

# The Governor's Academy Mural

Pescosolido Library



THE GOVERNOR'S ACADEMY





## 1 | William Dummer

William Dummer was born in Boston in 1677 and became Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1716. He served as acting governor for two periods, first between 1723 and 1728 and later from 1729 until 1730. He married Catherine

Dudley on April 20, 1714. The two lived in Boston as their permanent residence and used their home in Byfield, built on the Dummer family farm, as a country home. During his time as acting governor, William Dummer was considered a fair man who sought to promote harmony between leadership in Britain and the colonists.



## 2 | Catherine Dummer

Born Catherine Dudley in 1690, daughter of colonial Governor Joseph Dudley, Catherine married William Dummer in April of 1714 at the age of 24. The couple never had any children.

The couple is pictured riding a horse, which legend tells that they rode on their wedding night through the front door of Mansion House up the staircase to their bedroom. On the night of a blue moon, we are told that listeners can hear hoof steps on this staircase.



## 3 | Yu Kil Chun

Yu Kil Chun was a Korean educational reformer whose time at Dummer Academy was sponsored by Edward Sylvester Morse, then director of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA. Yu Kil Chun came to the Academy as an adult who was eager to

study American culture and education in particular. He spent his time prior to enrolling in the Academy traveling the US with other foreign delegates. When his English had progressed sufficiently, he enrolled at the Academy with plans to eventually pursue a degree at Harvard. A political coup in Korea interfered with his plans. Yu Kil Chun felt compelled to return to his homeland, but wrote kindly of his time at the Academy with Master John Perkins and his wife Sarah. Yu Kil Chun went on to be a significant reformer in Korea who worked toward encouraging the nation's modernization.



## 4 | Carrie Knight Ambrose

Carrie Knight was in the first class of female students to come to the Academy under headmaster Ebenezer Parsons in 1872. She distinguished herself academically, earning a Moody Kent prize for academic excellence. After graduation,

she married fellow graduate Frank Ambrose. Throughout her

lifetime, Carrie Knight Ambrose was an ardent supporter of the Academy and was one of the five leaders of the movement to create the Governor Dummer Allies, a parent group that still provides invaluable support and services for the students at the Academy today.



## 5 | Ted Eames

Ted Eames is the longest tenured headmaster in the history of the Academy. He led the school through very challenging times into the modern era. His term, which began in 1930, included the Great Depression, WWII, the start of the

Cold War, and the years up until 1960. During these times, he brought about a student work program, changes to modernize the curriculum and have it complement the nation's needs, and the addition of essential buildings such as the Duncan Phillips building, the Alumni Gymnasium, Ingham Dormitory, and the Frost Building. He is depicted playing baseball, based upon his experience as the varsity baseball coach for many years while headmaster.



## 6 | Rufus King

Rufus King was one of Master Moody's early students who went on to achieve greatness as one of our nation's Founding Fathers. After graduating from Dummer Academy and later Harvard, he studied law with fellow Dummer

alumnus Theophilus Parsons in Newburyport. An outspoken opponent of slavery, he is largely responsible for early anti-slavery laws, including the banning of slavery in the Northwest Territory. He represented the Massachusetts delegation at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia and is one of the five authors of the Great Compromise. He later moved to New York and served as a US Senator from that state. In 1916, he won the Federalist nomination for President of the United States, but lost in the general election to James Monroe.



## 7 | Edward Preble

Edward Preble was the "naughty student" in Master Moody's class. Despite this trouble he gave his teacher, Preble proved his mettle in the Navy.

As the Captain of the USS Constitution, he helped to defeat the Barbary Pirates in North Africa who

had been interfering with trade. In 1805 Preble was asked by Thomas Jefferson, based upon his previous successes, to take on the command of the US Navy, but turned down the position due to health problems. He died in 1807, at the age of 46.



## 8 | Theophilus Parsons

Theophilus Parsons was one of the first students to be educated by Samuel Moody at Dummer Academy. Parsons grew up in Byfield, son of Pastor Moses Parsons at the Byfield Parish Church. He went on to study at Harvard after

his time at Dummer and became a lawyer in Newburyport. His influence extended far beyond our local area. Parsons wrote extensively about his political ideas and authored the first draft of the Bill of Rights. As a lawyer, Parsons was a mentor and teacher to young lawyers. Among those who clerked for Parsons were fellow alumnus Rufus King (signer of the US Constitution) and future US President John Quincy Adams, who clerked for Parsons during the time that Parsons was on the original Dummer Academy board of trustees. Adams was the scribe for the notes taken in the book of trustees' minutes, which is preserved today in the Academy archives.



## 9 | Samuel Moody

Moody was the first master of the Dummer School. According to William Dummer's will, the master would be chosen by the pastor of the Byfield Parish Church. At the time of the school's founding, Moses Parsons was the

pastor. Parsons knew many people, but his friend and fellow minister, George Whitfield, knew more. Whitfield had traveled extensively throughout the thirteen colonies preaching as part of the religious movement that came to be known as the Great Awakening. Whitfield knew of a young man who taught at his own school in York, Maine (then part of Massachusetts). He had a reputation as an unconventional, yet excellent, instructor of Greek and Latin. The young man, Samuel Moody, was offered the position of Master at the Dummer School and he accepted. Moody served as Master for 26 years, from 1763 to 1789, and was the second longest serving head. His ideals of a broad education to develop body, mind, and spirit continue to guide the Academy today. He is depicted holding the original key to the schoolhouse in his hands and surveying the campus which has grown out of that first little schoolhouse.



## 10 | Parsons School House

This building, often referred to as the third school house, existed without any formal name for many years. Built in 1820, the school house was created to meet the demands of a growing school,

which had outgrown the original Little Red Schoolhouse. The first structure has been moved, modified, and rebuilt in parts. The image of the school house shown here is one captured in a very early photograph from the mid 19th century. It was not until the early 20th century that the school renovated the building and named it Parsons School House, after Reverend Moses Parsons from the Byfield Parish Church who had been appointed in William Dummer's will to oversee the creation of the Academy on the Dummer farm.



## 11 | Commons

Commons is a building that has changed purposes multiple times. When built in 1836, it was designed to be housing for both instructors and students. It was meant to supplement Mansion House, which already served as housing, but was

insufficient to house all who needed space. During those early years, many headmasters chose Commons as their home rather than Mansion House. By 1889, a dining hall was added to Commons along with a recreational room that allowed for meetings of students and faculty. In more modern times, Commons has been home to many faculty members and their families. Today, Commons continues to house some faculty, but is also used as the home for the Academy's business offices.



## 12 | Noyes House

Noyes House was not originally built by the school, but was purchased when the Academy needed more space and was used as a second school house to supplement the Little Red Schoolhouse. This home was owned by members

of the Noyes family who occasionally boarded students. Today, it is used as faculty housing.



## 13 | Mansion House

Built in 1713 as a summer residence for William and Catherine Dummer on the farmland that had originally belonged to William's grandfather, Richard Dummer, Mansion House is the oldest Academy building. Originally, Mansion House

housed not only the master, but also many of the boarding students; the remaining boarders rented space with local families. Until 1889, Mansion House was also the unofficial dining hall for the school. After Joseph Moody and his wife no longer occupied the position of farm caretakers, a series of local widows stepped in to prepare meals for the boarders, who

paid money directly to these women. By the early 20th century, Mansion House came to be the home of the headmaster and his family, with no additional residents, although special guests are often housed in its rooms. While the house has had additions and renovations, the most recent of which occurred in 1961, its location and basic structure have remained largely unchanged.



## 14 | Morse Flag Ceremony

The Morse Flag Award was donated by Reverend Glen Tilley Morse, who served on the board of Trustees from 1912 until his death in 1950. First awarded in 1913, the Morse Flag is presented outside, with students, faculty, and families

gathered around the flagpole to watch the previous year's flag taken down and the new flag raised. The flag, which flies over the school for an entire school year, is then presented to "the student whose record in all respects meets the highest approval of the faculty."



## 15 | Jumping the Wall

One of the favorite traditions of today's students involves jumping off of the wall behind Mansion House at the conclusion of the commencement ceremony. While earlier generations marched around the Milestone, students in the mid 20th

century added another tradition to the ceremony. Along with the tradition comes the lore that jumping off this wall prior to graduation is bad luck, and may result in a failure to graduate.



## 16 | Parsons Bell

The Parsons School House, often referred to as the third school house, was built in 1820. When it was originally constructed, the cupola had a different bell on its top. The present bell, which is now on display on the lawn of Mansion House, was built

in 1895 and installed during the 1905 renovation of Parsons. The bell was removed from the cupola so that roof repairs could be done in the early 21st century.



## 17 | Glee Club (Art Sager)

One of Ted Eames' visions for Governor Dummer Academy included the creation of a Glee Club. When being interviewed in 1930 for his position on the faculty, Art Sager was asked if he had ever led such a group and if he would be able

and willing to do so. While he had never led a singing group, he nonetheless readily agreed to this task. Glee Club quickly rose in popularity and prestige, in part because Sager required Glee Club membership of anyone who wished to attend dances at local girls' schools. From the 1930s until the early 1960s, Glee Club was one of the most popular extracurricular activities on campus.



## 18 | Trolley

The construction of the Georgetown, Ipswich, and Rowley Trolley systems brought new life to campus in the early 1900s (along with new students). The system, which ran from 1900 until 1906, had its central hub on campus at the

Milestone. It was here that riders transferred over from various trains. The advantage of the location of this transfer station was that it enabled day students to come to campus from many different towns, including Newburyport, Georgetown, Ipswich, and Rowley. School children also had the advantage of only paying half the normal fare for their journeys on the trolley. Trolleys coincided with the second period of coeducation, from 1895 until 1904. Since girls were admitted only as day students, the trolley line played a key role in expanding the pool of potential students and helped the school to thrive following years of financial hardship.



## 19 | Sunset Rock

Sunset Rock, as it was once called, is located diagonally across Middle Road from the Milestone. This rock, now surrounded by lush growth, was once more open and available as a resting spot for students. This image, taken from one of the early periods of coeducation in the late 19th century, shows two female students enjoying the view from this serene location.



## 20 | Milestone

The Milestone, located on the corner of the lawn of Mansion House along the road that was once Route 1, is another one of our school's enduring images. The stone, carved in 1706 by John Hartshorn, was commissioned by Richard

Dummer. It let travelers know the distance to important towns, in this case Newbury(port) and Boston. Although these stones were common in the 18th century, very few remain today. The stone has been the site of many campus traditions, with team captains having photos taken next to the Milestone and seniors marching around it as part of commencement exercises.



## 21 | Class in Marsh

The marsh has been part of student life since the days when Master Moody would bring students to the river to swim, thus providing them with exercise and a chance to clean themselves in an era with no indoor plumbing. In the 20th

and 21st centuries, the marsh has been used regularly in science classes.



## 22 | Haying in the Marsh

According to William Dummer's will, the school was to be supported financially from income generated from the farm. One of the products produced by the farm for many years was salt hay, used by local farmers as both livestock feed

and mulch. For years, students helped in the process of haying the fields. This image depicts students during the Eames era raking the cut, dried hay.



## 23 | Ingham Dorm

The first major structure to be built on the south end of campus was the large dormitory named for longtime headmaster Dr. Charles Ingham.

Ingham took over as headmaster in 1907, when it seemed likely that the school might close due

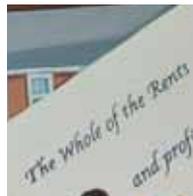
to lack of enrollment. The story told about the transition is that a groundskeeper handed Dr. Ingham a pile of old keys to buildings, wished him luck, and quickly departed. Ingham's hard work, determination, and vision ensured that the school did not close; instead, it quickly thrived under his leadership. During his tenure, student enrollment more than doubled.



## 24 | Evolving Hockey

The first "hockey" team at the Academy was not actually ice hockey, but a precursor to the sport called roller polo. Roller polo eventually evolved to become ice hockey, similar to the sport we know today. Ice hockey was played on campus

in several areas, beginning with the pond that is adjacent to today's playground, moving to the student-made Ingham rink, depicted here, and eventually locating in our modern Whiston•Bragdon Arena with both men's and women's varsity and junior varsity teams. The scene is a tribute to the evolution of the hockey as a co-educational sport on our campus.



## 25 | Dummer's Will

The words on this paper are excerpted from the will of William Dummer. As a man with no children, Dummer nonetheless was a firm believer in education. In his will, he asked that the pastor of the Byfield Parish Church oversee

the creation of a grammar school on his land. The school was to be funded through the income generated by the farm land. This school is now called The Governor's Academy.



## 26 | Little Red Schoolhouse

Perhaps no part of campus is as iconic as the Little Red Schoolhouse. Built in 1763 and refurbished in 1938 by designer William Graves Perry (who also designed Colonial

Williamsburg), the school house has been a constant in the Academy's history. The Little Red Schoolhouse, which was first located on the front lawn of Mansion House, was where Master Samuel Moody taught all of his students. On the opening day of school, March 1, 1763, Reverend Moses Parsons delivered a sermon based on the excerpt from Isaiah 32:8: "But the liberal deviseth liberal things and by liberal things shall he stand." From that point on, the school house has been part of the Academy — initially as a classroom space, later as a chapel space during the early 20th century, and today as a commemorative monument to the Academy's long history.



## 27 | Football Team of 1906

As America began its fascination with sports, so too did the Academy. By the late 1800's, the Academy had several organized sports teams, including hockey, football, baseball, and track.

This image of the 1906 football team includes

Booker T. Washington, Jr., son of the legendary African American leader who founded the Tuskegee Institute. Washington had been invited to attend the Academy at a time when integrated education was still rare in the United States.



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