FIRST QUARTO-CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF THE STATE NORMAL AND TRAINING SCHOOL, POTSDAM, N.Y., 1869-1894

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649584000

First Quarto-Centennial History of the State Normal and Training School, Potsdam, N.Y., 1869-1894 by State University College at Potsdam

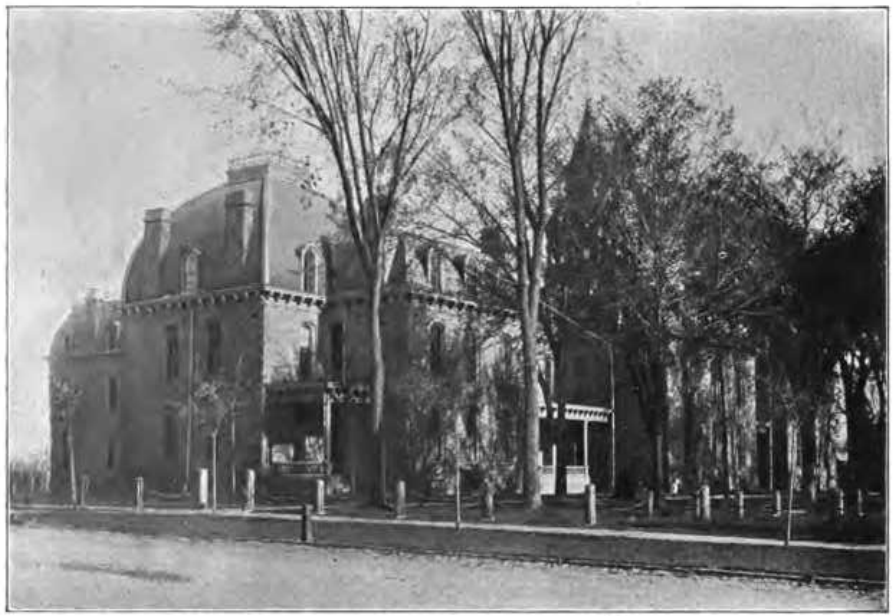
Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

www.triestepublishing.com

STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT POTSDAM

FIRST QUARTO-CENTENNIAL HISTORY OF THE STATE NORMAL AND TRAINING SCHOOL, POTSDAM, N.Y., 1869-1894

Trieste



THE POTSDAM STATE NORMAL AND TRAINING SCHOOL.

FIRST

Quarto-Centennial History

OF THE

State Normal and Training School,

POTSDAM, N. Y.

1869 - 1894.

POTSDAM, N. Y.,
Elliot Fay & Sons, Printers,
1895.

Editorial Note.

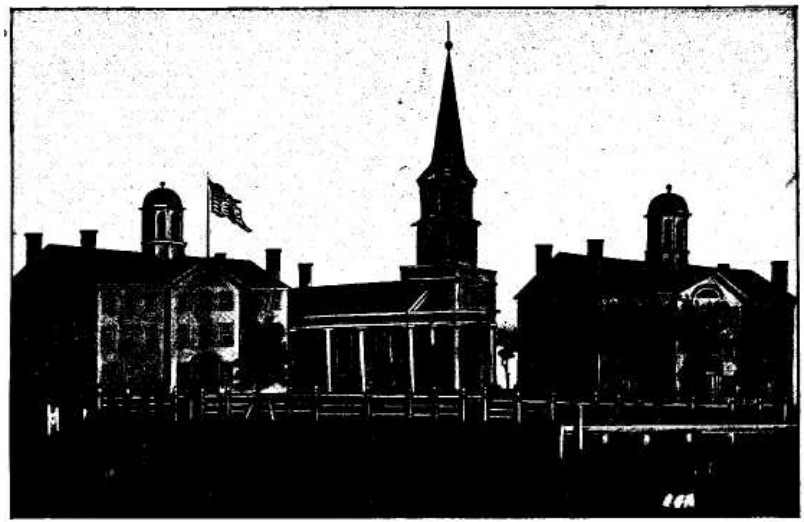
The increasing interest in the Professional Training of Teachers is a logical sequence to the proposition which is gaining credence that Teaching is a Science as well as an Art. It has taken half a century to demonstrate to the American schoolmaster the correctness of this proposition, and even now it is questioned by teachers of high standing. With the conviction that the State Normal and Training School at Potsdam, N. Y., has made no inconsiderable contribution to Pedagogics, both by its literature and the living power of its graduates, it has seemed fitting that a permanent record of its First Quarter Century should be made in the form of a historical review. To this end a special effort has been made to gather brief biographical sketches of the members of the Local Board, of the teachers who have been associated with the faculty, and of the alumni whose labors are a proof of the right of the Normal to a place among the professional schools of the land; to those sketches there has been added such material of a historical and professional character as has been thought necessary to make the First Quarto-Centennial Book a work of value to the friends of education, and of interest to those who have been more directly concerned in the development of the School.

From the fact that there have been frequent changes in the management of the school, with attending changes in educational theory, and from the fact that no record of the alumni had been preserved, it has required no small labor to collect the desired material, and unavoidable delays have attended the enterprise. The editor regrets that he has been unable to obtain responses from all of the alumni, and that time and space do not permit of a more thorough and comprehensive resume, for the work wrought by the alumni would constitute a volume replete with interest and instruction.

The failure to reach all of the alumni, many more of whom would have gladly responded, is greatly regretted. In conseqence of such failure many personal sketches are wanting, and classmates will look in vain for desired information. The editor feels that a longer delay would not be excused, and therefore he ventures to commit the work with all its omissions and defects to the kindly judgment of those who will read between its pages a labor of love.

The recent literature on the school system of New York is so full and detailed that it has not seemed desirable to attempt a history of the Normal Schools, or even to give a condensed resume of the work done by the other Normal Schools of the State, but rather to emphasize the distinctive work of the Potsdam School.

It is hoped that the arrangement of the biographical sketches by classes will be especially satisfactory to classmates, and that the "Index of Persons," at the close of the volume, will meet all other purposes of reference.



St. Lawrence Academy.

A Friendly Word for St. Lawrence Academy.

By Geo. H. Sweet, her Last Principal.

Something more than three-fourths of a century ago, when this present prosperous village of Potsdam was in its very infancy—a mere hamlet—St. Lawrence Academy was established and incorporated and, with a small endowment in comparatively valueless real estate, opened her doors as a higher institution of learning, having in view the prospective demands of this then undeveloped section of country for higher educational facilities. This now time honored and warmly cherished institution embarked upon her noble mission on a bright September morn in 1816, with no flourish of trumpets, in an unpretentious, one story, one room, five hundred dollar wooden building, erected for the purpose on what was then known as Raymond street. One solitary teacher was there as faculty and guiding star of that new born enterprise. But he, with this embryonic venture and hardly divining the great future before it, was surrounded and energetically sustained in his lonely trust with a score of philanthropic, broad minded pioneers, through whose liberality and efforts St. Lawrence Academy had become a possibility. If I mistake not these men, whose forethought conceived this grand old institution, whose manly courage was strong enough to successfully carry it through its early struggles and vicissitudes, have passed on to their reward. Still it is a matter of great compensating satisfaction for us to know that nearly all of them lived to see St. Lawrence Academy victoriously stem the tempestuous current of adversity, consequent upon these primeval times, and securely anchor