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MRS. WORTHINGTON'S SELECT SCHOOL FOR YOUNG LADIES

(From the Times of October 15, 1910)

A curious lapse of memory occurred when Rev. Anson Smythe was set down as the first Presbyterian clergyman to be located in Milford. A.D.D. Worthington was sent here by the Home Mission Society sometime previous and I am not sure, I think that his given name was Albert.

Rev. Worthington came with a wife but no children, directly from New York City and both were as unused to country people and customs as a child. They occupied a house on the north side of a rise of ground where the road running to the west at the north end of the upper pond turns northward toward Highland.

The house was unfinished, the upper rooms not being plastered, and the first thing to be done was to have the house made complete so that Mrs. Worthington might have room to open a "select boarding school for young ladies." The exact date I cannot give, but it was in 1841 or 1842. Some lime was obtained and sand but no hair could be found short of Detroit. Then it was that a city-bred man showed he could get around a difficulty in a way worthy of a pioneer. As very many of his flock lived on farms, his parish was large and he had a French pony to drive on his visiting homes. He cut off the long mane and tail and chopped it up and mixed it in the plaster. It was at the time a matter of current report that he also used Mrs. W.'s long hair for the same purpose. Now this might have been a slander, but it was an evident fact that she came to church on the following Sunday with short hair.

In due time Mrs. Worthington opened her boarding school with three young ladies, one being an acquaintance of the writer and whose home was near New Hudson. This person, with her trunk, was brought to the home of my father on the south side, where she remained overnight. The following morning I obtained a conveyance and took Miss Bronson to the Worthington residence, in this way gaining a little better acquaintance with the lady teacher.

Time went on, but it was soon noticed that the school girls never went out on the street, or even to church without a chaperone. Winter came on and those girls were needed to make a desirable addition to the young society, and some means had to be devised to get them out of their convent-like home. A sleighride was planned, and the writer was selected to make a trial, at least to have those girls at the party. With some trepidation I went to the Worthington house, all the way thinking what could be said that might have a persuasive influence. Arriving, I made my request and heard with a big exclamation, "What! Without a chaperone?"

After I explained that at times, when many were going on such occasions it was the custom, that the best in the village went on such parties without losing prestige, a reluctant consent was finally given. The young pupils made a desirable addition to our social circle, and this added no doubt to the enjoyment of the young ladies of the select school.