

appearance, for in the Spring of '82
my father & I visited the School,
were picked up just after leaving
the railroad station by Mrs. Cool-
idge & carried to the building,
where we dined at the "head
table." I hope to get a satis-
factory photograph of him; & perhaps,
if it is not asking too much, I
may have your help in this. From
the Harvard Records Office I ob-
tained dates, names of parents, &
degrees; but no record of his
marriage and family; and what-
ever I have heard from the older
graduates makes the influence of
Mrs. Coolidge & her daughters appear
an exceedingly important & significant
one. To some extent the above

ansd June 12/94.

845 Baylston St.,
Boston, May 22, 1924.

Dear Mr. Drake:

At a meeting of the
St. Mark's alumni in Southborough
last June I was appointed to com-
pile a history of the School, to be
published in time for our sixtieth
anniversary next year. I entered
St. Mark's as a boy in ^{the} fall of
1862, remained six years, and af-
ter attending Harvard returned as a
tutor. My term of teaching covered
eighteen years in all; so I have
been in pretty close touch with the
place for forty-two years.

Trustees' records, the Vindex, and
my own memory provide me with en-
ough material for the time since

1882; but the days before that date, — the very ones that we are most eager to record — have apparently never been ^{consequently} written of, and I have had to rely for the more interesting facts about the school life on the somewhat vague reminiscences of men who have been out for fifty years. A composite picture is possible, and I think will prove satisfactory; but when it comes to the personalities, — Dr. Coolidge, Dr. Lowell, and others whom we eagerly desire to hear about, — I have almost no information except the barest dates & names: no idea of the living, working men who we know helped

substantially in building our foundation. I am, accordingly, writing to you to ask if you will send me a hand as far as you can; for I personally remember your continued interest in the school, your gift of old copies of the Visitor, and feel sure that you will not mind the trouble involved. At present I have my mass of material collected, and expect to begin coordinating & composing it by the first of July.

What I wish most eagerly to get in a chronological and appreciation of Dr. Lowell & Dr. Coolidge, and especially the latter. My long association with Dr. Parker has helped greatly in my mind the relation

considerations apply to Dr. Lowell
also. I see that your stay at
St. Mark's fell partly in his
time also. Will it be too much
for me to ask if you will tell
us about these older days? It
is a labor to do so, but un-
less we ask it we cannot fix
for all time our early history,
or truly know "the rock whence
we were hewn." What I found
at St. Mark's when I went there
in '82, and what it did for
me personally, is conclusive evidence
to my own mind that credit be-
longs to men who had built the
School up before this; and that
I am most anxious to fix and
record. Needless to say, there is

abundant testimony besides my own!

I do not think you will remember me, though I have met you both in Southborough and in Cambridge. In writing for reminiscences, opinions, observations & suggestions to the older graduates I realize that I am in a way asking for their confidence in a stranger. But the manuscript of the book will pass through the hands of a committee of four; and of course I shall respect any confidence as far as you wish. It often happens that incidents in themselves not for publication or not of general interest throw light on events &

men, and advantageously supplement accounts from different angles. So, in short, if I can induce you to tell me all you know of Mr. Markie - the character, habits, occupations & personalities - I shall be very grateful, and the book will be more nearly authentic and interesting. The shape in which they are set down need not be literary or even coherent; they will have to be combined with other material anyway.

Hoping that I am not asking too great a task of you, and in the belief that I need not apologize for asking it,

Sincerely yours,

A. E. Brown.



Benson, Albert Emerson. 1924. "Benson, A. Emerson May 22, 1924." *Walter Deane correspondence*

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