

The first students entered Skidmore's nursing program in 1922, the year Skidmore College received its charter.



While Lucy Scribner was modest in manner and while she disapproved of gambling, she and Dr. Keyes were audacious in their setting of goals and daring gamblers in betting all on their young enterprise.

In 1916 Skidmore asked to be chartered as a full-fledged, four-year, degree-granting institution. The Regents' response was brief and discouraging. The Regents made the 1911 charter absolute but deferred action on the petition to make Skidmore a college. Undaunted, Keyes continued his efforts both to transform Skidmore and to persuade the Regents to permit Skidmore to become in legal form what it was already becoming in actual substance. In 1917, Keyes submitted the petition again.

This time the Regents rejected the proposal outright. First, the school had no endowment. Second, New York State already had

Skidmore College Chartered—1922



▲ Scribner Hall, the former Strong Sanatorium, was one of the many buildings the growing College acquired in downtown Saratoga Springs.

Lucy Skidmore Scribner and President Keyes lead a procession to the conservatory on Regent Street, originally the YWIC "clubhouse" and later the Little Theatre.

nine colleges serving women. However, perhaps as a conciliatory gesture to the ambitious school, the Regents did amend the charter to permit Skidmore to establish a department of higher education. Graduates of courses in that department could be granted Regents—not Skidmore—degrees in science. In 1919 the first students received Regents bachelor's degrees through Skidmore. By 1922 the last two-year diplomas were awarded, and all non-baccalaureate programs were closed. Skidmore continued to seek out and create new departments offering professional or creative education.



▲ An art class practices near Peabody Hall.



◀ Skidmore students view a May Day horse show.

The school's endowment, even counting the personal notes signed by Lucy Scribner and fellow trustees, was still well below the half-million mark. But it was in fact a college, attracting students from as far as Czechoslovakia and Japan. In 1922 the Regents partially bowed to reality, amending the institution's name from the Skidmore School of Arts to Skidmore College. It was not until 1933 that the stubborn Regents amended the charter to empower Skidmore College to confer bachelor's degrees, but that same amendment retroactively legitimized all the degrees Skidmore had conferred since 1922. ■

Adapted from *Such Growth Bespeaks the Work of Many Hands* by Joseph C. Palamountain Jr., 1976.