

Gould Academy 1890



The Academy building of 1890 is pictured above; it was built in 1881. There were no other buildings on the campus. Boarding students had to find accommodations in the village.

In 1890 Gould Academy still had no student boarding facilities. Arrangements were made for outside students to board in town. Goodwin Wiley, Secretary of the Trustees, seemed to be the person responsible for communicating with parents to help in connecting new boarding students with available rooms for rent in the village.

January news: La Grippe (influenza?) has closed Gould Academy. The spring term will commence February 11th - one week earlier than was intended.

The most important event of the year was a proposal for the Town of Bethel to assume ownership of the Academy and operate it as a free high school.

At the 1890 Town Meeting this article was in the warrant: *Art 26th. To see if the town will vote to accept the building and other property now in the hands of the Trustees of Gould Academy, if said Trustees shall vote to surrender the said property to the town; and to establish and maintain said Academy as a free high school under the provisions of sections 30, 37, 38, and 39 of the Schools Laws of Maine, and to appropriate such sum of money as may be necessary to support and maintain said Academy as a free high school.*

The initial report was : Voted to accept the building and other property now in the hands of the trustees of Gould Academy if the trustees will convey and \$1,000 was ap-

propriated for a free high school to be run in conjunction with said Academy under the provisions of the State Law, providing satisfactory arrangements can be made.

Because investment funds available for the Academy under its Maine charter would be lost if the town should acquire ownership, the Trustees did not agree to transfer the Academy to the town.

Professor Arthur D. Hall who had been hired in August 1889, proved to be an effective, well organized principal. During 1890 the Academy's library was expanded with a public reading room that included two daily Boston newspapers, two county newspapers, Harper's Weekly as well as educational, scientific and literary journals. These publications would be available in the newly arranged reading room.

Area teachers were invited to normal school lectures at the Academy with lecture subjects being Aids and Methods in Teaching, History, Reading, Arithmetic, Geography and Grammar. An outline of psychology and its applications to teaching would also be given.

Gould formed a new Athletic Association.

On May 22nd the Gould Academy graduation and exhibition took place at **Ideal Hall**. Graduating class: Cora Walton Hastings, Maude Everett Kimball and Bert Lewis Bryant; all were in the classical course

West Bethel's correspondent reported that some scholars from their village attended Gould Academy, taking advantage of the Grand Trunk Railroad's reduced rates for scholars this group was at home nights.

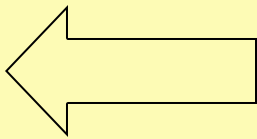
In June, the trustees announced that they had engaged Prof. Hall for another year. The academy advertised its fall term for 1890 as follows: Autumn Term Commences, September 2, 1890, Location is in the beautiful section of the Androscoggin valley. Courses of study include Classical, Scientific, Literary, Practical Business, Normal Courses and Music and Art., Prof. Arthur Hall, Principal.

In September, Gould Academy opened with about 50 scholars under the supervision of Prof. Hall. Miss Johnson who assisted him last year was obliged to give up the school on account of her health. His sister and another competent teacher assist him

The newly formed athletic association provided these two news items:

The Gould Academy Athletic Association has just received \$18 worth of tennis good from Boston. The club court is marked out and ready for use. The Athletic Exhibition Friday evening is for the benefit of the Academy library. The dumb bell drills by 24 girls and boys in costume is a pretty sight. Dancing will follow the exhibition.

Gould Academy Athletic Association gave an exhibition at Ideal Hall on November 14th. The program consisted of a variety of gymnastic events including the parallel bars and the high kick. The high kick was won by Archie Grover with a kick that reached 7 feet and 10 inches. Young ladies presented a dumb bell drill -all of this from the careful coaching of Prof Hall.



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