

ANDOVER, MASS - Abbot Academy

MEMORIAL HALL, L.C.
Andover, Mass.

Abbot Academy at Andover
Massachusetts

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ABBOT ACADEMY
ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS



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The Andover Press
Andover
Massachusetts





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THE history of Abbot Academy is in some respects unique. Small schools for girls alone had existed in New England during the few years previous to the date of this foundation, and academies for boys and girls were scattered in various towns; but those wise men who counselled a good woman to endow this beginning in 1828 were the first bold ones to incorporate a school for girls alone.

Although the plan had been well laid before Mrs. Sarah Abbot came forward with her support, yet by her gift and legacy it became possible to carry it out at once: and on an acre of land given by Mark Newman, Esq., the building, called then "a spacious and splendid edifice", was placed facing School Street. This was the school centre, but the scholars were scattered about in the houses of the village.

So, for years, did the Academy live and grow, drawing scholars from all over the then settled country, and enlarging its scope of work as it became evident that young girls were capable of assimilating information which had formerly been considered impossible or useless for them. Houses were opened by individual enterprise, in which the scholars boarded and



MADAM SARAH ABBOT

lodged, or took care of themselves, until it was decided that the school itself should own such a home of influence upon the morals and manners of the pupils.

In 1854 the Trustees decided to build a boarding hall, and to call it "Smith Hall" in honor of Mr. Peter and Mr. John Smith, the former a trustee, who gave generously toward its erection. The ladies of the town, led by Mrs. Samuel C. Jackson and Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, worked for the furnishing; and it was opened for use in 1855. The hall no longer exists, but its history will ever be a testimony to the substantial and generous



THE CIRCLE

interest which Andover and her citizens have always shown to Abbot Academy. Generations of happy girls lived under its roof, and in it and in the small, old-fashioned modern language houses on the grounds, the school dwelt in peace until the time came for a new and modern building. The living Alumnae, pupils and friends triumphantly recognize a goodly record of more than 6000 scholars and 600 graduates during the past seventy-eight years.



ABBOT HALL — 1904



DRAPER HALL



MCKREN MEMORIAL HALL



JOHN-ESTHER GALLERY



INTERIOR JOHN-ESTHER GALLERY

DRAPER Hall was built mainly by money collected by Miss Philena McKeen, the principal of the school at the time, but the sum needed was completed by the large gift of Mr. Warren F. Draper, for many years trustee, treasurer, and devoted friend of the Academy. The other buildings were moved and place made for this excellently planned and most complete and beautiful hall, which was first used in the fall of 1890. And now, in the 78th year, we see another addition to this fine equipment in the McKeen Memorial Hall, named in memory of Miss Philena and Miss Phebe McKeen, for recitation rooms, entertainment hall and gymnasium. This we have received mainly through an Alumnae Committee led by Miss Anne M. Means, and also by gifts valued for the spirit of love and confidence which truly consecrates the stones of this foundation. The change from 1829 to 1907 may be clearly seen in the illustrations.



THE LABORATORY

THE McKeen Building contains a very fine hall finished as a memorial to Hon. Geo. L. Davis, given by his son, Mr. Geo. G. Davis, with a large stage for plays, concerts, etc., and an organ loft and gallery. This is also used for the gymnasium, with dressing rooms, lockers, and shower baths below. The rest of the building has big, light, airy, well planned recitation rooms, ventilated by fan, and heated by steam. Two rooms can be thrown together so that the school may use the stereopticon freely. The staircases are very wide and easy, and the fire escapes perfectly satisfactory to the commissioners.

Draper Hall contains the parlours, library and reading-room, music rooms, studio and infirmary; sunny dining-room and all the students' rooms. The rooms for pupils are single, double, or with



THE DAY



THE "HALL" IN ABBOT HALL

bedroom for two and sitting-room connected. They are all very light, admirably ventilated, heated by hot water, and lighted by electricity; and they are furnished in excellent modern style.

Abbot Hall has been altered so as to make very fine large chemical, physical and biological laboratories, and a wide staircase, has been made, leading to the old assembly room, around which hang so many dear memories. In this assembly room, many a noble thought and encouraging word from distinguished and experienced men and women have sown seeds which have been fruitful in the after life of the eager school girl.

Adjoining Abbot Hall, a fireproof building, with a beautiful exhibition room lighted from above, has been erected. This is called "The John-Esther Gallery", and contains a collection of oil-paintings, bronzes, and engravings, which were a legacy, together with the money for the building, of Mrs. John Byers, an old scholar. This collection is open to the public one day each week, and may be frequently studied by the pupils.

These four buildings, heated and lighted by one system, complete the present home of the school.



STAIRCASE LANDING



THE MASON DRAWING-ROOM



THE MCKEEN ROOMS



THE SENIORS' PARLOR

BUT buildings and grounds do not make the character of Abbot Academy. That has been shaped by the counsel of good and learned men on her board of trustees, by the conduct of her life, by able principals, and by the devoted labour of her teachers. From her alumnae have gone out many missionaries, heads of schools, well-known writers, teachers, and charitable workers, besides the throng of quiet, unnoticed women faithful to duty in whatever station. These have carried out and will carry out in the world and for its good, the training of the spirit, mind and will for which the school stands eminent.

The course of study is fitted for the college preparatory work, which carries the full certificate right given by the New England College Entrance Examination Board, and to Vassar College, besides thorough preparation for colleges where no certificate is received, such as Bryn Mawr and Radcliffe. There is also the regular Academic course, of college grade, planned to give a good general education, and requiring two years beyond the high schools; and special courses arranged for those who from lack of time or health are not able to do full work.

The equipment of the school in material for study has always been generously provided for by the trustees, and by private gifts. The very large collection of photographs and lantern slides, although mainly intended for the study of the fine arts, is used for examinations and illustration in the sciences as well as in history and literature. The physical and chemical apparatus and the new laboratories show the good work done in these subjects.

The value of the study of French and German is much increased by the conversational method in the classes, and by the separate tables in the dining-room where these languages are required to be spoken.



THE LIBRARY



THE READING-ROOM



THE MUSIC ROOM



THE library of 6,000 volumes is arranged for easy reference and reading, by the Dewey card system, and all subjects studied in the school are considered in additions. The best magazines and reviews are on the racks in the reading-room. The Clark five-inch telescope in its revolving dome, is used by the astronomy class, and by its aid some very beautiful photographs of the moon in her phases have been recently taken. Unusual collections of birds, butterflies, minerals, and shells illustrate Zoölogy and Geology.

The music department has separate rooms; a central one with two pianos for ensemble playing, and nine cells for practice, cut off by double doors and padded walls and floors to insure quiet. Professor Samuel M. Downs studies the individual needs of his pupils and adapts to them the method of teaching voice and piano, always developing not only technical ability but the perception of the spirit and meaning underlying the best of music, old and new, vocal and instrumental.



THE STUDIO

THE studios are filled with casts such as are usually found only in technical schools; the latest methods of composition and design are taught, as well as drawing from the figure. This department is in charge of Mrs. Herman D. Murphy, an artist trained in New York and Paris. The history of the fine arts was early made a part of the Senior course and has the great advantage of a special endowment for yearly additions by books, casts and other illustrations.

There are a number of scholarships offered to those who find it difficult to meet expenses of education, if the need is real and the character worthy.

Devoted Alumnae give us an annual income from their association and clubs for whatever seems most desirable to add in any department; and others, unorganized, make up a yearly sum, in order that we may have the finest lectures from eminent people.

Plans have been made for a separate Infirmary, which it is hoped will be built at an early date. A trained nurse constantly watches for the beginnings of illness, and cares for slight needs.

These are notable facts; but the more intimate and devoted care of the teachers for the scholars cannot be told and estimated. The directions and counsels which mould the growing characters are long remembered and deeply appreciated in later years.



THE COMEDY OF ERRORS



A STUDENT'S ROOM

WITHIN Draper Hall the pleasant drawing-room for the reception of friends opens with other public rooms into a large space for teas or for evening gatherings. The life of the girls in their rooms can only be understood by those who themselves have had such happy school days. Cor-

ridor parties, little plays or charades, dancing in the sitting-room, or smaller friendly gatherings, cheer the Tuesday holiday evening, and the thirty minutes between study hour and bed-time. English, French or German plays are presented for outside audiences.

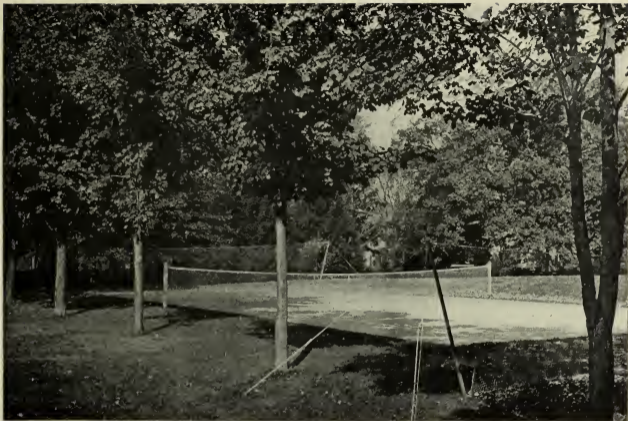
Concerts by the best performers are given each year in Andover, and the Symphony rehearsals, the opera, as well as good plays, can be attended in Boston.



THE COMEDY OF ERRORS



STUDENT' SROOM



ONE OF THE TENNIS COURTS



HORSEBACK RIDING

earnestly impresses the need of the Christian life upon the scholars. Attendance at morning service on Sundays is required at the South Congregational or at Christ Church, (Episcopal), and daily morning and evening household prayers keep up the spirit of devotion and thankfulness.

EXCURSIONS are made to Concord and Lexington, Boston, Cambridge, Salem, and other places of interest, historical, literary, artistic or geologic. Many distinguished men and women come to lecture or talk familiarly to the school. Professors of note, scientific men, college presidents, travellers from abroad, workers in notable charities, and private friends bring fruits of their attainments to enlarge the horizon of thought and knowledge.

The Young Women's Christian Association takes charge of the religious meeting held by the pupils, and of some of the charitable work; and on Saturday evenings a regular meeting is held in the hall, where the principal or some one from outside

ON a bright holiday morning, or when comes the hour of recreation after school, in the fall and in the spring, it is a lively scene as one set of girls starts for the hockey field, another for the basket-ball or tennis courts, some others with golf sticks, and yet others for the walks and rides for which Andover is famous.

The twenty-three acres of grounds allow plenty of room for these sports close at hand, while golf is on the town links, and horses and riding lessons come to the door. During the



SCHOOL DRILL



IN THE GYMNASIUM

winter the new gymnasium gives a chance for indoor work with the Swedish system, and for basket-ball; and coasting and skating come according to the weather conditions.

The Athletic Association organizes these sports, and Field Day brings out the result in good-natured contests. All this gives play to the superabundant energy of the young girls, and suited to the individual and carefully guarded, produces a result in robust health which often surprises parents.



THE HOCKEY FIELD



BASKET-BALL.



THE ELM ARCH AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



THE ELM ARCH

FIFTY-ONE years older than the sister Academy, Phillips Academy for boys has ever been a pleasant and profitable neighbor, and with the Theological Seminary, twenty-two years older, has cordially shared good things with Abbot Academy. Lectures by world-famous men, many of whom like to come to talk especially to the girls; talks from professors and teachers, great interscholastic football, base-ball and basket-ball games; concerts, promenades and plays all vary the long school year most pleasantly, and occasional intercourse with brothers, cousins, mutual friends or friends from the same town, relieves the loneliness and sense of distance from home.

Phillips Academy, whose sons are to be found all over the world; the Theological Seminary, whence have gone out great preachers, college presidents, professors, and humbler workers in many pulpits; Abbot Academy, sending out daughters trained in mind and heart; these make an atmosphere of study and scholarly interest which has an influence, unconscious perhaps, but marked, over the whole life of many a boy and girl who has been to school in Andover.



THE ACADEMY BUILDING



BORDEN GYMANSIUM



THE SCIENCE BUILDING



PHILLIPS ACADEMY



THE GOLF CLUB

Churches of Andover



SEMINARY
CHAPEL



CHRIST CHURCH



THE OLD SOUTH



THE OLD RAILROAD

the big neighbor, Lawrence, with her thousands

ANDOVER is one of the good, old New England towns which begin their history with a record of sturdy usefulness during the troublous Indian wars, of Revolutionary courage, and of firm and patriotic devotion in the Civil war. Here were the homes of the Bradstreets and Phillipses, statesmen and learned divines; here, later, were the distinguished theologians and writers, Woods and Stuart; the inspiring teachers and preachers, Park and Phelps; here, in the stone part of Phillips Inn, dwelt and wrote Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, and near by, Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward. Here were the beginnings of the temperance efforts; of the Tract Society; of the Missionary Societies. Here was an early publishing house, still known for special works called for on both sides of the sea. All these influences confirmed the interests of the town in the direction of education, and the endowment of the schools sprang from the spirit of men eager to encourage learning. The little Shawsheen River was early utilized for cotton and woolen weaving and the making of linen twine years before of spindles, sprang up on the Merrimac.

THE town is 23 miles from Boston by rail, about 12 from Salem and Lowell, and 3 from Lawrence, with electric car connection in all directions. The public spirit of the place is well shown in the fine public schools, the Memorial Library, the Village Improvement Society, the Guild for charitable workers, and all the many minor organizations which carry on community life in a developed society.

Beautiful for situation, recommended by physicians for bracing air, gravelly



THE SHAWSHERN



POMP'S POND

soil and pure water, famous for her distant views and wonderful sunsets, Andover has most beautiful surroundings. Her woods and fields, her ponds and streams, country roads and winding paths, all are inducements to drives and walks in exhaustless variety. She was truly fitted to inspire in Samuel F. Smith, who here wrote "America", the lines

" I love her rocks and rills,
Her woods and templed hills ; "

words sung wherever on the earth the hearts of Americans turn to their country.



PHILLIPS INN — MRS. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE'S HOUSE



