6-1936

The Development of Education in Bowling Green, Kentucky

Lula Dickey Vance

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/theses

Part of the Elementary Education Commons, Higher Education Commons, Social History Commons, United States History Commons, and the Women's History Commons

Recommended Citation

http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/theses/1832

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Masters Theses & Specialist Projects by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.
THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATION IN BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

BY

LULA DICKEY VANCE

A THESIS
SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF ARTS

WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
JUNE, 1936
Approved:

Major Professor
Department of Education
Minor Professor, Economics
Graduate Committee, Chairman
## CONTENTS

### PREFACE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preface</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### CHAPTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I EARLY SCHOOLS</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warren Seminary</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern College of Kentucky</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jones School</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hines School</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Captain Robert Craddock</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pillsbury School</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fields School</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodists College</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavalette School</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lapleys Hall</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wright School</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunn School</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ringold School</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>II LATER SCHOOLS</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bentley School</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott School</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warren College</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaines School</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green River Female College</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halsell Seminary</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edgar School</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Schools</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHAPTER</td>
<td>PAGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ogden College</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DuBose School</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ragland School</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Seminary</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potter College</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic School</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III  PUBLIC SCHOOLS</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV  PRESENT DAY COLLEGES</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Southern Normal School and Business College</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Kentucky State Normal</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Kentucky State Teachers College</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowling Green Business University and College of Commerce</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V  BIBLIOGRAPHY</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PREFACE

In recent years several articles have been written concerning education in Bowling Green, Kentucky, but the writer has been unable to discover an article that has treated the development of education from the time Bowling Green was established until now. It is the motive of this study to trace the development of education from the time Bowling Green was established until the present time.

Information for this thesis has been obtained from various sources, but the greater part of it has been secured through personal interviews, unpublished manuscripts, scrapbooks, and histories.

I wish to express my appreciation and thanks to all of those who have helped in any way with their contribution. I especially desire to thank Mrs. M. A. Leiper and Miss Elisabeth Coombs of the Kentucky Library for their helpful assistance.

Dr. Lee Francis Jones I wish to thank for his helpful guidance and criticism.
CHAPTER I
EARLY SCHOOLS

Warren Seminary

The first school in Bowling Green concerning which the writer can find any record is old Warren Seminary.

On February 1, 1813, at the First Session of the Twenty-first General Assembly for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, an act was approved to establish the Seminary of Warren County. Jacob Skiles, Elijah M. Covington, Leander J. Sharpe, Samuel Barclay, and John Loving were appointed trustees. They were to have power and authority to locate, or cause to be located, the residue of the lands granted by the General Assembly heretofore, to the county of Warren, for the purpose of erecting and maintaining in the county of Warren a seminary or seminaries of learning. These lands were to be located, with not less than fifty acres in each tract, on any vacant and unappropriated lands in this commonwealth, other than the lands lying within bounds of the Tellico and Highwassee treaties. They were to be surveyed, registered, and patents obtained upon the same terms that were given to the trustees of any other Seminary.¹

¹ Acts, Commonwealth of Kentucky 1813, p. 65.
The trustees were to raise by lottery, any sum not exceeding three thousand dollars, to be applied towards procuring a site, and erecting a Seminary adjacent to the town of Bowling Green. They were bound to pay the prizes within six months from the end of the drawing of the lottery to the persons entitled to receive them. In case they failed to do this they were liable to the action of the aggrieved party. The trustees were to select a place for the drawing of the lottery and see that it was properly and fairly conducted. If the lottery was not drawn within two years after it was agreed upon and the sale of tickets had commenced, then the sale of tickets was to cease and the purchasers of tickets were to receive from the persons selling tickets all the money they had paid for tickets.2

The trustees were to have power and authority to acquire, hold and receive in their name, as trustees of the Warren Seminary, any kind of property, or any donations for the use and benefit of the institution. They had the right to sue or be sued. They were also vested with the power to grant a part of the lands for locating and controlling of the balance. They had too keep a just and true record of all of their proceedings. These records might be inspected at any time by any person interested in them.3

2 Ibid., p. 65.
3 Ibid., p. 66
Southern College of Kentucky

On February 9, 1819, at the First Session of the Twenty-seventh General Assembly for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, an act was passed to incorporate the Southern College of Kentucky. Elijah M. Covington, John W. Cooke, Samuel S. Frooking, Alexander Graham, John Loving, William M'Dowell, Benjamin H. Hall, Leander J. Sharp, Joseph H. Smith, Robert W. Lucas, Solomon P. Sharp, Cornelius Turner, Benjamin Vance, Francis Johnson, John Hynes and Samuel J. M'Dowell were appointed trustees. These trustees had full power to acquire, hold and transfer property, real and personal, make contracts, sue and be sued. The Southern College of Kentucky had to be located within one-half mile of the town of Bowling Green. All the money, funds and estate were vested in the trustees. The trustees had the power to appoint a president and professors and such other officers as they thought necessary; and to make, allow and pay to the president, professor and other officers such reasonable compensation for their services as the trustees thought right and proper. The trustees had full right and authority to make by-laws, rules and regulations for the better government of the college, as they judged expedient, and the same to annul, alter or amend at pleasure:

"Provided, said by-laws, rules or regulations be not repugnant to the laws of this commonwealth, nor inconsistent with the principles laid down in this act as fundamental laws for the government of said college. And the said trustees shall have full power and authority to do and perform any
lawful matter and thing which they may deem conducive to the funds thereof.\textsuperscript{4}

The fundamental laws of the corporation were: (1) The trustees and officers before entering office were required to take the following oath: "I, \textsuperscript{4} do solemnly swear that I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, discharge the duties of \textsuperscript{4} in the Southern College of Kentucky"; (2) a majority of the trustees could make protempore appointments and transact all business, but it required two-thirds of the whole board to make permanent appointments or to remove officers; (3) no religious doctrines peculiar to any one sect of Christians could be taught any any professor; (4) if the legislature should find it expedient to adopt the college as a state institution, and endow it, the college should thereafter be subject to such laws and regulations as might be enacted for the government of the institution.\textsuperscript{5}

The first meeting of the trustees was to be held at the tavern of Benjamin Vance, in Bowling Green, on the first day of March. There was to be at least one meeting a year. As soon as the Southern College of Kentucky could raise by subscription or private donation, twenty thousand dollars, the board of directors of the Southern College of Kentucky, should contract with the trustees of the Warren Seminary, and receive from them a conveyance of all the estate, both real and per-

\textsuperscript{4} Acts, Commonwealth of Kentucky 1819, p. 738.

\textsuperscript{5} \textit{Ibid.}, p. 739.
sonal, of the Warren Seminary. This seminary on transferring its estate should be at an end; and the Southern College of Kentucky should have full power to use or sell and dispose of all the estate acquired from the Warren Seminary and apply the proceeds to the use of the Southern College. 6

This College had a desultory existence for several years. In 1859, The Methodists secured the transfer of the charter of the Southern College of Kentucky for a college they were trying to establish. 7

6 Ibid., p. 739.

Jones School

In 1833 Mr. Franklin Jones brought his bride to this city from Worcester, Massachusetts. They opened a school in the basement of the First Presbyterian Church on the corner of State and Tenth Streets. Reverend Samuel Wilson Calvert, grandfather of Miss Margaret and Josie Calvert and Mrs. Lida Calvert Obenchain, was pastor of this church. Mrs. Jones was Mary Kendal. She was a niece of Amos Kendal, a man prominent in political circles at the time. There were six children in the Jones family. One daughter, Mary Kendal, and five sons, Edward, Charles, Frank, Henry, and another who died in infancy and was buried in the family burying ground of the Calverts.

The opening of this school was a notable event in the history of education in Bowling Green. Mr. and Mrs. Jones were highly educated for that day and time and their educational methods would compare favorably with the most modern methods of today. Perhaps the course of study was not very comprehensive but it is better to know a few things thoroughly than many things superficially. Special stress was laid on spelling. It was Mr. Jones's opinion that it was useless to teach a child to spell a word unless he knew the definition.

---

8 Scrapbook in possession of Mrs. Ernest Daughtry. (Belonged to her mother, Mary Elizabeth Cullen, who attended this school.)

9 Personal interview with Miss Margaret Calvert, a close friend of the Jones family.
So in addition to the spelling book a small dictionary was used.\textsuperscript{10} Not much is known about Mr. Jones as he died in 1846 when still a young man. He is buried in Bowling Green in the old cemetery on College Street.\textsuperscript{11}

After her husband's death Mrs. Jones continued the school. She was educated at the noted college of Mt. Holyoke, Massachusetts. She was a thorough scholar, a competent teacher, a cultured and refined woman, most graceful and dignified in all her bearings.\textsuperscript{12} Her personal beauty was remarkable and no one who ever met her could forget her dignity, gentleness and sweetness. A gentleman who had travelled far and wide once said, "I have seen the women of many countries but I had to come back to Bowling Green to find the perfect woman."\textsuperscript{13}

She conscientiously believed that it was not only her duty to thoroughly educate her pupils but to make ladies and Christian women of them. She did not give them one undeserved reproof, not one unmerited rebuke, and no neglect of duty during the intervening years from the time she taught them their A B C's until they graduated. One of her students told this story:

\textsuperscript{10} Letter from Mrs. Lida Calvert Obenchain to her sister, Miss Margaret Calvert, dated 1935. Mrs. Obenchain was an assistant to Mrs. Jones. (This note appears to have been added later.)

\textsuperscript{11} Personal interview with Miss Margaret Calvert.

\textsuperscript{12} Scrapbook in possession of Mrs. Ernest Daughtry.

\textsuperscript{13} Letter from Mrs. Obenchain to Miss Calvert, dated 1935.
"We see Mrs. Jones crossing the street from her home opposite the school; dressed plainly but exquisitely neat, she enters the large room, removes from her light brown, wavy hair, her Quaker-like bonnet, hangs it on the old accustomed hook, moves gracefully to her table, taps the old bell, instantly eighty or one hundred girls or more, rise to their feet and she extends to them the morning greetings; tapping the bell again, all quietly resume their seats and each student recites in rotation a verse of scripture, then humbly kneeling she asks God's blessing on her work and her girls." Mrs. Jones possessed self-control and confidence therefore she had no trouble in controlling her students. Usually her severest and most potent reproof was "Young ladies, I am surprised at you!" Naturally she had many mischievous, fun-loving girls so she was compelled to have stools of penitence, keep-in hours and sometimes severer punishments. Chewing gum had its advocates in those days as now and see be to the girl who was found chewing gum. She was called up and given a bitter herb to chew, then seated on the bench of penitence in front of the whole school. One little girl who feared the disapproval and rebukes of her teacher, yet refused to give up her gum, which she had forgotten to leave at home, put her gum in the key-hole of the Presbyterian Church and forgot to remove it. Mrs. Jones' natural refinements and cultured tastes shrank from such unlady-like tendencies.

Mrs. Jones not only understood all the various branches taught in her school, but imparted her knowledge in so simple and direct a manner that the dullest pupil could catch glint-

14 Scrapbook in possession of Mrs. Ernest Daughtry.

15 Ibid.
ings of her meaning. She excelled in mathematics. Mental arithmetic was a prominent feature in the training of her pupils. A conservative old farmer who had sent his daughter to town to be educated thought this was all nonsense. At one of the special examinations which Mrs. Jones held from time to time this man came armed with pencil and paper, prepared to show that he could solve any problem before the mentally trained pupils could. Mrs. Jones gave out a difficult problem and the old farmer started putting down figures, but before he could get all his figures on paper the quick-witted girls were ready with the answer. The health of the pupils committed to her care was her first consideration. Calisthenics were practiced every other day in the week, this being deemed sufficient, as it was not enough to weary or grow monotonous. Long recesses were given to throw grace hoops, skip the rope and tell funny jokes. Mrs. Jones secured the most competent assistants, conspicuous among whom were Miss Lida Calvert, Miss Fannie Pierce, Miss Sallie McElroy and Miss Moore. She believed so strongly in systematical training, that she often submitted her pupils to practical tests, by requiring for stated periods, the different pupils to take charge of the bell, and tap it for the various recitation hours. This was considered quite an honor. Another privilege highly esteemed, as it was awarded only

16 Scrapbook in possession of Mrs. Ernest Daughtry.

17 Letter from Mrs. Obenchain to Miss Calvert, dated 1935.
to the best students, was occasioned by a physical weakness from which she was a sufferer. Bronchial trouble sometimes caused her voice to be very weak, and then she would have some student stand by her chair and give out the lesson to the class. 18

Her students said that they did not remember of seeing her dignity shaken or her gracefulness jarred except upon one occasion. This little story will furnish an illustration of her charming qualities and her controlling characteristics. One evening while Mrs. Jones was leaning back in her chair, a thoughtless girl accidentally jarred it, and Mrs. Jones losing her balance was thrown backward. While several girls rushed to help her, one or two rushed from the room, something that they would not have done had their teacher been sitting erect in her chair. Recovering their self-possession they returned to find her mistress of the situation; but they were very much amazed to hear one of the girls, who was full of life and fun exclaiming in her teacher's very own words, "Mrs. Jones, I am surprised at you!" The dignified woman only calmly responded, "Miss Josie N....has forgotten herself." 19

Miss Lida Calvert once asked Mrs. Jones's daughter why her father and mother had chosen to leave their Massachusetts home to come to a small Kentucky village. She said that the South was regarded as a missionary field and her father and mother came to Bowling Green with the same spirit that sends

18 Scrapbook in possession of Mrs. Ernest Daughtry.
19 Ibid.
Missionaries to some foreign country. They came because they thought they were needed and this high spirit to devotion was evident in the character of their work.20

The closing of school was conducted in as orderly a manner as the opening. At the tapping of the bell the young ladies would fall into line and march with erect carriage and only turn aside to make a graceful bow at the door. But the teacher’s work was not done when school was closed, for on going home she had to superintend the affairs of a large household, as all of her assistants and most of her pupils from the country boarded with her. As her school was cared for, so were her home affairs, and yet with so many trying cares, still her pew in the Presbyterian Church was never vacant.21

When the Civil War came on the school was brought to a close. After teaching in this city nearly thirty years, Mrs. Jones left here during the war for St. Louis.22

---

20 Letter from Mrs. Obenchain to Miss Calvert, dated 1935.

21 Scrapbook in possession of Mrs. Ernest Laughray.

22 Ibid.
Hines School

Another private school that existed one hundred years ago was taught by Mr. Henry Hines of Warren County Kentucky. The following contract is an interesting old document.

"I, Henry Hines of Warren County Kentucky, do hereby propose to teach a school in a house near General Sterretts, now occupied as a school house by Wm. E. Kortimor, one year at ten dollars per scholar; provided the patronage shall be such as to justify my understanding. The branches proposed to be taught are English, orthography, reading, writing, and common arithmetic. I propose to attend private school five days in each week (common holidays excepted) faithfully attending each scholar in attendance not only in the above branches of literature, but also their moral and social habits according to their respective capacities; to the best of my ability. The above consideration of ten dollars for each scholar to be paid to me by the respective subscribers at the conclusion of the school, such subscriber can have indulgence twelve months, by securing the payment of the amount due with interest. Should I unavoidably lose any time from the school by sickness either of myself or family, or from any other reasonable cause, I reserve to myself the privilege of making up such time at the conclusion of the term. The school to commence the 8th August A. D. 1836.

Subscriber's names No. school
Adam Miller Paid 1
Arthur Fox Paid 1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. T. Mitchell</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebecca Ewing</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Smith</td>
<td>Paid in full</td>
<td>1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Whaling</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Milikan</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O. Henry Kiper</td>
<td>Bonded</td>
<td>1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel C. Shulas</td>
<td>Bonded</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joel Manpin</td>
<td>Paid in full</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Holman</td>
<td>Bonded</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob Smith</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. Jenkins</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Webb</td>
<td>Bonded</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John McFadin</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frederick Schroeder</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Crawford</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wm. W. Johnson</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>1½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lewis Moorman</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel H. Johnson</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson Adair</td>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Signature of John McFadin proven in open Court by the oath of Daniel Stone 9 March 1840.

A. G. Hobson, Clerk.

23

Original contract in Kentucky Library (Western Teachers College).
Captain Robert Craddock

A great benefactor of education at this time was Captain Robert Craddock. Captain Craddock was born in Virginia about 1757. He was a Revolutionary War Soldier. He moved from Mercer County to Warren County about 1798 and established himself on a 1,400 acre tract of land in this county. He erected a large two-story log house and named the place "The Hermitage." Captain Craddock held large grants of land in the counties of Mercer, Hardin, Ohio, Todd and Warren as well as a large tract in Tennessee. It is said that he never left "The Hermitage" after settling there. He owned many slaves and sent them on all necessary errands. He required all people who had personal business with him to call on him at "The Hermitage." 24

The Hermitage was located about nine miles from Bowling Green in what was known as "Salt Lick Valley" on the Morgantown Pike, not far from Hadley, Kentucky. He cut all the timber except the sugar trees to establish a sugar grove. He also planted a large fruit orchard and in time produced an abundance of brandy as well as maple sugar. These in different combinations and proportions were served to him by his slaves, and on many occasions were shared with his friends. 25

In the clearing a number of cabins for the slaves were built, and later a school house was built for the purpose of

24 Kentucky Library Scrapbook (Western Teachers College: Kentucky Library).

25 Ibid.
teaching the children of his slaves. It is thought that his friend Peter Tardiveau, came to live with him about 1800 or later. Tardiveau was an educated man, so he was employed by Craddock to teach the children of his slaves, but many of the white children of the neighborhood were also taught by him. When Craddock settled The Hermitage Warren County was almost an unbroken wilderness with only a few scattered cabins located many miles apart. The forests were still full of all kinds of game and even small bands of prowling Indians still roamed the woods.26

Captain Craddock's will was made March 28, 1837, and was probated the following April. He first sets free six female and eight male slaves and bequeathed to each as much land or money as equalled their appraised values. After making a few bequests he set aside the bulk of his estate to be held in trust by Joseph R. Underwood for the "uses and purposes of education of children in primary schools, if from circumstances it should appear proper." The will gave to Judge Underwood full power to administer the estate as he deemed fit. William Loving, John H. Graham, John Marshall, and William Sublett were appointed executors. For sometime the income from Craddock's estate was used for the payment of the tuition of poor children in primary schools; after the organization of free public schools the county court took over the management of the "Craddock Fund" and has since applied the income to the

26 Kentucky Library Scrapbook (Western Teachers College: Kentucky Library).
purchase of text books for poor children. The income from the fund has been running for about eighty years and during that time about $60,000 has been spent for the education of the poor children of Warren County. The principal of the Craddock Fund still amounts to about $20,000 and produces about $800 per annum. A number of old men have said that without the benevolence of Craddock they would have been utterly without an education.27

A number of years ago, by an order of the County Court, the remains of Craddock and Tardiveau were moved to Fairview Cemetery, where they now repose. Largely through the efforts of the children of the public schools of the City of Bowling Green, there has been a monument erected above the grave of Craddock.28

27 Kentucky Library Scrapbook (Western Teachers College: Kentucky Library).
28 Ibid.
Pillsbury School

In 1837, Mr. Josiah Pillsbury came to Kentucky. He was a well educated man, a graduate of Bowden College in Maine. He started teaching a private school in Bowling Green in 1845 and taught until 1860, with the exception of the time during the Civil War when General Mitchell took possession of his home as headquarters for his troops and Mr. and Mrs. Pillsbury were forced to leave, and the four years that he taught in Mason County. This school was a coeducational school. It seems that at this time there was some opposition to a "mixed school," but Mr. and Mrs. Pillsbury demonstrated the fact that a coeducational school could be taught successfully. This school was called Pillsbury Academy. It was located on Twelfth and Kentucky Streets. The house was built in the center of four acres of ground and the basement, which consisted of four or five rooms, was used as the school. The school opened in September and closed in June. The hours were from eight in the morning until four in the afternoon with one hour for lunch.29

The elementary grades were taught by Mrs. Pillsbury and the higher grades were taught by Mr. Pillsbury. The fundamental subjects, as well as music, penmanship, trigonometry, and astronomy, were taught.30 Mr. Pillsbury was one of the

29 Wilma Russell, "The Transition from Private Schools to Public Schools in Bowling Green, Kentucky." Unpublished material of Western Teachers College, 1933.

30 Ibid.
few mathematicians in the country. He had the largest telescope in this section. It was nine feet long and was placed in the yard for the use of the students. Only a part of the ground was used as a playground. Unlike some of the schools at this time, they had desks and recitation benches. There were about sixty or seventy children enrolled. The tuition was approximately five dollars a month. This school held examinations and issued reports cards. They also had closing exercises. When the children disobeyed they were punished by being sent home.

Fields School

Another school that existed about this time was an Episcopal school for young ladies. This school was located at Fifth and State Streets. Mrs. Fields was the principal. Miss Matt Jackson remembers the May party Mrs. Fields gave for her pupils in May 1851. The party was held on the grounds of the former Bob Strange's home on the river. A severe frost occurred in Bowling Green on the morning of the party. The little girls stubbornly wore their new muslin dresses in spite of the frost. As they danced around the May pole to honor their Queen of the

31 Personal interview with Miss Mary Dishman of Hartsville, Tennessee. Miss Dishman was a teacher in the City Schools of Bowling Green for fifty years. Her father attended the Millsbury school.

32 Wilma Russell, "The Transition from Private Schools to Public Schools in Bowling Green, Kentucky." Unpublished material of Western Teachers College, 1933.
May, Miss Julia West Underwood, they "turned blue from the cold."  

Methodists College

The first attempt the Methodists made to establish a college in Bowling Green was not successful. The Louisville Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in Kentucky, at its session at Bardstown in 1859, appointed ten commissioners to take steps to establish an institution of learning at Bowling Green for the education of young men.  

This Commission was composed as follows: Edward Stevenson, Z. M. Taylor, N. H. Lee, T. J. Moore, E. F. Wilson, Henry Grider, T. E. Wright, James Hines, W. J. Underwood, Presley Meguiar. The commission secured the transfer of the charter of the Southern College of Kentucky a State institution which had not been successful in establishing itself. It still possessed property and funds amounting to about $17,000 and the terms of its charter were full and liberal. The income from its funds was secured for the conference, and under the provision of its charter the commissioners proceeded to organize a new institution.

---

33 Lavinia P. Scott. "Early Schools in Bowling Green," unpublished material, (Kentucky Library: Western Teachers College), 1885.

34 Alvin Fayette Lewis, op. cit., p. 316.


36 Alvin Fayette Lewis, loc. cit.
They employed an architect, prepared plans for a building costing $33,000, laid the corner stone with due ceremony and had the greater part of the foundation laid when the Conference met at Bowling Green in 1860. At this conference Mr. David Norton was appointed agent for the new educational enterprise. The advent of the Civil War soon after caused them to have to abandon for several years the erection of this building, and indeed the whole enterprise, which was never revived on the same basis.

Lavalette School

It is difficult to secure complete data regarding some of the early schools. However, Miss Mary Lavalette opened a school for boys in 1859.

Lapleys Hall

Just about this time there was a college for boys called Lapleys Hall. This school was located on the corner of Eighth and Center Streets in an old two story building. This college was owned by the Presbyterian Church.

37 Bishop Ross, loc. cit.

38 Alvin Fayette Lewis, loc. cit.

39 Wilma Russell, "The Transition from Private Schools to Public Schools in Bowling Green, Kentucky." Unpublished material of Western Teachers College, 1953.

40 Notes on the "History of Bowling" by Miss Matt Jackson, 1932, age ninety-three. Western Teachers College: (Kentucky Library).
Wright School

In 1862, Mr. W. B. Wright, later a well known lawyer in Bowling Green, taught a school in a little frame building on the upper extension of Main Street. Mr. Wright was teaching here when the Rebel Soldiers entered Bowling Green and captured the City. This was a school for boys. There was a large bell on the building and it rang out over the city calling the boys to school. Mr. W. O. Rodes remembers quite vividly a switching he received for fighting while attending this school.40

Dunn School

Following this school taught by Mr. Wright, Mr. H. C. Dunn had a school for boys on the corner of Tenth and Elm Streets. The house in which this school was located has been moved and now faces Elm Street. It is now the residence of Dr. M. M. Moss.41

---

40 Personal interview with Mr. W. O. Rodes, retired lawyer of Bowling Green, Kentucky, age eighty-five.

41 Ibid.
Ringold School

During the Civil War, in 1863, Mr. Ringold an Episcopal minister organized a girls' school on College Street. He preached on Sunday and taught school during the week. An interesting incident was told by one of the pupils who attended this school. Mr. Ringold was told that the soldiers were coming. He immediately took his pupils into a smoke house and sent word to their parents to come and get their children out of danger. Everyone was taken home "safe and sound."\[42\]

---

\[42\] Wilma Russell, "The Transition from Private Schools to Public Schools in Bowling Green, Kentucky." Unpublished material of Western Teachers College, 1933.
CHAPTER II
LATER SCHOOLS

Bentley School

Following the Civil War, Mrs. Bentley of Nashville, Tennessee organized a school in the Presbyterian Church where Mrs. Franklin Jones had taught. Her husband, a Frenchman, was the French teacher. It seems that Mrs. Bentley was the quick and positive kind of woman. It is said that she never made an error in English. She was a splendid French scholar. Later, Miss Emma Sear, Mrs. Bentley's sister, came to assist her in the school as a teacher of music.

Scott School

In 1868 Professor S. T. Scott established a preparatory school. This school was exclusively for boys. It was located on Twelfth and State Streets where the Westminster Presbyterian Church now is. Among those attending this school were Dr. Virgil Moss who now resides at Rockfield, Kentucky; Ike Cook, Walt Cook, Ed Sumpter, Joe Sumpter, George Galloway, John Galloway, Fleas and George Everhart all now deceased.

1 Javinia F. Scott, "Early Schools in Bowling Green," unpublished material, (Western Teachers College: Kentucky Library).

Mr. Maul was a teacher in the Scott school for a while. He was a very good teacher of Latin and Greek. There were about three teachers in this school.  

Warren College

After the close of the war in 1865, the Louisville Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South met at Russellville, Kentucky, and a new Board of Commissioners was appointed, as follows: S. P. Hines, Henry Grider, P. W. Barclay, L. L. Cooke, David Morton, T. B. Wright, and Presley Keguiar. A new charter was obtained from the legislature in 1866 under the name of Warren College, and in 1867 a board of education was incorporated to work with the trustees of this college in securing funds for its endowment. The sale of the former site of the institution had been authorized in the latter year. The agents of the board of education, chiefly Reverend J. N. Redford, secured enough cash and subscriptions to amount to about $24,000, for the endowment of the proposed college. A large and handsome private residence was purchased and improved to make it suitable for educational purposes. The preparatory school, which had been located on State and Twelfth Streets was transferred to this new building. Professor Doggett was made principal at this time. In the autumn of 1872 Warren College was organized. Reverend J. C. Wilson was its first

---

3 Personal interview with Dr. Virgil Moss, retired physician of Rockfield, Ky., age eighty-five.
and only president. He was assisted the first year by Professor Doggett and Wiltur F. Farclay. Eighty students were enrolled at the beginning of the first year. The pledged endowment of the college reached about $30,000 but only about $11,000 was paid in. With the aid of this money Reverend Gross Alexander was employed in 1873. 4

A good faculty of four members was maintained by the college and excellent educational work was done by it for the next three years, but the opening of Vanderbilt University and the proposed establishment in Bowling Green of an institution which was largely endowed and would offer almost free tuition, caused the board of trustees of Warren College to decide to close that institution. The work of the college was discontinued in 1876. 5

Gaines School

A short time after the Civil War several well known schools were organized in Bowling Green.

The first Presbyterian Church bought a large two story building on the present site of the Business University. The pastor of the church, Dr. R. K. Smoat, asked Professor Samuel Moore Gaines of Virginia to organize the school and to take complete charge of it. Professor Gaines had three daughters. Miss Theo Gaines, the oldest daughter who married C. C. Patterson

---

4 Alvin Fayette Lewis, op. cit., p. 316.

5 Ibid.
had charge of the music department; Miss Fannie Gaines was the	housekeeper and had charge of the study hall; and Miss Mollie
Gaines, who later married J. E. Stubbins, had charge of the
primary department. Professor Gaines was a graduate of West
Point, New York. School was opened every morning with a re-
ligious exercise. Mr. Gaines was a stately old gentleman with
a long flowing white beard.  

Green River Female College

The Green River Female College was located at 1253 State
Street where Mr. Ashby's residence now stands. It was a day
and boarding school. The grounds extended from State Street
to College Street. The large house stood in the center of the
grounds and one could have entered from either street. The
Large back yard was used as a playground for the children.
Professor Storts was the principal of this school, Miss Margaret
Calvert and her sister, Mrs. Lida Calvert Obenchain attended
school here. Mrs. Obenchain afterwards taught English in this
same school.  

Halsell Seminary

Another school was Halsell Seminary. This school was lo-
cated on the corner of State and Twelfth Streets where the pres-
ent Masonic Temple is. The grounds extended from State Street

6 Lavinia R. Scott, "Early Schools in Bowling Green," unpublished material, (Western Teachers College: Kentucky Library).

7 Personal interview with Miss Calvert of Bowling Green, Ky.
to Chestnut Street. There was a large house facing State Street with small frame buildings back of the house for class rooms. Mr. Halsell was the principal. He was the brother of John Halsell, a former Congressman. This was a boarding school for girls, but four little boys were allowed to attend the school. They were Walter Miller and Eddie Gossen now deceased, and Charlie Rogers and Will Sumpter. Miss Nannie Harrison was the primary teacher and taught the four little boys.\(^8\)

They had classes in grammar, spelling, geography, music, reading, writing, and the dictionary. There was a limited number of teachers and they were kept very busy. The same program was followed each day. From breakfast they went to the chapel for Scripture Reading and prayers, from there they proceeded to their classes.\(^9\)

The above four schools were rivals and the girls at the Halsell Seminary gave this yell:

"Wilson's wild cats
Gaines' ladies
Halsell's brick bats and
Storts' babies."\(^{10}\)

---

\(^9\) Lavinia R. Scott, "Early Schools in Bowling Green," unpublished material, (Western Teachers College: Kentucky Library).

\(^9\) Mildred Horne, "Sketches of Schools from Grandmother's Day," unpublished material of Western Teachers College, 1934.

\(^10\) Wilma Russell, "The Transition from Private Schools to Public Schools in Bowling Green, Kentucky," unpublished material of Western Teachers College, 1935.
Edgar School

After so long a time Colonel George Edgar took over the school that had been run by Professor Gaines. Colonel Edgar was a graduate of the Stonewall Jackson School in Virginia. He was one of the leading educators of Bowling Green. At one time the faculty was composed of Colonel Edgar, principal; Mrs. N. M. King, teacher of Latin and literature; Miss Kate Edgar, who taught English and calisthenics; Colonel Stevens, mathematics teacher; Mrs. Stevens, art teacher; and Professor Canvoort, head of the music department. German, Latin, history, philosophy, and natural science were also offered. Miss Mary Dishman, a graduate of this school tells this story of her graduation day. The commencement exercises were held at the old Odeon Hall, now the Opera House. Mrs. Alice Hackney had charge of the tableaus at the commencement exercises. The young girls wore ruffled dresses and marched from the school building to Odeon Hall in double file. After they received their diplomas they were addressed by a classmate, Miss Eva Hilburn, who gave her speech in German. The tableaus were given by the students after the speech. An article from an old Bowling Green newspaper describes the closing exercises of Colonel Edgar's school. These exercises took place on Saturday with about one hundred people present. Colonel Edgar did not intend to have closing exercises because he was busy preparing for his new work, but

---

11 Personal interview with Miss Mary Dishman of Hartsville, Tennessee. Miss Dishman was a teacher in the City Schools of Bowling Green for fifty years. She was a graduate of Colonel Edgar's school.
he finally decided to give a program.  

"The exercises were opened with prayer by Dr. J. L. Caldwell of the Presbyterian Church.

"Recollections of Home" was executed upon the piano in a charming style by Miss Kate Straley.

Miss Gertrude Edgar favored the audience with an instrumental number entitled, "Awakening of the Birds."

Miss Ada Garvin of Warren County played an impromptu polka.

A lively air was played by Miss Mary Van Meter. The selection was entitled "Clodhopper's Dance."

Miss Mary McLure of Lewisburg, Kentucky, gave a piano solo entitled "Alice, Where Art Thou?"

Misses Van Meter and McLure brought the musical exercises to a close with the duet "Invitation to a Waltz" by Weber.

Colonel Edgar then explained to the audience that the standing of the young ladies was determined by examinations like they had in the university of Virginia. The graduates were then given their certificates. After Colonel Edgar left, Colonel and Mrs. T. Sumner Stevens, who had been teaching in Colonel Edgar's school took charge. They continued in the same location for a while then moved to 1253 State Street, now the home of W. S. Ashby. This school continued for some time after the public schools were established. 

12

Leavina R. Scott, "Early Schools in Bowling Green," unpublished material, (Kentucky Library: Western Teachers College), 1935.

13

Ibid.
Miscellaneous Schools

There were a number of other schools in Bowling Green during this period.

A school for boys was taught by Tom Calvert and Colonel Hawkins and a coeducational school was taught by Misses Clay Jackson and Mary Valentine.14

"In 1870, a school for small children was organized on Chestnut Street by Miss Evalyn Parkhill. There were about fifteen or twenty pupils enrolled." In 1878 Mrs. Lida Calvert Obenchain taught school in one of Mr. Halsey's frame buildings. She was very strict about correct posture. She had the children walk around the room with books on their heads, if the book fell off the child would get a demerit.15

Later Mrs. Obenchain taught school in a small room in the back of the old Presbyterian Church. This church was on the corner of Center and Eighth Streets where the Center Street Public School now is.16

Miss Laura Blalock had a private school on Adam Street. Some of the best women of the town were educated there.17

14 Ibid.

15 Wilma Russell, "The Transition from Private Schools to Public Schools in Bowling Green, Kentucky," unpublished material of Western Teachers College, 1938.

16 Personal interview with Miss Margaret Calvert, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

17 Personal interview with Miss Ada Peart, Bowling Green, Kentucky. A teacher in City Schools for a long time.
Ogden College

"Ogden College owes its existence to the wise beneficence of Major Robert W. Ogden, who by his will, dated December 7, 1870, left the sum of $50,000, 'or so much thereof as may be necessary,' to be used 'in the purchase of suitable grounds and the erection thereon of appropriate buildings in or near the town of Bowling Green, Kentucky, to be dedicated and devoted to the education therein of males or females, young men or young women, as my executor or executors may elect.' By further provisions of the will the proposed institution was to be called Ogden College, if a male school should be decided upon, or Ogden Seminary if a female school. It was also made the residuary legatee of his estate, the income on the amount thus realized, which was estimated at the time of his death to be something over $60,000, was 'to form a fund out of which to pay, as far as it will go, the tuition fees of any of the young men (or young women) of Warren County or the State of Kentucky who may choose to avail themselves of this fund.' Preference was also expressed for a male college, although the decision of that matter was left entirely to his executors, Judge William V. Loving and his son, Honorable H. V. Loving, of Louisville, Kentucky, who, under the name of regents, were to have full general control over the institution, the more immediate government of which was to be intrusted to a board of five trustees, appointed by the regents.

"Honorable H. V. Loving, the only one of his executors to accept the trust, decided in favor of a male college, according
to the preference expressed in the will, and in September, 1874, selected as the first board of trustees for the institution Honorable Robert Rodes, Honorable E. T. Clark, Judge H. K. Thomas, Colonel W. P. Holson, and Honorable D. W. Wright. Mr. Rodes became president and Mr. Wright secretary and treasurer. This board for a number of years looked after the interests of the infant institution faithfully and efficiently. 18

The college was opened to students September 3, 1877, and on July 16, 1877, the first faculty was elected. The first faculty was composed of Reverend J. W. Wightman, D. D., president, and N. H. Crump and John P. Leotsakos, professors. The property that had formerly been occupied by Warren College was leased for its use. On March 8, 1878 a charter was obtained for the college. The funds were not sufficient to support a large faculty or to train a large number of students. The trustees limited the number of students to be received to one hundred. Tuition was almost free to students from Kentucky, and especially from Warren County. The first year this fee was five dollars a year, and the next year it was six dollars a year. The tuition to students from other States was thirty dollars a year. About sixty students were usually admitted free of charge. The local attendance was about all the college could take care of. The course of instruction consisted of a preparatory course of two years and a college course of four years.

Because some of the students dropped out and others took their places there were about 128 students in attendance the first year, most of these doing preparatory work. At the beginning of the next session the College classes were better organized. William A. Obenchain, A. M. was added to the faculty as teacher of Mathematics.\(^{19}\)

In the year 1878, the college was further endowed from the estate of Major John E. Robinson. This endowment, amounted to $35,000, was given for the endowment of a professorship. Shortly after this, however, the will was contested at law and this litigation resulted in the cutting down of the amount to $12,000, the college receiving thus only half of the sum stipulated in the will. This amount was set aside as a perpetual endowment, and is called the "John E. Robinson Chair of Natural Science."\(^{20}\)

In 1880 the grounds and buildings used by the institution were purchased by its trustees. They were estimated to be worth about $25,000. The beautiful campus of about ten acres was made more beautiful. The buildings were improved, the accommodations enlarged and the equipment of the college increased. The course of study was divided into the eight schools of ancient languages, mathematics, natural science, philosophy, civil engineering, modern languages, English language and literature, and commercial science. The number of students

---

19 Ibid.

was reduced to eighty-seven in 1860 and 1881 because of a more strict test of scholarship. At the end of this session there were three graduates. They received the degree of bachelor of arts. Dr. Wightman resigned in August, 1883. He was succeeded by Professor William A. Obenchain. At this time a bachelor of science course especially strong in mathematics and modern languages was added to the course of bachelor of arts. In 1885 a bachelor of philosophy course was added and this had as its basis English, modern languages, and history. Local conditions were such that the college had to have a preparatory department so that its students might be trained for its collegiate classes. The course in this department extended through two years. 21

"In 1895 it was found that under the practically free tuition system which had been in use the college had been conducted on a scale too liberal for its own resources. Its future growth and expansion were in danger, as the income from its endowment fund had decreased considerably, owing to the general decline in the rate of interest. Two courses of action then confronted its trustees—either to curtail its work and lower its grade or to limit the number of free scholarships, only awarding these to deserving young men in need of aid, and requiring all others to pay a moderate tuition fee in addition to the regular incidental fee, required of all students, and the special laboratory fees, required in the scientific departments. The board wisely adopted the second of these plans,

---

21 Alvin Fayette Lewis, op. cit., p. 219.
fixing the number of free scholarships at forty, and the rate of tuition in the collegiate department at forty dollars, and in the preparatory department, twenty-five dollars a year." The courses of instruction were well arranged and very thorough. It had a splendid library of miscellaneous books and works of reference. The college did not strive for numbers, either in attendance or in graduates. Its average annual matriculation during twenty-one years was about ninety-five, and during that time it had only forty-one graduates.23

"Except for four years, 1900 to 1904, Ogden offered the college courses, scientific, classical, and philosophical. From 1904 until the advancement of education, demanding more funds than Ogden's endowment permitted, closed the doors, the scholarship, faculty, and character of work were the equal of any of the small colleges of the United States.

"In 1928, the Board of Trustees of Ogden College realized that the funds of Ogden were not sufficient to permit Ogden to keep pace with the march of education, and consequently closed the doors and entered into an agreement whereby the equipment and buildings and grounds of Ogden College were to be used by Western Teachers College."24

---

23 Alvin Fayette Lewis, op. cit., p. 220.

LuEose School

A well known and highly thought of school was one organized by Miss Fannie DuEose in 1889. It was called the Bowling Green Preparatory School. This was a coeducational school and the first eight grades were taught for a number of years. Miss Florence Ragland was the mathematics teacher. Miss DuEose taught a Bible Class for all of the students except the young men. When the high school classes were added more room was needed so a building was built on Chestnut Street. There were three rooms in this building. One room was an assembly hall and the others were class rooms. After a short time a primary room was added. It is said that Miss DuEose was unusually strict. If the girls came to school with perfume on or without a hat, they were either sent home or kept in after school. After the school was made larger, Miss Gertrude Anderson and Mrs. Stevens taught with Miss DuEose and Miss Ragland. The students were so thoroughly prepared that they were permitted to graduate from Potter College in one year.25

Ragland School

Miss Florence Ragland and Mr. J. H. Claggett taught for a year and a half. Their school was located on Elm and Tenth Streets. When Miss DuEose discontinued teaching Miss Ragland and Mr. Claggett taught at Miss DuEoses’. Then Miss Lipscomb took Mr. Claggetts place. All of the grades and preparatory

25 Wilma Russell, loc. cit.
work for college were taught. School opened in September and closed in June. Classes started at eight thirty in the morning and were dismissed at two thirty in the afternoon. They had one hour for lunch. Each morning Miss Ragland had an opening exercise of a song, Scripture Reading, and a prayer. Music and art were not taught. She had a Bible class and a nature class for the small children. They made nature trips in wagonettes. The children kept notebooks about the things they saw. The nature class was held every Monday morning. They had a pan of tadpoles, an eggshell farm, seed boxes, and plants in the schoolroom. The children studied seed germination, physics, and chemistry. All of this was taught the children in a primary way. "Miss Ragland ordered leaflets from Cornell University and gave these out to the children. The person who sent these leaflets was called "Uncle John," and the pupils wrote to him as their English assignment." Her lessons were very informal. She had no trouble with discipline. The only punishment was keeping the child in school a few minutes. The children used a vacant lot as a playground. Report cards and bills were sent to the parents each month. Some poor children were allowed to enter school, but no one knew who they were because all of the pupils were given the same attention. The tuition was forty dollars a year or four dollars a month for the older pupils, thirty dollars a year for the intermediate pupils, and twenty dollars a year for the primary pupils. 26

26 Wilma Russell, loc. cit.
Female Seminary

There was another private school in 1859. This was called Female Seminary. Miss Maggie Ferry, daughter of General Ferry was the principal. This school had four rooms. One for the generally assembly and three class rooms. It had an enrollment of about sixty or seventy girls. The school opened at nine o'clock in the morning and closed at three thirty in the afternoon. Tommie Thomas taught mathematics and Mr. H. H. Cherry was the penmanship teacher.27

Potter College

In 1877 Reverend P. F. Cabell was selected President of Cedar Bluff College. This college was located a few miles from Woodburn, Kentucky. He conducted a very successful school here for about twelve years. In 1887 he expressed a desire to establish a girl's school at Bowling Green. The plan was submitted to the prominent citizens of Bowling Green and they were very much in favor of it. Immediately steps were taken to raise by subscription the money needed to build and equip the institution. A stock company was organized and the soliciting committee secured subscriptions amounting to about $17,000. This amount of money was not enough to start the enterprise, so Dr. P. J. Potter, not willing to see the project fail, raised his subscription to $5,000. The trustees named the college in his honor. In about a year the funds were raised

27 Wilma Russell, loc. cit.
and the building erected. However, the building was not completed until December 1889. A charter was obtained for the college, conferring upon it the usual powers and privileges. The institution opened on September 9, 1889, with Reverend E. F. Cabell as its president. A new wing was added to the building in 1891. The entire building was modern in all respects. It had an excellent gymnasium. It was a three-story brick building, one of the largest of its kind in the State. It was splendidly located in a campus of about seven acres, on a commanding hill west of the town.28

The institution was Christian in spirit, but it was insured against sectarian control by the provision of its charter that not more than two of its ten trustees, who were elected by the stockholders, could be members of the same religious denomination. The course of instruction at first included primary, preparatory, secondary, and collegiate departments, but only the last two, extending through two and four years were retained. There were in addition the departments of music and art. The regular curriculum included the departments of English, history, natural science, Latin, mathematics, philosophy, elocution, Greek, French, and German. Certificates of proficiency were granted in different departments, but only one degree, that of A. E., was conferred.29

---

29 Ibid., p. 258.
For almost twenty-five years Potter College rendered a splendid service to Bowling Green and Kentucky and also to many other states. There was at one time as many as thirty states represented in the school. With its staff of teachers of outstanding merit and fine course of study, Potter College was, with its lectures, its art exhibitions, concerts, and social activities, one of the leading institutions of the South. Hundreds of fine young women left its doors to pass out into the world, highly fitted for positions of distinction, trust, and honor.

Several years after the school opened Mr. Cabell built his own residence from stone quarried on the hill.

When Mr. Cabell entered upon his duties at Potter College he brought with him the cream of his Cedar Bluff faculty. "Professor" Cabell as he was always called by the students, continued as president until the college closed. Among the faculty we find the names of the following faithful teachers: Miss Harriet Carpenter, lady principal, who continued in this position until removed by death; she was succeeded by Mrs. Glasscock who in turn was succeeded by Miss Catherine Torrance.

Other notable teachers were Professor J. H. Clagett, now a much loved member of the faculty of Teachers College; Mrs. Cabell, wife of the president and a woman of exceptional intellectual


31 Ibid.
attainments and nobility of character; Miss Bettie Patterson; Mrs. Shelburne; Miss Wickliffe Cooper, a well known Kentucky artist, now Mrs. R. W. Covington of Bowling Green; Miss Beulah Strong, later of Smith College and at present living in Florence, Italy; Miss Starke, a concert pianist of Germany; Miss Gertrude Anderson; Miss Nina McGinnis; Miss Mary Armitage, supervisor of music in the city schools; Miss Reed Potter, supervisor of art and femanship in the city schools; and Miss Bell Potter of the Bowling Green High School. 32

"During the twenty years' existence of Potter College many excellent students passed from her doors to fill important places in life. The last class graduated in 1909. In 1909 the entire hill and buildings with other outlying territory became the property of the State of Kentucky." 33

The following sentence, taken from one of its catalogues, describes in a general way the origin of Potter College:

"Potter College is an expression of the generosity and liberal spirit of the citizens of Bowling Green, who irrespective of church connections, heartily united in establishing in their midst an institution for the higher education of young women." 34


33 Ibid., p. 16.

34 Alvin Fayette Lewis, op. cit., p. 252.
Catholic School

In 1863 Mr. J. A. Timmons taught a school for boys in a two story brick house on the corner of State and Eighth Streets. 31 Mr. Timmons was a Catholic; however, this was not strictly a Catholic school, but all the Catholic children attended this school. 32 In the same year Father De Vries secured for Bowling Green a colony of the sisters of charity of Nazareth. 33 Just up the street from the Timmons' school the sisters taught a school for girls. The first sisters were Sister Constantia Robinson, Sister Patricía, Sister Mary Lewis, Sister Mary Florence, and two others. At recess the girls would walk up the Reservoir Hill. From here the school was moved to the corner of Tenth and Adam Streets. It was then decided to move the school to another location. They had the choice of two places. The McCormick home where the Masonic Temple now stands or an old home on Center Street where the Junior High School is. They choose the latter place because it was nearer to the church. The school was now called Saint Columbus Academy. All the different branches were taught. Sister Superior could speak five different languages. Nazareth then compelled the congregation to build a new building. They secured a lot on Church

31 Personal interview with Mr. W. O. Fodes, retired lawyer of Bowling Green, Kentucky, age eighty-five.

32 Notes on "Educational Institutions of Bowling Green," by Dr. J. C. Carson, (Western Teachers College: Kentucky Library).

Street near the church and erected a school building. In 1912 they moved to this new building. After moving to this location only the first eight grades, and the first year of high school were taught. About two years ago the first year of high school was discontinued. They now teach just the first eight grades.34

34 Personal interview with Sister Anette, who has resided in Bowling Green, Kentucky forty-three years.
CHAPTER III
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The first Public School building was erected in 1882 on what is now the corner of College and Eleventh Streets. At that time College Street was called Summer Street. That same building is in use today. School opened January 29, 1883.

The members of the first School Board were "Big" Henry Hines, James Hines, Colonel Tom Smith, Henry Jenkins, and James Mitchell. Mr. Wylie was the first Superintendent. He was born and reared in Ripley, Ohio. He came to Bowling Green from Ashland, Kentucky. At first there were not more than six or eight teachers. Among them were Mrs. Walker Hines, Miss Catherine Garrison, Miss Alice Barr, Miss Kitty Covington, and Miss Fannie LuBose.

Mr. Wylie had a lot of trouble with the bad boys of Bowling Green. They carried pistols. He was a strong believer in discipline. He had a carload of "rattans" shipped into Bowling Green and his discipline was almost perfect. He had some trouble with the mothers of the pupils. He would put them out and close the door. He did not let the parents interview the teachers during school hours. The first few days of school were spent in singing, marching, and fire drills. On Thursday the people were invited to come and see the work of the school.

School opened at nine o'clock in the morning and closed at three in the afternoon, with an hour for lunch. They had no
chapel programs, but the teachers had exercises in their rooms. They taught reading, writing, arithmetic, English, geography, history, spelling and penmanship. Mr. Wylie stressed diacritical marking and diagraming more than anything else. The Principal received forty to forty-five dollars a month. At first the teachers' salary was thirty-seven dollars a month. After having taught eight years their salary was raised two dollars and a half. Children from the county paid one dollar and a quarter a month tuition. In 1884 there was only one room vacant and Miss Mary Dishman took that room. After that the old Presbyterian Church on what was then Green Street was bought. Later the name was changed to Center Street and it goes by that name today.85

In a scrapbook which Miss Ada Peart has, the writer found a copy of the last teachers' meeting Mr. Wylie held. He died in 1894.

"Last Teachers' Meeting October 8th 1894
Wake-up," Morals and Manners to be Taught in all Grades.
Course of study reviewed.
Instruction and training in truthfulness, honesty, purity, kindness.
Love for others.
Respect and reverence, obedience, gratitude, courage, honor.

35 Personal interview with Miss Mary Dishman of Hartsville, Tennessee. Miss Dishman taught in Public Schools of Bowling Green from 1884 until September 1885.
A good name, self-control, confession of wrong and forgiveness.

Lessons on slander, improper language and temptation.

Teach good habits, politeness and industry, love of country, respect for those in authority, obedience to laws, fidelity to official trust, the nature and obligation of oaths, self-denial.

Complete Recitation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Promptness (Teacher)</th>
<th>Pupil (Literally)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(and)</td>
<td>(and)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rigidness (Pupil)</td>
<td>Feet (Figuratively)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questioning—Oral Instruction

1. Do not attempt too much.
2. Have work well mapped out.
3. Reach the points intended.
4. See that they are understood.
5. Call again for what is given.

The hearing teacher—the teaching teacher—compared.

A recitation in geography by the former.

Discipline Depends

| (Interest, |
| (on |
| Pupil's |
| (Good-will, |
| (Obedience, |
| (Quietness, |
| (on |
| Teacher's |
| (Reserve- |
| (power, |
Corporal punishment to be avoided if possible.

1. Do not repeat a question.
2. Do not look fixedly at pupil answering.
3. Do not neglect preparation for work.
4. Be not given to levity rather than gravity.

I depend on my teachers to make an especial effort for our success this year.

Mr. Wylie. 36

Mr. Edward Taylor was the next Superintendent of the City Schools. Mr. Taylor was a Quaker and a native of Vincennes, Indiana. He was a scholar of high attainment. He was a graduate of a school in Heidelberg, Germany and was in school during the Kaiser's reign. He spent his summers in Europe and with other boys traveled over the continent down to Italy to see Garibaldi. He was a graduate of the old Greek and Latin Schools on the Appian Way. He was as familiar with the Catacombs of Rome as we are with the streets of Bowling Green. His great hobby was stick to your schedule which was a small book in microscopic figures. Whenever a teacher had a new subject to teach he was always present to see if she knew her subject. 37

In 1906 Mr. T. C. Cherry succeeded Mr. Taylor and Mr. Cherry

36 Scrapbook belonging to Miss Ada Peart of Bowling Green, Kentucky. Miss Peart taught in the Public Schools of Bowling Green from 1891 until a short time ago.

37 Personal interview with Miss Mary Dishman of Hartsville, Tennessee.
succeeded Mr. Taylor and Mr. Cherry is Superintendent of the City Schools at the present time. In 1908 a new school building was erected on Center and Eighth Streets. This was a splendid nine room building. This same year a high school was organized in this building with twenty-five students and one teacher. The first class graduated in 1912. In 1914 the high school was moved from this building to a building on Center Street where the junior high now is. In 1922 a new high school building was erected on Center Street by the side of the old building. The old high school building was then used for a junior high school and the new building was the senior high school.

"Due to the congested conditions of the city schools, a new grade school was erected on Eleventh Street in 1927. The one story building consists of eight large, well lighted, well equipped rooms; and an auditorium with seating capacity for two hundred and fifty. The playground at the rear of the building is well equipped. About the time this building was completed, the junior high school building was condemned. The Eleventh Street School was occupied by the junior high school from September 1928 to June, 1929." The new junior high school building was completed in 1929.

---

38 Personal interview with Miss Ada Peart of Bowling Green, Ky.

The city now has three ward schools. The buildings on College Street, Eleventh Street and Center Street are devoted entirely to the purpose of education in the first six grades. When the children complete these grades they are promoted to the junior high school; and it has been found that these promotions encourage them to go on through the entire junior and senior high school course of study.41

Notice the progress that the Public Schools of Bowling Green have made in the last twenty-five years.

"Twenty-five years ago there were only two main buildings. All of these were heated by stoves, and had no sanitary equipment. Now there are six modern steam heated, well lighted, and sanitary buildings. Within twenty-five years two large grade buildings and a splendid junior high school have been erected. All these are well heated, lighted, and furnished with the best sanitary and teaching equipment. The two old buildings have been remodeled, equipped with steam heating plants, sanitary plumbing, refurnished, and made safe and modern in every way.

"Twenty-five years ago there was no high school. Now there are more pupils graduating from the senior high school than enrolled in the eighth grade twenty-five years ago. Our high schools have been given the highest classification by the Southern Association of Colleges, and our graduates may enter any standard college without examination.

41 Ibid., p. 17.
"Thorough courses in music, art, domestic science, and primary manual training are being conducted. Nothing was being done in these subjects twenty-five years ago.

"There were no school libraries twenty-five years ago but now every building has a good library of books adapted to the grade of work being done in it. A state high school instructor says that our senior high school has one of the largest and best conducted high school libraries in Kentucky.

"Twenty-five years ago there were only twenty-six teachers. Now there are seventy-six teachers." 42

It is rather remarkable that since the organization of the Public Schools in January 1883 there have been only three Superintendents.

Recently the City Board of Education purchased a site for the erection of a ward school for pupils residing west of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company right-of-way. "However, City Board of Education officials say the structure will be erected when another building is absolutely necessary to relieve the already crowded conditions in other school units of the city.

"Until the construction of an additional city school building becomes necessary, the plot will be used as an athletic practice field for Bowling Green High School athletic organizations." 43


CHAPTER IV

PRESENT DAY COLLEGES

The Southern Normal School and Business College

The Southern Normal School was organized as a training school for teachers at Glasgow, Kentucky, in 1874 by Professor A. W. Moll. The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky soon gave the institution a charter. This charter provided for the usual literary course, and also for courses in music and art. This institution granted college degrees. As the school grew, the business department was added. Professor J. T. Williams was now associated with Professor Moll. They conducted the school successfully for a number of years in Glasgow. In 1894 the school was moved to Bowling Green. It occupied the building formerly used by the Bowling Green Female College, on College Street. The school was successful at its new location until 1890, when Professors Moll and Williams resigned from its management. It seemed that the school was about to pass out of existence; but in 1892, H. H. Cherry and T. C. cherry, together with Professors Alexander and Fletcher, alumni of the school, became its joint proprietors under the title of Cherry Brothers. Cherry Brothers emphasized the business department as well as the normal school. They secured a charter for the business department and this made it into a separate institution under the same management. Courses in bookkeeping, shorthand, telegraphy, typewriting, and penmanship were offered. There was
an English course for those who wanted to take some literary work in addition to their commercial course. All of the students were allowed to attend any of the classes of the normal school without extra expense.¹

In November, 1899, a fire swept the school building. Practically all of the equipment and records were burned. The morning following the fire office buildings downtown were leased and classes continued. A stock company composed of citizens of Warren County was organized, Mr. Cherry and his brother, T. C. Cherry, incorporated, and a building was erected on College Street to house the institution.² In 1904, the school was re-incorporated under the name of the Southern Normal School and Bowling Green Business University. Its course of study was extended to embrace numerous departments.³

Western Kentucky State Normal

In 1906 the State of Kentucky decided to found two schools for the training of teachers. One of these schools was located at Richmond, Kentucky. The other school was located at Bowling Green. The Southern Normal School became a state training school under the name of Western Kentucky State Normal with Mr. E. H. Cherry as its president. The property occupied by the

³ Teachers College Heights, XIII, (November 1931), p. 15.
Southern Normal School and Bowling Green Business University was deeded to the commonwealth for use by the Western Kentucky State Normal School. President Cherry now sold the Bowling Green Business University. 4

On March 12, 1909, the State of Kentucky bought the Potter College property. Potter College building was remodelled and an auditorium and Administration Building was erected. On February 4, 1911, the State Normal School moved to College Heights. Students and faculty walked up College Street carrying the furniture and equipment from the old building to the new. 5

Western Kentucky State Teachers College

In 1922, the Kentucky Legislature changed the name of the school to the Western Kentucky State Normal School and Teachers College. They also passed an act permitting the school to grant degrees. After the course of study was extended four years above high school, Ogden College leased its property to the Western Kentucky Teachers College. The name was changed to the Western Kentucky State Teachers College in 1930. 6

The main portion of the campus of Western Teachers College is located on College Heights. The buildings on College Heights

4 Ibid., p. 17.

5 Teachers College Heights, XIII, (November 1931), p. 29.

6 Catalog: Western Kentucky State Teachers College, XIV, (July 1933), p. 33.
are: Administration, Library, Recitation Hall, Training School, Music Hall, Home Economics Hall, J. Whit Potter Hall, West Hall, Cedar House, Stadium, Model Rural School, Industrial Arts, and Physical Education Building.  

When Western began its work twenty-five years ago, the faculty consisted of sixteen teachers; it now has one hundred twenty-five teachers. Twenty-five years ago there were only five regular courses of study; a review course, three other courses of one, two, and four years each; and a special course known as the County Superintendents Course. The school now has ten separate and distinct curricula, which have been planned to prepare teachers and administrators for different types of public school service; and to give students who are not prepared to teach the opportunity to acquire a general higher education. These courses are offered on the college level. With the exception of the courses of study leading to the College Elementary certificate and the Standard Certificate, all of the curricula are either four or five years in length. They include a General Curriculum, providing opportunity for specialization in twenty-two different departments; special curricula for the training of teachers of Smith-Hughes Agriculture and Home Economics, Music, Art, Physical Education, Industrial Arts, Early Elementary Education, Later Elementary Education, Rural Education, and Administration and Supervision. There is also a four-year Arts and Science Curriculum leading to the baccalaureate degree, for those

---

7 Ibid., p. 35.
persons who do not plan to enter the educational field. Courses of graduate level were offered beginning with the summer session of 1931.8

Twenty-five years ago the school had no academic standing. Today the institution is a member of the American Association of Teachers Colleges, the Association of Kentucky Colleges and Universities, and the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States. Its work is recognized and accepted in all of the higher institutions of learning.9

Chapel is conducted daily at nine-thirty and is presided over by President Cherry. Attendance is voluntary but chapel hall is crowded. Devotional exercises are conducted alternately by the students and faculty members. The life of the school centers in its chapel assembly.10


9 Catalog: Western Kentucky State Teachers College, XIV, (July 1933), p. 54.

10 Ibid., p. 51.
Bowling Green Business University and College of Commerce

The Southern Normal School and the Business University separated and became two institutions on January 7, 1907. Messrs. J. S. Dickey, J. L. Harman, and W. S. Ashby bought the Business University and operated it as a private business school. The Southern Normal retained the buildings on College Street and the Business University moved to the McCormick Building at the corner of State and Tenth Streets. Here for a period of four years the Business University grew and developed; then on July 5, 1911, the university building was almost completely destroyed by fire at six o'clock in the morning. By nine o'clock that same morning the students had been transferred to the school's present location on College Street, the Normal School having been moved previously to a new home. After this second fire the school was forced to struggle to maintain its existence, but it managed to do so and even to expand. Mr. J. S. Dickey was president of the institution until his death, January 16, 1921. J. Murray Hill took over Mr. Dickey's interest and the new organization became J. L. Harman, President; J. Murray Hill, Vice-President; and W. S. Ashby, business manager. \[11\]

From the beginning, the Business University specialized in training young men and young women to work in business offices and to conduct their own business affairs. It has tried to keep a balance between business education for its own sake and

---

business education as a vocation. In 1922, because of demands being made for better trained commercial teachers and office employees, the Bowling Green Business University became a junior college now called the College of Commerce. In 1926, four-year courses were organized. In the college department of the institution, are offered two-year and four-year courses in Commercial Teacher Training, two-year and four-year courses in Accounting and Business Administration, and a one-year course in Secretarial duties. In the commercial or non-college department are offered courses in bookkeeping, shorthand, typewriting, and salesmanship. The Bowling Green College of Commerce holds membership in the Kentucky Association of Colleges and Universities, and also the American Association of Teachers' Colleges.\(^\text{12}\)

A staff of thirty-two teachers is in charge of the instructional work, and eleven persons are in the office.\(^\text{13}\)

"One of the striking features of the institution is that the student can take a part of the college course; and, if anything prevents his continuing, he may stop school and make a living out of what he has learned because the work given is vocational. At the close of any year of a college course here a student has three options: he may continue in the Business University until graduation; he may withdraw and present the credits he has earned here to any other accredited college and


\(^\text{13}\) "Business University National Institution," Students' Weekly, p. 1, November 9, 1933.
continue his course, or he may withdraw and use what he has learned in the Business University in making a living.14

The chapel hour of the school is an inspiring scene. Chapel hall is crowded. Music of various types, addresses, and entertainments are all regular features of what the school offers the students.15

The Bowling Green Business University is known in every town and city of the United States and in many country communities and its reputation has gone to several foreign countries from which it draws its patronage and to which it sends its graduates.16


15 Ibid.

16 Ibid.
In conclusion we may say that Bowling Green has always been an educational center. It now has only two colleges, but Western Teachers College is the largest teachers college in the world, and the Bowling Green Business University, another nationally known institution, is the largest college of its type in the United States. The presence of these colleges and the maintenance of an unexcelled graded and parochial school system provide a cultural atmosphere that is reflected in the everyday life of the city.17

17 Ibid., p. 1.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

ACTS, Commonwealth of Kentucky, 1813 and 1819.


Catalog: Western Kentucky State Teachers College, XIV, (July 1933).

Catalog: College of Commerce, (September).

Contract, (Western Teachers College: Kentucky Library).


HORNE, MILLRED., "Sketches of Schools From Grandmother's Day," unpublished material of Western Teachers College, (1934).

JACKSON, MISS MATT., "Notes on History of Bowling Green." (Western Teachers College: Kentucky Library).

KENTUCKY LIBRARY SCRAPBOOK (Western Teachers College: Kentucky Library).

LETTER from Mrs. Lida Calvert Obenchain to her sister, Miss Margaret Calvert, dated 1933.


"Potter College," Teachers College Heights, XIV (January 1934).

RUSSELL, WILMA., "The Transition from Private Schools to Public Schools in Bowling Green, Kentucky." Unpublished material of Western Teachers College, 1933.

SCRAPBOOK belonging to Mrs. Ernest Daughtry, Bowling Green, Ky.

SCRAPBOOK belonging to Miss Ada Feart, Bowling Green, Ky.


WEBB, HONORABLE BEN J., The Centenary of Catholicity in Kentucky (Louisville, Ky., Charles A. Rogers, 1884).

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS

CALVERT, MISS MARGARET., Bowling Green, Ky. Miss Calvert is a sister of Mrs. Lida Calvert Oenchain.

DISHMAN, MISS MARY., Hartsville, Tenn. Miss Dishman taught in City Schools of Bowling Green, fifty years.

ROSS, MRS. VIRGIL., Robinsfield, Ky. Retired physician. Age eighty-five.

FRAZER, MISS ADA., Bowling Green, Ky. Miss Frazier taught in City Schools from 1891 until a short time ago.

ROGERS, MRS. W. D., Bowling Green, Ky. Retired lawyer. Age eighty-five.

SISTER ANETTE., Bowling Green, Ky. Sister Annette has resided in Bowling Green forty-three years.