

Old Rule Book Reveals Life Of Pupils In Early 1800's

By Eleanor Fry

When we groan about a hard life at Salem and the unbearable rules under which we live, do we realize how Salem **used** to be? Maybe we aren't so bad off after all, judging by these extracts from the Rules of Salem Female Academy!

In the morning **immediately** after the ringing of the bell, the pupils are to rise and go to their rooms in silence. No one shall leave the sleeping hall **before** the bell rings.

From their rooms the pupils will proceed to their respective wash rooms, **TURN BY TURN**. Each pupil will have a place assigned her in one of the wash rooms. In **that** room and in **no other** she is to wash **at all times**. No washing whatever can be permitted in other parts of the house.

Consent Needed For Baths

The bath-rooms are **never** to be visited except for the purpose of taking baths. Baths can be taken only by **special permission**, and at times indicated by the teachers. Each pupil shall make up her bed every morning before breakfast, at the time indicated by the teacher. Articles of bedding shall not be removed from one bed to another, much less to be taken out of the sleeping hall.

No change of places of the beds can be made without the teacher's consent. During the day the sleeping apartments are not to be visited by the scholars. From breakfast to 8:00 a.m., the pupils are to remain in their rooms and devote the time to study and to preparation for recitation hours.

During school or study hours, everything tending to disturb or distract attention, such as whispering or unnecessary talking of any kind, is strictly forbidden. The scholars are particularly enjoined to take good care of their books,

slates, &c., and never to leave them lying about the rooms or passages.

The strictest order is to be observed in the Embroidery Room. The frames, stools, &c., are always to be put away **carefully** after using. It is forbidden to take stools away from the Embroidery Room. The Embroidery Room shall not be made a place of resort.

Noise Forbidden

When the Bells ring for dinner or supper, the pupils are to assemble in their respective rooms, and thence proceed **silently** and in **order** to the Dining Hall. At table, all loud and unnecessary talking is positively forbidden, and no waste of victuals dare to be attempted. When leaving the table, the same silence and order are to be observed. Articles belonging to the table or dining rooms, shall not be taken away and used in other parts of the house. The dining hall shall not be a place of resort, and may be visited at meal times **only**. The time from dinner to 1 o'clock, p.m., is to be employed in preparing for "sewing school," and during this **time and during no other**, the trunk rooms are to be visited, on each day, and whatever may be required is **THEN** to be fetched.

The trunk rooms shall not be visited after dark, unless in cases of urgent necessity, and then only in company of a teacher. No eatables of any kind shall be kept in

the trunk rooms. When a pupil receives provisions of any kind, they must be deposited in the so-called "Box-Room." A key to the "Box-Room" will be kept in each room, which at the proper time, can be obtained from the teacher.

During recess and recreation hours, all boisterous plays and games, rudeness and unladylike conduct, must be avoided.

In the afternoon, immediately after school hours, the pupils will go to their rooms and prepare for going out to walk, and they are not to disperse about the premises or wait until they are sent for.

Prayers Required

At bed time, the pupils will devoutly attend evening prayers, and then retire to bed in **perfect silence and order**. No talking, whispering, or disturbance of any kind whatsoever can be tolerated in the sleeping apartments.

Carefulness with fire and candles is earnestly recommended. To carry about fire-brands or live coals, except in properly secured vessels, is entirely forbidden.

Standing in crowds at the front doors, or leaning out of the windows in an unbecoming manner, and especially rude or loud talking at such localities, are entirely prohibited. On the piazzas, noisy games and plays, unnecessary running and jumping and collecting in crowds around the windows must

be avoided. Under the piazza and in the yard is the place for plays and games. The **sick room piazza**, is intended for the sick and indisposed alone, and is never to be frequented by the pupils in general.

Neatness Urged

The most scrupulous neatness and cleanliness in person, dress, books, rooms, and in the house in general, are **urgently enjoined**. Hence, throwing about papers, scraps, nut-shells, &c., on the floors, &c., and out of windows and on the roofs of the piazza, will be regarded a direct transgression of the rules. The Day Scholars are to consider themselves subject to the foregoing rules, in as far as they may be applicable to them.

These rules are undated but go back at least to the first half of the last century. Framed copies may be found in Main Hall and the Alumnae House, second floor, where the "sleeping apartment" is similar to ones occupied by our predecessors. Frances Gaither's book, **Little Miss Cappel**, gives a real picture of girls living under such administration at Salem.

Dec. 18 Chapel To Be Omitted

Miss Ivy M. Hixson wishes to remind all students that there will be no chapel program on Tuesday, Dec. 18 and that lunch will be served at 12:10 p.m. Afternoon classes will meet one hour earlier than usual, beginning at 1:00 p.m. and suspending at 4:00 p.m.

On Jan. 3, the day school resumes after the Christmas holidays, classes will begin at 9:25 a.m., and there will be no chapel program.

Also, any cuts taken two days before or after any holiday will be counted as double cuts.

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