

Alexandria Gazette 02 Mar 1874

Prince William County Items from the Manassas Gazette

The School Trustees of Manassas have determined to open a normal class for the instruction of teachers of public schools. It will begin on Monday, March 16th, and continue three months under the charge of the Principal of Ruffner School, Mr. W. R. Will. The trustees intend to make the graded school at this place a model school, which the teachers present for instruction can pattern after. Teachers from outside of the county can attend on the payment of one dollar a month.

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A check for \$300, contributed by the Peabody Fund, has been received by the trustees for the Ruffner School of Manassas

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The institute of the teachers of the public schools met in Ruffner School building on Thursday morning with quite a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen. There was a pretty general attendance of teachers present. The visiting strangers present were Dr. Ruffner, state Superintendent of Public Schools; George F. McLellan, late president of the school board of Washington D.C.; D. McChichester, county superintendent of schools of Fairfax County; Capt. Baker, county superintendent of schools of King George County; Capt. R. L. Cooper, county superintendent of schools of Stafford, and Mr. H. A. White, principal of the Warrenton schools. There were also present a majority of the school trustees of Prince William County, and of course Major W. W. Thornton, through whose energy and efficiency the teacher's institute has thus made a success. Dr. Ruffner delivered a lecture in the M. E. Church on Thursday night on popular education, to one of the largest audiences ever assembled in this place.

The steam saw and grist mill of Mr. Cyrus Thomas, situated in the lower part of the county, was accidentally destroyed by fire on Wednesday last. Fire was discovered in the roof in the morning and it was supposed extinguished, but on the return of the hands from dinner the roof of the shedding was in flames which soon spread, destroying the entire building, and rendering the engine and other machinery almost a total loss. There was no insurance.

The dwelling house occupied by Mr. Alonzo D. Finch at Varn's steam mill, had the roof crushed in on Monday last, by the felling of a tree by Mr. Keys who owns the adjoining land. Mrs. Finch seeing the impending danger left the house with her children in time to escape harm.

The slate quarries on the Neabsco Farm, it is reported are about to be put in operation by a Baltimore Company.