During the mid-nineteenth century, many citizens were inspired to take up the call of various reform movements. In 1846 the North Indiana Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, seeking to further the education of young women in the state, established the Fort Wayne Female College in the heart of Fort Wayne, Indiana. In 1850 the college began admitting males into a separate branch called the Collegiate Institute for Men, and in 1855 both schools were merged and the name was changed to Fort Wayne College. The institution would eventually be renamed Taylor University and moved to Upland, Indiana, in the 1890s, but in its early years its students were largely drawn from Fort Wayne and surrounding Allen County, although a few came from as far away as South Bend, Lafayette, and even Illinois and Maryland.¹

Due to the lack of adequate secondary education in Indiana prior to the Civil War, in its early years the college offered education at both secondary and collegiate levels and divided its students into the Primary, Academic, or Collegiate Departments.² The topics covered in the Primary Department “embraced the rudiments of Orthography, Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic,” while the students of the Academic Department studied grammar, geography, analysis, arithmetic, composition, physiology, and the history of the United States. Students who completed the course of studies in the Collegiate Department, which included subjects such as
trigonometry, botany, history, chemistry, rhetoric, and philosophy, received an English Diploma. Those who also went on to complete courses in Latin and French received a Classical Diploma.

The school year consisted of three terms: one from May to August, a second from September to December, and a third from January to April, when the yearly exams were held. In 1852 tuition ranged from $3.50 to $7.50 per term, depending on the student’s department. Music lessons cost an extra $9.00 per term, painting and drawing were an extra $5.00, and room and board required an additional $1.50.

At the end of each academic year, the school published a catalog and register that included the names of its students, as well as a listing of course offerings and other general information. The Indiana Historical Society’s collection of pamphlets in the William Henry Smith Memorial Library includes catalogues and registers of the Fort Wayne Female College for the years 1851–52, and of the Fort Wayne College for 1855–56 and 1884–85. Transcribed here are the names and residences of students, faculty, and administrators of the Fort Wayne Female College as listed in the register for the 1851–52 academic year, when the young school boasted a population of 123 female and 83 male students.

Notes


Names Extracted from the Fort Wayne Female College Catalogue and Register, 1851–52

**Board of Trustees**
Hon. William Rockhill, Fort Wayne
Allen Hamilton, Fort Wayne
Rev. Samuel Brenton, Fort Wayne
Rev. S. C. Cooper, Fort Wayne
Benjamin Mason, Fort Wayne
Major Samuel Edsall, Fort Wayne
S. M. Black, Fort Wayne
Theodore K. Brackenridge, Fort Wayne
Charles G. French, Fort Wayne
David P. Hartman, Fort Wayne
Rev. R. D. Robinson, Fort Wayne
Mark Jones, Lafayette
Wesley Park, Auburn
Robert Work, Dekalb County
William G. Ewing, Fort Wayne

**Officers of the Board**
Hon. William Rockhill, President
Allen Hamilton, Vice-President
Rev. S. C. Cooper, Secretary and Treasurer
Rev. O. V. Lemon, Traveling Agent
Rev. S. C. Cooper, Local Agent

**Board of Visitors**
Rev. J. L. Smith, South Bend
Rev. A. Wood, Greencastle
Rev. H. B. Beers, Lima
Rev. J. H. Hull, Centerville
Rev. H. N. Barns, Logansport
Rev. D. F. Strite, Goshen
Rev. G. W. Bowers, Marion

**Faculty**
Alexander C. Huestis, A.M.
*Acting president and professor of mathematics and natural science*
Mrs. Sarah D. Huestis
*Adjunct teacher of mathematics*
Miss Mary E. Dibble
*Teacher of French, painting, and drawing.*

Miss Anna C. Smith
*Teacher of music*
Miss Elizabeth Fowler
Miss Caroline Cooper
*Teachers in Primary Department*

**STUDENTS**

**Collegiate Department**

**Seniors**
Adaline F. Brenton, Fort Wayne
Pencelia J. Couk, Lafayette
Elizabeth A. Cooper, Fort Wayne
Desdamona Edsall, Fort Wayne
Lucy Foulk, Aurora
Theresa C. Hartman, Fort Wayne
Elizabeth M. Shoaff, Huntertown
Ann Eliza Thompson, Fort Wayne
Frances A. Tolerton, Fort Wayne
Louisa L. Winter, Cadiz, O.

**Juniors**
Elizabeth M. Anderson, Lafayette
Amanda J. Brawley, Lafayette
Julia A. Brenton, Fort Wayne
Sarah E. Beasley, New Richmond
Rebecca Beasley, New Richmond
Caroline Cooper, Fort Wayne
Mary L. Ewing, Fort Wayne
Charlotte F. Ewing, Fort Wayne
Margaret A. Hartman, Fort Wayne
Elizabeth M. Hawkins, Lafayette
Miriam Insley, Newtown
Mary A. Meharry, Pleasant Hill
Nancy J. Skinner, Lafayette
Malvina A. Thornton, Door Village
Amy Winder, Goshen
Abigail Wolcott, Wolcottville
Rowena Wolcott, Wolcottville

**First Year**
Josephine Ayres, Fort Wayne
Jane Bailey, Spencerville

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Nancy Buck, Lafayette  
Charlotte Bailey, Spencerville  
Alice M. Beasley, New Richmond  
Eliza F. Collins, Columbia  
Malvina G. Cuppy, Springfield  
Louisa W. Cooper, Fort Wayne  
Adelia Crall, Bryan, O.  
Adelia S. Dudley, Fort Wayne  
Lavina A. Ewing, Fort Wayne  
Lavina H. Ewing, Fort Wayne  
Emeline Evans, Monmouth  
Elizabeth Ellis, Lafayette  
Martha P. Hoagland, Lafayette  
Susan A. Hawkins, Lafayette  
Martha Huntsinger, Lafayette  
Margaret Huntsinger, Lafayette  
Mary E. Johnson, Fort Wayne  
Cornelia B. Meharry, Pleasant Hill  
Adelia Mahon, Port Mahon  
Rebecca J. Mason, Fort Wayne  
Elizabeth J. Morgan, Milford  
Rachael P. Ninde, Camden  
Eliza Jane Paul, Bryan, O.  
Martha Roop, Fort Wayne  
Frances A. Reed, Millersburg  
Rhoda Sickler, Lafayette  
Anjanette Trumbull, Wolflake

Academic Class

Adalaide Avaline, Fort Wayne  
Lydia Arnold, Fort Wayne  
Samantha Brenton, Fort Wayne  
Harriet Chittenden, Fort Wayne  
Maria Cosgrove, Fort Wayne  
Agnes Dykes, Fort Wayne  
Rosaline L. Edsall, Fort Wayne  
Frances Edgerton, Fort Wayne  
Esther C. Ewing, Fort Wayne  
Elizabeth Eldridge, Fort Wayne  
Caroline French, Fort Wayne  
Angeline Heller, Eel River  
Sophia Hill, Baltimore, Md.  
Mary Iba, Fort Wayne  
Sarah Iba, Fort Wayne  
Martha C. Jennings, Lafayette  
Sarah Jones, Elizabeth  
Jane Jones, Fort Wayne  
Laura M’Makin, Fort Wayne  
Elizabeth A. Miller, Fort Wayne  
Caroline Nill, Fort Wayne  
Almira Owens, South Bend  
Eleanor Owens, South Bend  
Ann Payne, Woodstock, Ill.  
Henrietta Park, Chama, Iowa  
Nancy Robinson, Lafayette  
Eliza Reiter, Fort Wayne  
Henrietta Shoaff, Eel River  
Mary J. Story, Fort Wayne  
Clara Sweetzer, Fort Wayne  
Sarah Stevens, Fort Wayne  
Kazia M. Stephenson, Lagro  
Margaret J. Stephenson, Lagro  
Lucretia Thompson, Fort Wayne  
Henrietta Thompson, Eel River

Primary Department

Leonora Blossom, Fort Wayne  
Frances Black, Fort Wayne  
Gertrude Black, Fort Wayne  
Mary Black, Fort Wayne  
Emaline Black, Fort Wayne  
Cornelia Cornwell, Fort Wayne  
Josephine Cooper, Fort Wayne  
Caroline Crane, Spencerville  
Maria Cooper, Fort Wayne  
Helen Edsall, Fort Wayne  
Matilda Edsall, Fort Wayne  
Mary J. Evans, Fort Wayne  
Mary Heckley, Fort Wayne  
Emily H. Harrison, Blufton  
Martha Harrison, Blufton  
Cornelia Harrison, Blufton  
Mary E. Hartman, Fort Wayne  
Henrietta M. Hartman, Fort Wayne  
Mary E. Hosler, Fort Wayne  
Angelin Jones*, Fort Wayne  
Ann E. Johnson, Fort Wayne  
Catharine Leeper, Fort Wayne  
Elizabeth Miller, Fort Wayne  
Harriet Mahin, Fort Wayne  
Hannah Rafter, Fort Wayne  
Annvilla Runnells, Perry township

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Caroline Swinney, Fort Wayne
Mary Silvers, Perry township
Henrietta Stapleford, Fort Wayne
Adelia M. Tolerton, Fort Wayne
Louisa Tait, Port Mahon
Marinda Waters, Fort Wayne

MALES

Collegiate Class
Erastus L. Chittenden, Fort Wayne
Homer C. Hartman, Fort Wayne
Lemuel Hartman, Fort Wayne
Noris Heller, Eel River
Henry Johnson*, Eel River
Richard Lackey, Brush Prairie
Andrew M’Makin, Fort Wayne
John Ohls, Ossian
James W. Powers, New Haven
Noris R. Royhouser, Fort Wayne
William Shoaff, Eel River
Darius Sams, Orland P.O.
Evan Snider, Poughkeepsie
William R. Stapleford, Fort Wayne
Newton Thomas, Newville

Academic Class
John Appleman, Brush Prairie
Francis Avaline, Fort Wayne
Williams Armstrong, Fort Wayne
Brutus Bowrie, Fort Wayne
Preston Black, Fort Wayne
Henry Bond, Fort Wayne
Jared Bond, Fort Wayne
Marion Bowser, Fort Wayne
Walter Briggs, Fort Wayne
George Briggs, Fort Wayne
Abraham Ensey, Fort Wayne
Isaac Eckhart, Fort Wayne
George W. Ewing Jr., Fort Wayne
Edmond P. Edsall, Fort Wayne
Curtis H. Eldridge, Fort Wayne
George R. Eldridge, Fort Wayne
James Eldridge, Fort Wayne
Ward Chittenden, Fort Wayne

Louis Clinger, Fort Wayne
William Cuppy, South Whitley
Samuel Freeman, Fort Wayne
Charles Fairfield, Fort Wayne
Richard Griswold, Washington township
George R. Griswold*, Washington township
William Hull, Fort Wayne
James E. Howe, Fort Wayne
Lemuel R. Hartman, Fort Wayne
Rufus Hardy, Fort Wayne
James Hosler, Fort Wayne
Edmond Johns, Fort Wayne
John H. Jacobs, Fort Wayne
Marcus Kirk, Fort Wayne
Elisha Lackey, Brush Prairie
Joseph F. M’Makin, Fort Wayne
Tyler A. Mason, Fort Wayne
John Miller, Colamer
Tilford Orbison, Fort Wayne
Amos Richie, Fort Wayne
George R. Rickets, Fort Wayne
David Redelsheimer, Fort Wayne
John Rawles, Springfield township
Peter Shoaff, Eel River
William Tory, Fort Wayne
Lucian P. Stapleford, Fort Wayne
John Seaburn, Springfield township
Jacob Tolerton, Fort Wayne
William Thompson, Perry township
Comadore P. Wheeler, Perry township
Hiram Work, Fort Wayne
Nathaniel R. Ullman, Fort Wayne
George Williams*, Eel River township

Primary Department
Joseph Avaline, Fort Wayne
Ira Blossom, Fort Wayne
Edward Brenton, Fort Wayne
Milton Brenton, Fort Wayne
George Hartman, Fort Wayne
William Hartman, Fort Wayne
Robert D. C. Huestis, Fort Wayne
Charles Hosler, Fort Wayne
John H. Johnson, Fort Wayne
Thomas Leeper, Fort Wayne
Dorsey Mahin, Fort Wayne
Henry B. Rumsey, Toledo, O.  
Francis Stophlet, Fort Wayne  
John W. Stophlet, Fort Wayne  
Francis A. Stapleford, Fort Wayne  
Williams Swinney, Fort Wayne  

* deceased