

**Allen County, Catalog and Register of
Fort Wayne Female College, 1851–1852**

Jennifer A. Banning and Callie McCune

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

1. William C. Ringenberg, *Taylor University: The First 125 Years* (Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing, 1973), 12–35, 61. Unless noted, the source material for the remainder of this introduction comes from *Fort Wayne Female College, Catalogue and Register of the Fort Wayne Female College* (Cincinnati: Methodist Book Concern, 1952).
2. Ringenberg, *Taylor University*, 17. For an overview of education in Indiana from 1850 to 1920, see James H. Madison, *The Indiana Way: A State History* (Indianapolis: Indiana University Press and Indiana Historical Society, 1986), 179–85.

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

Board of Trustees

Hon. William Rockhill, Fort Wayne
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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
Eliza A. Cooper, Fort Wayne
Desdamona Edsall, Fort Wayne
Lucy Foulk, Aurora
Theresa C. Hartman, Fort Wayne
Elizabeth M. Shoaff, Hometown
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

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, Chamancha, 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, Bluffton
Martha Harrison, Bluffton
Cornelia Harrison, Bluffton
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

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

Lewis 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*

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