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**The Old Brick Row**

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The Old Brick Row
YALE COLLEGE traces its origin to a meeting of Congregational ministers held at Branford in the Fall of 1700 or 1701. It was chartered in October, 1701, and its organization was commenced in November of the same year. It was at first located in Saybrook, partly for convenience of access by river and sound, and partly as a compromise between rival interests.

At its inception it was called a "Collegiate School," because there was reason to fear that the incorporation of a "College" might be disapproved by the authorities in England. It remained in Saybrook fifteen years, and while there was a very small affair, its classes averaging less than four at graduation. Toward the latter part of the time, the students were very much dissatisfied, and presently separated, going to different places, some to Wethersfield and others to East Guilford, while the Seniors were in Milford with the "Rector."

As the attempt to put it in Saybrook was evidently a failure, the Trustees voted by a bare majority to move it to New Haven. That was the place where it historically belonged, for the people of New Haven, from the first settlement of that Colony, had hoped and planned to establish a College, and they now contributed for it more liberally than the people of any other place. A small piece of land on the northwest corner of Chapel and College streets was purchased as the site for a college building, and a call was sent out to the scattered students to come to New Haven. Here the College opened in the fall of 1716 with thirteen students.

Meanwhile a minority of the Trustees were greatly dissatisfied with what had been done. If they had lived at the present day, they would perhaps have gone to a Judge to get an "injunction." As it was, they went to the Legislature, or "General Assembly" as it was then called, and asked that body to interfere. The Lower House favored the petitioners and proceeded to vote for a place where the College should be put, as if that were a matter for them to decide. But the Governor and the Upper House stood by the majority of the Trustees, and the result was that the College stayed in New Haven.

Owing to the opposition just mentioned, it was quite important to fix the College in New Haven as quickly as possible, so as to make it difficult to move it away. So the majority of the Trustees voted to put up a building before the money for it was all in hand. This might have led to serious embarrassment, but at the right moment there came a gift from Elihu Yale which supplied the lacking funds, relieved the Trustees from anxiety.

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and helped to fix the College at New Haven. For all this the Trustees were duly grateful, and named the new building after their benefactor, Yale. This was at first the name only of the Hall, but it was naturally applied to the institution also, and in 1745 it became the name of the College by formal Act of Assembly.

This original Yale Hall was a wooden building, 170 feet long, 22 feet wide and 50 feet high, with three full stories, a steep-roofed attic, and dormer windows, and is said to have been painted blue. It appears to have been admired, whether for its proportions or its color is not stated, for a letter of the time speaks of it as "a splendid collegiate house." It contained twenty suites of rooms for students, a library, a kitchen, and a dining hall, which was also used as a chapel. Here the students ate and slept and studied—and worshiped for thirty-four years.

During that time the College had some trying experiences. One of these was the conduct of its Rector, Rev. Dr. Cutler, who became an Episcopalian—an event which was viewed with much alarm, and closed his career at Yale. Another was the disturbing influence of certain religious teachers who attacked the established ecclesiastical order, and were regarded as dangerous revolutionists. The students were forbidden to attend their meetings. Two who disobeyed, and one who spoke disparagingly of a tutor's spiritual condition, were expelled.

But it was also sending forth some famous men as graduates. Among these were Jonathan Edwards,
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greatest of New England theologians; Eleazur Wheelock, founder of Dartmouth College; Ezra Stiles, president of Yale; Samuel Seabury, first Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut; Philip Livingston, Lewis Morris, Oliver Wolcott and Lyman Hall, Yale's four signers of the Declaration of Independence, and William Livingston and William Samuel Johnson, two of Yale's four members of the Convention of 1787, which framed the Constitution. (The other two, Jared Ingersoll and Abraham Baldwin, graduated later.) It speaks well for the Yale training at that early period of which we know but little, that its small classes contained so many men who in after life prominently served their country and honored the College.

On the whole, the College prospered and grew until its membership was about one hundred and twenty. This was more than twice the capacity of the Yale Hall, so that many of the students had to find rooms in private houses. This, as President Clap tells us, "was upon many accounts inconvenient." It was to meet this condition of affairs that the foundation of South Middle, the beginning of the Brick Row, was commenced on the 17th of April, 1750. To get the money for it, the General Assembly authorized the Trustees to hold a lottery, which yielded £500. A direct grant of a still larger sum was made by the Assembly, a part of which came from the sale of a prize ship captured from the French. In all, the building cost £1,660, and contained, according to President Clap, 230,000 bricks. It was completed in 1752, and was named at first Connecticut Hall.

For many years the lower front corner room, south entry, was a center of attraction for the whole student body. It was the "Buttery." Here could be purchased cider, mead, strong beer, pipes, tobacco, fruit, loaf sugar, books, stationery, and other "necessaries of scholars." President Stiles himself kept an account here, and sundry charges for "Cyder," porter, ale, and pipes, appear against his name in the Butler's account-book for 1791-2. The buttery was essentially an Eighteenth century institution. It was abolished in 1817.

The two end rooms on the second floor, north entry, also have
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a bit of special history. The partitions between them were removed, so as to throw them into one large room, and here in 1812 was installed the Gibbs mineralogical collection, afterwards purchased by the College, and now in Peabody Museum. This was by far the finest collection which up to that time had been brought together in the United States, and its fame was widely spread. The slow moving coaches of that day, passing between North and South, made New Haven a resting place, and many eminent men from different parts of the land, while waiting, found their way to South Middle to visit this first Yale cabinet. Professor E. S. Dana writes of the "profound impression" which it made.

For the first thirty-five years the students attended church on Sunday at the Meeting House on the Green, now the Center Church, occupying seats in the gallery. In 1753 this arrangement came to an end and a preaching service for them was started in Yale Hall. Four years later a church was organized, and in 1763 a church building was put up by the side of South Middle. This was known to many later generations of students as the Atheneum. It was the College Church until 1824, and its attic was the Library until 1804. Its pulpit was the one occupied during the whole of his term of office by President Dwight, one of the most learned and impressive preachers of the age. From its spire President Stiles watched the British in the early morning of July 5, 1779, when they landed at Savin Rock for an attack upon New Haven, and reported their movements to those below, who were preparing to meet them. In the winter of 1823-24 President Day entered it one morning to find the interior about the pulpit blackened with gunpowder smoke, the communion table shattered, and the glass of the windows blown out. It is related that the President walked up the aisle, mounted the pulpit, and went through the service without betraying in manner or voice the slightest consciousness that anything unusual had happened. Soon after this its use as a chapel was given up, and its interior was divided into recitation rooms. For many years it was distinctively the Freshmen recitation building. It was removed in 1893 to make room for Vanderbilt Hall.

In the early summer of 1775 the first Yale Hall was still standing, with the Atheneum and South Middle behind and somewhat to the north of it. These were therefore the three buildings that Washington saw when he stopped over night in New Haven on his way to take command of the Continental Army, soon after the battle of Bunker Hill. He reviewed and praised the military company which the students had formed, and when he left in the morning they escorted him out of town. Noah Webster, the future lexicographer, then a Freshman, led the company with music, and records that this was the first occasion during Washington's stay in New England on which he received the honor of a spontaneous escort of citizens.

As the war went on its effect upon the college was marked. New Haven was then a small town, containing about four hundred and fifty houses. Its business, largely shipping, was stopped and communication with other places was impeded. As the food supply became uncertain, the college broke up for a while. In 1777 the Freshmen went to Farmington (not so attractive then as it has since become), and the Sophomores and Juniors to Glastonbury. The books of the Library were packed up and sent to a place of supposed greater security, and according to one account the College bell was also sent away.

In 1779 the students, about one hundred and fifty in number, were back in New Haven, and joined the citizens in going out to meet the British. They marched out Davenport avenue to West River, where they destroyed the bridge, thus compelling the invaders, coming up from Savin Rock, to reach the town by a round-about way through Westville. The British soldiers stayed less than twenty-four hours, and did no harm to the College, but they looted a house on ground now occupied by the Sheffield Scientific School and another one where the University Club House now stands.

In the winter of 1775-6 a part of the Yale Hall was taken down, leaving only the kitchen and dining-room-
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which could not be spared until 1782, when a new dining-hall was built, back of the brick buildings. The original wooden building was now entirely removed. For twelve years thereafter, to a person standing on the Green near the corner of College and Chapel streets, the College appeared as in the familiar picture hanging in the Library, showing two buildings, the Atheneum and South Middle. The small piece of land owned by the College, on which stood these two buildings and the dining-hall, was enclosed by a board fence, painted red with cross stripes of white. The rest of what is now the College Square, as we learn from Professor Silliman's account, "was filled with a grotesque group, generally of most undesirable establishments, among which were a barn, a barber's shop, several coarse taverns or boarding places, a poor-house and house of correction, and the public jail with its prison yard, the jail being used alike for criminals, for maniacs, and debtors. Being very

near to the College, the moans of innocent prisoners, the curses of felons, and the shrill screams and wild laughter of the insane, were sometimes mingled with the sacred songs of praise and with the voice of prayer rising from the academic edifices." The jail stood where the south end of Lawrance is now, and the poor-house was behind it, well within the square.

After 1776 the dormitory accommodations were restricted to one building, South Middle. This became quite inadequate for the needs of the College, but funds could not be secured for a new building. Formerly the General Assembly had been generous with its aid. But this was withheld after President Clap in 1763 called public attention to the fact that the College was not subject to legislative oversight. His successor, President Stiles, who served from 1766 to 1795, labored long and hard to restore friendly relations with the Colony, and,
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after the Revolution, with the State. Near the close of his term he succeeded, and the result was an appropriation by the Legislature which made possible a new building. This was completed in 1794, and was called Union Hall in token of the new relation established between State and College. Its more familiar name is South College. When the dormitories increased in number it became the favorite choice of Seniors, who acquired the habit of lounging at the fence, close by the south entry. From this developed "The Fence" as an institution after the close of the Civil War.

In 1795 a new period in the history of Yale opened with the accession of Rev. Timothy Dwight to the Presidency. He appears to have been the first person, and indeed one of the very few in the whole history of the College, who had any adequate foresight of its future growth. He promptly set about purchasing land far beyond the immediate need of the College, and in the course of a few years had secured nearly all of the square enclosed by College, Elm, High, and Chapel streets. This was henceforth the College Square. The Jail was moved to High street, where it stood and was used as a private dwelling until about 1885. The Poor House was placed on the west side of College street, two doors north of Wall. In later years it was made over inside for rooms to let, and was occupied by students until 1900, when it was taken down to make room for the new Bicentennial buildings.

In 1799 a house was built as a President's residence on the spot where Farnam Hall now stands. It was occupied by Presidents Dwight and Day, and so was used for the purpose for which it was intended for about forty-seven years. As President Woolsey preferred to live elsewhere, it was given over to the small select school started by Professor Silliman, which grew into the Sheffield Scientific School. It may therefore be considered the cradle of Sheff. It was taken down in 1860.

The College prospered greatly under President Dwight, and to meet its growth Lyceum and North Middle were built, their construction beginning in 1801. The Lyceum was set apart for college work. In the third story, or attic, were the library books brought over from the Athenaeum. In the second story was President Dwight's lecture room, and adjoining it were rooms where at a later date Professors Hadley and Whitney taught. On the ground floor was President Woolsey's lecture room. In addition to its week-day uses, the President's room was used by Professors Goodrich and Thacher for the short Sunday evening lecture which for so many years was a prominent factor in shaping the moral and religious life of the College. Under the building was Professor Silliman's lecture room, so deep that when he stood on the floor his head was six feet below the surface of the ground. In the tower was the clock, which told the hours, except when its hands were stopped by a snow-ball frozen to the dial. Here also was the college bell, which called the students to prayers and recitations for seventy-two years. In 1894 it was tampered with once too often, and the Faculty, not unwillingly, took the opportunity to dispense entirely with the ringing of a bell. This indeed was no longer necessary, since every student had his own watch or clock.

The Lyceum has now been taken down, just one hundred years from the time when its corner-stone was laid. No other building has been of such prominent and long continued service. In its lecture rooms Yale's greatest teachers have done much of the work which has given Yale its prestige and its power.

During President Day's long term of office, from 1817 to 1846, several new buildings appeared. First came the new Dining Hall, back of North Middle. Here the students swallowed their food, or otherwise disposed of it, for twenty-two years. At the beginning of each meal a blessing was asked by a Tutor, while the less devout among the students improved the opportunity to skirmish for victuals. Criticism of food was freely indulged in, and was sometimes quite emphatic, as when "the boiled beef found its resting place on the sanded floor beneath the tables, and the butter, with a strength greater than its own, sped out of the windows." On special occasions
the ground outside the windows is said to have been pretty well covered with things thrown out. Butter appears to have ranked among the principal offending items of the menu, if we may judge from the name "Bread and Butter Rebellion," which was given to one of the great flare-ups of that time. Rather than dine any longer on college fare, the students were ready to give up the scholarly life altogether. So they knelt in a great circle on the grass, sang to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne" a parting ode composed for the occasion, and went home, Most of them returned promptly after an interview with their parents.

In 1842 the College went temporarily out of the boarding-house business, and the building became the Cabinet, where the mineralogical and other collections were kept until Peabody Museum was opened in 1876. It was taken down in 1890. Its predecessor was for many years the Chemical Laboratory, and was taken down in 1888. It is instructive to compare these modest dining halls of earlier days, as seen in pictures, with the superb University Hall on Grove street, just opening for College use as these words are written.

In 1821 North College was added to the Brick Row. The second story front corner room, north entry, was the President's office until 1868. Under it, during the college year 1900-01, was installed the sub-station of the Post Office, exclusively for College use, which has just been moved over to the south end of Fayerweather. Dean Wright, in the President's last annual report, says of North: "The spacious attic of this building has been the scene of many student celebrations, and on the Green in front the 'College Bully' was annually inducted into office. During the last quarter of a century North has been the most popular of all the buildings in the old Brick Row." The honor of having been the birth place of the "Lit" is also claimed for it.

In 1824 a new Chapel went up between North and North Middle. Here the College worshipped for fifty-two years, listening to two sermons each Sunday, and, until 1860, attending prayers each weekday morning and evening. Here also on one memorable day in 1837* was heard the voice of Daniel Webster, who addressed the students after shaking hands with each one as they filed before him in long procession. Its choir-loft was made musical with the sound of assorted instruments, violin, flute, 'cello, bass-horn, etc., until 1852, when the first college organ was installed. It rang with the glad voices of the whole student body on the morning of Lee's surrender singing "My Country, 'tis of thee" with a depth of feeling probably never equalled in the history of the College. In 1876 it was superseded as a church by Battell Chapel, and its interior was then cut up into recitation rooms. From 1824 to 1846 the Library found a fourth resting place in its attic. In 1896 it was taken down.

The Brick Row was completed when the Chapel was built. After that various buildings went up in other parts of the College Square. In 1831 the Trumbull Art Gallery was built to hold the works of the artist, Trumbull, and to cover his remains as a monument after his death. It served both these purposes until 1866, when the pictures were removed to the new Art Building, beneath which the artist and his wife were also buried. It then became the Treasury Building, with the President's office in one end. Here the Faculty held meetings until 1899 when they moved to the large room at the top of Phelps Hall. The old building, having reached the age usually accepted as a fitting one for the close of a public career, is now being taken down.

In 1835 the Divinity School, prospering greatly under Dr. Taylor, secured permission to put up a building on the College Square. This was a plain brick dormitory and stood well over toward Elm street, in line with the Brick Row, but not of it. In 1869 it was taken down to make room for Durfee.

In 1846 appeared the Library, the first stone building on the Square, and the first one of the Quadrangle.

* It is interesting to note the make-up of a newspaper of that date. The Palladium, though a Whig sheet, makes only this mention of Webster's visit to New Haven: "Mr. Webster arrived in this city on Wednesday evening, and is now at the American Hotel." The same issue has a column and a half of "Advice to a Young Lady after her Marriage."
Pity it is that its graceful ivy-clad pinnacles must some day give place to the extension of the larger and more useful, but less beautiful, Chittenden Library.

In 1853 came another stone building, Alumni Hall, which for forty-eight years has been closely connected with College life. Its large upper halls, since cut up into recitation rooms, have echoed with many outbursts of student eloquence in the days when Brothers and Linonia were in their glory. Up to its wide doors have marched many a class singing the Yale doxology, "Biennials are a bore," four times repeated, with an unction for which there was often abundant reason. From its wall within Elihu Yale has looked down upon many of his sons whose fate was being sealed at the small eight-sided tables, where ink might flow, but not thought. Hither the hungry graduate has come on Commencement day, ready for dinner, but still more eager for the speeches to follow it.
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The pleasant uses of Alumni, which relieved its somber associations as an examination hall, are mostly of the past. The exciting rivalry of Brothers and Linonia, the marvelous revelations of "Statement of Facts," the rollicking fun of "Thanksgiving Jubilee," all went long ago. Now the fervent Yale speeches and the rousing Yale cheers of the Commencement dinner have gone, too, for henceforth the more spacious dining hall on Grove street will draw the steps of the returning sons of Yale in another direction.

After North went up, for nearly fifty years no new dormitory was built. During this period the old Brick Row was in its prime. The homely row of plain red buildings had a quiet dignity which was impressive, for it told of the simplicity and democratic equality of the student life. What it lacked in beauty was supplied by its surroundings. Before and behind were stretches of turf, unbroken except for the walks which crossed them. High above all spread canopies of noble elms set out in double rows. In front was the beautiful city Green with nothing to hide it from view. Far into summer, when Commencement came at the end of July or even in August, the grass and the shade and the Green were enjoyed by the students through the hot afternoons and the long evenings. Here, amid surroundings which invited sociability and community of action, and which to generations of students were as unchanging as the earth itself, customs and traditions grew and the Yale spirit was nurtured.

The first serious menace to the Brick Row was the building of Durfee and Farnam in 1869-71. They marked a wide departure from the time-honored barracks type of dormitory, but more than that was their position. Farnam took up a good bit of the front on College street, turning its back to the Green, and Durfee defied all precedent by running its length up and down the end of the College Square, also turning its back upon the city. Shortly after came Battell Chapel, which with the other two completed one angle of a quadrangle with the faces of its buildings turned inward. All could see that a great change was coming, slowly, perhaps, but surely. A quadrangle meant the running of buildings all around the College Square, and that meant cutting down elms and shutting out from view the Green. Moreover, a quadrangle involved an open court within, and that meant the disappearance of the Brick Row itself.

Other buildings, Lawrance, Dwight, and the Chittenden Library, built or projected, carried on the plan. Then came a rumor that the Fence was doomed. At this the students and graduates roused themselves, and petitions and protests poured in upon the authorities. But nothing could stop the growth of the Quadrangle. The Fence came down, and Osborn Hall went up. This was in 1888-89.

In 1893 the first actual blow fell on the Brick Row. Place must be made for Vanderbilt Hall, so South and the Atheneum fell. Soon after, as Welch and Phelps and other halls off the Square supplied the need of buildings, North Middle and Old Chapel were replaced by grass, and this summer Lyceum and North have also disappeared.

South Middle is now our only building which brings to mind the early college life. To its uncarpeted rooms many a student has come, after being set down from the stage at the opening of a winter term, to start with flint and steel the wood fire in his open fire-place. Or, if at night, to light his tallow candle or smoky whale oil lamp before going to the college pump to fill his pitcher. Forth from its suddenly thrown open doors have issued its occupants in solid array, led by the College Bully, with the famous club in his hands to do otherwise unprovided-for police duty on the heads of town roughs yelling defiance. On the path in front of it walked Lafayette, the guest of the College, courteously expressing admiration for the Brick Row, then just completed, and duly impressed with the bully club, which was borne into his presence by its guardians. Here also ran in eager haste the newsboys in the dark days of the Civil War calling out Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and many a smaller battle in which former occupants of South Middle fell, fighting on both
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sides for their convictions. For one hundred and fifty years successive generations of students have tramped through its entries and out into various walks of life, taking with them the lessons of their Yale training, first among which is the obligation to serve their generation faithfully, and a goodly multitude have done so.

When South Middle was built it was described as "very elegant and handsome," and it was doubtless one of the most substantial buildings in the Colony. Now it is jostled by stately edifices, compared with which it looks shabby and insignificant. In spite of its historic interest, it will doubtless be looked upon before long as a disfigurement of the College Square, and graduate sentiment will then permit its removal. When it has disappeared the Quadrangle, enclosing its own homelike Green, will soon take the place of the Old Brick Row in the affections of the sons of Yale. They will then repeat with equal fervor, and greater appropriateness, the words uttered by President Stiles at the laying of the corner-stone of South, "Peace be within thy walls, O Yale, and prosperity within thy palaces."