

William and Emma Austin College in Stevenson

From Chronicles, April 1976

The first school was built in Stevenson in 1875. It was called the William and Emma Austin College. It was located on the present site of the city cemetery. This school was named after William Austin and his wife because of the sizeable donation he gave to the citizens who were going about the community collecting donations to build a school. Mr. Austin told these citizens that he give a large donation if they would name the new school the William and Emma Austin College. The school started with two teachers, Professor Moore and Professor Livingston. It was a private school and charged tuition. Students even came to Stevenson from other places, and boarded in private homes for \$10.00 per week.

The name of the William and Emma Austin College was changed to the Austin Training School. Professor Gross served as the first principal of this school. Since the objective of this school was to serve as a College preparatory, and not actually as a college it was felt that the name should be changed. It continued to operate as a private school until 1903 with such teachers as Professor Cooper, Ann Graham (Jon Graham's sister), Myrtle Jacoway, who later married Ralph Bender. Will Baxter of Huntsville served as principal from 1902 to 1904.

Alabama Herald 1883

WILLIAM AND EMMA AUSTIN.
COLLEGE,
—
ELEVATED AND HEALTH-
FUL SITE—PURE COLD
SPRING WATER—DE-
LIGHTFUL SCENERY.
—
At the Junction of the
Memphis & Charleston
and Nashville and
Chattanooga Rail-
roads, at Steven-
son, Jackson Coun-
ty, Alabama.
—
The above institution will open
on the
3rd Day of September, '83.
The trustees, who, with the aid of
the friends of this school, are de-
termined that it shall offer indu-
cements equal to the best the country
affords, will announce new faculty
and terms in a short time.

Stevenson Chronicles, August 24, 1897

The school at the William and Emma Austin College opened yesterday with reasonably fair prospects. About 50 pupils were enrolled. The trustees have used energy in selecting teachers and are doing their best to make the school a success, and united action is all that is needed to make it a permanent institution.

Austin College in 1911



From Jen Stewart

