

Old Academy documents readied for Town Museum

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Two additional signatures to that of the principal on the parchment makes it worthy of special recognition.

One is that of Rev Edward Augustus Horton, superintendent of the Academy for many years and a long-time trustee. He was a noted clergyman in the Boston area and served as chaplain of the state senate. He studied at the University of Michigan and Heidelberg and was a graduate of Meadville Theological School.

The other signer was John D. Long, 32nd governor of Massachusetts and then president of the Academy trustees.

Fresh out of Harvard College, like many others who preceded him, Long first came to Westford in 1857 to head up the Academy for two years. Although only 19, he became a favorite of the students and the townspeople, an association which lasted until his death in 1915.

Noted Orator

Long presided over many graduation exercises, was the principal speaker at the 100th anniversary observance of the founding of the school and also at the presentation of the Civil War monument to the town in 1910. At the podium he was eloquent and could be called a "classical orator."

Long was a lawyer, speaker of the

Massachusetts House of Representatives for three years and then became governor 1880-82. Elected to Congress, he also served as secretary of the Navy under Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt. While in this office he procured for the town the ancient Spanish cannon captured at Santiago, Cuba, which stands at the apex of the Common.

Harvard and Tufts granted doctoral degrees upon Long and he was president of the Board of Overseers of Harvard University.

And as for young Frost, he was a gifted pianist and played the organ for graduation exercises. He became a musical instructor at Rio Grande College in Ohio and later at St Catherine's School, Bolivar, Tenn. There he died suddenly at a young age and is buried in Fairview Cemetery with his father and mother. An older brother, Francis, was a journalist with the NY Herald in that city and in London and Paris.

The documents, which are the gift of an Academy trustee, are scheduled for the proposed town museum. In the meantime present students wonder what they would do with a giant sized diploma, about the same dimensions of as this sheet of newsprint.