

Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

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Morgan Academy  
Of  
Burlington, Kentucky  
1836-1894

by

Zayda Clore

Unknown date

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BOONE COUNTY  
Morgan Academy  
Local History

M O R G A N    A C A D E M Y  
of  
B u r l i n g t o n ,    K e n t u c k y

1836--1894

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20 School Court  
Walton, Kentucky 41094

M O R G A N    A C A D E M Y

of

BURLINGTON, KENTUCKY

Morgan Academy was built in Burlington, Kentucky in the early days of Boone County history. It consisted of a two story red brick, colonial building, well constructed with two class rooms below and an assembly hall on the second floor.

Collins History of Ky. says, " In 1840 it has an endowment of \$5000. and sixty students." One story says that Mr. Morgan donated the money to build the school. Another says he died without heirs and the county took over the estate and started the school.

Dr. Otto Crisler, one of the students said, "Over the entrance of the front door, the words MORGAN ACADEMY 1836 WAS CUT IN STONE AND ADORNED WITH GOLD LEAF."

It stood on a large plot of ground, bounded on the north by Burlington Historical Cemetery, on the east by Bullitsville Road, On the west by the old Wesby home and on the south-west by Idlewild Road.

The floor plan of the house was unusual. The front entrance opened into a hall from which a stairway led to the second floor where dances and town meetings were held. Back of the hall was a large class room. Back of this was another hallway with an outside door at either end and another door opening into another large class room at the back.

Morgan Academy was one of the first institutions of ~~higher~~ higher learning in northern Kentucky. Here the great and the near great went to school. The students were admitted to colleges and universities. From this school came lawyers, doctors, Congressmen,



judges, writers, historians, teachers, merchants, musicians and artists.

The names of the following instructors have come down through the years:---Alexander Campbell, Mary Ann Thompson, Henry Newton, \_\_\_\_\_ Galleger, Dr. B. W. Chamblin(1808-1867), Louvette M. Whitehead (1883) , Johnny Mack, John Lassing and Willie Gaines. Mrs. Troup taught music and German and Miss Fannie Hice taught piano.

Professor Henry Newton, a brilliant and highly educated teacher taught a pay school at Morgan Academy. So great was he that he could have taught a college all by himself. One marvels that one small head could have held all they said he knew. He was gifted in higher mathematics, could teach English, with Shakespeare and the classics, Latin and even surveying.

Quoting Dr. Crisler, "He was a good and grand man and when he was buried a world of knowledge was buried with him."

Professor Newton worried everyone to death because they never could find out who he was and from whence he came.

Local history has handed down the names of some of the students who were educated at Morgan Academy:----

Fannie Eruce, Hubert Erady, James Calvert, lawyer,  
Homer Clatterbuck, Leslie Clatterbuck, Stanley Clatterbuck,  
Dr. Otto Crisler, Lucian Clore, Jess Cowan, Pet Cowan,  
Lelia Cowan, Edna Cowan, Mary Conner, Lizzie Cropper,  
Bess Davis, Fannie Finch, Harry Fisk, Kitty Gaines, Inez Gaines,  
Hubert Gaines, Elmo Gaines, Vess Gaines, Walter Gordon,  
Leslie Goodridge, Hattie Huey, Clement Kendall, Edith M. Kendall,  
John Kelly, Walter Kelly, <sup>bro of Fannie</sup> Olga Kirkpatrick, John Rogers, All  
Rogers, Nat Rogers, Mamie Rogers Williamson, Grace Rogers,  
Clayton Rogers, Edson Riddell, Arthur Rouse, Frank Rouse,  
Bessie Rouse, Dr. Elijah Hyle, Maude Hyle, John Hyle, Lizzie Hyle,

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Cordie Hyle, Rankin Revill, Jack Sandford, Alan (Fud) Sandford,  
Owen Stephens, Newton Sullivan, Katie Smith, Sallie Smith.

Among my mother's papers was found this invitation:--  
The cover was beautifully illustrated in color with a girl of the  
gay ninety, wild roses and birds.

"A THANKSGIVING BALL will be given at MORGAN ACADEMY HALL,  
Burlington, Kentucky, --Thursday Eve. Nov. 27, 1890 Yourself and  
Company are respectfully invited to be present on that occasion.  
COMMITTEE: Dr. H. H. Hays, A. B. Ingram, W. L. Gaines, J.S.  
Clutterbuck, W. D. Cropper, J. E. house.

There was also a receipt for tuition to Morgan Academy,  
dated August 1886 for the amount of \$3.95 and signed by L. M. Whitehead.

The last date this school was known to have been used as  
an institution of learning was 1894.

The public school building was back of Robert Crisler's  
blacksmith shop. Nettie Gardner was one of the teachers. Boone  
Rogers was on the school board. Two board members talked of  
building a new school. At that time Morgan Academy had folded  
and the building was empty. Mr. Rogers suggested that the district  
school move into the empty building. This was agreed upon and the  
public school moved over on Bullitsville Road and remained there  
until a new building was erected on a rolling plot of ground  
on Bellview Road near the Tom Finch House.

Mrs. Maggie (Ozark) Ryle was the teacher.