

Martina Emendorf.
August 18th 1802.

A Minute Book

- + Attended Mr Woodbridge's school
for the first time. 17th August. 1802.
2nd Employed in casting family accounts.
3rd The different branches of knowledge
most essential for our improvement
considered.
4th A Confidential society proposed.
5th Quarter of an hour instruction on the
Globe. Tuesday afternoon.

Second Day.

- 1st A Short recitation and lesson on the
Globe.
2nd Mr Woodbridge finding the young
ladies had no composition or Questions
dismiss'd the school for that day.

+ Third Day.

- 1st Half an hour instruction on the Globe.
2nd Mr Woodbridge heard us on Geography
Lesson, explained to us the motion of
the heavenly bodies.
3rd "Are men naturally fond of vice"? This
brought forth a lecture in which we had the
comparison of the 'Crack Tree'.

Fifth Day Fourth

1st Recited our Geography Lesson.

2nd Miss Julia Bondinot gave upon Sincerity to which we had Mr Woodbridge's observations.

A short Lesson on the terrestrial, and celestial Globe.

Sixth day. 5th

A Letter by Miss Bondinot addressed to the young ladies. An essay upon Beauty by Miss Phaddock. With this Que. "Can we get a knowledge of the world too soon?" These brought a Lecture worthy our most serious reflection.

Seventh Day. 6th

+ An explanation of the Solar System. An account, and necessary observations respecting Saturn.

An essay upon Friendship by Miss Mercer with reflections and Lecture upon that subject.

Eight Day. 7th

A Lesson respecting the Solar System. Mr Woodbridge explained the cause of an eclipse of the Sun and Moon.

Recited the Geography of Europe in general. A short essay upon Gratitude, and several questions among which was "Is knowledge conducive to happiness?" that closed the Lecture for the day.

Ninth Day.

The appearance of a shower prevented our attendance this day.

Tenth Day. +

An explanation of the Chronological Table. Recitation of Europe and Asia in general.

An essay upon Solitude by Miss C. Smith. Among a number of questions the one most important was this "Is there a just foundation for our assent to the Christian Doctrine?" which Mr Woodbridge fully and clearly explained.

Eleventh Day.

Recitation of the Kingdoms and Chief Cities of Europe Asia and America.

An essay upon Dancing by Miss M. Comb.

And one upon Time by Miss C. Mercer.

Mr W. advised us to take time by the forelock, for if ^{once} got behind there was no such thing as overtaking it.

Twelfth Day. 11th

Recited the Kingdoms of Europe, Asia, and America.

A Narration by Miss A. Smith taken from Ancient History (Gibbons') giving an account of the patience of Belshazzar.

A Lecture upon Moral and Natural Philosophy, or the creation, teaching us that nothing was made in vain but all to answer some wise purpose some were created for our punishment some for our pleasure and others for our support but we were created for a higher purpose.

Thirteenth Day. Wednesday 12th

A Recitation of the United States, traced the different places on the map.

Fourteenth Day. Thursday 13th

Recited Vermont, traced the States, Lakes, & Rivers of the States.

An Essay upon Humility by Miss Bon.

And one upon Modesty by Miss Ogden.

Friday 14th Day.

Recited New Hampshire.

An essay on Ignorance by Miss Ogden.

Among several the following were most important "What is Scriptural Faith?"

A. A perfect confidence in the Supreme Being. The other. "What is the first duty of man?" To relieve the wants of our fellow creatures, and to prevent scenes of distress whenever it is in our power.

Monday 15th Day.

An essay upon the Death of our friends by Miss E. Smith wherein was mentioned, "that the only consolation we could derive at the hour of parting was the thought of meeting again in a better world."

Tuesday 16th Day.

A Review of the Map of the United States, Recited the Province of Maine & Rhode Isl. and.

Wednesday 17th Day

Massachusetts was our lesson for this day.
An essay on Contentment, by Miss Julia
Boudinot. another upon Justice by Miss
C. Ogden. No particular observations.

Thursday 18th Day

Connecticut was our recital, Mr Wood-
bridge pointed out to us the different
countries & rivers on the separate Maps
of the United States.

An essay upon Health by Miss Mercer,
& one on Benevolence by Miss M. Ogden.

Friday 19th Day.

Recited the Geography of New York.

An essay upon Cheerfulness brought by
Miss C. but time would not permit to
read it.

Monday 20th Day.

On delivering comfort to the afflicted,
by Miss Ogden. Recited New Jersey.

The following Questions were most wor-
thy notice "What is Honour?"

Honour is a sacred tie, the law of kings,
The noble's mind's distinguishing perfect
That aids & strengthens virtue when it
meets her.

And imitates her actions where she is met,
It ought not to be parted with. Cato.

The next was, If a young lady might
not rather read novels than nothing?

Mr Woodbridge was of opinion we might
rather read nothing, than novels, but
advised us to read the bible, in that we
should find the greatest source of amuse-
ment & entertainment which would in-
struct us at the same time, he likewise
advised when we purchased a bible to
get one with Orstravel's notes.

Tuesday 21st Day.

Recited Pennsylvania, An essay on Indo-
lence by Miss C. Mercer, showing that
it was both prejudicial to our health
as well as the improvement of our mind.

Wednesday 22nd Day.
Recited the Geography of Delaware, and
went over the different State we had stu-
died. An essay upon the advantage
of reading History by Miss E. Smith.

Thursday 23rd Day.

Territory N. W. of the Ohio, was our recital
this day. An essay upon music by Miss M.
Forbes, and one by Miss E. Ogden on Mercy.
The following was the only question answered.
Is affection natural or acquired? It brought
along lecture.

Friday 24th Day.

Recited the Geography of Maryland.
The essay upon Cheerfulness was read this day.
A Debate, if a young ladies question should
be discussed when she was not there but
better entertained! It brought forth the ^{best} ^{reason}
Thus, by a sprightly, and transient digress^{ion}
The truth made a clear & deeper impression.

Monday 25th Day. Virginia was the re-
cital this day. A Comparison between
the Bee and Butterfly by Miss Bonclinch.

Tuesday 26th Day. Finished Miss Bonclinch's
composition which
was not all read the day before. The
Question was asked if Physiognomy was
an art or science, and if a science if it
should not be more studied? Answer
given was that it ought to be studied
much more than it was. And had
been considered both as a science & art.
We recited Kentucky.

Wednesday 27th Day. An Essay upon a
peaceable disposition, by Miss Julia B.
One on Fortitude by Miss Mercer, the
Language and Sentiments of which did
honour to the writer. Mr. W. wished us
all to cultivate it, as a certain degree
was necessary in every situation in life.
Recited North Carolina.

Thursday 28th Day. Rain prevented our
attendance this Day.

Friday 29th Day. An essay on Vanity
by Miss E. Ogden, & one upon Patience by M. E.
Recited the Geography of Tennessee.

A Lecture on Friendship. Mr Woodbridge read to us his Sentiments upon Gallatin. Essay which he had penned in younger years.

Monday 30th Day. Several questions were brought in. Recited the Geography of South Carolina. Had a good Lecture on the government of the Capions.

Tuesday 31st Day. A Lecture upon light, the least particle of nature enumerated the colours which were seven, viz. Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet. Red the largest and coarsest Violet the finest. We then had view through the prism which shew'd us that things were not really as we view'd them but that is was only the light in which they were viewed by us. White is a composition of all colours, Black a destitution of all colours. A Composition by Miss M. Ogden upon Industry Georgia was the Recitation.

Wednesday 32nd Day. The subject upon light repeated, the prism was compared to our minds. An Essay upon Contentment by Miss Beach. Among a number of Questions the one most striking was this, Is not Morality the essence of Christianity? Mr Woodbridge did not think it was, he made it quite clear to us by a long Lecture. Recited the Kingdoms of South America. A Recitation of East & West Florida.

Thursday 33rd Day. We were prevented by Company.

Friday 34th Day. An essay on Navigation by Miss E. Smith, and one upon Prudence by Miss C. Mercer. Among several questions the following were the most striking, The Millennium? When Christ shall reign for a thousand years, & Satan be chained. It is expected 6,000 years after Christ 5,800 have pass'd

The Distinction between true and false Pride? True Pride was of great and noble things. Humility was stooping to trifling things. A False Pride is being proud of any thing we are not entitled to. Terra Firma & Peru.

Monday 35th Day. } No school this day.

Tuesday 36th Day. } An essay on Happiness by Miss C. Lyden. Among several Questions the following was brought in. What is the difference between Reason and Instinct? Reason belonged to human beings, & Instinct was animal understanding. Recited part of S. America.

Wednesday 37th Day. } An essay on Sleep by Miss M. Forbes. The observation made was that we were not thankful enough for that blessing. The Questions brought in were these. What part of Literature was most necessary for a lady to learn? Mr. Woodbridge thought, Geography, History, Composition & above all family accounts. The other was, What is the difference between Soul, Spirit, & body? Soul is the immortal part that never dies, the Spirit the intellect.

and life of us, and the body, our mortal part. Recited South America apart of it.

Saturday 38th } All the young ladies brought their Sentiments upon paper of the improvement ^{had made} they in the different branches in which they had been engaged since under the tuition of Mr Woodbridge which each one performed the delicate task of reading their own Sentiments aloud for the benefit of the school after which Mr Woodbridge gave us a lecture on nature & therein mentioned that dust we were & unto dust we must return that we should likewise consider our situation and prepare to meet our God for we knew not the day or hour in which we would be called upon. He concluded with saying that was perhaps the last time we would all meet together in that room. we were then dismissed

On account of our absence from this place we were not able to attend the first week after vacation.

Monday 9th Novemb: 1802 commenced our school again.

No Compositions this day.

Several questions were brought in for discussion among which were the following,

Is not Ignorance a great curse to the world?

Is dwelling any advantage to Society?

What does Mr W. think of the doctrine of Election?

Why is the Apocrypha so often neglected in the Bible?

Mr W. said that ignorance of fact is no curse but ignorance of our duty and what was right and wrong was a great curse.

He did not think dwelling any advantage to Society, only in the army were a few would sacrifice their

lives to preserve that of thousands. The Elect were Gods chosen people & the followers of Christ.

The reason that the Apocrypha was so often omitted was that it was not considered as a ^{part of} ~~part of~~ ^{the bible} and contained many fabulous things.

Tuesday 10th Nov^r Attended at half after four, Recited the Geography of Denmark and Lapland.

No Compositions. A Number of Questions brought in for discussion among which were the following. In what does true courage consist?

Not to shrink from any thing which we are to do, but to be always prepared to meet our fate.

Another; "What are the leading truths of Christianity?"

First the fall of Man, next a crucified Saviour who came to redeem lost sinners, and last the hope of an happy hereafter.

Wednesday 11th Nov^r Met as usual
Recited the Geography of Sweden,
No Compositions. Questions for
discussion were the following,
What are the benefits arising
from affliction?

Many and very great, it taught
us what we were, and, on whom
our dependence was placed, it
likewise taught us to be humble
in every situation, and thankful
for past favours. The other was
Didst suppose that we are always
attended by disembodied Spirits?
It is from a secret impulse within
which causes us to avoid dangers
that we had no apprehension of.

Thursday 12th Nov^r Met as usual
A Composition by Miss Mercer on
Envy. The following questions given

for discussion.

Whether Mr Woodbridge thought
we were to blame for our Original^{sin?}
He did not think we were, and at
the same time to verify the Scrip-
tures said that in this world we
would be punished for our parents
crimes but not in the world to come.
Another was.

Do our souls ascend immediately
after death or rest till the day
of Judgment?

It was Mr Woodbridge's opinion
that our souls went into another
state of being immediately after
death. he gave us the Parable
of the rich man & Lazarus as
a convincing proof. another Ques.
What present advantage have
Christians by their diligence?
A Satisfaction in their own minds
of having performed what was their

duty and the hope of a future
reward.

Recited the Geography of Prussia.
We were then dismissed.

Friday 13th Attended as usual.
An essay upon evil communi-
cations, composed by Miss M.
Elmendorf. It was observed by Mr
W. that it was a horrid practice
which many persons had got in-
to of backbiting and abusing the
characters of their neighbours
whenever an opportunity offered.
Questions for discussion;

If there was such a thing as
disinterested Love?

It was asserted there was, but it
was also seldom to be found.

Q. Why Christ when he had perform-
ed an act of mercy, wish'd it to
be kept secret?

Because the appointed time was not
yet come, neither were they able to bear it.

Monday 18th Our Society met, had
a recitation of the Questions in Geo-
graphy. No Compositions. The
question for discussion was.

Whether Suicide could be styled
true courage?

It was asserted to be the height
of cowardice, and if the expression
may be used it might be said it
was bullying with God.

Tuesday 17th A Recitation of a
number of Questions in the Geogra-
phy. No Compositions. Questions discus-
Whether reputation was not pre-
ferable to life?

To a female and Minister of the
Gospel it is, but to Gentlemen
for by that name they are called
of any other profession it was not
as they might flee to a distant part
of the world where they were not known.

Q. Does the pursuit of Literature
confer happiness?

Wednesday 18th Nov^r The confidential
society met at the usual hour.

M^r W. enquired if we had written
answers to the questions in Geography.
The answer was that we had not made
answers to all of them. He then
proceeded to discuss the question
which was brought in viz:

Whether the dictates of conscience
should be followed in all cases?

M^r W. finding there was no very ur-
gent business concluded to give us a
lecture on the Passions.

Love and Hatred are supposed to
be the strongest Passions; Love is
excited by the appearance of good,
Hatred by the appearance of evil.

Admiration is caused by rare and
uncommon things, at the same
time things could not be known
and admired which we were desirous
to remember.

Thursday 19th Nov^r Met as usual.

A Composition by M^r C. Mercer on
the Advantages of a good Education.
In which was mentioned that persons
having the opportunity would often
disregard and neglect it. Recited
the Geography of Scotland. Isles of.
Then proceeded with the lecture
on the passions. Reviewed what
we had gone over the day before,
which was first Love and Hatred.
Hope and Fear, Hope was excited
by expected objects, or things,
Fear by the dread of not receiving
what was expected. Admiration
is caused by rare & uncommon
things, a thing could not be
known and admired at the
same time. Surprise is excited
by common ^{but unexpected} things in unexpected
times and places.

From surprise arose astonishment
& amazement. Generosity is a just
estimate of our own worth. Humi-
lity is a mean opinion of ourselves.
Mr W. observed that it was not good
to have too humble an opinion of
ourselves because we could not ^{then} expect
others to have a good opinion of us.
We were then requested to give an
account how we had spent our
time for the last hour it being
one hour from the time we
assembled. We were then dismissed.

Friday 20th Nov. Mr Woodbridge was
prevented ⁱⁿ attending our society by
the death of his sister.

Monday 23rd Nov. We assembled
a composition by Miss C. Smith on
Contemplation. Recited part of
Scotland. Then proceeded with
the passions. Admiration was excit-
ed by things rare, amiable qualities

excited Esteem, and worthiness
excited hatred. Contentment is
limited desire, & being contented
with what we possess, which pro-
duces satisfaction. Complacency
is excited with whatever tends
to our pleasure and being pleas-
ed with ourselves.

On going on Contemplation by Miss C.
Smith. No Questions
We were then dismissed.

Tuesday 24th Nov. No composi-
tions, Lesson, for discussion.

Whether adversity or prosperity is
most advantageous to mankind?

Determined in favor of adversity.
Recited the remaining part of Scotland.
Then proceeded with the Passions
Joy and Grief. Joy was excited by good
possession, and Grief by the loss of it.
Pride discovered itself in a haughty

air, strutting gait, and lofty carriage and by thinking themselves superior to every other person, that that it was a proof of great Ignorance.

Shame is a consciousness of our having done wrong and being suspected of it. Modesty is excited by a sense of our own failings and imperfections, & a fear of being suspected of having done wrong & is the sure safe guard of Innocence & Honor. Then dismissed

Wednesday 25 Nov^{br} Read two Compositions, one on the Tongue by Miss C. Ogden. The other on a suspicious temper by Miss Mercer. Recited part of England, discussed on Qu^{es}. Why the word Selah was so often used in the Book of Psalms? By the Psalmist it was used as a pause or resting place in Music by some

it is supposed to be the conclusion of a subject. Then proceeded with the passions. Benevolence is exercised to a deserving object. Charity induced us to think well of others. Gratitude is love to our Benefactors and neglect and indifference to their kindness is ingratitude. Then dismissed

Thursday 26th Nov^{br} Some instructions on the terrestrial Globe. Read an essay written by Miss M. Elmendorf on the dangers of Pleasure. Questions for discussion. If Mr W. would explain that text in Scripture where it is said he that calls his brother fool shall be in danger of Hell fire? Baka, or the fool signified a contemptible being unfit for society, by the Jews it was attended with spitting in the face & was thought a very heinous crime therefore he that violated Gods laws must be in danger of the judgment.

Recited part of England then concluded
ed with the passions. Anger is caused
by frequent provocations, and revenge is
a malicious desire to do all the in-
jury in our power. To be dissatisfied
with every little thing is called pe-
vishness. Mr Woodbridge told us we
should never let our passions get the
ascendency, & compared them to a vessel
at sea, without compass or Pilot
exposed to the blast and fury of every
wind and wave. That all our passions
were of use and promoted our happiness
provided we made a proper use of them.
And that the Almighty knows best
what his creatures are able to bear.
Mr W. then advised us never to let
our passions get above our reason.
That we should never love without
reason nor beyond it, never fear with-
out, or beyond it, never hate without it
or beyond it, and never allow our pre-
judices to overlook the amiable qualities
even in our enemies but give every one
the praise they are deserving of. Then dismissed.

Friday 27th Nov^r We were prevented
attending by the unfavorableness of weather.

Monday 29th Nov^r We again assembled
No Compositions. Questions discussed
were What author Mr W. thought pro-
per for young ladies to read. He men-
tioned several among which were
Bennets Letters, which should not only
be read but studied, Watts' Lyric poem
should always be laying on our table,
Addisons Spec. Forster's Sermons, Dodd
on Death, Cowper's works, Young's works,
Rollins Roman history, Mrs Chapones
letters to a niece, Female Spectator, &c.
Another, What method must we pursue
to form a good style?

By attentively reading the best authors
& taking elegant extracts from them, by
frequently narrating from them, never
to let a good observation pass but set it
down in a little book kept for the purpose.
Recited part of England. We were
then dismissed.

Thursday 30th Nov^r } Met as usual
A Narration from the life of Job,
by Miss M. Ogden. Miss M. C. Narrated
the story of Cain & Lamech a Roman
knight which Mr W. had read the day
before. Question, "Whether the active
or studious part of mankind was
most serviceable to community?"
Mr Woodbridge thought the active life
most serviceable but said the studious
was necessary to assist the active.

"What method must we take to
arrange our ideas properly?
Our attention must be confined to our
thoughts and our thoughts to a par-
ticular subject, and when we have them
together then arrange them in due
order. Mr W. brought forth the following
allusion to make it more clear "The
body of a tree is first formed after that
the branches are formed & arranged in order.
After which he gave us a lecture on
happiness, on what it did not consist.
It does not consist in dissipation & world
pleasures, neither in wealth, grandeur, or show.