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A History of Education in Pulaski County

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Anderson,
Savannah Susan
1946

A HISTORY OF EDUCATION IN PULASKI COUNTY

BY

SAVANNAH SUSAN ANDERSON

A THESIS

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OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF
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Approved:-

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and
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

The present educational status of Pulaski County has evolved through more than a century of slow progress. The causes back of the goals gained, whether they be natural consequences as in "the winning of the west," or the result of a brilliant stroke of genius on the part of some indomitable leadership, it is not the purpose of this study to determine.

The writing of educational history involves grave responsibilities, since it deals necessarily with biographies. As expressed by Macaulay, "History is the essence of innumerable biographies." Wherever biographical material pertaining to the superintendents has been given, it has been gratefully used, but the list is incomplete for lack of data. This precludes any special comment on the leaders, even if it were appropriate to do so in this work. So, leaving that to Supremacy and sharing in the thoughts of Ripling - -

"And only the Master will praise us, and only the Master will
blame,

And no one shall work for money, and no one shall work for fame

But each in the joy of his working, and each in his separate
star

Shall paint the thing as he sees it, for the God of the things
that are."

Therefore, it is not the purpose of this narration either to praise or censure any particular person, period, or place. And still, far down the vista of time, come the voices of the seers and the sages,

"Render therefore to all their dues. . . .

honor to whom honor [is due]"

In present-day practice honor usually implies a conquest in which the victor on whom the honor is bestowed has gone through a great struggle and attained a worthy goal. Since this history covers a relatively long period, and since it has to do with so large a number of people, it is well to think of it as a great pageant in which every Pulaskian has had a part, both leader and learner, the teacher and taxpayer, and even "they, also, serve who obly stand and wait." As the panorama of events crosses the vision, think with Emerson in "Each and All" as we yield ourselves to the perfect whole, or with Longfellow in the Builders:

"Nothing useless is, or low,
Each thing in its place is best,
And what seems but idle show
Strengthens and supports the rest."

These concepts above help one to view the picture steadily and see it whole. It seems the struggle has not been easy, and we believe the goal to be worthy of attainment.

Then the task of writing the account may well be guided by the following admonition of Paul: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things."¹

Now with this point of departure, the positive purposes may be stated thus:

- (1) To preserve some rare materials in peril of passing into oblivion,

¹

Philippians 4:8.

such as primitive reports, given by the first trustees, pioneers of the primeval districts; the first notice issued by the commissioners to hold an election; a certificate nearly a century old, and some interesting material found in newspapers; and some verbal accounts.

(2) To list and give the date of every commissioner and superintendent who has served as the head of the educational system of the county.

(3) To make a record of the epistolary reports of the county superintendents of the different years, since they shed much light on the educational problems of their time.

Since the geography of a country has much to do with the economical and social life of a people, and since all are factors in an educational program, the geographical features of the county have been included.

An account of the historical background has seemed pertinent to an understanding of the peoples.

The Academy Lands have been the most obscure chapter of this work. So far no source material in the form of records is available on the Somerset Academy.

So far as known, there has been no written history of education in Pulaski County. The only things that approach it are some articles written by members of the D.A.R., by the Chautauqua Clubs, and by Enos Swain. A brief account of Pulaski County is given in Collins's History. Use has been made of some of this material. Clarice Payne Ramey has written a history of the county, but the writer has not had access to it.

CHAPTER II

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The social, economic, religious, and political heritage of Pulaski County is traceable to Virginia, a colony which exhibited the greatest similarity to the British prototype in local government of any colony. A brief retrospection of momentous events and types of settlers in the early development of Virginia and Kentucky may be helpful in understanding our own county as to its social, economical, and educational status.

The first permanent settlement of Virginia was made by the London Company at Jamestown in 1607.¹ The London Company had a charter which granted one hundred miles of land on the coast somewhere between 34° to 41° north latitude. A second charter was issued in 1609 granting 400 miles of coast from sea to sea.²

The London Company was organized for commercial purposes and, like all companies of its kind, was anxious to make the enterprise pay good dividends. As an attraction to prospective settlers large tracts of land were granted to individuals. On these large estates the production of tobacco, which became very profitable, encouraged a rural population and increased the demand for cheap labor. As a result the plantation type of society developed.³

There were three distinct classes of society: the plantation owner, the indentured servants and slaves on these plantations, and the small land-owner. At first the church of England was the church of the colony,

¹ Geo. Bancroft, History of United States of America, (Boston: Little Brown & Co., 1876), I, p. 98.

² Theodore Calvin Pease, United States, (New York: Harcourt, Brace Co., 1927), p. 22.

³ Moses Edward Idgon, History of Public Education in Kentucky, (Lexington: University of Kentucky, 1928), p. 6.

but as bitter religious and political dissensions arose in England, the dissenters sought homes in America, and many Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, and Quakers came in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The influence of these denominations may be seen in the educational development of the people. The leadership of the early educational institutions was largely from the religious group.

The colonization of Virginia was in progress about a century and a half before the settlement of Kentucky. Many things had occurred in Virginia. Her charter had been revoked in 1641, and she had become a royal province. She had set up her system of government patterned after English government. The county, similar to the shire in England, was the local unit of government. In 1634 Virginia had eight shires, or counties, in which a court was to be held every month. New counties were formed as the areas of settlement expanded, and each was provided with a court as it was organized.

The parish was a unit of church organization managed and supervised by a vestry which looked after religious affairs, supervised the morals of the community, apportioned the parish levy, cared for the poor, and performed certain other administrative duties.⁴

The county was also divided up into military districts. Each district had its company of militia. These companies were united into one body for the defense of the colony, and each was commanded by an officer with the rank of colonel, appointed by the governor.⁵

⁴ Oliver Perry Chitwood, A History of Colonial America, (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1931), p. 184.

⁵ Ligon, op. cit., p. 6.

The first session of the General Assembly of Virginia under its new constitution established the county of Kentucky. Under the provisions of this act Kentucky was made a separate and distinct county of Virginia January 1, 1777, with Harrodsburg as the seat of government.⁶

During the Revolution the tide of immigration to Kentucky ran high. There was a heavy immigration beginning about 1780. Three hundred boats, containing at least three thousand people, descended the Ohio to Louisville this year.⁷ The population continued to increase and was scattered over such wide areas that government was difficult from one county seat. For convenience the county of Kentucky was divided into Fayette, Jefferson, and Lincoln, with Lexington, Louisville, and Harrodsburg as county seats, respectively.

In 1784 Indian depredations on the frontier threatened the peace and security of Kentucky and continued over a period of time. In 1786 Indians made their appearance upon the southeastern frontier at several different times in the fall and winter. Some hunters had been attacked and a man named Luttrell had been killed at his own house on Fishing Creek, not far from where Somerset now is in Pulaski County, then part of Lincoln County. This last outrage induced Colonel Logan to raise his corps of militia to range on the waters of the Cumberland and to a rendezvous near the place where the citizen had been killed on a branch of the Green River. He came upon the trail of the Indians who were supposed to have committed the murder. He followed and overtook them in Indian Territory, killed seven and got possession of skins, furs, and horses,

⁶ Ibid., p. 9.
⁷ N. S. Shaler, Kentucky, A Pioneer Commonwealth (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1885), p. 80.

among others a valuable mare belonging to Judge Harry Innes. The Indians who escaped complained to the Indian agent that their grounds had been intruded upon by Kentuckians and some peaceful hunters had been killed. In December, 1786, a body of Indians defeated a small body of whites at the mouth of Buck Creek. In May, 1788, a party of southern Indians stole horses near Creb Orchard. Nathan McClure, lieutenant to Captain Whitley, with a portion of his company pursued their trail to the ridge between Rockcastle and Buck Creek. Here a skirmish ensued. McClure was mortally wounded. Both parties retreated. McClure was left in a cave at his own request. Next day when the party returned for him, they found his remains shockingly mangled and torn by wild beasts.⁸

When the peace and security of Kentucky district was threatened by Indians, Colonel Logan publicly summoned such citizens as could, to meet at Danville, and a large number answered the summons. Upon an examination of the laws then in existence, their most eminent lawyers decided that no expedition could lawfully and effectually be carried out against the Indian tribes. Nor was there any power known to the law capable of calling forth the resources of the country, however, imminent the danger.⁹ The necessity of an independent government was apparent, and measures to affect a separation from Virginia were begun. The struggle for separation lasted over a period of eight years or more, with the calling of nine conventions for petitioning, discussing, and deliberating. This long period of political deliberations gave the leaders much valuable experience as practical statesmen in dealing with vital problems of rep-

⁸

Lewis Collins, Historical Sketches of Kentucky. (Cincinnati: J. A. and U. P. James, 1847), p. 685.

⁹

Ibid., p. 9.

representative government.¹⁰

Kentucky was composed of about sixteen counties when she was admitted to the Union in 1792. Seven were created the same year Kentucky became a state.¹¹ An act for erecting a new county out of the counties of Lincoln and Green was approved December 10, 1789. The requests were not met until 1799, when Pulaski was also established in answer to petitions from people living great distances from the county seat.¹²

The following excerpt from Allen's History of Kentucky contains surnames familiar to Pulaskians: "The first settlers in Green County were from the State of Virginia. The first immigrants to Green County were farmers, men of intelligence, good property, and high standing in the old states from which they came: frank, free, open, generous, hospitable and sociable, fond of pleasure and good living. Among those to whom these remarks apply I would mention the names of William Barret, Thomas Miller, Daniel White, David Allen, William Buckner, William Winlock, Jesse Mills, Pouncy Anderson, David Anderson."¹³

Pulaski County was the twenty-seventh county, the second of thirteen, established in 1796. Parts of Wayne in 1800 and Rockcastle in 1810 were taken from Pulaski County.¹⁴

¹⁰

Ligon, op. cit., p. 13.

¹¹

Thomas D. Clark, A History of Kentucky (New York: Prentice Hall, 1937), p. 3.

¹²

William Littell, Statute Laws of Kentucky (Frankfort: Johnson and Pleasant, 1810), II, p. 189.

¹³

William B. Allen, A History of Kentucky (Louisville: Bradley and Gilbert, 1872), p. 376.

¹⁴

Richard Collins, History of Kentucky (Covington: Collins and Company, 1882), I, p. 682.

It was named in honor of Count Joseph Pulaski, the distinguished Pole, who fled from his own country to fight with the Americans in the Revolution.¹⁵

The first court was held in the house of Thomas Hansford June 25, 1799, and oaths of office were given to five justices: Samuel Gilmore, Robert Waddell, John Francis, Nicholas Jasper, and Sam Meek. Samuel Newell took the oath of office as first sheriff. William Fox was appointed county clerk, a place which he held till 1846. Samuel McKee took oath as surveyor.¹⁶ "The second court," says Mr. Swain, "was held at the home of Henry Francis of Pisgah August 27, 1799, and was composed of three justices of the peace appointed by the governor. This was called the court of Quarter Sessions. Business was carried on in this manner for three years before the county seat was decided upon." Much feeling was aroused over the location, but Somerset was finally selected in February 24, 1801, because of the town spring located on what is now Vine Street.¹⁷ On June 24, 1801, the court ordered on motion of justice of the court that a town be established on land granted to them by William Dodson, "said town to contain forty acres of land to be known and called by the name of Somerset. Said forty acres of land vested in Robert Modred, Nicholas Jasper, Jessie Richardson, John James, Sr., and William Barnes as trustees of said town. Whereupon the said justice entered into and acknowledged bond as the law directs."¹⁸

¹⁵

Ibid., p. 683.

¹⁶

Enos Swain, Lexington Leader, June 6, 1938.

¹⁷

Martha Campbell, "Pulaski County,"

Somerset Journal, July 19, 1934.

¹⁸

Order Book I, p. 164.

Major William Fox, one of the leading pioneers and large land owners, built a one-room log house on what is now Columbia Street. It was here the first court was held in Somerset, October 27, 1801. The first courthouse, built of logs, stood on Main Street. The second was in the center of the public square. The third, consisting of two separate buildings, occupied a site west of the present structure.¹⁹ These were burned "when the great fire at Somerset December 27, 1871, destroyed the court house, two banks, and fourteen business and dwelling houses burning the best part of the town. The loss was estimated at \$50,000."²⁰ The present court house was completed in 1874 at a cost of \$20,000. The clock in the steeple was hauled by an ox team from Stanford in 1878. Ezekial Porch and Mary Porch, his wife, lived in Somerset when there were only two other houses. His father fought with Green's army in North Carolina, but he came here from Virginia. Ezekial Porch was jailer twenty-two years. At that time the jail was where the first National Bank now stands. It was built of logs and lined with iron, and no prisoner ever made his escape. This building was sold by order of the court to William Woodcock for a bank. Before the jail was built, offenders were placed in stocks on South Vine Street,²¹

Among the business men of early times were Silas M. Hail and the firm of Wait and Withers. Stocks of goods consisted mostly of bolts of jeans, a few old-time prints of calico, bed ticking, sacks of green coffee, a hogshead of sugar, a barrel of New Orleans molasses, powder, lead, and

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Campbell, op., cit.

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Collins, op., cit. p. 221.

21

Campbell, op., cit.

dishes. Early manufacturing concerns were a tanyard located near the town spring, a woolen mill operated by Ward and Dutton, a factory for making household and kitchen furniture, and a factory for making buggies and carriages. A world-famous product, according to tradition, is identified with the eastern part of the county. According to the story, Dr. Christopher Columbus Graham, who amassed a fortune at Harrodsburg, sold his interest in what is known as the Graham Springs for \$100,000. He went to Crab Orchard, but moved to the west bank of Rockcastle River at a place called Sublimity Springs. Here, according to tradition, Dr. Graham built a large grain and saw mill completely spanning the Rockcastle River. At that time wheat bread was almost unknown among the settlers, but Dr. Graham had wheat sent in to the community and distributed among the farmers. The settlers brought their wheat to Dr. Graham's mill to be ground. He produced a course flour after referred to by the natives as Graham flour. Today Graham flour is known all over the world, and where this enterprising man's mill stood, the U. S. Forest Service has constructed a suspension bridge for foot travel.

Cyrenius Wait, who came to Pulaski County from Massachusetts at an early date, became one of the leaders in business and civic affairs of the community. He produced the first raw silk in Somerset in 1842. It was in his honor that Waitsboro on the Cumberland, the first river port of the county, was named in March, 1844. The first river steamboat appeared there in 1846, and the town became a thriving center of shipping activity for farmers and manufacturers of the county. On Fishing Creek there were salt works. Milling was an industry on Buck Creek and Pitman Creek.²²

²²

Swain, op., cit.

Early towns to be incorporated in the county were Grundy in 1858, with a population of one hundred. Grundy is a distance of about five miles east of Somerset. It was named for the Hon. Felix Grundy. It had a church, two hotels, a store, a grocery, a carding factory, a shoe shop, and a school house.

Mt. Gilead in 1850, ten miles north west of Somerset, with a population of 50, had a store and hotel. It is said to have been situated where Buncombe is today.

Waitsboro, on the Cumberland River, was incorporated in 1844, and had a warehouse and several residences.

The following were incorporated but disappointed the great expectations: Harrison—1844, Stylesville—1862; Charlottesville—1858, Sublimity—1860, Woodstock—1866.²³

The newspaper has been a medium of disseminating news and keeping the citizenry informed from an early date in Pulaski County. The Somerset Gazette in 1851-1860 was published by John G. Bruce. The Somerset Democrat was edited by Barry 1852-1860, The Somerset Morning Herald by R. S. Barron 1867-1868. Other newspapers were The Pulaski Republican, The Mountaineer, The Thousand Sticks, The Herald, The Times, The Semi-Weekly News, and the two in circulation today: The Commonwealth and The Somerset Journal.

That the people of Pulaski County were a religious people is shown by the early establishment of churches within her boundary and by the fact that many of her early teachers were ministers of the gospel.

The first church to be established in the county was the Flat Lick

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Collins, op., cit., pp. 682-683.

Baptist Church, organized in January, 1799, with nine members. This building is constructed with stone and is visited by tourists today. Somerset's first church was organized by a group of members from the Old Flat Lick Baptist Church; among these were Stephen Collier, Joseph Martin, James and Martin Owens. The first building was of logs with a gallery running all the way around to seat the slaves. During the Civil War it was used as a smallpox hospital. This building was replaced by a brick which was later razed and the material used for the First Baptist Church.

The Methodist Episcopal Church was organized about 1800; the Christian Church in 1840; St. Mildred's Catholic Church was established in 1888 and grew rapidly. St. Mildred's School is operated now in connection with the church.²⁴ Another early church of the county was the Presbyterian Church at Pisgah.

These religions may be thought of as sublimating influences on the lives of these early settlers, sustaining them with courage and faith and hope to meet the problems in a wilderness of doubt and despair.

²⁴

Martha Campbell, "Pulaski County," Somerset Journal, July 19, 1934.

CHAPTER III

GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES

Pulaski County is located in the south central part of the state of Kentucky. The central part is approximately 37° north latitude and 84° west longitude. The western portion is within the Pennyroyal district, while the eastern portion tips the margin of the Cumberland Plateau. It has an area of 401,920 acres and is the fourth largest county in the state. Up to 1912, when McCreary County was created largely from it, the county had an area of nearly a thousand square miles. The elevation ranges from 600 feet to about 1325 feet above sea level. It is drained by the Cumberland and the Rockcastle Rivers. The Cumberland flows westward across the southern section of the county, forming two sectors in the southern boundary line. Rockcastle River empties into the Cumberland after forming half of the eastern boundary of the county. Buck, Pitman, and Fishing Creeks are south-flowing tributaries of the Cumberland, each crossing the county.¹

The principal mineral resources of the county are limestone, which occurs in unlimited quantities widely distributed throughout the central and western portions in beds of suitable qualities for highways and general building construction while much is used for agricultural lime; clay, suitable for brick; sand and gravel, suitable for general construction are found along the Cumberland and Rockcastle Rivers; and coal in the eastern part is mined.

Valuable timber has been rapidly removed from areas where its

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Willard Rouse Jilison, Pulaski County (Louisville; Kenyon Building, Kentucky Opportunities Department and Associated Industries of Kentucky) n.d., pp. 1-2.

presence would be an asset in preventing the flooding streams and the erosion of soil. In the eastern section in the proximity of Live Creek the Federal Government has a forest reservation. Under government supervision and control, soil erosion may be precluded; forest conservation and wild life preservation become paramount objectives. In the eastern section especially around Sinking Valley some interesting natural scenery is found.

The railroad in Pulaski County had considerable influence on the establishing of graded schools along its line, because of the taxes the Railroad Company paid yearly into the school treasury. The county is traversed by the Southern Railway, which extends in a north-south direction.

"The movement which led to the building of the railroad through the Central South with Cincinnati as its northern terminus began in Cincinnati in 1836 when that city held a celebration in honor of the grant by the State Legislature of Kentucky for the Cincinnati, Lexington, and Charleston Railroad."²

Records show that in 1872 plans were being made for this railroad. In the October term of court in Pulaski County it was "Ordered that the court guarantee to the trustees of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad a right-of-way through Pulaski County free of cost to said trustees for right-of-way over lands of individuals."³ An inspection of the profile of the railroad shows that it begins in Cincinnati at an elevation of 490 feet above sea level and reaches an elevation of 1248 feet, the highest point north of the Cumberland Mountains, just north of Waynesburg.

²
Commonwealth, April 24, 1946.

³
Orderbook 16, p. 59.

Somerset has an elevation of 872 feet. The first train to run from Cincinnati to Somerset was a passenger train on July 23, 1877. In 1880 the first two south-bound freight trains left Cincinnati for Chattanooga.

The Cincinnati Southern time-table No. 1 dated July 23, 1877, showed a running time of approximately seven hours between Somerset and Indlow. Today the time required for the trip is three hours and fifty minutes.⁴

The municipalities and towns along this railway in Pulaski County from north to south are in number Eubank, was incorporated by special act of the legislature in 1886. The first trustees were Dr. W. Baker, John C. Gooch, T. W. Donley, R. Coffee, D. J. Padgett, Daniel Morgan was the first judge of the town, and W. D. Fleming the first marshall. Eubank, with an altitude of over 1200 feet, is the highest town on the Southern Railway in Pulaski. The population is approximately 300. Eubank with its four general stores, two hardware stores, three automobile service stations, the First State Bank, two churches, a grade school, and a large consolidated county high school, serves a large area in the northern part of the county. The post office is a center of three mail routes.

Floyd is a railroad stop in the center of a farming region.

Pulaski, a small station, has two stores, two churches, a post office, and a graded school.

Science Hill, with a population of approximately 439, is situated seven miles north of Somerset and about seventy miles south of Lexington. It was christened by William J. Bobbitt, a man interested in science. Coupling his interest in science with an outstanding know (the Haltzclaw Knob) near by, he submitted the name Science Hill in a post office

⁴
Commonwealth, April, 24, 1946.

petition, which was granted. Thus the name Science Hill became established, and Mr. Bobbitt became the first postmaster while the railroad was being graded in 1874 and served one year. Mail was received at this time semi-weekly over the stage line which ran from Somerset to Stanford. In 1878, upon the completion of the railway, mail was received twice a day. W. J. Goodwin, who operated a store, served also as postmaster. Beginning in 1875 he served as postmaster for twenty years.⁵ The post office has expanded in proportion to the increase in population and the development of business in the town and community, and serves as a center for two rural routes. W. L. Tarter, the present postmaster since 1934, was a former Pulaski County school teacher who came from Russell County. The town was incorporated April 8, 1882, and the first trustees, appointed by the legislature, were Jeremiah Goodwin, C. M. Hail, H. Hines, James Langdon, and D. R. Hubble. The police judge and town marshall were to be appointed by the governor.⁶ There are three general stores, a furniture store, a hardware store, the Peoples Bank, four churches, a school building housing both elementary and high school students, and several personal service establishments, a produce house, and grain mills.

Norwood has ceased to be a post office or a railroad station, although several dwellings are clustered there.

Somerset, the county seat, was incorporated February 16, 1888, and was divided into five wards.⁷ "By act of General Assembly March 13, 1888,

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Letter by J. W. Goodwin, Commonwealth, March 13, 1946.

⁶

Acts Passed at the November Session of the General Assembly for the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Frankfort: S. S. M. Mayor, 1881), II, p. 322.

⁷

Acts Passed at the December Session of the General Assembly for the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Frankfort: John D. Woods, 1888), I, p. 268.

Somerset changed from the control of trustees to that of mayor and councilmen. The first mayor was Abe Wolfe and the councilmen were John H. Waddle, A. N. Girdler, L. D. S. Patton, William Cheniworth and Barney Higgins."⁸

The present population of Somerset is approximately 6,000. It has a large number of business houses, four graded schools and a large central high school for white children and one graded and high school for colored children. There is one parochial school operated by the Catholics. There are three banks in Somerset. The Somerset City Hospital has been completed recently. The Goodall manufacturers have an establishment in Somerset. Two theaters offer entertainment: the Virginia and the Kentucky.

At Ferguson, just south of Somerset, the railroad shops are located. Ferguson has a graded and high school. The population is about 519.

Burnside, situated on a point of land protruding at the fork of the Cumberland River in the southern part of the county, is an industrial town, the chief commodity of which is lumber. This, being the most mountainous area along the railway in the county, has necessitated the construction of trestles and tunnels for the trains. The relief of this vicinity produces some picturesque scenery.

West of Burnside on the west side of South Fork lies Bronston, an early settled region, and to the southeast of Burnside on the east side of South Fork lies Antioch, another early settlement. These settlements were made in the latter part of the eighteenth century. Burnside was first called Point Isabel, but during the Civil War it became known as Point Burnside because General Ambrose Burnside had received his mail at a two-storied log house known as the Ballou Place and called General Burnside's Headquarters. Reverend James Ballou owned the house and nearly

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Swain, op., cit.

all the land in Point Isabel, which was sold later to Joseph Kinsey of Cincinnati, Ohio. Some early families of Burnside and vicinity were the Beatties, Ballous, Richardsons, Robertses, Smiths, Davises, Shadoans, Bryants, Heaths, Saunderses, and Stigalls. It is interesting to know that the first oil well was drilled up on the South Fork by John Beatty in 1818 and the product sent to Europe. The settlers came largely from Virginia. It was necessary to cross the river by ferry during part of the year. One ferry served to set the wayfarers across the either river as the travelers would indicate, because a rope was not used at that time. The boat was propelled by huge rough hewn oars. The Cumberland River could be forded in safety in dry weather until Lock No. 21 was built, and South Fork could be forded at the Shoals about a mile up stream.⁹

Burnside was incorporated on March 6, 1890. The first board of trustees were George P. Taylor, A. G. Daugherty, L. B. Cook, M. D. Stigall, and R. M. Phillipi. James H. Hall was police judge, and John Coomer was marshall.¹⁰

The old historical city of Burnside in the valley must soon cease as the new city on the adjacent hill supplants it. "The old order changeth yielding place to new" as the Wolf Creek Dam project materializes. "Burnside, Kentucky, June 12, (1946). The new city of Burnside went on the auction block today as spirited bidders bought 100 acres of lots already zoned into sections for homes, manufacturing, retailing and transportation. The old city of Burnside will be abandoned lock, stock and

⁹
Mabel French Taylor, "A Brief History of Point Isabel," Somerset Journal July 10, 1934.

¹⁰
Acts Passed at the Regular Session of the General Assembly for the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Frankfort: E. Polk Johnson, 1890), I, p. 573.

barrel before water impounded by the Army's \$20,000,000 Wolf Creek Dam creates a lake over the present site at the junction of Cumberland River and South Fork - - - The residential lots sold up to \$600. The tract disposed of was the H. C. Brunson estate. The sale was handled by the Pulaski Realty Company - - - 'This is an auction by and for the Caucasian race' said Hyder Inglehart, Shelbyville, the auctioneer who read the terms. The residential section will be restricted to homes costing \$5,000 or more."¹¹

Waitsboro is interesting for its geographical location as well as for its historical significance. It was named for Cyrenius Wait. "A younger brother, William Wait, came to Kentucky in 1818-1819. He made the trip from Chester, Massachusetts, driving a team all the way. The diary he kept on the long trip is in the family. Waitsboro was laid off in lots and sold as shown by this example.

Waitsboro

Lot No. 70, 93, and 103

March 4, 1845

James C. Williams was this day the purchaser of Lots 70, 93, and 103 in the town of Waitsboro at the price of \$76. on twelve months credit. Now this shall oblige the undersigned to make a good and sufficient title to said Williams, his heirs and assigns to said lot whenever and upon the aforesaid purchase money and interest if any may accrue being paid.

Witness our hand and seal

Cyrenius Wait

B. Goggin."¹²

¹¹

Allan Trout, "New Burnside," Courier Journal, June 12, 1946.

¹²

Ruth Wait Tuttle, "Waitsboro," Somerset Journal, July 19, 1935.

In the description of Waitsboro with its activities and products there is given an example of a mineral no longer produced in this region.

"Salt wells were bored near the river; the salt water was boiled in huge iron kettles; and the salt distributed by pack horses, wagons, and river. In the 1840's many people in the county raised silk worms. Some of the Chinese mulberry trees, imported for the purpose of feeding the leaves to the silk worms, still stand. A factory and a warehouse were built at Waitsboro for this industry. The first steamboat to appear on the Mississippi was the New Orleans built at Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, in January, 1846, Aido in 1847, Pilot in 1848, Edmonia and Day in 1850, George Collier in 1853. They were all Nashville boats. The Clarksville, Pride of the West, and Janes Dick were New Orleans boats. These boats made yearly trips with the spring tides. Cargoes were iron bars, iron pots and kettles, chains, nails, indigo, sugar, New Orleans molasses, wool, hats, coffee, leather, and spun hunderd. Outward bound they carried meat, lard, salt, corn, dried apples, and whiskey."¹³

From early times good roads have been recognized as indispensable factors in fostering mass education, a tenet held in democratic society. With the advent of better roads educational opportunities have increased in Pulaski county.

Somewhat coexistent with the Southern Railway through Pulaski County, Federal Highway No. 27 has been constructed. This highway follows in a general way the old Somerset-Stanford Road, although some deviations have necessarily been made for the sake of improving the facility and safety

¹³

Ibid.

of the rapidly expanding traffic. Extending in a north-south direction, this highway passes through different geographical areas. In the northern section land representative of the Knobs may be seen. South of Somerset the surface grows smoother and the soil more productive, and according to a legend in a geography text book, there is a small area of Cavernous Limestone, while still farther south is the edge of the Mountains or Eastern Coal Field.¹¹ Highway No. 80, extending in an east-west direction and intersecting Highway No. 27 at Somerset, passes through four natural regions: a small area of the Pennyroyal, the Knobs in the west, the Cavernous Limestone in the vicinity of Somerset, and the Mountains in the eastern part. On this road are many points of interest. In the western part is located the National Cemetery at Nancy, and one mile south of this point on the Mills Spring road is Zollicoffer Park. The highway forms a shelf on the side of Fishing Creek hills for some distance then crosses Fishing Creek west of Somerset. It crosses Buck Creek east of Somerset and farther east passes through the areas of steep, timbered slopes protected by the United States Forest Service.

Other important roads are Crab Orchard; Etna-Woodstock, connecting No. 27 with the northeastern section of the county; Science Hill-Union road; Mt. Zion and Hogue road; the Oak Hill road; and the Stylesville road. These roads have made possible the consolidation of high schools.

The county is served by two electrical companies the Kentucky Utility Company and the Rural Electrical Administration. The Western Union Telegraph Company has an office in the Hotel Beecher at Somerset, and the Bell Telephone Company serves a portion of the county

¹¹ Albert Perry Brigham and Charles T. McFarland, "Geography of Kentucky," Essentials of Geography (Cincinnati; American Book Co., 1925), p. 6.

CHAPTER IV

SEMINARY LANDS

While Kentucky was still a county in the state of Virginia, the General Assembly of Virginia in 1780 passed an act vesting 8000 acres of escheated lands in William Fleming, William Christian, John Todd, Stephen Trigg, Benjamin Logan, John Floyd, John May, Levi Todd, John Cowan, and Edmund Taylor, trustees, as free donations from the commonwealth for the purpose of a public school, or seminary of learning, to be erected within the said county as soon as circumstances of the county and the state of its funds will admit and for no other use or purpose whatsoever. In 1780 the General Assembly authorized the establishment of Transylvania Seminary and vested 8000 acres of land in a board of trustees for that institution. This was the first seminary in Kentucky. Salem Academy at Bardstowm in 1788 made a total of two before the county of Kentucky became a state.¹ The first constitution of Kentucky made no provision for education, but the legislature followed the precedent of Virginia and authorized the establishment of academies on petition of the citizens of the communities desiring them.

The General Assembly of 1798 authorized the establishment of nineteen seminaries in as many counties. Each of these counties was endowed with 6000 acres of unimproved land situated on the south side of Green and Cumberland Rivers.² Pulaski County is not among the list of nineteen counties establishing academies. "The act also provided that the county courts of the several counties in which academies had not been established should have surveyed and patented 6000 acres of unappropriated lands

¹

Ligon, *op. cit.*, p. 17.

²

Ibid., p. 19.

for the use of academies when the counties did establish them.³

Pulaski County conformed to this act as shown on records. Surveyor's Book No. I contains surveys and plots of these academy lands whose areas vary. Some of the tracts contain upwards from 500 to over 1000 acres. These tracts are designated by two names, either Lancaster Academy or Madison Academy lands. These surveys were made in 1801. The surveyors' names appearing most frequently on these records are Samuel Noel, James Gaston, William Mayfield, Moses Heit, Joseph Matthews, and William Linch.⁴

In a legend, or map of Kentucky counties, Dr. Ligon in his book on public education shows that Pulaski County did have a public or county academy but no private academy. Incidentally 12 per cent of the population of the county were slaves in 1840 according to the same legend referred to in this paragraph.⁵

The name of the academy in Pulaski County was Somerset Academy, and its history may be given through records of court proceedings and acts of the State Legislature.

An act providing for the collection of Surveyors' Fees in certain cases, appointing Trustees to the Somerset Academy - - - - -
- - - - - Approved December 18, 1802, reads

"Whereas the surveyors of sundry counties in this commonwealth have been called upon by the trustees of the seminaries of learning to locate and survey lands granted to them by virtue of the several acts of the

³ Ibid., p. 18.

⁴ Surveyor's Book I, County Clerk's Office, pp. 42-50.

⁵ Ligon, *op. cit.*, p. 52.

General Assembly for vesting lands in trustees for the use of seminaries of learning within this state, and the said surveyors having performed the services accordingly:

"Section 1. Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly, That if any surveyor of any county within this commonwealth has actually done and performed any services in execution of his office as surveyor, for any seminary of learning within this commonwealth, at the request of the trustees of said seminary any person legally acting on their behalf; if the said trustees have not directly or indirectly paid or caused to be paid to such surveyor the fees due for his services as aforesaid, it shall and may be, and is hereby declared to be lawful for said surveyor to bring suit against the said trustees for the full amount of his fees; and the said trustees shall be liable to answer the demand of such surveyor, to the full amount of the sales of the one-eighth part of the lands by law allowed to such trustees for the benefit of any seminary, or so much thereof as they have not otherwise legally appropriated, and no further.

"Section 2. And be it further enacted, That the further time of three years shall be, and it hereby is given to the trustees of the several academies, as well as the county courts in the counties in which no trustees are appointed, to locate and survey their lands, and return plots and certificates of survey to the register's office any law to the contrary notwithstanding

"Section 3. And be it further enacted, That William Fox, James Hargrove, Robert Moderel and Jesse Richardson shall be and are hereby constituted a body politic and incorporate, and shall be known by the name of "The Trustees of the Somerset Academy" and the permanent seat of

said academy, shall be established within or near the limits of the town of Somerset, in the county of Pulaski, and the said trustees shall have perpetual succession, and a common seal; and shall be invested with all the powers and privileges that are enjoyed by the trustees of any academy or college within this commonwealth, not otherwise limited or directed."⁶

"On motion of Fontaine F. Fox who produced a certificate of his having taken the necessary oaths as required by law and appointed treasurer by trustees of Somerset Academy who together with William Fox, his security, entered into and acknowledged bond in penalty of \$2,000 conditions as required by law."⁷

An act to add additional Trustees to the Somerset Academy and other purposes:

Approved, January 17, 1818

"Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That Tunstall Quarles Jr., John Tummelson, Daniel Clare and Galen R. Elliott, be added to, and incorporated with the present trustees of the Somerset Academy; and as a body corporate, shall exercise all the powers and privileges that are now enjoyed by the trustees of any academy within the commonwealth; and on the death, resignation, removal or other disqualification of any of the trustees of the said academy, a majority of the remaining trustees shall fill such vacancy; and the person or persons so appointed shall be vested with the same power and authority as those appointed by this and former laws; and by the name and the style

⁶ William Littell, The Statute Law of Kentucky, Vol. III (Frankfort: Johnson and Pleasant, 1811), pp. 36-37.

⁷ Order Book No. 3, p. 508. County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky.

of the trustees of the Somerset Academy may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, or may be sued and impleaded in any court of law or equity having jurisdiction of the same. By giving to the trustees the power to fill such vacancies that might arise made the body of trustees self-perpetuating. The implications are apparent. There was no safeguard against politics and graft interest. This placed considerable power in the hands of a few individuals. The whole success of the academy depended upon the integrity of the trustees.

"Section 2. The said trustees and their successors shall use one common seal, With power in their corporate capacity to purchase or receive by donation, any lands, tenements, hereditaments, monies, rents, goods and chattels, and to hold the same by the name aforesaid to them and the same by their successors forever, to the use of said academy; and may sell, alien and transfer, or rent or lease all lands and tenements that have been or may be hereafter donated, or granted, or purchased, for the benefit of said academy; and shall apply the proceeds thereof to the use and benefit of said academy.

"Section 3. The trustees aforesaid shall severally take oath, to be administered by some justice of the peace well and truly to execute the duties of their office; they shall select their chairman from their own body, who shall have power to notify and call a meeting of the said trustees when necessary, and shall have power to adjourn from day to day, to make and ordain such by-laws, rules and ordinances as they may deem proper, not inconsistent with the laws of the commonwealth, a majority of all the said trustees being present; they shall fix on a proper place for erecting the building for the said academy; they shall have power to engage and employ a competent number of preceptors and tutors to said

academy; may fix their salaries; they shall appoint their clerk, who shall keep a fair record of all their proceedings; they shall fix the terms of tuition, and on the misconduct of any preceptor, tutor or student, they may dismiss or expel such preceptor, tutor or student from said academy."⁸

It is surmised that the Somerset Academy grew in importance in as much as additional trustees were appointed from time to time.

An act appointing additional trustees to the Somerset Academy.

Approved January 12, 1825

"Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, That Peter W. Clark and Fountain T. Fox, be and they are hereby added to, and incorporated with the present trustees, of the Somerset Academy, who shall, in common with the present trustees, possess the same powers and authorities over and concerning said institution, in every respect, as is possessed by the present trustees."⁹

One of the common means of financial support for the academies was the appropriation of the fines and forfeitures imposed by the courts of the several counties. The following is an example:

An act for the benefit of the Somerset Academy

Approved January 18, 1842

"Whereas, It is represented to the General Assembly that there still remains in the hands of Charles Hayes late sheriff of Pulaski County about \$126. The balance of a forfeiture which was collected by said sheriff or

⁸
Acts Passed at the First Session of the Twenty-Sixth General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Frankfort: Kendall and Russell, 1818) pp. 346-347.

⁹
Acts Passed at the First Session of the Thirty-Third General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Frankfort: Amos Kendall & Co., 1825) p.182.

his deputy previous to 1838, and there being some doubt as to whom said money should be paid by said sheriff for remedy whereof.

"Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky that said Sheriff pay over to the Treasury of Somerset Academy for use of said Academy all the balance of forfeiture not heretofore paid over to him, which he collected from securities of one Allen Rice on a forfeited recognizance which recognizance and judgment of forfeiture is in Pulaski Circuit Court; and failure of said Sheriff to pay said monies as herein directed an action of debt on his official bond in the name of the Trustees of Somerset Academy may be maintained against him and his securities or against him alone, for collection of said money provided the same shall be actually owing said Sheriff.¹⁰

The selling of part of the ground of the Somerset Academy would imply that the trustees were not looking around the corner for prosperity. The trustees had already been given the right to sell the land for the benefit of the academy by a previous act. Some of the ground was sold by authority of the Kentucky Legislature as shown by the following:

"An act to authorize the trustees of the Somerset Academy to sell and convey a lot of ground in the town of Somerset.

"Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Kentucky, That the trustees of the Somerset Academy in the County of Pulaski are hereby authorized and permitted to sell and convey to trustees of the Christian Church in said town, so much ground off the northwest end of Seminary Lot No. 64 in said town, as will be sufficient to erect a church upon; and

¹⁰

Acts of General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Frankfort; A. J. Hodges, 1841), p. 119, Ch. 32.

that if the said trustees of the said academy and church cannot agree as to the value of said ground, that the trustees of said academy shall appoint two disinterested persons, upon oath who shall estimate the value of said ground, the proceeds to be vested in and paid to the trustees of said academy as trustees.

"Section 2. Be it further enacted, That the said trustees of the said academy be further authorized to sell and convey to the common school district, number one, in the County of Pulaski, so much of the lot, number sixty-four as will be sufficient to erect a common school house upon for said common school district number one, so as not to interfere with the ground of the Christian Church, provided for in the first section of this act. And that the said trustees of the academy shall appoint two disinterested fit persons, who shall upon oath ascertain and assess the value of said ground the proceeds to vest in, and payable to, the trustees of said academy as trustees. -- February 14, 1846"¹¹

That the academy was of some attraction is seen by the following resolution recognizing its work:

Tuesday A.M., November 24, 1859

"Resolved unanimously that the high school now taught in Somerset by Mefford, Burdett, Woodford and Simpson is highly worthy of the public confidence and patronage of Pulaski and adjacent counties now and in all time to come. Second, resolved that in view of the circumstances the members of Pulaski County Court will use our best efforts and exertions to permanently promote and sustain said school. Resolved that these

¹¹

Acts of General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Frankfort: A. J. Hodges, 1845-46), Ch. 127, pp. 163-164.

resolutions be spread upon the records of the court not as judicial proceedings, but merely as the unanimous expression and sentiment of the members of this court in their individual and private capacity."¹²

We find no further tribute paid to the Somerset Academy to inspire the public confidence and patronage of Pulaski and adjacent counties, and the "best efforts and exertions of the court to permanently promote and sustain said school" must have failed for five years later in 1864 the Legislature appointed five trustees to the Somerset Academy and gave them power to sell the lot and the building as here revealed.

"An act for the benefit of Somerset Academy. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

"Section 1. That Cyrenius Wait, Robert F. Beatie, John W. Hail, J. H. Girdler, and John R. Richardson, be and they are hereby appointed trustees of the Somerset Academy.

"Section 2. That said trustees, a majority concurring shall have power to sell and convey the seminary building and lot in Somerset, on such terms and in such manner, as they may judge will be most advantageous to the institution, and reinvest the proceeds in other real estate for educational purposes, carrying the purpose and object of original donations.

"Section 3. Before making any sale, as above provided, said trustees are required to execute bond in the county court of Pulaski County, conditioned that they will faithfully discharge the trust herein contemplated and apply all money or other things coming to their hands by virtue hereof to the object specified in this act, with good security worth \$3,000.

¹²

Order Book No. 8, p. 58. County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Kentucky.

"Section 4. This act shall take effect from its passage.

Approved February 20, 1864."¹³

This act was amended later. "An act to amend an act entitled 'An Act for the benefit of the Somerset Academy' be and is hereby so amended as to authorize the sale of the academy building alone; and for that purpose the county judge is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint a commissioner to sell said building instead of the trustees as provided in the act to which this is an amendment. This act is to be in force from its passage.

Approved March 4, 1865."¹⁴

The final sale of the land seems to have been made in 1866 when a lot was sold to Mr. Sallee as shown by the table on page 33.

That the Somerset Academy, like so many more of its type, was in the last analysis unsuccessful is made apparent by its dissolution or merging into some other institution or system. Causes for its failure may be attributed to the method of financing which did not insure a fixed dependable income since the support came from land and money appropriated by the state, by fines and forfeitures of the county, by subscription of the people, by tuition, by gifts, by lotteries, by license, and by escheated lands, all of which were unstable and intermittent sources. It could not have served the children of the entire county since it was located so far away from some of the areas. There was no system of roads, and the county was large. The details of its demise have not been discovered. However, the legislature authorized the sale of the building in 1865.

¹³
Acts of the General Assembly Passed at the December Session of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Frankfort: Wm. E. Hughes, 1864), p. 463.

¹⁴
Acts of the General Assembly Passed at the January Session of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Frankfort: Geo. D. Prentice, 1865), p. 318.

The following table discloses the disposal of the seminary land in Pulaski County according to records in the deed books:

TABLE I

Deed Book	Page	Date	No. of Acres	Price	Sold by Trustees of Somerset Academy	Purchaser
4	258	1806	350	\$120	"	Samuel McKee
6	53	1825	366		"	William Fox
6	123	1826	221	\$200	"	Chrisley Tarter
6	126	1826	67	\$20	"	Jesse Tarter
6	161	1826	174	\$100	"	John Roberts
6	303	1827	76	\$250	"	John B. Gover
6	521	1826	120	\$50	"	Johathan Fitzgerald
6	530	1826	175	\$50	"	David Trimble
7 (I)	230	1827	909	\$135	"	Martin Turpin
7 (I)	287	1826	155	\$100	"	John Trimble
7 (II)	908	1833	1000	\$80	"	John M. Conn
7 (II)	105	1834	116	\$120	"	Vincent Luster
8	115	1834	180	\$100	"	Gideon Roberts
8	122	1832	208	\$100	"	Robert Tate
8	126	1835	720	\$400	"	Gideon Roberts
11	469	1842	172	\$20	"	Anderson Epperson
12	650	1846	127	\$25	"	John Norfleet
17	189	1855	400		"	John M. Weddle
21	548	1866	1ot	\$36.88	Sold by Sheriff	Sallee

According to the dissertation of Dr. Luther M. Ambrose there were sold in Pulaski County 6150 acres of seminary land for the sum of \$2516, an average price of 41 cents an acre.¹⁵

¹⁵

Luther M. Ambrose, "The County Academy System in Kentucky,"

CHAPTER V
PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Since the public academy failed to meet the needs of the masses, private schools were encouraged by the Legislature of Kentucky, which made it legal for five individuals in a community to get together and organize a school. These schools existed under a charter by the legislature similar to the charter of the public academies. These private academies were owned and controlled by religious denominations, by stock companies, and by private individuals.¹

Pulaski County has had a few private schools. The following may be mentioned: Masonic College; Mt. Victory Academy, owned and controlled by the Presbyterians; and St. Mildred's School of the Catholics.

The Masonic College was established in Somerset in 1865. The following is an interesting account of this institution: "At the close of the Civil War in 1865, there being no good school in Somerset, Mr. William Harvey proposed to the Masonic Lodge III to erect a large brick building suitable for school with a third story reserved for the Masonic Hall. He sold to the lodge the land on which the college was built which is the site of the present high school, library, and Central elementary school. It was a brick building three stories high with a chapel through the center and two wings just two stories high. Over the chapel was recitation hall. The Masonic Hall in the third story extended over the all. The long halls across the front from wing to wing included the stairways and cloak rooms. The building was the pride of the town and was dedicated with a

¹ Ligon, op. cit., pp. 39-40.

big banquet and dance on two successive nights.² The first principal was Mr. Benjamin Borden followed by Mr. Butte for one year, Mr. Rady, Mr. Reppert, Mr. Mourning, Mr. Noel and Dr. Montgomery. Mr. Borden returned as superintendent and had as teachers Mr. Butte, Mr. Will Hansford and Miss Ella Montgomery."³ This institution was in existence from 1865 till 1889, when the Somerset graded school was established by an act of the General Assembly approved May 4, 1888. "In 1889 the building was purchased by the town, razed, and rebuilt, a modern structure for public graded school."⁴ Among the personal effects of the late James Anderson, who attended the Masonic Collegiate Institute about 1878, during Mr. Reppert's administration and who taught in the county system as late as 1921, are found textbooks which, in all probability, he used in that institution. The following list is representative:

1. The Principles of Logic - A Schuyler
Van Anthwerp, Bragg and Company, 139 Walnut Street,
Cincinnati, Ohio, 1869.
2. The Elements of Natural Philosophy - Sidney A. Norton, A.M.
Wilson Hinckle Company, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1870.
3. Fourteen Weeks in Chemistry - J. Dorman Steel, Ph.D., 1867.
4. First and Second Latin Book - T. K. Arnold and Rev. J. A.
Spencer, D. Appleton Co., New York, 1846.
5. Reference Gazeteer of United States and North America,
William Chapin, Phelps and Ensign, New York, 1838.
6. Popular Geology - J. Dorman Steel,
A. S. Barnes and Company, New York, 1870.

²
Mrs. George Joplin, "Architecture in Pulaski County," Somerset Journal, December 10, 1942.

³
Ibid.

⁴
Ibid.

7. Principles of Arithmetic (for advanced students) Joseph Ray,
Van Antwerp, Bragg and Company, 1856.

"The school at Mt. Victory was organized by the Reverend E. D. Guarrant, who at that time was working under the Department of Home Missions of the Synod of Kentucky Presbyterian Church, U. S. The success of Dr. Guarrant's program attracted the attention of The Home Mission Committee of the Southern Presbyterian General Assembly, and that committee assumed the financial responsibility for all of Dr. Guarrant's work in the mountains of Kentucky and operated the different projects for a number of years. During the operation of the school by the General Assembly, the Home Missions Committee of Transylvania Presbytery built a large church building at Mt. Victory. The school building burned, and a committee was sent to Mt. Victory to look over the field and to determine a policy. This committee recommended that the Presbytery make certain changes in the church building, using it for both church and school, and proceeded to organize a high school, which in three years assumed proportions which resulted eventually, after it became accredited, in its being incorporated into the county system."⁵

The following advertisement of Mt. Victory appeared in a catalogue of Pulaski County Public Schools and Teachers' Directory in 1906 by L. N. Taylor, county superintendent.

5

M. E. Davis - Letter

MT. VICTORY COLLEGE

Professor Sherman Hail

Will teach the Normal Department at Mount Victory, beginning in January. This announcement should fill the college.

The Music and Other Departments

Will be taught by Experienced teachers. The splendid Dormitory will accommodate thirty boarders. There is not a more beautiful or healthy spot in Pulaski Co. The Famous Nunnelley Spring is within one-half a mile of the college.

TERMS of board and tuition most reasonable. For further information write to

PROF. JOHN L. MCCRACKEN

MT. VICTORY, KY.

St. Mildred, the Catholic school, was opened in September, 1908. Five Sisters of Charity from Nazereth, Kentucky, came to take charge of this school. The school was damaged when the rectory and church were destroyed by fire on January 28, 1928. The school building was repaired, and St. Mildred School reopened in September, 1929. Plans are now being completed to build a new church, rectory, and school on a four-acre lot on the corner of South Central and Crawford Avenue. This lot was donated by Dr. Wahle, a physician in Somerset, in 1945 for St. Mildred's plant.⁶

Subscription schools were organized by prominent teachers in the county to prepare the students for teachers' examinations. Many teachers enrolled in these schools. It seems that especial attention was given to arithmetic, grammar, dates in history, and factual knowledge in other

6

Unpublished Manuscript of the History of St. Mildreds' Church and School.

courses taught.

One outstanding school of this type was taught by M. E. Wheeldon at Estes school on Buck Creek in the northeastern part of the county. The Teachers' Directory (1907) of Supt. L. N. Taylor's administration, contains the following concerning M. E. Wheeldon. "He came into prominence by making the record of the county in a difficult examination (1892). Since then he has extended his education by study at home and at college. In association with Prof. Wilder he became known as a Normal School teacher. For several years he has conducted a Normal School near his home. In this work he is the most prominent teacher in the county. He has built up a good Buck Creek home and an enviable reputation." This school existed before and for a few years after the establishment of the State Normal Schools in 1906. Many teachers whose work has been outstanding and whose service extensive attended this school.

With the establishing of Normal Schools by the state for the training of teachers, and with the certification laws setting new standards from year to year, these private schools passed out of existence.

CHAPTER VI
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A. Early Schools

The first constitution of Kentucky made no provision for public education, a neglect which is not strange considering that the makers of the constitution were settlers from Virginia and familiar with the constitution of Virginia, which made no mention of public education. These settlers probably held to the tenet of the Virginians that education is a private and church concern.

The Federal government gave encouragement to education in the Ordinance of 1787 for the government of the Northwest Territory wherein the federal attitude toward education is explicitly expressed in the famous clause: "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind schools and the means of education will forever be encouraged."¹

Kentucky, being outside the pale of the Northwest Territory, had not the benefit of federal control in the distribution of her land, nor the much-needed reminder to compel her to make provisions for education as was the case of the states formed from the Northwest Territory. In the Ordinance of 1787 Congress "reserved lot No. 16 of every township for the maintenance of public education within the said township."²

Among the early schools in Kentucky before the state educational system was set up may be mentioned: Mrs. William Coomes, Harrodsburg,

1

J. D. Russell and Charles Judd, The American School System (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1940), p. 78.

2

Ibid.

1776; John May, McAfees' Station, 1776; Joseph Donaphan at Boonesboro, 1779; John Filson, Lexington, 1784; Elijah Craig, Georgetown, 1788; James Priestly, Salem Academy, Bardstown, 1788; Dr. Horace Holly, Transylvania, 1818. During the period when Transylvania begin to lose hold upon the public good will denominational schools began to spring up in opposition: Center, 1819; St. Marys', 1821; St. Josephs', 1819; Augusta, 1822; Cumberland, 1826; and Georgetown, 1829. The failure of the academy system caused public attention to be aroused to the need of elementary schools and caused the legislature of 1821 to appoint commissioners to investigate the subject and make a report. Hon. Wm. T. Barry and other prominent men made in 1822 an able report in favor of public schools embodying excellent ideas in regard to how they could be inaugurated. Legislation was induced to create a small literary fund to support such a system, but nothing further was then accomplished. In 1847 Kentucky had more colleges than any other state in the Union.³

The failure of the academy system to serve the children of the state effectively is also indicated in the messages of several governors urging a system of elementary education as discussed by Mr. Ligon, who writes, "The Kentucky legislature met annually from 1792 to 1820, but not until 1807 was any mention made of education." The importance of education was stressed by Governor Greenup in 1807, by Governor Scott in a general way in 1811, by Governor Slaughter with vigor in 1816. Governor Adair gave a prominent place to education in his program in 1820. County courts were authorized to lay off counties into as many as four districts

³
A. F. Lewis, A History of Higher Education in Kentucky (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1899), p. 16.

and not more than sixteen. Tax commissioners were authorized to take the census of all children between the ages of four and fourteen and transmit the same to the state auditor's office.⁴

That Pulaski County responded to this act is shown on the records of the court proceedings as follows: "The County of Pulaski having been laid off into school districts at the last March term of court, but having failed to number said districts it is therefore ordered by the court that said companies of Districts be and they are hereby numbered as follows to wit, Captain Cheyney shall be number 1, Captain Jasper number 2, Captain Goggin number 3, Captain Tate number 4, Captain Hills number 5, Captain Chadouins number 6, Captain Richardson number 7, Captain Alexander number 8, Captain Bomers number 9, Captain Ping number 10, Captain Humphreys number 11, Captain Sweeney number 12, Captain Cloyd number 13, Captain Galloway number 14."⁵

The first school census from Frankfort in 1829 showed twenty-three schools in Pulaski County. There were 2,438 children between the ages of five and fifteen with only 589 attending school. The average size of the school was twenty-five. The average income of the teacher \$75 per term.⁶

These early efforts of the state legislature to provide an opportunity for education for the children of the state was prompted in part by the governors of the state who from time to time brought to the attention of the legislature the need of educational opportunities for the children of Kentucky.

⁴ Ligon, op. cit., pp. 54-55.

⁵ Order Book 4, p. 17.

⁶ Mrs. Harry Wait, "Early Schools in Pulaski County," Commonwealth, April 16, 1941.

B. Establishing a Common School System

In order to appreciate more fully the efforts made in Pulaski County in compliance with the Acts of the General Assembly in 1838 to establish a common school system in Kentucky the following summary of the provisions is given: (1) the school fund of \$850,000 from the United States loan plus \$150,000 anticipated from the same fund shall constitute the common school fund, (2) the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall constitute the State Board of Education, (3) there shall be a superintendent of public instruction appointed by the governor for a period of two years, (4) the superintendent shall prepare and submit an annual report to the legislature, shall prepare suitable forms and regulations for making all reports, and shall apportion the school money in the several counties, (5) it shall be the duty of the county courts to divide the counties into a convenient number of school districts as to the expediency and propriety of adopting the system and levying a tax to supplement the state fund, (7) five competent persons in each county shall be appointed by the State Board of Education for a period of twelve months to serve as commissioners of education, (8) the commissioners shall be a corporate body to administer the affairs of education in each county, (9) the commissioners in conjunction with the trustees of the common schools shall constitute a committee to examine candidates for certificates to teach, (10) the commissioners shall make to the State Board of Education full and complete reports annually, (11) the officers of a district shall consist of five trustees, a clerk, and a collector, (12) the trustees shall have full charge of the schools in their respective districts and shall report annually in writing to the county commissioners, (13) no teacher be deemed a qualified teacher within

the meaning of the act who shall not have received and shall hold a certificate of qualification from a commissioner and the trustees of the common school, in the district in which he proposed to teach, (14) taxes voted by districts shall be levied upon all taxable inhabitants residing in the district, (15) trustees shall have power to levy a poll tax of 50¢ on every white male inhabitant over twenty-one years old.⁷

The law was amended in 1842 the following changes were made: (1) school commissioners were given authority to district their several counties and to hold elections in the districts without making application to the county courts for an order upon the subject; (2) the commissioners were given authority to appoint as examiners three professional teachers who were to examine and issue certificates to persons qualified to teach, (3) a subscription sufficient to support a common school for three months in lieu of a tax entitled the district to the just proportion of the state funds, (4) a maximum poll tax of \$1.50 was authorized, (5) three districts in operation in any county entitled the commissioners to draw the school fund for their respective counties, (6) the Superintendent of Public Instruction was required to spend eight months traveling over the state lecturing upon the subject of common schools, (7) if any county failed to adopt the common school system the amount was paid over to the county for the education of the indigent children.⁸

In 1842 the county courts were authorized to appoint a county treasurer to receive all sums of money for the benefit of the schools in their

⁷
Acts Passed by the December Session of the General Assembly for the Commonwealth of Kentucky (Frankfort: A. J. Hodges, 1836), p. 274.

⁸
 Ligon, op. cit., p. 86.

respective counties. No tax was levied in a district unless two thirds of the voters of the district voted the same. A fine not to exceed twenty dollars was imposed upon any commissioner of tax who failed to take a census of the children in his county. The funds were distributed to the several counties on the basis of the number of children of school age.⁹

In 1843 the trustees were authorized to select the teachers and have full supervision over them. The number of trustees was reduced to three.

In 1839 Pulaski County began the task of establishing a common school system in accord with the state law as the following procedure shows: "On the application of Bourne Goggin and John Couan, two of the common school commissioners in and for Pulaski County, therefore in pursuance of an act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky to establish a common school system in Kentucky, approved February 16, 1838. It is ordered that Lewis Patterson the lawyer of Pulaski County be empowered to lay off said county districts accompanied in said service by Alexander Adams and Cyrenius Wait as competent persons appointed by a majority of the court present."¹⁰ At this time the commissioners were appointed by the State Board of Education and received no compensation for their services. It was their duty to report to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction: (1) the number of districts that had kept school according to law, (2) the number of children between five and sixteen years of age, (3) the average number of children in each district at

9

Ibid., pp. 87-88.

10

Order Book No. 5, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 363.

school, (4) the length of time each school had been kept during the year, (5) the amount of cost for each pupil per session, (6) the number of school districts in the county, (7) the amount received and distributed the preceding year. These commissioners served for one year.¹¹ The law was revised in 1839, and the number of commissioners was reduced to three, and each was to receive \$1.00 per day for each day he was diligently employed in the duties of his office.

In the January term of court, 1842, "Ordered that elections be held in several school districts in this county as laid off by persons heretofore appointed for the purpose at any time and at such places as may be appointed by the school commissioners in their discretion between now and the next May term of this court to the expediency and propriety of adopting the system of common schools in the several said school districts."¹² There has been preserved a form which the commissioners used. On the following page may be seen a facsimile of the form.

An interesting collection of early reports of trustees from sub-districts has been preserved by Mrs. Harry Wait of Burnside. The following are examples of a few: "District No. 1 in the town of Somerset, Pulaski County, Kentucky, reports to the school commissioners of Pulaski County that they have caused to be taught by competent teachers in the present year a three months school. The number of children within the school district 66; average number at school 30.

"Given under our hands this 10th day of Nov., 1849

John G. Lair

¹¹

Ligon, *op. cit.*, p. 79.

¹²

Order Book No. 5-B, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 30.

J. K. McGeath
Daniel Buckner - Trustees

"Sworn before me on this 10th day of Nov., 1849

J. P. Curd"

District No. 2 was Pisgah. In 1853 a school was held in this district by Rev. J. . Barnes, who also was the pastor of the church. The building in which he taught was erected by the patrons of the district at a cost of \$250. The early teachers were S. A. Newell and his wife, Sarah Bradley Newell. Later the Rev. Mr. Hill and J. N. Devis taught around 1878-1879. Early trustees of district No. 2 were John Beaty, Charles Hayes, and W. W. Owsley.

In November, 1843, a report from the "forks of the Cumberland" bore the names Joel Roberts, Tilford Roberts, H. S. Beatty, trustees. The land, the present site of Antioch church and school, was donated by William Beatty. During the Civil War some of the children had to go through the lines to reach school. Allan Ballou, Mollie Chrisman, Henry Smith, Tilford Roberts, Dr. N. D. Stigall, John W. Colyer, and James Colyer were a few of the teachers prior to 1886.

On the Waitsboro road in a one-room house Miss Western Kelly taught during the Civil War. At one time some of her pupils were taken to Burnside to appear before General Burnside, who held a court of inquiry to ascertain if they were guilty of bushwhacking and firing on the pickets.

In 1843, in what is now Nancy, the trustees signed themselves: John F. Buster, Theophilus Pennington, and James Walle. The number of pupils was forty-four. The teachers were William Taylor, Jeremiah Brinkley, and William R. Sewell.

In 1883 the first common or public school was erected in Burnside. Mr. and Mrs. Daw were the first teachers.

"District No. 51 October 31, 1945. We report the undersigned elected trustees for to transact the business for said school district. The teachers were Samuel D. Combest and William Stephens for a term of six months. Miles Rainwater, Willie Combest, and Alexander Wilson."

In November, 1943, one school reported "no public money received, this being the first year said school was taught." Five trustees signed: Matthias Fisher, A. C. Jasper, James Rainwater, William Weddle, and Richard Vandiver.¹³

The following report is from the trustees in the Flat Lick community. "Flat Lick Meeting house" is written on the back of the report. Seemingly the old stone church was used for a school house also.

"This is to certify that the 18th School District commenced their school on the 24th day of August and has kept full three months and more. The number of children are 87. The district has raised a sum sufficient to defray the expenses of a school 4 months this 24th Dec. 1843 - - -

James Bobbitt)
 Josiah Claunch)
 John Moore) Trustees
 Jonathan Smith)
 Micajah Sutton)."

The following report is from near Science Hill. "We the Trustees of the Common school of Pulaski County for Mount Zion District Wolde, Respectfully Reporte to the Commissioners of the Comon school for saide county as folores. We have procured a Cite and house and Employed a Teacher who has taught Three months and have 30 schollars per Day also there is 50 in saide District who have had free access to sd school and said school is still continued.

Given under our hands this 10 Day of November 1843.

William Durim
Lindsay Newell
John Baugh
Aden Jones
Henry Baugh."

The following report is of interest inasmuch as it made up by subscription in lieu of taxes, which entitled the district to a just portion of the state funds.

"October the 20th 1843 20th District

This is to certify that the above named district has adopted the Common School System and Showing the number of Children and etc. A school commenced the 21st day of August and is now in progress. We have also procured a Situation For A School House and have Built the same. We Made up the Sum Sufficient By Subscription When added to our own part of the State Bounty to Hire a teacher for the term of 4 months.

Citizens	No. Children	Citizen	No. Children
Coleman Stigall	4	W. Vaughn	2
Joseph Smith	4	James Barron	5
Thomas Doolin	3	James Gastineau	1
Robert Stewart	2	Isaac Gastineau	1
Edward Numan	2	Thomas Reid	1
William Gastineau	6	William Starns	1
James Price	7	Henry Todd	5
Alva Pascal	3	William Bobbitt	4
John Crow	2	William Hubble	1
Henry Lewis	3	John Douglas	3

Trustees: William Hubble
Coleman Stigall
James Barron
William Gastineau
William Starnes."

The following report came from the vicinity of Union church located on the Stylesville Road:

"We the Trustees of District No. 41 Pulaski County Kentucky Beg Leave to report that we have had three months school taught the present

year By a qualified teacher also that the average No. taught at school was about 50 the Whole Number of children in the District Between the ages of 5 and 16 years of age is 82 we have a good School House Built and One acre of Land Deeded to Trustees By David Hubble upon which our school House is built all of which we respectfully Submit this 9 day of Nov. 1845 -

Trustees: Chrisley Phillips
William Langdon
George Read
David Hubble, clerk."

The following came from a school district near Nancy: "The Annual Report of the Clerk of the Common School District No. 35 as follows:

"1st. There has been a school taught at Saline School house in District 35 about three months by competent teachers, the session now in progress will expire in about two months.

"2nd. The amount of Money Subscribed to Support the School for the present Session is \$35.00.

"3rd. There is no funds in the hands of the Trustees.

"4th. The number of children in Said District of age designated by law viz. over five and under Sixteen years of age are Fifty Eight about an average of 25 or 30 attends the School when in session. The above is respectfully Submitted to common school Commissioners for Pulaski County this 1st day of November 1845.

Joe Porter, clk
of Board of Trustees."

The name of the teacher signing this report is found on an old teacher's certificate as an examiner.

"This certifies that I, John James, Being the Teacher elect of District No. 16 taught for said District a full 3 months term in the year 1851. Whole no. of Schollars in Sd district 66 Average number at Scholl

30 Advancemint in learning very great

Given under My hand this 28 day of Oct 1851 - - - John James

James Phelps)
 Madison Claunch) trustees
 William Hayes)

certified."

It will be interesting to note here the dates of the Session Acts regulating the length of the school terms. The school year was co-extensive with the calendar in 1864. In 1870 it was made to begin on July 1 and end June 30. The school month was fixed at twenty-two days in 1852 and remained at this figure till 1884, when it was fixed at twenty days. Six hours of actual teaching in the school room exclusive of recesses was made legal in 1888.¹⁴ By an act May 12, 1884, the school term was three months in districts with 35 pupils or fewer, four months in districts with between 35 and 45 pupils in the census, and five months in schools with more than 45.¹⁵ An act in 1893 stated that "after June 30, 1894, no school could be deemed a common school unless it were kept five months."¹⁶

An interesting legendary account of teachers mentions a Presbyterian Scotchman, Henry Anderson, a fine disciplinarian who taught at some time near the middle of nineteenth century and who organized the first Masonic Lodge 101 in Somerset, and Joseph Porter, a man of marked ability. Both these men impressed high ideals of character on their pupils. In the eastern part of the county J. N. Davis, a minister of the Christian church, taught. In the Pisgah neighborhood Sam Newell, a graduate of Center

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Ligon, op. cit., pp. 132-133.

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Barkesdale Hamlet, History of Education in Kentucky (Frankfort: State Journal Company, 1914), p. 158.

¹⁶

Ibid. p. 172.

College, taught for several years. Another early teacher was a Miss Bishop, a very efficient teacher from Massachusetts, who probably came through the influence of Cyrenius Wait, also of Massachusetts, who was interested in the education of his children. When Miss Bishop returned the second year, she brought with her a Miss Andrews, also a teacher, who married J. H. Byers, the first pastor of the Presbyterian Church. School was taught in the First Baptist Church. When the Civil War broke out, the church houses were used for hospitals for the soldiers. During the war Miss Molly Minton taught a school for little children.¹⁷

"Miss Hannah Franklin taught a 'pay' school in the Old Ark. Mr. Cyrenius Wait of Massachusetts was the instigator of Free Schools in Pulaski County.

"Through the interest of public spirited citizens two of whom should be mentioned, Messrs J. C. Ogden and O. H. Waddle—were most instrumental in procuring for future generations of Somerset, Kentucky, the educational advantages due them."¹⁸

The following has been submitted by a native of Pulaski County, Mrs. Lilly R. Hargis of Terre Haute, Indiana, who gives the data from legendary accounts and from personal experience of her own attendance at school from 1889 to 1902. The length of the school term during her grandfather's school attendance (about 1845-1851) was three months. He attended school then only when there was no urgent task to be performed on his father's farm. The school buildings were of logs. The heating system was as in-

17

Joplin, op. cit.

18

Martha Campbell, "Pulaski County," Somerset Journal, July 19, 1934.

efficient as it was simple, consisting of a chimney and fireplace in which wood was burned. Pupils were taught the alphabet, spelling, and reading from the "blue-back" spelling book. After acquiring the ability to spell and read they were taught arithmetic and writing.

There were "subscription schools" in which writing alone was taught. The writing schools were principally for adults and were often taught in some home in the community for a period of two or three weeks.

The program of studies as given for the Mayfield School for the period from 1889-1902 follows: The first year one primer was used. The alphabet was taught first, then the letters put into simple words. After the words were learned, they were put into sentences. By this method the pupil learned to read. The second year a First Reader was given the pupil. He learned to spell words and read sentences. He learned to print the alphabet and words and sentences. After learning to print he learned to write. About the third year he was given a primary arithmetic book. In the fourth year physiology and geography were added. In the fifth and sixth years grammar, composition, history, and civil government were studied in addition to the subjects already mentioned. Among the textbooks used were McGuffey Readers, Butler's Spelling Book, Holbrook's Grammar, Ridpath's United States History, Peterman's Civil Government, Ray's Arithmetic, and Bonnell's Composition.

The length of the school term was five months at Mayfield, which means that it was one of the large districts having more than forty-five pupils. The distance to the school from the homes of some of the pupils was approximately two miles, and there were no good roads. The foregoing seems to be a typical example of the educational opportunities of the average child in Pulaski County for that period.

A resume of the school laws pertaining to subjects may be of use in understanding the program of studies mentioned above. The law of 1852 prescribed that instruction should not go beyond the "elements of a plain English education" including grammar, arithmetic, and geography. History was added in 1864. The law of 1884 named specifically spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, English composition, geography, United States history, and the laws of health. The law of 1888 substituted physiology and hygiene for the laws of health and added civil government. The law of 1893 added the history of Kentucky.

The status of the textbook has changed since the school system was first begun and its importance continues to grow. At first from 1838 to 1852 the parents selected the books their children studied. In 1852 a law was passed authorizing the State Board of Education to select the books. In 1884 the law authorized the State Board to make a list from which the trustees could select the books to be used in their respective districts. The law changed in 1888, making the county superintendent responsible for the selection. This power was soon given to the county examiners. Gradually the idea of state uniformity in textbooks came about, and in 1904 the legislature passed a law providing for a State Textbook Commission. This commission has suffered many changes since its creation which reflect its importance in many instances. In 1934 free textbooks were in use as a result of a long struggle for uniformity of learning materials.

COMMON SCHOOL NOTICE

THE CITIZENS OF DISTRICT NO. _____ ARE REQUESTED TO
 MEET AT _____ ON THE
 DAY OF _____ NEXT, TO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION
 THE PROPRIETY OF ADOPTING THE COMMON SCHOOL SYSTEM, TO ELECT FIVE
 TRUSTEES, TO PROVIDE A SCHOOLHOUSE, AND TO RAISE SUCH AMOUNT OF MONEY
 BY TAXATION, SUBSCRIPTION OR OTHERWISE, AS WILL BE SUFFICIENT WHEN
 ADDED TO THE STATE BOUNTY, TO KEEP A SCHOOL AT LEAST THREE MONTHS.

BOWEN GOGGIN,)
 JOHN W. COWAN,) State Commissioners.
 CYRENIUS WAIT,)

Form used to call a meeting to consider the adoption of the Common School System in 1842. Bowen Goggin and John Cowan are mentioned in an order by the court to lay off the county into school districts in pursuance of an act of the General Assembly "to Establish a Common School System in Kentucky" as early as 1839. In the execution of the order the name of Cyrenius Wait occurs. The significance is that the names appearing on the form above were the names of the first school commissioners in Pulaski County.

C. County School Commissioners

The county school commissioners were key men in the success of the common school system since it was their responsibility to establish districts, examine teachers and supervise their work, to receive the money due the county from the state, to receive reports from the trustees of the districts, and to make annual reports to the state superintendent.¹⁹

In 1850 the county court in Pulaski County appointed three men who were to serve for two years.

"May term 1850 - Ordered that Cyrenius Wait, Hirman Gragg and Jonah Duck be and they are hereby appointed school commissioners for the County of Pulaski under the Act of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, approved March 1, 1850."²⁰

Two years later, at April term of court 1852, the following appointments were made: "Schuyler Fitzpatrick, J. W. Weddle and James Barron be and are appointed commissioners of common schools in Pulaski County."²¹ Just what took place in the interval between the April and May terms is left to speculation, but the following appointments are recorded for the May term of court in 1852: "Silas Hail, James Barron, and John M. Weddle be and are appointed commissioners of common schools in Pulaski County."²² The commissioners who reported the census for 1854 were: S. M. Hail, James Barron, and John M. Weddle. They gave the following: 4325—the number in the district; 2650—highest attendance; 598—lowest attendance; 1682—

¹⁹

Ligon, *op. cit.*, p. 4.

²⁰

Order Book 7, p. 137, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky.

²¹

Ibid., p. 257.

²²

Ibid., p. 267.

the average attendance.²³

In 1854 "D. H. Denton Esq. and William McKee Fox be and are hereby appointed this court commissioners to make settlement with Cyrenius Wait a school commissioner of the county and make a report of the settlement to the January term."²⁴

The following are significant in that they show the manner in which the commissioners were paid.

"January 1855—The committee, D. H. Denton and William Fox reported \$95.00 be allowed Cyrenius Wait. Each received \$1.00 for making the settlement."²⁵

"January 1856, Ordered by the court that Kimerist, late Judge of Pulaski, pay Cyrenius Wait the sum of \$95.00, to D. H. Denton \$1.00, to W. McKee Fox \$1.00 allowance made to them respectfully at the January term of court \$855 out of any unappropriated funds in his hands belonging to the county."²⁶

By the foregoing accounts it seems that Cyrenius Wait was the first commissioner in Pulaski County to serve alone. The law of 1856 reduced the number to one.²⁷ This was the year for electing a commissioner as the following court procedure shows:

"June term of court 1856. In pursuance of requirements of an act

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Biennial Report of Superintendent, 1854.

²⁴

Order Book 7, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 504.

²⁵

Ibid., p. 662.

²⁶

Ibid., p. 669.

²⁷

Hamlett, op. cit., p. 80.

of the last General Assembly of the commonwealth entitled 'an act to organize Transylvania University and provide for the education of teachers with respect to the appointment of a school commissioner in each county, the court doth appoint Edwin Porch as commissioner for the County of Pulaski for the ensuing term of two years. His qualifications and the execution of covenant by him are deferred until the next term of court."²⁸ His second appointment was given at the June term of court in 1858. "Edwin D. Porch, the present appointee, be continued common school commissioner for Pulaski County for the ensuing two years upon renewal of his bond with good security."²⁹

E. D. Porch failed to serve the full time according to the following record: "April term 1859 E. D. Porch tendered his resignation of common school commissioner whereupon it is ordered that Silas Hail be hereby appointed."³⁰

Silas Hail had a very brief tenure of office as the following shows: "June term 1859—Silas Hail resigned as common school commissioner and John M. Hail was appointed instead."³¹ In 1860 J. M. Hail reported to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction the following number of children in the county: number in the district 5289; highest number in school 3779; lowest number at school 1058; total number 2525.³²

²⁸

Order Book 7, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 669.

²⁹

Order Book 8, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 156.

³⁰

Ibid., p. 180.

³¹

Ibid.

³²

Biennial Report State Superintendent 1860.

Educational progress in the county as well as in the state was arrested by the impact of the Civil War. At first Kentucky declared neutrality, but both Federal and Confederate troops invaded the state as soon as neutrality was abandoned to protect their own interest. Being a border state, Kentucky became the recruiting grounds and battle field of both armies.³³ Thus the peace and security of homes was destroyed and family solidarity was disrupted by the question of loyalty. Troops from both belligerent sections were in Pulaski County, and two battles are recorded: one on Dutton's Hill on the Crab Orchard road near Somerset; the other on Fishing Creek Hill near Nancy. With these internal disturbances and distractions it may not seem too strange that in 1862 Pulaski County omitted to elect a school commissioner.

"Court omitted to elect a common school commissioner at the November term 1862 as required by law. On motion of the court proceeded to elect commissioner, John M. Hail was the only candidate before the court and receiving a majority of all the votes cast, it is ordered that he be declared the duly elected School Commissioner for two years."³⁴

Early in 1864 provisions were made for changes in the boundaries of the districts of the county.

"January term 1864—Ordered that a committee of two be appointed by W. H. Pettus to make such changes in the boundary and number of districts in Pulaski County as may be conducive to the interests of Education in

³³

T. C. Cherry, Kentucky, A Pioneer State of the West. p.

³⁴

Order Book 8, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 180.

said county."³⁵

The Judge appointed the committee according to the following: "February term 1864—Ordered that J. D. Bobbitt and D. W. Russell esq's., be and are hereby appointed two commissioners to redistrict the County of Pulaski into common school districts and to make new a boundary VC of each district in a book to be furnished by the school commissioners for said purpose."³⁶

The year 1864 was also the time to choose a school commissioner, and the following is on record: "November 1864—Court proceeded to the election of school commissioners. Josephus N. Davis and John M. Hail were put in nomination and balloted for, John M. Hail received the majority of all the votes cast. He was declared duly elected School Commissioner for two years from this time."³⁷

The following letter is from Pulaski County School Commissioner to the State Superintendent:

"Somerset, Kentucky

January 14, 1865

Dear Sir: I have visited 90 districts of Pulaski Co. and find the schools in a healthy condition in most of the districts though can be improved. I think and hope to have it done soon.

Yours,

John M. Hail."³⁸

In the superintendent's report of 1865 comments are made on some

³⁵

Ibid., p. 534.

³⁶

Ibid., p. 541.

³⁷

Ibid., p. 568.

³⁸

Biennial Report of Superintendent of Public Instruction 1865, p. 122.

commissioner's reports. "Pulaski Co.—Mr. H. 'visited about sixty school districts and found them in healthy condition.' He (Mr. H.) being nearly blind cannot give details."³⁹

Just why the following changes were made has not been ascertained, but William Harvey was appointed school commissioner July 1, 1866.⁴⁰

In 1866 there were four candidates for commissioner namely: J. N. Davis, J. M. Kifer, was chosen.⁴¹ J. N. Davis was from Dallas.

The State Superintendent's report in 1866 quoting extracts from the county commissioners gives this: "Pulaski County—Mr. D. Came too late to make a visit. He suggest that districts be held responsible for official contracts of trustees whom they elect and that the law should be more stringent in regards to reports of trustees."⁴²

Mr. Davis's letter to the State Superintendent in 1867 reporting school matters reads: "I visited 96 schools made a lecture in each, met 1760 boys and 1242 girls, a total of 3002. The average in each school was 31 children. I spoke about 144 hours in lecturing; made ten or twelve addresses on education and rode perhaps a thousand miles. I examined 100 applicants for certificates."⁴³ Mr. Davis is mentioned in an article "Early Schools in Pulaski County" as being a famous educator who taught at Pisgah district around 1878-1879.⁴⁴ Further reference to Mr. Davis is

³⁹

Ibid.

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Order Book 9, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 257.

⁴¹

Ibid., p. 325.

⁴²

Common School Report 1864-65-66, p. 198.

⁴³

Common School Report 1867, p. 231.

⁴⁴

Wait, op. cit.

given as "the name of John Newton Davis, an excellent teacher and minister of the Christian church, is given as a teacher at Level Green (now in Rockcastle County) and at Pisgah. His father came from Virginia and settled at Mills Springs."⁴⁵

John E. Cosson was duly declared by the court to be a Common School Commissioner, October, 1868.⁴⁶ The name also occurs in a list as a common school commissioner in Pulaski County in the Common School Report of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for the years 1868-1869.

On June 30, 1871, J. E. Cosson and J. M. Barnett produced accounts for money.⁴⁷ The conjecture is that J. M. Barnett was the successor of J. E. Cosson when the tenure of the latter terminated in 1870. About this time there was a change in the law relative to the manner of choosing the School Commissioner. They were to be elected by the County Judge and the Justice of the Peace.⁴⁸ No account of the election of Mr. Barnett was found in the order books, but the following letter is a verification of the educational status of the county at the time.

"Somerset, Kentucky

September 4, 1871

"In compliance with your request to send a good manuscript report of the workings of the school system in the county the following is respectfully submitted: It would be interesting and not without profit to trace by way of historical review the gradual development and continually in-

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Joplin, op. cit.

⁴⁶

Order Book 10, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 31.

⁴⁷

Ibid., p. 399.

⁴⁸

Hamlett, op. cit., p. 113.

creasing efficiency of the system even before the 5¢ additional tax lent its powerful aid. But for the sake of brevity I must content myself with mere allusions to this part of the subject.

"The people have the idea that the teacher should receive farm hand wages in some parts, but happily the notion is becoming extinct. People must still be taught to keep their children in school; giving them the right training at home; of cooperating with the teacher; of securing good textbooks; of having good homes. A teacher reported that about three books were in the school and she could not induce the parents to buy. The teacher instructs a large reading class from one book. Unhappily this is not an exceptional case.

"Teachers - better than before, but great advancement is needed in this respect. We have issued certificates which were below requirements of the law. In some districts nothing higher than reading is required. A few instances certificates were issued to persons whose qualifications did not reach beyond elementary parts of arithmetic. We proceed upon the principle a little instruction is better than none and that a common school having been taught will only insure the teaching of another and a better. Many teachers lack an appreciation of the importance of geography and history. School houses - Wretched huts in many districts a sort of shelter from rain and sun. Measures taken to have good houses built. Law is on our side and we expect improvement.

"Teachers Institute - Conducted by Prof. D. H. Butt of the Somerset Collegiate Institute was in every respect a success. The teachers most in need of instruction did not attend. Legislation might do well to make attendance compulsory.

"I enclose my annual report.

"A few districts have not made their annual report. In such dist-

districts statistics were from teachers' reports and facts given are from reliable sources. I cannot give a comparative statement for the present year and last year as there is no statistical report on file in the office for last year. One hundred and five schools have been taught in the county. Three districts have had no schools. District No. 60 decided by vote taken in said district and properly certified by the trustees not to take a copy of 'Collins' History of Kentucky.' No other district in the county knew anything about the law, the commissioner having not received the superintendent's circular in relation to the matter until the time had expired.

Jn. M. Barnett,⁴⁹

The following procedure took place under the new act of 1871 which designated that the School Commissioner be elected by the fiscal court.

"October term 1872 - Ordered that election for common school commissioner be held at the courthouse in Somerset the second day of the term."

The following is proof of the execution of the enactment. In 1872 J. M. Barnett became Common School Commissioner by election of the members of the court at the October term.⁵⁰

At the September term, 1873, Mr. Barnett made settlement of accounts.⁵¹

Mr. Barnett appeared in court and ordered his resignation to take effect July next.

William Hansford was appointed commissioner of schools to fill the

⁴⁹
Common School Report, 1871, p. 276.

⁵⁰
Order Book 11, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 85.

⁵¹
Ibid., p. 100.

vacancy occasioned by the resignation of John M. Barnett. There seems not to be any report made from Pulaski to the State Superintendent for 1874. With the resignation, appointment, and election of commissioners probably no one assumed the responsibility.

At the October term of Court, 1874, W. H. Isaacs was elected common school commissioner.⁵²

The following is a biographical sketch of W. H. Isaacs contributed by his daughter, Mrs. C. V. Gibson. "William Harrison Isaacs was born near Woodstock, Kentucky, August 19, 1842, and died July 13, 1924. He was married to Matilda Gastineau and to this union were born ten children. He was a member of the Christian Church and an officer in the Hazeldell Church from the date it was established 1859 till his death. He was a student at Transylvania College under Dr. J. W. McGarvey, and was one of the prominent teachers in Pulaski. He was a member of the Kentucky Legislature in 1908."

In a report to the State Superintendent in 1875, W. H. Isaacs states that an Institute was held in Somerset beginning August 23, 1875, and continuing five days; that ninety-two teachers were in attendance; and that he had appointed S. A. Newell and G. W. Shadoan as Board of Examiners.^{53*} S. A. Newell is mentioned in "Pulaski County," an article in the Somerset Journal, as a teacher at Pisgah for several years and as a graduate from Centre College.⁵⁴ In the same article G. W. Shadoan

⁵²

Ibid., p. 216.

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Report of Superintendent of Public Instruction, 1875, p. 230.

⁵⁴

Opelin, op. cit.

is mentioned as being the orator in the Somerset Collegiate Institute.⁵⁵
 At this time the fee was one dollar, being fixed in 1870. The law of 1852 provided for the appointment of one or more competent persons as examiners of teachers, and a fee of fifty cents was charged by the examiners for each examination. The questions were from the county board of examiners. At this time also, there were only two classes of certificates, being limited to two by the law of 1871. The law of 1884 provided for three classes again. G. W. Shadoan was elected in 1876.⁵⁶

The next county school commissioner was John S. May. He was the son of William and Mallory Moore May. He was born January 12, 1835 at the old May home on the Crab Orchard pike in the Flat Lick precinct. He attended common school and select school at Somerset. In 1868 he attended school at Gilmore Seminary, and in 1869 he was a student in the Masonic College at Somerset. He taught school from 1857 to 1860. In September 1862, he enlisted in the Confederate Army. He was one of General Morgan's men. He was second lieutenant in the army. In 1878 he was elected common school commissioner and served two terms. He was elected County Court Clerk in 1882 and again in 1886. About 1890 he was elected to the state legislature and was a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1892. Again in 1900 he was elected to the office of County Court Clerk. He was married twice. He was the father of ten children. One son served in the Spanish American War. Another son served in World War one, and is now serving in the air corps of the second World War.

⁵⁵

Ibid.

⁵⁶

Order Book 12, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 174.

John S. May was elected as common school commissioner in 1878⁵⁷ and again in 1880,⁵⁸ serving two terms. In his report to the State Superintendent he gives the following information: "The schools visited were in excellent running order - - but the schools became depleted by whooping cough, and measles and cold weather. The growth and development of the common school system is slow, sure, and steady, notwithstanding the many obstacles that have to be overcome in obtaining 'knowledge which is power and wisdom which is more precious than jewels.'"⁵⁹

John Sharp was elected in 1882.⁶⁰ The report of Commissioner Sharp at the close of his administration in 1884 to the State Superintendent reads: "Schools taught by a better class of teachers this year. All districts visited. Interesting Institute held in August. Educational interests in the county thought to be looking up."⁶¹

The school laws were amended and revised in 1884. Some amendments were: "Graduation of pupils from common schools was provided for (2) provisions were made for books for indigent children, (3) the County Superintendent was empowered to appoint a board of examiners to act with himself in examining teachers, (4) the County Superintendent was to be elected by the people at the August election 1884, and every two years thereafter. Before he could be eligible it was necessary for the superintendent to be examined publicly before the Judge of the Circuit Court

57

Ibid., p. 443.

58

Ibid., p. 446.

59

Common School Report 1879, p. 177.

60

Order Book 12, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., pp. 459-465.

61

Documents 1887-88, Ky. Library, W.K.S.T.C., Bowling Green, Ky., p. 22.

by an examiner appointed by the Judge of said court."⁶²

Eli Farmer, by virtue of title, became the first County School Superintendent, and the first to be elected by the people. Eli Farmer filed certificate of election in 1884. He received thirty dollars for visiting eighteen schools and attendance in office for ten days.⁶³ The foregoing sentences are the only references that have been found in the Order Books relative to his administration.

Under the law of 1884 he was allowed a reasonable compensation, to be fixed by the court of claims in his county annually, and paid out of the fund raised by taxation levied on the property of the county for school purposes.⁶⁴ Mr. Farmer has given a few facts concerning his life as follows: He was born January 5, 1857. He was married to Mary Jane Mize, who died while he was superintendent. They had four children, but none are living. The length of the school terms he attended was three months. This indicates that the district was small, having fewer than thirty-five pupils. He completed the third grade, but just what is meant by third grade is not clear because the schools were not graded then as now. According to legal qualifications the following was necessary in addition to the possession of a 'fair English education (1864 law), good moral character and ability to manage the common school interest of the county efficiently (1870 law), he had to be twenty-four years old, a citizen of the United States, a resident of the state two years, of the county one year.'⁶⁵

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Harlet, op. cit., p. 158.

⁶³

Order Book 12, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 182.

⁶⁴

Ligon, op. cit., p. 123.

⁶⁵

Ibid., p. 121.

While he was superintendent he had as institute instructor, R. N. Roark. After serving one term as superintendent, he went to the legislature. His name is on the list of teachers in 1888 as holding a second grade certificate and teaching in district Number seven. He served on the committee of resolutions at the Teachers Institute in 1907. In a Pulaski County Public Schools Catalogue in 1906 is found the following statement: "This school (Somerset Graded School) was established by special act of the General Assembly when Eli Farmer was our Representative; and to him, with whom we are proud to associate professionally, is due much of the credit for he championed the measure when it was an infant in the hands of strangers."

Prior to 1886 the term of office for County Superintendent (called county school commissioner till 1884) was two years. In 1886 the term was extended to four years, the office being elective by the people since 1884, and a certificate of qualifications from the State Board of Examiners was required.⁶⁶ W. J. Davidson became superintendent of Pulaski County Schools August 1886⁶⁷ and was re-elected in 1890⁶⁸ for four years. "He was born near Shopville, Pulaski County, Kentucky, March 2, 1855, the son of a backwoods farmer and surveyor. There was nothing in the conditions of his early life to give promise of his later usefulness and nothing to encourage faith in his success other than the indomitable will and tireless application with which he encountered the difficulties of the primitive life about him and surmounted the obstacles that lay in his

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Ligon, *op. cit.*, p. 121.

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Order Book 14, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 485.

⁶⁸

Order Book 16, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 139.

pathway to success. He was of the Methodist faith. The religious life of the community was simple and sincere. The church was an assembly for worship, and not a social function as we know it today. At the age of seventeen he obtained the license required and taught a near-by school. He qualified as a surveyor, was elected to that office without opposition, and served two terms of four years each,-- While superintendent of schools in Pulaski County he organized and established more schools and superintended the building and furnishing of more school houses than any other superintendent ever did in that county. When he left this office there were one hundred and fifty rural schools in operation in the county. In the fall of 1895 he was elected as Kentucky's first Republican Superintendent of Public Instruction and served from January, 1896, to January, 1900. He died May 4, 1909, as a result of a street-car accident in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he resided. His remains were interred in the Somerset cemetery."⁶⁹

The report of W. J. Davis to the State Superintendent in 1891 suggests some needed changes concerning trustees and teachers. "In some of the outer districts persons unable to write legibly make trustees' reports so that it is next to impossible to make out the superintendent's report from them. Some trustees believe that 'anyone who can read and write can teach our district' but this is the exception and not the rule. Most trustees employ the best they can get for the money. Many schools are taught only three or four months. This is unavoidable under the present arrangement, but I think it a great injustice to these children." He advocates the county as a basis of local taxation against the district,

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Hamlet, op. cit., pp. 173-174.

and proposes seven months of school.⁷⁰

The report of 1892 indicated improvement. He states that the teachers worked faithfully to bring the attendance up to 50 per cent; that school property was greatly improved; that much of the incidental tax is paid by patrons in furnishing wood and other things necessary for comfortable conduct of the school and no record made of it; and that the teachers' salaries are augmented by patrons furnishing board and no record kept. The teachers were interested in the Institute and are well supplied with educational journals. The colored schools are improving. The law making the school term five months will help them. A check should be placed on trustees who hire third class teachers when better ones can be obtained. Some persons are failures as teachers, but make good certificates. They fail in one school, but go several miles away and secure a position as teacher. Mr. Davidson in this report asks if it would place too much authority in the hands of the superintendent to provide that the law to be binding between the trustee and teacher be approved by the County Superintendent.⁷¹ The report of 1895 is brief: He pronounces it the most successful year. The enrollment is quoted as 85 per cent. The average attendance 51 per cent, the highest in the history of the county.⁷²

When W. J. Davidson resigned in 1896 to accept the position as Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. S. Cooper was appointed to the vacancy.⁷³ In November, 1898, he produced certificate of election to the

⁷⁰
Common School Report 1891, Kentucky Library, W.K.S.T.C., Bowling Green, Ky., pp. 209-211.

⁷¹
Common School Report, June 30, 1893, pp. 561-562.

⁷²
Common School Report 1895, p. 690.

⁷³
Order Book 18, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 319.

office of county superintendent of school to begin in 1898 for a term of four years.⁷⁴ He appointed George Roberts as an examiner.⁷⁵

One of the administrative acts during the administration of H. V. McChesney as State Superintendent from 1899 to 1903 was "Grading the Rural Schools." Among some of the encouraging things mentioned in Mr. Cooper's reports is the one bearing evidence that Pulaski County was making an effort to grade her schools. Mr. Cooper's report in 1897 is as follows: "The enrollment for the average attendance is 52 per cent. This is the best ever in the county. This success is due to enforced attendance in part, but mostly to extraordinary efforts of teachers and trustees to awaken a deeper interest among the patrons in public education. Nothing has done more along this line than the educational meetings held in the magisterial districts. In visiting schools I found all teachers reading professional journals, and many professional works and every possible means to grade the schools as the law directs. Steady progress is being made in graduation and the phrase 'can't be graded' will soon be of the past. One hundred books have been added to the teacher's library. The teachers in a number of districts are making efforts to organize district libraries."⁷⁶

In 1899-91 J. S. Cooper reports: "The percentage is not up to the average for five years, yet the average for the entire period is twenty per cent above that for the last year of my predecessor. The material increase may be attributed to the earnest effort to have graded schools in all districts. Since January 1, 1896, the county teachers' library has

74

Ibid., 20, p. 214.

75

Ibid., 19, p. 303.

76

Common School Report 1897, p. 653.

grown from one book-case containing 261 volumes worth \$300 to four book-cases containing 703 volumes worth \$635; and the district libraries from two with 320 volumes worth \$250 to 116 with 4497 volumes worth \$2065.42. That the teachers are attending the highest institutions of learning in the state is most gratifying."⁷⁷

In 1902 H. H. Smith was elected for a term of four years.⁷⁸ The report of Mr. Smith to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction brings to attention the problems and objectives of his administration as follows: "Schools in the county are in a fair state of progress. There is a slight increase in percentage of attendance over last year and it is believed that pupils are better supplied with books than ever before. Schools are reasonably well graded. Each teacher is furnished with a course of study and all schools in the county are supposed to be doing the same thing at the same time.

"Quite a number of districts have good school houses and well supplied with furniture and apparatus, but the attendance is not what it should be. The county teachers' library has 821 volumes. The county teachers are reading a great deal. The influence (of the library) is felt all over the county. The county teachers and schools are greatly benefited - - -

"The most serious question in connection with the public school is that of attendance. Three things necessary for the increase of attendance are:

1. Better trustee system by which good men who realize their responsibilities, will meet them, and can be elected.

⁷⁷

Ibid., 1899-1901, pp. 320-321.

⁷⁸

Order Book 20, County Clerk's Office, Somerset, Ky., p. 452.

2. The county should be made the unit of taxation.
3. More rigid compulsory school law and more rigid enforcement.⁷⁹

The list of the names of those receiving common school diplomas about 1902 are Lora Debord, Stella Isaacs, Estelle Jones, Herbert Isaacs, Minnie Mayfield, Zona Reid, Ida Riddle, and Wm. H. Keeney.⁸⁰ Amanda Ware received a State Certificate.

In an Institute syllabus of 1888 H. H. Smith is in the list of teachers who had an active part in the discussions.

In the Teachers' Directory of 1907 he is listed as a teacher in district 76. His name appears as one of two examiners whose names are on diplomas and teachers' certificates in 1912.

L. N. Taylor was elected to the office of County School Superintendent, and served from 1906 to 1910. Much illuminating material pertaining to his educational program which abounds with courage and enthusiasm may be found in the catalogues and teachers' directories published during his superintendency. Likewise the contents of an epistolary report to the State Superintendent shows the goals to be attained, and the progress that is being made in that direction as here quoted:

"We are reducing the number of schools and increasing their efficiency by combining pauper districts; reducing the number of teachers and increasing their efficiency by careful examinations; increasing salaries by reducing the number of pauper schools. The net percapita has been raised six cents in addition to ten cents raise in the state. This six

79

Biennial Report of State Superintendent 1901-1903, pp. 228-229.

80

Ibid., p. 44.

81

Ibid., p. 37.

cents increase means in the aggregate about \$1000 to teachers.

"We are establishing graded schools wherever sufficient wealth and population are found to maintain them. Three such schools have been established this year (1907). They employ more teachers, pay better salaries, and get better services than under the former organization. Larger districts are building two-room school houses and operating two-teacher schools. This is better than dividing these large districts.

"We pay school taxes. About fifty per cent of our taxable property pays district school tax, the rate ranging from one dollar to a hundred dollars and two dollars poll tax, to ten cents to the hundred dollars and twenty-five cents poll.

"With the funds thus raised we either extend the school term or build and furnish school houses. We built twelve buildings in two years. Our poorer districts cannot by maximum taxation extend their term one month each year or build and furnish a school house in twenty years.

"We are establishing district libraries.

"We are conforming to the State Course of Study.

"What Pulaski County needs-- In the school catalogue of 1901 it

(1) One paid trustee for each school.

(2) A county school board to raise county school funds and appropriate them in the improvement of school property. The Board should consist of the County Superintendent and a member from each magisterial district. The Board should determine district boundaries and school sites. This should not deprive any progressive district of the means of taxing themselves for legitimate school purposes of their own. Some of our poorer districts have no legal means of putting in creditable school property since by maximum

district taxation, they could not pay legal interest on the cost of a good school house properly furnished. Whenever the county begins to build the school properties, the demand in every neighborhood will be for good houses and equipment and the general demand will be met.

(3) The basis of the minimum salary of teachers raised from forty-five pupil-children to fifty. We need the village and country put on one basis. In either case, we want to encourage large districts and require two teachers wherever the districts draws per capita on more than one hundred pupils."⁸²

Mr. Taylor has held various state positions in educational work, and has been one of the key men in bringing to fruition the educational advantages the state has to offer.

Wesley J. Barnes was elected Superintendent of Pulaski County Schools in 1909. According to the teachers' directories he was a teacher in district 74 for the years 1906 and 1907, was vice-president of the teachers' association in magisterial districts No. 1 and 2 in 1907, and has an active part in the school program. In the school catalogue of 1906 is given a brief account of his views on the "Trustee System" and the mode of taxation for the maintenance of the public schools. He advocates three trustees in each school district, one elected every third year and styled respectively: Secretary, Treasurer, and Director with the duties of each defined.

He advocates a larger percentage of state tax to be paid into the school fund in order to increase the salaries of teachers and lengthen

82

Common School Report 1905-1907, pp. 165-166.

the school term; the tax to be paid to the district treasurer instead of to the county superintendent. He opposed the county unit taxation for the extension of the school term as a state tax would pay four dollars to where the county of Pulaski would pay one after excepting Somerset, Science Hill, Burnside, and all other districts having graded schools. He also opposed the county board system as it would take the control of the public school out of the hands of the public and place it in the hands of a few, where politics and faction would be tempted to enter and assume controlling influence in the hiring of teachers and performing other duties of a remunerative or favoring nature.

Further educational policies of Mr. Barnes are expressed in a report to the superintendent as follows:

"(a) Pulaski is the largest county in the state coming under the new district, having 140 sub-district schools and ten graded schools.

"(b) The graded schools situated in the wealthiest parts of the county along the railroad, are able to take care of themselves financially, but the one hundred forty rural sub-districts are poorly cared for on account of lack of revenue to make the necessary improvements.

"(c) The taxable property in the county is about \$8,000,000 with only about \$3,000,000 of this lying outside of the graded school districts, leaving the greater part of the ten graded schools out of reach of county taxation. This seems unjust as the county unit law falls far short of being what it was intended to be. We have only about \$7,500 to take care of all the sub-district schools.

"(d) But few of the so-called graded schools are fulfilling the purpose for which they were intended in regard to the length of term, the number of grades, and the course of study. In fact a greater part of them

are but little better than our two-room sub-district school, while they are sapping our County Board Treasury of much needed funds for the great mass of rural schools, for which the Common School System primarily exists.

"(e) In the sub-districts we have put into the schools \$2,000 worth of furniture, built thirteen schoolhouses, repaired with roofs about twenty-five. There are still many needs which ought to be met at once, but which cannot be for lack of funds. If two-thirds of the graded schools were abolished the County Board could take as good care of them as they are taking of themselves with one-half the money they are now expending. But the spirit and enthusiasm of school work are at high tide down in old Pulaski, as evidenced by the great number who are taking professional training in the State Normal Schools and State University and other reputable schools. In the past year we have had more than one hundred enrolled in these schools.

"(f) It is hoped that there will be new legislation to cut down the running expenses of the new school system, and provide more revenue for the rural sub-district schools, and the graded schools will be made to adopt a higher course of study and other conditions, as longer terms and more proficient teachers that will make them fulfill the purpose for which they were instituted.

"(g) It is hoped that the General Assembly will consider the extra burdens and work it has heaped upon the County Superintendents all over the State by the new school law and county board system, and will provide some way to raise the Superintendent's salary in the same proportion." ⁸³

W. J. Barnes served as superintendent for four years. He was supervisor of schools under the administration of his successor, H. C. Anderson, whose report to the State Superintendent states: (a) "Last year (1915) for the first time in the history of the county we had a rural school supervisor, and besides supervising the schools he was also truant officer of the county and attendance increased at least twenty per cent."⁸⁴

Henry C. Anderson was elected in 1914 to the office of County Superintendent of Schools. He was a graduate of Somerset High School and attended Eastern Kentucky State Normal School.

To the State Superintendent he reported (1915): "(b) We built six new school houses last year and expect to build that many this year. (c) Every teacher in the county must be able to teach some domestic science and practical agriculture this year. (d) Last year eighteen of our teachers attended K.E.A. We expect to have forty at the K.E.A. this year (1916)."⁸⁵

In a later report he gives the following facts and opinions: "(a) Four years ago the average attendance for the county was forty-eight per cent; the attendance last year was sixty-eight per cent. The increase is attributed to the supervisor who also served as truant officer. Pulaski needs seven supervisors, one for each educational division. (b) The organization of a Community Interest League in every school district has aroused much interest in a public school spirit. (c) The aim is to advance the cause of education, to give every child a chance to attend

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Biennial Report of State Superintendent 1914-1915, p. 312.

⁸⁵

Ibid.

school, and to enforce the attendance law to the letter. (d) Eleven new school houses were built last year, twenty this year, and four are under construction. These school houses are of modern type, built of first class material, and with first class workmanship. The covering is with galvanized iron and thereby eliminates painting the roofs. (e) Each teacher in the rural school in the county is able to teach some domestic science, manual training and primary agriculture. (f) Sixty per cent of the teachers of the county have attended K.E.A. for the past four years. Three years out of four Pulaski won the prize for having the largest number of teachers present at the association."⁸⁶

Leonard E. Meece was elected county school superintendent and took the oath of office in January, 1918. He was the last superintendent in the county to be elected by the people and the first to be appointed by the county board of education. The law of 1920 gave the county board of education the right to appoint the superintendent of county schools. Mr. Meece served as county superintendent from 1918 till 1930, three four-year terms. He was a graduate of Berea College and had taught in the Normal Department of that institution before his election to the superintendent's office in Pulaski County, his native habitat. In a report to the State Superintendent there is a revelation of educational progress brought about by effort. It follows: "The schools in Pulaski County are making steady progress toward a higher plane of educational interest and activity. In the county we have a total of one hundred forty-six schools, one hundred forty rural schools and six graded schools. We employ one hundred sixty-six teachers in the rural schools.

"There are three first class county high schools within the reach of every student in the county. Two new county high schools are established by contract. There are twenty-three two-room consolidated schools, one three-room consolidated school and one four-room consolidated school. There are a number of emergency schools in the mountains where settlement is sparse.

"We are making a determined fight against illiteracy and accomplishing great success in this work, not only in the number of illiterates who have been taught to read and write, but in stimulating a greater interest in education and increased attendance. This year the county board with the help of the State College of Agriculture, employed a club agent for the county who did good work in organizing the various agricultural clubs throughout the county, and assisting school teachers with agriculture work in the schools. The county board is greatly handicapped by lack of funds, but the teachers and patrons of our schools have cooperated in every possible way and raised funds for needed improvements. In closing I will say that despite hindrances and handicaps we are advancing.

... Leonard Meece.⁸⁷

James M. Holt was elected superintendent of schools by the Pulaski County Board of Education in May, 1930. Members of the board were: Dr. Brent Weddle, chairman, Samuel Miller, M. D. Hughes, Bud Shadoan, and Cleveland Whealdon. In 1934 he was re-elected for another four years. This board was composed of Robert Hail, Henry Barnes, Claude Jasper, James K. Mercer, and Howard Hines.

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Superintendents' Biennial Report, 1922-1923.

Mr. Holt was born at Bald Rock, Laurel County, September 16, 1886. He attended the elementary schools--Silver Star, Jones, and Ping in Pulaski County. He attended high school at Mt. Victory, summer-training school for teachers at Somerset. He finished Normal School at Berea in 1924. He graduated from Berea College in 1928. He taught thirteen years in Pulaski County, two years in Madison County, and was principal of Gray High School in Knox County in 1928-1930. During his eight years as superintendent of Pulaski County, thirty-three schools of one-, two-, and three -rooms were built. New high school buildings were erected at Nancy and Shopville. Shopville High School building burned in January, 1936, and was rebuilt within that year.

Eubank High School came under the county system, and the buildings were remodelled, water systems installed, and concrete walks were built.

Pulaski High School came into the county system in 1936.

School buses started operating in 1935. One bus was used at Eubank, two at Shopville, and one at Nancy. At the end of 1937 each school had three school buses.

Only a few children in the remote districts had an opportunity to attend high school prior to 1935. After the consolidation program was in operation, opportunity to attend high school was open to all children who were eligible.

The first attendance officer, Mrs. Joe Hughes, was elected during his administration.

Corbin J. Acton was superintendent of Pulaski County Schools from 1938 to 1942. He was born November 14, 1897, at Clarence, Pulaski County, Kentucky. He was the son of Alfred and Fannie Colson Acton, who were of the staunch pioneer settlers of Pulaski County. He attended elementary

school at Estes School, received his secondary education in the Normal School at Berea about 1924, and graduated from Berea College in 1928. He taught his first school at Pence, then five years at Estes graded school, and five years in Pulaski High School, from 1931 to 1936. In 1936 he was assistant principal at Eubank. In 1937 he was principal of Eubank High School. While county school superintendent from 1938 to 1942 he reduced the debt of the county greatly and fostered economy in school expenditures. On July 1, 1942, he became superintendent of Ferguson School. He died September 14, 1943, in a Lexington hospital at the age of forty-six. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

In the Kentucky School Director for 1938-1939 the name V. K. Tarter is listed as school superintendent of Pulaski County. His tenure as superintendent will be remembered by the enthusiasm and promptness of attention given to educational problems. He organized a program for the improvement of reading in the rural schools. Much interesting reading material was purchased and so organized that teachers exchanged series of readers and every child was supplied with supplementary material suitable to his interest in nature, science, history, geography, and people. Mr. Tarter was educated at Eastern Kentucky State Teachers College and at the University of Kentucky.

Raymond J. Wesley was elected superintendent in 1942. He was a native of Pulaski County and received his early education in the rural schools. He attended school at Science Hill High School, Berea College, Western State Teachers College, and the University of Kentucky. From the last he received two degrees. During Mr. Wesley's tenure he kept the schools running during the war period by employing emergency teachers whom he sought to train and aid through cooperation with work-shops and appointment

of helping-teachers.

Orville Swearinger was elected by the Pulaski County Board of Education in 1946. He resigned the position of county attendance officer, an office which he had held since 1942-1943, to fill the unexpired term of office of county superintendent occasioned by the resignation of Raymond J. Wesley, who resigned to accept the superintendency of Nicholas County.

He is a graduate of Science Hill High School. He attended college in the South and received professional training at Eastern Kentucky State Teachers College and at the University of Kentucky. He has taught in the high schools at Waynesburg, Nancy, and Eubank. He filled the unexpired term of Willard Sandidge as principal of Eubank High School in 1944-1945, when the latter was called to military service.

The educational progress of Pulaski County has been due largely to the men who have served as school commissioners and school superintendents through the vicissitudes of time embracing the cycles of prosperity and of depression. From a general view of the history of education in Pulaski County it seems that these leaders of education in the county have conformed well with the policies set forth by the educational leaders of the state.

The main provisions of this act were as follows: (1) The calling of an election in the district to determine the will of the electors as to the proposition of a tax not to exceed twenty cents on each hundred dollars of taxable property, to be levied on the district and to be used for the purpose of maintaining and improving the public schools.

D. Independent Schools

The independent graded school came about through the efforts of the people in small towns to provide better opportunities for their children than was provided in the rural communities. At first these schools operated under the town charter or a special charter of the General Assembly. All schools established under special charters came between 1865 and 1888.⁸⁸ The law of 1848, approved in 1850, empowered the commissioners to lay off the town in one district or several. If the town constituted one district, it should be reported as one district; if it were laid off into more than one district, then each district must report separately. It further provided that local authorities in any town establishing and maintaining a system of common school instruction under their own control have power to report directly to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and receive their share of the public school money. This law is important because it is the first general law creating independent districts and is the foundation of the city and independent graded schools.⁸⁹ "An act on May 4, 1888, provided that upon a written petition of ten voters, a vote should be taken upon the proposition of establishing independent graded schools.⁹⁰ The main provisions of this act were as follows: (1) the calling of an election in the district to determine the will of the legal white voters on the proposition of a tax not to exceed seventy cents on each hundred dollars of taxable property, (2) the school to be organized and controlled by six trustees, (3) trustees

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Ligon, *op. cit.*, p. 206.

89

Hamlett, *op. cit.*, p. 52.

90

Ibid., p. 172.

to adopt rules to govern themselves, (4) the teachers were employed and salaries fixed by the trustees, (5) the schools were free to all white children of legal school age, (6) the trustees were to appoint a treasurer of the district, (7) bonds not to exceed \$15,000 could be issued for the purchase of grounds and the erection of buildings for the school, (8) provision was made for a sinking fund for the payment of the bonds, (9) provision was made for the levy and collection of the annual tax, (10) the title of all school property was vested in the board of trustees.⁹¹

Pulaski County has had six independent schools in as many towns, namely: Somerset, Science Hill, Burnside, Eubank, Ferguson, and Pulaski.

Somerset Graded School was established by an "Act to Establish a System of Public Schools in the City of Somerset, Kentucky - - - -"

Approved April 26, 1888⁹²

This act provided for five trustees, which constituted the Board of Education of Somerset Public Graded School. "The oath of office was administered to the following members of the Board of Education of Somerset Public Graded School: Messrs. O. H. Waddle, J. C. Ogden, James Denton, George Wait, and J. P. Powell on June 11, 1888. The first business of the Board was to procure sites for buildings. After careful deliberation the Masonic lot, building, and furniture on College Street were bought from that fraternity for \$3,500, possession to be given to the first and second stories at the end of the scholastic year which ended in June 1889. Said fraternity was to retain possession of third story until January 1890.

"The first ad valorem tax was 40¢ on each \$100 in value assessed for

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Ligon, op. cit., p. 207.

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Acts of General Assembly 1888-1889, Chapter 250, pp. 446-447

taxation in school district No. 1. Through the years this tax has been increased as needed from 40¢ to 60¢ to \$1.00 to \$1.50. The first assessor received \$31.65 having listed 633.

"During the spring and summer of 1889 the following teachers were employed: Mr. J. M. Downes, superintendent; Mr. J. W. Asbury, Misses Lida De Frees, T. A. Parker, Lena Long and Martha Campbell, teachers."⁹³

Incidentally, Somerset was incorporated March 13, 1888, changing from the control of trustees to mayor and council. The city was laid off into five wards. Each ward was to elect a councilman, a resident of the ward. A mayor was to be elected by the qualified voters of the corporation.

"(1) The Legislative power was vested in one mayor and five councilmen, (2) the executive power in the mayor; and (3) the judiciary power in the recorders court and the city judge."⁹⁴

"What was known as the High School Building on College Street was built in 1892. This building burned in 1902 and was replaced by Central Building which took care of both high school and elementary pupils. In 1911-1912, the building now occupied by high school pupils and known as the High School Building, was built."⁹⁵

This building has been extended to include a large number of class rooms and a spacious gymnasium, constructed according to modern building principles. This building especially the gymnasium holds a peculiar interest to the teachers not only of Pulaski County but also of (1) Casey, (2) McCreary, (3) Wayne, (4) Adair, (5) Russell, (6) Clinton, and formerly

⁹³ Martha Campbell, "Pulaski County," Somerset Journal, July 19, 1934.

⁹⁴ Acts of the General Assembly, Chapter 167, p. 268.

⁹⁵ Campbell, op. cit.

Lincoln, as the Middle Cumberland Educational Association convenes there annually in the fall season. Again in the spring, it is a focal point of interest at the District Basketball Tournament.

Three other elementary schools are Fourth Ward Building, erected in 1891; Parker Building, in 1902, and Columbia, about 1928. Connected with the Central School is the Carnegie Library, which seems to have a unique status. Miss Martha Campbell in "Pulaski County," an article in the Somerset Journal, July 19, 1934, says, "Somerset Carnegie Library which was the first to be connected with a public school in the United States has grown in service to the community year by year. The Board of Education offered the site where the library now stands. Mr. Carnegie agreed to give \$10,000, about one-half, of the cost. Dr. Brouse, then superintendent of schools, was made Superintendent of Construction during the summer of 1906. Dedication of the library was March 1907. Since its establishment, the Board of Education has more than met the conditions governing the Carnegie gift, the expenditure of at least \$1,000 a year which is one-tenth the amount of the Carnegie Gift."

Men who have served as superintendents of Somerset schools are J.M.N. Downs, the first superintendent, five years; Mr. Maxon, one year; Mr. Ellis, one year; Alfred Livingston, seven years; Dr. J. P. W. Brouse, fifteen years; Ralph E. Hill, registrar of University of Louisville since 1929, served as superintendent from 1922 to 1929. Porter H. Hopkins, superintendent from 1929 to the present time, has had to do with the shaping of the educational policies of the state through offices held in the departments of the Kentucky Educational Association. He was president of that organization in 1935-1936.

N O R M A L S C H O O L

SCIENCE HILL, KY

Teachers and Students: - Do not go out of your own county to attend school when you can attend just as good schools in it.

The School at Science Hill will offer one of the best preparatory courses of study ever offered in this county.

The first two and one-half or three months will consist of general training and instruction in all of the common school branches, while the later two or three months will be a special training in all the common school courses calculated to thoroughly prepare you to pass successfully any of the examinations for county or state certificates. Give us a call and see what we can do.

Board can be had at very reasonable rates in some of the best families of Science Hill and vicinity. Also Dormitory accommodations will be provided for those desiring to lessen their expenses while in school.

Science Hill is a small town very conveniently located for those desiring to attend school near home, on the Q & C Railroad about 7 miles north of Somerset. It is a clean little town with not a saloon in it, and its people are very sociable and pleasant, making it a very desirable place to attend school.

Write Prof. M. A. Dodson of Science Hill, for particulars and they will be furnished you, gladly.

The Winter Term of School will open Dec. 31st, 1906.

The Spring Term of Normal Training work will open in March, 1907.
Do not fail to attend.

(PROF. M. A. DODSON, Prin.
Faculty (MISS IDA ANDERSON, Intermediate
(MISS NELLIE ASHLEY, Primary

This advertisement appeared in a Catalogue of Pulaski County Public Schools in 1906, when L. N. Taylor was County Superintendent.

Science Hill Graded School was established under the provisions of the general law as shown by the following: "May 28, 1894 Science Hill S. O. Eads petitioned to establish Graded Common School in Science Hill. Case came on and the court being sufficiently advised, it appearing that a written petition herein signed by more than ten legal voters residing in Science Hill, a town of the sixth class, said petition signed by a majority of the trustees of the common school district embraced in the proposed boundary of said common school of Pulaski County."⁹⁶

The boundary as laid off in the foregoing petition so far as known is the boundary at present.

In a catalogue of Science Hill Public Schools published in 1914 during Everette E. Bratcher's principalship, the following historical account of the school is given by M. B. Hines, secretary of the Board of Education: "The Science Hill public school system is a modern system, including the grades, and high school. The school offers free tuition to all resident white children of legal school age, and resident in the school district.

"In 1894 the school was graded and a two-years' high school work was begun. Since then the educational work has continued steadily."

On May 28, 1894, a plebiscite was taken and the Science Hill school district with considerable adjacent territory, was voted a legal graded school under the Common School Laws of Kentucky, with the power to collect fifty cents ad valorem tax and fifty cents poll tax annually.

"In voting the Science Hill Graded School the following boundaries were prescribed: Beginning at the top of the Holtzclaw Knob, thence to H. M. Vaught's farm included; thence to William Swearingen's not included;

thence to Emily Hastes', included; thence to John Newby's, included; thence to Jerry Fisher's included; thence to Hines' Mill, on Clifty Creek; thence down said creek to John F. Hall's, not included; thence with the Adam's Mill road to the Stanford road; and thence to the beginning point.

"In September, 1912, the high school course was extended to a regular four-year course, but the first four-year high school class will not graduate till 1914."

Miss Viola Quinton, in the catalogue of 1914, mentioned above, also has an historical sketch of the school as quoted: "Little more than thirty-five years ago it was only a traditional 'little old long school house' with split logs for benches, situated just outside of what is now the town limits - - - - -"

The average term of school ranged from three to five months.

"The little log house was discarded for a larger, one-room building, more conveniently located in town. The school term was still short never exceeding six months. In 1894, it was established a graded school with the first half of the high school course also; hence a need of a larger and more efficient building.

"In 1895 the second school building which was also used as a place of worship was moved away and on the same plot of ground, the present site, the present convenient, three-room building was erected - - - - -"

"The first graduating class of the Science Hill High School completed its work in 1905 under Prof. C. C. Hayden. Every year since that one, excepting the year 1913, this high school has sent out a graduating class.

"The Science Hill Graded and High School was defeated and disappointed when, in 1908, the Pulaski County High School went to Somerset instead of to Science Hill. Nevertheless, in 1912, under the administration of

Principal E. E. Bratcher, the full high school course was installed with all the advantages of a county high school."

County Superintendent L. N. Taylor gave the following comment on Science Hill Graded School in his catalogue of Pulaski County Schools in 1906: "The Science Hill Graded School has held a prominent place in Pulaski County educational field for many years, and has unselfishly served the whole county. It has been the liberal policy of the Science Hill Board to admit the teachers of this county to their classes, and have provided for the organization of classes to meet their needs. Our teachers in great numbers have availed themselves of this privilege. Teachers from every neighborhood in Pulaski County have, at one time or another, been to school at Science Hill. There is a brief High School course, in which students are prepared for freshman college work. This school employs three teachers with M. A. Dodson as Principal." - - - The elementary school and the high school occupy the same building at the present time (1946). The school is operated on the 6-6 plan. It has an agricultural department and a home economics department organized on the Smith-Hughes plan. The school has a "B" rating (1945). The establishing of the four county high schools has caused a decrease in the enrollment of Science Hill High School. In 1934-1935 the enrollment was 127, and it had an "A" rating.⁹⁷ In 1944-1945, the enrollment was 121 with a "B" rating.⁹⁸

However, this school has sent forth many graduates that have been outstanding in leadership and service. Teachers of Science Hill who have held a long teaching tenure over a period of consecutive years may be

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Educational Bulletin, III, November 1935, p. 58, No. 9.

⁹⁸

Ibid., XII, November 1944, p. 372, No. 9.

mentioned Matt Hamm, Mrs. Evelyn Baugh-Vaughn and Mrs. Jarrett Anderson-Tarter. The last two mentioned were graduates of the school.

Of Burnside Graded School he writes: "Burnside Graded School was established under the General Statutes by vote of the Burnside people in 1902. It was organized by Supt. Livingston, who worked with them for a few weeks. It has been under efficient management from the beginning, and promises well. The progressive Board of Directors under Mr. Geo. M. Smith as president will see that their splendid property is kept in order and that an efficient body of teachers be employed to instruct the youth of their town.

"Prof. C. C. Hayden, who did such good work as principal of the Science Hill Graded School last year, has been elected principal by the Burnside Board - - - "

The graded school at Eubank was established around 1912. At first two teachers were employed, but as the enrollment increased, the need for additional teachers arose. In 1916 an extra teacher was employed for the first three months to help take care of the increase. Because of the inclemency of the winter weather, the lack of good roads, and the absence of compulsory school attendance, among other things, the attendance for the last part of the school was low and could easily be managed by two teachers. However, in 1917-1918 three full-time teachers were employed for nine months.

In 1918-1919 two years of high school was offered and taught consecutively by the principals whose names are given as follows: Ned Wesley, Emery Hill, - - Taylor, W. K. Berryman, Clarence Adams. The school was classed as "2" - -

In 1924-1925 two teachers taught the high school. There were six

boys and fifteen girls enrolled. The school had a rating of 1-"B".

In 1928-1929 the school was housed in a new modern brick school building on the east side of the street opposite the large frame building it formerly occupied. The old school building was then used as a girls' dormitory. Many of the children in the surrounding districts who completed the eighth grade went to Eubank High School.

In 1933-1934 it had a rating of "A," and an enrollment of 138 pupils. Four teachers were employed. In 1935-1936 Eubank came under the control of the county. Principals who have managed the school under the county system are Ivan Crosby, J. B. Albright, Corbin Acton, Willard Sandidge, Orville Swearingen, and the present principal, Dan Wesley. Three school buses were in use the present year to transport approximately 225 students to school.

Pulaski has been an independent school since about 1909. It, too, offered at first one year of high school work and then extended the course to two years. After the completion of the two-year course the students then enrolled in a four-year high school. The majority of these pupils finished their high school course at Science Hill, since that was the nearest high school. Pulaski Independent Graded School terminated in 1936 when it came into the county system.

The graded school doubtless had its place and day in the system, but it seems obvious that its usefulness is over.

The number of independent graded schools from 1893 to 1908 increased rather regularly from year to year, and are indicative of the general progress of the state system for the period. Between 1909 and 1915 the number of schools increased from 230 to 405. This rapid increase was due to the activities of the county boards of education in their efforts to

organize the county schools under the provisions of the law of 1908. The inhabitants of villages, feeling that they could provide for themselves better schools than the county board could do under the law of 1908, hastened to establish graded schools. In a short time the boards of many of these schools were embarrassed by lack of funds to carry on. In 1914 further embarrassment was added when the state required the boards to provide high school advantages for the children of their respective districts. Since 1916 there has been a gradual decrease in these schools because the General Assembly made it possible for such schools to cease and revert to the control of the county boards of education.⁹⁹

The largest number of independent graded schools in Pulaski County existed before 1912 when part of the county was taken to form McCreary. At that time there were Somerset, Science Hill, Burnside, Greenwood, Elihu (Ferguson), Whitley, Nancy, and Eubank.

The independent districts in the county at present are Ferguson, Burnside, Science Hill and Somerset, and each of these maintains a high school.

E. County High Schools

There was no public high schools in Pulaski County prior to 1890, when the new constitution was adopted. The high school at Somerset, built in 1889, operated under a special charter of 1888. The Sullivan Act, the county board bill of 1908, in addition to providing for the county board system of government, also provided for the creation of a county high school in every county in the state. Attached to this bill was the Haswell Amendment, which made it compulsory to establish the county high

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Ligon, op. cit., p. 211.

school not later than two years after it became a law. In Pulaski County the 160 little districts with three trustees gave place to one county district under the County Board Bill of 1908.¹⁰⁰

"In providing for our first county school tax, the Act exempted the graded and city districts from its operation. Result, for the next fourteen years, centers of wealth in 118 of our counties set up independent districts to keep their taxes at home. By 1922 there were 388 independent districts, seceded from their respective county systems.

"Beginning with the creation of county high schools in 1910 and continuing for twenty years, high schools multiplied in every section of the state. With no transportation to schools, no dormitory service at schools, and no tradition of cooperation over wide areas, every little school was ambitious to be a high school. However poor and lean, it wanted to be high. We had all sorts of high schools— one-teacher four-year high schools, half-teacher two-year high schools, four-pupil high schools, high schools without libraries, faculties without degrees, teachers without semester hours, and operation without standards. This situation led to the beginning of supervision, standardization, and accreditation of high schools. But the movement for more high schools had acquired such momentum that it continued to an all-time high of 850 in the early thirties. After that, while the number of schools has decreased each year, the aggregate membership has continued to increase and the quality has continued to increase and the quality has continued to improve.¹⁰¹

In 1935 two new high school buildings were erected, one at Shopville

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L. N. Taylor, "The Growth of Secondary Education in Kentucky," unpublished manuscript, 1942.

101

Ibid.

on East Highway 80, the other at Nancy on West Highway 80. In addition to these new consolidated high schools, two other high schools, Eubank and Mt. Victory, came into the county system that year.

The motive back of the building of these high schools was equality of opportunity for all the children of the county. Prior to 1935 few children in the remote sections of the county ever attended high school. Buses were purchased, and at present Nancy, Shopville, and Eubank operate three each. Although building good roads has made consolidation possible, there remains much to be done in road construction.

In every county high school in Pulaski County, agriculture courses and home economic courses are proffered. The Future Farmers of America, an organization sponsored by the agriculture teachers attract much attention at their conventions. The teachers of home economics department as well as the teachers of agriculture, by coming in contact with the homes and farms in their visitations, have an opportunity for genuine service.

4-H Clubs under the general sponsorship of the County Agriculture Agent have also been organized.

The 1944-1945 enrollment in the high schools within the boundary of the county are

	<u>Census 1944</u>	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>High School</u>
Pulaski County	8,256	6,042	538
Eubank		90	205
Nancy		85	157
Shopville		110	146
Mt. Victory		84	50
Burnside	240	164	71
Ferguson	362	175	79

<u>Pulaski County</u>	<u>Census 1944</u>	<u>Elementary</u>	<u>High School</u>
Science Hill	244	123	121
Somerset	1,962	1,150	350
Dunbar (colored)		83	45

The constant increase in enrollment in high school is significant in that it indicates a larger number each year taking advantage of the educational opportunities the county has to offer.

M. J. J. J.

PROCEEDINGS
— OF THE —
PULASKI COUNTY

Teachers' Institute

AND
ASSOCIATION,

Held at
SOMERSET, KENTUCKY,

SEPTEMBER 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, 1888.

SOMERSET, KY.
SOMERSET REPUBLICAN
1888.

By an act of the legislature in 1888 it was made mandatory for the State Board of Education to prepare a syllabus for these institutes. Contained in the pamphlet is an account of the first teachers' organization in the county.

F. Institutes for Teacher-Training

The matter of teacher-training seems to have been overlooked by the legislature of the early period, although the superintendents had strongly insisted upon the establishment of normal schools for teacher-training as shown by extracts from their reports as follows:

(a) J. J. Bullock - "The founding of one or more Normal Schools for the purpose of training the sons of the soil for teaching is a favorite measure with many of our friends of education."¹⁰²

(b) H. H. Kavanaugh - "It [our school system] needs a school of superior grade exclusively devoted to the instruction of teachers."¹⁰³

(c) B. B. Smith - He urged the establishment of four normal schools, one male and one female school each in the central part of the state and in the Green River country. In his second report of 1842, he again urged upon the legislature that at least one normal school should be established and suggested Bowling Green as the proper place.¹⁰⁴

(d) R. T. Dillard - He suggested the establishing of two normal schools, one on the north side and one on the south side of the Kentucky River. "Thus the state will have the benefit of such teachers as may go forth from these nurseries of knowledges. And, furthermore, it will have a tendency to make the great body of teachers prepare themselves better to discharge the duties of the office. Thus, by degrees, we may hope to arrive at a system in the art of teaching without which it is vain to

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Hamlett, *op. cit.*, p. 18.

¹⁰³

Ibid., p. 24.

¹⁰⁴

Ibid., p. 26.

suppose that great proficiency will ever be attained."¹⁰⁵

(e) R. T. Breckinridge - the "Father of the Common School System in Kentucky," proposed the appropriation of \$120,000 a year to the support of district schools; the remaining \$8,000 to the teaching of those who are themselves to teach the district schools. He also proposed the reorganization of Transylvania University and the establishment of a school for teachers. He believed that the normal schools were a necessary part of the school system and should be supported by the State Common School Fund.¹⁰⁶

J. D. Matthews also urged the appropriation of a part of the school fund for teacher-training and the acceptance of the offer of the trustees of Transylvania University to give the use of their school plant and the services of their faculty for the purposes of a normal school for teacher-training.¹⁰⁷ By an act of legislature the reorganization of Transylvania into a teacher-training institution was effected and the State Normal School was opened September, 1856.¹⁰⁸ However, the law was repealed,¹⁰⁹ which meant a retrogressive step educationally, and in all probability this failure to provide for teacher-training has been a factor in the retardatory status of Kentucky at present.

Through the persistent urging of the State Superintendents, the legislature passed an act in 1870 which was in a measure a substitution for the establishing of normal schools. This act authorized the county

¹⁰⁵

Ibid., p. 36.

¹⁰⁶

Ibid., p. 48.

¹⁰⁷

Ibid., pp. 82-83.

¹⁰⁸

Ibid., p. 85.

¹⁰⁹

Ibid., pp. 86-87.

superintendents to hold annual teachers' institutes of five or six days in length. The instructor was selected by the county superintendent, and a fee of two dollars was required of each teacher. The expenses of the institute was paid out of the fees. The legislature of 1888 made it mandatory upon the State Board of Education to prepare a syllabus for these institutes. All the subjects of the school course, the management and organization of the school, the work of the teacher, and the school laws had to be discussed. 110

The first account of institutes in Pulaski County seems to be in 1871, in a report by John M. Barnett, School Commissioner for Pulaski. He had as conductor Professor D. H. Butt of the Somerset Collegiate Institute. Mr. Isaacs mentions that an institute was held in August, 1875, but fails to give the name of the conductor. Neither Mr. Shadoan nor Mr. May, the next commissioners in consecutive order, mentions institutes in their reports, but Mr. Sharp in his report says that an interesting institute was held in August. During Mr. Farmer's administration in 1884-1886, R. N. Roark was an instructor. In 1888, Professor A. Saunders was institute instructor, and A. A. Lewis was secretary. Other prominent instructors have been Professor T. J. Coates in 1907, T. C. Cherry, C. N. McAllister, Patrick Ireland, A. Livingston, R. S. Eubank, and George Colvin.

Among the teachers who have served as secretaries of the institutes the following are representative: A. A. Lewis in 1888, M. E. Wheeldon in 1907, W. P. Baugh in 1909, Miss Zula Vaught in 1915, and Miss Cella Taylor in 1919.

110

Ligon, op. cit., p. 130.

County Teachers' Association

At the institute in 1888, the first teachers' association in the county was organized. The organization was mandatory by an act of the legislature.¹¹¹ Miss Belle Moddrell was temporary president, and Miss Nannette Gastineau was temporary secretary. The constitutional committee was composed of W. S. Hail, Matthew Warren, V. P. Moore, and Miss Sallie Parker. The committee on the night program was D. W. Carl, Misses T. A. Parker and Amelia Saunders. The constitution was adopted at the second meeting of the association, which was the next day, September 5, and the officers of the year were chosen by ballot as follows: president, W. S. Hail; vice-president, Miss Belle Moddrell; secretary, Miss Nannette Gastineau; assistant secretary, Miss T. A. Parker; treasurer, G. L. Elliott; librarian, W. J. Davidson. Committees appointed by the president elect were (1) committee on arrangement, Matthew Warren, D. W. Carl, and Miss Nannie Pettus; (2) program committee, A. M. Mounce, G. C. Prather, Mrs. Sophia Mills, Misses Lida Hooper and Sallie Parker; (3) committee on by-laws, W. A. Pettus, W. W. Wilder, J. J. Vincent, and Misses Emma Tate and Mary Miller.

The following is a copy of a program of the first teachers' association in the county:

"Program

Program of the Pulaski County Teachers' Association, to be held in Somerset, Ky., on the first Saturday in October, 1888:

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00 A.M. | Devotional exercises |
| 10:15 | Object of the association - Miss Nannie Pettus |
| 10:30 | Five-minute speeches on same subject by members |

¹¹¹ Hamlett, p. 162.

- 11:00 Music
- 11:10 Primary reading, how taught - Miss Lida Hooper
- 11:25 General Discussion of subject by members
- 11:45 Music. Adjournment for noon
- 1:00 PM Music
- 1:10 Primary physiology, its importance - D. W. Carl
- 1:30 Primary grammar, its importance - Matthew Warren
- 2:00 Music in the public schools - Miss Belle Moddrell
- 2:20 Music
- 2:30 The importance of having the cooperation of trustees and patrons - Eli Farmer
- 3:00 Miscellaneous business. Adjournment

Sallie Parker)
 Lida Hooper)
 Sophia Mills) Committee" ¹¹²
 A. M. Mounce)
 G. C. Prather)

The institutes were abolished by an act of the legislature in 1920, and county teacher-training schools of six weeks' duration were substituted. A county teacher-training school was held in Somerset in 1920, and many of the county teachers and several Somerset city teachers attended. Mr. V. D. Roberts, Mr. Lawrence Wesley, and Miss Virginia Boatwright were instructors in this school.

Teachers who attended were Zora Vaught, Oma Lovell, Idella Ping, Mabel Cundiff, Rose Vanhook, Jarrett Anderson, Glenn Gover, Cora Keyes, Willie Keyes, Thelma Vaughn, Kate Hail, and others. The list is incomplete. These schools became unnecessary and ended as the teachers sought pro-

¹¹²

Institute Syllabus, 1888.

essional training in the state normal schools and teachers colleges.

F. Certification of Teachers

A brief survey of the regulations relative to teachers' certificates may be profitable in understanding the development of an educational system. In the early educational set-up of the state, those wishing to teach learned wherever and whenever they could and were certified to teach on the basis of an examination.

The law of 1842 gave the commissioners authority to appoint three professional teachers as examiners, who were to examine and issue certificates to such persons qualified to teach. An example of this type of certificate has been preserved.

In law of 1852 stated that "the commissioners may appoint one or more persons as examiners of teachers whose duty it shall be carefully to examine all applicants as to their qualifications to teach the elements of a plain English education. A certificate from an examiner shall constitute a qualified teacher for the county; or the examination may be made and the certificate granted by the commissioner. The certificate may be permanent or only for a year, may be revoked by the commissioner, and shall not be granted to an applicant of known bad moral character. The person making the examination may charge the applicant a fee of fifty cents."¹¹³

In 1870 the law made further changes in teachers' certificates.

"Teachers' certificates were of three classes--First Class, good for two years issued to teachers of 'thorough and accurate knowledge'; Second

113

Hamlett, p. 78.

Law, p. 101

Class, good for one year, issued to teachers of 'imperfect knowledge'; Third Class, good for one year, issued to teachers of 'indifferent knowledge', and to be issued more than twice. Examinations were held in July and August and in December and January. A fee of one dollar was charged each applicant."¹¹⁴

In 1871 the law limited certificates to two classes.¹¹⁵

In 1884 provision was again made for three classes. Under this provision only the first class could be issued the second time to an applicant. The first class was good for four years and could be renewed by the dnrosement of the county superintendent. Second and third class certificates were good for two years and one year respectively.¹¹⁶

In 1888 it was made the duty of the State Board of Education to prepare all questions for county examinations.¹¹⁷ These certificates were not valid outside the county in which they were issued. Gradually a demand arose for a certificate valid throughout the state.

In 1894 the requirements of the State Diploma, the highest type of certificate issued, were stated in the law.

In 1920 an act was passed which changed the names of the county certificates from first and second classes to elementary certificates of the first and second grades. This law provided that "all elementary certificates shall be issued by the State Board of Examiners just as State Certificates are issued."¹¹⁸

¹¹⁴

Ibid., p. 113.

¹¹⁵

Ligon, p. 125.

¹¹⁶

Ibid., P. 125.

¹¹⁷

Hamlett, p. 172.

¹¹⁸

Ligon, p. 161

In applicants for certificates on July 1, 1922, were required to present one year of high school and five weeks of professional training; on July 1, 1924, two years of high school work and ten weeks of professional training; on July 1, 1926, four years of high school work and twenty weeks of professional training.¹¹⁹

Teachers in the county were selected as examiners by the superintendent. L. N. Taylor in his school catalogue of 1908 states: "With these young men, [A. L.] McPherson and [C. V.] Gibson, rests the responsibility of examining, selecting and licensing the teachers of Pulaski County—a most important place of the administration of educational affairs." Teachers who have served as examiners at a later period seem to be H. H. Smith, Thomas Silvers, Bess Isaacs, M. E. Colson, Alfreda. Baugh. The last examiners only gave the questions to the applicants and supervised the examination. The papers were graded by the State Board of Education, and the certificates were issued by the state. The examinations were discontinued as subsequent laws were passed. The certification law was strengthened by "an act amending a law permitting normal schools and teachers colleges to offer elementary, secondary, vocational, and college training, and to issue certificates to their students."¹²⁰

The new school code vests all authority for the certification on superintendents, supervisors, principals, teachers, attendance officers, and supervisory or instructional employees in the State Board of Education.

The State Board of Education, on recommendation of the Superintendent

¹¹⁹

Ibid.

¹²⁰

Harry Peters, History of Education in Kentucky, Educational Bulletin V, No. 7, p. 81.

of Public Instruction shall publish, from time to time, bulletins containing information as follows: (a) kinds and grades of certificates; (b) rules and regulations governing the issuance of each kind and grade of certificate; (c) schools offering teacher-training courses; (d) renewal of certificates; (e) the transfer of certificates to and from other states; and (g) such other information relating to training and certification of teachers as it deems advisable.

The following kinds of certificates are given upon the fulfillment of certain requirements:

1. Elementary: (1) Provisional and (2) Standard
2. High School Certificate (1) Professional and (2) Standard
3. Certificates of administration and supervision (1) Provisional and (2) Standard.
4. Attendance officers' certificate.
5. Emergency certificate.¹²¹

The history of certification is an account of the progress in intellectual attainment in the state and county in meeting the requirements set up by law. It is also a story of courage and persistence on the part of the educational leaders of the state and county to raise the standard of instruction in the class rooms.

¹²¹

Harry W. Peters, History of Education in Kentucky 1915-1940, Educational Bulletin VI, No. 10, 1939.

Copies

May Not

Film

Well!

I certify that William Anderson
is qualified to teach a Common
School under the Common School
Law of Kentucky.

Given under my hand as one of
the examiners for Pulaski County
this 7th day of August 1849

A. J. James

CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION

The present plane of education in Pulaski County, attained over a period of years, seems to evoke neither pity nor aversion as viewed in its various stages of progress as it passes through successive generations. Inasmuch as the success of any enterprise depends upon the management, and in as much as leadership is imperative in management, recognition need be given to the spirit that prompted the leaders to act upon the principle that, "Religion, morality, and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness to mankind, schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged." So, letting their works praise them, the mission of this study has been, in part, to record some of the achievements of the past, for future review in order that men may see the good works and give honor to whom honor is due, and so let the achievements of the present connect with future accomplishments, somewhat fashioned after Macaulay's idea that "They who take no pride [joy] in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered by remote descendants."

In tracing and recording the progress in education as it existed under the different educational philosophies of the different periods has been an interesting work. Beginning with the influences of (1) the geographical features, a challenge to the pioneer to overcome phases of his natural environment, (2) the gradual surrender of some religious and political tenets so tenaciously held by the pioneers, an influence of their historical background, (3) the obvious failure of the seminaries established under the land grants, and so arriving at the (4) private

schools, the motive back of their establishment becomes more apparent.

The early pioneers left the teaching of their children to the church leaders, for they were the educated group at the time, and the laymen were occupied in building homes and clearing the forest. Some of the early teachers in the county were ministers of the gospel. One religious school existed at Mt. Victory Academy.

Some individuals or groups of individuals viewed education as a possible good business project, and so exercised the freedom of private enterprise. A school which may be listed under this type is the "Somerset Collegiate Institute." In general these types of schools failed because the method of financing them did not insure sufficient funds for operation.

The belief that education made better citizens, gave rise to the establishing of public schools. Now under the system of public schools, some of the wealthy sections where population had grown, the people sought to give their children better educational advantages than they enjoyed under the existing set-up. Consequently, the independent school and the special charter schools were permitted and even encouraged. Then came the idea that equality of educational opportunity was not given to the child born in the poorer districts, and something should be done about it. The county then became the unit.

The educational problems increase in a complex society. Among the present problems may be mentioned three upon which serious attention may well be fixed in Pulaski County. They take the form of interrogations.

(1) Can true democracy in education exist in any territory or "designated part of a territory" in which a dual system of education is at work, namely: the county system and the independent system?

(2) Would the consolidation of the four county high schools into one

large centrally located county high school insure greater efficiency and economy than exists under the present arrangement?

(3) What will be the advantages and the disadvantages of federal participation in the school program?

A solution to these problems is a challenge for research and investigation in order that the opportunities for education may adequately meet the needs of the children.

A revivification of the Athenian creed, the extending into the future an improved state of things seems the duty and responsibility of every school worker. Not only is it a duty but a privilege in which the consciousness of well-doing is an ample reward and so

"We who once were fools and dreamers then shall be the great and wise
There amidst the world new-builded, shall our earthly deeds abide
Though our names be all forgotten, and the tale of how we died."

Therefore, letting arm reach exceed our grasp, let us strive to attain the ideal, using as our slogan "Onward and upward, life more life."

Educational Divisions

To meet the requirements of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1940, the Pulaski County Board of Education met and divided the county into the following educational divisions in 1940.

Education Division No. 1

Shall be composed of the following voting precincts;

Gamblin	Parker
Anderson	Bourbon
Bronston	Jones
Sloans Valley	Mt. Union
Beaver	Okalona
Burnside 1 and 2 (part in county)	Haynes

Education Division No. 2

Shall be composed of the following voting precincts:

Dykes	Goodwater
Mt. Victory	Burdine
Farmer	Bent
Quenton Heights	Mayfield
Colo	Grundy
Simpson	Jugornot
Jarvis (part in county)	Rush Branch
Piney Grove	

Education Division No. 3

Shall be composed of the following voting precincts:

Mark	Good Hope
Catron	Price
Dallas	Faustine
Hazeldell	Estesburg

Education Division No. 4

Shall be composed of the following voting precincts:

Caney Fork (part in county)	Wesley
Eubank	Vaught
Buncombe	Clifty
Ansel	Hickorynut
East and West Science Hill (part in co.)	Mt. Zion

Education Division No. 5

Shall be composed of the following voting precincts:

Nancy	Saline
Naomi	Oil Center
Harrison	Linville (part in county)
Fall Branch	Jasper (part in county)
Liberty	Girdler
Spears	

Pulaski County Board of Education
Corbin J. Acton, Secretary

State Superintendents of Public Instruction in Kentucky

1838-1839	Joseph James Bullock	1899-1903	H. V. McChesney
1839-1840	Hubbard Hinde Kavanaugh	1903-1907	James H. Fuqua
1840-1842	Benjamin Bosworth Smith	1907-1909	John Grant Crabbe
1842-1843	George W. Brush	1909-1911	Ellsworth Reginstein
1843-1847	Ryland Thompson Dillard	1911-1915	Barkesdale Hamlett
1847-1853	Robert Jefferson Breckinridge	*1915-1920	Virgil O. Gilbert
1853-1859	John Daniel Matthews	1920-1924	George Colvin
1859-1863	Robert Richardson	1924-1928	McHenry Rhoads
1863-1867	Daniel Stevenson	1928-1932	W. C. Bell
1867-1871	Zachary F. Smith	1932-1936	James H. Richmond
1871-1879	H. A. M. Henderson	1936-1940	Harry W. Peters
1879-1887	Elder Joseph Desha Pickett	1940-1944	John Brooker
1887-1895	Thos. E. Porter	1944-19	Fred Williams
1895-1899	Wm. Jefferson Davidson		

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