

On May 14 the school opened with three pupils, who had accompanied the president, Rev. Jeremiah Chamberlain, D. D., from Jackson, La., where he had been presiding over the College of Louisiana. On July 2, 1830, the first clearing was begun, on the magnificent oak ridge now occupied by the college buildings. At the end of the session, March 28, the school consisted of sixty-five pupils; the two more advanced formed a sophomore class, and there were five in the freshman class; the remainder in the English and classical. The president instructed the two college classes and the classical in the languages; his brother, Mr. John Chamberlain, afterwards professor of chemistry and natural philosophy, instructed the classes in mathematics and in the English school. In 1831 it was chartered by the legislature of the state. In 1833 the first commencement was held, and Mr. James M. Smylie, ex-vice chancellor of this state, was the first graduate of Oakland college. This was the first commencement south of Tennessee, and Judge Smylie is the first native Mississippian who received the degree of A. B. in his own state. Such is the origin of Oakland college, which has aided in the education of nearly one thousand native youth, and which now has on its roll of graduates one hundred and twenty alumni, who are scattered throughout the Southwest, and occupied in the cultivation of the soil, or in the learned professions. There were about thirty cottages for the occupancy of pupils, residences for the president and professors, two handsome halls for literary societies, with libraries attached, a college library of upward of four thousand volumes, a philosophical, chemical and astronomical apparatus, which cost nearly \$4,000, a main structure of brick, 112x60, containing a college chapel and prayerhall, lecture rooms, and other requisite accommodations. The institution has never received aid from the state or general government. Its funds have been secured by private liberality, etc. (See note of Chamberlain Hunt.) This college was purchased soon after the war by Governor Alcorn, and turned into a colored school, or agricultural college, and is in a very prosperous condition.