

MRS. MARY B. YOUNG: A school teacher and mother, Mrs. Young was a woman of high intellect and broad social and philanthropic interests. Her gift to the city of B. M. C. Durfee High School has been termed the most magnificent single effort on the part of Fall River people for their children.

Durfee High School Gift Of Mrs. Young to City

B.M.C. Durfee High School, the academic training ground for several generations of Fall Riverites, was offered to the city Feb. 5, 1883.

On that night, a communication was read to the Board of Aldermen from Mrs. Mary B. Young who offered to build and furnish a high school in memory of her late son, Bradford Matthew Chaloner Durfee.

Mrs. Young's offer read in part as follows:

"The undersigned, as soon as proper plans can be proposed, will erect and furnish at her own expense, in memory of her son, Bradford Matthew Chaloner Durfee, on the lot bounded by Locust, High, Cherry and Rock Streets, which lot contains about 250 square rods of land, a building suitable for the purpose of a high school, and upon its completion will convey same, with lot, to the City of Fall River."

"She will also provide mechanical, philosophical and chemical apparatus, and give to the City of Fall River, in trust, the sum of \$50,000, the income of which shall be devoted to instruction in the branches of study illustrated by the use of said apparatus."

Offer Accepted

The offer was gratefully accepted and construction of the building began in the same year. On June 15, 1887, the anniversary of the birth of Mrs. Young's son, the B.M.C. Durfee High School was dedicated to the education of the youth of Fall River.

An audience numbering more than 1,500 persons, representing every sect and nationality, was on hand for the dedication.

Mrs. Young, accompanied by her brother, the Hon. John S. Brayton, the president of the day, entered the hall a few minutes before the exercise began.

Governor Among Guests

Among the distinguished guests at the dedication were Oliver Ames, Governor of the Commonwealth; Rev. Roswell D. Hitchcock D.D., LL.D., orator of the occasion; Rev. William W. Adams, D.D., the chaplain; Henry B. Pierce, Secretary of the Commonwealth; Alanson W. Beard, State Treasurer.

John W. Dickinson, Secretary of the State Board of Education; Charles F. Choate, John M. Washburn and Royal W. Tucker, members of the Honorable Executive Council; Atty. John W. Cumming, Mayor of the city.

Joseph F. Lindsey, Stephen Davol, William C. Davol, William Lawton Slade, Daniel Wilbur and Azariah S. Tripp.

In accepting the deed, Mayor Cummings said "I shall not attempt to speak the gratitude of our citizens, for I humbly believe it passes beyond expression."

Move Is Opposed

On April 5, 1927, an "educational bomb" hit the city when the majority of the School Committee voted to change the title of the school diplomas from B.M.C. Durfee High School to Fall River High School.

A resolution adopted by the Republican City Committee read in part: "resolved that we, members of the Republican City Committee, in meeting assembled, do hereby express our regret and indignation at this high-handed action of the School Committee, and enter our protest against this change."

Strike Threatened

The pupils demonstrated in the streets and a threatened strike was averted by Aurel Lavoie, president of the Class of 1927. The alumni voted against the change and it was said that the sentiments of the faculty were also against the change of names. Petitions were circulated in the city calling for a hearing of the School Committee

on its action in changing the name of the school.

One petition read: "The undersigned citizens of Fall River respectfully petition your honorable body to call a public hearing of all parties interested for the purpose of rescinding the vote by which the name of the B.M.C. Durfee High School was changed to that of Fall River High School."

"We believe that a mistake has been made and that the School Committee should know the full facts."

Action Rescinded

Charges and countercharges were publicly hurled by prominent citizens who held opposite views on the question. The furor abated when on Jan. 18, 1928, the School Committee restored the original name to the school.

The Class of 1927 was the only class that received diplomas titled Fall River High School and they later were given an opportunity to exchange them for B.M.C. Durfee High School diplomas.

Durfee Principals

Dr. William H. Lambert, 1887-1890.

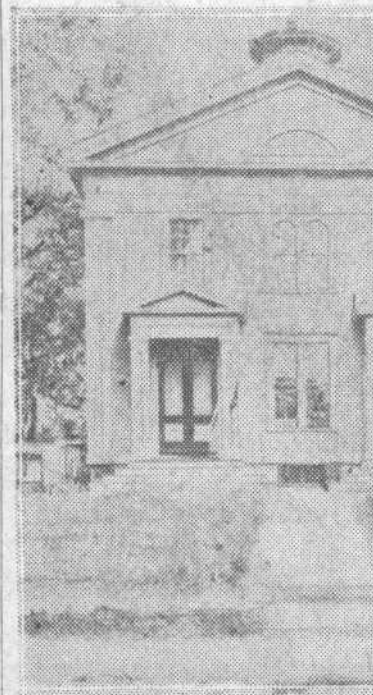
Robert F. Leighton, 1890-1892.
Charles C. Ramsay, 1892-1902.
George F. Pope, 1902-1913.
Frederick W. Plummer, 1913-1918.
Charles K. Moulton, 1918-1925.
Charles V. Carroll, 1925-1952.
Ambrose F. Keeley, 1952—

Tech High Principals

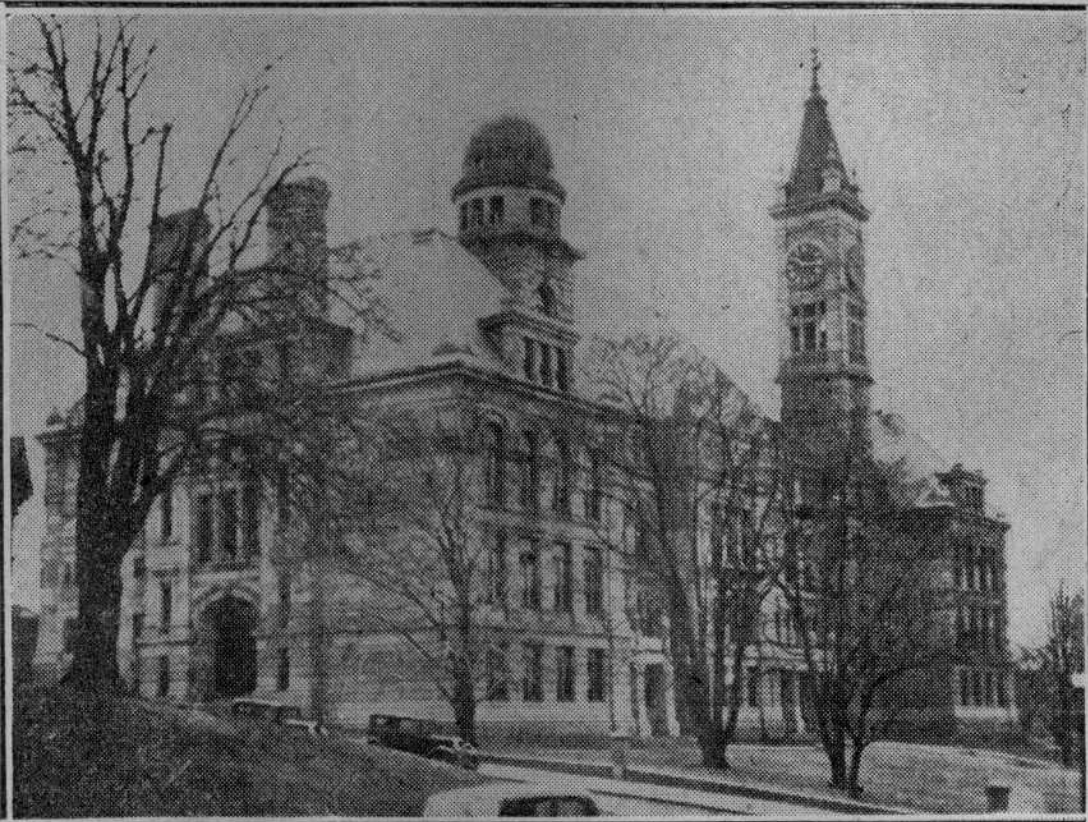
William H. Dooley, 1913-1917.
John N. Indlehofer, 1917—(granted leave of absence).
Roy W. Kelly, 1917-1917 (Acting principal).
Charles K. Moulton, 1917-1918.

FIRST MUSIC TEACHER

The first teacher of music in Fall River public schools was Parker Borden in 1861. In 1874, he became the first supervisor of music.



JUNE STREET SCHOOL HOUSE
is this old school building, opened June Street, south of the Fall River (Hooper). Both buildings were torn down to make room for the Technical High School.



THE CLOCK TOWER AND OBSERVATORY are two of the most distinctive features of the beautifully-designed B. M. C. Durfee High School. Presented to the city by Mrs. Mary E. Young in memory of her son, the school customarily sounds 29 bell tolls in the morning for opening sessions. Bradford Matthew Chaloner Durfee, for whom the school is named, died at that age.