

Jacksonville Academy Had Start In Home

Rev. M. H. Wilson, a minister of the United Presbyterian Church, laid the foundation for Jacksonville Academy by teaching two young men in his own residence in the village. These young men were Abraham Lowman and a Mr. Kerr.

Acting upon the move of Rev. Wilson, some of the fathers set to work to raise a stock company to erect a building and start an academy.

This was accomplished in the fall of 1849, when a board of trustees was chosen. The trustees were Samuel G. Miller, John McCurdy, William Robinson, George S. Lowman, William McFarland, and Samuel McCartney.

The principals of the academy in succession, were as follows:

Rev. M. H. Wilson, Rev. J. M. Jamison, Rev. Franklin Orr, W. A. Leggett, H. B. McIntyre, Professor Robb, and Rev. Samuel Hood.

The term of Rev. Hood closed with the year 1867. By this time, institutions had sprung up all over the land, almost every village having its select school. As a consequence, the academy ceased to be self-sustaining and sometime afterwards, the building was sold by the trustee, to the school directors of the borough for a public school-house.