



Briefly, Reverend Allen attended a Presbyterian Camp retreat at Scandland Springs in 1843 and by 1845, took an option to purchase the failing church building project above, completed in 1845, to establish Kentucky Institute also in 1845.

To obtain financial state support for military training of State of Kentucky Militia, a 20 January 1847 state charter for Kentucky Military Institute, established KMI as the first official military private institution.

Many fictitious claims to previous popular religious orphanages, have no genuine military connections, until after the Civil War. It is true that many military schools were spanned from orphanages needing organization and discipline, just after the Civil War.

KMI had become a leading educational pillar in the South. Not recorded in Stephen's History is the interesting record revealing that the notorious Senator Henry Clay paid tuition for his grandson to attend KMI after his son was killed in the Civil War.

Cadet JQA Stewart KMI 1847 eventually set out for the "California Goal Rush" as a "Forty-Niner." Known as the "father of mentally disabled care," Dr. Stewart and his son, J P Stewart KMI 1885, in 1893 purchased the closed (1892) KMI Farmdale properties and have perpetuated the Stewart Home for five generations.

Without public support, keeping the school a privately owned institution plagued KMI with many closings and it's ultimate demise in 1971.



KMI Superlatives:

Oldest Private Military School & 4th oldest public military school behind “West Point” and “VMI”

A rich & fascinating history that is easy to utilize!

Kentucky Governors regularly spoke and presented diplomas.

Regularly awarded “Honor Military School” for the top 10 % of ROTC programs.

Featured winter quarters in Venice, FL!

Main buildings are still standing & functional, going all the way back to Farmdale 1845!

KMI Alumni Accomplishments:

Stephens’ KMI History book & DVD!

“Character Makes The Man” documentary for Public Television utilizes motion & sound.

Venice “KMI Bridge” Renaming! Still up in the air! Successful and productive reunions!

www.kmialumni.org is the world’s most diverse, extensive and productive prep school web site, with many nostalgic stories.

Potential Goals:

National Historic Places Markers to be established.

KMI History 101 “On-Line Course”

KMI Memorabilia DVD to supplement c1991 KMI History!

Television is single directional communication that is being exploited by “Character makes the Man” documentary.

What started as a supplement to Stephens’ History, KMI Memorabilia DVD is evolving into KMI History 101 “On-Line Course.”

Multi-Level KMI History 101 “On-Line Course” becomes multi-directional communication vehicle to supplement web site. The KMI Tradition of multi-level opportunities is being perpetuated in many ways. Editorial contributions are encouraged.

Since the candle is burning, presentation of materials must start somewhere.

Most of the best materials are being held for use on the anniversary of monthly historical dates or seasonal coordination of the school calendar.





As a first year cadet, hiking about two miles from bus stop, with duffle bag from US 60 and Lyndon Road, these are the first views to a young cadet coming for early football camp. Mrs. Carmack was in Ormsby Hall to greet you on Saturday and two-a-days began at 9 AM Monday morning (for two weeks). Other new cadets “rats” arrived three days (for initial drill) prior to the rest arriving on the first Monday after Labor Day.



KMI Dinner Plate listed in 1952 Kentucadet bulletin for \$2.

In 1958, Vernon Kilns closed their pottery due to mounting labor costs and competition from foreign imports.

This plate was purchased off eBay during a liquidation for \$30 in about 2003.

The widow of John Collins KMI 1958 donated one Vernon Kiln KMI Plate to Venice Triangle Inn Museum.

This brief account of KMI began 15 years ago. About 2,000 names not found in school records, are added in Appendices A, B, and C.

The story lists some noble traits and characteristic flaws of KMI's notable and lesser known graduates, former cadets and faculty.

Truth has been separated from rumor, hearsay, tradition, and "puffing", those creeping errors of misguidance and spurious legends.

Like other military schools, this "oldest private military preparatory school in America" had its years of glory and adversity, exhibited by Appendix D.

Many KMI men are not counted or lauded for their "full measure of devotion" to Nation and Alma-Mater. But scores have left an immortal, indelible footprint upon some page of history, the verdant bluegrass sods of Kentucky, or the sandy stretches of Eau Gallie and Venice, Florida.

"If the past is not recorded, there is faint hope or expectation for the future."



Jim Stephens

In 1927, the author began military training within the bounds of KMI at age 11. His ROTC work was completed at the University of Kentucky, where he earned an A.B. degree in journalism (1938), and the M.A. degree in history (1973).

He spent one-fourth of his 23 years in the U.S. Army overseas with Infantry, Cavalry and Armor, Military Police, Civil Affairs-Military Government, and Internal Security. Stateside duty consisted of field maneuvers, ORC and CMTC as an instructor, and as a student of the Command & General Staff College.

A sort of 'rebel' or 'whistle-blower', he opposed deception and misrepresentation by his superiors, which, doubtlessly, cut short an extensive military career. After relief from active duty, he was vindictively hounded for 17 years.

In federal court, 1963, a U.S. Attorney stated: "Colonel Stephens, you should have been a general." He was astounded to hear what seemed a rare compliment, especially when the attorney added: "I meant what I said; you should have been a general." But Jim Stephens was never so favored as recipient of the coveted star.

Time permitting, Volume II will follow - to include errata, biographical material, events, and scenes not given in Volume I.



The Battle Campaign for Chickamauga began in August 1863 and ended in Sept 1863.



Civil War "works of art" used to reflect the events of 150 years ago this month.



Events after KMI founding!



Custer's last stand at the Little Big Horn 1876!





discharge at Meridian, Mississippi, 10 May 1865, he had seen duty with infantry, artillery and cavalry, all for the "lost cause of the South."

Expecting to become a teacher and then practice law, he returned to Texas. But his plans were interrupted by Colonel Robert D. Allen, who had decided to return to Kentucky with his father. Both Allens encouraged Sayers to go back to Kentucky where he could earn his degree the following year. He entered KMI in the fall of 1865, studied general curricula and law and received an M. A. degree on 5 July 1866. At the commencement, he was emotionally stirred by the final sermon, "The Boy is the Father of the Man."

After returning to Texas, he became state senator; at age 45 he was elected to Congress from the 9th and 10th Texas districts. He retired from Congress after seven consecutive terms, with Congress declaring by resolution that his retirement was a

"national rather than a party calamity." In 1898, he was elected Governor of Texas and reelected in 1900. During his administrations the Huntsville Penitentiary burned. Then came the Brazos flood in 1899 and the Galveston flood in 1900.

In the midst of all adversity, Governor Sayers took the time to commend his former teacher and friend, Colonel Robert D. Allen, then resident in Houston. "In my judgment," Sayers said, "no better instructor of mathematics can be found in the state of Texas." In 1902, he retired from public life and practiced law in San Antonio. In 1916, as regent of the University of Texas, he supported the University's struggle against mediocrity. He served on several boards and legal commissions, and his last appointment on the Board of Prison Advisers in 1927 lasted until his death in Austin, on Wednesday, 15 May 1929. He was buried in Fairview Cemetery, Bastrop, Texas.

Lucy Phenton Pattie [KMI Friend]

As the Civil War began, like many schools, KMI was at the point of closing. With most cadets choosing to join the North-South struggle, there still remained a few preparatory students who were too young to fight. The sharply reduced faculty cared for the premises while attending to the needs of those in their charge. By this time, the Kentucky Chi Chapter of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity (SAE) was very active on the campus. But with conflict underway the chapter was faced with its first dilemma. What will happen to the secret orders of the Chi Chapter? In whose hands can they be entrusted until the war ends? The decision fell to two remaining members of the chapter, Cadets John B. Kent and Bulow Ward Marston.

Lucy Phenton Pattie, age 18, who lived on the



Miss Pattie.

backside farm east of the campus, came to the mind of both men. In those days, Lucy passed through the campus on her way to the main road leading to the local school. She greeted the cadets often, and they in turn waved. She was acquainted with the faculty and a few of the students and was a frequent guest at the Institute's social functions. Before leaving school, Kent and Marston visited Lucy at her home. They discussed the matter of securing the SAE rituals, and she agreed to see that they were protected until the war ended. After being instructed and taught the fraternity handshake, she pledged not to release the records to anyone who would

not offer the secret handgrip. Final arrangements were made and Kent and Marston were off to enlist in the Confederate States Army.