

# SUGAR GROVE

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AND THE CLASS OF 1886

**Being a Chapter from the Story of  
My Life**

BY

**GEORGE EDWARD CONGDON**

PRICE FIFTY CENTS



CLASS OF 1886—SUGAR GROVE.

Alta  
Ravlin

G. E.  
Congdon

Addie  
Coulson

Joseph  
Kennedy

Frankie  
Shepardson

Emily  
Humiston

John  
Woods

Zora  
Dean

John  
Wheeler

Minnie  
Judd



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Hiawatha, Kansas.

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1911.

COMPONENTS OF 1011

THESE ARE THE COMPONENTS OF 1011

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By GEORGE EDWARD COMSTOCK.



## PREFACE.

The following pages, the story of one short but happy period of my life, are perhaps but the precursors of similar chapters devoted to other periods, the question of the continuation of the series depending upon my own mood and their reception by their hoped-for friends. This particular booklet is issued for my relatives and near friends and such others as, having shared the experiences of these days now long past, may have an interest in these events. It gives the record of two years of rather uneventful history and I am not so foolish as to flatter myself that any outside of those enumerated above will have any interest in it. It is to be regretted that it is written from a narrow, seemingly selfish, standpoint but in those days I was a shy boy forming few intimate acquaintances and distinctly unsocial in my habits, and the result was inevitable. I shall be glad to receive corrections and additional material from any reader of these pages.

G. E. CONGDON.

Hiawatha, Kansas, Dec. 20, 1911.

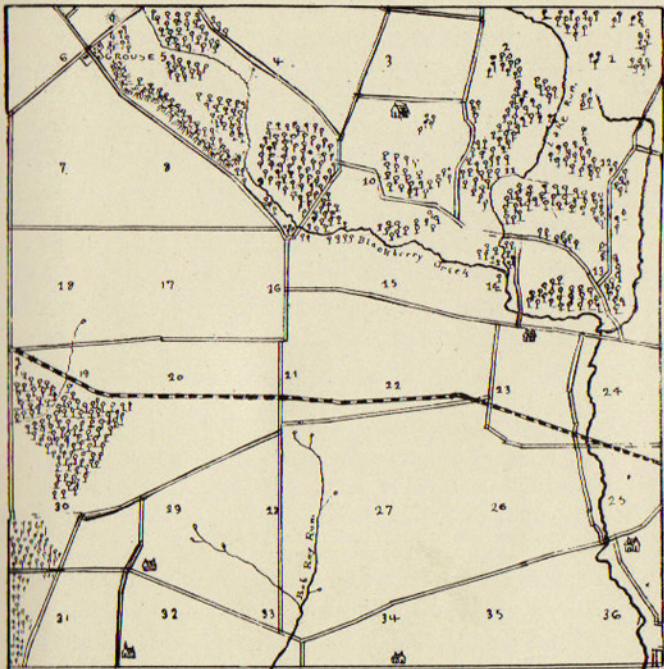
## CHAPTER I.

Late in the summer of 1884 my parents began to talk with me about sending me away to school the coming school year. I was then several months past my fifteenth birthday, a slender frail-looking boy, a little fonder of books than the ordinary boy, and though I was acquainted with the young people of the village and on the farms adjoining ours, I knew very few outside of our own school district. At first the suggestion was made that I attend the public schools of Batavia, and I had supposed the matter was practically decided. My aunt, Miss Ella York, now Mrs. C. H. Starkey, had been elected to a position in the grades of the Batavia schools and it seemed opportune that I accompany her. But a few days before the opening of the Sugar Grove school my mother entered into correspondence with Mr. Frank H. Hall, the head of that institution, and the result was that here I attended school for the next two years. There were several possible reasons for this choice. Mr. Hall had built up a considerable reputation for the school in the nine years he had been conducting it, and the circle of its influence had even then been extended farther west than Waterman. Again, his nieces, Misses Finette and Hattie Norton had been popular teachers in the Waterman school, and were manifestly reflecting the training they had received under their uncle's tuition. Further, it is not improbable that the peculiar methods of teaching in vogue in the school and the ideas that were given pre-eminence led my father

to hope that I would acquire there a greater liking for farm affairs than I had ever displayed up to that time. But probably the chief determining factor and the thing that appealed to my mother most of all was the fact that I could come home every Friday night.

So it happened that, accompanied by my mother, I started for Sugar Grove on the morning of Monday, September 22, 1884. Somehow about two years before, I had conceived the idea it would be a fine thing to keep a diary, and my parents when they saw that I was in earnest in the matter had indulged my humor. And the entries in those yearly records, though crude and childish at first, have been valuable in the preparation of these reminiscences. A part of the entry for that day is "Sugar Grove is not a very large place." I cannot remember all of the buildings in the town but my memory is sufficiently definite so that I can give the reader a fairly good picture of the village as it was at that time. First there was the depot built beside one of the highways of the township, and opposite it on the south side of the track the usual grain elevator. Then on the north was the store of J. S. Miller and adjoining it on the same side of the highway was a blacksmith's shop. To me this shop was somewhat a thing of mystery. It was an unobtrusive structure back a little from the street, and partially hidden by the large overarching trees. The doors were seldom open, and there was little evidence of life about the place. Altogether it was a strange contrast to the busy open-doored shops which one usually sees and the only





# SUGAR GROVE TP.

SUGAR GROVE TOWNSHIP.

(A page from my notebook. The village is near the center of the township.)



port with which I had been hitherto acquainted. Across from Mr. Miller's store was Uncle Tom's Cabin, as it has always been called, in honor of Thomas Judd, the prime mover in the founding of the school. This was at once the village hotel and the boarding house and dormitory for the students. However at that time the transient boarders were few and far between. A few rods to the north was Mr. Hall's store, a long two-story structure, with broad steps in front and a long flight of stairs on the south side of the building leading up to the second floor which was the home of Mr. Hall and his family. For the village of Sugar Grove the store was the rival of the metropolitan department stores. In front of you as you entered was the village post-office. On the right was a considerable display of drugs and medicines, and on the left dry-goods and notions. Farther back was a supply of groceries, and hardware, and on one block of shelves was a stock of school books and school supplies. In the rear of the store was a small printing press, bought probably with the idea of giving instruction in the printer's art to any student who desired it, and which Mr. Hall used in a small way in actual business. Behind the store in the rear was a stock of lumber. From all this the reader will certainly perceive that Mr. Hall was a very busy man. But this is only a part of the story. Besides managing the school and being actively engaged in teaching, not only did Mr. Hall act as postmaster, and manage this store, together with a lumber yard and I think a stock of farm machinery in connection, but he managed the boarding

nal, and owned a farm the conduct of which he superintended. I think too that his teams were engaged in gathering each morning a supply of milk for the creamery. And above all he found time to preach an occasional sermon on Sunday.

Just south of the store and not far from the sidewalk was a very small but neatly kept building used by Dr. Norris as his office. The school building, which was destroyed by fire a few years ago, stood where the present building stands, several rods north of the store. It was a rather plain two-story square structure of wood with a low belfry surmounting it in the center. On the south side of the first floor was the room devoted to the primary department, and on the north was a room fitted up for instruction in commercial branches. The front door opened into a hall and on the right a flight of stairs led up to the second floor. Here was the main recitation room, a large square room furnished with square tables and chairs instead of desks, and heated by a large drum stove near the center. At the front of the room, which was the north end, was an elevated platform extending across the room except for the east third where was the entrance. This platform was surmounted by the teacher's desk in the middle and a grand piano at the west. Back of this was a smaller room in which was the library and a fair collection of apparatus and which was sometimes used as a recitation room. In one corner stood an articulated human skeleton with which the students were

supposed to become familiar, and with which indeed I think a few became over familiar.

A little back from the main street and between the store and the school was the home of T. J. Roberts,—“Tommie” as many of the boys called him,—the station agent. This had been built within the year. Several of the students had rooms there. North of the school building was the town hall and in the rear of both was a long row of horse sheds used by the students who drove in each day, of whom at that time there was a large number. Farther north the present residence of Frank Snow was just being erected. Then in the west part of town there were three or four houses of which I have only a vague remembrance, one being the home of Mr. Carlson. Just north of the store stands a substantial residence now, which either was standing when I came or erected in the two years I was there. In the twenty-five years that have passed since I was there the village has grown. The old school was destroyed by fire and has been replaced with another built of concrete. Across the street from the school building stands a fine Methodist church and several pretty residences have been erected on either side of the street.

And now a little as to the history of the school to which I was introduced. On Tuesday afternoon, November 10, 1874 the old district school building and town house of Sugar Grove township, a building in which my father had himself taught nearly twenty years before, was destroyed by fire. It is said that the fire originated



through the carelessness of some little boys, who were playing with an old broom, which for amusement they set afire and threw upon the roof. Some of the larger boys got it down but a spark evidently was left which was later fanned into a flame and the building destroyed. This misfortune proved but a favorable opportunity for one of Sugar Grove's broad-minded philanthropic citizens. This man was Thomas Judd, a wealthy farmer of the township. He had long been desirous that an agricultural school should be started in that town and at one time offered one hundred and sixty acres of land in furtherance of the project. At that time the scheme was considered visionary and even now there were doubters. It was only after the town had voted to rebuild on the old site and work had been commenced that he prevailed upon his fellow citizens to reconsider the vote and adopt his plans. Then it was that a delegation of citizens visited Mr. Frank Hall, at that time teaching in Aurora and with him worked out the plans for the school. Several large amounts were pledged, a grand picnic was held at which the subscriptions were largely increased, the building erected and the school opened for work in the fall of 1875. The school was called the Sugar Grove Normal and Industrial School and the hopes of its founders are fairly well set forth in the following from an Aurora paper: "The pupils will be instructed in the natural sciences, including the science of farming in all its various branches, embracing the history and usefulness of the different breeds of improved stock, the methods of improving and preserving the qual-



IN MEMORIAM.



Mary Frances Shepardson.  
Born Sept. 11, 1870.  
Died May 20, 1903.



Frank Haven Hall  
Born Feb. 9, 1841.  
Died Jan. 3, 1911.



Ermina Judd Booth.  
Born April 15, 1868.  
Died Sept. 7, 1911.

ity of farm stock and crops of all kinds, also the science of growing crops, the fertilizers required for different kinds of grain, etc." At the present day this would be accepted as a very rational plan in almost any community, but this, it should be remembered, was forty years ago. On the occasion of his death Jan. 3, 1911, a leading agricultural journal of the country said of Mr. Hall, "At Sugar Grove Professor Hall taught more practical agriculture to more people than the State University was teaching at that time. That began nearly forty years ago, and now the schools of Illinois are just beginning in earnest to put Professor Hall's ideas into practice." The same article continues, "This school was a great success; while the district furnished only about twenty-five pupils, the winter attendance was seventy-five to one hundred, many tuition pupils attending. As many as thirty-five horses a day brought pupils to this school." The account of the first commencement is characteristic. It was held in a grove north of the village June 17, 1876. "Many relics of interest, belonging to the different families in the town, were on exhibition, also botanical specimens, samples of fancy work, patching, darning, knitting, bread, etc., by the young ladies of the class. The young men tried their skill at guessing at the weights of horses, distances between given points, etc., which occasionally forms a part of the school exercises in the Industrial school. The following prizes were awarded: For best specimen of patching, Miss Jennie Densmore; best specimen of darning, Miss Lizzie Calkins; best herbarium, Mr.

M. L. Dyer; best loaf of white bread made by a girl, Miss Grace Reynolds; best loaf of white bread made by a boy, Ralph Spencer; best loaf of brown bread, Miss Murtie Calkins; best collection of articles for home adornment, made by one person, Miss Lizzie Calkins."

Frank Haven Hall, called to the principalship of the Sugar Grove school, and for twelve years its presiding genius, was born in Mechanic Falls, Maine, Feb. 9, 1841. He served in the Civil war as a member of the 23d regiment of Maine volunteer infantry and taught two years in Towle Academy, Maine. In 1866 he came to Illinois and taught two years in Earlville. Here he met and married July 23, 1866, Miss Sybil E. Norton, and here his first child Clyde H., was born Aug. 15, 1867. In 1868 he was elected superintendent of the West Aurora city schools and remained there seven years. Here his second child, Nina, was born March 12, 1873. His connection with the Sugar Grove school lasted from its beginning in 1875 until 1887, and at this place his third child, Sybil Verne, was born Nov. 14, 1887. Clyde Haven Hall is married and lives near Aurora; Nina Myrtle married Ralph T. Dodge and lives in Chicago; Sybil Verne married Harry R. Detweiler, now director of the Columbia Conservatory of Music, of Aurora. Verne, as she was called, attended the University of Chicago and graduated in 1899, the same year with myself. After leaving the Sugar Grove school he was at the head of the Petersburg, Ill., school one year; returned to take charge of the West Aurora schools again for two years and then served as



superintendent of the School for the Blind at Jacksonville for two periods (1890-93 and 1897-1902), dropping out during the democratic administration of John P. Altgeld, to become the head of the Waukegan city schools. The last years of his life were spent as superintendent of the Illinois Farmers' Institute. He died at Aurora, Illinois, January 3, 1911. He was the author of 18 text books—arithmetical, pedagogical, and historical, and the inventor of the Braille-writer and the stereotype-maker, machines used in all blind schools in the United States, in England, Europe, Australia and the Orient.

## CHAPTER II.

My mother remained with me during the day and helped put my room in order. The cabin being rather full I was to occupy the parlor, a large room on the first floor with a south and east front. My room mate was Albert W. Davis, of Big Rock, a boy some years older than myself, studious and of steady habits, and in every way an acceptable companion. I recall one habit of his that afforded me considerable amusement, an innocent one yet characteristic. On his way to and from the school building, particularly if in a fit of abstraction, he was accustomed to rub his hands vigorously one over the other. I well remember my first night in Sugar Grove. The railroad was but a rod or two away and our room was on the side next to it. In the night the shrill whistle of a passing train awoke me with a start. In my dreams I thought the bed stood directly across the track and the



train was bearing down upon me. I jumped out of bed in terror while Albert grabbed me and asked me where I was going. It was some seconds before I could realize that it was not a frightful reality.

School commenced the next day. My studies that term were, as set down in my dairy, "Latin, General History, Natural Philosophy, Grammar (How to Write)." My Latin text was Smith's *Principia Latina*—Part I. It was a book vastly different from the attractive beginner's books of the present day, and yet to me it was a charming book as being a decided improvement over the few Latin books my father had used and with which I was somewhat acquainted. In General History we used Barnes' book, and I also possessed Thalheimer's *Outlines*, a book which I had studied in the Waterman schools. The next book in the list was Avery's "Elements of Natural Philosophy," a book which has gone through many editions and is still a popular text book under the shorter title of Avery's *Physics*. Motors and dynamos were mostly things of the future in those days, though the book did contain an appendix with a page or two descriptive of these machines. Thus we escaped what the boys and girls of the present day consider the hardest if not the least interesting part of the subject. Then as now the laws of falling bodies were our chief stumbling block. The "How to Write" was a peculiar text book in English composition which had a remarkable popularity in those days, at least in northern Illinois. The author was William Bramwell Powell, a well known educator, and then I believe at



the head of the East Aurora schools. Mr. Hall and he were great friends. It may be interesting to know that his daughter is the celebrated violinist, Maud Powell, and that more than once Mr. Hall spoke of her and cited her as an example of pluck, perserverance, and concentration. John Wesley Powell, the explorer of the grand canon of the Colorado, was a brother. Of all my studies I probably found my English the most irksome. I could solve the problems of physics, remember the facts of history, or even parse correctly a difficult passage of English, but I could not write an easy, well-connected English paragraph. And even to this day I feel that my writing lacks in grace and smoothness though seldom, I think, in either clearness or force. Another study, not mentioned in my diary until the next day, was the "Elements of Agricultural Science." We had no text book in this class, the recitation being in the form of familiar talks with dictated work. In the practical side of the subject I never became remarkably proficient, and even now I can recognize only three or four of the eight breeds of cattle we studied, but in the chemistry, especially when unmixed with any agricultural taint, I had considerable interest and easily excelled.

The study bell rang at seven in the evening and as there was little chance for diversion in so small a place it generally was comparatively easy for us to observe study hours. Our school hours were those usual in the district school, from nine until twelve in the morning and one until four in the afternoon. The students from the west, of whom there were many, one or two even from Shabbona.



went home Friday evening on a train which left Sugar Grove at 6:24, and returned Monday morning on a train which left Waterman at 9:11. On this point my diary is very explicit. These trains still run with only slight change of time.

I recited in Latin four times a week, just after the study bell rang, at Mr. Hall's rooms. I continued the study during the two years of my course and for much of the time I was alone. For a few weeks, if I remember, I had in my class a short, very fat little boy from Aurora. His name I do not recall though Mrs. Snow told me it a few years ago when I brought the subject to her mind. For a considerable while, too, I remember that Mr. Hall delegated my instruction to Frank Burnett, a more advanced pupil, so I presume that he also was a student of the subject during my first year. He graduated in 1885. This Frank Burnett, I infer, is the person referred to in the following interesting paragraph, "While in Sugar Grove, a young Englishman came to that village seeking work. Frank Hall knew nothing about him, but he had a general air of refinement and earnestness of purpose. The young man was eager to go to school, but was obliged to earn a living. Frank Hall saw possibilities in him, and offered to lend him the money necessary for him to 'go through' school. The young man accepted the offer. In 1885, after he was graduated and was earning enough money to make the first payment on the loan, he wrote to his brother in London about it. The brother replied, 'What a brick that man Hall must be to have

been so kind to a perfect stranger. I should like to shake hands with such a man, and hope I may some day. Such genuine characters are awfully few and far between.' "

On the evening of Thursday, Oct. 24, a "grand Republican rally" was held at Sugar Grove. My diary says there were about five hundred men in uniform present. The rally was held in a large level pasture just north of the village on the east side of the road. A speaker from Chicago was present. This was the year that Blaine and Logan were candidates and were defeated by Grover Cleveland. There was great interest in the campaign but I doubt if it was as intense as four years later. However, this may be because four years had added to my own interest and enthusiasm in such affairs.

When cold weather came on in the fall, our room had not yet been provided with proper heating facilities (to be more explicit a few lengths of stove pipe were lacking) and, on Mr. Hall's invitation, Albert and I studied at his home in the evening for several nights.

One of the sources of entertainment as well as profit was the literary society, the Excelsior as it was called, whose meetings were held on Wednesday evening sometimes in the town hall but more frequently in the school building. The first meeting of the year was held Oct. 15 and the following officers elected: President, Albert Davis; vice-president, Emily Humiston; secretary, Anna Forbes; treasurer, Fenton Garfield; critic, F. H. Hall; chorister, Nellie Gordon. I can remember little of these meetings, not even of the part taken by myself. My diary

generally gives the bare statement that I attended the meeting. Comments as to the character of the selections and the ability of the performers, yes even what girls certain boys had for company, would be very interesting reading to me now, but my boyish mind didn't appreciate that. My application was handed in at the next meeting and on Oct. 29, I became a member. Perhaps it was at this first meeting, that the critic, who was not Mr. Hall, in criticizing one of the debaters (was it John Flower?) said he walked up and down the stage too much, "like a restless caged bear." On the evening of Nov. 25 (which was Tuesday), I spoke "Bernardo del Carpio," the only record I have preserved of any performance by anyone that first term. No, I am in error, on the evening I was admitted to membership, Oct 29. "they had a debate on temperance or prohibition."

To illustrate the provoking silence of my diary on some points—my roommate as I have said was Albert Davis, but the only mention of him as such is the statement on election day that "Albert had to go home to Big Rock tonight to vote," and one would scarcely guess I had a roommate unless from the use of the pronoun "us" on one or two occasions.

On Thursday, November 6, I find the first mention of John Woods. "John Woods and I walked down south two miles." John was from my home town and introduced himself to me very early in the term,—on the railroad platform in front of the Cabin. He may have known me or of me before this time, but I knew nothing of him.



# SUGAR GROVE SCHOOL.

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CALENDAR 1885 6

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Fall Term Begins Tuesday, September 22.

Winter Term Begins Tuesday, December 29.

Spring Term Begins Tuesday April 6.

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## BOARD OF INSTRUCTION

FRANK H. HALL, Principal.

Miss M. E. PETTY, Teacher of Rhetoric and English Literature.

Miss NELLIE M. GORDON, Teacher of Primary Department.

Miss GRACE P. HAZEN, Teacher of Music -

T. J. ROBERTS, Teacher of Telegraphy

CIRCULAR OF THE SUGAR GROVE SCHOOL.

Anyway we became fast friends and have so continued to this day. John was a good student, but in some respects my counterpart. Confinement in the schoolroom all day made him restless and he longed to get out into God's open air. So it was that he and I took frequent long walks together.

For some reason on Monday November 17 I changed rooms and roommates. Just why, I do not remember. Perhaps Albert had left school, but more likely some of the Big Rock boys had come in after the corn husking season, with whom he wanted to share his room. My new roommate was John Flower and we roomed up stairs, next to the windmill which stood close to the Cabin on the west side. John was another boy whom I grew to like very well. He had a set of encyclopedias, of the Alden reprint edition, but valuable for our purposes. This shows him to have had aspirations and some breadth of mind. He, too, was some years older than I. I corresponded with him for several years after we left school. He taught several terms of school in Kane county, then went to Iowa where he became the editor of a paper in Sibley. Here he married and sent me the photograph of a very pretty child. Since then I have not heard from him and have been told that he died years ago.

In the early days of the term Mr. Hall asked us in the Agriculture class to get the number and names of the chemical elements. Naturally and with no thought that others would not do the same, I went to the encyclopedia for the information. Mr. Hall was watching us to see

what knowledge we had and use we made of books and there he found me the next day. Public libraries in small towns were scarce in those days and anyway most of the students were country boys off the farm. So the next day my action was made public and, quoting the thought of another, Mr. Hall told us that next to knowing the thing that was in a book was to know where to find it and urged us to make ourselves acquainted with the resources of the library. I have said that town libraries were few but Waterman did possess a subscription library of some two hundred well-selected volumes of science, travels, biography, and standard fiction. In this library with my parents' encouragement I held a membership and had read many of the volumes under their supervision, often aloud. Of this fact also Mr. Hall made use in encouraging the students to judicious outside reading. I remember he asked us once for a list of the books we had read during the last year. The result was that though I was one of the younger members of the school the other boys came to me for my opinion about books, and a few of us formed a little reading circle to read aloud together books that might help us in our studies. There was John Woods, John Flower, and myself, and sometimes several others, among whom was Florence Driscoll. O no, there was nothing improper in this, for though we met in our rooms, Florence was a boy. I remember one evening, lest we disturb others by our reading, Miss Petty, the teacher in charge of the building, had asked us to occupy her room while she went elsewhere, and Florence seemed more in-



interested in a stuffed cotton dog on the center table, than in the book we were reading. Mr. Hall was an ardent admirer of Shakespeare and had succeeded in imparting a little of his enthusiasm to us. The book we were reading was Richard III. To illustrate my omnivorous habits in reading, early in the term I found in the library a little dusty yellow-leaved History of Ireland without a single illustration and with no pretence of being written for young people. Yet I borrowed this book and poured over it night after night.

The work of the fall term closed on Friday evening December 5. For some reason we had a vacation then until after Christmas.

### CHAPTER III.

I returned to Sugar Grove on Monday, December 29, and school began the next day. My studies for the term were "Latin, Natural Philosophy, General History, Geometry, Book Keeping and shall also go into the teachers' class." There were ninety pupils enrolled the first day. We used A. S. Hill's "Principles of Rhetoric" as our text. I was the only student in Latin that term. I traveled back and forth weekly from Waterman, as indeed I did each term, on a twenty-five-ride ticket that cost me nine dollars—two cents a mile. These tickets were in book form with the signatures of all persons entitled to ride thereon written on the front page. I remember one time I took a noon train and the conductor was a stern forbidding fellow named Congdon—Romanta Seymour

Congdon. He was an Illinois Central conductor, but the Illinois Central was running trains over the Burlington at that time. He looked at the signatures, asked me if my name was Congdon and, without further attempt at conversation, passed on. Years after when I had taken upon myself the task of writing the history of the Congdon family, he was living in Chicago, and I visited him at his rooms and spent a very pleasant evening with him.

My room mate was John Flower. Our little reading circle continued its work. We read History of England, a part only in all probability, as a setting for other reading, History of France, Macbeth, King John, and Life of Benedict Arnold. All this was before the day of required reading in English, so our reading was neither thorough nor wisely directed always but we gained some profit from it.

The Excelsior Literary Society held its first meeting on Tuesday evening, January 6, and elected the following officers: President, Frank Burnett; vice-president, John Flower; secretary, Belle Wheeler; treasurer, Clarence Thompson; chorister, Zora Dean; critic, Henry Collins. My diary contains but brief references to the programs for the term: "Had a debate and a paper" (Jan. 14); "I read an essay on daily newspapers" (Jan. 20); "John and Eugene Williams are getting up a debate" (Jan. 21); "I took part in a dialogue" (Jan. 28); "Frank Burnett had a paper" (Feb. 18); and "I read a review" (March 4).

Under date of January 15 I have recorded that "Mr.

# ARITHMETIC

OF THE

# FARM AND WORKSHOP.

DESIGNED FOR

THE MORE ADVANCED PUPILS IN DISTRICT SCHOOLS,  
AND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY WORK IN  
CITY SCHOOLS.

BY

FRANK H. HALL,

PRINCIPAL OF SUGAR GROVE (ILL.) SCHOOL.



CHICAGO

GEO. SHERWOOD & CO.

TITLE-PAGE OF MR. HALL'S ARITHMETIC.  
(Reduced.)



Hall has been giving us electrical experiments." The electrical machine possessed by the school was of a sort not described in any of the modern textbooks on physics, —one of the frictional machines common forty years ago, consisting of a large glass wheel hung in a silk bag well varnished. It was a very capricious machine, giving results only in the most favorable weather. Hence the subject of electricity was generally studied in the winter time. I remember for one thing that the hundred students formed a ring around the walls of the room and took a charge from a Leyden jar. Then one by one they dropped out as the size of the charge was increased. For me and for most of them this was the first experience of the peculiar sensation an electric shock gives.

On Monday, February 9, we had a severe snow storm, the worst of the season. No trains ran on Monday or Tuesday. On Wednesday two trains succeeded in getting through and John Woods returned to school. I did not get back until Thursday morning.

On the evening of February 24, Dr. H. W. Thomas, of Chicago, lectured at Sugar Grove on "A Successful Life."

Although having no direct connection with my school work it is worth recording that on the evening of Sunday, March 1, four days after my sixteenth birthday, I was baptized and united with the Baptist Church.

The term closed on Friday, March 13. "The Singing Class gave a concert tonight." I don't know whether I attended or not. I know there was a music teacher

on the faculty of the school and considerable interest was aroused in these concerts. Perhaps this is the occasion when they had a little skit in which were the words that have stuck in my memory:

Todd Benjamin had von leetle pig, von leetle pig,  
'Twas Chester White as snow.

I did not attend school during the spring term. Whether my mother was worried about my health or my father thought he needed me on the farm I do not remember. Neither the danger of physical breakdown nor the work I was likely to do on the farm were matters of such magnitude as to be worth serious consideration.

#### CHAPTER IV.

In the fall I returned to Sugar Grove on Monday, September 21. It was now understood by my parents and Mr. Hall that I was to continue in school through the year and graduate with the class of 1886. School began the next day. My studies were Latin, English Literature, Physiology, and General History, and I again became a member of the 'Teachers' class.

My roommate at first was Ed Stevens of Shabbona Grove and we occupied a room on the first floor at the end of the hall and directly in front of you as you entered the front door. He was not a bad boy but he was not my kind and the companionship became unpleasant to me, so much so that after two weeks I began rooming with Gill Scott, of Little Rock, in what had been the parlor. I think for a part of the time there were four of us in the room.

Soon after school commenced I began reading Caesar. I used George Stuart's text, a well-printed, judiciously annotated edition, but with none of the pictures that are inserted with the hope of making the modern editions attractive. Neither did it have a long treatise on Roman military equipment and tactics in the front part. I don't know how much of Caesar I read during the year neither at this late date am I able to judge accurately of the value of my Latin training at Sugar Grove. But the next winter while teaching a small school I went carefully over several books two or three times, culling out the idioms, grouping the vocabularies, and when several years later I came to enter Morgan Park Academy I found no difficulty in completing my preparatory Latin in two years and making high grades in it.

In September, 1885, Mr. Hall published a little arithmetic of 76 pages entitled "Arithmetic of the Farm and Workshop." It was designed to supplement the ordinary arithmetic of the day and contained examples in the measurement of lumber and cost of buildings; the capacity of bins, corner-ribs, and haystacks; and the measurement of carpets and wall paper; and stone and brick work. Most of the topics treated may now be found in the ordinary school arithmetic, but I doubt if there was one before that time that devoted any considerable number of pages to these topics. Mr. Hall was quite anxious that the little leaflet of answers that accompanied the book should contain no mistakes. So, withholding the sheet of answers, he offered a prize of a large and elegantly



bound volume of Shakespeare's complete works to the student in the school who should first bring in a correct list of answers to the 459 examples in the book. I do not know how others were affected by this offer, but for myself I was eager for the fray. The offer was made on October 5, and on October 14 I had them all correctly worked and on Thursday, October 22, the book was publicly presented to me. I may say that if I remember rightly there was but one incorrect answer in the leaflet and that he had discovered before my work was done.

That fall the Snow Brothers were working on a corn-husking or corn-snapping machine. I think they were backed financially by the Deering Company, but of this I am not sure. Perhaps the connection was no more than that the machine was built in the Deering shops. Anyway Mr. Hall showed his interest in the matter by dismissing school for a short time on Friday afternoon Oct. 9, and taking us out to the field where the machine was being given a trial. I remember that the boys walked up and down the field several times watching it work. As a husker it was not a success for it left the greater part of the husks on, and there was some doubt how clean it would pick up the corn when it was down. The essential parts of the machine were two parallel inclined and revolving cylinders or screws between which the stalk was gradually turned down as the machine advanced. I have recorded in my diary that my uncle thought the machine could never be a success because it required three horses to haul the machine, and two more on a wagon drawn

φωνή  
 sound, tone,  
 homophony,  
 telephonic,  
 microphone,  
 phonetic,  
 phonograph,  
 antiphony,  
 anthem,  
 cacophony, κακός, bad.

ἄρχειν  
 to lead, rule,  
 tetraarch, - τετρα = four  
 myriarch, - μυριοι = 10,000  
 monarch, - μόνος = alone  
 heptarchy, - επτα = seven

hierarch, - ἱερός = sacred  
 anarchy, - αν priv.  
 polyarchy, - πολύς = many  
 phylarch, - φυλή = tribe  
 heresiarch, - αἵρεσις = heresy.  
 oligarchy - ὀλίγος = few

χρόνος  
 time,

isochronous, - ἴσος = equal  
 anachronism, - ἀνα = against  
 chronicle, chronic,  
 echronology, λογος = discourse  
 chronometer, μετρον = measure  
 anachronism; ἀνά = up, against  
 synchronous, σύν = with.

TWO PAGES FROM MY NOTE BOOK.

WORDS UNDEFINED.

1. ap,
2. altruism; —
3. agylum, ? O
4. bheel,
5. Charah,
6. corpore vili,
7. diatrōbe, ? O
8. dans les coulisses,
9. esprit du core, O
10. gaur,
11. telepathy
11. urbi et orbi,
13. zeitgeist,
14. frederic,
15. cafe tiere,
16. photophone,
17. modus vivendi, —
18. plutocracy, —
19. srub,
20. unsmutched,
21. pére,
22. fils, \*
23. Gyskutos,
24. acces de la folie;
25. photogravures,
26. syndicates, ? O
27. quadrenniate,
28. gentes,
29. decicuries,
30. pot-au-feus,
31. dynamite, —
32. dynamiteurs,
33. miodermal,
34. ectodermal,
35. tête-à-tête, O
36. objets de piété,
37. microbe,
38. lumme,
39. toboggan, —
40. condora,
41. impedimenta, \*\*
42. resonator, —
43. chalets, See Dict. p. 215.
44. metallina,
45. detonator,
46. thermopile, —
47. calorie, —
48. dynamo, —
49. comble,
50. escrimeuse,

beside it. In these days of high-priced farm help the number of horses required might not be a serious objection. I have heard that at the present time some corn-husking machines are considered fairly successful but I have seen none of them work and do not know on what principle they operate.

The English Literature class met with the instructor, Miss Petty, in her room once a week and read various selections. This was in addition to our regular class work. Some of the selections I have noted were Longfellow's "Spanish Student," Shakespeare's "King Lear," and Longfellow's "Michael Angelo."

In our work in physiology we used Cutter's text, and it was one of our tasks to learn the name of every bone in the human body. It was here that the skeleton was brought forth. Miss Petty was our instructor and we marveled at the unconcern with which she handled the relics of what was once a fellow mortal. Perhaps it is a little exaggeration to say that we knew the names of the bones both in place and disjointed.

The term closed on Friday, December 4.

## CHAPTER V.

As during the previous winter we had a long vacation during December and the winter term did not open until January 5. My roommate that term was Lafie Carson (George Lafayette Carson was his full name) from the country south of Waterman. He was an odd but kindly good-natured fellow with a pronounced drawl



in his speech. We got along very well together or would had we been entirely by ourselves. We occupied a room on the first floor next to the windmill directly under one I had previously occupied. The rooms were so constructed that they all opened into each other but from only one was there entrance into the hallway. This made it very easy for us to congregate in one room and scatter quickly at the least sign of interruption. There were six or eight of us thrown together that way, for the most part good-natured but boisterous farmer boys, several of whom were Irish, and not disposed to study more than was really necessary. Mr. E. W. Thompson was managing the hall that winter and the boys in these rooms gave him considerable trouble. I half suspect he thought I was as bad as the rest for I was caught out of my room several times listening to the jolly stories of the Irish boys, though I never was engaged in their more boisterous deviltry.

My studies that term were practically the same as during the previous term,—Latin, Rhetoric, Physiology, General History and work in the teachers' class. I have recorded on January 11 that the attendance in the upper room was 106 and in the primary department 24,—a total of 130.

The success of Mr. Hall's little arithmetic led publishers to advise him to issue a series of common school arithmetics. This task he set about with his usual enthusiasm and thoroughness, and so it happened that for several days in our rhetoric class while studying the subject of punctuation we were applying the principles to the manu-

script of his work. The arithmetics, however, of which he eventually issued two series, were not published for several years after we left school.

It was during this winter that he issued "Hall's Helps in History," a series of six cards for the six thousand years of history, ruled for centuries and with a few other suggestive lines upon which the student was to construct diagrams and place emblematic figures as his imagination suggested and ability allowed to make more vivid to his mind the chronological sequence of universal history. In furtherance of this plan of picture teaching he made use of some blackboards which had been placed as a border around three walls of the room perhaps for this very purpose. I remember that I worked afternoon after afternoon mounted on the tallest stepladder that could be obtained and this in turn set on top of the tables, filling out this chart blackboard with the proper lines and figures. The north board represented the time from Adam to Abraham, the east board from Abraham to Christ, and the south board from Christ to the present time. This chart remained on the walls for years after I left, indeed I am not sure it was not there when the building burned,—chiefly because it was extremely inconvenient to remove it.

The Excelsior Literary Society met on Wednesday evening, January 20, and elected the following officers: President, Nellie Gordon; vice-president, John Woods; secretary, Chester Brooks; treasurer, Emily Humiston; chorister, Addie Coulson; critic, John Parr. As I find

no mention of them in my diary I infer it held no meetings during the fall term. Concerning its work my diary contains notices only slightly fuller than the year before: "I have been preparing a debate on railroads and navigation" (Jan. 26); I was on the affirmative—the affirmative won" (Jan. 27); "Had a medley by Zora Dean; a stump speech by John Morsch" (Feb. 17); "Took part in a dialogue" (Feb. 24); "There was a debate on 'The pen is mightier than the sword.' Negative won;" and "The literary society met for the last time this term. I read a paper." The stump speech by John Morsch is the only thing of which I have any very definite recollection, and this not because it was very well done, which it wasn't, but because he was pleased with the selection and it seemed so suited to his character.

I find mention under January 21 that Mr. Hall had started a vocal class but no further reference to it.

On Friday January 22 we had a severe snow storm with high wind, and many of the students coming by train went home at noon fearing the evening train would not run. I remained and the evening train came as usual but headed by two engines.

I find only occasional reference to my Latin, generally in this form: "I recited in Latin at Mr. Hall's tonight."

As early as 1884 I had become interested in the puzzles published in the weekly papers and during my school life at Sugar Grove was a frequent contributor and solver to a department in the Chicago Weekly News entitled "The Puzzle Basket" and conducted by "Ruthven"



# Public Schools of the State of Illinois.

Teacher's Certificate.



Second Grade.

GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH

THE LATEST SCHOOL LAW.

Office of County Supt. of Schools, County of Greene  
Greene, Feb. 28, 1886.

The undersigned, having examined W. C. Careyden in Orthography, Reading in English, Penmanship, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Modern Geography, the History of the United States, and being satisfied that he is of good moral character, hereby certifies that the qualifications in the above branches are such as to entitle him to this certificate, being that of the **SECOND GRADE**, and valid in said county for **One Year** from the date hereof, renewable at the option of the Co. Supt. by his or her endorsement thereon.

Given under my hand and seal, at the date aforesaid.

MARKING IN EACH BRANCH

Orthography	75	English Grammar	75
Reading in English	60	Modern Geography	60
Penmanship	60	History of the U. S.	60
Arithmetic	60	Law of Schools	60

Signature

W. C. Careyden

County Supt. of Schools

(Edwin R. Briggs). In solving contests I won several prizes,—“Ivanhoe” in July, 1885; “Poe’s Poems” in September of the same year, and “David Copperfield” in January, 1886, all for solving the most puzzles during the month.

In this term I find the first reference to examinations and I doubt if we had had any before. We seem to have written an examination in one subject each Friday. I never said anything in comment on their nature or difficulty, simply recording my grades: “My rhetoric examination stood 96 per cent” (Feb. 16); “My examination in General History stood first” (Feb. 23); “wrote an examination in physiology” (March 17); “My rhetoric examination stood 90 per cent” (April 20); “We wrote examination in general information today” (April 30); and “My examination stood 98 per cent” (May 4).

The entry under April 30 needs perhaps a little further explanation. Mr. Hall was accustomed to bring up the daily paper each afternoon and immediately after the opening exercises, he discussed the events of the day. We were required to take notes of the course of events, learn more of men prominent in public affairs, and especially did he make it an exercise for the increasing of our vocabularies. Each new word was studied both as to its meaning and derivation. Sentences containing the new words encountered were either manufactured or sought from the dictionary and other sources, and if it belonged to a group of words by derivation, as suicide, homicide, regicide, we were asked to extend the list to the

best of our ability. The atlas was made constant use of, and the events of the present were linked with the history of the past. I delighted in this work and others have since spoken in grateful appreciation of its benefits to them.

In this term too I find reference to essays written in preparation for our commencement orations: "I finished an essay on 'Life's Contests'" (Feb. 19); "I must write an essay on 'Monuments,'" (April 12); "Subject for an essay for a week from Monday 'Life is not measured by years'" (April 22); "Three essays were read in school today; 'Self Culture'—Alta Ravlin; 'Capitalists'—Minnie Judd; 'Free Trade'—John Woods" (April 29); "Two essays read in school: Zora Dean—'Elegance' and Emily Humiston 'Society'" (May 4); "Assigned to write on 'Tam O'Shanter'" (May 7); "Essays read by Joe Kennedy 'Much Money Makes Men Poor,' and Zora Dean 'Society Takes Us for What We are Worth'" (May 12); "Essay by Alta Ravlin 'Fortune Favors the Brave'" (May 18).

One of the requirements for graduation was that the candidate should hold a teacher's certificate in Kane county. So on Saturday, February 27 we went to Geneva to be examined before county superintendent C. E. Mann. I went alone and I remember with amusement and a feeling akin to sympathy for myself how I walked several times around the court house, peering up at the windows and too timid to ask to be directed to the superintendent's office. But somehow I finally got there. We took half the examination that day (I was examined in Arith-



metic, Spelling, and History) and finished a week later at Aurora. I received my certificate March 15. and I well remember what a relief I felt. My grades, as recorded on the certificate for all to see, were as follows: Orthography 92, Arithmetic 68, English Grammar 70, Modern Geography 60, History of the United States 70. I have often noticed that grade in arithmetic since—I, Mr. Hall's star student in mathematics and physics, and the winner of that Shakespeare prize, making a grade of 68! I have no explanation to offer unless possibly I got in late and was hurried for time, and think there is little doubt I got all I deserved. As far as I could remember them a few days after I wrote down all the questions submitted in this examination and have preserved them unto this day.

On the 5th and 12th of March respectively I have recorded that Mr. Hall gave us chemical and electrical experiments. The former as I remember them were a few simple experiments in the production and properties of oxygen and hydrogen to illustrate the work of the class in Agriculture.

On the evening of March 12, Prof. E. C. Hewitt, president of the Illinois State Normal University, lectured at Sugar Grove before the school and friends.

The work of the winter term was brought to a close on Friday, March 19.

## CHAPTER VI

I returned to Sugar Grove on the morning of April 8. The work of the spring term had begun on Tuesday,

April 6, but the marriage of my aunt, Miss Ella York, and C. H. Starkey, which took place at our home, April 7, had delayed my entrance.

My room mate that term was Joe Kennedy, of Bristol, and we occupied the center south room on the second floor. Joe was a very agreeable roommate, and always good natured. In the room to the west was John Woods and in the corner room to the east of us and in the room next north of it were four girls, Addie Coulson, Anna Darnell, her cousin, and Zora Dean, besides one whom I don't seem to remember. A frequent visitor to our room of evenings was Grant Bailey, a pleasing and worthy young man who had, under Mr. Hall, the principle conduct of the store. I must confess however that he seemed to come not so much to see us as to obtain the opportunity of sitting on the porch roof and under the broad projecting eaves at the girls' window. So ample was the protection of the roof even in disagreeable weather, and so manifest the purpose of his visits to our room, that we called him the girls' "rain beau." Another young man from the store was also attracted to this corner of the Cabin but he was more direct in his methods of attack and seldom bothered us. This was Clyde Hall, son of Mr. Hall, who was paying attentions to Miss Darnell, whom he afterward married. It is a matter of memory with me that on one occasion Mr. Hall found it necessary to come over and tell Clyde he considered it time he was at home and in bed. Grant Bailey I met occasionally in the years immediately following but I believe he has long since died.

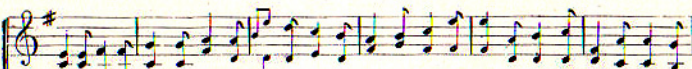
# CLASS SONG, 1886

M. E. Petty

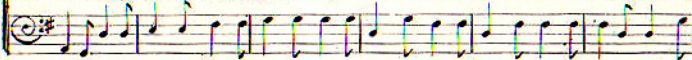
Addie Coulson.



1. Stand-ing with re-luc-tant feet Where the brook and riv-er meet, Soon we'll leave the laugh-ing brook-let
2. Glan-cing back-ward we can see, Scenes that filled our heart with glee, But we've glid-ed through the val-ley
3. With re-luc-tance though it be, We must on-ward to the sea, For up-on the wa-ters glum-ing



- And up-on life's broad-er riv-er Join the throng in great com-mo-tion Sail-ing ev-er toward the o-cean.  
 We must on-ward with the cur-rent And we'll pass with friend-ly greet-ing Those up-on life's bit-ter meet-ing.  
 We be-hold bright gems of wis-dom, Scat-tered by the hour-ous Giv-er, All the way o-down the riv-er.



Chorus. Sail-ing, Sail-ing des-ti-ny.



Sail-ing, Sail-ing, Sail-ing, Sail-ing, Toward the sea, Toward the sea at des-ti-ny, des-ti-ny



des-ti-ny.



During the spring term I studied Latin, Rhetoric, Chemistry, Botany and General History. The botany it will be observed was a short course of not exceeding eleven weeks and was concerned mostly with the study and classification of flowers. The first flowers of the season were brought into class April 16 and were the hepatica and the spring-beauty. John Woods and I made frequent excursions to woods and fields and on one trip found a rather uncommon specimen of orchis,—the orchis spectabilis.

It is a peculiar entry that I find under April 27,—“Had burnt biscuits for dinner.” This is the only reference to the food served us. As I remember it, it was good wholesome food well-cooked and generously provided. I could wish now after twenty-five years that my diary said something of the bill-of-fare, of our arrangement at the table, and of the topics of conversation, but on all these points it is provokingly silent.

One of the odd characters who was at Sugar Grove much of the two years I was a student there was “Ranny” King,—John Randolph King was his full name. He had a room at the Cabin much of the time and took his meals with the students. I don’t know what was his occupation or source of income but I think some of the time he was engaged in digging ditches. He was the Sugar Grove correspondent for one of the Aurora papers—the Beacon, I think, and his letters were more than mere chronicles of local gossip. He was a man of some intellectual parts and shrewdness of thinking and could generally be found at

the store in the evening exchanging reminiscences with the old settlers or discussing the news of the day. In religious belief I am inclined to think he was a skeptic or an atheist. I remember once during a revival in a neighboring town some one sent him some scripture texts or a little note expressing personal interest in his spiritual welfare and he made the incident the subject of some sarcastic remarks. I remember too that he occasionally went on a "spree" and got most beastly drunk. Those were the days when the Keeley cure was a new thing and he discussed the plan very fully with Mr. Hall and I don't know but he took the treatment. Poor old Ranny—"The Sage of Sugar Grove" as the obituary notice called him—died about ten years ago.

Along about the middle of May the members of the class began to go to Aurora singly or in groups to have photographs taken. My own visit for the purpose was made on Saturday May 22. These photographs were all taken by Pratt, and were of the small card style about three by five inches. We exchanged with all the members of the class, our teachers, and a smaller or larger circle of other friends.

The subject of commencement essay or oration is first mentioned May 24,—“I think I shall write an essay on temperance for a last essay.” Once during the year Mr. Hall had jokingly remarked to a boy that as he chose sides in a certain debate so was he likely to become fixed in his political belief even though it be at variance with the belief of his father. Anyway “Prohibition” was the

subject of my commencement oration, and with the prohibition party I have affiliated ever since. I did some reading and a little thinking on the subject, but it was at best a medley of the thoughts of others not over closely bound together by my own words and finally rounded into an acceptable shape with the assistance of teachers. But if lacking in originality it was an effective part as presented for though unquestionably frightened I did not betray it but delivered it in a clear strong voice that could be easily heard to the very rear of the large hall. But here I am getting ahead of my story. The production was handed in for correction June 7 and returned the next day with the statement that it was "good but not long enough." On Friday June 11 our essays were all read to Mr. Hall and the next day I began learning mine. On Tuesday June 15 we "rehearsed our essays at the rink," as we did on each of the two succeeding days, commencement being Friday evening.

The other parts of the program were taking shape at the same time. On May 25, I have recorded that, "Dora Myers is going to write the Class History; Minnie Judd is to write a class song and Addie Coulson the music." The statement concerning the authorship of the class song is open to question. Although the manuscript copy I have preserved retains the name of our class mate as author, I know I have been told later that Miss Petty, our instructor in English, wrote it. This is no reflection on Miss Judd, for I have never heard her lay claim to the authorship and her name occurs on my copy only on the



authority of the foregoing statement in my diary. The class history was the means of a little very clever school advertising by Mr. Hall. Although it contained the usual amount of personal statistics and amusing skits, a mere suggestion on the part of Mr. Hall was always sufficient to secure the insertion of statistics of the distance traveled by rail or by carriage by each member of the class in his trips to and from school, and items concerning scholarship that possessed both interest and subtle advertising value.

Wednesday May 26 was a "great day of sensation; a man drunk on the streets in the evening; a negro traveling to Aurora arrested for robbery in Big Rock; Salvation Army." The last item is cut short for want of room in my diary.

Did we have any exciting class parties, class gatherings, or class picnics? Well, certainly not as many as the average high school class of the present day. Under May 27 I have recorded that "John Woods and several others with myself went down to the west woods after school." A very non-committal statement, certainly, but I happen to remember that in the group were several girl members of the school. Indeed more than that I remember that some of them attempted to walk with me and engage me in conversation but I refused to be a party to any such unseemly proceedings. I do not think this was a class party—more likely the members of the botany class, but it doubtless included all or nearly all of the graduating class. We took no lunch with us and returned in time for

# • Programme. •

MUSIC, . . . SCHOOL ORCHESTRA \*

## PRAYER.

1. BLACK THE HEELS OF YOUR BOOTS,  
JOHN WOODS, Waterman, Ill.

2. HEROINES,  
MINNIE J. JUDD, Sugar Grove, Ill.

3. THE GOLDEN MEAN,  
EMILY HUMISTON, Kaneville, Ill.

MUSIC, . . . SCHOOL ORCHESTRA.

4. PROHIBITION,  
GEORGE E. CONGDON, Waterman, Ill.

5. DRESS AND ADDRESS,  
ADDIE COULSON, Hineckley, Ill.

6. THE MEASURING STICK.  
ZORA DEAN, Big Rock, Ill.

MUSIC, . . . EMILY AND ALTA.

7. BOYS.  
M. FRANKIE SHEPARDSON, Sugar Grove, Ill.

8. WHAT'S MINE IS MY OWN,  
JOSEPH KENNEDY, Bristol, Ill.

9. FISHING,  
JOHN WHEELER, Big Rock, Ill.

10. "STANDING WITH RELUCTANT FEET  
WHERE THE BROOK AND RIVER MEET,"  
ALTA RAVLIN, Kaneville, Ill.

MUSIC, . . . CLASS SONG.

SCHOOL AND CLASS HISTORY,  
DORA J. MYERS, Class of '87.

FAREWELL TO CLASS,  
MARY DAVIDS, Class of '87.

MUSIC, . . . "FAREWELL."

PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS.

BENEDICTION.

don't dispute it. A broad platform was erected at the south end of the hall and on this we were arranged in a curve at the back of the stage (were we seated in rocking chairs?) with members of the faculty at our right and officers and patrons of the school behind them. I only know that I sat near the west end of the line with one of the girl members of the class on my left and perhaps another on my right. There were six girls and four boys in the class. To this girl on the left I was supposed to devote some attention and I remember that before the program was over she did persuade me to take her fan and manipulate it for her supposed benefit in an awkward and very bashful way. The day had been pleasant and cool and that night the moon was just a little past the full. People drove in for miles from all directions. My own people, father, mother, two brothers and a sister, drove from Waterman eighteen miles away. Their presence in the audience and hopeful yet approving looks encouraged me to my best efforts. The hall was filled to the very doors and people stood on the stairway unable to gain entrance. To me there was inspiration in the numbers. I did better than ever I had done in private rehearsal. But at last it was all over, Mr. Hall had made his farewell speech to the class and presented the diplomas, and we, the ten members of the tenth class, gathered up our bouquets and other remembrances, and bidding each other tender farewells went out into the night never again to be all together while time shall last. With my parents I drove home to Waterman after the conclusion of the



exercises. It was early morning when the journey was finished, I was chilled through and did not get up until noon the next day. Concerning the subsequent history of each member of the class I shall give a few facts in the concluding chapter of my story. For several years many of us were faithful attendants of the annual alumni reunions of the school, then we scattered over the country, family cares detained several and now the class is never represented by more than two or three who live in the vicinity. On the occasion of our tenth anniversary we held a reunion at the home of Frankie Shepardson in Aurora,—two members, however, were absent. And now death has taken Frankie, our youngest member. She has gone to sit at the feet of the Great Teacher under whom all mysteries shall be solved. This summer we had hoped to get the nine remaining members of the class together, with husbands, wives, and children to celebrate our twenty-fifth anniversary, but the severe sickness of one member of the class, requiring the undivided attention of another who was the chief promoter of the plan, and the absence of still a third member on the Pacific coast, brought to naught all our arrangements. A year or two after graduation there was conceived and born the old fashioned class letter and though not all of the class shared in its labors and privileges for the others its recurring visits have been a source of pleasure and have ever strengthened the ties that bind us together.

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE CLASS OF 1886.

Congdon, George Edward, a son of George Griffith and Augusta Alvina (York) Congdon, was born at Waterman, Illinois, Feb. 25, 1869. After graduation he taught in the district schools of DeKalb County, Illinois, seven years, then attended the academy at Morgan Park, Illinois (1893-95), and the University of Chicago (1895-1899), from which latter institution he graduated April 1, 1899. Since then he has been engaged in teaching in Sac City Institute, Sac City, Iowa (1901-1906), and Hiawatha Academy, Hiawatha, Kansas (1906-to date). He is unmarried.

Coulson, Addie Leah, a daughter of William D. and Phebe (Darnell) Coulson, was born at Hineckley, Illinois, Jan. 15, 1869. After graduation she taught school five months in the summer of 1887, studied music for two years at home, and entered the Northwestern Conservatory of Music at Evanston, Ill., in September, 1889, graduating from the piano department in June, 1890. In December, 1890, she went to Laurens, Iowa, where she taught music one year. Here she met and married Jan. 20, 1892, Benjamin Lot Allen, son of Daniel Johnson and Elizabeth (Holmes) Allen, who was born Aug. 2, 1858, at Marietta, Iowa. Laurens has since been her home. Mr. Allen is engaged in the real estate business and owns the controlling interest in two state banks in the county. Their children, all born at Laurens, are: Lenore, born April 1, 1893; Thurma M., July 3, 1895; Benjamin Wilmot, Oct. 1,

# Sugar Grove School.

SUGAR GROVE, ILLINOIS.

This Certifies, That \_\_\_\_\_ having completed  
the prescribed Course of Study, is a Graduate of this  
School, and entitled to this

**DIPLOMA**

Given at Sugar Grove, Illinois, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1886.

Frank H. Hall,

Principal

Treasurer



1900; Harold Johnson, June 18, 1903; and Doris Rosalinde, Sept. 20, 1905.

Dean, Elzora, a daughter of Lewis A. and Louisa (Mewhirter) Dean, was born at Big Rock, Ill., Feb. 14, 1868. After graduation she was at home until her marriage, March 23, 1892 to Albert Greenacre, son of John G. and Marie Elizabeth (Cutting Booty) Greenacre, who was born at Bristol, Ill., Oct. 7, 1865. Soon after marriage they removed to Hineckley, Ill., where Mr. Greenacre is a dealer in live stock. Their children are Alice Ann, born at Big Rock, June 22, 1894, and Louise Maude, born at Hineckley, July 27, 1898.

Humiston, Emily, a daughter of Clark Merritt and Elizabeth P. (Price) Humiston, was born in Pierce township, DeKalb county, Illinois, Nov. 18, 1868, but with her parents removed soon after to Kaneville. She married June 16, 1892, Frank Ravlin, a son of Needham Nicanor and Frances Ann (West) Ravlin, born at Kaneville, Ill., Feb. 6, 1869. Frank was a brother of Alta Ravlin, of the class of '86. In fact she and Alta "traded brothers," as will be seen by comparing data given. They live on a farm near Kaneville, and are the parents of the following children, all born at Kaneville: Harold, born Sept. 9, 1893; Marian, March 18, 1896; Alta, Nov. 30, 1899; Lawrence, Aug. 16, 1902; Francis, July 2, 1907; and Bennett, May 18, 1911.

Judd, Ermira J., a daughter of Thomas and Electa S. (Rice) Judd, was born at Sugar Grove, April 15, 1868. After graduation she taught in the primary department

of the Sugar Grove school during the fall and winter of 1886-7 and taught in Big Rock township four months during the summer of 1887. On Nov. 2, 1887, she married George M. Booth, a son of John W. and Fanny (Collins) Booth, who was born at Chana, Ill., Oct. 15, 1865. They lived at Chana and Naperville, Ill., from 1887 to 1891. In the spring of 1891 they took charge of Uncle Tom's Cabin at Sugar Grove, continuing until March, 1893, when they moved onto a farm near Sugar Grove. Later they removed to Sugar Grove where they conducted the telephone central, and Mr. Booth managed the local affairs and repair work of the telephone company. They were the parents of the following children: Ethel M., born Sept. 3, 1888; T. Judd, March 11, 1891; Frank A., July 27, 1893; Percy R., July 27, 1895; and Electa E., Feb. 18, 1901. Since the body of this book was put in type I have received the sad news that Minnie died Sept. 7, 1911.

Kennedy, Joseph J., was from Bristol. In the fall of 1886, he taught near Plainfield, Ill., then spent several years in farming. In February 1893 he bought out his uncle's grocery business, and in 1894 was appointed postmaster at Bristol, under the second administration of Grover Cleveland. He is married and has at least one child, a daughter.

Ravlin, Alta, a daughter of Needham Nicanor and Frances Ann (West) Ravlin, was born at Kaneville, Ill., Nov. 12, 1866. After graduation she was at home until her marriage, Jan. 10, 1900, to Bennett Humiston, a son of Clark Merritt and Elizabeth P. (Price) Humiston, who

was born Feb. 18, 1865, in Pierce township, DeKalb county, Illinois. He is a brother of Emily Humiston. They live on a farm near Kaneville, and have no children.

Shepardson, Mary Frances, a daughter of Sylvanus Eaton and Lucy M. (Judd) Shepardson, was born at Ross Grove, DeKalb county, Ill., Sept. 11, 1870. With her parents she lived in Marble Rock, Iowa, Aurora, and Sugar Grove, Ill. After graduation, in January, 1888 she entered Northwestern Academy at Evanston and later attended the University of Illinois at Champaign, her school life ending in February, 1892. From that time on her life was spent quietly almost uneventfully in the home of her parents. On its tenth anniversary in 1896 she entertained the class of '86, at her home in Aurora, and her contributions to the class letter furnish glimpses of her resigned yet cheerful and affectionate disposition. In April, 1898, she wrote of a trip which she took the preceding summer around the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence, Prince Edward's Island, and Boston. In February, 1900, she wrote: "I stay quietly at home just proving myself a blessing to my good father and mother. Now don't anyone question that statement." In September, 1901, she said, "I am still with my father and mother at the old home in Aurora and trust that this condition may prevail indefinitely, with one exception, that I hope and expect it will be at the old home in Shabbona Grove, DeKalb county, after some time in December. To my great satisfaction we are planning to move into the country once more and this time I hope we may stay. I hope you will all come and see me



there." Her last contribution to the letter, about May 1, 1903, was left unfinished at her death and is reproduced in photographic fac-simile elsewhere. Disease, whose presence her classmates had scarcely guessed, so genial had been her letters, ended her life May 20, 1903. During her last days as her strength permitted she had gone to her piano and played, "I know that my Redeemer liveth, and hath prepared a home for me." She was a great comfort to her father, there existing a close companionship between them, and after her death he aged very rapidly, dying two months afterward.

Wheeler, John, a son of Edward and Margaret (Murphy) Wheeler, was born at Big Rock, Illinois. During the winter of 1886-7 he taught at Solon Mills, near Richmond. In the fall of 1887 he bought a farm in partnership with his brother, and has been farming since. He is unmarried.

Woods, John W., a son of Isaac Spence and Pluma E. (Ovitt) Woods, was born Sept. 25, 1866. After graduation he taught school four terms. In the fall of 1893 he bought a farm near Waterman, Illinois, upon which he has since resided. He married Jan. 30, 1895, Ella Broughton, a daughter of Chauncey W. and Caroline C. (Churchill) Broughton, who was born Jan. 26, 1865. They are the parents of the following children, all born at Waterman: Carrie M., born Jan. 14, 1896; Addie M., Feb. 1, 1897; Ruth E., Sept. 15, 1898 (died Jan. 10, 1899); Alta R., Oct. 8, 1899; Preston J., April 30, 1901; John B., Sept. 17, 1903; and Ralph R., Oct. 10, 1904 (died Nov. 10, 1904).

Greeting to the members of '86.

I wonder where you all are this beautiful summer day. I was especially interested in the class letter this year.

MARY FRANCIS SHEPARDSON'S LAST MESSAGE TO THE CLASS OF 1886,  
SUGAR GROVE.

(It is to be regretted that the engravers in trimming the cut, removed the capital I with which the letter began.)

## CHAPTER VIII.

### ODDS AND ENDS.

In my diary for 1888 I have inserted as best I could remember them, what I know is a very incomplete list of students who were at Sugar Grove during the two years I was there. I shall be glad to receive any additions to the list. It is as follows: Cora Aucutt, Frank Aucutt, August Baie, Frank Bastian, Frank Burnett, Theresa Carlson, Zenobia Carlson, Lafayette Carson, George E. Congdon, Alpha Coster, Edgar Coster, Addie Coulson, Millicent Cutting, Vernie Cutting, Anna Darnell, Albert Davis, Mary Davis, Merritt Davis, Myron Davis, Zora Dean, John Evans, John Flower, Anna Forbes, Nellie Fulle, Lewis Fuller, Fenton Garfield, Minnie Z. Garfield, Rittie Gillett, Ernest Granart, Victor Grover, Arthur Hall, Clyde Hall, Nina Hall, Vernie Hall, Carey Harbour, Francis Harbour, Sammie Howard, Bert Howison, Emily Humiston, Ernie Judd, Lewis Judd, Minnie J. Judd, Philip Judd, Joseph Kennedy, John Kibling, Niles Kirkpatrick, Susie Kouth, David Lewis, Charles Lovell, Mattie Lye, Willie Lye, Charles G. Macklin, Frank McGuire, Fred McGuire, Mamie Merrill, Ina M. Mighell, Maud Mighell, John Morsch, Will Morsch, Dora J. Myers, Lizzie Myers, Lee Newton, John Parr, Henry Pratt, Bennie Price, Lila Quilhot, Alta Ravlin, Frank Ravlin, Alice Reese, George Rose, Gill Scott, Chany Seavey, Alice Sharp, Fred Sharp, Charles Shepardson, M. Frankie Shepardson, Jed Shepardson, Johnnie Shepardson, Ralph Shepardson, Cinda Smith, Eddie Stevens, Eliza Thomas, Will



Thomas, Clarence Thompson, Paull Thompson, Nettie Underwood, Bert Weaver, Belle Wheeler, John Wheeler, Minnie Wheeler, Eugene Williams, John Woods. Later I was able to add the following to the list: Eddie Albee, Chester Brooks, Silas Crego, Florence Driscoll, Harold Greenacre, Emerson Greenfield, Blanche Morrill, Willie A. Phelps, Stella Wagner, and Willard S. Wagner.

Through the two years of my work at Sugar Grove, Mr. Hall was ably assisted in the work by Miss Elizabeth Petty. After he left Sugar Grove she continued at the head of the school for a year or two and then marrying Frank Snow lives at Sugar Grove. Nellie Gordon, who was the instructor in the primary department, afterward married ——— Humiston, and died in August, 1888, leaving one child, a daughter.

One of the things which Mr. Hall emphasized in primary teaching was the necessity of providing the child with fresh reading material after he had finished his first reader. His daughter Verne and Steve Miller were two of his first reader pupils at the time I was there, and one or the other of them, I am unable to tell which, had read through seventeen first readers. The idea of supplementary reading is a common enough one now, but Mr. Hall was one of its first advocates. Several times he asked his teachers' class how any parent or school director would like to read his newspaper through the second time.

Two things I remember especially that Mr. Hall emphasized in his teaching. One was that an answer or

an examination paper that was not right or perfect was poor. The world is not looking for bank clerks that can work nine problems out of ten. The other was that in this modern rushing world the boy that can think rapidly or do a thing well in ten minutes has an immense advantage over the boy who does the same thing in fifteen minutes or whose mind moves slowly.

To F. H. H.

Begot and nurtured in the state of Maine,  
In early life he sought the new-found West  
And gave to it of manhood's years the best;  
Whate'er the task naught could his zeal restrain,  
Large was his heart as well as rich his brain;  
What love of student nature filled his breast  
A thousand eager memories will attest  
As long as schools and school-days shall remain.

Into this life it was my lot to stray  
And for two years be molded by his mind—  
With growing years I've grown to bless that day  
And know that childhood's fates to me were kind,  
And graven large on memory's soul-lit wall  
I treasure aye the name of Frank H. Hall.

Hiawatha, Kansas, March 13, 1911.

The class letter of the class of '86 started on its first journey in 1894 and is now making its eleventh circuit. The time taken to make the round of the class has varied from ten months to over three years. At no time have all the members of the class contributed to it.

#### TO THE CLASS LETTER.

O ship of mine! Thou hast returned once more.

A precious cargo e'er to me the wares

Which here and yon thy thin-walled structure bears;

Yet some, alas, thy proffered wealth ignore

Or yield but scanty welcome to their shore.

But other some accept their proper shares

Replacing with an equal store of theirs

And bid thee godspeed as in days of yore.

As now with fav'ring winds and anchor weighed

Thou settest forth the old familiar way,

Be swift thy voyage, prosperous thy trade,

Thy coming welcome and yet brief thy stay;

Seek out new ports yet pass not by the old

And may not one the barter due withhold.

Hiawatha, Kansas, March 17, 1909.



