

"Peabody School is now as large as the whole school system when I started," said Major Parham, yesterday. "This town certainly has grown."

"Graduate of Ole Miss:

"Major Parham was born in Sussex County, Virginia, in 1833. He moved to Mississippi in 1843. He graduated from the University of Mississippi, at Oxford, in 1854, but did not receive his diploma until four years ago. The University was shut down during the Civil War, and when it was re-opened, Major Parham's name was mislaid. Four years ago he received his degree.

"Mrs Parham was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and is the daughter of Brooks Robards Trezevant and Rachel Godwin Trezevant.

"Besides the Misses Godwin and Courtney Carroll, who came from Chicago, Sam O. Smith of Denison, Texas, and Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Trezevant and Mrs. Corinne Trezevant Tuttle will arrive today." (30)

It is seen that dates and figures in these two stories are not quite consistent, nor do they quite agree with those found in other sources. But they are approximately correct, and these stories are rich in incidental information.

No source yet found has explained, however, how Professor Parham came to be known as Major -- whether he was a Major in the Confederate army, or whether the title was one accorded him at St. John's College, which, at one period, had a military department. Neither has any information been found as to where he taught between his graduation and his coming to Little Rock. The stories of his seven children are mostly a mystery, too, except for the two daughters mentioned above, and information on them is incomplete. An Arkansas Democrat story for February 1887 tells of the marriage of Miss Godwin Parham to Mr. Gray Carroll, a Little Rock lawyer and prosecuting attorney. It was his other daughter, Ora Lee, who became Mrs. Powell Clayton, though nothing has been learned of the circumstances.

From Bernie Babcock's Sketch Book, 1908-1910, and from various other sources, some other data on the Major has been found which supplements and enriches the Major Parham story. Richard Henry Parham was born in Virginia in 1833, the son of Richard Hill Parham and Henryetta Elizabeth Parham, the two parents being distantly related. When he was ten years old, he moved with his family from Virginia to Marshall County, Miss. The journey was made overland in carriages and wagons, the party consisting of the family, the manager of the plantation (which the senior Parham had bought in Mississippi for \$25,000) and 125 slaves.

After young Richard had received his early education in private schools, he entered the state university at Oxford. He was scheduled for graduation, with distinction, when he was only twenty-one years old. This story tells that an epidemic was in progress at the time set for his graduation, and the school was temporarily closed, and for this reason he did not immediately receive his diploma. And later, the Civil War brought complications. Then in 1913, when he was eighty years old, the story says, his degree was sent to him.

In 1871, Major Parham was elected Professor of Applied Mathematics at St. John's College, Little Rock. He held this position until 1875, when he became principal of St. John's.