

members. Prior to 1818 it was probably under the jurisdiction of the Canada conference, from which I have been unable to obtain data bearing upon the matter. But as there were sixty members in 1818 undoubtedly there must have been organization some years earlier.

Thus we have evidence of three separate religious movements and of two important civic enterprises almost with the beginning of the town's life, and when there was but a handful of people, all of them poor, to push things. The spirit which they reflect was prophetic of the development that followed.

FRANKLIN ACADEMY

As already shown, provision was made almost at once upon the erection of the town for educational facilities of a higher order than the common schools afforded, though the institution then established had more of a private than a public character. It was, therefore, not altogether satisfying. The requirements for an academic charter in 1811 had been merely that an institution have an assured annual income of a hundred dollars, but the people were too poor to provide even that paltry sum, and the effort to gain the Regents' sanction had to be given over temporarily. In 1823, however, agitation began in earnest to secure an academy which should be in fact a public institution, and all that the name implies. Again unsuccessful for a time because of inability to satisfy the Board of Regents that adequate pledges were in hand for a building and for maintenance—the requirements in this regard having been increased to two hundred and fifty dollars a year—a later movement (begun in 1827 and prosecuted more or less vigorously for several years) resulted in 1831 in securing the necessary funds, and a charter was granted April 28th of that year—not for the Harison institution, however, but for a new establishment to be known as Franklin Academy. The scheme employed for procuring funds is noteworthy. Seventy-three men executed mortgages on their homes and farms conditioned for the payment of interest at seven per cent. on the amount of the respective obligations so given. The largest principal sum pledged was only \$225, and the smallest \$15. Some were for odd amounts, one having been for \$21.49, which meant that the mortgagor should pay \$1.50 per year. All of the mortgages had a life of twenty years, at the end of which period contributions under them were to cease, and the instruments be discharged. Scarcely any money was in circulation at the time, and few men in the community had assured cash incomes even for taxes and other imperative requirements, so that the men who

engaged to pay even a small amount secured by mortgage dreaded lest he be compelled to default, with consequent loss of his property. It may thus be realized that in signing, all except those who were the most prosperous did so hesitatingly and with trepidation. Nevertheless public spirit and self-sacrifice triumphed, and the proposed institution was guaranteed an annual income of a trifle under three hundred dollars. Franklin Academy thus came into existence, and for more than three-quarters of a century has been doing beneficent work of value beyond all calculation. The names of the mortgagors deserve a place in these pages. They were: Benjamin Clark, Samuel Smith Clark, Jacob Wead, Jonathan Stearns, Hiram Horton, Asa Hascall, Horatio Powell, Charles Blake, William B. Foot, Richard G. Foote, Samuel Peck, Thomas Russell Powell, Obadiah T. Hosford, Elias Dewey, Jr., Frederic Barnard, Samuel Field, Alva Orcutt, Daniel Brown, Wm. R. Vilas, Ebenezer Berry, Oliver Westcott, David Sperry, Nahum Whipple, Orlando Furness, Harry Horton, Clark Williamson, Roswell Wilcox, Noah Moody, William Mason, John Mazuzan, Lemuel Parlin, Ebenezer R. Daggett, Bliss Burnap, Noah Smith, Silvester Langdon, Nathan White, Elijah Keeler, Ashbel Parmelee, Aaron Beman, Myron Hickok, John Wheeler, Jehiel Berry, Asaph Watkins, Myron Berry, Samuel Greeno, Truman Bell, Nathan Strong, Joseph Spencer, Porter Moody, Anslem Lincoln, Josiah Learned, Hiram L. Lewis, Elias Watkins, Arunah H. Wood, Jonas Stone, Martin L. Parlin, Charles Carlisle, Lemuel K. Parlin and Cephas Watkins, all of Malone; Joseph Plumb, Samuel Wilson, Talmadge Barnum, Barnabas Barnum, James Barnum, Elijah Barnum, Joshua Dickinson, Anderson Wilson and George Adams, of Bangor; Timothy Beman, of Chateaugay; George W. Darling and Ashley Wyman, of Constable; and Luther Bradish, of Moira. Hugh Magill and William Green of Malone became contributors in like manner for six years dating from 1846.

In addition, the town of Malone voted to the enterprise the moneys in the hands of its overseers of the poor, amounting to \$270.11, which were loaned out on mortgage, thus adding \$18.91 to the academy's assured annual revenue, independent of tuition fees and the institution's share of the State literature fund.

An academic building was erected, and in December, 1831, the doors of the institution were opened. During its first year of existence eighty pupils were in attendance, and the total income, exclusive of interest paid on account of mortgages, was \$927.

In 1835 the building was almost destroyed by fire, and was replaced