

**PRIVATE BOARDING SCHOOL**  
 FOR  
**YOUNG LADIES,**  
 ALEXANDRIA COUNTY, VA.,

**Rev. OLIVER COX, Principal and Proprietor.**



This Institution, situated near the country seat of the late General Van Ness, six miles from Washington and three miles from Georgetown, in a retired and remarkably healthy location, will be opened for the reception of Pupils on the second Monday of September next.

The Course of Instruction will embrace the Ancient and Modern Languages, all the branches of a thorough English education, and the accomplishments usually taught in our best Female Institutions.

The labors of the Institution will be distributed, as far as practicable, as follows:

The Principal, with an Assistant, will conduct the English, Latin, and Greek studies.

Miss LYDIA S. KELSEY, Teacher of French, Instrumental Music, Drawing, and Painting.

Mr. A. ZAPPONE, Teacher of the Italian and Spanish Languages.

Dr. H. S. WUNDER, charge of Boarding department.

**EXPENSES.**

PER SESSION OF FIVE MONTHS.

Elementary English branches .....	\$7 00
Advanced English branches and Sciences.....	10 00
Board, Washing, use of furnished room, light, fuel, and medical attendance.....	60 00

**EXTRA CHARGES.**

PER SESSION OF FIVE MONTHS.

Music on the Piano, with use of instrument.....	\$15 00
Music on the Guitar.....	15 00
Modern Languages, each.....	7 00
Ancient Languages, each.....	5 00
Drawing and Painting.....	10 00

**REMARKS.**

**PAYMENT.**—Bills for one-half of Board and Tuition to be paid invariably in advance, and the remainder at the middle of the session. A discount of five per cent. will be made upon the above charges by payment in advance for the entire session of five months. No deduction made except in case of protracted sickness. No extra charges, except in case of damages not accidental.

**LECTURES.**—Frequent Lectures on literary and scientific subjects will be delivered before the School by the Principal.

**CONVERSATIONAL LESSONS**, in French, will be given twice a week.

For further particulars address the Principal, (Falls Church P. O., Fairfax county, Va.) or Dr. H. S. WUNDER, Washington, D. C.

Parties interested may refer to the—

Rev. Wm. C. LIPSCOMB,  
 Post Office Department, Washington city.  
 Col. Wm. MIXON,  
 Falls Church Post Office, Fairfax county, Va.  
 R. L. BROCKETT, Esq.,  
 Principal of the Alexandria Academy, Alexandria, Va.

Rev. Dr. J. J. MURRAY,  
 Georgetown, D. C.  
 W. D. WALLACE,  
 Editor of the Star, Washington city, D. C.  
 E. Y. REESE, D. D.,  
 Editor of the Methodist Protestant, Baltimore, Md.

# Private Boarding School for Young Ladies

RESEARCHED BY H. STEVEN DOLAN

Item Description: The item is an advertising flyer framed and matted. The text is black on white paper. There is no visible watermark. There is a blind embossed impression in the upper left corner with the words "Turkey Mill" in all caps, serif font. The seal image is of a side-wheel steam vessel with two masts and a smoke stack. Although the Turkey Mill of the J Whatman Co. was a famous English manufacturer of paper, it is extremely unlikely that this is J Whatman paper. Genuine J Whatman paper is watermarked with a distinctive design and was never embossed by the mill. It was, however, fairly common for stationers to emboss American papers in imitation of the more famous brand.

The text block contains the following describable references:

## **"PRIVATE BOARDING SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES"**

The school was started in the fall of 1857<sup>1</sup> in the first floor of the original Mount Olivet Methodist Protestant Church located at 1500 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia. The original building was dismantled in the fall of 1861 to provide construction materials for a U.S. Army encampment.<sup>2</sup> I can find no record of the school after the war.

## **"Rev. OLIVER COX, Principal and Proprietor"**

The Reverend Oliver Cox (1827–1912) was the first pastor of the Mount Olivet Methodist Protestant Church, serving on the Alexandria County circuit of the Methodist Protestant Church in three different periods, from 1850–1851, 1854–1856 (during which Mount Olivet was founded), and 1864–1866.<sup>3</sup>

Rev. Cox, in addition to his work for the church, also worked as a builder, teacher, and surveyor. Although no record of his life prior to 1847 when he entered the ministry survives, he spent the rest of his life in and around Washington, DC.<sup>4</sup> He is buried in Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington, DC.<sup>5</sup>

## **". . . situated near the country seat of the late General Van Ness . . ."**

John Peter Van Ness (1770–1846) was a brigadier general in the militia of the District of Columbia, as well as mayor of the District of Columbia from 1830–1834.<sup>6</sup> His "country seat" was the glebe house of the Fairfax parish of the

Church of England (Fairfax parish encompassed two churches: Christ Church in Alexandria, and the Falls Church, after which the city is named). The glebe, a 500-acre farm, provided support of the pastor of the parish in colonial times. The original structure was built in 1775 but burned in 1808. It was rebuilt in 1820, as a hunting lodge, by General Van Ness.<sup>7</sup>

**“Miss LYDIA S. KELSEY”**

(I have been unable to further identify Miss Kelsey.)

**“Mr. A. ZAPPONE”**

Dr. Almerico Sebastian Zappone (1822–1867) was born in the Benevento, west of Naples, Italy. He emigrated from Italy to Georgetown in 1845 as a scholastic (student)<sup>8</sup> in the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), but left the order in 1847, shortly after arriving in America. He married an elderly widow in Alexandria, Virginia in 1847.<sup>9</sup> In addition to teaching at Rev. Cox's Young Ladies Boarding School, he also taught modern languages at the Alexandria Boarding School in 1859.<sup>10</sup> He graduated from the Georgetown Medical School on March 8, 1860.<sup>11</sup> He continued to be active in both medicine and education after teaching in Reverend Cox's school at Mt. Olivet as his second wife, Margaret, was advertising the Circle Institute for Young Ladies in Washington, D.C. in 1862.<sup>12</sup> He returned to Italy for a visit in 1867 and died there, in Genoa, of a fever on September 5, 1867.<sup>13</sup>

**“Dr. H. S. WUNDER”**

Dr. Henry S. Wunder (1791–1866) moved to Alexandria County from Germantown, Pennsylvania and settled a farm near the intersection of Glebe Road and the Washington & Fairfax Road (now Lee Highway). For many years the area was known as "Wunder's Crossroads."<sup>14</sup>

In the 1860 election he ran for a seat in the Virginia House of Representatives.<sup>15</sup>

**“Rev. Wm. C. Lipscomb, Post Office Department,  
Washington city.”**

Reverend William Corrie Lipscomb (1792–1889) was prominent in the Methodist Protestant Church from its foundation in 1828. He, along with Gideon Davis and William King, founded the Congress Street Methodist Protestant Church in Georgetown, D.C. in 1828 after they were stripped of their offices

and censured for their reform activities within the Methodist Episcopal Church.<sup>16</sup> Rev. Lipscomb went on to represent Washington and later Maryland at a number of General Conferences of the Methodist Protestant Church, including his election as the President of the 1858 Cincinnati Convention. At the time of his election, Rev. Lipscomb was an unstationed minister, and his presidency was the first time an unstationed minister had been elected to that position. He died in Washington, D.C. and is buried at Oak Hill cemetery.<sup>17</sup>

### **“Col. Wm. Minor, Falls Church Post Office, Fairfax county, Va.”**

William Minor (d. 1859) served in the local militia during the War of 1812, as well as serving as a justice of the peace<sup>18</sup> and as a commissioner of elections.<sup>19</sup> An early tent meeting of the Methodist Protestant Church in Alexandria County was held on his farm.<sup>20</sup>

### **“R. L. Brockett, Esq., Principal of the Alexandria Academy, Alexandria, Va.”**

Robert L. Brockett was a native of Alexandria, owner of a brickyard and principal of the Alexandria Academy in the 1850s. The Academy was founded in 1786, closed in 1820, and reopened in 1836. It was located on Washington Street between Duke and Wolfe Streets.<sup>21</sup>

### **“Rev. Dr. J. J. Murray, Georgetown, D.C.”**

Rev. John J. Murray was active in preaching in Baltimore and on the eastern shore of Maryland from the 1850s through the 1880s.<sup>22</sup> He was also involved in the division of the Methodist Protestant Church over the slavery issue at its 1858 Convention.<sup>23</sup> He was one of the compilers of the third version of the *Hymn Book of the Methodist Protestant Church*, published in 1859.<sup>24</sup> He served as president of the 1867 Montgomery, Alabama Convention of the Methodist Protestant Church.<sup>25</sup>

### **“W. D. Wallach, Editor of the Star, Washington city, D.C.”**

William Douglas Wallach (1812–1871) was a surveyor, newspaper reporter, editor and owner. He moved to Texas in 1838 and did surveying work of the inland waters, the Matagorda Bay and the Colorado River, before becoming editor of the Matagorda Bulletin. He moved to Washington in 1846, after Texas achieved statehood, and reported for various papers in Washington until he bought an interest in the *Evening Star* newspaper in 1853. He became sole owner in 1855 and ran the paper until 1867.<sup>26</sup>

## **“E. Y. Reese, D. D., Editor of the Methodist Protestant, Baltimore, Md.”**

Eli Yeates Reese (1816–1861) was born in Baltimore, one of four brothers, all of whom became ministers in the Methodist Protestant Church. He spent his entire life in and around the City of Baltimore. He was elected to edit the *Methodist Protestant* in 1838 at the age of 23, and continued as editor until his death in 1861, with a short break from 1843 to 1846. A combination of the death of his wife and the coming of the Civil War, which cut the circulation of the *Methodist Protestant* by more than half, caused him great distress and he took his own life on September 14, 1861.<sup>27</sup>

---

### *Acknowledgements*

I would like to thank Ms. Linda Gouaze of the Arlington Historical Society; Lynn Conway, Archivist of the Georgetown University; and Hank Hulme, Archivist of the Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church, without whom I would not have been able to prepare this report.

---

<sup>1</sup> Hank Hulme, private email, 28 March 2011.

<sup>2</sup> Kirk Mariner, *Cloud of Witnesses: The Methodists of Mount Olivet in Arlington* (New Church VA: Miona Publications, 2004), p. 35.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 20.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 21.

<sup>5</sup> Hank Hulme, “Oliver Cox – Mount Olivet’s First Assigned Pastor,” unpublished article.

<sup>6</sup> “John Peter Van Ness,” <[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_P.\\_Van\\_Ness](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_P._Van_Ness)>, accessed 12 October 2006 and 9 April 2011.

<sup>7</sup> Arlington Historical Society, “GLEBE OF FAIRFAX PARISH (1820),” <<http://www.arlingtonhistory.org/learn-2/historic-sites/dwellings/>>, accessed 9 April 2011.

<sup>8</sup> Letter from Sophia A Zappone, Bethesda, MD, to Editor, Georgetown General Register, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, April 30, 1924, Alumni Files, Georgetown University Archives, Georgetown University, Washington, DC.

<sup>9</sup> Gerald McKevitt, *Brokers of culture: Italian Jesuits in the American West, 1848-1919*, p. 70.

<sup>10</sup> Joseph Guerin Fucilla, *The Teaching of Italian in the United States* (New Brunswick, NJ: American Association of Teachers of Italian, 1967), p. 245.

<sup>11</sup> John Gilmary Shea, *Memorial of the First Century of Georgetown College, D.C.* (New York: P.F. Collier, 1891), p. 202.

<sup>12</sup> *Daily National Republican*, Washington, D.C., November 21, 1862, p. 3.

<sup>13</sup> Letter from Sophia A Zappone.

<sup>14</sup> Mariner, *Cloud of Witnesses*, p. 4.

<sup>15</sup> “The Miscellaneous Documents of the House of Representatives, Printed During the Second Session of the Thirty-Eighth Congress, 1864-’65,” <[http://books.google.com/books?id=O5oFAAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Second+Session+of+the+Thirty-Eighth+Congress&hl=en&ei=WUjdTvZ2I6Xs0gHqz73CDQ&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CEkQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=O5oFAAAAQAAJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=Second+Session+of+the+Thirty-Eighth+Congress&hl=en&ei=WUjdTvZ2I6Xs0gHqz73CDQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=4&ved=0CEkQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q&f=false)>, pp. 368–380.

<sup>16</sup> Jane Donovan, compiler, “Records of Congress St Methodist Protestant Church” <[http://www.theusenweb.org/dcgenweb/records/congress\\_methodist.shtml](http://www.theusenweb.org/dcgenweb/records/congress_methodist.shtml)>, accessed August 1995, 9 April 2011.

<sup>17</sup> Edward Jacob Drinkhouse, *History of Methodist Reform, Synoptical of General Methodism, 1703–1898:1820–1898* (Baltimore, MD: The Board of Publication of the Methodist Protestant Church, 1899), p. 579 <<http://books.google.com/books?id=SnsAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA579>>, accessed 8 April 2011.

<sup>18</sup> *Alexandria Gazette*, Alexandria VA, July 30, 1859, p. 3.

<sup>19</sup> *Alexandria Gazette*, Alexandria VA, May 15, 1855, p. 2.

<sup>20</sup> *Alexandria Gazette*, Alexandria VA, June 28, 1855, p. 3.

<sup>21</sup> Harold W. Hurst, *Alexandria on the Potomac, The Portrait of an Antebellum Community* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, Inc. 1991), p. 64 <<http://books.google.com/books?id=vcxX36Ffs2cC&pg=PA64&lpg=PA64>>, accessed 9 April 2011.

<sup>22</sup> Drinkhouse, *History of Methodist Reform*, pp. 407, 449, 492, 511.

<sup>23</sup> Drinkhouse, *History of Methodist Reform*, p. 422.

<sup>24</sup> T.H. Lewis, S.S. Fisher, M.D. Helmick, J.W. Hering, William Walls, *The Methodist Protestant Church Hymnal* (Baltimore and Pittsburgh: Stanhope Press, 1902), p. 3 <<http://books.google.com/books?id=ybz8vxHUuEAC&pg=PA3>>, accessed 9 April 2011.

<sup>25</sup> Drinkhouse, *History of Methodist Reform*, p. 487.

<sup>26</sup> Clinton P. Hartmann, “WALLACH, WILLIAM DOUGLAS,” *Handbook of Texas Online*, published by the Texas State Historical Association, <<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fwa37>>, accessed 9 April 2011.

<sup>27</sup> Drinkhouse, *History of Methodist Reform*, pp. 447–448.