

= Nathan C. Brooks =

Nathan Covington Brooks ( August 12 , 1809 ? October 6 , 1898 ) was an American educator , historian , and poet . Born in West Nottingham , Cecil County , Maryland , Brooks grew up to become the first principal of Baltimore City College , the third oldest public high school in the United States , and the only president of the Baltimore Female College , the first institution of higher education for women in Maryland . He also was the owner of The American Museum , a literary magazine , in which he published several works of the famed poet Edgar Allan Poe , and the author of several textbooks on classical literature . Brooks died in Philadelphia , Pennsylvania .

= = Biography = =

Nathan Covington Brooks , the youngest son of John and Mary Brooks , was born in West Nottingham , Cecil County , Maryland on August 12 , 1809 . He began his education at the West Nottingham Academy , and upon graduating enrolled at St. John 's College in Annapolis , Maryland . There he received a Master of Arts with his thesis consisting of a poem . After receiving his degree , Brooks began his teaching career at the age of 16 in Charlestown , Cecil County . He held this position for two years before opening a private school in Baltimore , Maryland in 1826 , where he remained for five years . In 1831 , he was elected principal of the Franklin Academy , located in Reisterstown , Maryland . After three years , Brooks resigned to become principal of the Brookeville Academy in Montgomery County , Maryland . However , in 1836 , he resigned from the academy because the school was unable to pay his salary .

In 1839 , Brooks was unanimously selected out of a pool of 45 candidates to be the first principal of the new male high school in Baltimore ? later renamed the Baltimore City College . He served in this capacity until 1849 , when he resigned to serve as the only president of the Baltimore Female College , the first institution of higher learning for women in Maryland . While at the Baltimore Female College , Brooks was granted an LL.D. from Emory College in Oxford , Georgia in 1859 . He served as president of the Baltimore Female College until it was closed in 1890 .

Brooks was married twice and fathered 11 children . He was wed to Mary Elizabeth Gobright on May 8 , 1826 , and later married Christiana Octavia Crump on June 26 , 1867 . Brooks died on October 6 , 1898 in Philadelphia , Pennsylvania .

= = The American Museum = =

In 1838 , Brooks purchased Summer Lincoln Fairfield 's The North American Quarterly and moved the publication from Philadelphia to Baltimore . Brooks partnered with Dr. Joseph E. Snodgrass , a Baltimore physician , to transform the publication into the The American Museum of Science , Literature and the Arts . The magazine mainly functioned as a literary publication , featuring literary criticism as well as poetry and short stories .

Brooks , who was a friend of the famed poet Edgar Allan Poe , published several of Poe 's works in The American Museum . Poe 's " Ligeia " , " A Predicament " ( published as " The Scythe of Time " ) , and " The Haunted Palace " were all originally published in Brooks ' magazine . Nevertheless , the magazine was short lived . Only two volumes of the magazine were published and it ceased to exist after 1839 .

= = Literary works = =

Throughout his career as an educator , Brooks contributed poetry and prose writings to various literary magazines . Among the literary magazines that Brooks submitted works to , were Burton 's Gentleman 's Magazine , Graham 's Magazine , the New York Mirror , and the Southern Literary Messenger . Brooks also wrote several anthologies of poetry , including Scriptural Anthology , which was published in 1837 and The Literary Amaranth , which was published in 1840 . Poe wrote an ambivalent review of Brooks ' Scriptural Anthology , which appeared in Graham 's Magazine in

December 1841 . In his review , Poe wrote , " among many inferior compositions of length , there were several shorter pieces of great merit ; ? for example ' Shelley 's Obsequies ' and ' The Nicthanthos ' . " Poe was also critical of Brooks ' comic works , while praising his more serious prose .

In addition to his poetry and prose , Brooks authored several textbooks , which focused mainly on classical literature , and a few popular history texts . These included First Lessons in Latin , published in 1845 , First Lessons in Greek , published in 1846 , A Complete History Of The Mexican War , published in 1849 , and The History of the Church . Brooks also translated and published several editions of the works of Ovid , Caesar , and Virgil .