

Photo of the Month

Rogers Academy Class of 1896

By Emilee Dehmer, museum intern



Rogers Academy Class of 1896
Rogers, Arkansas
Neg: 10084
Rogers Historical Museum

Rogers Academy opened in 1892 and was one of the most prestigious schools in the area. Located at an elevation of 1400 feet on the border of the White Rivers Hills of the Ozark Mountains it also boasted of its fantastic location. While it catered to both elementary and secondary education, the upperclassmen were allowed to live on campus. For \$8, paid in advance, students were provided a room containing nothing more than a stove and a lamp – girls were also provided with a bed frame and a spring mattress. The tuition with that was \$94.

The graduating class of 1896, shown in this photo, was the 10th graduating class and included 22 people. They are “Earle Gould, Grace Adams, Porter Christy, John Crawford, Louisa Hawley, Board Horsley, Hobbs Horsley, John Lovewell, Horace Klyce, Frank McGaughey, Della Mitchell, Freddie Mitchell, Lester Oakley, Frank Owens, Lafayette Pearson, Louisa Perritt, Charley Robinson, Belle Smith, Minnie Smith,

Wythe Walker, John Wilmot and Harvey Woods.” In the photo only two people can be identified. Professor J. W. Scroggs is pictured in the upper left and Wythe Walker, who is at the left side of the top part of the “6.”

While in attendance at the Academy, there were strict rules students were required to follow. Every Sunday they were required to attend a church service, and no tobacco was allowed. There were also strict dating rules. “No boy will go with any girl more than three times during a school year. No girl can have gentleman company without permission from the proper authority. If requested by parents a girl was not allowed to have any boy friends while attending the Academy.”

Sports were also enjoyed at the Academy. Started in 1900, they began with a slow start but two years later were undefeated. However, when Elmo Walker was seriously injured in 1906 sports were banned.

While the Academy graduated 27 classes with “all but 2 or 3 being earnest, capable, and moral men and women” the Academy ran into money problems and was closed in 1913. While the Academy and its buildings are no longer standing today, the impact it had while it was here will always be remembered in the hearts and minds of all who attended. Today, Frank Tillery Elementary School stands on the site of the Rogers Academy.