

Comments from William Leavitt on Bennett - Knapp historical pictures

Joe Bennett's Graduation picture from Andover Seminary 1901. My father Fred Leavitt graduated there a couple of years earlier. According to one of his diaries he met Joe Bennett only once while he was there. The inscription was evidently my mother's, Mrs. J.H. (Joseph Hayden) Bennett, who it seems was living in Verdon Nebraska. Her brother George had perhaps already established his pharmacy there and she may have lived with him and his wife Zola. She told me that she taught for a year at a country school near Verdon and at least once she took baby George to school with her. She was driving a horse and buggy and the country road she was on went through several fence lines. She said that each time she came to a fence she carefully laid George down on the ground (for fear of a runaway) opening the fence and carrying him through before leading the horse and fastening the fence. She then (perhaps the next year?) got a job teaching at Franklin Academy where she met my father.

Students in Uniform. It seems that all the Doane College male students were members of some sort of military unit. I don't know if it was some sort of informal militia unit or if it was the National Guard. I know George and Joe were in the National Guard band all the four years they were in college. John Bennett taught a while at Franklin Academy and then at Doane where he became president. He then went down to head a little college in Kansas where I met him when we were down there one time for a visit.

Rev. George Knapp and Carrie Dennis Knapp. We visited them in Franklin when I was about five and Dave three. He was already on his death bed and I remember him waking up very early in the morning and calling for his oatmeal. I don't recall grandma Knapp living with us in St. Louis but she was with us when we moved to Jennings Louisiana. She was always a woman of strong opinions and I remember one time when she was tangling with Mom (probably something about how she was raising her boys). Mom finally said "Oh, go soak your head in a bucket" and I remember Pop's scandalized "Why Mattie!!" I also remember the day I came home from school and Mom telling me that grandma had died.

The portrait was of William Parmenter Bennett's family. Of course May and Anna were only Avery and Taylor later. They were two of my "aunts" all the time I was growing up. I don't know anything about Paul Bennett (perhaps he died young?)

The portrait of Grandpa Knapp would have been taken some time in the 90's.