

1850; but only nine of them were, at that time, surviving. Only five of these are now in operation.

Platteville Academy was chartered the earliest of the institutions now in existence. Previously, in 1837, the Beloit Seminary had obtained an act of incorporation; but a school was not organized under it till the fall of 1843. It was continued up to 1850, when the male department was merged into the Preparatory Department of the Beloit College, and the Seminary became the Beloit Female Seminary, under the charge of Mrs. S. T. Merrill; but this has ceased to exist. The Southport Academy, at Kenosha, was chartered a few days after the Platteville, in 1839. This was the out-growth of a select school which had been taught the previous year by Rev. M. P. Kinney, D. D., now residing at Rockford, Ill; and when it was opened, he took charge of the school in it, and continued teaching for nearly two years. Mr. Kinney must be regarded as the first instructor in an incorporated Academy in the State. Gov. L. P. Harvey was the next principal. He had been connected as tutor two years with the Woodward College, Cincinnati, Ohio, and came to Kenosha as a stranger, seeking employment, in 1841. He had the supervision of the Academy until 1844, and gathered together a respectable number of students, though not enough to make his employment very remunerative. Most of his scholars studied the common English branches; a few the elements of Latin. After he left, the institution went down.

While the Platteville Academy was first chartered in 1839, it did not commence working until 1842, and then under a new act of incorporation, which was obtained the same year.

The first building was erected immediately, and was occupied by both the Congregational Church and the Academy. The meetings of religious societies were held in nearly all the first edifices erected in the State for public, private and incorporated schools. The first principal at Platteville was Rev. A. M. Dixon, a graduate of Illinois College, and recently a pastor at Trempealeau. Afterwards Rev. George F. Magoun, D. D., now President of Iowa College, taught here. In the fall of