D. Elwood Dunn writes in his history of the Episcopal Church in Liberia that Bishop Ferguson of Cape Palmas was instrumental in the founding of the girls' school at Bromley Mission. He was given $3,500 from the thank offering, later named the United Thank Offering, of the Woman's Auxiliary. Following an appeal he made at the 1904 General Convention, the school also received an anonymous donation of $14,500 from a member of the Woman's Auxiliary. This donation carried the request that the school be named for Emery, who had served as General Secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Board of Missions for several decades.

In November 2005, Emery Hall held a 100th anniversary celebration. Although deeply damaged in the horrific civil wars, Emery Hall and Bromley Mission have continued their work of educating young girls. Today, Emery Hall boards and educates over 60 girls in grades K-12, at a cost of approximately $500.00US per year. All of these girls are orphaned, and all come from the displacement camps resulting from the civil wars. Emery Hall has also expanded to now include underprivileged young boys from local communities as day-students.

At the 2007 Face To Face UTO weekend, Emily Benjamin, now living in and Diocesan UTO Coordinator for Maryland, shared the 100th Anniversary program with UTO. Emily is an alumna of Emery Hall, as is her mother, aunts, and sisters. Although no pictures of her girlhood in Liberia remain because all was left behind when they fled the civil war, Emily received a copy of Emery Hall’s 100th anniversary program through friends still in Liberia.

Information courtesy of The Archives of the Episcopal Church, Austin TX, and from an August 2007 interview with Emily Benjamin.
Souvenir Programme

Celebrating 100 Years

of

Julia C. Smery Hall (Bromley Mission)
November 17, 1905 - November 17, 2005

A Boarding/Training Institute for Girls
Clapashland, Montserrado County, Liberia
Message From Rt. Rev. Edward W. Neufville, 11th Bishop, Episcopal Church of Liberia
On the Celebration of the 100th Anniversary of
Julia C. Emery Hall, Bromley Mission
November 17, 1905 - November 17, 2005

Heir to the Church’s tradition of empowering young women through sound Christian
and academic training, Julia C. Emery Hall, (Bromley Mission) continues to attract and
welcome young girls to its campus and into its dormitories.

In recent time, the institution has become more relevant and responsive to its post-war
environment by also enrolling under privileged young boys from the surrounding
villages and towns as commuter-students, thus making Julia C. Emery a co-educational
institution.

Sensing the need to reach out and embrace the orphaned, abused, and severely war-
affected girls who live beyond the Bromley community, the Bishop set up a special
committee to recruit about 50 such girls from displaced centers in the suburbs of
Monrovia ranging from ages 7-18. 56 were recruited and formally admitted as
Bromley’s First Post War boarding students on December 21, 2003.

Over the years, Bromley has remained sincere to its commitment to “train up a child in
the way he should go; and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6)

November 17, 2005 marks the 100th anniversary of this unique and special Ministry of
molding the minds and shaping the lives of young women to serve the Church and
society.

I therefore rejoice and celebrate with the Chairman and members of the Bromley Board,
the Coordinator, Principal, Faculty, Staff, Alumnae and Student Body, and congratulate
them on this historic occasion. May God’s name be glorified.

We thank our many benefactors and friends who have kept the school going since our
reopening in 2003. We know we can always rely on your commitment.

May God bless you and prosper Bromley, we love so dear.
Message From Mother Louise M. Neufville
Coordinator, Julia C. Emery Hall
Bromley Mission

As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of one of our historic Episcopal Mission Schools, I personally want to acknowledge and praise our founding church leaders for their vision and farsightedness in establishing a unique place for the education and training of our young girls.

Little did we know that this place, Bromley Mission, would also turn out to be a place of refuge, a haven of rest and peace for our post war girls - our future leaders and mothers.

I would like to congratulate the Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Edward W. Neufville, II, the recruiting staff, the administration and the student body of Julia C. Emery Hall, Bromley Mission on this milestone in the history of Bromley Mission. One hundred years is a great time in the life of a nation, an institution or an individual. It is an occasion for thanksgiving to God for His goodness over these many years.

It is also my prayer that the Lord Almighty who has made it possible for Bromley to survive through thick and thin, will continue to direct the future of the institution.

We thank and salute our many friends, alumnae, and donors for their financial and other forms of support over the years to the school.

“This is the Day the Lord has made let us rejoice and be glad in it”.
(Psalm 118:24)
Bromley's Prodigy of the Hour

Prepared by:
Sis. Janet J. Johnson, Principal
Julia C. Emery Hall, Bromley Mission

Bromley Mission for girls has been in existence for a century, serving Liberia even in difficult circumstances. It was heightened by the fourteen years of civil war during which time the institution was pillaged, devastated and crushed to a complete halt.

Upon the initiative of Bishop, the Rt. Reverend Edward W. Neufville, II, in 2003, however, fifty-six war affected and disadvantage students were recruited from displaced camps and formally admitted on December 23, 2003 to restart the boarding program. They were all boarders, clothed, fed and cared for by the Episcopal Diocese of Liberia. It is absolutely challenging for the Church, considering the other enormous tasks it is faced with. It cost the Church US$250.00 per month to feed these fifty-six girls although there are also God-sent local and foreign donations coming in. About the same number of girls in the neighborhood registered to attend Bromley with the less fortunate Boarders, and thus started the hot academic rivalry.

Albertha Shannon now in grade 4, and Kpannah Gaygoy in grade 5, are deeply engaged in an academic competition that will be climaxed again at the formal closing program. In July 2005, it was a fantastic sight as Albertha and Kpannah raced to collect series of prizes offered for academic proficiency. Albertha netted more prizes than Kpannah and the latter vowed to reverse this next time.

Under a total of three years, with the terrible blasts of the guns of war, and the agents of infamous acts, Kpannah (now 13 years old) was recruited from the displaced camp in Grade 2. Albertha, about the same age was registered from a very poor family in the neighborhood at the same time in Grade 1. Both had semester promotion twice since 2003, and dux their respective classes last academic year.

In spite of the humble background of the current inmates of Bromley, there is hope that the academic fire is now alight and others will emulate.

I thank Bishop Neufville and all other benevolent members of the Episcopal Church of Liberia, the general public for all their efforts and support thus far. I also take this opportunity to congratulate my staff for their hard work and dedication. I congratulate Bromley on the Centenary. May God bless the works of our hands.
The Program

Saturday, November 12, 2005

ALUMNI DAY

10:00 a.m. Flea Market Opens
(Proceeds from all sales will go for support to Bromley Mission)

General Clean-up and Decoration

Tuesday, November 15, 2005

10:00 a.m. Worship Service
St. Agnes Chapel
Julia C. Emery Hall, Bromley, Mission

2:00 p.m. Open House

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

SPORTS DAY

Student Games
Food Sale / Flea Market
Goodbye to guests from St. David's Ashburn, Virginia

Thursday, November 17, 2005

10:30 a.m. Formal Program
Julia C. Emery Hall, Bromley Mission

Keynote Speaker
Dr. D. Evelyn S. Kandakai

Theme: “EDUCATING THE GIRL-CHILD IN POST-WAR LIBERIA - CHALLENGES AND HOPES”

Symposium Panel
Mother Marilyn Robertson
Sister Tidi Stewart
Father Emmanuel Hodges
Sister Una Thompson

2:00 p.m. Outdoor Activities
Food Sale
Adopt A Bromley Girl

At US$500.00 per year, you can educate a
"Bromley Girl" to the 12th Grade.
These are 61 Girls (all orphans)
currently under full support of the
Episcopal Church of Liberia.

These girls are part of
Bishop Neufville's Program
to provide a home and a future for young girls.
They were chosen after a selective search of
Internally Displaced Camps around Liberia.
Both parent were killed.
Relatives are unable to provide care.

Liberia's Girls are Liberia's future.
Your support for one Bromley Girl ensures
the future of at least one family.
Grade 4

Patricia Daway
Age - 8, Grade 4

Thomaline Williams
Age - 9, Grade 4

Zoe Richards
Age - 10, Grade 4

Jemah Kollie
Age - 13, Grade 4

Korpo Kollie
Age - 12, Grade 4

Jemaima Jones
Age - 12, Grade 4

Kumba Korteh
Age - 10, Grade 4

Lucia Weefer
Age - 14, Grade 4

Alberta Johnson
Age - 10, Grade 4

Amelia Mator
Age - 12, Grade 4

Grade 5

Yatta Kanneh
Age - 14, Grade 5

Princess Dumui
Age - 12, Grade 5

Audrey Kambleh
Age - 10, Grade 5

Korsue Samukai
Age - 13, Grade 5

Fatu Sheriff
Age - 13, Grade 5

Jannetta Konah
Age - 9, Grade 5

Kpana Gaygay
Age - 13, Grade 5

Reene Singbeh
Age - 14, Grade 5

Hawa Togba
Age - 12, Grade 5

Kpana Sumo
Age - 11, Grade 5

Estella Jackson
Age - 12, Grade 5
**Briefing on Bromley Selection Committee**

The Rt. Reverend Edward W. Neufville, Bishop of the Episcopal Church of Liberia, convened a meeting on April 23, 2004, with 10 members of the Episcopal Church, to inform them of the Church's desire to provide educational assistance to girls from the Internally Displaced Camps, Orphans and other disadvantaged girls. These girls would be enrolled at Bromley Mission until the completion of their education at that Institution, and then move on to other Episcopal Institutions until the completion of college.

The Committee was comprised of two males and eight females from various churches within the Diocese. The list follows:

1. Brother Ben Kolee
2. Sister Janet Johnson
3. Mother Georgiana Williams - St. Stephen's, 10th St.
4. Brother Clement Kimber
5. Sister Massa Dempster - St. Peter's, Caldwell
6. Sister Esther H. Page - Trinity Cathedral
7. Sister Deroe A. Weeks - Trinity Cathedral
8. Sister Mary Kpoto - St. Stephen's, 10th, St.
9. Sister Anna Peabody - St. Thomas, Camp Johnson Rd.
10. Sister Mildred Gbeegbee - Good Shepherd
11. Sister Ida Burphy Ajavon - Trinity Cathedral/Chairman, Diocesan Board of Education

The Committee was guided by the following during its selection/recruitment:

- Target number: 50 girls
- Age: 7-16 years
- Child Status: Preferably orphans
- Student from large family
- Religious preference: Episcopalians
- Preference: Non Christians
- Good behavior

During the first meeting the group decided to select a Chairperson, and Sis. Deroe A. Weeks was selected. The Committee made several visits to IDPs Camps within the Brewerville / Virginia areas from where a large percentage of girls were finally selected. Visits were also made to orphanages and other communities identified by the committee as places were "poorest of the poor" could be found. After the first couple of weeks, the Committee's work came to standstill as fighting broke out in the Brewerville/Virginia areas and continued off and on until August 2003. We resumed our activities again in October 2003 and were able to complete the process in December, when 52 girls were finally selected and arrived on Bromley Mission one week before the Christmas Holidays in December 2003. The entire exercise has proven very worthwhile, as we see these young girls being transformed into beautiful young ladies. While there is still a lot that can be done before they complete their studies at Bromley, with adequate support and guidance, they can be nurtured into fine young women.

Submitted by:

Deroe A. Weeks
Chairperson
The Bromley Staff & Family

Front view of Bromley Mission

Left: Sister Janet J. Johnson (Principal), Mother Louise Neufville (Coordinator in white blouse) Right: Sister Geraldine Boyd (Registrar next to Mother Georgiana Williams) Mother Georgiana Williams (Recruiter)

Bromley Mission Choir
Members of the Bromley Board

School Board Members

Bishop Edward W. Neufville, II - Ex-Officio
Mother Louise M. Neufville - Coordinator
Brother Sandei A. Cooper - Chairman
Sister Hawa Bropleh - Co-Chair
Sister Janet Johnson - Secretary
Sister Ida Burphy Ajavon - Member
Sister Juanita E. Neal - Member
Sister Deroe Weeks - Member
Sister Esther Page - Member
Mother Georgiana Williams - Member
Sister Patricia Wesley - Member
Sister Evelyn Kandakai - Member
Sister Anna Peabody - Member
Brother Arthur Cooper - Member
Brother Richard Bright - Member
Brother Clarence Simpson - Member
Brother Roland Kassis - Member
Brother Clement V. Kimber - Member
The Very Reverend Father Thomas S. Smith - Member
Reverend Father John P. Jallah - Member

Administrative Staff

Sister Janet Johnson - Principal
Sister Geraldine Boyd - Registrar
Sister Artence Bernard - Matron
Brother David Seimavula - Dean of Students
Early History of Julia Chester Emery Hall Bromley Mission
Excerpt from
A History of the Episcopal Church in Liberia 1821-1980
By Elwood Dunn

Bromley Girls School was initially called the product of Bishop Samuel David Ferguson (1884 - 1916), the first black man to be elected Bishop by the Episcopal Church in the USA, and the first Liberian Bishop of the Episcopal Mission in Liberia. It all began when Mrs M. R. Brierly's Girls School in Cape Mount called St. George's School (est. 1882) was transferred to Clay Ashland in 1903. Since this was considered temporary, the Bishop spared no time in securing 170 acres at Bromley on the St. Paul River which would be the future home of the Girls school.

The Bishop estimated that $14,000 USD was needed to erect the building and get the project started. The African Women's United Auxiliary donated $3,500, an appeal at the 1904 General Convention in the US raised $11,000 and an anonymous donor, donated $14,500. This donation was given by a member of the New York branch of the Women's Auxiliary which stipulated that the building be named in honor Julia Chester Emery Hall, Bromley, and the acreage for the school was increased to 210 acres. The cornerstone was laid on November 17, 1905.

The girl's training school at Bromley on the St. Paul River began operation in Clay Ashland with the few girls transferred from Cape Mount. Reverend Professor John Firth (Deacon) formerly of Liberia College was appointed the first superintendent and teacher along with two assistants from St. George's School, Ms. Granite and Ms. Wethers.

When Professor Firth was replaced in 1905. The school had 27 boarders and 4-day pupils. In 1907, when the building was partly ready for occupancy, the school had 33 girls ranging from ages 5 to seventeen, majority of them were native Liberians.

President Arthur Barclay was in attendance at the grand opening and dedication on December 8, 1909. On this occasion, the American Charge D'affaires, George W. Ellis remarked "...throughout the coming years, this building is to be given up to the literary education and industrial training of young girls of Liberia upon a scale so grand, that it is bound to make for good, a deep impression upon the future womanhood of the Republic".

February 1911 the girls left their temporary quarters in Clay Ashland and moved into the new building. By then the building was sparsely furnished as a great deal was needed to completely furnish and fully equip the building for training girls in Industrial Arts, dressmaking, millinery, poultry raising, horticulture and all kinds of housework. Academics included reading, writing, spelling, math, geography, history, physiology, singing, composition, gymnastics and religious instruction.

By 1911, the number of students had increased to eight-five, forty-three were children of settlers from the US. The Episcopal Church contribution to the literary and industrial training of the young females of Liberia was proceeding as planned.
Some Past Principals of Julia C. Emery Hall

Mrs. Danliette Bracewell
Mrs. Vivian Edwards
Mrs. Viola S. McCray - Gray
Mrs. Ida Burphy Ajavon (Vice President)
Mrs. Christina Metzgar
Mrs. Marilyn K. Robertson
Mrs. Marlene Witherson
Mrs. Zoe Caine
Reverend Abeoseh Flemister
Ms. Massa E. Kamara
Bishop George D. Browne

School Ode

O tender spot where once was found
A grove made dear to pilgrims band
Hallowed thou art historic ground
To Christian maids of our dear land.

Chorus
O Bromley Heights of thee we sing
Thy name, we love O Mother dear
Virtue and love with knowledge reign
Within our walls and in our halls
O Julia C. Emery Hall
A training Institute for all.

Virtue inscribed within these walls
Its principle makes all to know
Whose knowledge seek amidst these walls
Like Joy and gentle dew O'flow.

Dispel the clouds of ignorance
Of little ones who come to thee
Give them instead intelligence
To make them gentle, pure, and free.

O BROMLEY HEI----------GHTS

Words & Music by: The Reverend Father
James David Kwee Baker(1893-1968)
Priest, Episcopal Church of Liberia
A Short History Of Bromley Mission

This school Julia C. Emery Hall, is named in honour of Julia Chester Emery, the first President of the Women Auxiliary (now Episcopal Church Women) of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. She initiated the United Thank Offering in Women's Work. The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a voluntary offering to God in appreciation for all the blessings one has received during the year. This money is gathered annually by the women and used for charitable purposes in the overall programme of the Episcopal Church throughout the world.

The money for this institution was offered to the late Rite Reverend Samuel David Ferguson, 4th Missionary Bishop of Liberia - (1885 - 1916 A.D.), who was on a tour in the United States to seek aide for the work of the Church of Liberia. His particular request was aid for a boarding school for girls. Taken from the U.T.O., the donor of the money refused to disclose her name, but simply asked that the building be named after her friend, Julia C. Emery.

Julia C. Emery Hall is located in that historic town 'Bromley' of the Dey tribe. Today, the school and campus is popularly known by this town's name "Bromley" Mission.

Bromley Mission has an interrupted history. Its original beginning of 7 students was housed in the Lomax Hall Building in Clay Ashland. Ruins of the relics remain with us today. This was after 1885 A. D. From there it moved to the present site where the Cornerstone records its history as of 1905 A. D.

The Campus

Bromley, Clay Ashland, the home of Julia C. Emery Hall's beautiful campus lies 17 miles West of Monrovia off the Bomu Hills highway, just before reaching the town of Brewerville. There is a sign - "BROMLEY MISSION" at this highway junction and turning right at the checkpoint, subsequent signs lead one to the campus of Julia C. Emery Hall, Bromley Mission.

At the first set of gates, one is welcomed to the campus by the Shield of the Episcopal Church of Liberia. Driving through the grove of rubber trees, passing the Bromley Camp for workers on the left again, one continues through another grove of oil palms and fruit trees owned by the school, to the second set of gates which lead to the campus grounds.

The gate on the left leads one to the Principle's quarters. Adjacent to this are most of the living quarters of resident teachers.

The gate on the right leads directly to the business office and the all-purpose building of the Institution which contains classroom facilities, office, Chapel and three dormitories upstairs. A Domestics Science building is on the Southern end of the school's sports field.

On the Eastern side of the campus lies a gently flowing St. Paul River which, in the early history of the institution, served as the principal means of transport. The river as well as the beautiful lawn, fruit trees, and flower pathways give the campus of Julia C. Emery Hall, Bromley Mission a very beautiful scenery.
Some Prominent Bromley Women

In 1947 when Liberia was 100 years old, the following women were Bromley graduates:

Mrs. Sarah Simpson George  Kindergarten Teacher
Mrs. Georgia Payne Cooper  Popular Musician & Secretary Liberian Senate
Mrs. Louise Braithwaite Carter  Teacher
Mrs. Sophia Muhlenburg Brownell  Matron of Nurses, Baptist Hospital
Ms. Aurelia Weeks  Nurse, Baptist Hospital
Mrs. Elsie Tay Cole  Nurse Government Hospital
Mrs. Irene Cooper David  Wife of Liberia Counsel General, Liverpool
Mrs. C. A. King  Wife of President C. D. B. King (First Lady)
Mrs. Anna Cooper  Professor of Science & Dean of Liberia College
Mrs. Magdalene Cooper Dennis  Professional Nurse
Mrs. Viola S. McCray - Gray  Head Nurse Government Hospital
Head Nurse Carine V. Dyer
Mrs. Ellen Moore  Student at St. Paul Polytechnic
Lawrenceville, Virginia
Principal of Bromley 1947
Mrs. R. Hall Townsend  Founder & Director of the Samuel Grimes Maternity
& Child Welfare Center PAW (Kakata)
Mrs. Abrametta B. Stubblefield Simpson  Left Bromley in 1917 and attended
Virginia Theological Seminary - Dentist
Mrs. D. Musuleng Cooper  First Female Lawyer in Liberia
Liberia’s First Minister of Gender & Former Minister of Foreign Affairs
Other Bromley Women

Mrs. Louise Morais Neufville
Mrs. Idella Elias Cooper
Mrs. Hilda Knight Cooper
Mrs. Emily McClain Benjamin
Mrs. Lucia Tolbert-Mevins
Mrs. Adeline King Wesley
Mrs. Viola S. McCray Gray
Mrs. Eva Mae Caulker
Mrs. Rae Dennis Wiles
Mrs. Keturah C. Johnson
Mrs. Ida Burphy Ajavon
Mrs. Hannah Moore - Bush
Mrs. Maggie Cooper - Greenfield
Mrs. Yvonne Holder
Mrs. Nora Peal
Mrs. Gloria Bishop Hoff
Duri Dalmina
Beatrice Maloby
Thelma Bright
Marie Peal
Marie Wolo
Aletha Bowier
Sieana Abdul-Baky
Mother Karto Reeves
Gustalyn Lardner
Jackie Capehart
Hannah Moore Bush
Ms. Belinda Acolatse
Mrs. Cymbeline Edwards Bass
Ms. Macgrarette Brumskine
Ms. Suzette Holder
Mrs. Charlette Dennis Stewart
Senator Clarice A. Jah

Mrs. Williametta Dennis Davis
Mrs. Anna Collins Peabody
Ms. Mary T. Bryant
Dr. Florence McClain-Daramda
Mrs. Tidi Speare Stewart
Mrs. Julia Cooper Holder
Mrs. Elizabeth Brown
Mrs. Rae Tisdell Herron
Mrs. Emma (Weetu) Knuckles - Hoff
Mrs. Fatumata Johnson Bishop
Mrs. Ayo Cummings
Mrs. Sarah Talery - Cooper
Mrs. Angeline Baker
Mrs. Maudline Benson
Mrs. Olive Coleman Dennis
Mrs. Cynthia Okai
Somo Bishop Kai-Lewis
Ruth Carter
Rhoda Peal
Gifty Hook
Elvina Lardner Dennis
Lith Bowier
Dolly Andrews
Juanita Benson
Mother Innis
Irene L. M. McIntosh
Christiana Davis
Ms. Weade Harris
Ms. Fairy Neal
Ms. Evangeline Blamo
Mrs. Victoria Herbert - Wolo
Mrs. Ina Williams Christensen
Special Visitors From St. David’s Episcopal Church
Ashburn, Virginia, USA

Father Stephen McWhorter
Kelly Cleveland
Richard Easley
Magdalene Johnson Obaji
Cheryl Simpson Cornwall

Welcome to Liberia!!
Welcome to Clayashland!!
Welcome to Bromley!!
At the St. David's Episcopal Church in Ashburn, Virginia, U.S.A. on Sunday, July 24, 2005, a special service was held with the Liberian Ambassador Honorable Charles A. Minor & members of his family as Special Guests. In his sermon the Reverend Father Johnson, Priest Associate at the Church, urged Liberians and Americans to pray for Liberia. The Rector at St. David's Father Stephen McWhorter, told parishioners and visiting guests about a mission trip planned for November, 2005 to an all girls mission in ClayAshland, Montserrado County, Liberia. The anticipated mission took place from November 9 to 16, 2005 and is the beginning of what we hope will be a lasting relationship between St. David’s Ashburn, and Bromley mission, Liberia. This team has worked hard to give Bromley a face-lift. The result being a freshly painted, morale boosting, face lifted Bromley!

This photograph shows the Rector at St. David's, Father Stephen McWhorter, with members of his team.

Father Stephen McWhorter and 'Maggie' Obaj
hard at work with paint brushes and cans.

Richard, Cheryl and Maggie doing the main entrance to Bromley.
Some Immediate Needs for Bromley Mission

Computers
Science Lab Equipment
Encyclopedia / Reference Books
Typewriters
Memographer
Textbooks: All subjects especially
Math
Language Arts
Science
Curriculum Materials of all kinds
Classroom equipment and furniture
Agricultural tools and equipments: Seeds
Tractors
Gloves
Rubber Boots
Generator and Fuel
Foodstuff
Books: Used or New
Beddings
Clothe / Black Shoes / Sneakers
Materials for Home Arts
White Cotton Fabric (For Uniforms)
Royal Blue Cotton Fabric (For Uniforms)
Plates / Spoons / Plastic Cups
Drinking Glasses
Kitchenware
School Motto: *Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

Proverb 22:6
EARLY HISTORY OF JULIA CHESTER EMERY HALL
BROMLEY MISSION

Bromley Girls School as it was initially called was the product of Bishop Samuel David Ferguson (1884 – 1916), the first black man to be elected Bishop by the Episcopal church in the USA and the first Liberian Bishop of the Episcopal Mission in Liberia. His plan was to advance the education of Liberian women. It all began when Mrs. M.R. Brierly’s Girls School in Cape Mount called St. George’s School (est. 1882) was transferred to Clay Ashland in 1903. Since this was considered temporary, the Bishop wasted no time in securing 170 acres of land at Bromley on the St. Paul’s River, which would be the future site of the St. George’s Girls school. Because of its location, the name Bromley Girls School was adopted. Specific mention was made of the fact that the school was being located at Bromley to afford opportunities to Vai, Mandingo, Gola, Kpella, Dei and Kru as well as settler girls.

The Bishop estimated that $14,000 was needed to erect the buildings and get the project off the ground. However more money was raised. The African Women’s United Auxiliary donated $3,500, an appeal at the 1904 General Convention in the US raised $11,000, and an anonymous donor, donated $14,500. This donation, which was given by a member of the New York branch of the Women’s Auxiliary stipulated that the building be named in honor of Julia Chester Emery, who had been General Secretary of the Women’s Auxiliary to the Board of Missions for forty years. Thus the girl’s school became known as the Julia Chester Emery Hall, Bromley and the acreage for the school was increased to 210 acres. The cornerstone was laid on November 17, 1905. Among the many educational institutions of the church, only the Bromley Girls School claimed as much of the Bishop’s attention.

Meanwhile, the “girls training school at Bromley on the St. Paul River” had begun operating in Clay Ashland with the few girls transferred from Cape Mount. The Rev. Professor John Frith (deacon) formerly of Liberia College was appointed first superintendent and teacher along with two assistant teachers from St. George’s School, Miss Granite and Miss Wethers.
When Mrs. Elizabeth M. Moort replaced Prof. Frith in 1905, the school had 27 boarders and 4 day pupils. In 1907, when the building was partly ready for occupancy, the school had 33 girls ranging in age from five to seventeen years old, half of them being of indigenous background.

President of Liberia, Arthur Barclay was in attendance at the grand opening and dedication on December 8, 1909. On this occasion the American Charge D’affaires, George W. Ellis remarked “…throughout the coming years, this building is to be given up to the literary education and the industrial training of the young girls of Liberia upon a scale so grand that it is bound to make for good a deep impression upon the future womanhood of the Republic”.

In February 1911 the girls left their temporary quarters in Clay Ashland and moved into the new building. By then the building was sparsely furnished, as a great deal more was needed to completely furnish and fully equip the building for training girls in Industrial Arts and ‘Book Learning’. Industrial Arts included needlework, dressmaking, millinery, poultry raising, horticulture and all kinds of housework. ‘Book Learning’ included reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, geography, history, physiology, singing, composition, gymnastics and religious instruction.

By 1911, the number of students had increased to eighty-five, forty-three of which were children of settlers. The Episcopal Church contribution to the literary and industrial training of the young females of Liberia was proceeding as planned.


Chapter V – The Experiment of Liberia Leadership’ 1884-1916, pages 129-140

Submitted by: Emily V McClain Benjamin
THE

JULIA C. EMERY HALL.

Information concerning the admission of pupils into the Girls' Training Institute at Bromley on the St. Paul's River, near Monrovia.

LIBERIA.
P. E. MISSION PRESS, CAPE PALMAS.
1910.
Information concerning
THE JULIA C. EMERY HALL.

The Hall can furnish ample room for one hundred and fifty girls; but only fifty of that number are now provided for by the Missionary Board in America. Unless, therefore, we try to help ourselves as a people and contribute towards the support of the institution, it will not accomplish more than one-third of the good that it might. We have consequently made the following arrangement to that end:

There shall be three grades of pupils.

1. Those who are on the scholarship fund provided by friends in the United States. Only girls in indigent circumstances or those directly from heathenism will be admitted to this grade. In order that the benefit may be as widespread as possible, the choice will be limited to but one girl out of a family, except in the case of those who are complete orphans or those directly from heathenism.
2. Those whose parents or guardians are able to defray only a part of their expenses. In such cases, they are required to furnish the girl's clothing, three sheets, three pillow cases, two spreads for a single bed, three towels, three table-napkins with a ring, a table knife, fork and spoon,* as well as school books. All books will be provided in the hall at cost price. We hope to meet their living expenses from general contributions or donations to the institution.

3. Those whose expenses are wholly provided for by their parents or guardians. They are required to furnish the personal requisites stated above for girls in the second grade and also to pay twenty dollars a quarter in advance for the living expenses of each pupil. Such girls shall be privileged to occupy special rooms and to have other advantages.

In furnishing clothing attention must be given to the following requirement: There are times when all the girls are to wear dresses of the same color, either white, pink or blue. Each one, of whatever grade, must, therefore, be provided with dresses of those colors; not necessarily of the same material or made alike, but of the same color.

It is to be hoped that the income of the institution will enable us to make a special arrangement for the daughters of clergymen.

No girl will be admitted under ten years of age.

It must be understood that one of the objects of this institution is to teach the girls how to work with their hands. Those, therefore, who regard such labor a disgrace and unbecoming a lady should not send their daughters here. Perfect obedience and submission to all the rules and regulations of the institution will be required of every pupil without any exception.

It sometimes happens that parents and guardians seek to put their girls in school because they have fallen into bad habits or are unmanageable. We desire to have it known that the institution is not for such characters; for then it would be no fit place for decent girls.

Contributions are solicited from churches, parochial organizations and individuals towards the furnishing and running expenses of the institution. It is also to be hoped that an en-
dowment fund will be raised to place it on a permanent basis.

Form of Legacy.

I give, devise and bequeath to the Girls Training Institute at Bromley, on the St. Paul's River, near Monrovia.

The above regulations have my approval.

SAMUEL DAVID FERGUSON.
Missionary Bishop,

Bishop's House,
Monrovia,
December 20th, 1909.