

A HISTORY OF EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
IN AUGUSTA, KENTUCKY

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CHAPTER I

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The purpose of this thesis is to show the development of the institutions for education in Augusta, Kentucky. In just two years following the founding of the town itself, the cultural interest of the settlers had manifested itself in the chartering of Bracken Academy. The town of Augusta was officially founded and chartered in 1797. With the establishment of the first school just two years later, some form of an educational enterprise has existed, except for a few brief intervals, for more than a century and a half. A major point of interest is that this series of schools has always existed on, or adjacent to, the present school property. Special emphasis in this thesis will be given to Augusta College, the first Methodist college organized after Cokesbury had been destroyed. No institution affecting society as does a school can be fully understood without reference to its background of history. This historical background so necessary will be presented in Chapter II.

LIMITATION OF THE PROBLEM

Education in Augusta formally began in 1799 when the Kentucky Legislature chartered Bracken Academy as part of an effort to promote and encourage education throughout the state. The Methodist church in 1822 founded Augusta College and opened it for operation. The college, as such, continued in existence until 1844 when the support of the church was withdrawn because of the slavery question. For the next forty-three years, 1844 - 1887, the school was maintained under private management. A popular Act of the Kentucky Legislature in 1887 turned the property over to the Augusta Graded School District to provide education for the pupils duly appointed by the magistrates of this roughly defined district. The boundaries and character of the district has been changed several times. The present Augusta Independent

School District formed from the Bracken County District today operates a twelve grade school for some 325 pupils.

Many of the records of these schools no longer exist due to several fires and the almost regular floods that have been such a hardship to the community of Augusta. Some of the records that are available were written in longhand that cannot be completely deciphered.

This study will include in its scope the varied financial problems of the school, its faculties, salary changes and trends in administration and curriculum. The records of the Methodist conferences, minutes of the meetings of the Trustees, and later the minutes of the public school will furnish much of the information for this report. School catalogues and some courses of study are available for supplementary data.

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE STUDY

The financial success of Bracken Academy and the cultural interests of the citizenry were the two main factors that led to the selection of Augusta as the site for Augusta College. Committees comprising members appointed from the Ohio and Kentucky Conferences of the Methodist church were responsible for this action, and it was, no doubt, a decision greatly influenced by the \$10,000 made available by the trustees of Bracken Academy. During the period of its existence this college was of great service to the West. In its halls were educated many young men who became prominent both in the ministry and in various other professions. The impulse which it gave to the cause of education led, directly or indirectly, to the establishment of other institutions which are still enjoying prosperity. The faculty members of early Augusta were referred to as the western intellectual and spiritual 'giants'. The charter of the college incorporated it with the authority to give the usual degrees, this being, at that time, the only Methodist college in the world having such authority. Faculty members and graduates extended the influence of the college to wide areas of the nation. Steven Collins Foster visited an uncle who was a member of the faculty at

Augusta. During one prolonged visit, it is believed that Foster was a student at the college and perhaps did some of his song writing while residing on the banks of the beautiful Ohio River.

To many, paradoxically, the greatest glory of Augusta College was in its end. It was the center of the anti-slavery movement in Kentucky, and feeling against the college became so intense that it (the feeling) was one of the factors leading to the repeal of the charter of the college by the Legislature of the state of Kentucky. John G. Fee, a student at the time, imbued with its spirit, founded Berea College, an institution the early life of which was intimately associated with the education of 'freed men' in Kentucky. A school for the colored exists today in Maysville, Kentucky in honor of this man, the John G. Fee school. A prominent alumnus in the literary and political field was William Goesbeck of Cincinnati, the well known writer and statesman who became candidate for Vice President of the United States with McClellan.

The years following the college proper found a secondary school operating under the capable management of prominent Methodist ministers and laymen who agreed to meet, and did meet, the high curriculum requirements set up for them by the original trustees. The list of subjects taught during these years is most interesting and it clearly depicts the cultural background and interests of the trustees.

The public school now meets all the requirements for an accredited school and, from the viewpoint of the town, the present school is a later chapter in this movement more than a century and a half old.

METHOD OF PROCEDURE AND RELATED LITERATURE

The historical method of investigation is used as the major procedure for this report. Early Kentucky histories, Methodist church annals, state and county records, college catalogues, published minutes and other recordings of the schools, newspapers and magazine articles have supplied most of the needed information on this subject. The literature of the Methodist church has well

preserved some most interesting facts about Augusta College since it was one of the earliest educational projects of the Methodist Church in this part of the world. The early records of the schools that were founded by members of the Augusta faculty and graduates give due credit to the influence of old Augusta in their respective institutions. This is especially true of Ohio Wesleyan University. The library staff of this school has compiled a great amount of pertinent information concerning Augusta College.

Related Literature. Many similar reports have been made dealing with the histories of other schools, and such will be the related studies for this topic. The library at the University of Cincinnati has provided a number of studies that pertain closely to the subject here under consideration.

ORGANIZATION OF THE STUDY TO FOLLOW

This report will be divided into phases to correspond with the different schools that have existed from 1799 to the present time. Chapter II will be devoted to a discussion of the history necessary as a background for the study. The first twenty-three years, the operation of the Bracken Academy, presented in Chapter III, is an interesting study of the educational institution of that early period in the pioneer days of our country. The financial success of this school was an all important factor in Augusta being chosen as the location of the Augusta College. Chapter IV covers the actual period of the life of this college, which although only twenty-two years long, assured the interest of the population as to the value and need of education. The combined interests of the Trustees of Bracken Academy and interested citizens kept a school in session until 1887. During this last name period, 1844-1887, described in Chapter V, the school property was rented to ministers and laymen of the Methodist church who operated schools under strict requirements of these so called Trustees. The Augusta Free Graded School District is the result of recent educational legislation in keeping with the formation of Independent and County consolidated school districts. These institutions are discussed in Chapter VI. In Chapter VII a

summary of the history of educational institutions in Augusta, Kentucky during the entire period is presented.

CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Now more than a century and a half has passed since the coming of the first pioneers to the territory of the present county, which subsequently was formed and enclosed within the bounds of a vast forest wilderness. Its rugged simple setting and its turbulent beginning are seldom thought of or called to memory by most of the present generation, even by those who gaze in wonderment on the beauties of its marvelous landscapes and its hills and levels so gracefully carpeted by green fields of bluegrass and alfalfa.

Together with other divisions of Kentucky, it lay for untold centuries undiscovered and unexplored by Christian civilization, a world of its own, left to nature, undisturbed save by the mound builders and the tent dwellers whose single purpose was to keep it dark beneath the shadows of a natural wilderness, and unoccupied and untenanted as an Olympian playground for the bow and arrow, the tomahawk and the scalping knife. But alas: the white man came and would not be denied the opportunity to settle in this beauty spot of the land.

Now to briefly trace the development of the territory comprehending the limits of the present county from the time it was first claimed by the white man to the time of its organization into a county in 1796. The lands for the town of Augusta were cleared four years earlier in 1792. The site of this town, as the territory of the whole state, was for many years after the colonial settlement at Jamestown, Virginia, an unknown and unexplored wilderness. The site was included in the territory granted to the colony of Virginia by the British Crown, in 1606, which grant was followed by the colonial settlement at Jamestown, in 1607.

The valley west of the Blue Ridge Mountain, together with the territory beyond the Cumberlands and westward to the Mississippi, was said to have been first looked upon and discovered by Alexander Spotswood, Lieutenant Governor of the Colony of Virginia, and claimed by him for the British Crown. This vast territory with its western boundary undefined was made part of the

county of Essex (Virginia). To the people of Virginia proper, "this land beyond" appeared as obscure and doubtful as America itself looked to the peoples of Europe. If inhabited by men, they were supposed to be Indians for such had always infested the frontiers. This had become a powerful reason for not exploring to a greater degree this region west of the great mountains which concealed Kentucky from their sight.

The division of Virginia into shires or counties began in the spring of 1619. At this time the entire expanse was listed in only seven divisions. Sub-divisions was included in Frederick and Augusta counties. Augusta county embraced all territory now included in West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. A later division brings a county named Kentucky which was for managerial purposes divided into Jefferson, Lincoln and Fayette, which names still exist as counties in Kentucky today. From this last division one finds Bracken county formed from part of Fayette. An act of the Legislature in 1796 established the present Bracken county.¹

The last big Indian battle was fought between the Cherokee and Iroquois tribes on the bank of the Ohio River forty-five miles east of Camp Washington (Cincinnati). This is the very site now occupied by the town of Augusta, Kentucky. Other evidence of this fact is that during an excavation for a wine cellar in Augusta, one Colonel John Payne saw unearthed no less than fifty Indian skeletons.² This same Colonel Payne some years later led a company of men from this section in General William Henry Harrison's campaign in the Northwest territory against the British and Indians in the War of 1812. Colonel Payne was visited in his home at Augusta by General Harrison while the latter was on his way to Washington to be inaugurated as President of the United States.

The town of Augusta had been duly chartered October 2, 1797. It was one Phillip Buckner in the Kentucky Legislature as a Representative that was largely responsible for the Act that officially chartered Augusta. At that time and for several years following Augusta was the county seat of Bracken county. The seat

of the county was later moved to a more central point in the county which is now known as Brooksville. The early history of Augusta was very largely the history of Buckner. Being very influential in the Kentucky Legislature, Phillip Buckner was responsible for an Act granting Augusta six thousand acres of land for the establishing of Bracken Academy. This grant was not all in one piece of land since later records show the sale of land from this grant in Union and Christian counties. An acre of land from the vast estate of Phillip Buckner was given for the site of this early school of which Buckner was one of the trustees.³

As early as 1800, the name and fame of Bracken Academy had spread until it was attracting students from some of the Eastern States. This Academy led to the establishment of the college in 1822, but the Academy continued to exist in the capacity of a Preparatory Department to the College. After some twenty-two years of remarkable success the Augusta College was to become the center of great controversy in the very important Slavery-Anti Slavery question. The patronage of the College had been wide spread on both sides of the Ohio River. The Kentucky and Ohio Conferences of the Methodist Church had been united in the support of their educational enterprise. No doubt due to location, the College had drawn largely on its Northern supporters for financial aid. With this very necessary monetary support withdrawn, the College found itself in such financial straits that continued existence as such was impossible. After the final dissolution of the College as a Methodist endowed institution, the physical plant reverted back to the Academy trustees and for a number of years the property was rented to Methodist ministers to be operated as a school. The rent was very small, indicative of the fact that the people of Augusta eagerly desired that some sort of school continue to exist in their midst. Under such conditions the school remained open until 1887 when a popular Act of Legislation turned the property over to the Augusta Graded School District to provide education for the pupils duly appointed by the magistrates of this roughly defined district. The present Augusta Independent School District is the ultimate outgrowth of this piece of legislation in 1887. The school records from 1877 to 1895 were all

lost in a flood, a common occurrence in Augusta. After school had been dismissed for the year in 1894, the entire plant was destroyed by fire. The authorities rebuilt at once only to experience another disastrous conflagration in 1899. Again, the rebuilding began at once, and the building constructed in 1900 stands today as part of the present school plant. Additions were made in 1923 and again 1927, and these serve to house the present Augusta Public School.

CHAPTER III

BRACKEN ACADEMY (1799-1822) - LAND GRANT BY LEGISLATURE

It will be remembered that at the close of the Revolutionary War, Kentucky was part of Virginia, and known as Kentucky county. Grants of land in Kentucky were issued by the Commonwealth of Virginia to satisfy Treasury Warrants which were given to the soldiers during the war. A large grant of Kentucky land had thus been acquired by Captain Phillip Buckner of Virginia. Buckner had made his first visit to Kentucky in 1783, riding on horseback from his home in Carolina county in Virginia. His first view of the land he had received for his valiant services in the war was from the hills looking down in the beautiful valley now occupied by Augusta. The picture then was one of Indian wigwams scattered among forest trees lining the shores of the Ohio River. Without further investigation of his possessions Buckner returned to his home in Virginia where he assembled his family, a party of neighbors and forty negro servants for a return trip to Augusta. Traveling down the Ohio in keel boats, he intended to land at the present site of Augusta, but finding that the numerous Indians were not anxious to welcome them, the party continued down the river to Bear Grass Station, then a military post, now the city of Louisville. Leaving his family there in safe quarters, Buckner returned again to Virginia and induced others to join his expedition that immediately returned by river and with others that soon followed were successful in establishing a colony at Augusta. Through various transactions, as shown by landoffice in Virginia, Captain Buckner acquired enormous possessions of land. One grant alone in the county of Fayette consisted of 7000 acres.

PHILLIP BUCKNER

On October 2, 1797, Phillip Buckner, at a county court held in Augusta, and on his motion, gave 600 acres of land for town purposes, with the right to same vested in trustees. A short time later at public sale Buckner purchased from aid trustees certain lots to be used for public purposes.

This indenture made the 30th day of May in the year 1800 between the undernamed trustees for the town of Augusta, in the county of Bracken, and the state of Kentucky, of the one part, and Phillip Buckner of the same place, of the other part. Witnesseth: That the said Trustees for and in consideration of the said Phillip Buckner, proprietor of said town, and the highest bidder for the lots here-in-after mentioned, and the sum of five shillings current money to them in hand paid, the receipt of which, they do hereby acknowledge. Have granted, bargained and sold, and by these presents do grant, bargain and sell unto Phillip Buckner and his heirs, and assigns, the following out-lots, in the town of Augusta, aforesaid known by their numbers in the plan of said town by lots no. 18-19-21-22-23-30-31-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-43 and all that part of lots no 15-16-17 which were not here-to-fore conveyed to Samuel Thomas by the deed recorded in the Clerks office of the Bracken County quarterly court: etc., etc. Signed Nathaniel Patterson, Phillip Buckner, Vachel Weldon, Thomas Brashears and M. Marshall.¹

In 1798 Phillip Buckner was the elected representative of Bracken county in the Kentucky Legislature. This session of the Legislature passed an Act to establish and endow academies to promote education throughout the state. From this Act, Bracken county received 6000 acres of land for educational purposes. At this time Buckner gave an acre of land toward the establishing of Bracken Academy that was then chartered by the state of Kentucky. This historic lot donated by Buckner, known as "lot no. 18" is the same space of ground now occupied by Augusta High School. The original trustees appointed for the Bracken Academy were, Phillip Buckner, Robert Davis, Nathaniel Patterson, John Fee, Francis Wells, John Pattie, John Boude, John Blanchard, Samuel Brooks and William Brooks.

These trustees were constituted a body politic and incorporate, and styled by the name of the trustees of the Bracken Academy. These trustees and their successors continued to hold the possession and title as a corporate body, of the thing donated or its proceeds, as well as the control of the property until September 1888.²

There was only one condition upon which this land would ever revert back to the State, and that was upon the failure of the trustees to have a school with as many as twelve pupils.

Captain Buckner represented the county of Bracken as its first Representative and as a Senator for a term of eleven years. His name was one of those signed to the Second Constitution of Kentucky in 1799. Not only was Buckner largely responsible for the founding of the town of Augusta but also for the establishing within its limits a seat of learning which later was to be acclaimed a national reputation.

The population of Augusta had grown by 1800 to about 300 and this rapid growth induced Buckner to leave the town proper and build a home about thirteen miles to the north, which is now the site of Powersville in the central part of the present county. This home was built in the woods without a road nearby and no neighbors even close. Although the house has been remodeled there remains what is known as the "panel room", the same as it was when the house was originally constructed. The lumber for this particular home was hewed out with an ax and roughly finished with a plane. The entire structure was built without the use of a saw of any description. Buckner and many members of his family are buried in the rear of this house. The grave markings are very poor and it is impossible now to identify the several graves in this burial plot.

A building was erected by the Academy trustees to house the new institution of learning. It was a two story brick building, fifty feet by twenty feet. At the same time, several nearby houses were secured to accommodate the boarding students. Even in its earliest years, the roster of students included

some who had come a great distance from the eastern states. What is now called greater Cincinnati always contributed a number of students to the roster.

ACCUMULATION OF FUNDS

The academy had acquired the ferry privileges, which in those days was a very lucrative business, and, no doubt, this was the source of much of its wealth. No doubt at that time practically all travel across rivers was by the means ferries. In the short twenty years of the life of the academy, the \$10,000 surplus amassed was very unusual for that early time in the history of this section of the county.

One of the early teachers in the academy was one John Fee whose grandson founded Berea College at Berea, Kentucky. This unusual school exists today as one of the seats of higher learning in the state of Kentucky. Several of the other teachers and a number of students in the latter years of the existence of the academy remained in Augusta to become a part of the college that was soon to follow on the same site.

The business of making money seems to have overshadowed the idea of an educational institution, and the academy soon existed in name only. The trustees were very careful to have at the least the twelve students that were required by the charter to continue to enjoy the financial reimbursement of the original grant.³

The seed had been planted and the cultural interests aroused to the place where the citizens of Augusta realized the importance of educational institutions to their community. The very life and existence of the schools to follow was the result of the establishment and the financial success of Bracken Academy. In 1812, the original group of trustees was expanded to include William Buckner, James Armstrong, James Wells, Thomas Nelson, Robert Smith and Martin Marshall. Many families in Augusta today are direct descendents of these trustees of Bracken Academy, who were men influential in all affairs of note in their time. The history of Augusta for this period 1797-1822 was largely the history of one Phillip Buckner and Bracken Academy.

CHAPTER IV

AUGUSTA COLLEGE (1822 - 1844)

Wherever Methodism is introduced, education quickly follows, and Kentucky and Ohio presented no exception to this rule. Eight years after the founding of the Ohio Methodist Conference the want of a literary institution, of a high order in the state, under the patronage of the state, was too apparent to admit an argument. From 1812-1820, the Ohio and Tennessee Conferences had each embraced about one half of Kentucky, so that no community of interest was likely to be felt in an enterprise of this kind. The formation of the Kentucky Conference at this time placed the church in a position to look after its resources, and to come up to the measure of its duty. Previous to the meeting of the Ohio Conference in 1820, the question of "getting up an institution of learning among the Methodists", in the West, had been submitted by Mr. George S. Houston, an intelligent and pious layman residing in Dayton, Ohio, to James B. Finley, at that time the Presiding Elder on the Lebanon, Ohio District. The subject was first canvassed in Mr. Finley's District and then brought before the regular meeting of the Ohio Conference. Unwilling to attempt such an enterprise alone, the Ohio Conference appointed a committee to attend the Kentucky Conference meeting two weeks later in the same year, to propose that the two Conferences, "unite in the establishment of a college under their joint patronage".¹

FOUNDING BY GENERAL CONFERENCES OF OHIO AND KENTUCKY

At this first Kentucky Conference held in Lexington, upon hearing the suggestion of the Ohio brethren, great interest was manifested, and each Presiding Elder was requested to take the sentiment of every quarterly conference under his charge with regard to the establishment of a seminary, and also to have an eye on a proper site for its establishment.² The committee of the Ohio Conference consisted of Martin Ruter, John Collins and David Young. The Kentucky Committee to confer on this proposition was made up of Charles

Holliday, Henry S. Bascom and Alexander Cummins. The Kentucky Conference made the following response to the proposed union.³

The committee appointed to confer with the committee from the Ohio Conference on the subject of erecting a seminary report as follows.

- 1. That the establishment of a seminary within the bounds of this Conference is expedient and necessary.*
- 2. The place where we have a prospect of the most ample funds for the purpose is in the town of Augusta, on the Ohio River.*
- 3. Inasmuch as the Ohio Annual Conference has adopted measures toward a union with this Conference in the establishment of a seminary at that place, it is our opinion that a union of the two Conferences is expedient.*
- 4. That it is expedient for this Conference to appoint a committee whose duty it shall be to confer with the committee of the Ohio Conference, and to take such measures in favor of the contemplated establishment as they may think advisable; provided they do not place themselves or this Conference liable to any expense.*
- 5. It shall be the duty of this Conference, in case of the success of such establishment, to take the most prudent measures in their power, in conjunction with the committee of the Ohio Conference, to secure the influence and government of the institution to the Methodist Episcopal Church.*

As a result of this meeting and in view of this report, the union was heartily endorsed, and the following commission was appointed to act for the Conference in carrying on any negotiations, Marcus Lindsay, H. B. Bascom, and William Holman. They went to Augusta and succeeded in affecting an agreement with the trustees of Bracken Academy. Such was the genesis of Augusta College. In 1821 the commission reported the final selection of Augusta for the home of their college.⁴

The group after investigating several sites chose Augusta on account of its healthfulness, beauty and facility of access. As an additional inducement there was an offer on the part of the trustees of Bracken Academy to appropriate permanently the proceeds of a fund of \$10,000 to the support of the college.

In 1822, the institution was chartered by the Legislature of Kentucky as a college with the power to confer degrees. Soon after the charter was obtained, Captain James Armstrong, a layman of the Methodist accomplished the erection of a suitable brick edifice. On the fourth day of October, 1823, Captain Armstrong generously conveyed the building to the trustees of Augusta College. The original building of brick construction was eighty feet long and forty feet wide, consisting of three floor levels above the basement. A chapel, recitation and lecture rooms, literary hall, mineral and geological cabinets, chemical laboratory and library were well arranged for the conduct of a seminary. Near the campus, and at the same time, were built two refectories sufficiently spacious to accommodate a large portion of the students. For security against fire and other accidents it was thought much better to have the refectories detached from the main building. The campus consisted of gently rising ground of several acres, commanding a pleasant view of the village, river and surrounding scenery, for a distance of miles up and down the river.⁵

EARLY PRESIDENTS AND FACULTY

The first man chosen to preside over the destinies of Augusta College was John P. Finley.⁶ Finley had been born in North Carolina, June 13, 1783. In September 1810, he was licensed to preach in the Methodist Episcopal Church. John P. was a son of Reverent Robert W. Finley, for many years a prominent Presbyterian minister who had been educated at Princeton under the celebrated Dr. Witherspoon. The Finley's had moved to Kentucky in 1788 and located at Flemingsburg, but because the Indians were so troublesome at that section, they moved further inland and lived at Cane Ridge in Bourbon County. The elder Finley, in addition to preaching, opened an upper grades school, giving special attention to fitting young man for the ministry. Several of his students later became prominently connected with Barton W. Stone in their secession from the Presbyterian ministry. John Patterson Finley, having received a classical

education, was early called to take charge of literary institutions and from his entry to the ministry in 1810 until 1822, he labored in that department with great success in different parts of Ohio. In 1822, he was appointed as president (then called Principal) and professor of languages in Augusta College. It was said of him,⁷

Of the English language he was a perfect master, and taught its proper use with almost unrivaled success. In the pulpit he was outstanding among the best of his time. In personal character he was one of the purest, the most saintly, and most beloved of men.

He remained in charge of Augusta College until his early death at the age of just past forty years. He passed away on May 8, 1825. He remains rest in the rear of the old Methodist Church in Augusta. Although Finley was only connected with the school a little over two years, his influence remained and the high ideals of the man permeated the atmosphere of the school throughout its lifetime.

Following the death of the first president of the newly founded college in 1825, Martin Ruter was selected and he immediately accepted the presidency of the school in 1825. Mr. Ruter had been transferred to the position from the Ohio Conference. Prior to his service at the college, Ruter had been in charge of the Methodist Book Concern in Cincinnati, having established the business and conducted it successfully for eight years. Along with being president, Martin Ruter was termed Professor Oriental Languages. At this same time Reverend John P. Durbin was elected to the chair of Latin and Greek. Completing the first faculty was Rev. Joseph Tomlinson as Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, Frederick A. M. Davis, Chemistry and Botany, Arnold Truesdale as preceptor of the Academy and Thomas H. Lynch his assistant. Also on the teacher list was John Vincent, in charge of the Primary department. The titles of the latter men showed that the preparatory department was divided into two sections, a higher and a lower, the lower teaching only primary subjects.

Martin Ruter was one of the great men of his day. He was among the makers of Methodism. He was an itinerant, pioneer, missionary, author,

educator and practical Christian statesman. The son of a blacksmith, Joe Ruter, he was born in Charlton, Worcester county, Massachusetts, April 3, 1783. When about fifteen years of age while studying at Bradford he boarded with a Mrs. Peckett, an English lady, who had at one time been the housekeeper for John Wesley. Ruter was greatly aided by the advice and encouragement of this woman, and in 1800, when only sixteen, he received a license to "exhort", and very soon afterward was given a full preaching license. Having an insatiable hunger for knowledge, he was a hard working student, and mapped out for himself a broad and comprehensive course and became a proficient scholar. Algebra, geometry and astronomy were subjects that he later taught in college, though he was most proficient in the classical and oriental languages. He prepared a grammar of the Hebrew language. In addition, he knew Chaldee and Syriac so thoroughly that while at Cincinnati he was offered a professorship in Oriental Languages in the Cincinnati College. The degree of M.A. was conferred upon Ruter by Asbury College of Baltimore in 1818. and that of D. D. by Transylvania in 1822. He is said to have the first Methodist preacher ever to receive the honorary title of D. D. Besides his Hebrew Grammar, he published while President of Augusta College, a small treatise entitled A Conjunction of French Regular Verbs. While in Cincinnati, he prepared an elementary series of books and later had published a History of the Christian Church, which for years was used in the Course of Study for all young ministers.¹⁰ A short while later, Ruter volunteered to go to Texas as a missionary. While there he succeeded in laying the foundation for a great religious advancement in the new republic. He was stricken with typhoid fever and died in Washington, Texas, May 16, 1839 at the age of fifty three years.

No doubt, the man with the longest tenure at Augusta, and one whose influence was a great factor in the success and contributions of the school, was Joseph S. Tomlinson. Tomlinson was born amid most humble conditions at Georgetown, Kentucky, March 15, 1802. Bereaved of both parents when only a child, he was apprenticed to the saddler's trade in which he soon became

efficient. By most diligent application, he worked his way through Transylvania, graduating with honors. Young as he was, he hastened to Augusta College where there was a need of a competent professor. Here for nearly thirty years he faithfully toiled advancing the cause of learning and the interest of religion. That his labors were abundant will appear from the fact, that in consequence of the frequent vacancies in the faculty, it became necessary that at different periods he should occupy many different chairs. At one period he was Professor of Languages, at another of Mathematics, then of Natural Sciences, Moral Philosophy and Belles-letters. In every department of instruction he determined to be a master: and so he was.

For a number of years Tomlinson served as President of the college. When the charter of Augusta College was revoked by the Legislature of Kentucky, Dr. Tomlinson was elected to a professorship in Ohio Wesleyan University, but he did not accept this offer because of his impaired health, though for two years he did act as a Field Agent for this Ohio school. He was then elected to a similar professorship in Ohio University at Athens, Ohio. He accepted this offer and after one year was made president of that school. He again declined the offer of this important position. The prominent educator and scholar inherited a strong predisposition to mental derangement, as is proven by well known facts in the history of his family. He became melancholy and finally, on June 4, 1853, he died at his own hand.

STUDENTS AND COLLEGE REGULATIONS

From the time that the institution at Augusta went fully into operation as a college, the number of students ranged from 130 to 170. The majority of these enrolled came from Kentucky and Ohio for the first few years. After the school had become better established and better known, the outstanding ability of the faculty became known through its graduates and the fame of Augusta was

spread to more remote places, and at one time there were thirteen states represented on the roster of students. Notwithstanding this fact, the college remained under the immediate control of the trustees appointed by the Kentucky and Ohio Conferences. For the year of 1828 there were twenty-two trustees on the college governing body, fourteen being from Kentucky and eight from Ohio. As a usual thing, the College board was composed of an equal number of ministers and laymen. The by-laws of the college adopted in 1828, among other things, specified the punishment for the infraction of school rules. Other constraining regulations were adopted in regards to the expenses and habits of the students.¹²

The village happily presents but few inducements or opportunities to indulge in vice and extravagance, and it may, perhaps, be safely affirmed, that there is no place of the same extent, in which moral and religious influence is more decided and pervasive. The faculty through their (sic) secretary, makes frequent reports to the parents and guardians of students in regard to their health, habits, proficiency, etc., for which their sons and wards are placed in the institution.

The collegiate year was divided into two sessions of twenty one weeks each: the first commencing on the second Monday in October, the second on the second Monday in April. The public commencement for conferring degrees was held each year on the third Friday in August. The commencement exercises always attracted a large number of visitors to the college. In addition to the parents and friends of the students, the exercises were also very popular with Methodist ministers and laymen because of their timely interest in their own educational project.

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

Additional regulations¹³, as set down by the trustees, determined the terms of admittance in the collegiate department at \$16 per session and in the preparatory department at \$11 per semester. Specifically, they advertised in all

announcements that there would absolutely be no extra charges. The customary price for boarding in the college refectories, and with the families of the village, was \$2.50 per week. This sum embraced food, washing, lodging, lights, fuel and attendance or tuition.

To supplement the never adequate funds, the Kentucky and Ohio Conferences each had a man connected with the college as agents, whose duty it was to canvas the territory under their respective control for voluntary donations of money to be used in the financing of the school. The labors of these agents, although nearly fruitless so far as money was concerned, resulted in keeping the then spacious halls of the college well filled with students. In many other ways, the work of these agents, who were usually ministers in their respective conferences, greatly promoted the interest of the college. The Ohio Conference sent its agent into the Eastern states, while the Kentucky solicitor worked in the southern part of the country. General financial conditions were at this time at a low ebb leading directly to the panic of 1837. A part of the funds collected was in the currency of the Commonwealth, which was considerable under par in exchange value. As a means of endowment, the Ohio adherents, at the insistence of their conference, raised \$10,000 with which to endow the "McKendree Professorship of Moral Science." This spurred the Kentucky Conference to raise a similar sum to endow the "Roberta Professorship of Mathematics", thus honoring both these beloved Bishops; but this fell far short of adequately endowing or insuring success of the college. Some progress was also made in the endowment of a third department with a similar sum of \$10,000, in honor of Bishop Joshua Soule of Ohio; who was for a number of years president of the Board of Trustees of the college.

As another means of supplementing funds for the operation and maintenance of the school, the authorities sponsored the publication of one or more newspapers. Prior to the chartering of the college in 1822, The Western Watchman was edited and published in the town of Augusta by H. H. Kavanaugh. The publication was sponsored by James Armstrong, mentioned

earlier as a very important man in the origin and success of the school. This paper, published first in the interest of Bracken Academy, strongly recommended the establishment of the college. Kavanaugh, a Bishop in the Southern Methodist Church, was at a later date directly connected with the college. After serving education so capably as an instructor for a number of years, this same Kavanaugh became one of the early superintendents of public instruction for the state of Kentucky. Other publications directly connected with the college were The Chronicle in 1825, The Augusta Herald in 1827, and The Reflector in 1829. No doubt, these publications played an important part in keeping the college before the eyes of the people, and especially served to unite the interests of the Kentucky and Ohio Conferences in their struggling infant seminary. The papers were all scheduled to appear weekly at a subscription rate of \$2.00 per year. This would not add much to the depleting finances of the school. The aims and intentions of the papers were high and noble as is related in a prospectus of The Chronicle to be found in the appendix.

About this time, another novel enterprise was undertaken for the benefit of the college. This was the purchase and operation of the ferry across the Ohio River at Augusta. At that time it was not easy to find safe and paying investments for college funds, and the ferry seemed to promise as good returns as any other investment that could be found for college funds. The river separated the two conferences, and since all travel between North and South then necessitated the use of a ferry, this seemed a sound place to put some school funds with the anticipation of good returns.

While Dr. Tomlinson was president of the college, he was visited on several occasions by his nephew, the well known and beloved song writer, Stephen Collins Foster.¹⁵ The people of the city of Augusta believed that some of the famous Foster songs were written while the composer was visiting in the home of his uncle. Since several of these famous songs were no doubt inspired by a river, the fact that the Ohio River was within a stone's throw of the College lends emphasis to the boast of the townspeople. A Mr. Lilly of Indianapolis,

Indiana, in his writings on the life of Foster shows from a letter written by his mother that Foster visited, no doubt, several times in Augusta and indicates that he attended school while in the home of his uncle Dr. Tomlinson. A copy of one of these letters that is of much interest will be found in the appendix.

In 1844, the question of the division of the Methodist Church became paramount after the memorable General Conference held that year in New York. It was really the action of this meeting that brought on the division of the Methodist Episcopal Church. By 1845, the new Methodist Church South had been organized and that year the Kentucky Conference almost unanimously aligned itself with the Southern division. Among the ministers, the opposition to the separate organization practically disappeared. Dr. Tomlinson, then president of Augusta College, had taken a very active part in the efforts, and adhering with the Northern men, he had publicly debated the question of division before several congregations. A. H. Redford, a Methodist in the Minerva Circuit, had opposed Tomlinson who had now joined the Ohio Conference without a formal withdrawal from the Kentucky Conference. This action on the part of Dr. Tomlinson and the Augusta society of Methodists proved to be a serious blow to the already struggling college. This was not the only serious circumstances in regards to the school. Augusta was at this time in great financial straits. The general panic in money affairs beginning in 1837 was marked by the wreck of many fortunes and many institutions. Never adequately endowed, all fees placed at the very lowest in order to enable poor students to attend and specie payments having been suspended by the banks, the resources of the College were strained to the utmost. The salaries of the faculty were pitiably small, and even then they frequently went unpaid.

Dr. Henry B. Bascom served the college for ten years from 1832 to 1842, during which time he had been promised a salary ranging from \$700 to \$1,000 a year. He never received one half the amount due him in cash. In a report to the Kentucky Conference, Bascom let it be known that he had relinquished a salary of \$1,500 to accept the place at Augusta, and during his ten years his expenses

had exceeded his income by at least \$5,000. The Conference appointed a committee to consider the affairs of the college, but they were helpless in the presence of such financial stringency as then lay upon the whole land. It began to be apparent that Augusta College could not survive without speedy relief.

At the Kentucky Conference in 1841 it was ordered that a special committee of three be appointed to act on the subject of a communication received from Brother Bascom from a certain corporation concerning the disposition of the school. That corporation was the Board of Trustees of Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky, and the communication contained an offer that the¹⁶

control of Transylvania University, so far as the nomination of the faculty in the college proper, the Principal of the Preparatory department, together with the direction of the Course of Studies, and the internal government of said college is concerned, be, and the same is hereby made to the Methodist Episcopal Church in United States, and especially to said Church in Kentucky, upon such terms as shall be agreed upon between said Church and this Board.

A committee was appointed, consisting of H. B. Bascom, B. T. Crouch, and H. H. Kavanaugh. This committee was afterward enlarged by the addition of J. S. Tomlinson and T. N. Ralston. On the following day September 23, 1841, they brought into the Conference a report recommending the acceptance of the offer, upon certain prudential conditions, and their report was unanimously accepted.

INFLUENCE OF SLAVERY CONTROVERSY

The entire country had just passed through a severe financial crisis, and both Transylvania and Augusta were in a very bad way. One of the stipulations of the committee's report was that the Church should not be responsible for any of Transylvania's debts. Augusta was suffering greatly for the want of adequate funds, and the controversy over slavery was becoming so acute that its patronage was seriously affected. This offer from Transylvania seemed a happy

solution of the education problem of Kentucky Methodism. At the next session of the same Conference, the contract had been made, and what actually happened was that the Kentucky Methodists adopted Transylvania. The Conference pledged its support and requested that Dr. Bascom of Augusta be made Acting President of Transylvania. At the same time, at least three other Augusta faculty members were elected to the faculty of Transylvania. No formal withdrawal from Augusta had yet been made, but this action of the Kentucky Conference was understood as a virtual abandonment of that institution. The Ohio Conference, though attendance from that state had fallen off, had not yet abandoned the College at Augusta, and in its following session passed resolutions censuring the Kentucky Conference for its action. The following statement of Dr. A. H. Redford sets forth the matter in clear light:¹⁷

For many years the Augusta College was a brilliant success. Its halls were crowded with young men destined to occupy a commanding eminence in the higher circles of life. Some of the finest intellects of the age presided over its fortunes, and many of the brightest lights of the medical profession, at the bar, and in the pulpit, claimed Augusta College as their Alma Mater. Circumstances, for which the Kentucky Conference was not responsible broke the power of this once popular institution. The agitations of the questions of slavery and abolition exerted an influence for harm upon its fortunes that no faculty, however learned could counteract. The Ohio Conference withdrew its patronage, because of its location in a slave holding state, while the South, from whence a large portion of its support had been received, declined to send her sons so near the border, or to have them educated in the same school with young men who held views and so openly advocated them, adverse to an institution that was peculiarly southern. Before the proposition made by the Trustees of Transylvania University, the location of the College at Augusta was the subject of such comment in Methodist circles throughout the state, and the opinion was commonly expressed that a removal to some more eligible point was requisite, if the Church desired to maintain an institution of learning of high grade. The proposition, therefore, to

turn over Transylvania University to the Conference was not deemed otherwise than opportune for the Church.

Transylvania had been anything but a success up to this time, yet it was well located, and with proper management, and with adequate resources it gave promise to great things. It had been a disappointment in every case. The offer of Transylvania to the Methodists had been virtually accepted when made in 1841, but the terms of the agreement were not yet ratified by all parties concerned. When the Conference met in 1844, the division of the Church was so probable, and as the University was in Southern territory and must draw its support mainly from that section, the matter was not submitted to the General Conference, but was reserved to be presented to the first Conference of the new M. E. Church South in 1846, where the offer was again made and then accepted.

Under Dr. Hascom's administration, Transylvania flourished for a while, but internal dissensions, denominational jealousies, and the failure of the other Conferences to give the necessary support, completed its abandonment in 1848. The Kentucky Legislature of the year 1849 revoked the charter of Augusta College as of February 26, 1849.

During these years after 1841 when the Kentucky support had been withdrawn from Augusta, Dr. Tomlinson had remained at the helm of the Augusta School under the sponsorship of the Ohio Conference. At their annual gathering in 1848, Tomlinson was reappointed as head of the College. By now leaders of the Ohio group found difficulty in mustering enthusiasm for a school located south of the Ohio River, and finally the vexing question of slavery became involved to the extent that the combination of these causes brought about the doom of the Augusta College, as far as the Methodists were concerned.

Ohio University at Athens, Ohio had already graduated and had on its faculty strong Methodist figures: there developed, indeed at one time a sentiment of 'capturing' it for Methodist purposes. But it showed definite Presbyterian trends, and, therefore, could hardly be the center of the coming Methodist renaissance. A new school was the Ohio answer and a committee of

that Conference, urged on by Dr. Edward Thomson, head of Norwalk Academy, decided upon Delaware, Ohio as the site for a Methodist College. A short time later on March 7, 1842, Ohio Wesleyan University was chartered by the Legislature of the state of Ohio. Alumni, faculty and some students from Augusta transferred to Delaware along with much of the endowment that the Ohio people could legally obtain.¹⁸

NOTED ALUMNI AND PROMINENCE OF FACULTY

Augusta and Norwalk were each to decline, and Ohio University was to pass on its (Methodist) heritage to the new college at Delaware. From the Augusta field, the 'Delaware movement' was to inherit three important men: Solomon Howard, an Augusta alumnus, who first served in the academy department then as College Professor of Mathematics; Herman M. Johnson, Augusta professor who was to be Ohio Wesleyan's first Professor of Ancient Languages; and Joseph M. Trimble, Ohio alumnus and an Augusta professor, who became a founder of Ohio Wesleyan, a trustee, and, later, President of the Board of Trustees. In this remarkable man were united in a peculiar way the bonds of all three schools. Howard, himself had a similar triangular connection: Augusta student, Ohio Wesleyan Professor, and years later, Ohio University President. Augusta College had now divided her interests between Transylvania and Wesleyan both of which exist and operate successfully today.

Other contributions to successful enterprises that came through this small Methodist college located in the then "Far West" find Dr. Ruter, the first president of Allegheny College.¹⁹ Dickinson College upon coming under the jurisdiction of the Methodist Church chose John P. Durbin as its president. These, in addition to the others already named, mark the unusual positions gained by former faculty members of Augusta. Moreover, the contributions did not come alone through the faculty members. Through its students also educational service was extended to wide areas of the nation. One of the former students, Dr. Randolph S. Foster, was the first president of Northwestern

University. Later while pastor at St. Paul's Church, New York City, Dr. Foster was constructively associated with Dr. McClintock in establishing Drew Theological Seminary. His contribution was recognized when he was elected second president of Drew upon the death of Dr. McClintock. During Dr. Foster's presidency, an Augusta graduate, Dr. John M. Miley joined the faculty of the Seminary as Professor of Systematic Theology. John G. Fee, another student from Augusta founded the now well known Berea College in Kentucky.

CHAPTER V

AUGUSTA MALE AND FEMALE COLLEGE (1844 - 1887)

After litigations with the Methodist Episcopal Conference, the Bracken Academy trustees again gained control of the college property. No actual record can be found for the school year 1850, but in 1851 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Orr moved to Augusta from Covington, Kentucky and established the Augusta Female College in the old Augusta College buildings. In addition to Mr. Orr and his wife were two faculty members from Virginia, Miss Elizabeth McCracken and Miss Jane Silverton. The school under the direction of this faculty operated for the next four years. In 1854 the first of a series of fires seriously damaged the main building of the school. Mr. Orr supervised the rebuilding of the school and continued to operate same until his death in 1856. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Orr brought from Jefferson College, Pennsylvania, Professor A. C. Armstrong to be the president of the Augusta Female College. While in this capacity, Mr. Armstrong was elected as a member of the Kentucky Legislature. and in 1872, he was made chairman of the Kentucky Education Committee. While in this office he was instrumental in formulation and having passed the law by which each district would be taxed to support the schools of the district. This in time inspired a greater interest in public schools in Kentucky.

When Professor Armstrong resigned as president of the College, the Board of Trustees engaged the services of B. T. Blewett, A.M. to conduct their school. In 1863 the name of the institution was changed to the Augusta Male and Female College. The enrollment of the school reached 182 pupils during this period of co-education, this being considerably more pupils than were enrolled at any time in the Female College. Blewett firmly believed that the male and female feature was the ideal situation. This trend in mixed schools was the policy of leading educators throughout the land at this period. Separate schools for girls and boys continued to exist at the preparatory level but most of the institutions of higher learning had learned, by experience, the fact that the

mixing of the sexes insured added enrollment. At that time of strong family ties, it was often the case of a brother and sister desiring to attend the same school.

In 1863 the Board of Trustees petitioned T. F. Marshall, State Senator, and F. L. Cleveland, Representative, to procure an Amendment¹ to the charter of Bracken Academy by which the institution should be invested with power to graduate and confer degrees and diplomas upon students, male and female who should complete their education and comply with the prescribed course of study in the institution, when so recommended by the teachers of said institution.

The Board now held the school under no particular religious denomination. No sectarian views were pressed upon the students, though a strong religious influence was brought to bear stressing the formation of character. An advertisement published announcing the school for the year 1863 stated that the discipline would be firm and prompt: and no indolent, incorrigible student could retain his connection with the institution. Special attention was given to the habits of the students and every suitable means would be employed for the formation of a high type of character.

CURRICULUM, TUITION AND FACULTY

Boarding was available at the cost of \$55 per session of twenty weeks. The boarders were required to furnish their own towels, lights and washing. During this period the tuition charges were as follows: Elementary Branches, per session \$10; Common English Branches, \$15; Higher English Branches, Mathematics, the Sciences, and the Classics, \$20; Use of piano \$4; Tuition in Piano Music \$20; Tuition in Ornamental Branches \$8. All tuition was required in advance and no deduction was made in case of late entry. It was stressed to parents and guardians the importance that² "those connecting themselves with the institution, do so on the first day of the session, for the admittance of students to classes that have advanced, is ordinarily, a serious embarrassment, and to a well organized school the rigid, regular and prompt attendance of students, punctual to the very minute, during the session was highly important".

Faculty in 1866

B. T. Blewett A.M., President (Ancient Languages, Mental Philosophy)
Lucian Hall (Mathematics)
Miss Carrie G. Hubbard (Music and Ornamental Branches)
Miss Robert Hall (Astronomy, Botany, English Literature)
Miss Hattie N. White (Principal of Preparatory Department)

A description of the school at this time can be gained from a newspaper clipping written by a commencement visitor who is thought to be a parent of one of the boarding students:

We were very greatly impressed with the neatness and even elegance of the beautiful campus kept with the care and taste of private property. Under the direction of the Board of Trustees together with the laborious efforts and the cultivated tastes of the principal the buildings have been greatly improved and very special provision has been made for the comfort of the students. The superior discipline of the institution is exhibited in the neatness of the furniture, the absence of scrolls, knifecuts and etc. We are satisfied with our acquaintance with Professor Blewett and his accomplished wife that the parents and guardians cannot do better than place their children and wards under their watchful care. We believe that leading educators are agreed that mixed schools are the best, it has been so demonstrated in this institution.

The college is now in a flourishing condition, one hundred and twenty students having been enrolled the past year. The examinations began on Saturday June 6 and closed on the Thursday following. The examinations evidenced a thorough and rigid course of instruction. In our judgment the young ladies were by no means behind the young gentlemen in thorough scholarship.

On Monday evening, Thomas M. Green, Esq., of the Maysville Eagle addressed the Literary Society of the College. The speech was really worthy of the subject, the man, and the occasion. Mr. Green decidedly ranks among the first men of the West as a scholar and a thinker.

The exhibition of the classes of the Preparatory department on Tuesday evening evidenced great skill on the part of the teachers of that department as well as the proficiency of the pupils. On Wednesday evening the classes in music were

examined. A large number of pupils performed and they showed that they had been well drilled. We were particularly impressed with the performance of the little girls. Very great cultural advantages are offered by the department of music. In the department of Oil Painting and Drawing Augusta presents as great advantages as can be obtained elsewhere in institutions of similar grade. The elegance of the specimens impressed me greatly. The spacious walls of the College Chapel and the corridors were literally filled with pictures indicating such artistic taste.

The people of Augusta are justly proud of this school, and congratulate themselves on being able to make further arrangements with the same Principal for several years to come.³

Professor Blewett continued to operate the school from year to year until 1866, when, because of his success, he was offered a five year contract by the Board of Trustees. At the same meeting of the Board each Trustee subscribed \$250 to be a permanent investment in the school plant to be used in repairing the buildings. In return for same each man was to receive \$25 each in way of tuition for each and every year that a school was taught in said Academy. Blewett accepted the proposition and in addition was to pay annually to the Board \$100 in rent.

POLICIES DOMINATED BY TRUSTEES

The Trustees were not so well satisfied with Blewett after making the five year contract with him, and in only a short while said contract was declared void and Blewett was ordered to surrender the possession of the Academy property.⁴ The clerk of the Board notified Professor Blewett that he must vacate the property on or before the thirteenth day of August, 1868. The resolution of the Trustees in this matter stated that the courses as offered by B. T. Blewett as President of Augusta Male and Female College for the past six months had not met the approval of the Board. At the same meeting the Trustees on motion of F. W. S. McKibben ordered that the teachers shall exclude any pupil from school

because of their taking lessons in music or the Ornamental Branches from persons other than regular faculty members. The unity of the Board was disrupted with the order to terminate the contract of Blewett, and, because of the action, there was at least one resignation from the Board of Trustees. This divided interest in the governing body is evidenced in the following stipulations:⁵

Be it officially recorded in the minutes of this Board of Trustees:

(1) The said Trustees are willing to sell the property to any interest buyer for \$16,500.

(2) It has been reported that the Baptists of the Bracken section are desirous of locating a first class school within the bounds of their section and Augusta seems most available. (b) If the said Baptists are interested the local Trustees have a right to withdraw proposition to sell at any time before September 20.

(3) Any proposition if accepted shall not be binding unless the Legislature of Kentucky approves and authorizes the same.

The final settlement with Blewett was accepted May 22, 1871. At this time another committee was named with power to confer with anyone desiring to purchase the property, and at the same time to advertise for a competent teacher to take charge of the College and teach therein such a school as the Board may desire, but said school must operate under the direction and supervision of this Board.⁶ The committee needed was composed of J. W. Armstrong, V. Weldon and T. F. Marshall.⁷

At the next meeting of the Board, the committee reported that they had engaged the services of Garland M. Yancey and Lucien Hall as superintendent and teachers. The contract to begin with the opening of school August 1, 1871. Yancy and Hall were to keep the buildings in good repair and pay a yearly rent to the Board of \$2000. This contract was renewed for year, 1872 - 1873. At the end of this year, Lucien Hall, for some reason, withdrew from the partnership and G. M. Yancey continued alone as the renter of the property. At the

expiration of the Yancey lease in August 1874, the Board was again called into session to make some disposal of the college property.

Professor R. C. Mitchell⁸ was granted a lease on the property and the permission to operate a school for the term of five years, with the understanding that the lease would not be binding should the Board find a buyer in that time. Mitchell agreed to a yearly rent of \$250 to be used to cover the cost of insurance and repairs. At the beginning of his contract, Mitchell was given permission to build a stable on the college lot with the cost of same not to exceed \$150. The success of this era of the school is evidenced by this resolution of the Board in 1876.⁹

Resolved that Professor R. C. Mitchell has as President of Augusta College for the two years just ended demonstrated a faithfulness, fitness, and eminence of ability entirely acceptable to this Board, and we believe to his patrons and our whole people.

We have never heard of the utterance of a complaint from any as to his management, and we believe him one of the best teachers, if not the very best that has ever filled the position of President of our old institution. With confidence and pleasure we recommend him and his school to the public as equal to any in the West. A place where persons may send their daughters and boys with an absolute reliance that they will find a home and receive the care and government which parents in their great anxiety for their children desire.

A financial report in 1877 stated that R. C. Mitchell had again advanced funds to pay insurance, and that he was repaid same plus the usual eight per cent interest.¹⁰

In 1879, propositions were placed before the Trustees by G. C. Overstreet and Professor Blaysdell for the Methodist Conference South. While such propositions were supposedly under consideration, Reverend Daniel Stevenson leased the plant for a period of five years to operate a school. The Board again

reserved the right to waive the lease in the event of a possible sale or a chance to again be taken over by the Methodist Church.

Daniel Stevenson, a Methodist preacher, was one of the outstanding educators in his time. He had been graduated from Transylvania under the presidency of Dr. Henry C. Bascom in 1853. He was elected as the first full time Superintendent of Public Instruction in Kentucky on the same ticket that elected Abraham Lincoln to the Presidency of United States in 1864.¹¹ While a member of the Kentucky Conference, Stevenson became one of the founders of Kentucky Wesleyan College in 1860. In 1860, Stevenson had withdrawn with seventeen others from the Methodist Episcopal Church South and united with the Kentucky Conference affiliated with the northern church because his own group had refused to adopt a report holding that the war settled the issue of slavery, and that the Church, like the state, should be united. Dr. Stevenson became the leader and exponent of education in the Kentucky Conference.

At the end of the first year of operation of the college under Dr. Stevenson, the financial report filed by Stevenson and accepted by the Trustees showed that the amount due to the Trustees was \$12.13. At the end of the second year after Stevenson had paid for the repairs to the buildings and upkeep of the grounds and deducted the rent, the balance due the Trustees was \$6.88.¹² These reports are certainly good evidence of the fact that the Trustees were interested in education and desirous of keeping a school in operation.

On July 1, 1882, Dr. Stevenson presented himself to the Board as a member of a committee appointed by the Methodist Conference to inquire the terms upon which the Trustees would again place the school under the control the M. E. Conference.¹³ A rather lengthy proposal was adopted by the Board and presented to the Conference at Louisville, September 25, 1882. The Conference accepted the proposition in a communication signed by J. G. Bruce, President, Board of Education of M.E. Conference. This contract remained in effect until Dr. Stevenson resigned as President of the College in 1887. At this time, by the request of the Academy Trustees, the contract was willingly terminated by the

Conference in order that the people of Augusta might establish a Graded Free School. Dr. Stevenson then went to Barbourville, Kentucky to investigate Union College, an institution that had been started by a group of citizens and now about to be sold for debt. Dr. Stevenson bid it in for \$4,000, and became the first president of a school which has so grown in material value that the original investment has increased two thousand fold. Union College continues to exist and flourish as a leading educational influence for the youth of Southeastern Kentucky.¹⁵

GROWING DEMAND FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL

With the departure of Dr. Stevenson from Augusta went the last successful efforts to conduct a private school. From 1887 on, the Academy Trustees held on as well as they possibly could, but the opposition from the Free School adherents was soon to predominate in the field of education as far as Augusta was concerned. It is necessary to state that the "Private School" followers, and especially the Bracken Academy Trustees, held out to the very last to defend their ideas, and, more important yet, the school property.

CHAPTER VI

AUGUSTA GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT (1887 -)

The Articles of Agreement between the Bracken Academy Board of Trustees and the Trustees of the Free School of the Augusta District were made and accepted July 8, 1887.¹ L. S. Bradford and J. P. Reese acted for the Academy Board and C. C. Coburn, James H. Purnell and Alex Reese for the Free School. Early in 1888, an attempt was made to reopen a private school, but this failed to materialize. Later a joint meeting was held by the two Boards and Professor Isaah Trufant was employed as a principal to operate the free school. At the same time, the professor, with the sanction of the Trustees, appointed five teachers to assist Trufant to operate a school. This school opened in the fall of 1889. This harmony between the two Boards was soon to end. On May 17, 1890 the Bracken Academy Trustees met in regular session, and in addition to billing the Free School for the rent then due, they asked for possession of the property at the termination of the lease, which was to expire in a few months. At the same time, the officers of the Free School had posted election notices in the school buildings.² The Kentucky law stated that such election notices must be posted on the premises of the property of the new termed Public School. The Academy Trustees held this as illegal and a direct violation of their property rights as landlords of the College property.³ The Legislature of Kentucky had passed an Act on February 27, 1890 repealing the Act of 1798 as far as it applied to Bracken Academy, and that the funds, buildings and all personal property, belonging to and held by the Trustees of Bracken Academy, be invested in the Trustees of the Common School District #2 in Bracken County Kentucky to be held and used by them for Common School purposes.

STRUGGLE BETWEEN SCHOOL BOARDS

For the next several years, many communications passed back and forth between the two groups of Trustees.⁴ Legal advice was sought and procured by the respective Boards and finally on April 10, 1894 the Kentucky Court of Appeals in an opinion delivered by Judge Pyror ruled the Act of May 1890 clearly unconstitutional. Despite this litigation, the Public School had been operating in the College building and had been in session there since the opening in 1887. The Augusta Free School District #2 was operating under the jurisdiction of a Board of Trustees elected by the voting citizens of the roughly established district. The chairman of the Board at this time was P. B. Powers and G. H. McKibben was the secretary. At the same period, the Academy Trustees were represented at most meetings by a committee consisting of J. P. Reese, W. B. Allen, L. P. Knoedler and John S. Orr. The Free School party was acting under the Act of the Kentucky Legislature granting them the property of the old College. The Academy Trustees were being supported by a writ of the Bracken Circuit Court holding that the "Free School" people were only tenants of the property and the Academy folk were still the legitimate landlords.

FACULTY AND SALARIES

In 1899, Professor E. A. Scott⁵ was elected superintendent for one school year. He, assisted by one high school teacher and four elementary teachers under the close supervision of the Trustees, were to operate the school for the regular session. The salary of the superintendent was to be \$86 a month, principal and high school teacher \$45, the middle and upper grade teachers \$30 and the primary teacher \$35. At this time there were twelve applicants for the position of janitor. The salary of the janitor was fixed at \$20 a month for eight months. The contract for the janitor was called for winding the clock and caring for the buildings and grounds while school was not in session without additional compensation. In the same year the coal bid for the school was let to George Bengal to furnish all that was needed of same at eight cents per bushel. The total

tax levy for this same period was ample at seventy-five cents on each \$100 valuation.

For the school year 1900 - 1901, J. R. Sterrett⁶ was elected as the superintendent from a group of six applicants. The salary remained at \$85 a month. At the same meeting the rest of the staff was chosen and their salaries fixed as follows:

J. R. Sterrett	\$85.00
Rex Wells	\$50.00
F. L. Peddicord	\$45.00
Ella Clark	\$35.00
Ada Moneyhon	\$35.00
Nannie McKibben	\$30.00
Louella Mingua	\$30.00
John Insko	\$30.60 (janitor)

The total receipts for this school year mounted to \$3,995.41. In addition to the property tax of seventy-five cents, a railroad franchise of 3.65 miles furnished \$519.13 and each school patron was charged \$1.00. The school census for the year totaled 575. The school flourished under the leadership of Professor Sterrett until he resigned in 1909 to accept a better paying position. One of his last acts was the raising of \$40 to equip a gymnasium room to be used on school days from 4:00 - 5:00 P.M. and on Saturdays from 8:30 to 10:30 A.M.

Superintendent T. Sanford Williams⁷ was elected to succeed the popular Sterrett on June 18, 1909 for a term of four years. At this time the school offered two separate courses of preparation, and upon the insistence of Superintendent Williams, the Board of Education adopted a regulation that made a difference in the diplomas offered for the completion of the Classical and the English courses. Professor Williams seemed to operate successfully despite the fact that the tax levy was lowered to sixty cents with only twenty-five cents of same to be used to defray the expense of a nine month school term and the remaining thirty-five cents to pay off a bonded indebtedness and interest. A copy of the proceedings in 1909 indicates that action was taken by the Board of Education at the suggestion of the Superintendent that, "no pupil using a Key to any of his studies

will be promoted in said study and shall not be allowed to graduate from this school." In 1912, during the last year of the superintendency of Mr. Williams, the following items appear in the school records:⁸

1. All non-resident tuition must be collected monthly and one month in advance.
2. The Superintendent is directed to purchase textbooks for any worthy indigent pupils.
3. The bill for electricity for the month in the amount allowed \$1.36.

Even though the salary for the Superintendent had been raised to \$100 a month, a little difficulty was encountered when the accepted candidate, T. E. Utterach, returned an unsigned contract. The place was then offered to Mr. John Ryan, of Murray, Kentucky. Ryan accepted in June of 1913 but resigned a month later, before school had opened.⁹ Mr. A. J. Jolley was then elected, and he accepted the position at the salary of \$1,200 for twelve months. With this raise in the salary of the superintendent, it is interesting to note some of the other receipts and expenditures of this period. The anticipated revenue for a school year was approximately \$7,000. Taking the year 1913 as an example, the tax levy was sixty-five cents, with thirty-five cents of same for the general operating expenses of a nine month term. The teacher salaries ranged from \$35 in the grades to \$75 in the high school. The price of coal had risen to 9 ³/₄ cents a bushel, laborers demanded twenty-five cents an hour, and good heavy brooms sold at \$2.00 a dozen.¹⁰

The teachers did not hold membership in any active educational association at this time but they were allowed one day holiday from the classroom to visit and observe in some other school. The teachers all took advantage of this opportunity and visited in the schools of Cincinnati, Ohio or Lexington, Kentucky.

EARLY PUBLIC RELATIONS

In the spring of 1916, the school board purchased sixty copies of the High School Annual at forty cents a copy.¹¹ These were to be used for advertising

purposes by Mr. James Norris, a graduate of the Augusta High School, was at that time employed as a teacher. His extra compensation for this month of promotion work was \$90. In the fall of 1916, Mr. Norris was elected as superintendent in which position he served until the spring of 1918 when he entered the United States Marine Corps to serve his country during World War I. Mr. Norris, a native of Augusta, did not return to school work after the war, but on two occasions has delivered the address to the graduates at the annual commencement exercises.

During the first year that Mr. Norris was superintendent, a bulletin was published to be used for the information of the patrons of the school.¹² This publication urged the cooperation between parents and teachers and especially insisted that the pupils be directed to do their homework. The time necessary for home study would depend on the grade of the pupil beginning with the third grade where one hour of study would be necessary. This time would increase with the grade and in high school they would require at least three hours of home preparation. The same bulletin insisted that all social affairs be scheduled on Friday or Saturday evenings. At this time the school required twenty-one credits for graduation to be divided as follows:

Algebra	1 ½	Physics	1
Geometry	1 ½	Phy. Geography	½
Arithmetic	½	Manual Training	½
English	4	Domestic Science	½
History	2	Physiology	½
German	2	Civics	½
Latin	4	Zoology	½
Chemistry	1	Botany	½

The school year was divided into three semesters of three months each. The nine monthly grades plus the three examinations divided by twelve would produce the final grade. To be promoted the pupils were required to have an average grade of eighty per cent for all subjects and not fall below seventy per

cent in any one branch. An examination exemption system excused from the third period examination any pupil making an average of ninety per cent in any one subject. The school tuition for pupils at this time was, grades one through four \$10, grades five through eight \$15 and \$20 for all high school grades.

Ernest W. Gibson succeeded Professor Norris and was in charge of the Augusta school until 1922. During this regime a Mr. McFarland was employed as assistant to Gibson with the title of Principal. Little is available as authentic information during this time. The records may have been lost in one of the many floods that have been so harmful to the community.

The salary¹³ for the superintendent had now been raised to \$1,800 a year, and this was stipulated in the contract that was offered to P. J. Arnold who accepted the position in 1922. From time to time a building program had been suggested but had been turned down when put to a vote of the taxpayers. Now, after a few years with a decided increase in school enrollment, the need for a voted bond issue was again placed before the citizens of Augusta. On February 21, 1923, at a duly appointed election, 422 votes were cast in favor of the bonds and only eighteen votes against the proposition. The outstanding bonded indebtedness at the time of the voting was \$2,000. The assessed valuation of the taxable property in the district for the year 1922 was \$1,364,222.23.¹⁴ According to the law, and as a result of the election, the sum of \$24,000 in bonds was offered for sale. The bonds dated July 1, 1924 to bear interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, payable semi-annually. The \$500 bonds to become due and payable over a period of thirty years. The school levy for the year 1924 was fixed as follows: for general school purposes 83 ½ cents, for retiring old bonds five cents and sinking fund 11 ½ cents for payment of interest and retiring of new bonds as same came due.

The first active Parent-Teacher Association was organized in 1923, and soon appeared after in a body before the school board requesting permission to make some needed repairs and additions to the school plant. The board granted their requests and the improvements were made with the new organization

bearing the entire expense. Another progressive step inaugurated by the P.T.A. was a medical examination of all elementary pupils. The follow-up and corrections of defects found was well carried through by the teachers and parents. The physical development of the pupils became one of the foremost interests of the organization and through its efforts the recreation program of the school was greatly expanded. The school had no gymnasium at the time and the indoor athletic contests were held in Russell Hall a privately owned building in town. The dire need of a gymnasium was brought to the attention of the people, and in only a few years, a modern building was constructed as part of the school plant to take care of this need.¹⁵

On June 1, 1925 Professor R. H. Shipp was elected as superintendent of the Augusta Graded School at a salary of \$175 per calendar month. Aubrey Riddle signed a contract at \$140 a month to serve as principal. The elementary teachers at this period received from \$60 to \$80 and the teachers in high school scaled up to \$100 per month. Mr. Riddle resigned in March of 1926 and was followed as principal by Mr. C. A. Long, who finished the year as principal and was successful enough to be chosen as superintendent when Professor Shipp was not a candidate for reelection. Mr. Long signed for \$2,100 the highest salary paid any superintendent up to this time.

A BUILDING PROGRAM

On May 3, 1926, a Building Committee for the gymnasium was approved by the Board of Education and met with them to discuss the proposed building. The sum of \$20,000 was agreed upon as the maximum capital outlay for the structure, the Board would deed the site to the Building Association and pay \$6,000 at once and \$4,000 after January 1, 1927. To defray this additional expenditure the tax rate was changed to \$1.10 on the \$100 valuation, 83 ½ cents for the general operation costs and 26 ½ cents to be placed on time deposit to be used solely as a sinking fund to be used to pay the interest as it became due and to retire the bonds on scheduled time.

The work on the gymnasium progressed rapidly, and the building was dedicated with appropriate ceremony on December 15, 1926. The completion of a fine gymnasium, with a seating capacity of 2,500, made the community more interested in basketball and in August 1927 Mr. C. E. Word was hired as principal and coach at a salary of \$190 a month. At the same meeting Professor Neal Ranson was interviewed as a candidate for the superintendency. He was elected at a beginning salary of \$2,200, to be raised after the first year to \$2,250 and then to \$2,400 providing his services proved satisfactory to the school authorities. Ranson continued as head of the school through a very satisfactory term of ten years. The economic condition took a decided turn downward during Ranson's administration and it reached the teachers in 1933 when all salaries were reduced fifteen per cent.

In the spring of 1936 when it became time to elect teachers, the superintendent Ranson and the principal Word were elected with the understanding that they both resign at the end of the term. In early September 1936 Mr. Word was reappointed coach of basketball. The action was sponsored by the Athletic Committee made up of three members of the school board and three citizens of the town of Augusta. Shortly after this, C. E. Word became the unanimous choice for superintendent to resign after a ten year period as administrative head of the school.

The calendar year of 1937 began with the most severe flood in the history of much flooded Augusta.¹⁶ The community that sees the Ohio River out of its banks frequently now witnessed the muddy water at a record height. Only one street in the town was above water. The recently completed gymnasium had eight feet of water on the main floor. Necessarily some school time was lost as a result of the high water that had moved so many people from their homes. In order to make the number of days as required by Kentucky law, the school term was extended to June the first and an extra thirty minute period was added to each day making school now in session six and one half hours a day.

Mr. Word¹⁷ was requested to select a principal at the beginning salary of \$125. It was about time for the annual meeting of the Kentucky Educational Association and Mr. Word, while attending that meeting, secured the services of W. A. Richards to act as principal and teach in the commercial department. When engaged, Richards was promised a substantial increase in salary for a second year if both parties were satisfied. Administrative duties soon required that the coaching be taken over by an extra man, and Superintendent Word added this assignment to Mr. Mike Sayers, then teaching part time and serving as attendance officer. Sayers was a native of Augusta and after a very successful basketball season a modern electric scoreboard was installed in the gymnasium. The funds to purchase same were largely raised by popular subscription in the community.

Garrett R. Harrod,¹⁸ the next superintendent, was elected in May 1941 for a term of four years. He came to Augusta from Brooksville, Kentucky where he had served as principal of the Bracken County High School. This is the only other high school in the county of which Augusta is a part. The entire county is consolidated into a single system excepting the small independent district of Augusta. The county has four elementary and junior high schools and one colored elementary school in addition to the County High School in Brooksville, the county seat.

CHANGE OF SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

One of the first changes introduced by Mr. Harrod was to change the organization of the Augusta school to a six-six basis with the upper six grades as an undivided Junior-Senior High School. This change in policy was accepted and placed in operation with the beginning of the 1941 - 1942 school year. Another feature introduced at this time was a means of transportation to favor those patrons in the remote sections of the district. A bus was purchased that transported approximately thirty pupils a day. This included a number of

elementary pupils who attend the parochial school. Mr. Harrod was also instrumental in having adopted a single salary schedule for the teachers. This schedule placed the same basal pay of \$75 a month for all teachers regardless of grade taught. Increments of \$2.00 per month for each year of experience up to five years, plus twenty cents per hour of training up to 160 hours. Since that time an additional increment of fifty cents per hour for graduate hours has been added and the basal has now been increased to \$140.

In January of 1944¹⁹, with two more years on his contract, Mr. Harrod asked to be released from his remaining time to accept a teaching position in Wittenburg College in Ohio where the United States government was maintaining a training center for Navy personnel. The Augusta Board of Education released Mr. Harrod and employed in his place Mr. W. H. Hanson of Millersburg, Kentucky to fill out the unexpired time on the Harrod contract. Mr. Hanson a native of Maryland and a graduate of St. Johns College had been employed in the Millersburg Military Institute for the period 1923 - 1944. Mr. Hanson is now the superintendent under contract until June 30, 1951.

In 1944, the patrons of the Locust Grove sub-district, of the county met with the Augusta Board and petitioned it to annex their district with the Augusta Independent district. This was acceptable to the Augusta Board but was turned down by the Bracken County system. The pupils residing in the district in question are now being transported by the county to the Augusta school. The county pays tuition for these pupils at the rate of \$22.50 per semester for pupils of elementary grade (grades 1 - 6), and \$35.00 per semester for those in the upper six grades (grades 7 - 12). In 1945, the tax levy was increased to \$1.35 and in 1948 it was again raised to the maximum allowed by the Commonwealth, \$1.50. In addition to the \$1.50 for general operation purposes, another 11 ½ cents is now charged for the Sinking Fund to be used only for the retirement of bonds and the interest on same. These present bonds will all be paid off in the next few years.

For a number of years the education of Negro children has proved quite a problem for the Augusta district.²⁰ This is due to the small number of the

colored people residing in or near Augusta. At the present time, 1950, an eight grade elementary school is being conducted for the vary small number or pupils eligible for enrollment. The Negro students of high school standing are being transported by public carrier to Maysville, Kentucky, a distance of twenty miles. The tuition and transportation for same is paid by the Augusta Board of Education. In Maysville these pupils attend the John G. Fee School an accredited secondary institution.

CHAPTER VII

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report has been to show the development of the institutions for education in Augusta, Kentucky. The town of Augusta is located on the Ohio River in Bracken County in the north central part of Kentucky. The town was officially founded and chartered in 1797. Only two years later in 1799 there was established in the limits of this town, Bracken Academy. This school was chartered by the state of Kentucky and given a land grant of 6,000 acres in an effort to encourage education in the West. The interest, encouragement and financial assistance of Captain Philip Buckner was largely responsible for the beginning and the continued success of this academy. The financial success of this academy combined with the cultural interests of the citizens of the town of Augusta were largely responsible for the town being selected as the site for Augusta College. Started in 1822 this was the first Methodist School located west of the Alleghany Mountains. The Kentucky and Ohio Conferences of the Methodist Church united their efforts in sponsoring this college which was chartered with authority to give the usual degrees, this being at that time the only Methodist college in the world vested with such power. This remained a famous institution until 1844 when the slavery question necessitated the withdrawal of the support of the church. During its existence this college was of great service to the entire West. In its halls were educated many young men who became prominent not only in the ministry but in various other professions. The impulse which it gave to the cause of education led, directly or indirectly, to the establishment of other institutions of higher learning that are still enjoying prosperity. Faculty members and graduates extended the influence of Augusta to wide areas of the nation.

In the latter years of its short but influential career, the college became the center of the anti-slavery movement in Kentucky. The intensity of this feeling concerning slavery was one of the factors that prompted the Kentucky Legislature to repeal the charter of Augusta College in 1844. John G. Fee, a

student at this time, imbued with its spirit later founded Berea College, an institution in Kentucky, the early life of which was intimately associated with the education of 'freed men' in Kentucky. To the Methodist movement three men stand out as great contributions of the college, Bishop R. S. Foster, Dr. John Miley and Professor W. G. Williams. In 1829, Dr. Joseph Tomlinson a member of the faculty entertained at his home in the school his nephew, the well known song writer, Stephen Collins Foster. It is generally accepted that while visiting here on the river Foster wrote some of his famous songs.

The period between 1845 and 1877 was filled with much controversy as the Trustees were operating a school on a rental basis. The renters were usually ministers or laymen of the Methodist Church. The turnover was rapid and the school changed names several times. Before this time, the school had catered to young men only. The co-educational movement became popular and perhaps the greatest success during this period was by the Augusta Male and Female College under the direction of Professor Blewett. One thing that was evident throughout this entire period was the complete domination of the school by the original Board of Trustees.

When the public or free school idea permeated this locality, it was a popular Act of the Kentucky Legislature that in 1887 turned the property over to the Augusta Graded School District to provide education for pupils appointed by the magistrates. With the consolidation of the other schools in the county, Augusta was created as an Independent District and operates as such today. A modern school plant now houses a twelve grade school organized on the six-six basis. This school meets the requirements of the State Board of Education in Kentucky. This school plant stands on the plot of ground originally set aside for such purposes in the early history of the town. More than one hundred and fifty years have passed since the Bracken Academy was chartered on this plot of ground.

The historical method of investigation was used as the procedure for this study. Early Kentucky histories, Methodist Church annals, state and county

records, college catalogues, published minutes and other recorded proceedings of the schools have supplied most of the information on this subject. The early records of the schools that were founded by members of the Augusta faculty and graduates give due credit to the influence of Augusta in their respective institutions. This is especially true of Ohio Wesleyan University. The library staff of this school has compiled a great amount of pertinent information concerning Augusta College.

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APPENDIX A

Cynthiana Advertiser
Cynthiana, Kentucky
October 15, 1825

THE PROSPECTUS

of a new weekly publication

The Augusta Chronicle

This journal is to be edited by the President and Professors of Augusta College in Kentucky and is to be under the especial patronage of the Methodist Episcopal Conferences in this state, and in Ohio. Its objects are of the highest importance, the interests of literature, science, politicks, morals and religion. Its income is destined to the support of the rising seminary, whose instructors are to be the editors, and a majority of whose trustees must belong to the Class of Christians already named.

Though the Chronicle is thus to be under our immediate direction, it is not to be confined to our interests exclusively, but is to be truly liberal in its character and course. It will be equally faithful to the principles and spirit of our religion, and to the cause of equal means of civil liberty. It will sedulously avoid and discountenance sectarianism and proscription. All denominations of Christians will be treated kindly and fairly, while we boldly oppose intolerance and denunciation. It will be our duty to point out errors, wherever we find them whether in criticism, politicks, morals, or religion; but this shall be done in a generous temper, and all honest and earnest inquiries may be sure that our notices of them will be respectful and courteous, and worthy of the claims which we hope to maintain as Christian Disciples.

We are aware of the difficulties of such an enterprise at the seat of our infant college; but all vinuable enterprises are accompanied by difficulties, and

we are willing to labour diligently in so good a cause, preparing ourselves to accomplish by degrees the great objects which are thus set before us. We look for aid from our friends in every part of the community, not only in the pecuniary support of the Chronicle, but in the contribution of all kinds of intelligence to enrich its columns. We shall not in mean time forget, that the labouring oar falls to ourselves, and that we are immediately responsible for the manner in which we collect, digest and present information.

In addition to the ordinary news and politicks of a weekly paper, we shall pay particular attention to whatever is adapted to promote a taste for letters and science as the handmaids of morals and religion. The state of our own church, and of the churches generally; the progress and temper of the several denominations of Christians; their comparative strength in numbers and discipline; their distinguishing doctrines, forms of government, and leading purposes in the republic; the condition of our college and universities, with that of our theological schools; the tendencies of our various institutions, independent or associated, transient or incorporated; notices of remarkable persons of either sex and of every age, in publick or private life, religious or worldly, the success of pious enterprises at home or abroad, among Christians or pagans, all will become in turn, the objects of our regard and the subjects of our Journal.

APPENDIX B

Copy of Eliza Foster's letter – Taken from *American Troubadour*, page 43.

Date of letter May 1833

It has been one week this day since I returned from a long journey. In the first place your father conducted me with Henrietta and Stephen aboard the *Napoleon* and placed us under the care of Captain Stone. We landed on the fourth night at eleven o'clock at Augusta, a beautiful village on the banks of the Ohio River in Kentucky, where I have two brothers living very neatly. Joseph Tomlinson (the eldest) where I stayed three weeks is president of the college and a fine amiable gentlemanly little man.

Henrietta had a fine opportunity of practicing on the piano at the house. When we left Augusta my brother paid my passage, and put me on board the *Champlain*, a daily packet which conveyed me to Cincinnati, where I remained a week at Mr. Cassilys on Broadway handsomely treated. It is scarcely necessary to tell you how beautiful that city is which I left in such great style, you would have thought it was Mrs. Webster the statesmans lady, as he was on a visit there at the same time I was. Mr. Cassily gallanted me down to the water in his new state coach where Captain Stone again received me and we went to Louisville on the *Napoleon*. Captain Ervin, partner of Cochran, was a passenger on her, he very politely waited on George Barkley and informed him of my being at the landing. He brought a hackney coach down for me and escorted me up to his house. He lives delightfully on Market Street. I made a visit of a week at his house and saw many people and left in fear and trembling lest the Cholera asphyzen should overtake us. But bless God every merciful and gracious to one least deserving of so many kind providence after spending a tedious week on the river we arrived at home in good health where I found the destroying angel yet a stranger.