

EDUCATION — OUR MUTUAL CONCERN . . .

How *intensely* do we believe in our young people?

How *strongly* do we believe in our children and our friends' children?

How *urgently* do we want to help them build for tomorrow?

What *kind* of a tomorrow are we going to help them build?

Concern for the well-being of others is a significant American trait in our Bluffton, Hilton Head Island and Hardeeville areas. The May River Academy, a new educational project to serve the families of this area, is in keeping with that trait.

The Independent School . . .

This is an independent school and many sincere, dedicated people are working for it, supporting it, and giving to it. They are volunteers and they need your help, both as workers and as donors.

These are the people who have found the answers to the urgently important questions above; and they are doing something constructive to keep those answers within the realm of reality. But they cannot do it alone.

How can you help? As subscribers to the May River Academy Building Fund. As outspoken friends who understand why this Academy is so vital now and in the future. As people active in raising the minimum of \$170,000 required to launch this project.

Timely . . .

This undertaking is timely. Public schooling conditions in too many instances have regressed to a point where education has come to a halt. Why? Because of students' anxieties and uncertainties through conflict or confrontation and, too often, as an outgrowth of acts of vandalism, sabotage and even anarchy.

Many among us already have enrolled their children in the May River Academy. A sure sign of faith in this school, they have deposited the \$100 registration fee against the total \$400 annual tuition.

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ISLAND'S SQUIRE FOUNDED FIRST MAY RIVER ACADEMY

By Nancy Duane Butler

Squire William Pope, who owned five plantations on Hilton Head in 1862 totaling 3400 acres, founded the first May River Academy. It was only by coincidence that the new independent school in Bluffton was so named, so it was very interesting when this information came to light.

The first Academy was founded in 1823 as an institution "opened for the reception of young Ladies and Gentlemen." "All the important branches of a sound and accomplished education will be attended to," claimed the first prospectus. "The situation of this Academy is on the North side of the May River," wrote Squire Pope, "well known to be one of the most healthy in the low country of South Carolina."

An early advertisement for a teacher requested "one who has received a classical education, and who is capable of fitting youth for any college." Apply to Wm. Pope, Jr. . . ."

Squire William Pope was born in 1788 and died in 1862. His lands were situated on Hilton Head at Point Comfort, Cotton Hope, Haigs Point, Pine Land, Coggins Point and Springfield. The section of the island at the northeast along Skull Creek by the fishing Co-op is still referred to as "Squire Pope."

x Haigs Point is on Darjeskie Island - not Hilton Head
R.K.L.

Elana K. Strain

see and check
July 1971
The Island Packet

1966

for Robert

"B"

When I was doing research at the Savannah Public Library in Sept. 1966, I came across the following on microfilm in the old newspaper files:-

Adv. in the GEORGIAN (Savannah newspaper for 1822 -- under dates Nov. 25, 26 and 27, 1822:

" A TEACHER WANTED.

"One who has received a classical education and who is capable of fitting a youth for any college. A salary of \$800 per annum will be given. A man of family will be preferred and unexceptionable reference given as to morality and capability. Apply to WILLIAM POPE JR. or John McNish, Esq., May River, S.C. or to Messrs. Scott & Farr, Savannah."

Another Adv. in the GEORGIAN - for 1823, Jan. 14.

"MAY RIVER ACADEMY

"This institution was opened for the reception of young ladies and gentlemen on the 6th inst. All important branches of a sound and accomplished education will be carefully attended to: also all that is requisite to prepare youth for advanced standing in a University. The pupils will be under the particular instruction of the Principal, Mr. Gilbert, a gentleman well qualified for his profession and who will spare no pains for the advancement of those intrusted to his care. The situation of this Academy is on the North side of May River, well known to be one of the most healthy in the low country of S.C.

John McNish)
James Kirk) Trustees.
WILLIAM POPE JR)

"For admittance apply to the Trustees, May River."

Eleanor K. Strain

Several years later when I heard that the NEW May River Academy was to open on May River, Bluffton I wrote to the new Academy and sent them the above information, and asked them to please advise me if the new academy was built on the site of the old one of 1823. (I have forgotten to whom specifically I addressed my letter) Well, they happily used the information I sent but never had the courtesy to answer my letter.