

1824

ALONZO CRITTENDEN.

We have omitted to state that Alonzo Crittenden, for more than twenty years Principal of the Albany Female Academy, has tendered his resignation, and that it has been reluctantly accepted by the Board of Trustees. Mr. Crittenden has accepted an offer to take charge of a Female Academy about to be established in Brooklyn. He will leave our city with the warm wishes of a wide circle of friends, and especially of all connected with the institution to which he has so long devoted his energies and talents as an able teacher.

Daily Albany Argus
June 12, 1845.

1824

Alonzo Crittenden, President of Packer College Institute, Brooklyn, died in that city February 10th, 1882, at the extreme age of eighty years. The deceased was for many years a member of the faculty of the Albany Female Academy.

C. Feb. 1883.

u. a. m. July ¹⁸²⁴ - Aug. 1936

The Pittsfield, Mass., *Evening Eagle* in its issue of April 22, 1936, published a biographical account of Dr. ALONZO CRITTENDEN, as one of its series of articles called "Berkshire Men of Worth." Dr. Crittenden was one of the pioneers of higher education for women. Two years after his graduation he was appointed principal of the Albany Female Academy, remaining in that position until 1845. He had been preceded in this position by two other Union men, Horace Goodrich, and Lebbeus Booth, both of the class of 1813.

In 1845 he went to Brooklyn to become principal of the Brooklyn Female Academy. He superintended the construction of the Academy building and the school was officially opened on May 14, 1846. On New Year's Day of 1853 the building was burned, and Mrs. William S. Packer, widow of a former trustee of the Academy, gave \$65,000 for a new building. The name of the school was then changed and became known as the Packer Collegiate Institute. Dr. Crittenden continued as principal until his death in 1882.

ALONZO CRITTENDEN, A.M. Princ. Fem. Acad., 1824, of Albany, N.Y., was a member of the
Philomathean Society. (Died: 1883)

Philomathean Catalogue 1830

PRESS CLIPPING BUREAU

NEW YORK

PITTSFIELD MASS. EVE. EAGLE
APRIL 22, 1936

Berkshire Men of Worth

By JOSEPH WARD LEWIS.

DR. ALONZO CRITTENDEN, pioneer in the cause of the higher education of women, was born in Richmond, April 7, 1801. He was a life long teacher of high character, purity of life, earnestness and persistency of purpose, marked ability as an educator and successful as an administrator and business man.

For almost 20 years he was principal of the Albany Female Academy; for eight years of the Brooklyn Female Academy; and for almost 30 years of Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn. Prof. Charles E. West, principal of the Brooklyn Heights Seminary, a native of Pittsfield, in a tribute to Dr. Crittenden, refers to the fact that the Crittenden and West families were intimately acquainted and distantly related by marriage.

Dr. Crittenden was the youngest but one of ten children, the son of Levi Crittenden, a prosperous farmer; he attended the village school; went to the Lenox Academy; entered Union College; was admitted to Phi Beta Kappa; and graduated in 1824, receiving the master's degree in course. He was engaged as a teacher in the Albany Female Academy and soon became its principal.

* * *

In 1845 Dr. Crittenden removed to Brooklyn to become principal of the Brooklyn Female Academy; he superintended the construction of the building and on May 14, 1846 the school was opened with 350 pupils. The school was a success from the start; and curiously after the first year or two when cases of discipline were occasionally acted upon by the board of trustees, the principal handled all such matters and all disagreements with teachers, saying "I am captain of this ship. Providence has indicated the necessity of one head to every animal."

On New Year's Day, 1853, the school building was burned. Temporary arrangements were made for carrying on the school work. But Mrs. William S. Packer, widow of a member of the first board of trustees of the Female Academy, having offered \$65,000 for the erection of a new building, the trustees of the academy proceeded to dissolve the corporation and formed a new one under the name the Packer Collegiate Institute, the date of its charter being March 19, 1853. The Packer Institute was opened for pupils in September, 1854. Often over 800 names were enrolled in one year and the staff of teachers multiplied rapidly. The school is today one of the outstanding institutions of learning in Brooklyn.

* * *

Dr. Crittenden was a consistent Democrat. So long as the law and government stood, or seemed to stand, upon the side of the institution of slavery, he discouraged discussion of the subject in his classes and in his intercourse with others. But when the standard of rebellion was raised, he felt that obedience to law, called for support of the government with voice and with money. The school rules were relaxed and patriotic undertakings in support of the armies in the field were encouraged.

Just before the close of the war, Jan. 12, 1865, the regents of the University of the State of New York conferred the degree of Doctor of Philosophy on the principal of Packer Institute; this he considered a much more honorable degree than one bestowed by a mere college, "since the regents govern the colleges." In 1867-68 Dr. Crittenden with his family took a trip to Europe.

* * *

On May 5, 1882 Mrs. Crittenden died and her husband died Jan. 23, 1883. The flags on the public buildings of the city were lowered to half-mast and the whole city mourned. The Rev. Dr. Richard S. Storrs, pastor of the Church of the Pilgrims, of which Dr. Crittenden was a member, conducted the services.

CLASS OF 1824

ALONZO CRITTENDEN

Alonzo Crittenden succeeded Frederick Matthews (as Principal of the Albany Female Academy) in 1826, and remained as principal until 1845, during which period the success of the Academy was remarkable. He was a pioneer in advanced female education in America.

Union alumni who,preceded him were Horace Goodrich, Class of 1813 and Lebbeus Booth, Class of 1813.

History of the County of Albany p. 687
Howell & Tenney
W. W. Munsell & Co.
New York 1886

UCSLaf1824crittenden-a-004

The withdrawal of Professor Crittenden as principal of the Academy, to accept the charge of a similar institution in Brooklyn, has elicited from all within the sphere of his duties, many expressions of a kind and grateful appreciation of past relations, and of regret for the severance. The teachers recently associated with him in the Academy, and the pupils of the First Department have, as a token of their respect and remembrance, presented to Professor Crittenden a beautiful signet ring of chased gold, with the simple inscription "Memor et fidelis,"--"Mindful and faithful." Though circumstances permitted only the pupils and teachers of the last academic year to participate in this tribute to their principal, the expression of grateful remembrance, with which it is accompanied, will be cheerfully concurred in by all his former pupils and associates. The farewell token was enclosed in the following note.

Albany Female Academy,
July 18, 1845.

Mr. Crittenden:

Dear Sir:

To-day closes your connexion with the institution over which you have so long presided, and which has owed so much to your devoted efforts.

We are grateful for the many deeds of thoughtful kindness which have made our daily intercourse so pleasant--for the untiring and well directed zeal manifested in our improvement; as a token of our affectionate remembrance and high esteem, as a pledge that we will be "mindful and faithful," we ask you to accept the enclosed.

A.D. Woodbridge) on behalf of
Mary Cassidy) the teachers.
Sarah C. Tracy
Helen DeWitt
Julia M. Taber
Louisa Gibbons
Matilda H. Stewart
on behalf of the pupils of the
First Department.

Daily Albany Argus
August 4, 1845.

NOTE: A Poem from "Monthly Rose" to Mr. Crittenden is published in the Aug. 9th edition of the Argus.

Many Female Academy
May 17th 1837.

Dear Sir,
Yours in behalf of Miss Marsh
is before me - We have at present, no
vacancy in any Dept. of our Institution
which we can offer to her - nor do I, at
this moment, know of any situation
that I should think eligible - I have
had an application lately from Miss
Burchard of Washington D.C. for two
teachers to commence in the fall.
She offers \$200. + 150 a year and gives
them Board, washing &c &c &c the entire
support except dress - The situation is, in all
respects, pleasant - The only difficulty I
should anticipate, is the preference Miss
B. gives to our scholars - She has had
that ^{of them} and says, I understand, that she
will have no others - This is very proper,
and may be one of the evils of
the Metropolis.

I have recently had three other applica-
tions for teaching, but I conclude the places
are now supplied.

It will give me unfeigned pleasure to
see you as you go in, ~~at~~ ^{at} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~time~~ ^{time}.
With the kindest regards
I am yr. Obedt. Servant
A. C. Pittenston

W. C. C. C. C.

May 1837.

N. 24

A

Prof. Geo. A. Gates.
Union College
N.Y.

