

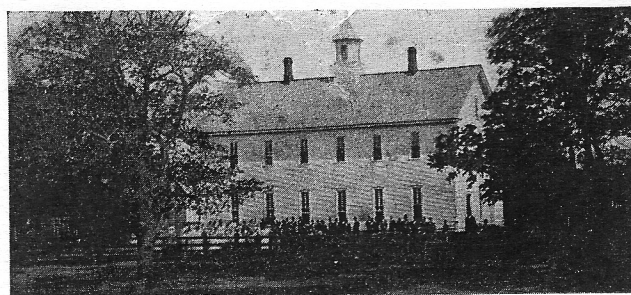
## History of Mansfield Education

By T. G. DAVIS

From the best information, it was about the year 1867 that Dr. John Collier came to Mansfield with the view of organizing a college. He began in small buildings on the ground on which the present school building stands. A two-story building was torn down and moved from Fort Belknap, Texas, and reconstructed on the grounds. This building was used for school, church and lodges; and was afterwards moved to a point on the present site. A new building, erected in its place about the year 1875, burned in the year 1889, and was rebuilt in 1890.

The name of the first institution of learning was the Mansfield Male and Female College. It was conducted by Dr. Collier from 1867 to 1887, with the exception of one year, or school term, that of 1878 and 1879, which was conducted as a private school by Professor Keeler.

Dr. Collier was a graduate of Yale, and was versatile and scholarly. Among his outstanding assistants were Smith Ragsdale, well-known throughout the South; T. G. Harris, Professor Heyseig, Syrus Eakan, Fleet of the University of Virginia; Miss Howard of the Conservatory of Music, New York; and Mrs.



Speer of the New England Conservatory, Boston. The Mansfield Male and Female College was considered one of the best in the State, and was attended from every section of it.

Its graduates were given diplomas with either an A. B. or an M. A. degree.

Among the pupils of Dr. Collier who became known in public life were: B. B. Cook, present county attorney of Erath County;