

B. The Co-operation of the School Trustees, the Citizens, and the Common Council

1. The First School Board of the City of Terre Haute.

On the twenty-first day of January, 1853, the following trustees, Moses Soule, Virgil I. Burnett, James Hook, Amory Kinney, and Joseph Cooper, were sworn in by I. M. Ray, Justice of the Peace of Harrison Township. These five trustees took oath "that they will faithfully discharge the duties of school trustees of the town of Terre Haute during their continuance in office to the best of their ability."\(^2\)

\(^1\)C. C. Oakey, Greater Terre Haute and Vigo County Closing the First Century's History of City and County, I, p. 124.

Thereafter, Terre Haute was separated from Harrison Township in its control of matters pertaining to education, for the above-mentioned trustees had been elected by the citizens in pursuance of an "ordinance duly passed." Hence, in the future, the town was responsible for its own schools.

Immediately upon the organization of the Board, it was voted "to send the President Judge Kinney to Cincinnati and contiguous towns where graded schools are in operation, for the purpose of collecting such information as he may deem to be useful to this Board in view of introducing a similar organization in this town." At the following meeting committees were appointed to ascertain the amount of taxable property within the bounds of the school corporation, and to rent the county Seminary, if the Board should fail to be otherwise provided for in time to commence the schools. The enumeration of the children between five and twenty-one years of age within the city limits was reported, "Boys, 615; girls, 709; total boys and girls, 1,324."

Money was needed to open public schools and the Board decided that the following notice of a town meeting should be posted in three public places within the corporation:

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3W. H. Wiley, op. cit., Chapter VI, p. 4.
4School Records, 1853-61, January 21, 1853, p. 2.
5Ibid., p. 3, January 22, 1853.
6Ibid., p. 4, March 18, 1853.
"Notice

"The inhabitants of the town of Terre Haute, qualified to vote in the matters herein named, are hereby notified to meet at the Courthouse in said town, on the 25th day of April instant, to determine whether they will levy a tax, and if so, how much, on the taxable property within the corporation, for the purpose of increasing their common school fund, to be used in building, renting, and defraying the current expenses of the schools.

"By order of the Trustees of Common Schools of Terre Haute.

M. Soule, Clerk.

Terre Haute, Apr. 5th, 1853."7

The town meeting brought results, for

"A tax of thirty cents on the $100 of the property subject to taxation for state and county, and a capitation tax of fifty cents, be assessed for the support of common schools, and for the building, purchasing, repairing and furnishing school houses."8

Within the following fortnight, a resolution was passed by the Board on May 6, 1853 "that a committee of four be appointed to provide as many schoolrooms as will be required to accommodate as many scholars as may be expected to attend at the opening of schools; and also to provide a sufficient number of suitable teachers for the same; their doings to be reported to the Board for confirmation."9

7School Records, 1853-61, pp. 6-7, April 5, 1853.

8Ibid., p. 9, April 25, 1853.

9Ibid., p. 10, May 6, 1853.
2. The First Brick School Built by the City. During this same month, May 20, 1853, the Board voted to purchase land for $1,000 at the southwest corner of Third and Oak Streets. Thereon, a two-story brick structure 50 feet by 28 feet was to be erected at a cost of $2,000 for the accommodation of from 100 to 150 scholars. Under the contract, this house was to have been completed, "if possible, by the first of December next."\(^{10}\) Notwithstanding this early attempt to provide a school site and a school building the Board did not report the purchase of a site until late in the summer of 1855. At that time the Trustees of the City Schools reported to the Board of Common Council (to whom they were then responsible) that they had "purchased for school purposes Lot No. 1 in Wilson's addition, for which they have agreed to pay $550, cash in hand."\(^{11}\)

On August 27, 1855, the amount allotted for the building of the brick, stone, and iron work was the sum of $1,050; the woodwork, glazing, and painting was $1,930.\(^{12}\) The total cost of the school was $3,980.

This school was the first brick school built by the city after the adoption of free schools and for many years was known both as No. 2\(^{13}\) and as the Ross School.

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\(^{10}\)School Records, 1853-61, pp. 11-13, May 10, 20, 1853.

\(^{11}\)Council Records, Volume I, p. 192.

\(^{12}\)School Records, 1853-61, p. 74.

\(^{13}\)Ibid., p. 79, August 4, 1856.
3. The School Year of 1853-1854. Further preparations were made during the summer months of 1853 for the opening of the fall quarter. The basements of the Baptist and of the Universalist Churches were fitted up for schools; the Vigo County Seminary was bought; and the Jane Hersey School, "a framed house, 36 feet by 18 feet with appurtenances," on South Fourth Street was secured at a cost of three hundred dollars; the Sibleytown school was also available.

William Ross was superintendent at a salary of eight hundred dollars per year, which position he held until July 14, 1854.  

Seven teachers were employed "for a quarter," but this number was soon after increased to thirteen. Their salaries ranged from $33.00 to $41.50 for men per month and from $16.00 to $40.00 per month for women.

For the school year of 1853-1854 the Board had purchased the following: one set of "Cutter's District School Anatomical Plates" for the "sum of six dollars"; a bell for the Seminary for "one hundred and eighteen dollars and sixty cents"; "four

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14School Records, 1853-61, p. 21, August 12, 1853.
16School Records, 1853-61, p. 44, February 16, 1854.
17Ibid., p. 16, June 9, 1853.
18Ibid., p. 32, October 14, 1853.
small tables and one large one for the use of the teachers";\(^{19}\)
and "a copy of Webster's large dictionary for the use of the
schools, to be kept by the principal (Mr. Ross), as a
standard."\(^{20}\)

Another interesting fact is that during the term, the
Board paid two dollars a cord for stove wood.

School commenced on Monday, September 12, 1853\(^{21}\) with
a total enrollment of between 350 and 400 pupils.\(^{22}\)

"The following list of books was ordered to be exclu-
sively used in the schools, in the branches to which they
pertain; viz:

Bible—edition of the American Bible
Soc., without note or comment.
Webster's Dictionary
McGuffey's Speller
McGuffey's Series of Readers
Quacenbos' First Lessons in Composition
Butler's English Grammar
Weld's Parsing Book
Parker's Aid to Composition
Newman's Rhetoric
Mitchell's Geography & Atlas
Nelson's Introduction to Penmanship
Colburn's First Lessons in Arithmetic
Ray's Arithmetic, 3rd Part.
Davies' Algebra
Davies' Legendre's Geometry
Davies' Surveying
Davies' Navigation
Winchester's Book-keeping
Cutter's Anatomy and Physiology
Wilson's History of the United States

\(^{19}\) School Records, 1853-61, p. 27, September 16, 1853.
\(^{20}\) Ibid., p. 30, September 16, 1853.
\(^{21}\) Ibid., September 12, 1853.
\(^{22}\) W. H. Wiley, op. cit., Chapter 1850-1860, p. 15.
Olmsted's or Comstock's Philosophy
(Olmsted's preferred)
Olmsted's Astronomy
Wayland's Moral Science
Wayland's Political Economy
Upham's Mental Science
Olendorf's French Grammar
Telemachus
Andrews & Stoddard's Latin Grammar
Andrews' Latin Reader
Caesar
Cooper's Virgil
Sallust
Wreath of School Songs

Later in the school year, the Board ordered "that from and after the first Monday of January next, the Seminary bell commence ringing at twenty minutes before the time set for opening the schools, both morning and evening, and continue ringing five minutes; and that it toll during the five minutes next preceding the time of opening.

"Ordered that every teacher in the public schools be required to close the door of his room, as soon as the bell ceases tolling, and keep it closed, during the half day then commenced, against all scholars who come late." 24

Several times during the school year, the Board had met "at early candlelighting at the Seminary" to attend to various school matters; one of which was "settling with the teachers for their quarter's salaries." 25

23 School Records, 1853-61, pp. 28-29, September 16, 1853.
24 Ibid., p. 39, December 27, 1853.
25 Ibid., p. 44, February 16, 1854.
The total cost of the schools for the school term of 1853-1854 was $4,448.31, including janitors' wages, supplies, $10.00 to each of two teachers for waiting to begin work, and $764.00 for the services of the Superintendent.\(^{26}\)

Two loans, amounting to one thousand dollars, were allowed by the City Council to the "Trustees of the Graded Schools of the City of Terre Haute for the use of said schools"\(^{27}\) during this first school year.

4. Schools Suspended. As a result of lack of funds, "injunctions and all other possible legal hindrances,"\(^{28}\) it was voted on August 10, 1854 "to suspend the city schools till the first Monday in January 1855, to rent the school rooms, if applied for by suitable persons; the rent to be as follows:

"For the large upper room in the Seminary, at the rate of $100 - per year
For the North room below $80 - a year
For the South room below $60 - a year;

the two small rooms to be included, one to each,
For the Hersey School house $60
For the large room in the North School house $60 - (Sibleytown School)
For the small room in the North School house $30 - (Sibleytown School)"\(^{29}\)

\(^{26}\)W. H. Wiley, op. cit., Chapter 1850-1860, p. 15.
\(^{27}\)Council Records, Volume 1, pp. 42, 52.
\(^{28}\)H. C. Bradby, op. cit., p. 528.
\(^{29}\)School Records, 1853-61, pp. 63-64, August 10, 1854.
C. An English Girl's Impression of Terre Haute

Agnes Beste, an English traveler, was staying with her relatives at the "Prairie House," a tavern, located on the present site of "The Terre Haute House" at Seventh Street and Wabash Avenue. She described the walk from the outskirts of the town where the Prairie House then stood, to the Court House Square on Third Street, or Market Street, as follows:

"Prairie House was situated at the entrance of the town, on one side of the National Road, and was separated from the town by a common. It did not stand alone, however; as Dr. Read's house was very near on the opposite side of the road and of a little green. ... There was, also, a cluster of other houses or villas in the neighborhood, that belonged to the more wealthy of the inhabitants. But, from the hotel, to the town, there was a very disagreeable, hot walk in the sun, for it was not bordered by trees. At the end of it began the High Street of the town, which was lined on each side with stores. Then there was a square on the left-hand side, where trees shaded the pavement all around from the broiling sun above."

During her stay at the "Prairie House" Lucy Beste, another member of the English family, became well acquainted with Mrs. Read and her daughter, Okella, aged twelve. Lucy writes:

"Mrs. Read was not bringing up her daughter like a fine lady, though she had her taught all the accomplishments for which there were masters and mistresses. She played on the piano and sang very nicely; she was said to draw and sketch a little; she danced very well, and did a great number of fancy works which she was taught by the nuns at whose school she attended every day, and from which she bore away more prizes than any...

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other girl of her age.

"... Mrs. Read preferred the nun's school to the other, 'because,' she said, 'at our school they let the girls do just what they like, and at the end of a month, they are no wiser than when they began.'"31

V. PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND THE RE-ESTABLISHING OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN TERRE HAUTE, 1855-1860

A. No Public Schools

1. Efforts Made to Re-open Schools. However, the schools did not re-open in January, 1855 and no entry is made in the School Board Records until the following March 22, 1855. On this date the Board allowed several bills that were presented. 1 Also, "an order was drawn on the Treasurer for One Thousand and twenty-nine dollars and eighty-two cents, the balance in his hands on final settlement, in favor of his successor in the office of Treasurer of School Trustees of Terre Haute." 2

The following ordinance of May 7, 1855 announced to the citizens that the city realized its responsibility for free schools, as stated in the legislative act of 1855. 3

"An Ordinance

'To provide for the support and regulation of Free Public Schools, within the city of Terre Haute. "Section 1. Be it ordained by the common Council of the city of Terre Haute, That Free Public Schools, are hereby established, within the city of Terre Haute, independent of the township of Harrison in which said city is situated, to be regulated and

1 School Records, 1853-61, p. 65, March 22, 1855.
2 Ibid., p. 66, May 24, 1855.
3 Indiana, Statutes, Chapter LXXXVII, Thirty-Eighth Session.
supported as is hereinafter provided under and by
duirty of the provisions of the following entitled
act of the General Assembly of Indiana, to-wit:
'An act to authorize the establishment of Free
Public Schools in the incorporated cities and towns
of the State of Indiana,' approved March 5, 1855,
and also under and by virtue of the provisions of
the following entitled act, so far as the same are
applicable to incorporated cities, to-wit: 'An act
to provide for a general system of Common Schools,
the officers thereof, and their respective powers
and duties, and matters properly connected therewith,
and to establish township Libraries, and for the
regulation thereof,' approved March 5, 1855."4

2. No Public Schools Until 1860. Nevertheless, public
schools were not re-established in Terre Haute until 1860,
for the School Law of 1855 was declared unconstitutional. The
Supreme Court decision of 1857 in "Jenners vs. the City of
Lafayette"5 caused the "death blow" to public schools in
Indiana. The only exception was the school system in Evansville
which had retained its former charter.6

The decision was based upon Section 22 of Article IV of
the Indiana Constitution, which reads as follows: "The Gener-
al Assembly shall not pass local or special laws ... pro-
viding for supporting common schools."

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4School Records, 1853-61, (Newspaper clipping pasted on
inside of front cover facing p. 1).

5Indiana Reports, Legal Records of Indiana Supreme
Court Proceedings; The City of Lafayette and Martin, County
Treasurer vs. Jenners, 10 Ind. 70.

6Harold Littell, "Development of the City School System
of Indiana," Indiana Magazine of History, XII (September,
In other words, the decision may be stated that the constitution of Indiana, or the interpretation of it by her Supreme Court "forbade the people of any city or corporate place in the State, to tax themselves to support free schools, till the whole State should consent to tax itself for the same purpose.\"7

The following editorial summarized the situation in a forceful manner for the citizens of Terre Haute.

"Important Decision

"In the State Sentinel of the 25th inst. may be found a decision of the Supreme Court, declaring the Act of 1855, authorizing the establishment of Public Schools in incorporated cities, unconstitutional...

... The points made in a cause appealed from the Tippecanoe Circuit Court, the City of Lafayette vs. Jenners, is, that the Legislature alone has the power to levy and collect taxes for the support of Common Schools, and within the intent and meaning of the Constitution, it is the only mode of maintaining an equal and uniform system of taxation. In Terre Haute, school rooms have been erected, the County Seminary bought and to be paid for, for school purposes, calculations have been made to support schools in these buildings, but with this decision, the city is defeated, and cannot levy and collect a tax for that purpose—nor can the tax levied and now on the tax duplicate be legally collected. So we go, doing and undoing, taking a step forward and then backward, unsettled, with never-ending hope and constant disappointment.

I. M. Brown, Editor
T. B. Long, Associate Editor.\"8

7Harold Littell, op. cit., p. 200.
8The Terre-Haute Daily Union, January 27, 1858.
The State Superintendent, William Clark Larrabee, spoke of the Terre Haute schools as follows:

"Terre Haute, one of the largest cities in the state, presents the least hopeful prospects in regard to public school education. The short-sighted policy which has marked the course of this city in regard to schools, does and will continue to affect unfavorably her prosperity. At this day (1857) a city of eight or ten thousand inhabitants, without public spirit enough to support free schools, has little prospect of growth or pecuniary prosperity."\(^9\)

B. Renting the School Buildings

In July, 1856 a committee consisting of Messrs. Knapp and Chamberlain was appointed to examine the city school houses, and make such repairs and improvements as are necessary to render them comfortable for fall and winter schools." The various school rooms were to be rented again\(^10\) with the understanding that they were to be vacated, if wanted, "for Common School purposes by the City of Terre Haute."\(^11\)

The following August, the City School Houses were numbered as follows: "Seminary No. 1, School House in the South part of Town, No. 2, and the one in the North part of the City No. 3."\(^12\)


\(^10\)School Records, 1853-61, p. 78.

\(^11\)Ibid., p. 82, November 24, 1856.

\(^12\)Ibid., p. 79, August 4, 1856.
Later, the school trustees were to "require security for school room rent or payment in advance, also holding all persons renting the same liable for all damages done to the building by their pupils."\textsuperscript{13}

C. School Enumeration

An "enumeration of the children entitled to the benefits of common schools within the corporate limits of Terre Haute" dated September 3, 1857 was as follows: males between 5 and 13, 518; males between 13 and 21, 297; females between 5 and 13, 565; and females between 13 and 21, 364; total 1744.\textsuperscript{14} Later, in 1859, another school census was taken in which the enumeration was reported as 1869.\textsuperscript{15}

D. The First Ward School

On March 2, 1857, "Mr. Blinn, President of the Board of School Trustees, presented a plan for a school building, that they propose erecting on the school property on fourth street between Cherry and Mulberry."\textsuperscript{16} On motion, the plan was adopted by the Council unanimously with the amendment "that the House does not cost over Nine Thousand Dollars, when completed."\textsuperscript{17}

\textsuperscript{13}\textit{School Records}, 1853-61, May 23, 1857.
\textsuperscript{14}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 106, September 17, 1857.
\textsuperscript{15}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 135, November 7, 1859.
\textsuperscript{16}\textit{Council Record}, Volume 1, p. 282.
\textsuperscript{17}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 283.
The Mayor also spoke of the new School House the Trustees intended building, making some objection to putting as costly a house as was proposed, viz., $9,000 on the seminary lots. His reasons were "the want of School Houses in the north Eastern and south Eastern parts of the city." He then mentioned "the absolute necessity of an Engine House, it being utterly impossible to keep the (fire) Engines in good order and repair, in the present building." 18

The following Ordinance was then offered June 4, 1857, entitled the "Ordinance Levying a tax for the year 1857 for School purposes:

"Sec. 1st
"Be it ordained by the Common Council of the City of Terre Haute that the amount and rate of Tax to be levied on all property subject to State and County taxation within the city of Terre Haute for the year 1857, shall be and the same is hereby, fixed at ten cents on the $100.00 valuation of real and personal property for Common School purposes, and that the same be certified to the County Auditor and placed upon the tax duplicate for collection." 19

The above ordinance was adopted by a unanimous vote. 20

James Hook was awarded the contract for the building of the school house 21 on the seminary lots, which had been given the city for school purposes in the original plat of 1816.

18 Council Record, Volume 1, p. 284.
19 Ibid., p. 301.
20 Ibid., p. 301.
21 School Records, 1853-61, p. 95, March 16, 1857.
The public sentiment in regard to the building project was expressed as follows:

"Common Schools

"We have had no public schools for some time past, but our citizens very justly considered that good schools could not be kept up until there were good houses; this objection is now removed and it will be an easy matter to fill the schools, and have them under the control of efficient teachers.

"It may be that the short sighted policy spoken of, is the misapplication of the school fund to building purposes; but now that it is done (though we are opposed to the establishment of such a precedent) it will affect us favorably; for the fund can be applied exclusively for tuition purposes--though not until next spring when it is placed in the hands of the Trustees, at which time there will be good free schools." 22

After the building was completed, public funds were not available for school purposes. Hence, School House No. 4 was rented for $225 per annum. 23

The total cost of the building was $11,733.65. 24

The dedication of the new structure was reported in the local newspaper, as follows:

"The Dedication

"The dedication of the New City School House, come off on Monday night in a grand and interesting style--the spacious hall below being crowded to overflowing. ...

22 The Terre Haute Daily Union, December 11, 1857.
24 Ibid., p. 125, November 4, 1858.
"Mr. A. C. Isaacs being called upon addressed the meeting. He congratulated his fellow citizens present on the auspicious occasion that had called them together. ... He then touched upon what the reality of education was in contradistinction to mere seeming education, many a man could read and write, and had made acquisitions in the higher branches of knowledge, who was yet far from being an educated man. True education draws out into exercise thinking powers and in proportion as this is done and the boy or girl is taught to apply those powers to the everyday concerns of life, in that proportion is he or she educated. Thus it is that the grand object of education is attained, and the individual is caused to realize blessings to himself and to the community of which he forms a part: ... Mr. Pruyne's Brass Band was present and discoursed sweet music to the delighted audience. Thanks to the band, peace and happiness to the audience, and an unbounded success to Mr. Moore the teacher in this new edifice and may the building stand until the second remodeling of the earth and form the mouth of a mammoth cave for the then generation to revel in."25

E. Terre Haute in 1858

According to the city's first directory, issued in the year of 1858,

"There are at present no 'public schools'; the following is a list of private schools, all of which are in a flourishing condition:

"Old Seminary School, 6th St., between Mulberry & Eagle Streets;
"Classical High School, Moses Soule, Teacher;
"Male and Female School, Miss Kersey, Teacher;
"English & German schools, conducted by Germans;
"Male & Female School (Sibleytown), Miss Trowbridge, teacher;
"Female School, Mrs. Holmes, Teacher;
"Male & Female School, Mr. & Mrs. Hayes, Teachers; and
"School Corner of Market & Oak Streets."26

25The Terre-Haute Daily Union, September 8, 1858.
26Directory of 1858, p. 28. Published by H. N. McEvoy, Terre Haute, Indiana.
In 1856, the Terre Haute School Association had been founded, chiefly to teach the German language. It was merged with the Terre Haute Public School System in 1863.27

The Terre Haute Female College or Covert College was opened for the reception of pupils September 8, 1858, and was successfully conducted for ten years. The buildings were situated on South Sixth Street28 on the present site of St. Anthony's Hospital.

F. The Aid of the Press

Public sentiment in favor of the free school system was further aroused by the local newspaper, The Terre-Haute Daily Union.

"Let every father, who has children that ought to be at school, remember that the success of the candidates for the Council on the citizens ticket, must be looked to--if they are successful, our schools will be opened."29

G. Arousing the Interest of the Citizens

"Schools! Schools!

"There will be a meeting of the citizens of this city without distinction of party or sect, at the new School House on 4th street, on Tues., evening next, May 11th at Gas lighting to devise the ways and means

28S. B. Gookins, op. cit., p. 133.
29Terre-Haute Daily Union, May 4, 1858.
of establishing a system of Common Schools for our city, let everybody turn out, facts and figures will be presented for consideration." 30

"Graded School Meeting

"In compliance with a call published in the city papers, a meeting of citizens convened at the New School House on Fourth Street, Tuesday evening, the 11th instant, to take into consideration the subject of Public Schools in Terre Haute.

"Mr. Ross (chairman) stated the object of the meeting was to consider what steps were necessary to inaugurate a system of Free Schools in our city, a matter in which, he regretted to say, we had not kept pace with general public sentiment.

"Mr. H. D. Scott said that under a recent decision of the Supreme Court, doubts had arisen as to the power of the Council to levy a tax for school purposes. Voluntary subscription might afford a temporary but short lived remedy. The only practicable equitable and permanent measure after all is by taxation. Trifling hardships and minor difficulties ought not to stand in the way of a great public good, and he thought some means could be devised to obviate any technical objections. Public sentiment was almost unanimous in favor of the measure. Mr. Scott concluded by offering the following resolutions:

30 The Terre-Haute Daily Union, May 7, 1858.
"Resolved, That we are behind the age in educational affairs in our city, and as parents, guardians and citizens, we owe to the rising generation more efficient means of acquiring knowledge."

"Resolved, That we favor the graded system of Free Schools, as affording the most efficient means of general education at the least expense."

"Resolved, That we deem it expedient that such a system of schools be opened in this city, and that a committee of ten be appointed to devise the ways and means, and that the chairman of this meeting be the chairman of this committee."

"The only way Mr. Noble could suggest to accomplish this was for the City Council to levy a tax for general purposes, large enough to support schools, in addition to other expenses, and then make that specific appropriation of funds."

"The resolutions offered by Mr. Scott were then unanimously passed," and a committee of ten was appointed.

"It will be noticed by the proceedings of the last meeting of the Council that we are to have no Schools. The idea once so prevalent that the Council were favorable to our Graded Schools, has been given up. There is no alternative left now, but to look well to the material we send to our next Legislature they will have to give us the power to levy and collect the School tax, otherwise our find School Houses will be but monuments, to our good intentions, and also of the ignorant and penurious desires of those who seek the overthrow of the Free School system."

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31 The Terre-Haute Daily Union, May 13, 1858.
32 Ibid., May 13, 1858.
33 Ibid., May 13, 1858.
34 Ibid., May 29, 1858.
The following notice appealed to many citizens, for the new school building was to be used; but not for a public school.

"City Graded Schools

"It is the design of this Institution to furnish to the citizens of Terre-Haute facilities for the education of their children, at such rates of tuition as will bring it within the reach of all, and which can only be done upon the graded plan. This school will be organized and conducted in all respects, after the most approved eastern Models. The new city school building, has been secured, and is now being furnished in the most elegant style corresponding with the arrangement of the school building in Cincinnati and the eastern cities. ... Two sessions of 21 weeks each will constitute the school year. The first commencing on Wednesday the 1st of September next, and ending the 26th of January 1859, including one week vacation during holidays. The second session will commence on Monday Feb. 2, 1859 and end on the 30th of June 1859 including one week vacation in May.

"Rates of Tuition

"Children from five years old and upward, in A.B. C's and onward till prepared for advanced Arithmetic, Grammar and higher studies $6.00. Higher branches $9.00. Each pupil in the 1st Grade being enrolled will pay $1.00. Each in 2nd ........................................ 1.50. Each in 3rd ...................................... 2.00

"It is important that all desiring to avail themselves of this school be present at its organization.

J. H. Moore, Principal."35

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35 The Terre-Haute Daily Union, August 20, 1858.
I. The Re-establishing of Public Schools in Terre Haute 1860

In 1860 dawned a new era for the free schools. Interested citizens saw that their efforts, during the "dark days" of 1855 to 1860, had not been fruitless.

1. Favorable Financial Conditions. Early in April, 1860, the Treasurer's report showed the amount in the School Fund was $627.03.36

In the following June, an Ordinance of the Common Council levying a tax for the year 1860, for the city of Terre Haute provided "That the amount and rate of tax to be levied on all property subject to State and County Taxation within the city of Terre Haute for the year 1860, shall be and the same is hereby fixed at forty cents (for general purposes) on every $100 valuation of real and personal property and a poll tax of fifty cents on every white male inhabitant, same and not a pauper of the age of Twenty-one and not over Fifty years."37

A School Board committee consisting of Deloss Minshall, B. H. Cornwell, and A. Reiman recommended that "Free Schools be opened in all the School Houses on the first of October next."38 A favorable vote was taken and a committee was appointed to report a plan of organization. The following report of the school funds was also read:

36Council Record, Volume 1, p. 464.
37Ibid., p. 476.
38School Records, 1853-61, August 15, 1860.
"The amount of School Fund subject to the drafts of this Board is $37,392.22 distributed as follows:

"In hands of Township Trustee $3,293.01
" " " " " " 327.03
" " " " " " 119.18
$37,392.22

"The amount to conduct the schools through a session of five months will be about $3,600.00 (This calculation is based upon a supposed averaged attendance of 1,300 children) and about $500.00 will be required for furniture and repairs."39

The City Council had shown a willingness to co-operate with the Board by giving a verbal promise of a loan of $800.00, if required.40

Necessary repairs were made to the school property and additional furniture was provided in order that the schools could re-open on the first day of October, 1860.

2. Reorganization of the Public Schools. James H. Moore was elected superintendent of the Public Schools of Terre Haute at a salary of $100 per month to commence September, first.41

Eighteen teachers were on the pay-roll of 1860-1861, with salaries ranging from $20.00 to $50.00 per month. There were four buildings used and the number of teachers assigned to each was: (1) Old Seminary, three teachers; (2) Third Street

40Ibid., August 15, 1860.
41Ibid., p. 149, September 5, 1860.
School House, four teachers; (3) Sibley Town, two teachers; and (4) Fourth Street School House, nine teachers.\textsuperscript{42} In these four buildings, 958 children were enrolled.\textsuperscript{43}

\textsuperscript{42}\textit{School Records}, 1853-61, September 19, 1860.

\textsuperscript{43}\textit{Ibid.}, p. 154, November 5, 1860.
VI. SUMMARY

Terre Haute, like many other frontier settlements in the early eighteen hundreds, depended almost entirely upon private or subscription schools to educate her more fortunate children.

Occasionally, prior to 1853, a short term public school was held, but only when there were enough funds.

"Learning was at a discount" and although the State, in 1816, had made provisions for education, all schools were township institutions, having township patronage, and depending upon township support. Until 1853 Terre Haute was under the control of Harrison Township in all matters pertaining to education.

Since sufficient funds were not available, many earnest advocates of public schools, such as Caleb Mills, worked tirelessly, and finally succeeded in stirring the Legislature to favorable action.

The result of their efforts was a public school system for Indiana as stated in the new Constitution of 1851.

Terre Haute was among the first cities of the State to carry out the provisions for public schools.
However, although conditions had seemed so promising, free schools were maintained but one year, 1853-1854.

Again the town passed through a period of educational "dark ages," which was ended by the permanent re-establishing of the public school system in 1860.
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