

In 1877, he was elected principal of the Sherman Street school, which it appears was then the high school. In 1883, the high school was transferred to the Scott Street school, and in 1890, it was moved to Peabody School, on West Fifth (now Capitol). In 1894, Professor Parham's principaship of the city high school ended, and he took the principalship of the Fort Steele school.

It is said that during the time he was principal of the high school, 220 pupils graduated (the other source says 202), and forty of these became teachers. By 1894, the Major was sixty-one years old. But he had a quarter of a century yet to live, and he spent it all with the Little Rock schools.

He held the principalship at Fort Steele until 1902, and then he became principal at Kramer School. In 1905, he became teacher of history in the "new" Little Rock High School. In 1908, he was named historian and normal teacher in the high school. Old timers recall that after a while he was named librarian and although he eventually grew so old that he couldn't do much, he sat there and busied himself with the things he loved --books and school affairs, and people, especially his students.

At the close of the school year, in the spring of 1919, when he was eighty-six years old, he was "stricken with paralysis," the paper said, but the attack was slight. A second stroke, on July 16, "confined him to his bed," and on July 27, 1919, he died, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Powell Clayton, 1301 Welch Street, Little Rock.

His wife had apparently died since their sixtieth wedding anniversary a year and a half earlier.

Little Rock had honored him, years before his death, by naming its Parham School for him. When he died, the Gazette said, "The usefulness of his life is beyond estimation." And it added, "There was nobody within the sphere of his labors who did not honor him as an educator and as a man." The adjective has special meaning when the Gazette said he was "Beloved by all who knew him..."

For the State's Public Schools, Too

Though his work with the Little Rock schools and as Pulaski County Examiner may be most proudly remembered by local citizens - for there are many people still alive and active in Little Rock who knew him personally - Major Parham performed, in Little Rock, and on trips out from it, a major work for the cause of public school education in the state at large. That work should be briefly mentioned here, though its full story belongs in another publication.

He acted as a sort of catalyst between the old and the new types of education - between the old aristocratic, classical, private school education and the new democratic public school system. Born, reared, educated, and experienced in the older, aristocratic way, and himself a delightful example of that system at its best, he was converted to the newer theory of education after he came to Little Rock, and he helped materially to convert others like him to the new view.