

A HISTORY
OF
MARSHALL ACADEMY,
MARSHALL COLLEGE
AND
MARSHALL COLLEGE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL,
(WEST VIRGINIA)
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Virgil Anson Lewis, 1848-1912

(Digital image captured from <http://www.wvculture.org/history/wvsamenu.html>)

A Note on the Text

This is a transcription of typescript and holograph manuscript pages written by Virgil Lewis between 1910 and 1912. Lewis's punctuation, spelling and capitalization remain the same; the reader will note that at times these vary considerably from modern usage. An exception to maintaining original punctuation are replacement of the underline with italics or bold font and "xxx" with points of suspension. Single brackets [] indicate Lewis's insertions. Braces { } indicate transcriber's insertions.

Lewis's manuscript chapters and notes were arranged in an approximate chronological order. Chapter and Part numbers appear as in the original; there was no designation for a Chapter Three. Every attempt was made to include as much of Lewis's research as possible, hence the rather extensive appendices.

Of particular note in the manuscript is Lewis's complete transcription of the reports of the Trustees of Marshall Academy to the Virginia Literary Fund, and those of the Trustees of Marshall College to the Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. These reports document the chronic lack of funds endured by Marshall, even at its inception.

Cora P. Teel
June 2003

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PREFATORY

Some one has said that History is but a record of bleeding centuries preserved by the historians — the book-keepers of the nations. This is in great part true, for it is little else than a narrative of war, plunder, devastation and desolation. But there are noted exceptions to this. Some historians have preferred to write of the victories of peace rather than those of war. It was the boast of John Richard Green, author of the “History of the English People,” that, therein, he had given more space to Chaucer than to Creasy; to Caxton than to the strife between the Yorkists and the Lancastrians; to the poet and historian than to the soldier, warrior, or crusader; to the founding of Oxford University than to the battle of Waterloo; to intellectual advancement than to the record of slaughter of men and the desolation of homes. In this he did right, for the world of today cares not so much for the records of wars of a State or Nation, as for the story of the intellectual development of its people. In this unfolding and growth of mental activity, schools, be they of high or low degree, are the most potent factors; and the history of the founding and progress of educational institutions, therefore, become subjects of deep and abiding interest to the student. One of these which exerted a great influence among [the people] of the trans-Allegheny Region of Virginia, and since upon those of the State of West Virginia, is that once known as Marshall Academy; later, as Marshall College; and now as Marshall College State Normal School. Strangely enough but little of its past history has been, or is now generally known. This is due to the fact that the sources of information have not been readily available. Now they are. They consist of Public Documents of the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1838 to 1850, inclusive — a period of twelve years; the Journals or Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Western Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South,

from 1850 to 1860, inclusive — a period of ten years; files of the *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, the organ of that Conference from 1856 to 1860, inclusive; the History of that Conference, from 1850 to 1880, by Rev. Thomas S. Wade, D. D.; files of the *Kanawha Republican*, from 1841 to 1844; and of the *Kanawha Valley Star*, and the *Star of the Kanawha Valley*, from 1856 to 1860; records in the office of the Clerk of Cabell county, from 1861 to 1866; reports of the Board of Regents, and Catalogues of the institution, from 1866 to the present time. It is upon these, and other reliable sources, that the statements made in the following chapters are based.

V. A. L.

Charleston, West Virginia,

January 1, 1912.

INTRODUCTORY

EARLY EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS IN CABELL COUNTY

In June 1776, Virginia adopted a Constitution — the first framed for an American Commonwealth — and there was not in it the slightest reference — not even a word — relating to education. But, notwithstanding this absence of constitutional authority, the General Assembly — the law-making body of the State — passed, on December 26, 1796, the first Virginia School Law that in anywise affected West Virginia. It was entitled “An Act to Establish Public Schools,” and was long known as

“THE ALDERMAN SCHOOL LAW”

In a Preamble to this Act it was noted that:

“Whereas It appeareth that the great advantages which civilized and polished nations enjoy, beyond the savage and barbarous nations of the world are principally derived from the invention and use of letters, by means whereof the knowledge and experience of past ages are recorded and transmitted, so that man, availing himself in succession of the accumulated wisdom and discoveries of his predecessors, is enabled more successfully to pursue and improve not only those acts, which contribute to the support, convenience and ornament of life, but those also, which tend to illumine and ennoble his understanding and his nature.

And Whereas, Upon a review of the history of mankind, it seemeth that however favorable republican government, founded on the principles of equal liberty, justice and order, may be to human happiness, no real stability or lasting permanency thereof can be rationally hoped for, if the minds of the citizens be not rendered liberal and humane, and be not fully impressed with the importance of those principles from whence these blessings proceed.”

It was therefore enacted that in each county of the Commonwealth there should be annually elected by the qualified voters therein “three of the most honorable and able men,” to be called Aldermen. They were to meet annually on the second Monday in May, “if it be fair, or on the next fair day,” at their respective court-houses and there “consider the expediency of carrying the law into effect,” and if they deemed this expedient, they were to proceed to divide their

county into Sections so that each contain “a convenient number of children to make up a school,” distinguishing each Section by a particular name, this to be returned to the county court and be entered of record.

When this had been done, the house-holders in each section were required to meet on the first Monday in September ensuing at such place as might be designated by the Alderman, and bring thus assembled men to choose the most convenient location in their Section for building a school-house. Then the Aldermen were to proceed to have such structure erected at the place designated, and were to keep the same in repair, and when necessary, cause it to be rebuilt.

The Aldermen were required, “from time to time” to appoint teachers, and remove them for cause. In each school they were to cause to be taught reading, writing and common arithmetic; and all free children, male and female, were entitled to receive tuition *gratis* for a term of three years, and as much longer at their private expense, as their parents, guardians, or friend might think proper. The salaries of the teachers and the cost of erecting school-houses in each county were to be defrayed by the inhabitants in proportion to the amount of their public assessments and county levies to be ascertained by the Aldermen, collected by the Sheriff same as other taxes and paid to them, who were to disburse the same.

But the provision which in great measure rendered this law a nullity was that which enjoined the county court a majority of the justices being present to determine the year in which the first election of Aldermen should take place. But they were to take this subject into consideration and decide thereon at the March term of the Court annually.

EARLY EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS IN CABELL COUNTY [IN THE EARLY DAYS OF MARSHALL ACADEMY]

It will be interesting to the reader to learn of the educational conditions existing in the locality at the time of the founding of Marshall Academy, and which surrounded it in the first ten years of its existence. At this time what was known as the "Alderman School Law" of Virginia was in force. Under it there existed a system of Subscription Schools known as "Old Field Schools" because of their location, which was usually in or on the margin of some old deserted "clearing" or improvement. The school-house was erected by the patrons.

The "Alderman School Law" was in force when Cabell County was created in 1809. How many, then, were established under its provisions, can not be now known; certain it is that there were a few, and all were of the most primitive character. They were known as "Old Field Schools," because they were usually located in the margin of some old deserted "clearing" or "improvement." The school-house was a rude structure. In size it was perhaps 16 x 20 feet, the walls of logs, sometimes hewn, but usually round, and from eight to twelve inches in diameter — the interstices chinked with sticks and chips and daubed with clay; the roof of clapboards, held in place by heavy weight poles; the door of slabs hung on wooden hinges; the floor, if any, was made of puncheons split from the body of a large tree, and hewn so as to have somewhat the quality of smoothness; a fireplace, ample as that of an ancient tavern, spanned over half of one end of the building and was surrounded by a cat-and-clay chimney, not unlike a tall partridge trap, and ever tottering to its fall. Logs ten or twelve inches in diameter, split in halves, and pins or legs inserted in the oval sides, answered for seats. Along the side of the inner wall pins were inserted and on them rested a broad slab, sloping downward, used as a writing desk; just above

which, a log was chopped out and in its place was a long frame-work resembling sash for holding a single row of panes of glass, in the absence of which greased paper was sometimes pasted to admit the light. Such was the structure in which was taught the “Old Field Schools” of the long ago. It was used alike for school purposes and divine worship, and in neither was it devoid of results.

In the autumn time there appeared in the neighborhood an individual, who professed to be a school-master. He was clad in the home-spun of the time. Whence he came, none knew. He brought no credentials or diploma from a college faculty, for none was required. Usually it was only necessary that he be able to teach the three R’s — reading ‘riting and ‘rithmetic. He bound himself to do this in his “article of agreement,” which he carried from house to house, soliciting subscriptions to the school which he was to “keep” for so much a “quarter” and “board ‘round” — that was with the patrons. Then he went to the School Commissioners of the county who agreed to pay from the quota of the Literary Fund¹, the children of the neighborhood who might

¹ Prior to the year 1776 — the beginning of the Commonwealth of Virginia — all escheats, penalties and forfeitures in the Colony went to the King. From the last mentioned date to 1809 — a period of thirty-three years — the moneys derived from these sources were placed to the credit of the General State Fund. But by the provision in Section 1, of Chapter XIV, of the Acts of 1809, it was provided: “That all escheats, confiscations, forfeitures, and all personal property accruing to the Commonwealth as derelict and having no rightful owner, which have accrued since the second day of February, one thousand eight hundred and ten, and which shall hereafter accrue to the Commonwealth, be and the same are *hereby appropriated to the encouragement of learning*; and that all military fines and arrears thereof, due to the Commonwealth of the eleventh day of February, one thousand eight hundred and eleven, and thenceforth accruing or to accrue, be, and the same are hereby appropriated to the *encouragement of learning*.” The money thus collected was designated as the Literary Fund; and the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Treasurer of the Commonwealth, and the attorney-General, and President of the Court of Appeals, were made a body corporate under the style of the “President and Directors of the Literary Fund.” The Auditor of Public Accounts was directed to open an account to be designated “The Literary Fund,” and to place to its credit every payment made on account of any escheats, confiscations, forfeitures, fines and penalties appropriated to the *encouragement of learning*. On the 9th of February, 1814, it was enacted that the titles to all lands and lots forfeited for the non-payment of taxes should best in the President and Directors of the Literary Fund. Thus was a large permanent invested fund speedily accumulated, the interest thereon only being used, and this was distributed annually to the several counties in such proportion as the whole population of each bore to the total population of the State, to be expended by the School Commissioners for the education of indigent children. However, the sum to be distributed to the whole State was limited to \$45,000.00 for primary schools, and \$15,000.00 for the University. The sources of

attend school. The term closed; the master collected the tuition from the patrons able to pay this; then, with sworn statement of amount due him for teaching the indigent or poor children attending the school, he goes to the treasurer of the County School Commission, from whom he receives this sum — then goes none know where.

Such were the education conditions in western Virginia counties — Cabell County included — in the first ten years of the existence of Marshall Academy. During this period the School Commissioners in the county were James McComas, William Buffington, John Samuels, Solomon Fleming, John Morris, Andrew Barrett, John Harrison, and John Laidley. They made annual reports to the President and Directors of the Literary Fund, and from these, the following statement has been prepared:

Year	No. Schools	No. Poor Children	Aggregate Days Attendance	No. Days — of Poor Children	Rate of Tuition per day	Total Expenditures
1837	23	200	155	7,642	4 cents	\$323.37
1838	25	200	154	7,015	4 cents	310.28
1839	31	400	367	16,731	4 cents	702.51
1840	18	400	171	8,041	3 ½ and 4 cents	324.23
1841	28	400	340	15,158	3 ¾	614.12
1842	19	400	145	6,876	3 ½ and 4 cents	282.18
1843	30	250	223	11,344	4 cents	471.88
1844	18	250	149	8,470	4 cents	354.45
1845	20	200	145	5,792	4 cents	243.47
1846	24	250	182	8,062	4 cents	336.41
1847	24	250	182	8,062	4 cents	336.41
1848	29	300	228	8,736	4 cents	363.24

accumulation, investment, distribution of interest, were very similar to the management of the Permanent School Fund of West Virginia.

Accompanying these reports were “remarks” of the School Commissioners. These are of much value as illustrating the conditions then existing. In 1838, they expressed the belief that about seven hundred dollars allowed to them annually would educate the indigent children of the county, if schools could be taught in the different neighborhoods. The next year they stated that all children came within the meaning of the term “indigent” whose parents were unable to educate them, or who were orphans having no estate. The Fund had been the means of educating a number of them in the elementary branches of reading, writing and arithmetic. They had learned of these sufficiently for the transaction of the business ordinarily done by farmers and mechanics. They were taught at the schools where those more fortunate are educated, as there were not a school in operation in the county without its portion of poor scholars. The teachers had not been examined as to their qualifications or moral character but the Commissioners had no knowledge of their being guilty of immoral or bad habits.

CHAPTER I

OLD MOUNT HEBRON CHURCH

INCORPORATION OF MARSHALL COLLEGE

Fronting on Third Avenue and situated between Sixteenth and Eighteenth Streets, in the city of Huntington, in Cabell county, West Virginia, is a tract of land of sixteen acres, on which stand the buildings of the Marshall College State Normal School, the parent teachers' training school of the State. It is two miles below the old historic town of Guyandotte, situated at the mouth of the river of that name, and was made a town by an Act of the General Assembly — the legislative body of Virginia — passed February 5, 1810 — one hundred and two years ago.

Guyandotte Circuit of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was created by the old Western Conference in 1795, in which it was included until the creation of the Ohio Conference in 1812, in which it continued until 1848, with the exception of the year 1820, when it was in the Tennessee Conference, and the years from 1821 to 1824, inclusive, when in the Kentucky Conference.

Almost from the beginning of the last century there was a "preaching place" on the site now occupied by the present Marshall College State Normal School buildings, the location being known as "Maple Grove;" but the little log church which had been erected there was known as Mount Hebron Church;" and it was used for worship by the Presbyterian and all religious denominations that chose to occupy it. Within its walls many prominent ministers of that time, proclaimed the gospel message; among them being Thomas A. Morris, afterward a distinguished bishop of the Methodist Church; and who in 1814 wedded his first wife, Abigail Scales, a daughter of Nathaniel Scales, who resided within a half mile of the Mount Hebron Church.

These were the days of the old-time “Subscription Schools,” and Mount Hebron was made to answer a double purpose — that of church building and school house. Therein in the summer of 1837, Isaac N. Peck, an efficient teacher, was conducting a school, and so large was the attendance, that he had a Mr. Shepherd as an assistant.

[INCORPORATION OF MARSHALL ACADEMY]

It was at this time that the people — residents of Guyandotte, — and farmers living on the site of the present city of Huntington, resolved to establish a school of high grade — an academy — and they decided that it should be known as MARSHALL ACADEMY, in memory of John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States. To do this required the passage of an Act by the General Assembly, and the matter was placed in the hands of Hon. Solomon Thornburg, then the representative of Cabell county in the lower House of that body. On his motion made January 4, 1838, it was

Resolved, That the committee of Schools and Colleges be instructed to enquire into the expediency of incorporating the Marshall Academy in the county of Cabell, and that it report by bill or otherwise.”

On the 20th of January ensuing, James McDowell, a member from Rockbridge county, and Chairman of the Committee presented a report upon the resolution for the incorporation of the Marshall Academy. On the 12th of February, this was resolved to be expedient, and seven days thereafter “A Bill to incorporate Marshall Academy, in the county of Cabell, was reported from the Committee. It passed the House March 24th ensuing, and was passed by the Senate six days thereafter. The first section thereof read as follows: —

“ 1. Be it enacted by the general assembly, That Benjamin Brown, Frederick G. L. Beuhring, James Gallaher, John Laidley, William Buffington, John Samuels, Richard Brown, Benjamin H. Smith, and George W. Summers, be, and they are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name and style

of “The trustees of Marshall academy,” to be located in the county of Cabell; and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and a common seal, may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, with power to purchase, receive and hold, to them and their successors forever, any lands, tenements, rents, goods and chattels, of what kind soever, which may be purchased by or be devised or given to them for the use of the academy: *Provided*, That the lands, goods and chattels so authorized to be held, shall not exceed in amount or value the sum of twenty thousand dollars: *And provided*, That not less than a majority of the trustees for the time being, shall be sufficient to authorize the sale or mortgage of any real estate belonging to said academy. The said trustees and their successors shall have power to appoint a President, tutors, treasurers, librarian and such other officers as they may deem necessary, and to make and establish from time to time, such by-laws, rules and regulations, not contrary to the laws of this State or of the United States, as they may judge necessary for the good government of said academy. A majority of the trustees shall constitute a board for the transaction of business, and any vacancy or vacancies amongst the trustees, occasioned by death, resignations or legal disability, shall be supplied by appointment of the board.”

— “Acts of General Assembly”, Session 1838, p. 167

Of the nine designated as Trustees of the Academy, William Buffington who had come from Hampshire county, resided on the second farm below Guyandotte; John Laidley,² resided on a farm one mile below Guyandotte where he located February, 1828. James Gallaher resided on the site of the present city of Huntington. The next farm below was that of Frederick G. L. Beuhring; and then came the houses of Dr. Benjamin Brown and Richard Brown, both from Prince William county, Virginia, the latter of whom afterward removed to the Forks of Sandy, where he resided in 1848. John Samuels who was clerk of the Courts of Cabell county at that

²John Laidley who was long a member and President of the Board of Trustees, and who did so much to advance the interests of Marshall College, was born in Morgantown, Monongalia county, Virginia, in 1791, and received his early education at that place. When but a boy, he learned to set type in the office of an early newspaper of that town. Later he went to Parkersburg where he read law in the office of his brother, James G. Laidley. Having been admitted to the bar he located for the practice of his profession at Barboursville, in the then new county of Cabell. He served in the army at Norfolk, Virginia, in the year 1814, after which, he returned to Barboursville, and soon became Prosecuting Attorney for the county. In 1829, he removed to a farm on the Ohio River, one mile below the town of Guyandotte, where he engaged in agricultural pursuits in connection with his law practice. Here he continued to reside until his death in 1863. In 1816, he wedded Mary Scales Hite, and had issue fourteen children — five girls and nine boys.

time, and resided at Barboursville. Benjamin H. Smith and George W. Summers both resided at Charleston, in Kanawha county, where they were engaged in the practice of law.

CHAPTER II

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE ACADEMY —

[OFFICIAL] REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees having been incorporated and organized, hastened to raise money by private subscription, and having in 1838 purchased for \$40.00, from James Holderby, and Lucy his wife, one and one-fourth acre of land embracing the site of the old Mount Hebron Church, proceeded to erect that year a two-story brick building 50 x 22 feet, having a hall running through the center, the upper and lower south rooms being occupied by the Principal; those in the north end being used for school purposes.

Isaac N. Peck was employed as Principal in the autumn of 1838, and served until September 1839, when he was succeeded by Jacob Harris Patton, who filled this position until November 1840, when he resigned to accept a professorship in the University of Tennessee. A course of study was prepared in July of the last mentioned year, a "Prospectus" was printed and distributed. This was in the following form: —

PROSPECTUS OF MARSHALL COLLEGE

(SOURCE — See "Journal of the House of Delegates of Virginia, " Session 1840-41, Document 4, pp. 44, 45.)

"The Trustees of this Institution have secured the services of the Rev. A. E. Thom, who will superintend the entire school, and instruct personally in the classical department. From their knowledge of Mr. Thom's qualifications, they feel authorized to recommend it to the public as an Institution worthy of patronage.

The Academy has the advantage of a beautiful and healthy situation on the Ohio, in the midst of a moral and intelligent people, two miles from the village of Guyandotte, to which place there is a daily line of stages in the summer season, which runs through the region of the Virginia springs.

The Institution embraces two departments

In the classical department are taught the languages, the mathematics, and those sciences usually taught in schools of a high order, with exercises in composition, elocution and music.

In the primary school are taught all the branches embraced in a good English education.

The government of the Institution will be gentle and persuasive, and of the strictest moral character. Preaching and biblical exercises on the Sabbath in the Academy, which the pupils will be required to attend.

TERMS

Classical Department: —

Winter Session,	(six months,).....	\$12.50
Summer Session,	(four months,).....	8.50

Primary Department:

Winter Session,	(six months,).....	7.50
Summer Session,	(four months,).....	5.00

Extra charges for French and Hebrew.....5.00

Tuition payable in advance *in all cases* for one session. No deduction made for absence during the session, except in case of sickness.

Board in respectable families, near the Academy, for \$30 the scholastic year of ten months.

N.B. — The next session will commence on the first of October next, on which there will be delivered in the Academy and introductory lecture by the Principal.

Cabell County, July 20, 1840

Here we are informed that Rev. A. E. Thom had been employed as Principal in 1840, to succeed Jacob Harris Patton; that the course of study included two Departments — Classical and Primary; that while the government is gentle and persuasive, it is of the strictest moral character; and that the attendance upon chapel exercises on the part of the pupils was compulsory.

FINANCIAL AID FOR MARSHALL COLLEGE FROM THE LITERARY FUND OF VIRGINIA

On the 22d of March 1836 the General Assembly of Virginia passed an Act by which it was provided that any surplus revenue accruing from the investment of the Literary Fund, over

\$60,000.00, and unappropriated at that time, or which might thereafter accrue, should be added to the Fund granted to Primary Schools. It was further provided that the School Commissioners in counties where there were colleges or academies, might apply the additional Fund thus created to such institutions within their respective counties. This came from the Commissioners in Cabell county, as a boon to the newly established Marshall Academy, and at the same time provided a way for the permanent preservation of much of its history; the law requiring the Boards of Trustees of all institutions receiving such aid to make annual reports to the President and Directors of the Literary Fund.

Under provisions of this Act, Marshall College received the following sums in ensuing years; that is to say: —

In 1839	\$224.12	In 1844	\$28.95
In 1840	213.70	In 1845	36.42
In 1841	189.65	In 1846	67.07
In 1842	189.65	In 1847	67.07
In 1843	158.02	Total . . .	\$1,194.65

Thus it appears that Marshall Academy in the first nine years of its existence, received from the Literary Fund, through the School Commissioners of Cabell county, nearly twelve hundred dollars. In consideration of this, the Trustees made Annual reports [to] the President and Directors of the Literary Fund.

IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC OR OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

Public Documents furnish the material for the historian and student. Without such a collection justice can never be done to a nation, State, or institution. Without them a people can

never have an accurate knowledge of the founding and growth of their institutions; nor of their own development in governmental affairs, educational and other interests. Not only this, but posterity can not have the means of judging, as it might, of the deeds, and principles of action, and of the legislation of ancestors. Thus the State that neglects to preserve its public Documents, loses much to future generations — to the whole world indeed.

The old Mother State, Virginia, carefully preserved this historic material, and to this we are indebted by far the larger part of the information which we possess relative to West Virginia while the two States were one. From this source we gather much pertaining to old Marshall Academy. Therein are nine Annual Reports of its Board of Trustees, made to the President and Directors of the Literary Fund, for nine consecutive years beginning with that of 1838 and extending to 1846 — a period of eight years. They, alone contain sufficient data to write a history of the institution for this period. They are inserted here in the order in which they were made, that the reader may learn from official sources of the early years of old Marshall Academy.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

(Source — See Journal House of Delegates, 1839-40, Doc. 4, pp. 36,37.)

To the President and Directors of the Literary Fund of Virginia.

The trustees of the Marshall Academy beg leave to report that with the funds which they procured by private subscription they purchased one and a quarter acre of land, erected a building of brick 50 feet by 22, two stories high, and which they have been enabled to finish except the painting. They have incurred some debts in sinking a well, enclosing the lot, &c. which enabled them to commence business last year.

The Academy is divided into two departments. The primary school has been placed under the management of a teacher well qualified, and by ensuring him 25 scholars at \$12 per scholar, he receives the subscription for his salary. But the trustees undertake to pay for all the *poor scholars* that will attend, and such as the school commissioners would have provided for. To this extent they use that portion of the surplus revenue of the school quota assigned to them in this department.

The classical department is under the management of a gentleman well qualified to teach the languages, mathematics, &c. and to whom they give the sum of \$500 for the first year, and \$600 thereafter. To provide for this demand they charge \$20 per annum to the student, and for the deficiency they look to the surplus revenue for assistance.

The first year they find that they will have occasion for every dollar they receive from the Literary Fund, to satisfy the claims of their teachers, but entertain a hope that after the first year they may be able to save something towards purchasing apparatus, a library, &c.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN LAIDLEY, *President*

Frederick G. L. Beurhring, ³ *Secretary*

Marshall Academy, Cabell county, 6 February, 1839.

Here, in this first report of the Trustees, we learn much of the beginnings of the Academy.

We are told of the purchase of the land on which it was erected; of the dimensions of the first building, and the material of which it was constructed; of the sinking of the well, and the enclosure of the grounds. Also that they were enabled “to commence business last year,” that is in 1838. There were then two departments — the Classical and the Primary — each with a gentleman at its head. These teachers were Isaac N. Peck, as Principal, and a Mr. Shepherd, Assistant. There were then no apparatus or library, but it was the hope of the Trustees, “that after the first year,” they might be able “to save something toward purchasing these.

³Frederick G. L. Beurhring was a native of Germany, who in early life came to America and settled in Baltimore, where, in 1814, he was one of that gallant band of Volunteers who checked the advance of the British Army in its advance upon that city, and thus saved it from the fate of Washington and Alexandria. He was engaged in mercantile pursuits which detained him much of the time in the West Indies, Yucatan and various parts of the United States. This enabled him to acquire a knowledge of the French and Spanish languages, both of which he spoke fluently. He removed to the westward about 1820, and settled on a farm on the site of the present city of Huntington, in Cabell county, Virginia. Here he was long distinguished for his activity, energy, integrity and quickness of apprehension. He acquired a vast fund of information, not only from books, but from experience and observation. As a public speaker he was always fluent and effective, whether engaged in the discussion of the most exciting political questions of the day; or in the more calm, but, to him, always attractive subjects of agricultural, horticultural, internal improvements, or education. At the time of his death, Monday, June 27, 1859, he was a member elect of the General Assembly of Virginia, and had been a member and Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Marshall Academy from 1838, to 1858, when the institution was erected into a College — a period of twenty years. Before removing from Baltimore he had wedded Maria Dannenberg, and had issue four children — one son and three daughters. — (See *Kanawha Valley Star*, of July 5, 1859.)

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

(Source — See Journal House of Delegates, 1840-41, Doc. 4, pp. 37, 38.)

To the President and Directors of the Literary Fund of Virginia.

The trustees of Marshall Academy, in conformity to the act of assembly, beg leave respectfully to report: that the Academy possesses no funds or sources of income other than the surplus revenue from the Literary Fund, assigned to the school commissioners of Cabell county, and which they have transferred to the trustees of this academy, and what is derived from the tuition fees.

A competent teacher has been employed, at a salary of five hundred dollars a year, for conducting the classical department, and a teacher for the primary school, at a subscription price of \$12 per scholar per year.

The scholastic year of eleven months, that terminated on the first of August last, produced a revenue of \$20 per scholar, with the aid of the surplus revenue received for that year, to discharge the salary engaged to the professor, and they paid the further sum of forty-eight dollars to the teacher in the primary school for the tuition of “indigent children.”

The trustees further state, that they find difficulty in obtaining qualified teachers for the primary school, for such salaries as their means allow them to engage, for it has been one of the objects of private enterprise in this establishment, to introduce a class of teachers, and a course of study, that would have an influence by their examples in the selections of teachers who are employed in the different sections of the county; for it is to be regretted that the greater part of that class (without any imputation of intemperance or immorality) are not qualified to give literary instruction.

Should they be more liberally patronized hereafter, or be able to draw some additional aid from the Literary Fund, the trustees design to provide suitable philosophical apparatus, and a library for the benefit of the academy.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN LAIDLEY, *President*

Frederick G. L. Beuhring, *Secretary*.
December 5, 1839.

Here we have a view of the conditions of the Academy in 1839. Its only source of income, or revenue were the surplus from the Literary Fund which comes to it through the School Commissioners of Cabell County; and the tuition received from students. The scholastic year included eleven months; the Principal in the Classical Department received a salary of

\$500.00, while the teacher in the Primary Department received \$12.00 per pupil. Here, at this early date, in the history of the institution, we learn one of its objects was the *training of teachers* for Cabell county. The Trustees say that it has been one of the objects in this enterprise “to introduce a class of teachers, and a course of study, that would have an influence by their examples in the selection of teachers who are employed in the different sections of the county.” The Trustees still hoped that they might be able soon to provide suitable apparatus and a library in the institution. Jacob Harris Patton succeeded Isaac N. Peck as Principal. He served in this capacity from September 1839, to November 1840, when he resigned to accept a professorship in the University of Tennessee.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

(Source — See Journal House of Delegates, 1841-42, Doc. 4, pp. 44, 45.)

TO THE President and Directors of the Literary Fund of Virginia.

The trustees of the Marshall Academy beg leave respectfully to report to the president and directors of the Literary Fund, that they have in their employment a gentleman of competent qualifications to be entrusted with the charge and superintendence of the institution, and to whom they agree to give \$200 a year in addition to the tuition fee. As the quota of the surplus revenue of the Literary Fund has varied in amount, when the sum received falls short of the sum promised, they have had to make it up from their private funds; and when the amount received has exceeded the sum promised, they have provided for the tuition of the indigent children in the neighbourhood. The trustees have placed the fees of tuition at a very low price, and the expenses of boarding reasonable, with the view of placing the institution within the reach of the people generally, and they trust will have the effect of commanding a liberal support; but they find that there are prejudices to overcome in this, as well as any other system that has the appearance of innovation upon old habits.

It is the intention of the trustees, after providing globes, maps, philosophical apparatus, &c. to apply the balance received from the Literary Fund in paying for the instruction of the indigent children within the reach of their academy; and from the character of the gentlemen in charge, and the favourable situation of their school, they flatter themselves that they will succeed in keeping up a good school preparatory to entering college, and another important benefit they believe they can foresee, in preparing young men for teachers in the common schools in the country.

To beg leave to add to this report the enclosed card, further illustrative of their proceedings, and they trust they will continue to deserve the assistance which they have received from the Literary Fund, and which is so very important to their usefulness.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN LAIDLEY, *President.*

FREDERICK G. L. BEUHRING, Secretary
November 4th, 1840.

Noble men were these Trustees. Promoters of education, they were so much devoted to their work, that when there was a shortage in the receipts from other sources, they made at the deficiency from their own private funds. When they had provided globes, maps, and philosophical apparatus, they proposed to arrange for the instruction of indigent children within reach of the Academy; two objects were kept in view. The first of these was that of preparing young men and women to enter College. The second — one they could foresee — *was that of preparing young men for teachers in the common schools of the county.*

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

(Source — See Journal House of Delegates, 1842-43, Doc. 4, p. 40.)

To the President and Directors of the Literary Fund.

The trustees of Marshall Academy beg leave respectfully to report to the president and directors of the Literary Fund:

That since their last annual report, there has been no change in the government of the institution, it remains under the control of a qualified professor for the tuition fees, and the further sum of 200 dollars, which the trustees guarantee; this they have done upon the faith of their quota of the surplus revenue of the Literary Fund transferred to them by the school commissioners for Cabell county, for the last 3 years; however the amount so received has fallen short of the sum they have had to pay.

The trustees beg leave to suggest the propriety of your recommending a repeal of the act of the last General Assembly, placing this fund at the disposal of the school commissioners, or so to modify it, that their power should be confined to withdrawing it from academies only for the benefit of other academies which may be incorporated within the county. The uncertainty which now attends this appropriation, very much affects the inducements to professors to engage, and

political factions that so unhappily exist in all parts of the government, cannot be expected to keep clear of this board.

The trustees take pleasure in reporting that a literary society having been formed of the students of this institution, they have provided a valuable library, for a comparatively small sum, in the purchase of the Harper's family library; and they are satisfied, if the small aid they now receive from the Literary Fund was made perpetual, if no other assistance were afforded, they could keep up a school that would be valuable to the county, and prepare young men for taking charge of primary schools, of an improved character to those now employed.

Respectfully submitted.

FREDERICK G. L. BEUHRING, *Secretary*

JOHN LAIDLEY, *President*

November 1841

The work in the Academy this year, 1841, was similar to that of the preceding year. Rev. A. E. Thom continued as head of the school. The first Literary Society was organized this year; and a valuable library — Harper's Family Library — had been provided by the expenditure of a very small sum. The Trustees were satisfied that if the small sum then being received from the Literary Fund could be made perpetual, they could continue a school that would be valuable to the country; "and prepare young men for taking charge of Primary Schools, of an improved character to those now employed." It will be observed that the *training of teachers* was ever uppermost in the minds of the Trustees, even from the day the Academy was first opened for the admission of students.

FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

(Source — See Journal House of Delegates, 1843-44, Doc. 4, p. 35.)

To the President and Directors of the Literary Fund of Virginia:

The trustees of Marshall Academy beg leave to report that until the present year they have been able to sustain a professor in the classical department of their academy by raising a sum equal to \$200 per annum in aid of the tuition fees; and although they have not received that sum from the Literary Fund, they have been

able to command it from other sources; in addition to which they have been able to sustain well qualified teachers in their primary department.

But from the late reduction of the aid heretofore received from the public treasury, combined with the great scarcity of money in the country, they have been compelled to remodel their plan of operations. They have therefore engaged a teacher capable of teaching the languages and the higher branches of mathematics for the present, at a salary within their means raised from tuition fees, and will employ for the coming year, as soon as they can, a female capable of conducting a female department; but the principal portion of her salary, as we design arranging the school, will have to be raised, first, from the quota which we may receive from the Literary Fund, and secondly, from a tax upon the resident employers, or by public collections. This arrangement will enable us to keep up a classical department, and provide for the primary school with more economy. For it is impossible to obtain professors of a respectable order without engaging to give them liberal wages, and more than they have been able to command from their tuition fees, without drawing upon that fund provided for the primary department.

The trustees have taken courage to persevere with their labours, from a hope that the legislature will not abandon the subject of education until they adopt some scheme which will enable the friends of good schools to place the resources of the country in aid of their demands. Those that are able must be compelled to pay, and those who draw largely on the public bounty for their education, must be required to contribute in turn their talents and acquirements.

We need a radical change in the character of the teachers in the county, and an improvement in the taste of parents and guardians. But once operate upon either class and the other will follow as a necessary consequence.

Which is ordered to be certified.

FREDERICK G. L. BEUHRING, *Secretary*

JOHN LAIDLEY, *President*

December 1842.

Then was “needed a radical change in the character of the teachers in the county.” This was the theme throughout Western Virginia, and it was thus voiced by the Trustees of Marshall Academy who desired to remedy existing evils.

The year 1841, marks an era in the history of Education in Virginia. On the 8th of September, that year, an Educational Convention of Northwestern Virginia, assembled at Clarksburg in Harrison County. Sixteen counties were represented, of which twelve were in

Northwestern Virginia, and four in the Shenandoah Valley. The number of delegates present were one hundred and twenty-one — they being the most prominent men in the region represented. George Hay Lee, the distinguished jurist of Harrison county, was chosen Chairman; and Judge George W. Thompson, of like prominence, of Ohio county, was made Secretary. The sessions were held in the Presbyterian church, and the rules of the House of Delegates of the General Assembly of Virginia, were adopted for the government of the body. A Committee was appointed to prepare “An Address to Our Fellow Citizens of Virginia.” In this the Convention urged that a law be enacted providing for the training of teachers, and it was declared therein that, “There can be no advance made in the system of instruction until the State is supplied with teachers — teachers every way qualified and competent . . . Men and women must be educated especially for the purpose of instruction. . . . Instruction is easily given and durably impressed in proportion to the number of senses addressed.” Then it was urged that the successful teachers must know how to do this.⁴

The most important Educational Convention that had ever been held in Virginia, up to that time, convened in the Hall of the House of Delegates, at Richmond, and sat during the holiday season of December, 1841. The leading advocate in that body of a system of Teacher’s Training Schools, was Hon. A. W. Venable, of Mecklenburg county. In his address upon this subject he said:--

“SIR —

Many men have been driven into professions, acknowledged to be liberal but to them utterly unprofitable rather than be recognized as a school master, forgetting that to instruct youth and enlighten ignorance has been, in all ages, the favorite employment of the philosopher and sage.

⁴See Proceedings of this convention in “Journal of the House of Delegates.”

SIR — This must be altered — the Academies over the State must receive a portion of the public bounty, as well as individual liberality and be required to educate free of expense, young men who shall teach in our schools and academies. Those to whom they are instructed must be required to furnish teachers to the public in proportion to the money expended by the public in their endowment. I have, with great pains and labor investigated the systems of Europe and of our own country — I have consulted the best authors, both living and dead, and the testimony of all is *that the country which has made no effort to educate teachers, has done nothing for popular education*. This is the testimony of Brougham, Vol Reamer, Taylor, and all whose works I have been enabled to consult; and I would urge upon this Convention this important truth by every consideration down from our patriotism and philanthropy; as we regard the happiness of our children or desire the glory of our country; as we would dispel ignorance and banish crime.”

The Trustees of Marshall Academy endorsed fully the truths above expressed; and made the training of teachers a primary object of the institution. They had taken courage to persevere in their labors. An entire “change in the character in the county, and an improvement in the taste of parents and guardians.” Then they added: But once operate upon either class and the other will follow as a necessary consequence.” The meaning of this was, that a better class of teachers would awaken a better educational sentiment on the part of parents and guardians; or, an improved educational sentiment on the part of parents and guardians would produce a demand for better teachers.

SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

(Source — See Journal House of Delegates, 1844-85, Doc. 4, pp. 42, 43.)
To the President and Directors of the Literary Fund of Virginia.

The trustees of this academy have been able to keep it in operation the past year, the greater part of the time sustaining two teachers; but having been deprived of the aid heretofore received from the surplus revenue of the Literary Fund, and being determined on sustaining a useful school, they have employed a competent teacher, and in aid of the tuition fees, they have raised a subscription by private donations, to maintain the character of a high school by the talent of qualified teachers.

The board of trustees continue to bear testimony, from their own observation, that the present manner of employing the moneys arising from the Literary Fund is unfortunate, and inadequate to the wants of the people, and radically wrong; and while the board of directors are governed by written reports of commissioners of schools, they will ever remain wrong. Let a careful examination by a competent person be made, and the result will verify their prediction, that it must be changed.

It is no less gratifying to the trustees, than it is due to the teachers in their academy to report that young men have left their academy and entered upon the learned professions with respectable preparations, without ever having entered any other school; and they are advised that no less than five of their scholars were employed in teaching school the past year. And yet the envy of the friends of the primary school system is violent against academies and colleges.

(Signed,)

FREDERICK G. L. BEUHRING, *Secretary*
November — 1843.”

JOHN. LAIDLEY, *President*

In this year — 1843 — the Trustees began to see the result of their labors. They were much gratified to be able to report that “young men had left the Academy and entered upon the learned professions with respectable preparations, without ever having entered any other school;” and *they were advised that no less than five* of their students were employed in teaching school that year.

SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

(Source — See Journal House of Delegates, 1845-46, Doc. 4, p. 48.)

To the President and Directors of the Literary Fund of Virginia.

The trustees of the Marshall Academy beg leave to submit their annual report.

The legislature having been entrusted to the school commissioners of the several counties the entire disposition of the public funds, like every other body of men, regard themselves the safest depository. Heretofore they have withdrawn from this academy the principal part of the surplus revenue, and the trustees are left to their own resources for the support of this institution — nevertheless it is their privilege to report, that they continue to keep in service a well qualified teacher, at this, the only school in the county where the languages, or the higher branches of mathematics are taught. And they are satisfied, that they are doing more for the true interest of the primary departments, than all the funds expended in the county; for they are every year sending out young men better qualified for teachers than can otherwise be found.

They beg leave again to repeat, that however flattering reports made by school commissioners may appear, in fact and in truth, that fund is not profitably employed — and nothing short of a better regulated class of academies and colleges will improve the character of our schools.

If the public funds were appropriated to the support of such schools only as will employ qualified teachers, and come in aid of those who are willing to be taxed, then, and not till then, will any good, corresponding to the sums expended be derived.

Respectfully submitted.

By order of the board.

FREDERICK G. L. BEUHRING, *Secretary*.
1844.”

JOHN LAIDLEY, *President*

There was continued improvement in 1844. How many teachers went out from Marshall Academy that year is not stated, but the Trustees were glad to be able to report that they were then sending out young men better qualified for teachers than could otherwise be found.

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT. OF THE TRUSTEES.

(Source — See Journal House of Delegates, 1846-47, Doc. 4, p. 45.)

To the President and Directors of the Literary Fund.

The trustees of the Marshall Academy redeem the duty imposed upon them by law, by reporting the state and condition of this institution. It affords them gratification to be able to report that they continue to sustain a valuable grammar school, under the direction of a gentleman well qualified to teach, govern and instruct; and that the well deserved reputation of this academy, now extensively and advantageously known, secures a liberal patronage.

What interest the State may feel in the prosperity of an institution got up and sustained by private enterprise, without lending it any aid, may not be the privilege of this board to enquire. And they have no reason to expect any encouragement while the present system is continued, or the public funds are distributed in the manner now authorized and permitted. But as they are satisfied they may with truth report, they hope it will not be regarded disrespectful to those who profess so high a regard for the present “primary school system,” to say that their academy is and has been doing more real service than all the funds expended in the county of Cabell. It is the intention of the trustees to continue this school, but they do not despair of seeing a more profitable expenditure of the public funds, when all other institutions of like kind may be aided, and adequate provision made to sustain schools capable of giving useful instruction.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the board.

(Signed,)

FREDERICK G. L. BEUHRING, *Secretary*

JOHN LAIDLEY, *President*.

December 15, 1845.

The Trustees expressed pleasure this year — 1845 — because of the work being done for education; and they were gratified to be able to report that the well deserved reputation of the Academy then extensively and advantageously known, secured for it a liberal patronage. They hoped that the time might soon come when their institution, and others of similar character, might receive liberal aid from the Commonwealth.

NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

(Source — See Public Documents of Virginia, 1847-8. Doc. 4, p. 60.)

To the President and Directors of the Literary Fund.

The Trustees of the Marshall Academy beg leave respectfully to represent that the institution under their charge continues its useful operation. They have been enabled to retain the labors of the Rev. Josiah B. Poage as the instructor, who combines the capacity of instructing with a liberal knowledge of the languages and the sciences usually taught in academies and colleges. The patrons of this school submit to a heavy tax to sustain it, and have appropriated from the small amount allowed them from the School Commissioners of Cabell County, out of the surplus revenue of the Literary Fund, a large part thereof in aid of a private subscription to the procuring of apparatus for the illustration of the science taught. Their experience convinces them that such schools ought to be patronized by the State to render the Primary School System profitable by furnishing teachers; and trusting that the legislature will yield to the demonstration of public opinion in making some provision for the aid and encouragement of academies and colleges, they respectfully submit to the consideration of the President and Directors of the Literary Fund the propriety of presenting their claims to the Legislature.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Board.

(Signed) JOHN LAIDLEY, *President*.

FREDERICK G. L. BEUHRING, *Secretary*.

Cabell County, Virginia, December 7, 1846.”

In 1846, the training of teachers was a thought still uppermost in the minds of the Trustees, and they urged upon the President and Directors of the Literary Fund, the necessity of the State in improving the Primary School System, by enabling institutions to fit teachers therefor.

CHAPTER IV

AN ADVERTISEMENT — PRESS NOTICES — EDITORIALS

THE FIRST ADVERTISEMENT OF MARSHALL ACADEMY

What is believed to be the first advertisement of Marshall Academy which was inserted in a newspaper was that which appeared in *Kanawha Republican* of October 5, 1843. It is as follows: —

MARSHALL ACADEMY.		
NEAR GUYANDOTTE, Va.		
THE next session of this Institution will commence on Monday the 23rd of October and continue six months.		
The Academic year being divided into two unequal sessions of six and four months, the tuition of the winter session will be three-fifths of that of the whole year.		
The branches taught, and the prices of tuition, are as follows:—		
Reading, Writing, Arithmetic (begun) per Session	\$7,25	per yr. 12,00
English Grammar, Geography, Arithmetic (completed)	9,00	“ “ 15,00
Latin, Greek, History, Mathematics, &c. &c. &c.	12,00	“ “ 20,00
The last includes Philosophy, Astronomy, Chemistry, &c.		
Payments for half the session must be made in advance—the other half at the close of the session		
It is very desirable that all pupils should enter the Institution at the commencement of the session. No deduction will be made for absence, except in cases of protracted sickness.		
JOSIAH B. POAGE		Principal.
Cabell Co. October 5, 1843, — 1:*		

In the same issue of this paper the editor E. W. Newton, called attention editorially to the advertisement of Marshall College as follows:

“We invite the attention of the public, and more particularly our readers in Cabell, to the advertisement of MARSHALL ACADEMY, which appears in today’s paper. We have not the pleasure of an acquaintance with the principal, but are well assured that he is, in point of character, scholarship, and the art of teaching, worthy of entire confidence and the most liberal patronage. Seminaries of this character are wanted in every county in the West. They are adapted to the wants of the people, and we are glad to know that there is an increasing attention to a more liberal education of youths. People of Cabell, give to your Marshall Academy the most ample support. It will repay you in the moral elevation, intelligence, and successful enterprise of your children a hundred fold.”

PRESS NOTICES OF MARSHALL ACADEMY IN 1844.

A correspondent, signing himself "B," had the following to say of this institution, in a communication to the *Kanawha Republican* of May 21, 1844:

"In 1844, it was stated that the school had been under the government of several able teachers, but the principal at that time was Rev. Josiah B. Poage. The commencement exercises that year, and examination of students by the Principal and Board of Trustees, proved him to have been as efficient as anyone that ever had the government of that academy. In the examinations in the common English course of instruction, Latin, several branches of mathematics, and vocal music, the students evidenced an acquaintance and familiarity that could alone be induced by a thorough application, aided by one capable of giving instruction. There was marked improvement in the church music at divine service in the academy. Rev. Mr. Case, of Kentucky, delivered the baccalaureate sermon." — See the *Kanawha Republican*, May 21, 1844.

AN EDITORIAL EXPRESSION

Mr. E. W. Newton, the editor of the *Kanawha Republican*, in which the foregoing communication appeared, visited Marshall Academy at this time, and his paper of the next week contained the following editorial:

We availed ourselves of the opportunity while in the vicinity a few days ago, to visit Marshall Academy. It is most delightfully situated near the bank of the Ohio, about two miles below Guyandotte. The building is of brick, and is a good one, occupying a beautiful eminence in a grove of luxuriant forest trees, passed by the turnpike leading from Guyandotte to the mouth of Big Sandy River. The summer session had just commenced; there were already in attendance more than thirty students, male and female; and a more interesting company of youth we have never seen — their countenances beamed with intelligence and the ardent desire for the acquisition of knowledge. The qualifications of the principal to train the youthful mind to learning and virtue***The citizens of that portion of Cabell have in this institution a treasure, which they should appreciate and cherish as of not less value than

their luxuriant, fertile, and productive farms. They are amply able, and we hope they have the correct view of the infinite importance of rightly educating the rising generation; and the proper public spirit not only to sustain this school, but greatly to extend its usefulness.

CHAPTER V

MARSHALL ACADEMY UNDER CONTROL OF THE WESTERN VIRGINIA CONFERENCE OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SOUTH.

Now a change was to take place in the management of Marshall Academy. The fifteenth session of the General Conference of Episcopal Methodism was held in New York City in 1844, and before its adjournment a “Plan of Separation” was agreed upon, and the Methodist Episcopal Church, south was organized by a Convention which assembled May 1, 1845, at Louisville, Kentucky. At that time the Ohio Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church exercised jurisdiction over which was known as the Kanawha District; its boundaries being as follows:

“Beginning on the Ohio river at the mouth of Middle Island Creek; thence extending back, or eastward with the line of the Pittsburg Conference to the Tygart’s Valley river; thence with the same and the western boundary of the Baltimore Conference, to the boundary of the Holsten Conference; thence westward with a line of that Conference to the Kentucky State Line and the line of the Kentucky Conference, to the Ohio, at the mouth of the Big Sandy river; and thence to the beginning.” It included about ten thousand square miles.

At the first session of the General Conference of the Methodist Church, South, had in Petersburg, Virginia, the northern boundary of the Kentucky Conference was so extended as to include this Kanawha District. Circuits were formed therein, and three Districts — the Parkersburg, Greenbrier, and Guyandotte — were created. The second General Conference sitting in St. Louis, Missouri { sic }, in May, 1850, provided for the organization of the Western Virginia Conference, South, and this body held its first annual session at Parkersburg, Virginia, beginning Septem { manuscript page ends }

**Field Agents of Marshall College under the
Management of the Southern Methodist Conference
1857 to 1861.**

1. Rev. Staunton Field, from Conference of 1857 to that of 1858.
2. Rev. Richard A. Claughton, from Conference of 1858 to that of 1859.
3. St. Mark Russell, from Conference of 1859 to that of 1860.
4. _____, from Conference of 1860 to that of 1861.

**NOTES FROM THE ITINERANT ON MARSHALL COLLEGE
EARLY CONNECTION OF THE CONFERENCE WITH THE ACADEMY,
FROM 1850 TO 1857.**

In 1850, at the first meeting of the Conference, at Parkersburg, the Trustees tendered it Marshall Academy, and the offer was accepted. Immediately thereafter, it was made known by the Trustees that considerable improvements must be made, and that the Conference would be required to raise the requisite sums, or take an active part in raising the necessary amount to make said improvements. Subsequently, a question was raised involving the character of the title, which prevented unanimity of action by the members of the Conference in their efforts to raise the money. (See whether anything was done at the sessions of 1851, at Malden, and 1852, at Barboursville, and if so, what?)⁵ At the session held in Clarksburg in 1853, the Trustees of the Academy addressed the Conference, by letter, giving every assurance in regard to the perfection of the title, and made pledges that satisfied the doubting ones on the subject — if the pledges then and there made were redeemed.

⁵Apparently, a reminder from Lewis to himself. — transcriber.

SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION OF TITLE

At the session at Louisa, Kentucky, in 1854, the Trustees were a little more reserved in their pledges than at the previous session; but the final arguments were submitted, and a favorable decision rendered in regard to the title at that session.

RIGHT OF THE CONFERENCE TO CONTROL THE COLLEGE

The question of title having been settled, at Louisa in 1854, the only question before the session of the Conference at Buffalo in 1855, was that of the right of the Conference to control the College. This was debated at great length; and was finally settled affirmatively.

ACTION OF THE CONFERENCE IN 1856

At the Conference which set at Guyandotte, September 4th, and ended its session on the 9th of September, 1856, the Chairman of the Committee on Education announced itself ready to report, and then read the Preamble and Resolutions in regard to Marshall Academy. Some of the latter called forth a spiritual discussion, and were finally defeated. This dissolved connection with the Preamble, and thus the entire report was rejected. Thus a document which merited preservation was lost, so far as the official records are concerned. It was resolved, however, that the Board of Trustees should fill all vacancies by appointment of such persons as might be nominated by the Conference.” In making out the report of the assignment of ministers, Stephen F. Mallory was sent to Guyandotte, and Marshall College.* (See *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, Vol. I, No. 14, Sept. 15, 1856.) But January 1, 1857, the pastor on this work was E. C. Thornton, whose salary was \$300.00. See *Itinerant* of January 1, 1857, Vol. I, No. 21.

**ACTION OF THE CONFERENCE AT ITS EIGHTH SESSION, CHARLESTON,
SEPTEMBER 10-15, 1857.**

A WRITER IN THE UNIONIST OF GUYANDOTTE

A writer under a fictitious name had an article, of great length, in the Unionist of February 12, 1857, in which he advocated and urged the claims of Marshall Academy to public confidence.

The Eighth session of the Conference was held in Charleston, September 10-15, 1857. Bishop G. F. Pierce, presiding. S. Hargis, was Secretary, his assistant being Richard A. Claughton. A special Committee on Education consisting of three, was appointed, of which Rev. Staunton Field was chairman. It made an extended report which was adopted by the Conference. Referring to Marshall Academy, the report said: —

“We deem it unnecessary to refer to the past history of this institution, and the nature and design of relations to it, [by] this body. This it is presumed, is familiar to all.

Its present condition, pressing wants, and embarrassments, however, claim and require instant and decisive action at our hands. We feel it therefore, to be our solemn duty, to urge upon the Conference the adoption of some measure, or the rejection of some plan for its relief. The time has arrived when we must act; and that too with decision, promptness, and energy, or else the institution, if not much of the character and standing of the Conference will be sacrificed.

Your committee have been unable to procure any direct or official information touching the question. The trustees have failed to make any communication to the Conference, and in addition to this, in the management, and representations of the character of the Academy, all our cherished relations with it as a body, are utterly ignored, whether intentionally or not we will not pretend to decide. From the most reliable information, in our possession, the following facts indicate the real condition of its affairs.

The additional improvements, consisting of a large three story building, not yet however, entirely finished, have involved the trustees in a debt of eight or nine hundred dollars, for five hundred

of which the institution has been mortgaged, and unless timely measures be adopted for its relief, the Academy will be subjected to a public sale.

In addition to the above indebtedness, the present principle {sic}, we learn, has claims against the trustees for some five or six hundred dollars, on account of improvements which he has made upon the Academy buildings and grounds.

These things, with other facts that might be mentioned, in connection with the administration of the affairs of the Academy since our last session, demonstrate the necessity of an immediate and renewed effort on our part, to a more thorough control of its fortunes and interests, than we have heretofore possessed or exercised. There are therefore, in this view of the subject, two objects to be sought, namely, the relief of the institution from its embarrassment, and the attainments of a more direct control of its government and affairs by this Conference. To accomplish the first named object {sic} we propose the following resolutions:

Resolved, That as individuals, or a sufficient number of the members of the Conference, and friends of the Church, we form a Joint Stock Company, dividing the amount to be raised into shares of fifty dollars each, and that each share-holder be entitled to a scholarship of *four* years in the Academy from the time the money is paid, and as a farther indemnity to the stock-holders, they may take a deed of trust on the property, and a majority of them, shall have power to close the mortgage whenever they may think proper to do so.

Resolved, 2nd. That should this scheme fail, then a committee appointed for the purpose shall confer with the trustees, and make such arrangements with them as may be expedient or practicable, to secure the institution to the Conference, &c. That the second object above named be accomplished —

Resolved, 3rd. That the trustees petition the next General Assembly of Virginia to amend the Charter of Marshall Academy, so as to increase the number of trustees to twenty-one, and that the additional number, thus provided for, be elected from the members of this Conference, or the company aforesaid, should we be organized, &c. — (See the *Itinerant* of October 15, 1857.)

THE JOINT STOCK COMPANY ORGANIZED.

The Joint Stock Company contemplated in the first resolution was at once organized with thirty members, Ministers and laymen, each taking one share of fifty dollars each. Their names were as follows: —

James Atkinson, Richard A. Claughton, Hiram Moore, E. W. Sehon, William Downtain, Christian M. Sullivan, H. S. Williams, P. H. Hoffman, Wade Briscoe, William Bickers, C. F. Crooks, George B. Poage, E. Kendall, Samuel T. Mallory, Robert N. Crooks, Staunton Field, Jacob Brillhart, William H. Fonerden, B. H. Hull, L. G. Woods, George L. Warner, J. T. Johnson, John F. Medley, Samuel Black, J. F. Bean, A. Bastable, C. W. Hill, Thomas A. Vickers, and Bishop G. F. Pierce, elected in 1854 — thirty in all.

Thus was subscribed the sum of \$1,500.00 of which \$50.00 was subscribed by Bishop Pierce, who did this in view of the fact that it was a Conference Methodist School. — (See the *Itinerant*, of October 15, 1857, p. 4.)

The organization adopted the name of “The Marshall College Joint Stock Company.” A board of Directors was appointed and Samuel Kelly made president thereof, while Staunton Field was appointed field agent and Treasurer for the Institution.

THE CONFERENCE ASSUMES CONTROL OF THE ACADEMY

In compliance with the record resolution of the report adopted by the Conference, that body appointed a committee of three members consisting of S. Kelly, President of the Board of Directors, and Staunton Field and Stephen K. Vaught to confer with the Board of Trustees of the Academy, for the purpose of making “such arrangements with them as may be expedient and

practicable to secure the Institution to the Conference.” This meeting between the two bodies was held on the 3rd of October ensuing, at Guyandotte, when the following action was taken: —

“At a meeting of the Trustees of the Marshall Academy, on the 3rd of October, 1857, on the suggestion of the Rev. Messrs. Samuel Kelly and Stephen K. Vaught, on behalf of the Western Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and in pursuance of the action of said Conference at its last session; on motion it was

Resolved, That the President of the Board [of Trustees] prepare a Memorial to be presented to the Legislature [of Virginia] at their next session, to procure an amendment to the Charter of the Academy, so as to confer College privileges and to increase the number of Trustees to twenty-one, eleven of whom are to be members of the said Conference.”

F. G. L. BEUHRING, Secretary

The Committee were of the opinion that the above arrangement would secure to the Conference all the control they could desire; and it is due to the Trustees to say, that the arrangement met their hearty approval.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE INSTITUTION

The Committee on behalf of the Conference, having thus assumed control of the Academy, made enquiry regarding its indebtedness, and reported as follow:

“The Trustees owe Mr. James (or Robert) Holderby, for borrowed money, \$550.00, due February 6, 1858. A note to Mr. _____ Bickle, a brick-mason, \$200.00, on which there is about \$12.00 interest. A debt to the carpenter, which is in the hands of William C. Miller, \$305.00. Mr. Boyer’s account, we set down at \$723.00. For a part of the last debt, the Trustees have given their note; and on the balance there will likely be some reduction. Mr. Boyer’s account, was for fitting up the basement and third story, with such other improvements as were deemed necessary for the good of the Institution.”

Here, then, were found obligations on the part of the Academy, aggregating \$1,778.00, a sum exceeding the total subscribed stock of the Joint Stock Company which, as previously stated, was but \$1,500.00. The Committee having thus learned of the financial conditions of the Academy, said:

“The amount which has been subscribed is not quite sufficient to pay off the debts; while it will take several hundred dollars to finish the building; we hope therefor that Brother Field, who was appointed Agent for the Institution, will press the matter until the necessary amount is secured. It was made my duty, said the Chairman of the Committee, to notify the subscribers to the capital stock of the Joint Stock Company, at what time they were to make payments. The Committee believed that the Bickle debt ought to be paid immediately, and we therefore propose paying that first. Each subscriber will be expected to pay upon their stock \$10.00, on or before the 20th of November, 1857; and \$15.00 more on or before the 10th of January, 1858. With these payments, we hope to pay off the Bickle and Holderby debts.” . . . See the *Southern Methodist Itinerant* for November 2, 1857.

THE PRINCIPAL OF THE SCHOOL.

When the Conference Committee visited the Academy October 3rd 1857, as noted above, they found Mr. Wm. R. Boyer employed as Principal and the heaviest creditor of the Institution.

In its report it said: —

“The Committee made arrangement for Mr. Boyer to remain as Principal of the school another academic year. To have displaced him would have broken up the school for the time being and in the estimation of the Committee, done harm. Nor can we expect to secure the services of such a man as we desire until the building is finished and out of debt; but while the Committee do not regard Mr. Boyer’s position in the institution as a permanent one, they do regard him as a worthy Christian gentleman and scholar; and they rejoice at the satisfaction he has rendered the public as a teacher; and they *would distinctly say that his continuation in the institution another year was at the request and with the consent of the Committee.* The last session closed with *ninety-three* pupils, and we solicit a greater patronage for the session which has

commenced.” -- (See *The Southern Methodist Itinerant*, for November 2, 1857.

Thus we are informed that Mr. Boyer was Principal of the Academy in 1856-7 — the last year under the management of the Board of Trustees — when there were ninety-three students in attendance; he was continued in that position for the year 1857-8.

**EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE REGULAR COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, AT THE EIGHTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE.**

Thus far we have been considering the report of the Special Committee on Education at the Eighth session of the Conference. The report of the regular Conference Committee, was an able Document. It closed with the following: —

“*Therefore*, resolved by the Western Virginia Conference in Annual Conference assembled — That we accord to the subject of Education the importance it merits, and we will use all proper means and efforts to give it support. That Ministers who have charge of Stations and Circuits, be required to preach on the subject of education at least once a year, and take up a public collection for Marshall Academy at every appointment.

That Presiding Elders be required to overlook the preachers of their respective districts, and see that this duty be performed, and in the event of neglect on their part, to report the same to this Conference at its next session in the examination of character.”

Thus did Marshall Academy which for twenty years had existed as a chartered institution under the corporate laws of Virginia, pass in 1857, completely under the control and management of the Western Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

FIRST CALL ON THE STOCK-HOLDERS.

Rev. Staunton Field, the Agent and Treasurer of Marshall College Joint Stock Company, issued his first call for funds, in December following its organization. This he published in the *Southern Methodist Itinerant*. It was as follows ; —

“For the Southern Methodist Itinerant.

MARSHALL ACADEMY.

Greenupsburg, Kentucky, December 24, 1857.

Dear Bro. Kennedy. — I ask the privilege through the columns of the *Itinerant*, to call the attention of the stock-holders of the Marshall Academy Joint Stock Company, to the fact as already announced, by the Chairman of the Board of Directors, *one half* of the stock will be required by the 20th of January next. — Brethren will please make arrangements to transmit the amount to me at Greenupsburg, or to John Laidley at Guyandotte, *immediately*. Preachers can pay over to their Presiding elders who will take pleasure in attending to this important matter. Let all go to work — if brethren are out of money take up collections — raise the amount in any way you please — its{sic} all we ask. There is no time to lose.

Yours truly,

S. FIELD, *Treasurer*.

(See Southern Methodist Itinerant, January 15, 1858.)

MARSHALL ACADEMY BECOMES MARSHALL COLLEGE

In compliance with the agreement between the Board of Trustees, and the Conference Committee on October 3, 1857, the former made application to the General Assembly of Virginia praying that an Act be passed erecting Marshall Academy into Marshall College. This originated in the House of Delegates, on the Calendar of which it appeared as “House Bill No. 190”, and was entitled “An Act to amend and reenact an Act passed the 13th of March, 1838, entitled “An Act to Incorporate the Marshall Academy in the County of Cabell; and to Establish Marshall College.” It was passed by the House and sent to the Senate, February 27, 1858, and passed by that body March 4th ensuing. Sections one, two, five and nine, read as follows: —

“ 1. The Marshall Academy in the county of Cabell is hereby erected into a college; which shall be known by the name of Marshall College.

“ 2. Samuel Kelly, Staunton Field, Stephen K. Vaught, George P. Poague, Christian M. Sullivan, William Bickens, John F. Medley, Richard A. Claughton, William H. Fonerden, Samuel F. Mallory, George L. Warner, Frederick G. L. Beuhring, Peter C. Buffington, Charles L. Roffe, James H. Poague, Doctor G. C. Rickitts, John W. Hite, St. Mark Russell, Doctor P. H. McCullough, Henry H. Miller and Tarlton W. Everett are hereby constituted and appointed trustees of said college, who, and their successors shall be a body politic and corporate, by the name of The Trustees of the Marshall College; and shall have perpetual succession and a common seal; and by the name aforesaid, they and their successors shall be capable in law, and shall have full power and authority to acquire, hold, possess and retain to them and their successors forever, any lands, tenements, goods, and chattels of any kind whatsoever, for the use of said college, in addition to all property now belonging to the Marshall Academy; to transfer and dispose of the same in any manner they shall adjudge most useful to the interest and legal purposes of the institution; and by the same name to sue and be sued in all courts of law and equity; to select and employ a treasurer, and such other officers and agents as they may deem proper; to employ such president, professors and tutors for the benefit of the college as they may deem necessary; to establish and execute or cause to be executed all such laws, rules and ordinances, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the United States or of this commonwealth, as they may think necessary for the welfare and good government of said college.

“ 5. The trustees or any quorum of them, shall have power and authority to meet at such times as they shall deem necessary, for the examination of any candidate for literary degree {sic} whom the faculty may recommend; and they are hereby authorized and empowered to confer such degrees on such persons as in their opinion shall merit the same, in as ample a manner as any college of this commonwealth can do, and under their common seal to grant testimonials thereof, signed by the faculty of the college.

“ 9. The corporation of Marshall College shall be held liable for all the debts due by the Marshall Academy; and nothing herein contained shall be so construed as at any time to authorize the establishment of a theological professorship in said college.” (See Acts of General Assembly of 1857-8, p. 212, 213.)

THE INSTITUTION BEGINS ITS CAREER AS MARSHALL COLLEGE

Now that the institution was erected into a college, Rev. Staunton Field, the field Agent, hastened to prepare an appeal to the members of the Marshall College Joint Stock Company, which he published in the *Southern Methodist Itinerant* of April 1, 1858. — This was as follows:

For the Southern Methodist Itinerant.

MARSHALL COLLEGE.

Appeal to the Stock Holders.

Dear Brethren: —

The General Assembly of Virginia has erected the Academy into a College, and if we can now rescue it from a comparatively small debt of some sixteen hundred dollars, it may be sustained as an institution of learning, worthy of our support and patronage, as a Church and Conference. At our last session, a company was formed, with a capital of \$500.00, each member of the company subscribing \$50.00. A call has been made for one half of the amount subscribed, but unfortunately, only some five or six of the stock-holders have responded to the call. The consequence is that the College will be sold under a deed of trust, in some short time, say *five or six weeks from this date*. Now shall we lose the institution after all? If the stock-holders will send me \$25.00, each, by that time, the sale may be prevented, or I can purchase it for them, and thus procure a *genuine, direct* title to the property, vested in them as individuals. — This would be equally as good a plan, on which to indemnify ourselves against loss, as a deed of trust on the property, which we were to take when the debts should be liquidated. The crisis is now at hand — and there must be no shirking from our obligations, or else the College is lost.

Please let me hear from you immediately. Send me a check on the Ashland Bank, Ky., or the money by mail. My address is still Greenupsburg, Ky.

S. FIELD, *Agent*.

Guyandotte, March 28, 1858.”

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The Editor of the *Itinerant* invited attention to the “Appeal” and said: —

MARSHALL COLLEGE

“Read the call by Brother Field, elsewhere in this number, to the stock-holders to come to the rescue of this institution immediately; all the facts, we suppose, involving its present condition are set forth in his communication; and they are such as would be expected by all concerned, after learning that the first installment has not been paid according to engagement, especially in the light of all the information given in due time by those

appointed for the purpose in regard to the condition of the institution.

The institution has reached a crisis which must result in a final end either favorable or unfavorable at once. The enterprise has long hung heavily because of real or supposed defects in the title as conveyed to our Conference. But, passing over detailed specifications in this particular, we only remark now that this question was finally and satisfactorily settled at and subsequent to our last session. The stock was subscribed for the express purpose of meeting existing liabilities, and made payable subject to contingencies involving the Trustees, which they readily complied with, and all concerned were immediately and duly notified by the authorities of their own appointment. And, now, will the present stock-holders and others promptly forward the means to secure the institution, and place it on high and healthy ground? It was through the action of our Conference that the Legislature passed the Act extending college privileges to the institution, and shall we forfeit the benefits? We subjoin a few reasons why, we think, we should not.

This is a Methodist College — a Southern institution — dependent, to a very great extent, upon the active co-operation of our Conference. It is situated on the bank of the Ohio river, in one of the most fertile valleys of Western Virginia, in a healthy and pleasant community — surrounded by densely settled and refined citizens. It is immediately below Guyandotte and just above Ceredo. The last named place is a newly located town — located for the avowed purpose of colonizing from the New England States, and filling up that beautiful part of our State with a class of men who are prejudiced against our State Institutions; hence, it is of greater importance, that our Southern College, in that community, be at once placed on high and safe ground, and that the active energies of its friends be concentrated in giving it an abiding character and a good reputation. And, we are of opinion, that the great body of those we now address fully concur with us in sentiment; but, the question arises, in this crisis, how shall we be able to succeed?

By reference to the Agent's call, it will be seen, that the amount of stock subscribed is nearly equal to its liabilities, and that the present crisis is the result of failing to pay promptly at the time appointed. Let the subscribers at once respond, by cash, and let a vast number of new recruits volunteer to come to its rescue — come by fives, tens, twenties, fifties, and hundreds of dollars. Then, Marshall College, will rise as a *star in the West*. (See *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, April 1, 1858.)

ORGANIZATION OF THE CONFERENCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

The General Assembly having incorporated the institution as a College, with a Board of Trustees consisting of twenty-two members of which the first eleven were ministers of the Conference, and the others residents of the town of Guyandotte and vicinity — certainly all citizens of Cabell county. Some one signing himself “*Trustee*” published a call in the *Itinerant* of July 15, 1858, for a meeting of the Trustees, at the College at 10:00 A.M., on Monday, September 13th, 1858, for the purpose of organization. In this, he said: “It is very important that the Board meet and organize before Conference,*” which was to meet at Greenupsburg, Kentucky, but two days later. An organization was effected by the election of Samuel Kelly, President; Frederick G. L. Beuhring, Secretary; and Staunton Field, Treasurer. (*See *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, July 15, 1858.)

THE EDUCATIONAL REPORT AT THE CONFERENCE HELD AT GREENUPSBURG, SEPTEMBER 15-21, 1858.

The following is an extract from the report submitted by the Committee on Education, and adopted by the Conference: —

. . . “And, we believe, Marshall College presents the best available facilities for the accomplishment of good in this department of our work now subject to our control — it presents such as we need. The legal tenure by which we now hold this institution is as good as can be made, when the liabilities, are met, as may be shown by its advocates now present. Yet it is in an embarrassed condition. Its liabilities amount to \$16,000 {sic}. The assets, in hand, and subscriptions, by the Joint Stock Company, amount to \$15,000. And as the honor and interest, of the Conference are alike involved in its redemption,
Resolved, 1st. That active steps be immediately taken to collect the subscriptions now due, to remove the liabilities of the College.

Resolved, 2nd. That we respectfully request the presiding Bishop to appoint an Agent for the College, to proceed in the solicitation and collection of funds to place the institution in a condition that will insure its perpetual prosperity. And that we concur with the Trustees in recommending Richard A. Claughton to the appointment of said Agency.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM BICKERS,
WAYNE KENNEDY, *Com.*
SAMUEL KELLY,

(See *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, October 1, 1858.)

The Bishop complied with the recommendation of the Committee, and appointed Rev. Richard A. Claughton, Field Agent, for the College for the ensuing Conference year.

OBSERVATIONS OF PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES,

REV. SAMUEL KELLY.

In the issue of the *Southern Methodist Itinerant* for February 15, 1859, there appeared an article written by Rev. Samuel Kelly, President of the Board of Trustees of the College, in which he said: —

“Mr. Editor: —

In the wanderings of our pilgrimage, we have passed over and seen much of Western Virginia — most of that portion lying west of the great Alleghenies. Familiar to our eyes are its lofty mountains and delving valleys — its rich virgin soil, and inexhaustible mines of wealth. We have listened to the sweet music of its murmuring brooks, and the swelling anthems of its beautiful rivers — the vastness of its soul-cheering beauties and awe-inspiring grandeurs have deeply impressed themselves upon our mind, and enriched the treasures of our understanding. It is a great Country — extending from the Blue Ridge to the Ohio — the beauty and glory of the Old Dominion — the Switzerland of America — it ought to be the Geneva of Protestant learning. . . .

In this district of country lying west and north of the Alleghenies embracing some forty or fifty counties, there are many good primary schools, but none amounting to a first class college.

Such an institution is needed — much needed in Western Virginia... The germ of such an institution has fully developed itself, and we propose to make this germ — Marshall College — the institution to meet and supply this literary want of Western Virginia, and the resources of the people of Western Virginia. It is located on the Southern banks of the Ohio River, two miles below Guyandotte, in one of the loveliest valleys that nature ever formed. Well watered and healthy, and surrounded by as good a community as can be found in any country. The location is a felicitous one. . . . It is easy of access by river, from all the border counties, and will be doubly so when the Covington and Ohio railroad [now the Chesapeake and Ohio] is completed. Situated, as it is, in this fertile valley, on the Ohio, the great thoroughfare of commerce for the nation, provisions will always be plentiful and living cheap. . . .

The time has now come when, by a united effort of the Western Virginia Conference, South — preachers and people — something can and ought to be done in the way of education. Marshall College is to be denominationally a Methodist School, but not a school where mere sectarian cant is to be taught. Already an able, competent man has been employed (William P. Boyer) to take charge of this institution, and he has entered upon his great work. But we want from two thousand five hundred to three thousand dollars to complete the building and pay a debt already contracted. Let the preachers, the members of the Church, and the friends of education, say that this money shall be raised, shall be had, and the work will be done. Will every member of the Conference feel that he is a party to this great enterprise. Will every Trustee feel that its success depends upon his individual effort. Come brethren, preach about it, talk about it, pray about it, and work for it until the work is done, until Marshall College shall stand forth an honor to our country, and take rank among the best institutions of our State. Then shall our hearts leap for joy, when we shall see the noble youths of our country going forth from our halls of learning adorned with the riches and graces of classic love. Let every member of the Conference represent the interests and solicit patronage for Marshall College.” — (See *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, of February 15, 1859.

**AN ADDRESS OF REV. RICHARD A. CLAUGHTON, THE FIELD AGENT
OF THE COLLEGE.**

The communication of President Kelly, was speedily followed by an Address of Rev. Richard A. Claughton, the Field Agent of the College. This appeared in the *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, of March 1, 1859. In this he made an earnest appeal for financial aid for the institution, citing the experience of the Virginia and North Carolina Conferences to settle Randolph-Macon College on a firm basis; and that of the Holston Conference to sustain Emory and Henry College. "These Conferences," said he, "sent out from year to year their best talent and most efficient masters, and yet it required a series of years of the most ardent labor and vigilance, ere they obtained that proud eminence which these institutions now present to view."

He closed his Address by saying: —

"Then let me say to my brethren of the Western Virginia Conference, that experience and observation have clearly taught us that we can never succeed in meeting our pledge as ministers of Christ by lying upon our oars, while there are setting in upon us various and mighty currents, which are not only determined, but well calculated to impede our progress in pushing forward the cause of education. . . .

You have been already apprised by the Treasurer of the "Joint Stock Company" — brother Staunton Field — that we are ready to commence operations under the brightest auspices, so far as the gentleman" — [Professor William R. Boyer] — "is concerned; and you know there is not in all the bounds of our "Territory," a more elligible {sic} and lovely spot, surrounded with a more beautiful, productive and moral atmosphere; and less exposed to a corrupting influence. Come then brethren, put your hands into your pockets and pay over your subscriptions, secure the benefits and show to the church and the world your determination to lead off in the enlightenment as well as the conversion of your fellow-men.

The time has passed when men or ministers might sit down and contemplate the probabilities of 'success and failure' in regard to those glorious enterprises which have filled the world with astonishment and wonder at the influence of the march of mind; and the only thing necessary is to raise the standard high, and let the watch-word and corresponding effort be 'onward and upward.'

I shall call upon you as soon as may be, hence I admonish you in the words of Him, whose ministers you are, — Be ye also ready.”

BENJAMIN H. THAXTON, A.B., PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE.

In the Spring of 1858, Benjamin H. Thaxton succeeded William R. Boyers, A. M., as Principal of the College with the title of President, and Professor of Ancient Languages. On January 24, 1859, he wrote a letter which was published in the *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, of March 15th that year. In this he said:

“I ask the privilege of submitting a few words, through your paper, to the friends of Marshall College. Coming from Eastern Virginia where liberality is a principle of existence, and where education is widely disseminated and commensurately appreciated, I confess to a degree of surprise that this institution has not, before this late day, been permanently established. The facts that it is eligibly situated and stands without a rival in this trans-Allegheny Region of Virginia are a sufficient guarantee that it would be eminently successful. That a College is needed here cannot be doubted. . . . We must remember that it is this youth that are shortly to assume the reigns of government — that they must soon take their places as conscripts in the great army of humanity, and that upon them must soon devolve the onerous responsibilities of American citizens. . . . How necessary therefore that we prepare them, as well we may, for a position so pregnant with importance to us, and vital alike to them and to posterity. . . . I, therefore, call upon all those who may be friendly disposed to Marshall College to subscribe liberally to the Agents who are now abroad in its behalf, and to lend whatever of aid they may be able in securing patronage, that we may inaugurate and organize at an early day: —

‘Ubi voluntas ibi via est.’

To what more charitable and deserving cause could you give? What loftier monument could you build to your generosity? What expenditure of money or effort will in after life afford a calmer satisfaction?” — See *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, of March 15, 1859.

A POEM WRITTEN IN MARSHALL COLLEGE IN 1859.

The following poem written by President Thaxton, in Marshall College, in March 1859, appeared in the *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, of April of that year: —

“For the Southern Methodist Itinerant.

THE CONTRAST

Lines written on the demise of the late Dr. G. C. Ricketts of Guyandotte.⁶

Go to the Warrior’s chamber, Death,
When all has fled, but wasting breath;
And, as on memory’s wing he views
A train of crimes of darkest hues,
The world with all its ills and strife
Appears unworthy of his life!

When widow’s groans and orphan’s sighs
Loom up before his closing eyes,
He hates the wreath that once he wore
Bedewed with stain of human gore!
And in a heart forlorn and weak
He tastes the grief he cannot speak!

Upon the tented field of war
An hour of dread he never saw!
But, as his pulse beats long and slow
And voice and vision fainter grow,
He shrinks aghast and fears to tread
The silent precincts of the dead!

⁶Dr. George C. Ricketts was a distinguished physician who practiced his profession in the town of Guyandotte for a number of years. He was the son of Elijah and Ellen Ricketts, was born in Anne Arundel county, Maryland, November 27, 1824, but was reared in Prince William county, Virginia, his parents having removed thither when he was but three months old. He was educated at the Baltimore Academy, in Virginia, and attended medical lectures at the University of Pennsylvania. Having located at Guyandotte, he there wedded, February 15, 1844, Virginia, the daughter of Colonel John and Sarah Everett, by whom he had issue seven children. He died at his home, March 6, 1859, leaving behind, a reputation for integrity and noble Christian character. He was long a faithful friend and supporter of Marshall Academy, and then of the College, of which he was a useful member of the Board of Trustees, he having been designated as such in the Act of General Assembly, by which the institution was erected into a College. — See *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, of May 11, 1859.

No courage arms to face the foe
Nor nerves his breast to take the blow,
As when he heard shrill music's peal
And met "foes worthy of his steel"!
And falling 'neath the stroke severe
He dies and death is CONQUERER!

But when the Christian's race is run
And slowly sinks life's setting sun,
With hope triumphant o'er his fears
In Death's imperious voice he hears
A joyous tone that tells the soul
The dismal tomb is not its goal!

For as the Larvae droop and die
Then on fresh golden pinions hie,
So when this pulse has ceased to beat
And heart no more can throb repeat,
This form decays but spirit flies,
To bloom again in Paradise!

BENJAMIN H. THAXTON.

Marshall College, March 10, 1859.

**ANOTHER ADDRESS BY REV. RICHARD A. CLAUGHTON, THE FIELD
AGENT OF MARSHALL COLLEGE**

From Hawk's Nest, Fayette county, Virginia, in April 1859 Rev. Richard A. Claughton, the field agent of the College issued to the preachers of the Western Virginia Conference an address entitled

The Relation of Marshall College to the Civil and Ecclesiastical Wants of the South.

It filled three columns of the *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, in which it was printed, issue of April 13, 1859. It is a remarkable document; the most important ever issued relating to the educational interests of Western Virginia. He began by saying:

Will the preachers take pains to read the following address of the Agent of Marshall College? It is as much the interest of every preacher in the Conference to do what he can to sustain Marshall

College, as it is that of the Agent. . . All that is necessary is to ask the people for help; and as soon as you have gone the rounds of your work you can transmit their amounts collected to the agent, at Hawk's Nest, Fayette County Va.; or to Rev. Staunton Field at Guyandotte, Cabell county, Va.

“Now is it not clear,” he continued, “to every intelligent mind that, the education of our youth should be in the hands of Christians who fear God, in preference to those who do not? Besides, we do not expect to teach them Methodism, but Science, and the fear of God. We have no theological department, nor do we desire it.”

A CARD FROM REV. STAUNTON FIELD, TREASURER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE COLLEGE.

Rev. Staunton Field, Treasurer of the Board of Trustees of Marshall College, was the next one to present and press the claims of the institution. This he did by the publication of the following notice printed in the *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, of June 22, 1859: —

“For the Southern Methodist Itinerant.

TO THE STOCKHOLDERS OF MARSHALL COLLEGE JOINT STOCK COMPANY.

Dear Brethren: — At the last meeting of the company in Greenupsburg, the collection of the subscription to the stock, was not pressed in view of the agencies which were then established, hoping that the funds necessary to relieve the institution, would be raised by this means, and thus avoid the necessity of encumbering it with a debt to us. But Brethren the funds have not been raised as we hoped, and it becomes necessary to call upon you for at least one half of your stock to be paid on or before the sitting of our next Conference at Parkersburg. There are no “ifs or ands” about it, the installment of \$25 on each share *must be paid, There is positively no other alternative.* — Let brethren go to work then at once, husband their resources, solicit aid from their friends — sell out their stock to some layman who has a son to educate, *or by some other invention*, be ready at farthest to pay the first installment at Conference.

STAUNTON FIELD, *Treasurer*

P. S. — The trustees meet on the 22nd inst., at which time a faculty will be formed of which due notice will be given to the public, and the regular session will commence the 1st of

September. Ample accommodations will be provided for the crowds of students which we trust will throng the Halls of our College at the outset of its career.

S. F.

**AN APPEAL BY REV. SAMUEL KELLY, PRESIDENT OF THE MARSHALL
COLLEGE JOINT STOCK COMPANY.**

Under date of July 5, 1859, Rev. Samuel Kelly, President of the Marshall College Joint Stock Company, had printed in the *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, of July 20, 1859, the following earnest appeal to the Stockholders to pay up their subscriptions:

“For the Southern Methodist Itinerant

MARSHALL COLLEGE — A CALL UPON THE STOCKHOLDERS.

Brethren: — It becomes my duty to call upon you again, to pay in your subscriptions to Marshall College, and this is about the last call. — The College buildings are advertised to be sold on the 20th of August next to satisfy loans held by Mr. Holderby and others, and the College will be *certainly sold* at that time unless his debt is paid before the day of sale, or he can have unmistakable assurances that it will be at Conference.

Your subscriptions must be paid, or the College will be sold. Now Brethren what say you? If you hesitate, time will decide for you, and the College will pass into other hands; it will be a reproach to the Conference, and you will lose a position that you cannot regain soon. If you intend to pay your subscriptions and save the institution, send at least one half of the amount you have subscribed, immediately to Brother Field, or send him a pledge that you will pay in at least one half of your subscription at Conference. *Do not deceive yourselves by supposing that the funds will be raised in some other way.*

If you have not the funds in hand, call upon your congregations, or intelligent enterprising individuals to aid you. Are there not many members of the Church, and friends who will aid in this matter? Call on them, call on them as though you expected them to give. I pray you, brethren, attend to this matter immediately, for if you fail to pay your subscription, and the institution is sold, you will have occasion to regret for years to come.”

SAMUEL KELLY, *President of Co.*

July 5, 1859

AN EDITORIAL APPEAL

In the *Itinerant* of the 20th of July, 1859, Rev. Wayne Kennedy, the editor of that paper, had therein, the following Editorial: —

“MARSHALL COLLEGE: — This issue contains much in matter, and more in importance, involving the interests of Marshall College, — read all, — then think, — then act. Do something, in some way, for the institution.” Don’t talk about “hard times.” Remember, when the “bugs” were devouring your wheat Providence interposed, and sent a little frost, on the 4th of June, to meet the emergency, and saved enough in that particular, to those immediately concerned within the limits of the Conference, to redeem the College, support the ministry, and sustain every other religious and benevolent enterprise of the Church and country. Now return a “thank offering”, worthy of the timely interposition.”

THE ELECTION OF A FULL COLLEGE FACULTY.

The Board of Trustees held a meeting on the 22d of June 1859, and elected the first full College Faculty; viz:

Benjamin H. Thaxton, A.B., of Virginia, President of the Faculty, and Professor of Ancient Languages.

Rev. F. S. Wood, A.M., of South Carolina, Professor of Mathematics and Modern Languages.

J. S. Shannon, A.B., of Tennessee, Professor of Experimental Philosophy and Belles Lettres.

Rev. George B. Poage, of Virginia, Professor of Moral and Intellectual Philosophy.

M. Moore, of Virginia, Instructor in Primary and Academic Department.

The first session of the institution, with a College Faculty and curriculum began on August 22, 1859. It would be interesting to know how many and who the students were, who enrolled at this term; but it is not probable that this information is now in existence {sic}. If so, the writer has been unable to find it.

A FINAL PROPOSITION TO RAISE FUNDS FOR MARSHALL COLLEGE.

In the autumn of 1859, Rev. Staunton Field, Treasurer of the Marshall College Joint Stock Company, submitted to the preachers of the western Virginia Conference a proposition to

raise money to be applied to the debt of the College. This he printed in the *Southern Methodist Itinerant* of December 7, 1859. It was as follows: —

“For the Southern Methodist Itinerant

A PROPOSITION IN BEHALF OF MARSHALL COLLEGE.

To the Members of the Western Virginia Conference: — Dear Brethren, — I propose getting up a book of sermons from among ourselves, the proceeds from the sales of which, are to be applied to the liquidation of the debts of Marshall College. The funds to be invested, with the same indemnity with which those of the Joint Stock Company have been secured. The volume will contain ten or twelve sermons to be prepared by members of our own Conference.

I propose that *fifty* preachers traveling and local, agree to take *forty* copies each, and pay one fourth, or *five* dollars each on the amount for which he becomes responsible, *as soon as the book is issued from the press*. The retail price of the book will be *fifty cents*. Let me hear from you immediately, through the *Itinerant*, or by letter addressed to me at Lewisburg, Va.

STAUNTON FIELD.

November 28th, 1859.”

AN ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The Annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of Marshall College was held in the College building on Wednesday, August 31, 1859, at which time St. Mark Russell was Chairman of said Board. Of the Proceedings of that meeting we have no knowledge. — (See *Southern Methodist Itinerant*, of July 20, 1859.

PART TWO

MARSHALL COLLEGE (From 1858 to February 27, 1867.)

MARSHALL COLLEGE DURING THE CIVIL WAR.

The beginning of the Civil War put an end to the literary career of Marshal College at this time an indebtedness of probably \$1500.00 dollars had been contracted in the erection of the new building and to relieve part of this, the trustees, as a corporate body, gave to Robert S. Holderby a deed of trust in the Marshall College property to secure a loan of \$_____. William R. Boyer had a claim for money loaned the trustees, but this was not secured, and early in the year 1861, he brought suit against the corporation and other creditors and at the April term of the court that year secured a judgement for \$575.33 with interest thereon since June 11, 1857 and asked for a decree to subject the sale of property for the payment of his debt. The sale of the College property was granted and Albert Laidley was appointed a special commissioner to make sale thereof. to sell for the p {illegible} all the right and title of the corporation in the college property as conveyed by James Holderby and wife June 30, 1838. He however went south before doing this; and no further action was taken in the matter, until the December term of the court 1863, when the name of John Laidley was substituted as Special Commissioner for that of Albert in the decree of sale. He proceeded to sell the property at auction in the summer of 1864, Salina C. Mason being the highest bidder, her bid being \$1,500.00. This sale was reported to the September term that year when it was confirmed by that body, and the special commissioner directed to execute a deed thereon. Thus Salina C. Mason became sole proprietor, and, as such she continued, through the years 1865 and 1866 standing alone as the sole property of Salina C. Mason, she being assured the payment of the obligation of Staunton Field and Robert S. Holderby. There are traditions that the buildings were used by the 5th W. Va. Infantry part of the

time; that the Hite family occupied them as residence a portion of the time; and that in them small subscription schools were taught there, but there are no records if these things are certain it is that what ever may have been the facts Marshall College as a literary institution was terminated by the Civil War.

PART THREE

MARSHALL COLLEGE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL. (From February 27, 1867 to the present Time.)

First Steps Leading to the Founding of a State Normal School.

On the 17th of January 1865, Arthur I. Boreman, the first Governor of West Virginia, transmitted his second Annual Message to the Legislature; and with it the Annual Reports of the other Executive officials for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1864, among these being that of Hon. William Ryland White, first State Superintendent of Free Schools.⁷ The Legislature directed these documents to be printed, and thus all of them have been thus preserved, except that of Superintendent White, which is not in the Department of Free Schools, nor among the public documents in the State Department of Archives and History. It is therefore believed to be irretrievably lost; and it contained any reference to training schools for teachers, this can not now be known.

In that Legislature the Senate Committee on Education was composed of the following:

First District	John H. Atkinson of Brooke county, Chairman
Fourth District	Edwin Maxwell of Doddridge county.
Tenth District	Bethnel M. Kitchen of Berkeley county.

Those on the same subject in the House of Delegates consisted of

Jesse H. Cather, of Taylor county, chairman.
Joseph A. Chapline, of Jefferson county.
Thomas H. Trainer, of Marshall county.⁸

⁷The Governor invited special attention of the Legislature to this document designating it as the "First Annual Report" of the State Superintendent — see his message, p. 12.

⁸Rev. Thomas H. Trainer was born in Augusta County, Virginia, January 20, 1820 and entered the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1853, as a member of the Western Virginia Conference. He represented Marshall county in the first Constitutional Convention in 1861, served as Chaplain of the Twelfth Regiment West Virginia Federal Infantry, and was a member of the Legislative session of 1865. He died at Benwood, Marshall county April 19, 1891, aged seventy-one years and in the forty-second year of his ministry, leaving a noble civil record for a man in the sacred ministry. He left a widow and several children to mourn his loss. He was buried at

William Wilen, of Berkeley county.
Abel Segur, of Wayne county.

The first reference to be found in the public documents of the State, to a *Normal School* for the training of teachers is that contained in a Joint Resolution offered by Rev. Thomas H. Trainer, a member of the House Committee, which was as follows:

*Resolved, By the Legislature of West Virginia, That the Governor appoint a Commission of ____ persons, whose duty it shall be to make due examination and report to the next Legislature a definite plan for the support, location and internal arrangement of one or more Normal Institutions or Schools for Teachers.*⁹

This, on motion of its author, was referred to the Committee of which he was himself a member; and was reported back by the chairman, January 28th, and adopted, the blank having been filled with the word “five.” The clerk of the House reported this to the senate, by which body it was adopted, February 3d ensuing.¹⁰

If Governor Boreman appointed this Commission as required by this resolution, no record thereof appears in the Executive Journal of 1865; nor has any report of such commission been found. But we have to remember that the Civil War was still in progress, and the public documents of that time, are not as full in details as are those of a later date.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Whatever State Superintendent White may or may not have said regarding Normal Schools in his First Annual Report, certain it is that in his second one — that for the year ending September 30, 1865 — he urged upon the Legislature the necessity for the establishment of such

Mount Rose Cemetery at Wellsville.

⁹See Journal of the House of Delegates sess. of 1865, p. 38.

¹⁰See Journal of the Senate, sess. of 1865, p. 46.

schools for the training of teachers. In doing this, he set forth a number of reasons showing the advantages to be derived from this, among these being the following : —

- 1st. They will supply the greatly increasing demand for good teachers.
- 2d. They will establish a uniformity in the mode of teaching so that pupils, by a change of teacher, will not be embarrassed by a change in the general mode of instruction.
- 3d. The student in these Normal Schools, by keeping ever in view the profession in which he proposes to enter, is rendered more thorough in his attainments.
- 4th. These schools are the laboratories where theory is passed through the crucible of experiment, and that “which is new is received only after it is demonstrated to be true.”

THE APPROVAL OF GOVERNOR BOREMAN.

Governor Boreman in his message to the Legislature, January 16, 1866, when referring to Report of State Superintendent White said:

“Allow me to call your attention to that part of this Report in which the necessity for Normal Schools is discussed. The want of competent teachers is seriously felt throughout the State and is one of the greatest difficulties in the way of putting into successful operation our Free School System, and indeed of keeping up Primary Schools of any character whatever. Normal Schools may be made the means of relieving this difficulty by affording special facilities to those who desire to teach, of preparing themselves for the arduous and important duties of their vocation.”

Notwithstanding the earnestness of these recommendations of State Superintendent White — and Governor Boreman, they passed for the time, unheeded by the Legislature, that body taking no action whatever, with reference to such schools.

AN EARNEST APPEAL BY STATE SUPERINTENDENT WHITE

State Superintendent White was persistent in his advocacy of the establishment of these schools, and in his Third Annual Report — that for the year ending September 30, 1866, he said:

“In my last Annual Report, I urged the establishment of Normal Schools . . . It is superfluous to present statistics to prove how profitable these schools are. In a financial view they are remunerative. In a few years the aggregate of teachers will number about one hundred to a county. More than five thousand teachers will be busily employed in drilling those who are to be citizens of this state, for their duties. The rank of these instructors is a subject worthy of consideration. Shall they be scientific teachers, acquainted with the laws of mental development, or shall they be experimenters simply? Your school interests will absolutely suffer without the aid of a Normal School. *It would be better to suspend the schools in the state for two years and devote the school for that time to the establishment and endowment of State Normal School than to have none at all.*¹¹

GOVERNOR BOREMAN A SECOND TIME ENDORSES THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Again did Governor Boreman, urge the Legislature to establish a Normal School. In his message to that body, January 15, 1867, when referring to the Third Annual Report of State Superintendent White, he said:

“From this Report it appears, also, that the want of competent teachers continues to be severely felt throughout the State. And the Superintendent renews his recommendation of last year for the establishment of a State Normal School, in order to remove this difficulty. I concur in this recommendation and commend what is said in the Report on this subject to your favorable consideration.”

THE LEGISLATURE AT LENGTH TAKES ACTION

The time for action on the part of the Legislature came at last. The efforts of Rev. Thomas H. Trainer, John H. Atkinson, William Ryland White, State Superintendent of Free Schools, and Governor Arthur I. Boreman were now to be rewarded. But now another distinguished name was to be added to theirs. This was that of General Thomas M. Harris, then

¹¹See Third Annual Report of the State Superintendent of Free Schools, p. 10.

representing Ritchie county in the Legislature. On Saturday, February 2, 1867, he introduced House Bill No. 76, the title thereof being “A Bill for the Establishment of a State Normal School.” Two days later it was read a first time; read a second time on the 9th, and on motion of its author and patron, was referred to a special committee of five members. The location and name of the county where this was to be was left blank in the bill, but on the 19th, the first was filled by the insertion of the name “Marshall College,” and the second that of “Cabell.” Thus it passed the House, February 21st, by a vote of fifty yeas, and three nays. Hon. James H. Ferguson, the representative from Cabell county, informed the Senate of this action. Six days later — February 27th — it was passed by that body. Governor Boreman promptly approved it and it took effect from its passage.

PROVISIONS OF THE ACT.

This law provided that there should be established a State Normal School, to be called the “West Virginia State Normal School for the instruction and practice of teachers of common schools in the science of education and the art of teaching, to be established at Marshall College in the county of Cabell.” It was to be under the general supervision of a board known as “The Regents of the State Normal School,” composed of the State Superintendent of Free Schools, *ex officio*, President; the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State, Auditor, and one other person from each of the three Congressional Districts into which the state was then divided; the state officials to serve as Regents during their several terms, and the appointees for two years. This board had power to pass laws and adopt rules for the government of the institution; appoint teachers; prescribe the course of study to be pursued therein determine the number of student to be admitted from the several counties of the state; and to prescribe terms upon which students

might be admitted from other states. It was required to appoint five persons, residents of the county of Cabell, to constitute an Executive Committee for the care and immediate management of the school. One member of the board was to be chosen Secretary, whose salary was fixed at five hundred dollars per annum, while the other members were allowed personal expenses only. Thirty thousand dollars — ten thousand annually for the ensuing three years — were appropriated to enable the Regents to purchase land and repair and erect suitable buildings thereon. But no part of this amount could be expended until the sum of ten thousand dollars should be raised by subscriptions, or otherwise by the people of the locality interested; but the Regents were authorized to receive the lands, buildings and other property of Marshall College in payment of the sum of the said ten thousand dollars; and the board of supervisors of Cabell county were authorized to submit to the qualified voters thereof, the question of levying a tax on the taxable property for an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars, this sum to be paid *pro rata* per annum with the appropriation to said school made by the state.

As soon as the state superintendent had information that this sum had been provided, he was directed to call a meeting of the Regents at the town of Guyandotte in Cabell county “for the purpose of taking the necessary steps for the immediate establishment and putting into operation of said school, by the securing the necessary ground and the erection thereon of the necessary buildings for the same.”

THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD.

The Governor as required by law, appointed Rev. J. T. McClure, of the First Congressional District; J. W. Barrick, of the Second District; and W. O. Mathers of the Third District, members of the Board of Regents. In addition to these William Ryland White, State

Superintendent of Free Schools was *ex officio* President of the Board; John S. Witcher, of Cabell county, Secretary of State; Jacob H. Bristor, of Taylor county, Treasurer of State; Auditor of State, Joseph M. McWhorter of Roane county, Auditor of State.

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS.

The first meeting was held September 6, 1867, at Guyandotte as required by law. McClure was made Secretary. White, Witcher, Bristor, Mathes and McClure were present. The citizens interested in the establishment of a Normal School in Cabell county were ready to transfer the Marshall College property to the Board, as an equivalent of the ten thousand dollars, which they were to raise; and the Regents promptly took such measures as were necessary to have this property transferred to their custody for the benefit of the State Normal School. The property at this time consisted of one and one-fourth acres of land; a four-story brick building (including basement) sixty by thirty-six feet; a two-story brick wing two story sixty by twenty-two feet, and some out buildings. Some valuable apparatus was also transferred, among this being a solar microscope, a glass plate electrical machine, and an air pump. An Executive Committee was appointed consisting of W. F. Dusenberry, J. Freutel, W. O. Wright, C. H. Hall and Joshua Heath. Then a contract was entered into with Hugo Deitz, to have certain additions and repairs made to the college buildings and premises, at a cost of about \$3,800.00. Then, the Regents believing that the interests of the would demand it, purchased ten acres of land lying adjacent to that in which the buildings stood, the cost being one hundred dollars per acre, thus was the area increased to eleven and one-fourth acres. Then having arranged for advertisements for Principal and an Assistant Teachers in several journals devoted to education, the Regents adjourned.

SECOND MEETING OF THE BOARD

A second meeting of the Regents was held at Wheeling October 18, 1867, at which it was known that the repairs being made at Marshall College were not yet complete. By resolution the following branches were ordered to be taught in the Normal School; viz: — Orthography, Reading, Penmanship, Arithmetic, Grammar, Geography, Bookkeeping, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, with Practical Surveying, Botany, Natural Philosophy, Anatomy and Physiology, Music, and the Art of Teaching, and such other branches as the Regents might from time to time direct.

Governor Boreman in his message to the Legislature on January 21, 1868, said “It appears that the Board of Supervisors of Cabell County, as authorized by the Act, purchased and caused to be conveyed to the Regents, the property near Guyandotte in that county known as “Marshall College,” which they have repaired and filled up and is now a very commodious and comfortable building, and well adapted to the use of the contemplated school.”

NORMAL SCHOOL LAW AMENDED.

March 4, 1868.

The Legislature amended the Act of February 27, 1867, as to provide for diplomas to students who completed the course of study presented by the Regents. This was to be prepared by the State Superintendent of Free Schools and the Principal of the Normal Department; and this of itself was a sufficient certificate of qualification to teach common schools. The Regents were directed to determine the number of students to be received into the Normal Department from each county, conforming as nearly as possible to the ratio of population therein and the mode of selecting them.

The name Marshall College was revived and it was provided that the school should be called and known as “Marshall College.” The Regents were required to appoint an Executive Committee of three members instead of five as previously. This committee was for the care and immediate management and control of said school, subject to the rules and regulations prescribed by the Regents. This committee was to designate the person to take charge of the Boarding department of said school, and fix the price to be paid for Board therein. This act carried with it an appropriation of \$2,500.00 for each of the fiscal years of 1868, and 1869, “for the purpose of paying the salaries of teachers and other necessary expenses of the said Normal Department of the said school. This was the first appropriation for the payment of teachers at Marshall College.

Under this amended law the Regents appointed W. F. Dusenberry, Thomas J. Hayslip and B. D. McGinnis as members of the Executive Committee. The Committee proceeded promptly to carry on and complete the work of repairing and improving the college buildings and premises, according to plans and contracts made and adopted by their predecessors in office. July 23, 1868 the Legislature passed an act providing for condemnation of land for the use of the state Normal School, in Cabell county. In accordance with this the Regents secured the condemnation of thirteen and three-fourth acres of land, belonging to the estate of W. P. Holderby the price being one hundred dollars per acre. “The purchase of the land,” said the Regents, “was considered to be necessary to the success of the College, that there might be ample room around the buildings, and that the Steward of the College might be enabled to provide material for his table, at a less cost to his boarders than would be necessary if all his provisions had to be purchased at the nearest market town.”

Early in the spring of 1868, the Regents employed Messrs Anderson & Hansaford, architects of Cincinnati, Ohio, to visit Marshall College, for the purpose of examining the buildings and grounds, that they might prepare drawings and specifications, in detail, of such an edition {sic} to the structure as would meet the future wants of the school, and at the same time present such an appearance as would be pleasant to the eye and creditable to the State. These gentlemen did their works in a manner entirely satisfactory to the Regents.

**FIRST APPOINTMENT OF NORMAL STUDENTS AMONG THE SEVERAL
COUNTIES OF THE STATE.**

In an endeavor to make practical the application of the Normal School Law, the Regents adopted the following plan for the admission of students to the Normal School; viz: Each county in the State shall be entitled to the number of students in the Normal Department shown in the following table.

Counties	No. Students	Counties	No. Students	Counties	No. Students
Barbour	5	Kanawha	8	Putnam	3
Berkeley	6	Lewis	4	Raleigh	2
Boone	3	Lincoln	2	Randolph	3
Braxton	3	Logan	3	Ritchie	3
Brooke	3	Marion	6	Roane	3
Cabell	3	Marshall	6	Taylor	4
Calhoun	2	Mason	6	Tucker	1
Clay	1	Mercer	3	Tyler	3
Doddridge	3	Mineral	3	Upshur	4
Fayette	3	Monongalia	6	Wayne	4
Gilmer	2	Monroe	5	Webster	1
Grant	2	Morgan	2	Wetzel	3
Greenbrier	6	McDowell	1	Wirt	2
Hampshire	3	Nicholas	2	Wood	7
Hancock	3	Ohio	11	Wyoming	2
Hardy	3	Pendleton	3		
Harrison	7	Pleasants	2		
Jackson	4	Pocahontas	2		
Jefferson	7	Preston	6		

Applications for admission to the Normal Department had to be made to the County Superintendent of Free Schools in which the applicant resided. Who should select such number as were entitled to admission tot the Normal School from his county according to the following rules:

1. Males and females to be selected in equal numbers as far as practicable.
2. Each male to be not less than fifteen years of age, and females not under thirteen.
3. No applicant to be selected who could not in a county examination receive a No. 4. Teachers' Certificate, and be of good moral character.
4. The County Superintendent was to require from each applicant appointed the following Declaration:
"I, _____, do declare that it is my purpose to become a teacher in the Free Schools of West Virginia, and I do solemnly promise that if admitted to the Normal Department of Marshall College, I will, in completing the prescribed course of studies, spend two years in teaching in the Free Schools of this State at the usual rates of compensation paid in the schools where my services may be rendered."
5. The County Superintendent gave to each applicant appointed a certificate reading as follows:
"The bearer, _____, having been examined _____ A. D. 186_ is entitled to a No. __ Teachers' Certificate, and is of good moral character. He (or she) is hereby appointed to receive instruction in the Normal Department of Marshall College."

The County Superintendent transmitted to the Principal of Marshall College who upon receipt thereof enrolled the bearer as a student. The Regents in session May 14, 1868 employed Prof. Samuel R. Thompson, as Principal of Marshall College at a salary of \$1,500.00 per annum; and Miss H. Evans as assistant teacher at \$500.00 per annum; and the first session of Marshall College opened the following day — June 15, 1868 — with an enrollment of twenty-five students in attendance. Of this number, eleven were in the Normal Department and fourteen in

the academic and Primary Departments. The scholastic year was divided into three sessions of thirteen weeks each. Three Departments were opened — the Primary, Academic, and the Normal.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

The first School Commissioners of Cabell county were appointed by the County Court, May 22, 1818 in compliance with the Act of February 21st of that year. They were Elisha McComas, John Everett, Jr., Mark Russell, Jesse Spurlock, Edmund McGinnis and John Samuels — six in number.

Literary Fund

The first appropriation of \$15,000 to the university and \$40,000 to Primary Schools appears to have been made in the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1822.

1818	The first distribution was made and was	33,803.35
1819	The Second “ ” “ ”	30,823.20
1820	The Third “ ” “ ”	31,547.42
1821	The Fourth “ ” “ ”	30,227.12
1822	The Fifth “ ” “ ”	36,013.85

Cabell County Schools Aided by the Literary Fund.

The first distribution of the interest in the Literary Fund to the several counties of the Commonwealth was made in the year 1818. In anticipation of this, it became necessary to have in each county, officials who would receive and disburse the quota to which it was entitled. Provision was made for these by an Act of the General Assembly, passed February 21st, that year, “for the purpose of duly applying a part of the income of the Literary Fund to the primary object of its institution,” the county courts of the several counties, should as soon as may be in the several counties, and annually thereafter in the month of October appoint not less than five nor more than fifteen disinterested persons to be called School Commissioners who were to hold their first meeting on the first day of the court next succeeding their appointment. A Treasurer was to be appointed from their own number.

What the Commissioners Said, 1825 to 1837

1826 The Commissioners said:

“The success of the operations of the Commissioners of this county are attended with those difficulties which are common in this section of the country, viz: the difficulty of getting a proper number of competent teachers in the different sections of the county, so as to have a sufficient number of schools, and being so dispersed as to have a school in the different neighborhoods. *The poor children educated advance as well as those who are educated at the same school by their parents.*”

1827 The Commissioners said:

“Five hundred dollars a year could be advantageously applied both to the indigent children, and in securing good teachers for the benefit of those who are able and desirous to educate their own children. Teachers are required to keep a correct account of the days each child comes to school, by which means they only receive pay for the time the children are actually sent”

1829 The Commissioners said:

“We embrace all those children within the meaning of the term “indigent,” that are orphans, and without property, either personal or real, as also those whose parents are known to be poor, so much as to prevent them from sending their children to school, being unable to pay the tuition fees, some of the poor children have made considerable improvement in their studies in reading, writing and arithmetic.

1830 No preference was given to boys or girls. It was supposed that it would require \$500.00 per annum, to educate all the poor children, in the county.

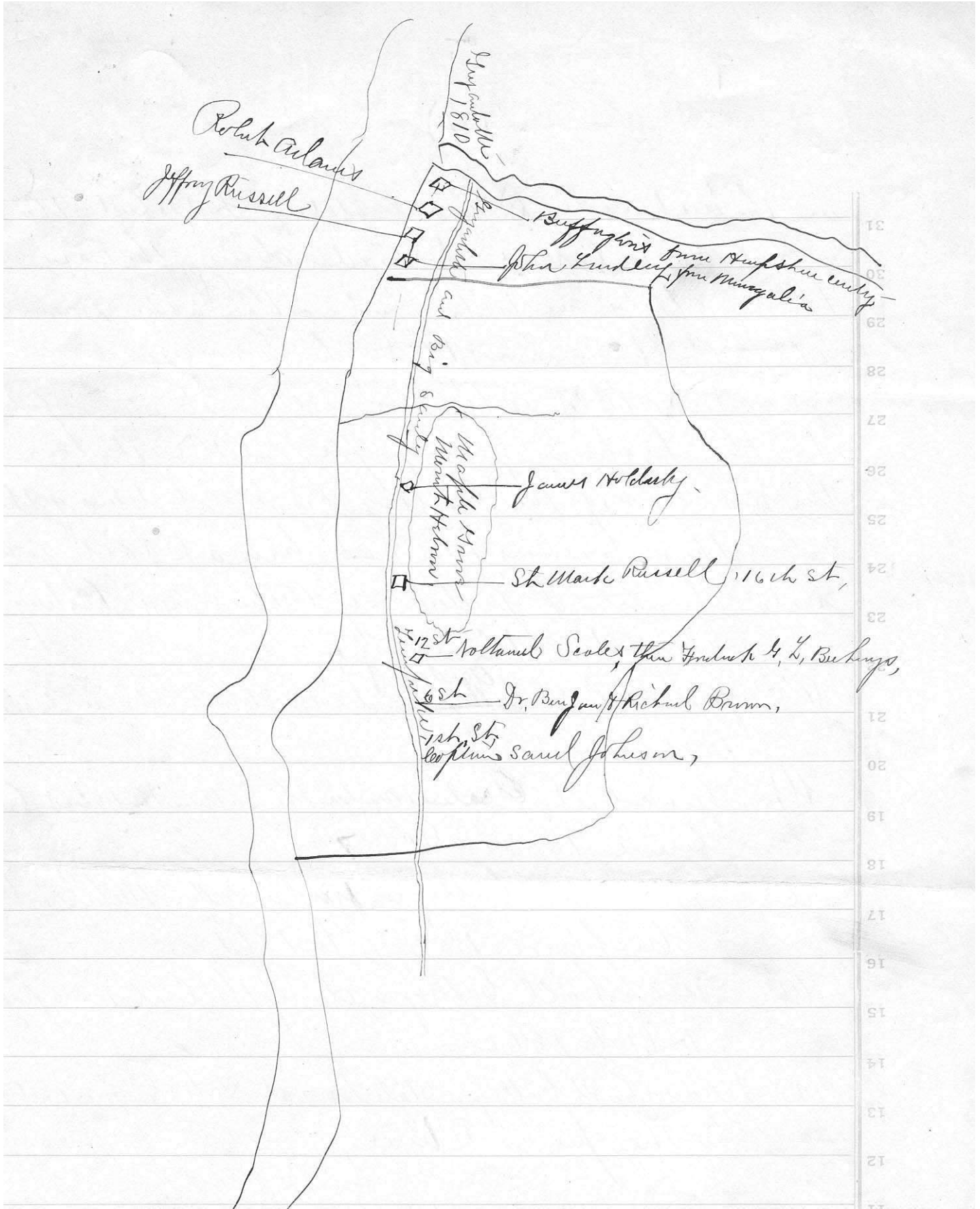
1831 The Commissioners did not know what amount would be necessary to educate the indigent children in the county. Some had obtained sufficient education to enable them, in future life, to keep their own accounts.”

1833 The Commissioners were pleased to report, that there were a number of poor children in the county, who but for the application of this Fund would have remained in entire ignorance of the elementary branches of education, “that have become enabled thereby to transact with facility, ordinary business requiring reading, writing and common arithmetic.”

1834 The books in use were the “American Primer,” Webster’s “Spelling-Book,” “English Reader and Introduction” and Pike’s and Walsh’s “Arithmetic.” The majority of the schools continue only for three or six months, when after a lapse of a few weeks, another teacher is procured and the school re-commences.

1837 The Commissioners, estimate that \$700.00 dollars will be necessary to educate the poor children of the county. “They have not been in the habit of visiting the schools in the district but they are happy to report that some of the poor children are making good progress in their studies.” The teachers of this section of country are those employed by the different neighborhoods. They are not examined as to their qualifications and moral character; though the Commissioners can say from their own personal knowledge that they are generally moral and that some of them are well qualified.

MAP SHOWING MAPLE GROVE AND MT. HEBRON,
WITH SURROUNDING FARMS



Hand-drawn map possibly in Lewis's hand; may be based on W. S. Laidley, "The West End of West Virginia." *West Virginia Historical Magazine Quarterly*. Vol. 1, no. 4 (October, 1901):5-41.

SCHOOL STATISTICS OF CABELL COUNTY, FOR THE YEARS 1823-1837, INCLUSIVE.

Year	Quota Received by County	No. Of School Commissioners	No. Of Schools	No. Poor Children (P.C.)	No. Attending School (P. C.)	Aggregate No. Days Attendance (P. C.)	Average No. Days Attendance (P.C.)	Rate of Tuition per annum; per diem	Average Amount Paid for Each Poor Child	Total Amt. Expended Annually for Tuition, Books, Etc.
1823	\$163.99	6	8	65	25			Per Annum \$8.00		\$86.05
1824	\$144.42	6	7	60	36			\$8.00		\$65.84
1825	\$252.50	6	7	60	36			\$8.00		\$65.84
1826	\$252.50	6	17	200	103			\$9.00		\$169.14
1827	\$252.50	6	20	250	194			\$9.00		\$392.41
1828	\$252.50	6	24	250	205			Per Diem \$.03 3/4		\$421.04
1829	\$252.50	6	6	250	25			.03 3/4	\$1.53	\$41.21
1830	\$252.50	7	18	250	183	6.387	25	.03 3/4	\$1.52	\$280.62
1831	\$252.50	7	35	400	274	10.512	38	\$0.04	\$2.40	\$421.45
1832	\$341.37	7	17	200	117	6.399	55	.03 3/4	\$2.41	\$280.76
1833	\$341.37	7	14	200	86	4.784	50	.03 3/4	\$2.43	\$207.25
1834	\$341.37	7	20	200	151	8.980	59	\$0.04		\$366.63
1835	\$341.37	7	20	200	162	8.456		\$0.04		\$351.90
1836	\$551.68	7	23	200	155	7.652		\$0.04		\$323.37
1837	\$598.40	7	25	200	154	7.015		\$0.04		\$310.28
Totals	\$4,531.47									\$3,783.79

It is thus seen that for the whole period Cabell county received from the Literary Fund, quotas annually aggregating \$4,531.47, for the education of poor or indigent children; while for the same time, the School Commissioners of the county disbursed for this purpose, the sum of \$3,783.79.

APPENDIX B

[Deed]

This indenture made and entered into this 30th day of June, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred Thirty-eight, by and between James Holderby and Lucy, his wife, of the County of Cabell of the first part; and the Trustees of the Marshall Academy, in the said county of the second part: Witnesseth that the James Holderby and wife for and in consideration of the sum of Forty dollars to them in hand paid by the Said Trustees the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledge they have given, granted, bargained and sold and by these presents do give, grant, bargain and sell unto the said trustees and their successors in office forever for the express purpose of an Academy and for no other on a certain Lot or piece of Land situate, lying and being in the Said County of Cabell including the Said Academy and bounded as follows: — Beginning at a stake standing S 88 W 4 poles and 13 ft. from the Academy west; thence S 30 E 15 poles to a stake; thence N 62 ½ E 12 ½ poles to a stake; thence N 30 W 17 poles to a stake; thence to the beginning, containing one acre and a quarter. To have and to hold the said described tract or parcel of land unto the said trustees and their successors in office for the use of the said Academy, and the said James Holderby and wife for themselves and their heirs doth covenant and agree to warrant and forever defend the right and title to the above described Lot or piece of land unto the said trustees and their successors in office forever free from the claim of themselves and their heirs and every person or persons claiming under or through them, as well as from the claim of any other person whatsoever —

In testimony whereof they have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year aforesaid.

JAMES HOLDERBY
LUCY HOLDERBY

APPENDIX C

[NOTES]

No.1

The Incorporation of the Academy

March 30, 1838, the General Assembly — the Legislative Department of the State Government — passed an “Act to incorporate Marshall Academy in the county of Cabell, the incorporators being Benjamin Brown, Frederick G. L. Beuhring, James Gallaher, John Laidley, William Buffington, John Samuels, Richard Brown, Benjamin H. Smith, and George W. Summers — nine in all. An organization was speedily affected, John Laidley being elected President of the Board of Trustees and Frederick G. L. Beuhring, Secretary.

No. 2

Principals of Marshall Academy

Under Incorporated Board of Trustees, 1838-1850

1. Isaac N. Peck, November 1838, to September 1839.
2. Jacob Harris Patton, September 1839, to November 1840
3. Rev. A. E. Thom, November 1840, to September 1843
4. Rev. Josiah B. Poage, September 1843, to July 1850 (Presbyterian minister)

Henry Clarke, (1st)

Joseph Foster, (2d)

No. 3

Principals of the Academy

Under Management of Southern Methodist Conference 1850-1857.

1. Rev. W. B. McFarland, September 18, 1850, to August 24, 1853.¹²

¹²Rev. W. B. McFarland left the Conference and located at Westport, Missouri.

2. Rev. Staunton Field, August 24, 1853, to September 8, 1854.
3. William R. Boyers, A.M.¹³ September 8, 1854, to May 1858 (Jefferson College of Pa.)
4. Benjamin H. Thackston, A. B., May 1858, to 1861.

No. 4

Stock-Holders in the Marshall College Joint Stock Company

Formed at Charleston, in September 10-15, 1857.

The Eighth Session of the Southern Methodist Conference was held in Charleston, September 10-15, 1857, Bishop George F. Pierce, presiding. The Committee on Education made an extended report on the conditions of Marshall Academy that great interest was aroused more than ever before; that an organization was at once formed consisting of thirty members — ministers and laymen — which took the name of the “Marshall Academy Joint Stock Company,” each member taking one share at fifty dollars each.

No. 5

The names of these stock-holders were as follows: —

James Atkinson, Richard A. Claughton, Hiram Moore, E. W. Sehon, William Downtain, Christian M. Sullivan, H. S. Williams, P. H. Hoffman, Wade Briscoe, William Bickers, C. F. Crooks, George B. Poage, Elias Kendall, Samuel T. Mallory, R. N. Crooks, Staunton Field, Jacob Brillhart, William H. Fornerden, B. H. Hull, Lewis G. Woods, George L. Warner, J. T. Johnson, John F. Medley, Samuel Black, J. F. Bean, A. Bastable, C. W. Hill, Thomas A. Vickers, and George F. Pierce — the Bishop.

¹³Professor Boyers became a teacher in Buffalo Academy at Buffalo, Putnam county. The editor of the Kanawha Valley Star published in that town, in speaking of the [[illeg.]] of that Academy says: “The Principal, William R. Boyers A.M. formerly of Marshall Academy, has given full assurance of his ability from his long and successful management of that fine institution.”

No. 6

Thus was secured subscriptions to the amount of \$1,500.00. An organization was effected by the appointment of a Board of Directors: Rev. Samuel Kelly as made President, and Rev. Staunton Field, Treasurer and Field Agent for the Academy.

No. 7

Incorporation of Marshall College

By an act of the General Assembly passed March 3, 1858, done at the request of the Board of Directors of the Joint Stock Company, Marshall Academy was erected into Marshall College with twenty-two incorporators — eleven Ministers and an equal number of Laymen — whose names were as follows, viz,:

Samuel Kelly, Staunton Field, Stephen K. Vaught, George P. Poague, Christian M. Sullivan, William Bickers, John G. Medley, Richard A. Claughton, William H. Fornerden, Samuel F. Mallory, George L. Warner, Frederick G. L. Beuhring, Peter C. Buffington, Charles L. Roffe, James H. Poague, Dr. G. C. Ricketts, John W. Hite, St. Mark Russell, Dr. P. H. McCullough, Henry H. Miller and Tarlton W. Everett.

No. 8

Field Agents of Marshall College Under the Management of the Southern Methodist

Conference, 1857 to 1861.

1. Rev. Staunton Field, from Conference of 1857 to that of 1858.
2. Rev. Richard A. Claughton, from Conference of 1858 to that of 1859.
3. St. Mark Russell, from Conference of 1859 to that of 1860.
4. _____, from Conference of 1860 to that of 1861.

No. 9

The Beginning, 1868

The new Marshall College was opened June 15, 1868.

Principals.

1. Samuel R. Thompson, from 1868 to 1871.
2. J. B. Powell, A. B., from 1871 to 1872.
3. James E. Morrow, A. M., 1873.
4. James Beecham Clark, A. M., 1874.
5. A. D. Chesterman, A. M., from 1875 to 1881.
6. Benjamin H. Thaxton, A. B., from 1882 to 1884.
7. W. J. Kenny, A. M., from 1884 to 1885.
8. Thomas E. Hodges, A. M., from 1886 to 1895.
9. Lawrence J. Corbly, A. M., from 1896 to 1911.

Total enrollment to 1910 inclusive = 13410.

Total number of graduates, 778.

APPENDIX D

MORE ABOUT MARSHALL ACADEMY — NOW MARSHALL COLLEGE.

Editorial in the “Kanawha Valley Star”

Printed at “Kanawha C.H.” - now Charleston, the Capital of West Virginia - Oct. 7, 1856.

“Rev. W. H. McFarland, Pastor of the M. E. Church, South, at this place and the Salines [now Malden six miles above Charleston], has our thanks for [a] “Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Marshall Academy.” This Academy is now under the patronage of the Western Virginia Conference of the M. E. Church, South; is located two miles below Guyandotte, in view of the Ohio river; has fine accommodations nearly completed for boarding pupils, and everything necessary pertaining to Academies of the first order. During the last term, 90 pupils were in attendance — 30 females and 60 males. For further particulars, address the President, John Laidley, or the Principal, W. R. Boyers, at Guyandotte, Cabell Co., Va.”

Copied by Virgil A. Lewis

June 12, 1904, in the State Department of Archives and History.

The Work That Marshall Academy Has Done.

The above-named paper, *Kanawha Valley Star*, contained, November 11, 1856, a far more lengthy editorial, in which the merits of Marshall Academy were duly set forth. From it we extract the following:

“Turning aside from the din of politics, we take occasion to call the attention of those interested in the work of education, to the excellent institution known as Marshall Academy. It has now been in operation for little more than a dozen years; but in that short period, very many of its students have become prominent and leading men in the learned professions of law, medicine and divinity; and many of them have arisen to high official stations, civil and military, not only in Virginia, but also in other States of the Union. Indeed, it is doubtful whether there is now an institution in the State, that in so short a time, has sent forth so large a portion of leading men. So much for the past of its short history. Its future is still more promising. During the last session, there were nearly a hundred students in attendance; and the high character won for the school by Mr. Bowyer, the admirable and estimable teacher at its head, is a harbinger of still greater success and usefulness. The trustees, Messrs. John Laidley, Frederick G. L. Beuhring, P. C. Buffington, Dr. G. C. Ricketts, and others, are gentlemen

whose names give character and currency to whatever they may be connected with. The control of the Methodist Conference gives assurance that a moral and religious influence will be around it. Notwithstanding this conference control, the principal of the academy is a Presbyterian. The course of study, rules and regulations, the privileges of the library and literary and debating societies, and the price of food and tuition, may all be learned from the printed catalogue of 1856.” — See Kanawha Valley Star, November 11, 1856.

APPENDIX E

NOTES ON THE *ITINERANT*

The Southern Methodist Itinerant was first issued semi-annually at Parkersburg Mineral Wells, Wood county, Va. No. 1 of Vol. I. appearing on Friday, February 15, 1856. It was devoted to the missionary and Tract enterprises of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, sabbath schools, temperance, morality, literature, agriculture and horticulture. The publishers were Rev. W. Kennedy and Sons. It was a six column twenty-inch folio. It was removed in the autumn of 1856, it was removed to Williamstown twelve miles above Parkersburg, where the first number published at that place was issued September 15th, that year. At the session of the Western Virginia Conference held at Greenupsburg, Ky. September 15-21, 1858, the paper was made the organ of the Conference, and a few weeks later, it was removed from Williamsburg {sic} to Parkersburg, where the first number issued after the removal, made its appearance on the 15th of November ensuing. Stephen C. Shaw now became a partner in the enterprise, and at the end of the third Volume, — April 13, 1859 — its publication was changed from a bimonthly to a weekly periodical, and was thus issued as long as it existed.

APPENDIX F

SOME HISTORICAL DATES RELATING TO MARSHALL COLLEGE, AND THE DORMITORY ACCOMMODATIONS CONNECTED THEREWITH

By reference to the Report of the Legislative Committee appointed to examine and report upon the various State Institutions, it will be seen that on pages 577, 578 and 579, there appears a “Special Report on Marshall College State Normal School.” Herein is found the following

Language:-

To this, we the undersigned citizens of Cabell county, and members of the Legislature take this method of making a respectful and courteous reply, which we request may be read in both Houses, and printed in the Journals thereof.

Careful research and investigation always bring to light facts and truths which are never seen by the casual observer. Hence, we desire to give somewhat in detail facts pertaining to the history of Marshall College State Normal School, and truths regarding the Dormitory Provisions connected therewith. This institution was established as “Marshall Academy” by an act of the General Assembly of Virginia, passed March 30, 1838. By its provisions Benjamin Brown, Frederick G. L. Beuhring, James Gallaher, John Laidley, William Buffington, John Samuels, Richard Brown, Benjamin H. Smith and George W. Summers were constituted a body politic, and corporate by the name and style of “The Trustees of the Marshall Academy located in Cabell county Va.. (now West Va.). This was thirty-five years before the founding of the city of Huntington. And in 1844, its building of brick, erected by the corporation, and now constituting the northern section of the present Marshall College, was described as standing in a dense grove on the turnpike road leading from the mouth of the Guyandotte to that of the Big Sandy. Then the site of Huntington was farm lands, as were all of those in the vicinity of the school; and the building was so constructed as to furnish to students of both sexes, not only school room, but dormitory accommodations, a fact made prominent in the catalogues of the school. When Marshall Academy had done twenty years of efficient work it passed under the control of the Methodist Church South, and by an act of the General Assembly passed March 4, 1858, the school was erected into a college under the corporate name of “Marshall College;” and by the said act Samuel Kelly, Staunton Field, Stephen K. Vaught, George B. Poague, Christian M. Sullivan, William Bickers, John F. Medley, Richard A. Claughton, William H. Fornerden, Samuel F. Mallory, George L. Warner, Frederick G. L. Beuhring, Peter C. Buffington, Charles L. Roffe, James A. Poague, G. C. Ricketts, John W. Hite, St. Mark Russell, P. H. McCulloch, Henry H. Miller and Tarlton W. Everettt were constituted and appointed trustees of said Marshall College. Now the course of

study was extended , the faculty enlarged, and both school and dormitory accommodations increased.

MARSHALL COLLEGE BECOMES THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL OF WEST VIRGINIA

Civil War came in 1861, and prostrated the educational work of Virginia; through the years of its continuance Marshall College accomplished but little work; and when the storm was passed, a new order of things had been ushered in. The new State of West Virginia had come into existence {sic} and Marshall College in Cabell county was within its jurisdiction.

February 14, 1867, General Thomas M. Harris of Ritchie county, then a member of the House of Delegates, offered House Bill No. 76, providing for the establishment of a State Normal School. This passed the House February 21st ensuing, and was passed by the Senate six days later.

By its provisions the said Normal School was to be established at Marshall College in the county of Cabell, but no money appropriated by the State was to be expended, until those locally interested should raise by subscription or otherwise the sum of \$10,000.00 but the Board of Regents might accept the buildings, personal property and lands — three and one fourth acres — in lieu of the \$10,000.00. The Board of Regents consisted as at first organized, of William Ryland White, State Superintendent of Free Schools; John S. Witcher, Secretary of State; Joseph M McWhorter, auditor of the state; Jacob H. Bristor, Treasurer of state; and one person from each Congressional District appointed by the Governor. These were J. T. McClure of the First District; J. J. Barrick of the Second; and W. O. Mathers of the Third.

THE DORMITORY IN MARSHALL COLLEGE — HOW THE STATE HAS MAINTAINED IT FOR MORE THAN FORTY YEARS

In compliance with law, the Board convened at the town of Guyandotte, in Cabell county, September 6, 1867; when the Marshall College property was tendered, and accepted as an equivalent for the \$10,000.00 required by the state. The building was purchased with school rooms and Dormitory Accommodations. The local Executive Committee then expended the sum of \$3,800.00 on the property and the school was opened June 15, 1868, for a term of ten weeks; with twenty-five students; and Prof. S. R. Thompson, Principal and Miss H. Adams, as assistant.

July 23, 1868 the Legislature provided for the consideration of thirteen and three-fourth acres of land, a part of the Holderby estate lying around Marshall College; for which the state paid \$1,375.00 and the Board of Regents in their report for that year, say that this land was considered to be necessary to the success of the College; the Steward thereof being the trustee enabled to provide material for his table, at a less cost to his boarders than would be necessary, if all his provisions had to be purchased at the nearest market town — Guyandotte. Here we have the Dormitory accommodations — board and all — and garden

lands purchased, that the expense of the steward of the college might cheapen the rates of students. This, because of the needs of a supply of vegetables for the Dormitory tables, the state came into possession of that splendid campus, now valued at a quarter of a million dollars. Both students and teachers occupied rooms in that part of the building set apart for Dormitory purposes. This was necessary for as yet no one had dreamed of the future existence {sic} of the city of Huntington; its site thus being wide spread wheat fields and all the region round about dotted with farm-house for {illegible}.

On the 19th of December 1870 the Board of Regents stated in their Report to the Governor that the “Boarding Department” of Marshall College was being conducted successfully under the management of the local Executive Committee and students were thus obtaining their board and lodging at \$3.00 per week. There were then 103 students in attendance and the Dormitory Accommodations, must have been quite extensive.

An item in the Report of the Auditor for 1870, shows that the sum of \$1,326.03 was paid by the state for furnishing Marshall College, and as there were at that time no large school rooms to furnish, this furniture must have been for the Dormitory, or “Boarding Dependent” as it was then known.

In 1882, upon the reconsideration of the Regents, the Legislature — appropriated \$300.00 for repairs to the building to make the rooms intended for boarders more comfortable.

In 1890 it was recommended in the Report of the Regents that a “boarding hall” be erected on the college grounds for boys, that the earlier Dormitory space in the college building might be reserved for young ladies.

In 1893, the Report of the Board of Regents contains urgent recommendations for enlarged Dormitory Accommodations in the College Building. In 1896 the Legislature appropriated \$2,500.00 for remodeling the old part (Dormitory) of the college building. Since that time the Legislature has made the following appropriations for the Dormitory Section in the Marshall College Building; viz:

In 1897, for reconstructing old Building (the Dormitory), \$7,000.00

In 1898, for reconstructing old Building (the Dormitory) \$5,000.00

In 1898 the Board of Regents recommended an appropriation of \$1,000.00 to purchase additional furniture for the new Dormitory — the remodeled part of the Building — and for this purpose the Legislature has made the following appropriations:-

In 1899 — for Furniture for new Dormitory, \$1,000.00

In 1900 — for Furniture for new Dormitory, \$500.00

In 1901 — for Furniture for Dormitory, \$400.00

In 1901 — For Deficiency for furnishing Dormitory, \$375.00

In 1902 — For Furniture for Dormitory, \$400.00

We might go further, but we submit that this is enough to show to any interested person that from the day that Marshall College became a State Normal School, more than forty years ago, the Legislature with the Board of Regents has maintained a Dormitory in Marshall College — that all of this time it has been

filled with students and that the Principal or President of this Institution has never lived or resided outside of the College Buildings.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

}Senators from the Fifth Senatorial District

}Members of the House of Delegates from Cabell county.

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