Back to School in the 1800s

An Overview of Pre-Civil War Schools and Academies and the Literary Fund Schools
Pre-Civil War Education

- Private tutors at home
- Private schools and academies
  - Leesburg Academy
  - Gibson’s Female School
  - Leesburg Female Seminary
  - Waterford School
  - Springdale
  - Hillsborough Academy
  - Margaret Mercer’s School
  - Rev. Benjamin Bridges School
- Plantation schools

The Mirror. 5 October 1865
Agreement with teacher, Matthew Kennedy

7 January 1789

- Spelling, Reading, English, Grammar, Writing, and Arithmetic
- At the schoolhouse on Colonel Peyton’s land
- Thirty shillings per scholar
Wickes' Female Academy in Leesburg

November 1830 advertisement in the Genius of Liberty

- Boarding and day scholars
- Course of Studies
- Ornamentals
- Needle Work
- Music on the Piano Forte
Course of Studies

- Spelling, reading and writing
- Arithmetic and bookkeeping
- English grammar (parsing exercises) and composition
- Geography w/ use of maps and globes, and astronomy
- Natural and moral philosophy
- Rhetoric, logic, history, mythology
Ornamental

- Theorem Painting on velvet
- Poonah Painting on paper
- Shell work and wax work
- Ebony-work (a beautiful painting on wood, suitable for boxes, stands & c.)
- Filagree-work
Ornamental Classes -

Theorem Painting on velvet

From Colonial Williamsburg’s collection
Needle Work -

Samplers and Embroidery

From Colonial Williamsburg's collection
The Leesburg Academy

- Opened in 1799
- Brick building constructed next to the courthouse about 1843
- Longest operating school in the county during the 1800s
- Closed in the early 1870s
- Sold to the county in 1873 for $7,500

Clerk’s office ca. 1920s
The Leesburg Academy

June 1822 Genius of Liberty

- Latin, Greek, French, and English
- Various branches of science
- Boarding for boys who “come from a distance”
The Literary Fund for Educating Poor Children

- Optional by county
- Established a board of commissioners in each county
- One commissioner served as president and another as treasurer
- Commissioners represented a geographic area of the county
- Responsible for appropriating and accounting for funds, tracking the progress of children, and providing an annual report
- Educated girls and boys
- Female and male teachers
The Literary Fund Commissioners in 1819

Char. Lewis  William Wilkinson
Col. W. Elzy
Johnson Cleveland  Rev. John Mines
Ben. Powell
James Bailey
Jr. E. B. Jerzy
Thos. French
John White
Mayor Bratton
Henry Marlow
Capt. A. W. Harrett
Capt. J. B. Balch
Capt. J. Rose
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Names of Scholars</th>
<th>Names of Parents or Guardianes</th>
<th>Commission by whom entered</th>
<th>Days &amp; Hours</th>
<th>Conduct</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Doe</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Smith</td>
<td>John Smith</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>Pretty Good</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Jane</td>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Johnson</td>
<td>Jane Johnson</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Very Good</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Amount of tuition: $16.50

John Jones, Commissioner for New City

X:R:W. Bole, Treasurer of the Board of Commissioners for the Education of Poor Children.
List of Elementary Books 1829-1830 School Year

- Elementary Books principally used
  - County's Webster Thes. Etc.
  - Blair's Ready Exercises
  - Munsey's Introduction to Eng. Reader
  - Testament
  - Spence's Arithmetic
  - Adams' Geography
  - History of Rome
  - Greece
  - England

At these schools, Spelling, Reading, writing of Arithmetic are taught. Some children who appear to deserve to have been taught English Grammar, Spelling its Grammar and History beyond the simple rules of arithmetic and science is also taught.

Schools were in operation as
The Challenges Faced by the Literary Fund Children

- Lacked proper clothing during the winter months
- Kept home by sick parents to nurse them
- Needed for the harvest - "the scholars are taken home by their parents to labor in their fields or hired out to others"
- Diseases - "the parents being so poor as to be unable to procure medical aid & other means of restoration which are within the reach of the wealthy & even middle classes of society"
## Number of Schools and Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th># of schools</th>
<th># attended by poor children</th>
<th># poor children entitled to the benefit</th>
<th># poor children served</th>
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<tr>
<td>1822</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>524</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1823</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>241</td>
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<tr>
<td>1829</td>
<td>80</td>
<td></td>
<td>800-1,000</td>
<td>354</td>
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<tr>
<td>1835</td>
<td>60-70</td>
<td></td>
<td>800-900</td>
<td>475</td>
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<td>1840</td>
<td>70</td>
<td></td>
<td>800</td>
<td>602 (336 boys &amp; 266 girls)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>60-70</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>460 (234 boys &amp; 226 girls)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>475</td>
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<tr>
<td>1856</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,078</td>
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<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,144</td>
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Final Literary Fund Records - 1861

Resignation of Andrew Seitz of Lovettsville

To the County Court of Loudoun County,

I hereby resign my office of School Commissioner in

Loudoun, having under my hand this 12th March, 1861

Andrew Seitz
Sources

- Genius of Liberty newspapers at Virginia Chronicle, Library of Virginia
  https://virginiachronicle.com/

- Loudoun County Historic Records, Miscellaneous Papers: Schools 1757-1950, Box 1
