

Sept. 26, 1916.

Rev. Dr. E. A. Repass,
Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Dear Dr. Repass:

The following young ladies are the members
of your church among the new students just enrolled:

Miss Mae Hoover, of Roanoke City
Miss Mildred H shour, of Woodstock, Shenandoah Co.
Miss Frances Orrison, of Lovettsville, Loudoun Co
Miss Genoa Swecker, of Monterey, Highland Co.

I believe the only former student who has returned is
Miss Bessie Lockstampfer. There were several who graduated
last June, as you know, and the others secured certificates
and did not return.

The above is a much smaller list than last year, for
your church. I wonder if what you told me has anything to
do with it. I was greatly distressed to hear that there had
been any criticism along this line. We have always been so
careful here to avoid anything that might appear partial to
any particular denomination. On every occasion I have urged
the students to attend the church that they have been ac-
customed to attend at home. I cannot recall a single instance
in the seven years of the school where we have consciously
favored any church over another, and nothing is further
from our desire. After you talked with me, I called in two
of my teachers who are the most familiar with the chaperon-
age and church-going arrangements, and they were as much
shocked as I was to hear that there had been any criticism.
They cannot think of any ground whatever for it. It is so
entirely foreign to the policy which the school has followed
since the beginning.

Personally, I am convinced that we have been unjustly
criticized along this line, owing to some misunderstood cir-
cumstance or chance remark made by some one perhaps. Per-
sonally, again, I trust I may be permitted to add that of
all the churches in town I think I should be less inclined
to slight the Lutheran Church, because of the memory which I
cherish of my dear friend, A. H. Snyder, who was so largely
responsible for the establishment of this school and the
inauguration so successfully of its work. I never had a
personal friend whom I more genuinely loved than Mr. Snyder,
and his heart was in his church as it was in our school.

"2"

I believe I understood you to say that some of the criticism came from Mr. Engleman of Rockbridge County. If this is Miss Ellen Engleman's father, I should like, with your permission, to take up the matter with her, in the effort to ascertain just what ground there might be for it. Miss Engleman was one of our most trustworthy students, and her relations with the school were such that I am sure she would be frank with me if I should write to her about the matter.

The truth is, I have been greatly troubled about this matter, and I should like to do everything possible to clear it up. I feel this the more since it is really the first cloud that has appeared in the gloriously clear sky of the relations of the school to the various churches since we started work seven years ago.

I shall try to learn more about the matter, and in the meantime I trust that you will rest assured that we shall do everything we can to get the Lutheran girls, as well as those belonging to other denominations, to attend church services regularly. Attendance at church services is purely voluntary, altho we urge with all the strength we have that all students attend church at least once on Sunday and twice if possible, and also that they be regular attendants at Sunday School. A good many students do not attend church on Sunday nights, but I cannot think that it is ever because of a lack of chaperonage. If such an excuse is ever given I shall be pleased to learn of it, so that I may investigate the matter at once.

Assuring you of our desire to co-operate in every possible way, and trusting that you will inform us whenever we are falling short of all that we ought to do along this line, I remain,

Very sincerely yours,

President.