

RE-UNION

OF THE

Augusta College Association

HELD AT

AUGUSTA, KENTUCKY,

November 17th, 1880.

AUGUSTA, KY:
Bracken County Chronicle Print.

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not the last meeting of the kind we are to have, and that the next time, should there be another, I may be there, to enjoy the feast of reason and the flow of soul. Please send me some account of your proceedings."

Judge Garey says:

"A few days since, I received the circular calling for a general re-union of the teachers, students, etc., of Augusta College. I was very glad to recognize the names of Fee, Lynch, Boring, Locke and Dandy, as having been present at the preliminary meeting. Alas! this brings to mind other names, also, that I fear no longer live in the persons of my old comrades. In this State I know but one of the old students of Augusta, Samuel Roszell—older than most of those mentioned in your circular.

"Although I did not complete my course of instruction at old Augusta, yet it was there that I obtained the better part of it. The influence of such men as Tomlinson, Bascom and McCown, with many others, who gave character to the institution, has been great and lasting. I am sorry that my duties on the bench will prevent my attending, on the 17th instant. If it had been fixed for the Summer vacation I would certainly be there. As it is, please present my regrets and best wishes to such as remember me."

The time fixed by the committee for the next re-union of the Augusta College Association is WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 1881.

HISTORICAL NOTES.*

BY D. STEVENSON, D.D.

In September, 1821 Commissioners were appointed by the Kentucky Conference and the Ohio Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, to establish a College. December 15th, 1821, they visited Augusta, Kentucky, and formed an agreement with the Trustees of Bracken Academy to make Augusta the seat of the College. The Trustees of the Academy were to be represented on the Board of Trustees of the College, and were to give to the College a bonus of all over \$10,000 that might be realized from the sale of lands granted to them by the State of Kentucky, in 1798, and, also, the use of the \$10,000. The amount paid over as a bonus, up to 1831, was \$2,301.02. About the middle of the year 1822, a preparatory school was opened, under the management of Rev. John P. Finley. December 7th, 1822, a charter was obtained for the College, the first obtained for a Methodist College in the United States; for what was known as Cokesbury College was never chartered as such.

Measures were at once taken to build a College edifice. Chief, in contributing and in obtaining subscriptions, was James Armstrong. He, also, plowed the first furrow for the

* These notes, though substantially correct, may, possibly, contain minor errors, as I have not had access to the records of the Trustees of the College, in preparing them, but have been compelled to depend upon other sources of information. Any one who may have a catalogue, or other pamphlet important in this connection, will oblige me by sending it to me. I will carefully preserve and return it, if requested. I shall be obliged, also, for any published addresses or sermons of Dr. Tomlinson. D. S.

foundation. The deed, by which he conveyed the lot, is dated October 4th, 1823, and it speaks of the building as then completed.

Mr. Finley died in May, 1825. Who succeeded him to the close of the school year, has not been ascertained. In September, 1825, Rev. Joseph S. Tomlinson, who had just graduated at Transylvania University, Lexington, Kentucky, and had united with the Kentucky Conference, and Rev. John P. Durbin, of the Ohio Conference, who had just received from the Cincinnati College the degree of A. M., "pro honore," were appointed professors in the College, the former to the chair of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy, and the latter to that of the Latin and Greek Languages. Mr. Ingram was, shortly after this time, teaching in one of the rooms of the College, probably as Principal of the Preparatory Department.

In 1827, Rev. Martin Ruter, D.D., was elected President and Professor of Oriental Languages and Belles Lettres, and Frederick A. W. Davis, M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Botany. Arnold Truesdell was Preceptor of the Academic Department; Thomas H. Lynch, a student, Assistant in the same; and John Vincent, Teacher of the Primary School. Dr. Ruter, when elected, and until June, 1828, was Agent of the Methodist Book Concern, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and, probably, until that date, divided his time between Augusta and Cincinnati.

In August, 1829, the first class graduated—the first that ever graduated in a chartered Methodist College in the United States. It consisted of Nicholas B. T. Marshall, Henry Rucker, Alexander O. Spencer and Paschal F. Wright, all now dead. In 1829, Dr. Davis resigned. In 1831, Professor Durbin resigned, and was succeeded by Rev. B. H. McCown, A. B. At the same time, Rev. Henry B. Bascom, A. M., was elected Professor of Moral Science.

In 1832, Dr. Ruter resigned, and Rev. J. S. Tomlinson, A. M., was elected President and Professor of Natural Science and Belles Lettres. At the same time Rev. J. H. Fielding, A. M., was elected Professor of Mathematics. He came to Augusta in December, 1832. No change occurred during the next year, except that Solomon Howard, a Senior, was Principal of the Preparatory Department. In 1834, besides the Professors already named, Frederick Eckstein, Esq., was Professor of Modern Languages; Winterton W. Wallingford, English Tutor; and Don Raphael Espinoza, Teacher of Spanish. Noah Archbold was Principal of the Primary Department, in place of John Vincent. R. D. Morris, a Senior, assisted in the Preparatory Department. In the Spring of 1835, Professor Fielding resigned, and President Tomlinson added to his own duties those of the vacant chair, till the Fall, when Rev. Joseph M. Trimble, A. M., was elected Professor of Mathematics. Professor Targouski was, about this time, Teacher of Modern Languages.

The catalogue published in June, 1836, gives, as the Faculty, Rev. Joseph S. Tomlinson, A. M., President and Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry; Rev. H. B. Bascom, A. M., McKendree Professor of Moral Science and Belles Lettres; Rev. Joseph M. Trimble, A. M., Roberts Professor of Mathematics; Rev. B. H. McCown, A. M., Bracken Professor of Greek and Latin Languages and of Grecian and Roman Antiquities; and Abner W. Chapman, Preceptor of the Academic Department. The catalogue published in July, 1838, gives Mr. J. L. Kemp as Preceptor of the Academic Department, and Mr. Irwin as Teacher of the Primary School, the professorships proper remaining unchanged. In 1840, Professor Trimble resigned, and again, for a time, President Tomlinson discharged double duties. About this time, Rev. T. H. Lynch began to teach again in the Preparatory Department.

At the session of the Kentucky Conference held in October, 1841, a tender of Transylvania University to the Conference was accepted. In the Fall of 1842, Dr. Bascom, and Professors McCown, Kemp and Lynch resigned their positions in Augusta College to accept positions in Transylvania University. About the same time the Ohio Conference began to give its attention to the establishment of a University at Delaware, Ohio. The interests of Augusta College were affected injuriously by these movements.

The Faculty, as announced at the beginning of the collegiate year 1842-43, consisted of Rev. J. S. Tomlinson, D. D., President, and Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry, and Roberts Professor of Mathematics; Rev. Edmund W. Sehon, A. M., McKendree Professor of Moral Science and Belles Lettres; Rev. H. M. Johnson, A. M., Bracken Professor of Languages; and James W. King, Principal of the Preparatory Department. Rev. Mr. Sehon resigned, probably without entering on the duties of his professorship. In December, 1842, Rev. E. N. Elliot was elected Professor of Mathematics. In the Fall of 1844 Professor Johnson resigned, and was succeeded by Professor Chandler Robbins. About this time Professor Patterson was Principal of the Preparatory Department. In 1845-46, T. D. Crow, a Senior, was Principal of the Preparatory Department. In the Fall of 1846, F. L. Cleveland, who had just graduated, was elected Principal of the Preparatory Department. In 1847, Professor Elliot resigned, and Rev. W. F. Stewart was elected Professor of Languages. Professor Robbins probably resigned about this time. Professor Cleveland taught in the College proper for a time. He resigned in 1848.

The influences which had begun to be felt in 1842, and which had been intensified by the division of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1844, resulted, finally, in the repeal of the charter of Augusta College. This took place on the 26th of February, 1849. Instruction went on in the College classes until the close of the collegiate year in August, 1849, when Dr. Tomlinson, whom Dr. McCown speaks of as "one of the most accomplished scholars and instructors, as well as polished orators, in the Church," and those who had remained with him to the last, surrendered their charges. The last Senior class consisted of David Thomas, Thomas J. N. Simmons and Wm. C. Tomlinson, who, it is believed, received their diplomas.

The history of the efforts at endowment cannot be given here—suffice it to say that Kentucky Methodism has nothing to show for its effort to establish Transylvania University and surrender Augusta College. The Ohio Methodists saved a part, perhaps all, of their endowment fund, and have since transferred it to the Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, Ohio. The College building, the boarding houses, and the library and apparatus, were transferred to the Trustees of Bracken Academy, on a final settlement with them. The institution, upon the repeal of the charter, became again Bracken Academy, though it has been known during all the intervening years as Augusta College, and, indeed, was rechartered, several years ago, as such, but not under its former auspices. What its future is to be, remains to be seen; but its past is too important a part of the history of the educational efforts of the Methodist Episcopal Church to be allowed to be forgotten.