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Robert Beimdick, Editor

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HARDIN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
by R. Gerald McMurtry

The Hardin Collegiate Institute can trace its founding back to Central University (established 1873) in Richmond, Kentucky. There were several components to the school: the College of Arts and Science in Richmond; Hospital College of Medicine in Louisville; College of Dentistry in Louisville; College of Law in Richmond; and preparatory high schools in Jackson, Elizabethtown, Middlesboro and Richmond. The charter of the University provided for six preparatory schools, however, only four were ever established.

Central University was in financial trouble from its very beginnings, and in 1901, it consolidated with Centre College of Danville, Kentucky. The main academic programs remained in Danville until 1915 when the affiliation with Centre was dissolved. The Richmond school eventually became known as Eastern Kentucky University.

One by one the affiliated institutions left to form associations on their own. The medical and dental schools eventually became part of the University of Louisville. A Centre catalogue states that the Hardin Collegiate Institute was transferred to the control of the Presbyterian Synod of Kentucky, U.S., in October, 1907.

Central University's primary purpose in establishing satellite high schools was to prepare students for college studies. One interesting aspect of Central University's curriculum was emphasis on military as well as physical training. It is believed that the Federal Government furnished the guns, belts and etc., and the students furnished the uniforms.

The first high school began its existence on the campus of Central University at Richmond in 1874. In 1890 another high school, known as Jackson Collegiate Institute was established in Breathitt County. In 1891 the enrollment was 198. In 1897 the Jackson School was given the name of S.P. Lees Collegiate Institute. In 1892 the third high school was established in Elizabethtown. It soon had a faculty of three, two of them had Master's degrees and the other a Bachelor's degree. Its enrollment ranged from 40 to 87. The Elizabethtown school was the smallest of the four. The fourth preparatory school at Middlesboro was known as Middlesboro University High School. Its greatest enrollment (1897-1898) was 88. The citizens of Middlesboro donated to the high school a building costing approximately \$20,000.

None of these high schools became successful, except the one at Jackson, Kentucky.

When Elizabethtown citizens learned that Central University planned to establish a training school for boys in their community, a fund of \$12,000 was raised locally to help finance the project. Apparently it required a year or so for the high school to become well organized. Unfortunately the enrollment was never what the people of Elizabethtown expected. Then, too, there was considerable interest in the free high school movement that was growing in the State of Kentucky. So the H.C.I. to meet this competition opened its doors to female students to increase their enrollment. However, despite good teachers, excellent courses of study and high hopes the Hardin Collegiate Institute was not ever in a good financial condition.

Rev. W.K. Patterson was one of the first presidents of the Institute. Prof. Leonard Dooland, a Baptist preacher from Hopkinsville, Kentucky, was the head of H.C.I. for a number of years. J.C. Austin and M.C. Marion, later business men in Elizabethtown, were in turn heads of the school and the last principal was Prof. Cassidy. W.C. Lakey was connected for a number of years with H.C.I. as assistant principal. It is almost impossible to list the names of the presidents, principals and teachers as well as their chronological order and their period of service.

In August, 1892, the cornerstone of the new H.C.I. building in Elizabethtown was laid with plans for the building to be completed in November of that year. A parade to the Fair Grounds for the speeches preceded the dedication of the cornerstone of the building. Many prominent local citizens of that day participated in the events. The building committee consisted of C. Hotopp, J.S. Grimes, W.H. Marriott, and Squire H. Bush. Dr. W.K. Patterson and H.A. Sommers were marshalls of the day in forming the parade and they were assisted by R.B. Park, Brown Pusey, and James Montgomery.

Apparently the building was completed on schedule as there appeared in the local paper an advertisement in 1893 stating that the second session of the H.C.I. would begin on September 4, 1893 with thorough courses in English branches, languages, science and a teacher's normal course. Tuition was \$20 to \$25 per half session. The new Institute building was advertised as having been completed at a cost of \$16,000 and supplied with the most improved furniture, charts, appliances, etc. For further particulars readers of the advertisement might address L.L. Campbell, headmaster, or Rev. W. W. Patterson, professor of moral sciences.

It was my good fortune to find in some old family papers an H.C.I. catalogue for the school year 1899 to 1900 with announcements for the new school year of 1900-1901. The school was according to the catalogue "a strictly first-class preparatory school--male and female." The fall term would begin September 1st and end with the spring term on June 4th.

Next there was a Preface in the catalogue as follows:

PREFACE

Hardin Collegiate Institute presents greetings to its patrons, friends and all lovers of education, and is glad to announce that it has just closed the most prosperous and harmonious session in its history. The increased interest manifested in the school and its liberal patronage all indicate that it is fast growing in the confidence and esteem of the people. The relation of the pupils and teachers has been of a most cordial and pleasing nature and the class of work in all departments has been of the most satisfactory kind. We view the past session with a pardonable degree of pride, and look forward to the future full of confidence and with brighter prospects than ever before. Appreciating the confidence imposed by our patrons in the past, we assure them that we shall ever seek to be more and more worthy of it.

The faculty consisted of L.H. Blanton, DD, Chancellor; J.E. Austin, BA, President, languages and history; C.E. Morgan, Sec. & Treas. Miss Mayme Johnston, elocution and English; Miss Lida English, music; Miss Laura English, Intermediate Department.

One page of the catalogue is devoted to the history of the Institute, its location and healthfulness. The statement is made that the H.C.I. was established in 1892 "that it had suffered its day of adversity, that the school did not meet the expectations of its very sanguine friends." Nevertheless some 80 or 90 students had been enrolled. The accomplishments had been good. Also, during "the present summer, in recognition of a pressing demand, a first class boarding department in every detail would be added."

As to the location, the H.C.I. was established in Elizabethtown, an old and beautiful town of three thousand inhabitants, just forty-two miles south of Louisville, on the main line of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. In regard to the healthfulness, H.C.I. was said to be located in one of the most favored regions of Kentucky, "on one of the spurs of Muldrough's Hill" (known today as College Street).

The Elizabethtown News of June 2, 1899, carried an article regarding the arrival of Prof. J.E. Austin from Texas (a North Carolina native) who would be the new principal of H.C.I. He was to go to work to build the enrollment of the Institute. The article stated that Prof. Austin was a Virginia gentleman of collegiate education with a number of years experience as a teacher. He would succeed Rev. Dooland a Baptist minister who had served as head of H.C.I. for several years.

Some Elizabethtown people will today recall Prof. Austin who was one of three partners of the Farmer's Store on the west side of the Public Square. This store was established by F.G. Corley, J.E. Austin, and Edwin Tabb.

(Continued on page 20.)

COURT ORDER BOOK, HARDIN COUNTY, KY 1798 (October)

At a Court Held for Hardin County on Tuesday the 2nd day October 1798 Present Stephen Rawlings Bladen Ashby & Stephen Cleaver Gent Justices

John Crutcher Appellant against Archibald McDaniel appellat by Consent of the parties all matters of difference between them in Cause is refered to the final determination of Samuel Haycraft Benjamin Helm & Jacob Bruner whose award thereupon is to be made the Judgment of the Court and the same is ordered accordinly

The referees not agreeing in an Award by the Consent of the Parties the cause was again brought into Court on hearing the parties & thier Evidence it is Considered by the Court that the original Judgment be reversed and that the appelate pay the Costs

A deed from Daniel Braudhead to Sollom Hesinger and William Logsdon by Jacob Brimmer attorney in fact for said Braudhead was proved by the Oaths of Cornelius Westfall and Mary Brimmer Subscribing Witnefses thereto and was ordered to be for further proof

Morris Miles produced in Court an account of Tax on Law procefs and alienation from the Eighth day of February 1798 to the Second day of October 1798 and made Oath thereto which was ordered to be certified to the auditor of publick Accounts

Present George Berry Gent

George Helm Gent Sheriff produced in Court his delinquent list which was Sworn to and ordered to be certified to the Auditor of publick Accounts

George Helm produced in Court an Acct against the State of Kentucky for Riding as Commifsioner of Tax making out Books &c for the Year 1797 and the same was ordered to be certified to the Auditor of publick Accounts

Ordered that John Snider be appointed overseer of the road from Sjhort Creek to Harlins and that allthe tithables on the upper side of Cany to Ezekiel Harlins do afsist him in Clearing and keeping said Road in repair

Ordered that Jonathan Bozarth's bounds be from his house to Henry Millers and that the Tithables from said Harlins to Little Clifty be allotted to him

And that Jacob Hartman be appointed overseer of said Road from said Millers to the top of the hill on the upper side of big Clifty and that all the Tithables between the two Clifties do afsist him in Clearing Said Road

On the motion of Jefse Cravens it ordered that a ferry be Established acrofs Muddy Creek on the land of Said Cravens he being appointed ferry keeper it ordered that he constantly keep one good sufficient Boat for the Transporting horse and foot pafsingers and two good hands to attend the same and that he be allowed nine pence for ferriage per man and horse he having Complied with what the law in that case requires

An Inventory and appraisement of the Estate of Joseph Barnett Decd was Exhibited in Court duly authenticated and

ordered to be recorded

Ordered that Aquilla Fields Robert Mosley & Jefse Cravens be appointed to Settle with the Commifisioners of the Estate of Joseph Barnet decd & make report there of to the next Court

present Robert Hodgins Robert Mosly & Jefse Cravens Gent Justices

Ordered that Ichabod Radley be appointed Constable in the room of John Rice

The State of the levy of this County is as follows

Hardin County Ds	L	S	P
To James Nourse States attorney for the County	15	0	0
To Sheriff for Exofficio Services	6	5	0
To Clerk for ditto	5	0	0
To Judges attending Election	1	15	0
To clerk per ditto	0	18	0
To Cornelius Westfall for keeping James Eder Brien infirm person	18	0	0
To John paul for paper for use of office	1	16	0
To wolf Scalps L.5..12	5	12	0
To Chris Bush keeping Stray pond lock, Staple &c	2	10	6
To Sheriff for attending Election	0	18	0
To Stephen Rawlings & Geo Berry setting with Sheriff	0	12	0
Depositum and Sheriffs per Cent	30	0	0
		amount	L85 5 6

Hardin County by Tithables

Ordered that the Sheriff Collect 3/per Tithable and pay the above Creditors and account with the Court for the balance

The Commonwealth plaintiff against Jefse Cravens Deft. who stands Charged on oath by Catherine Morrison single woman with having begot on her body a female bastard Child on hearing the defendant and his Witnefses and considering the circumstances of the Case it is the opinion of the Court that the Defendant is not guilty and he be acquitted from the Charge and that it appears to the Court that the charge exhibited against the Defendant was false groundless and Malicious

Upon the petition of John Miller for an acre of land to build a water grist mill on a report being made and returned and it appearing reasonable in order to be recorded which is as follows (sic.)

Ordered that the acre of land laid off as in report be granted the petitioner

Ordered that Court be adjourned till Court in Course Bladin Ashby

QUERY

CRUSE

The ancestor I am having difficulty with is Prosser Cruse B. 1 July 1801 Where? Died 14 Nov 1865 Buried Bacon Creek Cemetery behind Baptist Church, Hammondsville Hart County, Ky. Audrey J. Ledesma, 13877 Pine St., Trona, CA 93562

ELIZABETHTOWN CITY COUNCIL MINUTES, 1823

Monday 4th August 1823 In pursuance of Act of Assembly directing elections to be held in the several County Towns of this State on the 1st Monday in August Annually for the purpose of electing five Trustees in each Town I caused an election to be held at the Court House in Elizabeth Town on Monday the 4th day of August 1823 for the purpose of electing five Trustees for said Town and caused to be elected by the qualified voters of said Town as Trustees the following persons towit--John Morris Gabriel Wathen George Matthis Allen Singleton & Armstead H Churchill--As appears by a return made to the Clerk of Hardin County Court Given under my hand this 4th day of August 1823 Sam Haycraft Jr. Clk

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of Elizabeth Town at the Clerks office of Hardin County on Wednesday 20th August 1823 Present John Morris Gabriel Wathen George Matthis Allen Singleton and Armstead H Churchill

The board having been duly sworn to execute the duties of their office faithfully & impartially by John Miller Esqr. a justice of the peace in and for Hardin County proceeded to appoint John Morris President of the board

Jonathan Hill this day resigned his office as overseer of the streets which is received

On motion made & seconded It is Ordered that Allen Singleton be appointed to settle with the Town Collector and make report to this board

Ordered that John Shackelford Jr. be appointed Overseer of the streets of Elizabeth Town and thereupon he appeared and took the oath required by law

The board proceeded to fix on stated meetings Whereupon It is Ordered that they meet on the last Saturday in the months of August October December February April and June

Provided that this Ordinance shall not be so Construed as to prevent a meeting at any other time that shall be deemed expedient & that the place of stated meetings be at the clerks office in Elizabeth Town unless further Ordered by the board

Ordered that the board adjourn
John Morris Prst
Test Jas E Stone Clk protem

At a meeting of the board of trustees of Elizabeth Town at the clerks office in said Town on Saturday the 30th day of August 1823 Present John Morris (President) Allen Singleton Gabriel Wathen George Matthis and Armistead H Churchill

The settlement with the town collector not being completed it is ordered that Allen Singleton do make said settlement with the collector & return the same to the next meeting of the board

Ordered that the board adjourn to meet again on Saturday the 13th day of September 1823 at the shop of John Morris
John Morris Pr

LINCOLN'S HONORED STEPMOTHER (Continued from last issue)

The Widow Johnston

Daniel Johnston died as early as July, 1816, but the exact date is not known. The sequel to this first matrimonial venture of Sarah Johnston is found in an order in the county court in which an executor of the estate is appointed, "the widow of Daniel Johnston, deceased, having in open court declared that she refused to take upon herself the burden of said administration."

Sarah Johnston's father made his will in 1812 and it was probated on February 8, 1813. The will indicates that previous to this time Sarah Bush Johnston had received her share of the estate. After the death of her husband, Sarah purchased from Samuel Haycraft, for the sum of twenty-five dollars, "the lot with the cabin in which she now lives," just outside the town limits of Elizabethtown. Here, according to Mr. Haycraft, "she lived an honest, poor widow." With three children dependent upon her and what little she had received from her father's estate already gone, we can feel sure she was in very humble circumstances.

The Second Wedding

Sarah Johnston had been a widow three years when the widower, Thomas Lincoln, arrived in Elizabethtown and began his second courtship. It was in Elizabethtown where Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks Lincoln had gone to keeping house and where they lived for the first two years of their married life. The widow had every opportunity to know all about this man who had left Kentucky for Indiana but three years before and who had now come back a widower suing for her hand.

The wedding of Thomas Lincoln and Sarah Bush Johnston was solemnized at Elizabethtown, Kentucky, on December 2, 1819, by Rev. George L. Rogers, and immediate preparations were made for the removal to Indiana. Previous to the wedding, tradition claims that Thomas Lincoln paid off several small debts which Sarah had incurred during her widowhood.

If one will study the surroundings of Sarah Bush Johnston both during her marriage to Johnston and the years that followed, he will be convinced that it was she rather than Thomas Lincoln who profited most economically through this union. She had every reason to look back on this union as the dawning of a new and better day for her and it must have been partly out of appreciation to Thomas Lincoln that she became such a sympathetic mother to his children.

The Stepmother

The new cabin home over which Sarah now presided consisted of three orphan groups, and we might say she adapted herself to the task of serving as a matron in this cabin orphanage greatly to her credit. There were the two

Lincoln orphans, Sarah and Abraham; the three Johnston orphans, Elizabeth, Matilda and John D.; and another orphan boy, Dennis Hanks, whose foster parents had died at the same time Nancy Hanks Lincoln passed away.

The new Mrs. Lincoln was but thirty-one years of age when she took charge of these orphan groups. Her husband was twelve years her senior. Abraham Lincoln had now reached the age of ten and from this time until he was twenty-one, he was under his stepmother's direction continually. As Sarah Bush was noted for her "sprightliness and industry," there is every reason to believe that her cabin home was kept clean and tidy and that the Lincoln children profited greatly by her oversight of the home that had been without a woman in it for more than a year.

Apparently the most valuable contribution which the new Mrs. Lincoln made to stepson Abraham was her sympathetic attitude towards his ambition to learn. Having lived all her life in a community where there was a very fine academy and having come in contact continually with educated people she would be quick to encourage any ambition which Abraham had to make an educated man of himself.

This statement credited to her is undoubtedly true, "I induced my husband to permit Abe to read and study at home as well as at school. At first he was not easily reconciled to it but finally he too seemed willing to encourage him to a certain extent...We took particular care not to disturb him--would let him read on and on until he quit of his own accord."

What contributions Sarah Bush Lincoln made to Abraham Lincoln were made before he left her home at twenty-one years of age, and we have his own testimony that she was a good mother to him.

H.C.I. (Continued from page 15.)

The three partners were brothers-in-law. Prof. Austin married Miss Lida English of the Music Department of H.C.I., Edwin Tabb married Miss Hattie English, and F.G. Corley married Miss Elizabeth English. The three English girls were the daughters of Judge Horace W. English. The Farmer's Store was an exceedingly profitable business during the period of World War I.

Of course church facilities in Elizabethtown were abundant for H.C.I. students. Discipline was kind but firm. The Administration did not seek pupils who needed reforming "though they did not object to a bit of mischief--it is natural." As to athletics the school encouraged football, baseball, croquet clubs, and other amusements. They had a campus of seven acres which would allow contact sports.

One important activity that was stressed was literary societies--there were two, named for Hardin County families "Hardin" and "Helm". They held weekly meetings throughout the year for exercise in composition and debate. Two of Eliz

abettown's most successful firms offered two gold medals at commencement. S. Goldnamer & Son offered a medal to the boy who shall be adjudged to have delivered the best original declaration. The second gold medal was awarded by Showers & Sweets for the girl reading the best original essay. On February 22nd Profs. Austin and Morgan offered a medal to the best debater. Also a scholarship to Central University was offered to the student making the highest general average on examinations throughout the year.

Two gold medals were offered to students in the department of reading and recitation for the school years of 1900-1901. One medal was donated by H.T. Jones as first prize in a contest to be held in June, 1901. For second place Miss Johnston would also award a gold medal.

All the students were from Elizabethtown or vicinity except one from Columbia, Tenn., two from White Mills, one from Big Springs, one from Rineyville, two from Sulphur Springs, six from Tunnel Hill, one from Bardstown, one from Bardstown Junction, two from Colesburg, and one from Toniaville.

Eighty-seven students were enrolled during the school year 1899-1900 including my father Robert T. McMurtry, my mother Nellie Bridwell and her two brothers Robert and Frank. Two photographs in the H.C.I. catalogue show a "Group of Boys" and a "Group of Girls". I cannot find my father in the group of boys, but I can identify my mother in the group of girls. She was about sixteen years old.

The catalogue of students for the school year of 1899-1900 indicates there were forty-six girls and forty-one boys enrolled. Of that number not including my father, mother, and two uncles, I can remember eleven, especially Miss Stella Hubbs who was my sixth grade teacher.

My mother was evidently active in the study of elocution. In the 10th Annual Exercise on May 28, 1902, she gave a recitation entitled "Kallundburg Church" by Whittier. Then on Friday evening, March 10, 1903, Nellie Bridwell gave a recitation entitled "Aunt Jane's Mother at a Classical Concert". I have the original program of each event.

The H.C.I. catalogue 1899-1900 is illustrated with photographs of J.E. Austin, a group of H.C.I. boys, the new frame dormitory "with modern sanitary facilities", a group of H.C.I. girls, Helm Hall (where debates and speeches were given) along with a chart relative to the curriculum offered on the different courses of study.

The expenses per term were as follows:

Tuition in Intermediate Course	\$15.00
Tuition in High School and Teachers Course	20.00
Board from Monday to Friday, per week	1.25
Board during whole week	2.00
Elocution for regular students	10.00
Elocution for special students	15.00
Music	15.00

Expenses for a year at H.C.I. were from \$110 to \$120. Those who would prefer to board with private families could find very desirable homes at \$10 to \$12 per month.

The courses of study were made up to help pupils attain a grade school education in order that they would be able to enter high school. Another feature that they offered was a normal school curriculum for teachers. However, the courses were largely given over to high school pupils.

Regardless of local support for the H.C.I., the printing of attractive catalogues, the low fees and Prof. Austin's enthusiasm, the school never achieved its potential. Eventually Prof. Austin left the teaching profession and engaged in the mercantile business and in 1917 was elected to the Elizabethtown City Council. This election, no doubt, led him to engage in a similar political capacity during a later part of his life, namely the Jellico Tennessee City Council.

The Austin family moved to Jellico, Tennessee, about 1923 where Prof. Austin's son-in-law served as mayor for several years. As an Elizabethtown boy I recall when they moved. I had worked in Rolla Dyer's furniture store during summer vacations and being an expert (?) at packing furniture, I was employed to pack the Austin's furniture for shipment to Jellico. I knew the family well which included Prof. and Mrs. Austin, one son, and four daughters.

The Hardin Collegiate Institute's main building was finally sold to Hardin County for a high school in 1911, and later it was bought by the Knights of Columbus for a meeting hall. While they owned it, many dances were held in the building, some of which I helped sponsor with a friend from Lexington, Kentucky, who was promoting the circulation of a Louisville newspaper. Some years later the Knights sold the property, the building was razed, and the land was developed into a housing area. A photograph of the building, taken about 1930, can be found in Elmo McClure, Jr.'s TWO CENTURIES IN ELIZABETHTOWN AND HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY, 1979, page 335.

More than likely if the Hardin Collegiate Institute had survived, Elizabethtown today might have a thriving private college, with an excellent curriculum, competent teachers and enough students whose tuition and endowments would provide ample funds to make the school prosper. However, the demise of H.C.I. cannot be attributed to its leaders but to the institution of city, county, and state supported high schools which were made possible through taxation. Perhaps as Abraham Lincoln might have expressed it, taxation for education was "the greatest good for the greatest number".

FOOTNOTES

In writing this article, I relied heavily on the information found in Daniel E. McClure, Jr.'s book TWO CENTURIES IN ELIZABETHTOWN AND HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY and H.A. Sommers' HISTORY OF ELIZABETHTOWN 1864-1921. A thorough study of the history of "Central University, Richmond, Kentucky" was made by Jonathon Truman Dorris which was published and reprinted

for the REGISTER OF THE KENTUCKY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Volume 32, Number 99. I am likewise grateful to Robert E. Glass, Special Collections, Grace Doherty Library, Centre College, Danville, Ky. for his summary of the establishment of the four high schools by Central University and photocopies of pages from Jonathon Truman Dorris's monograph. I also appreciate a letter I received from Arthur M. Jester, Jr., Director of College Relations, Centre College, relative to the short affiliation between Central University, Richmond, Ky. and Centre College.

QUERIES

HAYCRAFT

Need any information on Presley Neville Haycraft 1797-1889, m. Elizabeth Kennedy 3 Sep 1818. Was a Baptist minister. Also info on his son Samuel Murray Haycraft. Bob Haycraft, 15924 E. Stratford Row, Wichita, KA 67230

HAYCRAFT, LYNCH, MARSON

Need any information on the following:

Joshua Haycraft b. 1754 Va. d. 1814 Grayson Co. Ky.

James (Jim) Lynch m. (Cerady) Etta Marson

s/Robert Marson Lynch

s/Claude

s/Lee

d/Mary (died young)

d/Sudie Shaw

d/Flossie Carr

d/Anna Mae Norris

Sandra Johnson, 1690 Calvert Church Rd., Leitchfield, KY 42754

CRUSE, CASH, FERGUSON

Need the following information: Prosser Cruse, b. 1 Jul 1810, Where? d. 14 Nov 1865 bur. Bacon Creek Cemetery behind Baptist Church in Hammondsville, Ky. I would like to correspond with persons interested in the Cruse, Cash, or Ferguson families. Audrey J. Ledesma, 13877 Pine St., Trona, CA 93562

HARDIN COUNTY AND ELIZABETHTOWN SCHOOLS

Anyone having information, programs, catalogues, or pictures of any schools in Hardin County or Elizabethtown and would allow me to make copies of this material please contact me. Bob Beimdick, 1869 Miller Rd., Elizabethtown, Ky. 42701

GIFT GIVING IDEA

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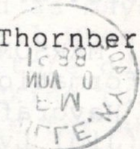
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