

**THE HISTORY OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN
HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY, 1849 TO THE PRESENT**

SECOND EDITION

WILLIAM T. TURNER

THE HISTORY OF HIGHER EDUCATION
IN HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY,
1849 TO THE PRESENT

An Abstract
Presented to
the Graduate Council of
Austin Peay State University

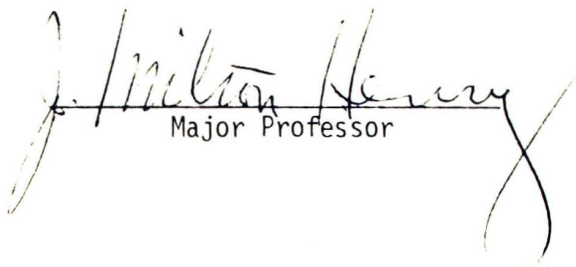
In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

by
William T. Turner

June 1973

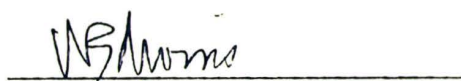
To the Graduate Council:

I am submitting herewith a Thesis written by William T. Turner entitled "The History of Higher Education in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, 1849 to the Present." I recommend that it be accepted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts, with a major in History.


Major Professor

We have read this thesis and
recommend its acceptance:


Second Committee Member


Third Committee Member

Accepted for the Council:


Dean of the Graduate School

ABSTRACT

Conditions of life greatly influence the trend and development of educational opportunity. Geographic, economic, and sociological conditions were retarding factors in the early development of higher education in Hopkinsville and Christian County.

From 1782, when the first settlers came into the area, until around 1830, when the local census increased sharply, the settlers were so widely scattered and so surrounded by the wilderness there appears to have been no effort to establish and maintain institutions of higher learning. The people were engaged in the various duties required about the home and farm for a livelihood; hence, these conditions made such an undertaking impossible.

After the population had increased considerably, there arose a desire for more formal training than that offered at home. To meet this need, a number of academies were established, usually associated with a church and taught by a minister or of a private, subscription nature, frequently taught by a young lady.

Slightly over a half century after the settlement of Hopkinsville, a Christian Church minister, John M. Barnes, organized South Kentucky Institute, the first school above the academy level in the county seat. As a girl's school for over thirty years, it offered the course work and emphasized the social graces considered necessary for the proper development of a young lady of the time. In 1881 the school became coeducational and featured a military department for boys in addition to a degree-oriented program. The name of the school was

changed to McLean College in 1908, the trustees hopeful that the new name would prove of value for student recruitment. Financial reverses caused in part by the fires forced the school to merge with Transylvania College at Lexington in 1914.

Bethel Female High School became the second institution of higher learning for young women to be established in Hopkinsville. Operated by the Baptist denomination for 110 years, the school functioned under the names of Bethel Female College and Bethel Woman's College before becoming coeducational in 1951 as Bethel College. In 1964 financial problems forced its closing.

In 1883, the First District Colored Baptist Association established a ministerial school, Hopkinsville (M & F) College. Opened in 1900, the institution has offered religious training and business instruction to Negroes throughout Western Kentucky. A non-accredited, church-supported school, it has operated as the Hopkinsville College of the Bible since 1965. Enrollment has ranged between forty and sixty in recent years.

The Hopkinsville Community College is the fourth college included in this study. Established in 1965 as the "Centennial College" of the University of Kentucky, this institution, with a current enrollment of over seven hundred students, offers two-year transfer programs along with two-year technical programs. A part of the Community College System, the local school fills a great need in the community.

All of these colleges have fostered and kept alive educational sentiment through eras of peace and plenty, war and social turmoil, and through the efforts of men and women for nearly a century and a quarter, students have been afforded, through higher education, the opportunity to better themselves and those around them. In truth, these four

institutions have made and continue to make a fine contribution to the educational process and to society.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author wishes to express sincere appreciation to Dr. J. Milton Henry, Professor of History, Austin Peay State University, for his counseling and guidance during the course of the study; to Dr. Preston J. Hubbard and Dr. Wentworth S. Morris for their suggestions and constructive criticisms of the manuscript.

Appreciation is extended to Dr. J. Brooks Major of the Hopkinsville Community College who has been of great assistance in dealing with the background involving the writing of the manuscript itself.

The author wishes to thank his wife for helping in every way during the study. Further thanks are expressed to Miss Nancy Wilson for her patience and understanding in helping with proofreading and mechanics.

THE HISTORY OF HIGHER EDUCATION
IN HOPKINSVILLE, KENTUCKY,
1849 TO THE PRESENT

A Thesis
Presented to
the Graduate Council of
Austin Peay State University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

by
William T. Turner
June 1973

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
I. INTRODUCTION	1
Review of the Literature	
Purpose of the Study	
Limitations of the Study	
II. SOUTH KENTUCKY COLLEGE	4
1849 - 1914	
III. BETHEL COLLEGE	17
1854 - 1964	
IV. HOPKINSVILLE (M & F) COLLEGE	41
1883 to the Present	
V. HOPKINSVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	51
1965 to the Present	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	71

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

The writing of "The History of Higher Education in Hopkinsville, Kentucky, 1849 to the Present" was developed only after the writer had given due consideration as to its possible value. It seems reasonable that a fairly comprehensive resume of local higher education might be of value to future historians and educators in the Pennyroyal region of Kentucky. The basic factors that have governed the progress and development of college level education in Hopkinsville may be of value in the construction of future educational programs throughout the area.

In the preparation of this thesis no claim is made to historical priority, as in 1884, William H. Perrin, of Louisville, was the author of the first History of Christian County, Kentucky. Predominantly political and biographical, this volume touched upon local college history only in a minor fashion. In 1930 Charles M. Meacham of Hopkinsville published the second History of Christian County, Kentucky, but his treatment of the subject is very general.

It is an accepted fact that the mental training of people will exert great influence upon the future development of the community and the nation. Hence, no county history could be complete without a comprehensive review of its higher educational offerings.

It is the purpose of the writer to assemble all available data on the development of the four colleges in Hopkinsville. The origin and development of the schools, that have existed or now exist, have been

traced as far as existing records would allow. Legislation and other outside influences that have affected these colleges also have been investigated and surveyed.

This study has been made with the belief that a permanent record of the efforts and achievements of these colleges have some value. Through comparison of this record with future efforts and achievements, it will be possible to determine the progress of higher education in Hopkinsville. A true test of real progress is the measurement of achievements of similar institutions within the same geographic area.

Convinced that there are natural and logical reasons for division, the writer has separated the general subject into four sections, each dealing with a different institution. South Kentucky College, the first of the four, was organized by the Christian Churches of the area in 1849 as a girl's finishing school. The school became coeducational in 1881 and continued to operate until its merger with Transylvania College in 1914. In 1908, the name of the school was changed to McLean College and it operated under that name for six years.

In 1854, the area Baptist Churches established Bethel Female High School, another finishing school for young ladies. After bearing the names Bethel Female College and Bethel Woman's College, the institution became coeducational in 1951 and assumed the name Bethel College. The school operated until adverse financial conditions forced it to close in 1964.

The third local college established was Hopkinsville (M & F) College, created by the First District Colored Baptist Association in 1883. A non-accredited, church-supported school, it has operated since 1965 under the name of Hopkinsville College of the Bible.

The University of Kentucky in 1965 opened its "Centennial College," the Hopkinsville Community College, one of thirteen schools located across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This institution continues the tradition that has existed over 124 years of local higher education.

The writer maintains a strong interest in the history of Hopkinsville and Christian County; hence, this study of local colleges is a part of his effort to record the past activities and events of the community.

A number of difficulties were encountered in the study. Many records have been destroyed by fire, especially those of South Kentucky College which burned three times. Some officials failed to make proper records and to preserve them. Lack of uniformity in reporting information made it difficult to record data in a systematic fashion.

With a full realization of its weaknesses and incompleteness, and hoping that future improvement will be made, the writer respectfully submits this study.

SOUTH KENTUCKY COLLEGE

Formal education had its beginning in Christian County about 1812 when a teacher by the name of Daniel Barry opened a private elementary school on Nashville (now Ninth) Street. A small tuition was levied and though cash was scarce and the number of students was small, the school was conducted for several years. By the act of the General Assembly, the Christian Academy was established in Hopkinsville in January, 1817. James D. Rumsey was the first headmaster and this secondary school operated in a brick schoolhouse on the site of the Louisville and Nashville freight depot on East Ninth Street. The building was destroyed by fire during the War Between the States. The subjects administered to the young men of that era included Latin, Greek, surveying, geometry, science, and basic English. The famous high school, long operated by Major J. O. Ferrell on West 13th Street, was an outgrowth of the Old Christian Academy.

Higher education, both church and state supported, has had a lasting and prominent effect on the community. This chapter considers one such institution--South Kentucky College, established in 1849. Thus, the community reflects 124 years of college influence.¹

In 1849, when in this middle country, schools and teachers were scarce, and education was considered a costly luxury, a ^{South Carolina} ~~Virginia~~ preacher,

* John M. Barnes, organized a day school on the first floor of the Ninth Street Christian Church. A tuition fee was taken from those who were

¹ Kentucky New Era, September 10, 1965.

* John McKee Barnes - a ⁴ South Carolina native, he came to Hopkinsville from Franklin College (Tenn.), where he was a faculty member.

willing to pay, but the only qualification for matriculation insisted upon a willingness to be advanced beyond the "three R's."²

On February 24, 1849, the General Assembly enacted articles of incorporation creating South Kentucky Institute. The Board of Trustees consisted of John M. Barnes, Henry J. Stites, Benjamin S. Campbell, John B. Knight, William V. Bernard, Robert L. Waddill, Jacob Torian, Jr., Isaac H. Caldwell, and William A. Edwards.

In accordance with this act, South Kentucky Institute was opened for pupils (girls of all ages up to and including those in courses of Languages and Music) in the autumn of 1849 with John M. Barnes as President. Mr. Barnes died in 1850 and was succeeded by Enos Campbell, who preached at the Christian Church in addition to his college duties. The school at the Christian Church grew rapidly, and after a few years, many more than its capacity sought entrance at the beginning of each session. The institution grew to such proportions that it became necessary to erect new buildings for the accommodation of pupils. Soon sites, plans, and names were under consideration. Agents were employed by the board to solicit donations for this purpose. Their appeals met with liberal response from the friends of the college.³

East of the town and somewhat less than a mile away rose a beautiful wooded height known as Belmont Grove, the abrupt terminus of a watershed ridge between two streams which skirt the town, one on each side. Here some thoughtful person saw an ideal location for the college to be built on the hill. The trustees accordingly purchased the summit

²McLean College Yearbook, The 1913 Arrow.

³William Henry Perrin, History of Christian County, Kentucky, (Louisville, Kentucky: F. A. Battey Publishing Company, 1884), p. 253.

of the hill consisting of eight acres from Montgomery D. Davie on September 7, 1858. Cost of the campus was \$1,911.50. In later years additional land was secured bringing the campus acreage to twelve.⁴

In the fall and winter of 1858, an imposing three-story brick building was erected at a cost of \$30,000. It contained classrooms, dormitory rooms, parlor, library, chapel, and dining room. Built in the Greek Revival style of the period, the building had a frontage of over 100 feet. A recess in the middle made a broad and roomy porch in which stood two Corinthian columns reaching to the top of the building. Brick was used in the construction of these columns with a coating of plaster applied to the surface. In the early years at this location the college was variously known as Belmont Seminary, Belle Monte College, and South Kentucky Institute.⁵

In the fall of 1859, Isaac T. Reneau, of Elkton, wrote Enos Campbell in order to arrange for his daughter to enter South Kentucky Institute. Campbell replied, enclosing the school's schedule of fees and regulations. The schedule showed the tenth scholastic year would open the first Monday in September. The school endeavored to secure for the young ladies who were its pupils: first, good physical health; second, an extended course of study in scientific and polite literature; third, the power to think wisely, act promptly, and feel tenderly; fourth, good manners; fifth, knowledge to fear God and keep his commandments; sixth, happiness, through the development of kindly social affections.

⁴Christian County Court Clerk Records, Deed Book 40, p. 12.

⁵Hopkinsville Kentuckian, February 26, 1884.

The boarding bill was \$62.50 for the first half-year, and tuition fees ranged from \$5 to \$20. Total cost for the year would probably range up to \$200, but while the tuition fee was taken from those who could pay, scholarships and work grants were arranged for those who could not pay.

Margaret Reneau became a student at South Kentucky Institute, apparently beginning in 1860, and for the next year a good picture of life "on the hill" is gained from her letters to her father. Her January report card showed Margaret was taking courses in chemistry, geology, meteorology, analysis of English languages and classics, grammar, composition, ancient history, modern geography, geometry, algebra, reading, writing, spelling, analysis of vocal music, Latin, French, and drawing. In addition to these, she was graded on embroidery, plain sewing, neatness, conduct, health, and attendance. Some of these classes must have been combined, but even so, there was an abundance of academic work to be done.

Margaret found time for other things, in addition to her studies, as a part of the college life in the 1860's. She was given a Sunday School class to teach at the Christian Church. Margaret wrote, "The school still increases, notwithstanding the political excitement that is abroad in the land. I believe that the general opinion is, that we shall have war." War did come, and, in May, 1861, Margaret wrote, "A regiment will leave Clarksville in the morning for the South, many of whom are boys from Hopkinsville. I see both the infantry and cavalry practicing nearly every day. The infantry sometimes march up to the college and go through the motions of fighting in the yard. Most schools have stopped, but not old Belle Mont."⁶

⁶J. Brooks Major, "The Gleaner" (unpublished quarterly, 1964).

With a boarding department established in the school, successful operation was continued until the spring of 1862, when it suspended operation for a year. During that time, Hopkinsville was occupied by military forces and for several weeks, the college building was used as a Confederate hospital. The school was reopened in September, 1863, with Enos Campbell still president. He resigned in 1865, and was succeeded by his brother, James C. Campbell, who served two years. J. W. Goss became President of S. K. I. in 1867, and during his tenure, which lasted until 1871, the general stability of the college regained its former prosperity.⁷

The decade of the 1870's began with T. A. Crenshaw as President who remained in that office for six years. He also served as pastor of the Christian Church, as Campbell and Barnes had done.

Robert C. Cave became President in 1876, and served until 1882. He was born in Orange County, Virginia, in 1843, and was educated under Alexander Campbell at Bethany College. In 1876, there were five teachers and 115 students, about average for the period.⁸

During Cave's administration, the trustees became convinced that the original plan for the conduct of the institution could not meet the needs of the young people of south Kentucky. They recognized the demand for a college of a higher grade, which would serve the sons as well as the daughters of the area. The trustees decided on November 24, 1879, to make a change. They determined to offer its educational advantages to

⁷Perrin, op. cit., p. 154.

⁸Kentucky New Era, June 14, 1882.

both sexes. The charter was amended in 1880 and the name changed to South Kentucky College.⁹

The college opened the first Monday in September, 1881, as a coeducational institution with the addition of normal and commercial courses. The following courses were offered: English, Literature, Philosophy, Logic, Mathematics, Mechanics, Astronomy, Physiology, International and Commercial Law, Music, Drawing, Painting, and Normal Instruction. The last named area proved to be an important contribution as many of the area teachers availed themselves of the opportunity of continuing their education in order to achieve higher certification. In 1881, the school had 121 students, fifty-two of whom were boys. That year, McCarty Hall, a boy's dormitory, was built on the northern edge of the campus on Seventh Street. This building was torn down in the early summer of 1971. B. C. Deweese served as President of the school during the term, 1883-1884.¹⁰

Tuition in 1884 was \$25 in the Collegiate Department; \$20 in the Preparatory Department; and \$15 in the Primary Department. Cost of room and board was \$60 per term.¹¹

In 1884, the military department was inaugurated at the school. The boys were required to purchase a uniform and cap of West Point Cadet gray for \$17.50. The officers wore regulation chevrons. A period of forty-five minutes each day was occupied in drill and the winner of each

⁹Kentucky New Era, March 16, 1880.

¹⁰Ibid., March 10, 1884.

¹¹Hopkinsville Kentuckian, loc. cit.

week's drill wore a gold medal. The daily routine began at 6:30 with inspection before breakfast. Chapel attendance was required every day and classes were held from 9 until 12 o'clock. Classes, drill, and recreation were held in the afternoon. Study and recreation were prescribed after supper and "Taps" was sounded at 10:00 P.M. The military department was continued in operation until one year before the school closed.¹²

Major Samuel R. Crumbaugh was elected President of South Kentucky College on the first of January, 1884, for a term of ten years. A native of Logan County, Kentucky, Major Crumbaugh graduated from the U. S. Naval Academy in 1868. He studied law at the University of Kentucky and held a post-graduate degree from the Royal Institute in London. "The Major," as he was called, taught in several colleges before coming to South Kentucky College in 1880. He taught mathematics at the college before his election as President.¹³

On Sunday afternoon, February 24, 1884, the rapid intonations of the town fire bell caused the people to rush to their doors, and, behold, South Kentucky College was enveloped in flames. In an hour and a half the work of destruction was done. The \$13,000 loss was covered by \$9,000 insurance. The school was suspended until fall, but the trustees voted the following day to rebuild.¹⁴

The brick walls were not severely damaged and so work was begun immediately to rebuild the college. By July 1, 1884, the new building

¹²South Kentucky College Catalog, 1904.

¹³Major, loc. cit.

¹⁴Hopkinsville Kentuckian, loc. cit.

was completed. The structure had a frontage of 108 feet, three stories high, the third story situated under a mansard roof. A panoramic view of the surrounding community could be observed from the 100-foot tower on the left front of the building. The college reopened in the fall with the largest enrollment in its history. Major Crumbaugh resigned as President in 1885, but continued as professor. James E. Scobey, M.A., was chosen as his successor and served until the summer of 1890.¹⁵

Professor Alexander Campbell Kuykendall was elected President of South Kentucky College in 1890. The presidency, during this period, was somewhat diminished in scope and authority, and became more of a purely administrative post. The positions of importance in the early 1890's included Principal of the Male and Female Departments and business agent for the college. Professor Kuykendall held the first position, Professor H. Clay Smith, the second, and J. W. Hardy, the position of business agent. Professor Kuykendall resigned as President in 1893, and Mr. J. W. Hardy became President. He in turn was succeeded by Mr. S. S. Woolwine in 1897. Professor Kuykendall assumed the presidency again in 1898 and served in this capacity throughout the remaining life of the college.¹⁶

Many extracurricular activities were added in the late 1890's. A football team, called "the Maroons," was organized as was a girls' basketball team. The twenty-five or thirty boarding girls, who envied the freedom of the day students, wore school uniforms and were subject to the strict discipline, but kindly manner, of Professor H. Clay Smith. Professor Kuykendall administered the same atmosphere with the boys in McCarty Hall.

¹⁵Hopkinsville Kentuckian, November 5, 1905.

¹⁶Major, loc. cit.

Organized sports shared the spotlight with two literary societies. Commencement exercises were held in Holland's Opera House on Main Street.¹⁷

The lack of records in regard to South Kentucky College because of the disastrous fires made it rather difficult to determine the number of graduates through the years. This same problem existed in trying to locate names of the graduates for any given year. It is judged from available records that the average number of graduates in the last thirty years of the college ranged from four to fifteen each year.¹⁸

A review of the 1904 catalog gives a clear and interesting picture of the life and times of South Kentucky College. There were 165 students enrolled that year, of whom 68 were girls. Boarding students made up about half of this total number; the others were called "day students." A number of tuition scholarships were given in the amount of \$1,000 and named for the donor.¹⁹

It is from some of these students that many interesting incidents have been related. Surveying was offered as a part of a mathematics course to young ladies. One day as the class was being instructed in the use of the surveying equipment, it was noted that the magnetic needle on the compass in the transit was fluctuating wildly. Professor Kuykendall instructed one of the young ladies to move away from the transit as it was determined that the metal staves in her "foundation garment" were causing the trouble. A favorite prank of the boys was to set traps in McCarty Hall to catch the rats that also inhabited the dormitory. After dark, the boys with their captives would climb the hill to the girls'

¹⁷Major, loc. cit.

¹⁸Kentucky New Era, June 6, 1901.

¹⁹South Kentucky College Catalog, 1904.

dormitory. After scaling the supporting posts of the front porch, the windows of the girls' rooms would then be raised by the boys just enough to turn the rats loose. One can imagine the chaos that occurred. It was on such occasions that the bright blue eyes of Professor H. Clay Smith would turn into a deep shade of moss green.²⁰

A number of college organizations provided varied activities for the students. They included a Young Men's Christian Association, Philomathean Society, Junior Debating Team, Orchestra, and "The S.K.C. Bugle," a weekly school paper. The athletic program consisted of the S.K.C. Baseball Team, basketball, tennis, and a very lively football team. Great rivalry developed between these teams and the teams of such schools as Bethel College at Russellville, Southwestern Presbyterian University at Clarksville, Ogden College at Bowling Green, and the Vanderbilt Training School at Elkton.²¹

The era of the greatest prosperity for the college began a decline on Thursday, November 2, 1905. At eleven o'clock that morning, the main building was discovered to be on fire in the garret, under the metal roof. With water pressure on the hill inadequate, it was soon realized that the college would be destroyed. Through the heroic effort of the fire company, the two rear wings were saved. The college reopened a few days later by conducting classes in these wings.²²

A few days after the fire, the announcement was made that Mr. James R. Rash, of Earlington, had presented an endowed gift of \$10,000 to

²⁰Miss Georgie P. Willis, Age 85, Personal Interview, February 18, 1971.

²¹South Kentucky College Catalog, 1904.

²²Hopkinsville Kentuckian, November 5, 1905.

the college. This money was used in the reconstruction of the main building. The new structure was occupied six months later. Through other donations, a two-story brick dormitory for girls was erected on the south side of the main building in 1906.²³

On July 6, 1908, the trustees announced that the name of South Kentucky College was being changed. It was resolved by the trustees, the alumni concurring in their action, to name the institution McLean College, in honor of Archibald McLean, President of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society and formerly President of Bethany College.

The reasons for the change were as follows: It was felt that the state-supported institutions should have sole use of the state name, which was not exactly suited to an institution of private character. The old name made no appeal to any save those who were citizens of southern Kentucky, and it proved a handicap when the business agents went beyond the vicinity soliciting students. The name McLean was distinctive and widely known. It was of positive business value as the contributors to the college were well aware of the educational related contribution of Archibald McLean.²⁴

A third destructive fire hit the college on Friday night, February 1, 1912. The main building and all its contents were destroyed at a loss of \$20,000, of which \$7,000 was covered by insurance. The trustees met the next day and decided upon plans for financial arrangements to rebuild the main structure. Classes were reopened within a few days, and by submitting to some hardships, the session was continued to the end.²⁵

²³Mrs. Lena J. Wicks, Age 77, Personal Interview, March 16, 1971.

²⁴Hopkinsville Kentuckian, July 6, 1908.

²⁵Kentucky New Era, February 6, 1912.

On May 24, 1912, the trustees of McLean College met and let the contract for the rebuilding of Rash Memorial Hall at a price of \$29,000. Work was begun and the new structure was occupied in the middle of September. One hundred sixty boarding students were enrolled.²⁶

The rebuilding was accomplished by stretching the resources and credit of both the college and the supporting Christian Churches to the limit. The college could have recovered from even this third fire, but it could not recover from the additional financial strain imposed on it by the decreased enrollment and lack of confidence expressed by its patrons in the following year.

During the summer of 1913, a considerable number of pupils who had been in the boarding department of the college during the past school year were stricken with typhoid fever. Despite the fact that an examination into the conditions at the college by health officers and physicians failed to discover any signs of a source of the disease there, fearful parents kept a majority of the pupils at home. The enrollment for the school year, 1913-1914, was greatly decreased and not large enough to pay expenses. This proved to be the final blow; the trustees did not have and could not obtain additional money to operate the college.²⁷

On October 27, 1913, Harry D. Smith presented to the Executive Committee of Transylvania College, Lexington, a memorandum of a proposition offered by the McLean College Board of Trustees. It offered to transfer to Transylvania the property, subject to legal claims, and loyalty of McLean College. The Transylvania curators were to assume

²⁶McLean College Yearbook, loc. cit.

²⁷Major, loc. cit.

McLean's legal obligations, and to perpetuate the memorials established at McLean, as well as to assume obligations relative to annuity notes.

Transylvania College agreed "in the main" to accept the McLean proposition on November 29, 1913. On January 21, 1914, the contract was drawn up. Students of the college were given the opportunity to transfer to the Transylvania campus to complete the academic year without any additional expense. Professor Kuykendall moved to Lexington to become the legal representative of the McLean students.

Transylvania rejected an offer of \$20,000 and the old Clay Street School lot from the City of Hopkinsville for the main buildings, but finally settled for \$22,500 plus the Clay Street property, valued at \$7,500. The McLean property was deeded to the City of Hopkinsville on January 15, 1916.

Transylvania paid out \$52,577.93 in assuming McLean's obligations, and received \$24,475.15 in lots, stock, etc., plus \$30,000 less \$500 commission, for the main buildings, making a total received of \$53,975.²⁸

Thus ended sixty-five years of Christian higher education in Hopkinsville, sponsored by the Christian Churches of the area.

²⁸Major, loc. cit.

Chapter III

BETHEL COLLEGE

In the spring of 1854, the Bethel Baptist Association established Bethel Female High School and appointed the following men as members of the first Board of Trustees: Chairman John Pearce Campbell, Thomas M. Buck, John Buckner, Hiram A. Phelps, Joseph M. Cheany, Dr. Augustine Webber, A. G. Slaughter, Robert Dillard, and E. B. Richardson.¹

No school developed a finer heritage or held a stronger claim to outstanding founders than Bethel Female High School. The desire of far-seeing, God-fearing Baptists "to establish a permanent institution, second to none in the land, where the Baptist girls of the country might have cheap board and tuition, but the finest of training in Christian virtues and the fine arts," culminated in 1854, when the Board of Trustees secured a charter for the school.² Minutes of the Association of 1854 record that the board had bought seven acres of ground on the southwestern edge of town for \$2,000 and over \$5,000 had been collected for building purposes.³

In the summer, the trustees had erected a log building to serve the needs of the school until the planned building could be completed. The original enrollment figure is not known, but it was from this pioneer effort that Miss Lucy Anne Coleman (later Mrs. George V. Campbell)

¹Perrin, op. cit., p. 256.

²Shelia Higgins (ed.), Bethel College Yearbook, The Scroll, 1932, p. 6.

³Anon., "History of Bethel College," (Unpublished, 1944), p. 9.

received a diploma on June 21, 1855, thus becoming the first graduate. Her diploma was signed by the first president, L. D. Ring, and also by the members of the Board of Trustees.⁴

The Board appointed by the Bethel Baptist Association to govern the affairs of the school met for the first time on April 24, 1854, and asked Major N. B. Kelley to draw building plans to be presented at the next meeting.

The board executed the following contract on September 18, 1854:

The President and Secretary of the Board enter into a contract for the building of a school house with R. L. Torian, S. L. Salter, and John Orr; said building to cost the sum of \$20,000, to be 80 by 50 feet, and four stories high including basement and to be completed in two years from the 1st of January, 1855.⁵

Contractors began work on the foundation, and the cornerstone was laid with Masonic ceremonies on April 7, 1855. The building was partially completed in the fall of 1856 when it was opened for use.⁶ The Board officially accepted the building on March 6, 1857. Total cost was about \$30,000.⁷

The first chairman of the Board of Trustees was Captain John P. Campbell, Sr., a true Christian gentleman, who may be justly recognized as a living monument to Bethel's beginning. His dreams for the college were expressed by the following incident: Soon after the main building was completed, he rode up to the college gate one morning and remarked:

⁴Bethel Scrapbook, "Origin of Bethel College."

⁵"History of Bethel College," loc. cit.

⁶Higgins, loc. cit.

⁷Minutes of the Bethel College Board of Trustees, March 6, 1857.

pointing to the building, "That is only the center; two wings must be added."⁸

From 1856 to 1917, the policy of the trustees was to lease the school to the president and give him the freedom to conduct it as a private enterprise. He paid the Board a yearly rent and was fairly successful because financial support came from tuition. It was under this policy that Dr. W. F. Hill became president of the high school in 1856. He held the position for one session.⁹

The curriculum during this period was similar to that of the "best female seminaries in the South and the West, including School of Language, ancient and modern; School of Mathematics, pure and mixed; School of English, embracing mental and moral sciences and belles-lettres; School of Natural Science; and School of Fine Arts."¹⁰

In those good old days the tuition and expenses were light, as these figures will show: "Price of tuition for session for primary department, ten dollars per session; for junior classes, five dollars; and for senior classes, twenty dollars and with board and washing, fifty-five dollars per session for five months."¹¹

The Bethel girls of the late 1850's had certain regulations to meet. They were not to leave the premises at any time unattended by a member of the faculty. Unpermitted visits, party going, or the act of entertaining young gentlemen, either going to or from church or school,

⁸Higgins, loc. cit.

⁹Ibid., p. 14.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Ibid.

was strictly prohibited. The Magnolia, a literary paper, published by the Bethel girls in September, 1859, stated "it was also highly improper for young ladies to station themselves around a door of a church for the purpose of staring modest young gentlemen out of their wits as they entered the house of worship."¹²

The wearing of modest clothes was stressed. In spring and summer, the girls wore dresses of pink, blue, and white, and straw bonnets trimmed with pink ribbons. In the fall and winter, they wore dresses of maroon and blue, with bonnets trimmed in crimson ribbon.¹³

In 1857, Jacob Ward Rust, principal of the Lafayette Academy, became the third president of Bethel Female High School. During the next several years, enrollment increased to 55 students and the school prospered during the turbulent days prior to the War Between the States.

The school charter was amended in 1858 and the name changed to Bethel Female College. The number of board members had increased to 15 in 1859. They were: Chairman Captain John P. Campbell, Hiram A. Phelps, John C. Latham, Sr., Elder A. D. Sears, Louis L. Leavell, Dr. S. D. Buck, Alpheus Palmer, Dr. N. Conn, Major Charles M. Tandy, Col. J. F. Buckner, Col. Gano Henry, R. T. Petree, Elder R. W. Nixon, E. J. Fort, and Elder S. A. Holland.¹⁴

The 1860's dawned at Bethel with J. W. Rust as the President. Tuition was still \$55 per session, including fuel, lights, and laundry.¹⁵

¹²The Magnolia, [Bethel College Newspaper], September, 1859.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵"History of Bethel College," op. cit., p. 16.

The young college on the southwestern edge of town did not escape the great conflict. In November and December of 1861, the basement rooms were used to provide scant hospital care for sick and dying Confederate soldiers. They were part of several companies of men then quartered on the northern edge of Hopkinsville in Glass Woods and along Little River on the present south side of Riverside Cemetery. A severe epidemic of black measles and pneumonia had spread among the southern soldiers who had come without the proper clothing for a Christian County winter. Over one hundred troops died in Hopkinsville that season. The ones who lived fought at Fort Donelson the next February.¹⁶

Enrollment dropped heavily during the 1862-1863 school year. In August, 1863, Dr. Rust resigned to become the President of Bethel College (for young men) at Russellville. Early in the month a company of Union soldiers arrived in Hopkinsville and took up residence in the vacated college building. While there they gave a party for the town's young people that developed into a dance.

On August 17, 1863, the Board gave the following resolution:

Whereas the building of the Bethel Female College has recently been used by the military for the purpose of having a public dance, therefore be it resolved that said use and occupation was without consent of the Trustees, and we hereby protest against the use of the building for such purpose at any time in the future.¹⁷

As Christian County did not lie along the immediate route of either army and was altogether unimportant from a strategic point of view, there was no outstanding conflict in the area. The college, therefore, was spared wartime depredation. After the soldiers evacuated the building, the Waller

¹⁶Joe McCarroll, Age 79, Personal Interview, April 24, 1966.

¹⁷Higgins, loc. cit.

family moved into the college to prevent future occupation by the military; thereby giving it the nature of a private dwelling.¹⁸

In March, 1864, Bethel reopened with a new president, Dr. Thomas G. Keen, pastor of the Baptist Church. One of the great preachers of his day, Dr. Keen was educated at Madison University and was ordained into the ministry in 1840. Dr. Keen, an extremely conscientious man, made a good president, and the college continued to prosper during his administration.¹⁹

The minutes of the Board record that Dr. Keen resigned in June, 1866, as he wished to devote his entire time to the ministry. M. G. Alexander was elected to succeed Dr. Keen, and he accepted the presidency with the same provisions as his predecessors. The Board held him responsible for all damage done to the property, and the president was not to permit "the front yard to be grazed by stock of any kind."²⁰

The college at this time was in a flourishing condition, having from 70 to 90 students. As the result of some difficulty, President Alexander resigned and was succeeded by John F. Dagg in July, 1868. The tuition increased to \$80 per session, but the steady enrollment continued. There were, on the average, about eighty pupils during the six years of President Dagg's administration.²¹

Approximately four diplomas were issued by President Dagg each year. The reason for this small number was that many pupils attended only one session.

¹⁸Higgins, loc. cit.

¹⁹"History of Bethel College," loc. cit.

²⁰Ibid., p. 18.

²¹Ibid., p. 19.

President Dagg resigned in 1874 because of his advanced age. He was highly praised for the work done during his leadership of the college.²²

In July, 1874, Jacob Ward Rust accepted Bethel's leadership for the second time. The Board spent \$500 for repair on the building and gave him complete control of the school.

During Dr. Rust's sixteen-year administration, the enrollment ranged from 75 to 100 pupils, and there were from 5 to 10 graduates each year.²³ The course of study was offered through five departments: Fine Arts, Language, Mathematics, English, and Natural Science.²⁴

In 1884, a number of new names were to be found among the list of the Board of Trustees, including: Chairman Rev. J. M. Peay, Secretary Hiram A. Phelps, W. W. Ware, John M. Mills, Samuel G. Buckner, Hon. John P. Campbell, Dr. James Rodman, Stephen E. Trice, and John C. Latham, Sr.²⁵

The Rust Family is indelibly written into the history of the college as is revealed by the list of faculty members of 1884: J. W. Rust, Mrs. Martha G. Rust, J. O. Rust, Miss Nannie Rust, Miss Clara Anderson, Miss Cynta Wesfall, Mrs. John F. Dagg, and Miss Carrie Breathitt.²⁶

The Board of Trustees in 1888 consisted of Stephen E. Trice as Chairman, Judge R. T. Petree, Rev. J. M. Peay, W. W. Ware, S. G. Buckner, Rev. John N. Prestridge, Dr. James Rodman, Dr. John D. Clardy, and Rev. J. T. Barrow.²⁷

²²Bethel College Catalog, 1875.

²³"History of Bethel College," op. cit., p. 20.

²⁴Perrin, loc. cit.

²⁵Bethel Female College Catalog, 1884

²⁶"History of Bethel College," loc. cit.

²⁷Bethel Female College Catalog, 1888.

On June 8, 1890, Dr. Rust died after having served faithfully as head of the college for a total of 21 years.²⁸ A few days after the death of Dr. Rust, the college announced that through the request of the school, the Legislature of Kentucky had amended the Bethel Charter with the right to confer degrees.²⁹

The office of president remained vacant until January, 1891, when Rev. T. Simpson McCall accepted the position. He paid the Board a yearly rental and assumed complete control of the College. By the opening of school, the building had been repaired and redecorated at a cost of \$9,000.³⁰

During the 1890's, the enrollment ranged between 50 and 60 pupils with an average of five graduates each year. In 1892, the Board consisted of: Chairman Rev. Charles H. Nash, Secretary Judge R. T. Petree, W. W. Ware, Stephen E. Trice, Samuel G. Buckner, Dr. James Rodman, Dr. John D. Clardy, E. M. Flack, Judge John F. Lockett, and Lyman McComb.³¹

In 1896, the College was authorized to confer the Bachelor of Arts, the Master of Languages, and the Master of Arts degrees. In June of that year, Rev. McCall resigned and was succeeded by Rev. Edmund Harrison, a native of Virginia. Dr. Harrison held the Master's degree from the University of Virginia and came to Bethel from Richmond College where he was professor of Latin. Georgetown College conferred the LL.D. degree upon him in 1904.³²

²⁸Norman W. Cox (ed.), Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists, (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1952), Vol. 2, p. 1178.

²⁹Bethel Female College Catalog, 1892.

³⁰"History of Bethel College," op. cit., p. 24.

³¹Bethel Female College Catalog, loc. cit.

³²"History of Bethel College," op. cit., p. 25.

During Dr. Harrison's presidency at Bethel, the standards of the college were raised, the patronage increased, and its welfare promoted. He was highly respected both as an administrator and as a teacher.³³

In 1897, the enrollment had reached almost 100 students, while the following year, there were 37 boarding and 64 day pupils. The college could accommodate 60 girls. The building was wired for electricity, running water and bathrooms were installed. Prior to that time, a large cistern had supplied water for the college.

An annex, including art and music rooms and a gymnasium, was built on the east side of the main building at a cost of \$1,200 in 1899.³⁴ Constructed of brick, the three-story annex was used until 1920 when the east dormitory was built.

Enrollment continued to increase in 1899 with 69 students in the literary department, 43 piano students, 14 art students, 9 in elocution, and 48 in physical culture.³⁵

The enrollment had risen to 109 students in 1902 when two graduates received the Master of Arts degree. "During the remaining years of President Harrison's administration, reports of Bethel Female College were favorable. Scholastic standards were raised by requiring one more year of English for the Bachelor of Arts degree, and requiring calculus for the Master of Arts degree."³⁶

Regulations had changed considerably through the years, and, in 1903, the young ladies were required to wear on public occasions a

³³"History of Bethel College," loc. cit.

³⁴Bethel College Catalog, 1899.

³⁵Ibid., 1900.

³⁶"History of Bethel College," op. cit., p. 26.

prescribed uniform, the object being to discourage extravagance. This uniform consisted of a dark blue cloth suit with Oxford cap for winter, and an expensive white waist and dark skirt with a straw hat for spring.³⁷

The 1904 catalog listed the following men on the Board of Trustees: Chairman Rev. Charles H. Nash, Secretary and Treasurer James H. Anderson, Philander B. Pendleton, Dr. T. W. Blakey, Dr. John D. Clardy, G. H. Stowe, Lyman McComb, J. F. Garnett, William T. Tandy, and Frank Walton.³⁸

On Thursday night, December 6, 1907, Hopkinsville was besieged by the Night Riders, a band of farmers who were discontented with the prices they were receiving for dark tobacco. The band took the law into their own hands, and in the morning hours of December 7, they burned two tobacco warehouses filled with tobacco being sold through the American Tobacco Trust. President Harrison and the young ladies were aroused by the confusion and the building was soon lighted. Night Riders, who had gathered in the yard, called into the building for the lights to be turned off. Flames from across town presented an eerie sight as the girls gathered around the big heating stove in the main hall and waited until the riders had left town.³⁹

In 1908, Bethel became a member of the Baptist Educational Society of Kentucky which had been formed to stimulate more liberal and systematic support of the churches' educational program. The trustees of the college

³⁷Bethel Female College Catalog, 1903.

³⁸Ibid., 1904.

³⁹Higgins, op. cit., p. 20.

27

were now elected by this society. Nominations for membership on the Board, however, were made by the Bethel Baptist Association.⁴⁰

Harry G. Brownell became president of Bethel in 1909. A mechanical engineering major, he was graduated from Rose Polytechnic in 1886 and received the Me.E. degree in 1911. He was very discouraged the first year since there were only 41 pupils and four faculty members. Within the following years of his administration, the enrollment increased considerably.⁴¹

The curriculum of 1910 was largely classical, but Latin and elocution were losing ground. Sociology had come into the course of studies and a domestic science course was offered for the first time that year.

In order to insure the academic standing of the college, the president emphasized heavier requirements for admission to the school. These requirements were the same as those for other standard southern colleges.⁴²

Walter Stewart Peterson served as president of Bethel from June, 1914 to 1917. In 1916, Bethel was required to adapt itself to the junior college status in order to meet the educational standards currently being applied. That year Bethel discontinued presenting the Bachelor and the Master of Arts degrees.⁴³

On June 4, 1917, by charter amendment, the name Bethel Female College was officially changed to Bethel Woman's College. The Board at

⁴⁰"History of Bethel College," op. cit., p. 17.

⁴¹Ibid., p. 29.

⁴²Ibid.

⁴³Ibid.

that time consisted of: Chairman Rev. Calvin M. Thompson, Secretary and Treasurer Dr. T. W. Blakey, George E. Gary, G. H. Stowe, Charles M. Meacham, Clifton W. Garrott, Madison C. Forbes, R. Y. Pendleton, and Bailey Waller.⁴⁴

A new policy was inaugurated in 1917, whereby the Board elected all teachers and was responsible for all expenditures. A new president, Miss Clara Belle Thompson, was elected that year. She was the only woman ever to hold the office of president of Bethel College. She resigned in the spring of 1919 after a very successful two-year administration.⁴⁵

In August, 1919, Professor John W. Gaines, former dean of Shorter College, in Georgia, became president of Bethel. He received the Bachelor of Science and Master of Modern Philosophy degrees from Furman University. He later received the doctor's degree from Georgetown College.⁴⁶

Bethel opened that fall with 55 boarding students, the largest number in its history. The number increased to 80 pupils in the dormitories in 1920.⁴⁷

President Gaines quickly organized a faculty conforming to the requirements of a standard junior college. All the teachers during this era entered into direct contract with the president instead of the board.⁴⁸

With the enrollment increasing, it became necessary to add a new dormitory. In 1919, a three-story wing was added on the west side of the main building. In 1920, an east wing was completed. It was four stories

⁴⁴Bethel Woman's College Catalog, 1918.

⁴⁵"History of Bethel College," op. cit., p. 31.

⁴⁶Ibid., p. 32.

⁴⁷Ibid., p. 34.

⁴⁸Ibid., p. 38.

high and contained 36 bedrooms. A fourth floor was added on the west wing in 1921. Forbes Manufacturing Company was the contractor and builder for these additions.⁴⁹

In 1921, enrollment grew to 98 boarding students with 69 day pupils. In the freshman class alone, there were enrolled 45 girls.⁵⁰

In 1924, a building containing the dining room and auditorium was constructed directly behind the main hall at a cost of \$30,000. The auditorium was entered from the great hallway, a classic feature of the main building with its divided stairway ascending to the third floor. The interior walls featured a soft shade of blue with dark red draperies at the six large windows. The dining room was entered through a passageway on the ground floor.⁵¹

A new generation of trustees was serving in 1925 as the following list includes: Chairman Charles M. Meacham, Secretary and Treasurer Bailey Waller, M. H. Tandy, Madison C. Forbes, G. H. Stowe, George E. Gary, Ben D. Hill, Clifton W. Garrott, and Dr. T. W. Blakey.⁵²

In 1928, Bethel became the first junior college in Kentucky to be admitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.⁵³ Numerous gifts were presented to the college during the Gaines years. Lights for the front steps to the main entrance were given by the class of 1925. Bailey Waller gave the gate posts for the front entrance in 1927. In 1930,

⁴⁹"History of Bethel College," op. cit., p. 33.

⁵⁰Ibid., p. 35.

⁵¹Bethel Woman's College Catalog, 1927.

⁵²Ibid., 1925.

⁵³"History of Bethel College," op. cit., p. 36.

through the generous gift of Mr. and Mrs. Jo T. Howard, a swimming pool was completed in the basement of the main building.⁵⁴ The financial condition of the country in the early 1930's made Bethel's position acute, but by selling mortgage bonds, the school managed to continue operations.⁵⁵

The trustees in 1936 included: Chairman S. L. Cowherd, Secretary and Treasurer L. D. Browning, F. H. Mason, Dr. Oscar Flener, Frank B. Lacy, Sr., N. F. Smith, Jo T. Howard, G. H. Stowe, Wallace Henderson, Holland Garnett, W. H. Southall, John T. Edmunds, and Dr. M. E. Croft.⁵⁶

In the spring of 1940, Dr. Gaines resigned after a 21-year administration. He was elected President Emeritus at a meeting of the Board, March 7, 1940, and continued to live at the college until 1942.⁵⁷

Kenneth R. Patterson, of Mayfield, succeeded Dr. Gaines as president in 1940. A native of Lebanon, Kentucky, Mr. Patterson had been Superintendent of Schools at Henderson, Madisonville, and Mayfield. He held the Bachelor of Arts degree from Georgetown College and the Master of Arts degree from the University of Kentucky.⁵⁸

The inflationary period that was gripping the country in the early 1940's forced Bethel to raise the tuition. In 1942, tuition in the regular literary course ranged between \$400 and \$475; while the amount of town students was \$115.⁵⁹

⁵⁴"History of Bethel College," op. cit., p. 38.

⁵⁵Ibid., p. 39.

⁵⁶Bethel Woman's College Catalog, 1936.

⁵⁷"History of Bethel College," op. cit., p. 40.

⁵⁸Ibid.

⁵⁹Bethel Woman's College Catalog, 1942.

Rather than face bankruptcy on a \$67,000 debt and because of a reduction in enrollment on account of war conditions, the Board decided in July, 1942, to suspend operation of the college. At that time, it was felt that the college would reopen as soon as the war was over.⁶⁰

By March, 1943, the buildings had been rented to the United States Army officers from nearby Camp Campbell for living quarters. The rent collected from these officers from March, 1943, until the spring of 1945, virtually liquidated the college debt.⁶¹ Rooms were rented for \$10 per week and meals were served in the college dining room. Breakfast was served for 35¢, lunch for 50¢, and dinner for 75¢.⁶²

On February 28, 1944, Mr. Patterson resigned as president of Bethel. From March 1, 1944, until the spring of 1945, Miss Helen Royalty served as manager for operations of the college buildings.⁶³

In the spring of 1945, Dr. Powhatan W. James became president of Bethel Woman's College. A native of Virginia, Dr. James received the A.B. degree from Richmond College and the Th.M. and Th.D. degrees from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.⁶⁴

Still exclusively a girls' school, Bethel reopened on September 12, 1945.⁶⁵ The buildings had been repaired and redecorated for the

⁶⁰Frank M. Masters, A History of Baptists in Kentucky, (Louisville: Baptist Historical Society, 1953), p. 539.

⁶¹"History of Bethel College," op. cit., p. 48.

⁶²Kentucky New Era, August 26, 1942.

⁶³Coleman Craig, The Western Recorder, December 15, 1949, p. 4.

⁶⁴Bethel Woman's College Catalog, 1946.

opening of school. A Science Building was erected in 1948 because more classroom facilities were needed. The structure contained a science lecture room, a chemistry, a biology, and a foods laboratory.⁶⁶

With the opening of the 1949-1950 session, a total of 116 students enrolled, representing the largest number in several years. Twenty-five of the students were from Hopkinsville and vicinity.⁶⁷

On December 1, 1949, Bethel Woman's College was, for the second time, fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The closing of the college in 1942 had automatically taken Bethel out of the association. The school had been working toward re-accreditation, since the reopening in September, 1945.⁶⁸

In the late 1940's, one of the most impressive events in the life of the college took place every fall after the opening of school. The following is a sketch of this event:

Time marches on! And so does Bethel. The Past and Present unite to fashion the future. When a noble Past is happily joined to a worthy Present in the holy and abiding bonds of love and loyalty and friendship, then, indeed, is there a promise--yeah, more--there is a guarantee of a glorious Future--so reads the opening paragraph of the Friendship Ceremony. When Bethel was a college for young women, one of the loveliest events of the entire year was given at the opening of the fall semester. It was the Friendship Ceremony. At this time, the junior girls were presented the key to the college by the ladies of 1854.⁶⁹

Upon reaching the automatic retirement age, Dr. James resigned as president of Bethel in February, 1951.⁷⁰

⁶⁶Bethel College Bulletin, 1959-1960.

⁶⁷Bethel College Scrapbook, Kentucky New Era, September 14, 1949.

⁶⁸Ibid.

⁶⁹Anne Perrin (ed.), Bethel College Yearbook, The Scroll, 1957.

⁷⁰Bethel Scrapbook, op. cit., February 22, 1951.

In April, Dr. W. Edwin Richardson accepted the presidency of the college, effective June 1.⁷¹ Bethel's 16th president came from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee. He held the Bachelor of Arts degree from Mississippi College and the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.⁷² On Tuesday afternoon, November 20, 1951, the highlight of the year's activities took place when the president was inaugurated.⁷³

In September, 1951, Bethel Woman's College became coeducational. For the first time in 97 years, young men were allowed to attend regular classes as full-time students.

At least two major factors figured in the decision to make Bethel coeducational. Along with other colleges, the school was experiencing a decline in enrollment, largely because of a slump in the number of high school graduates over the country.

The other major factor was that there was no other Baptist college in West Kentucky. Boys who wanted to go to a Christian college had been going to eastern Kentucky or out of state. The charter was amended to take care of the necessary changes in the college function.⁷⁴

In the fall of 1951, the Bethel College Board of Trustees and the Christian County Baptist Association voted to transfer ownership of the college to the General Association of Baptists in Kentucky. The charter of the college was changed accordingly.⁷⁵ The Board at that time consisted of: Chairman Holland Garnett, Secretary O. L. Griffin, Treasurer

⁷¹Bethel Scrapbook, op. cit., April 12, 1951.

⁷²Gloria Kirksey (ed.), Bethel College Yearbook, The Scroll, 1954.

⁷³Bethel Scrapbook, op. cit., November 30, 1951.

⁷⁴Ibid., July 18, 1951.

⁷⁵W. E. Richardson, "A Brief Summary of Bethel College History," (Unpublished).

Frank H. Mason, Dr. Oscar Flener, Frank H. Bassett, Jr., H. E. Beebe, A. S. Koon, Gilmer Pursley, Rev. J. L. Robinson, and Pollard White.⁷⁶

Men were warmly received into the Bethel Family as this little poem indicates:

Bells of Bethel Chime
In Keeping with the time;
For school is here again--
But this year we have men!⁷⁷

Nine young men registered for the fall session in 1951. Six of the nine men were ministerial students; two were business students; and the other was in the associate in arts course.

The distinction of being the first man to receive a diploma from Bethel College went to Jack K. Downs. He was also the first man to register at the college after it became coeducational.⁷⁸

On February 1, 1952, Bethel College purchased the O. H. Anderson residence at 1515 South Main Street for conversion into a dormitory and it was later used as a music building. The cost of this property was \$14,500.

On February 15, the century and a quarter-old Hiram Phelps home at 1601 South Main Street was bought for \$20,000. It was converted into a men's dormitory and later used to house young women. Both of these homes were torn down in August, 1966.

In final settlement of the estate of the late Benjamin F. Carloss, Bethel College received \$30,000 by a bequest from the will of Mr. Carloss. Part of this money was applied to the debt remaining on the Phelps property. The home was named Carloss Hall in memory of Mr. Carloss.⁷⁹

⁷⁶Ann Abernathy, Kentucky New Era, October 14, 1952.

⁷⁷Bethel Scrapbook, op. cit., September 12, 1951.

⁷⁸Ibid., September 12, 1951.

⁷⁹Ibid., May 27, 1953.

Bethel College celebrated its 100th birthday on March 9, 1954. Dr. H. Franklin Paschall, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Bowling Green, was the guest speaker at the Founder's Day program.⁸⁰

Mr. Holland Garnett, long member of the Bethel College Board of Trustees, willed the college \$15,000 upon his death, March 15, 1955. This money was applied to the cost of the old Campbell home at 1623 South Main Street.⁸¹

In 1959, a \$60,000 brick veneer gymnasium was constructed at the rear of the Campbell property on South Main Street. The building contained a basketball court, locker and equipment rooms, and a classroom.⁸²

The college began a \$400,000 development program in December of 1959. The funds collected were to provide for the construction of four new buildings in the greatest expansion program in the school's history. The drive did not reach its goal.⁸³

On March 23, 1960, Dr. Richardson submitted his resignation to the Board of Trustees to become effective August 1. He became head of the department of Bible at Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tennessee.⁸⁴

The announcement was made on April 18, 1960, that William E. Burton, dean of Bethel since 1947, had been named as president of the college. He assumed the office on August 1, 1960. A native of Taylor

⁸⁰Bethel Scrapbook, op. cit., March 9, 1954.

⁸¹Ibid., March 23, 1955.

⁸²Ibid., July 15, 1959.

⁸³Ibid., March 24, 1960.

⁸⁴Kentucky New Era, March 24, 1960.

County, Kentucky, Mr. Burton received the B.A. degree from Georgetown College in 1927 and the M.A. degree from the University of Kentucky in 1936.⁸⁵

The number of trustees had increased to 24 in 1960, including: Chairman Frank H. Bassett, Jr., D. Judson Ellis, Secretary Cy Williamson, Jr., A. S. Koon, Rev. J. H. Maddox, Gene Myres, Jack D. Sanford, M. G. Williams, Morris J. Wilson, Graham Harvey, Henry Leavell, Lawrence Martin, Victor Watts, Pollard White, Norman Ellis, H'Earl Evans, H. O. Price, Robert L. Robertson, Jesse S. Bell, H. E. Camp, K. O. Cayce, Jr., Russell Croft, D. Perry Ginn, and Henry E. Hudson.⁸⁶

President Burton led Bethel College through one very successful year, but resigned in September, 1961, to become Superintendent of Schools in Corbin, Kentucky. The Board of Trustees set out immediately to secure a successor. As the school year had already begun and a replacement could not be found, the trustees appointed Dean Mark J. Lowry to the position of acting president until the position could be filled. Dr. Lowry filled the office in a very capable manner until October, 1962, when a successor was named.⁸⁷

In 1962, the college conducted a fund raising campaign to raise \$250,000. The drive was held to raise badly needed funds to improve the physical plant, purchase equipment, and continue to upgrade the faculty. When the campaign closed \$205,000 had been raised: \$82,809 in cash, \$132,810 in pledges, notes, securities, property, and materials.⁸⁸

⁸⁵ Kentucky New Era, April 18, 1960.

⁸⁶ Bethel College Catalog, 1961.

⁸⁷ Kentucky New Era, October 5, 1962.

⁸⁸ Ibid., March 10, 1963.

The Board elected Dr. P. Harris Anderson as President of Bethel College in October, 1962. Born in China of Baptist missionary parents, he held degrees from Mercer University and the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Inauguration ceremonies were held in the main auditorium on March 29, 1963.⁸⁹

A long awaited dream was fulfilled in the spring of 1963 when the college purchased the old McPherson home on 17th Street for \$25,000. A great asset to the college was this two-story brick mansion with its columned portico. This mansion would serve as the president's home.⁹⁰

When plans were announced in the fall of 1963 to build the University of Kentucky Community College in Hopkinsville, Bethel officials started a campaign to move the college from this community. Some Bethel trustees feared the area could not support two colleges. Bethel enrollment had risen to 209 students with the opening of school in September, 1963. Plans were undertaken by the Board to interest another western Kentucky city in raising funds to locate Bethel there. Such cities as Mayfield, Madisonville, Princeton, and Paducah were under consideration.⁹¹

Another plan was suggested when consideration was given to acquiring a 100-acre tract of land on the Pembroke Road. An amount of between \$500,000 and \$750,000 was needed locally to help pay for the developing of the new campus. The old campus site did not afford enough room for the needed expansion.⁹²

⁸⁹ Kentucky New Era, October 5, 1962.

⁹⁰ Ibid., October 10, 1963.

⁹¹ Ibid., December 18, 1963.

⁹² Ibid., December 19, 1963.

In December, 1963, Bethel College was placed on probation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Deficiencies in library, laboratory and physical facilities, and the general instability of the institution were the reasons given for the action.⁹³

Representatives of 21 Baptist Associations met in Princeton in late January, 1964, to determine interest in saving the college--then five score and ten years old. Consideration was also given for the logical site for relocation. The meeting failed to turn up any firm evidence of adequate financial support to keep the institution in operation.⁹⁴

On January 26, 1964, the Christian County Baptist Association gave up their claim to the Bethel College property. Title to all assets of the college reverted to the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The change in the college charter was requested to meet an estimated \$40,545 operating deficit for the 1963-1964 school year.⁹⁵

By the first of February, 1964, the trustees had received no offers from western Kentucky cities inviting the school to move to their area. One last attempt for keeping Bethel open was made on February 4 when the trustees asked Georgetown College officials to take over the college as a two-year branch of Georgetown. Dr. Robert L. Mills and a committee from Georgetown College visited the Bethel campus to survey the possibility. It was determined that Georgetown College was in no position to take over an institution that was operating at a deficit.⁹⁶

⁹³ Kentucky New Era, December 22, 1963.

⁹⁴ Ibid., January 28, 1964.

⁹⁵ Ibid., January 27, 1964.

⁹⁶ Ibid., January 28, 1964.

The death knell was sounded on March 17, 1964, when the Bethel trustees voted unanimously in favor of closing the financially troubled Baptist Junior College. The completion of that school year would mean the end of an institution that had contributed richly to the community for one hundred and ten years. Plans were made to sell the seven-acre campus and its thirteen buildings under a liquidation program to be administered by the Kentucky Baptist Convention. The trustees continued in office throughout the period of disposition of the school's assets and liabilities. The formal closing of Bethel College came on July 31, 1964, the end of the school's fiscal year.⁹⁷

On Sunday afternoon, May 31, 1964, the final commencement exercises were held in the college auditorium. At this 104th commencement, forty-six students were awarded diplomas. The notes of the "Alma Mater" sounded across the gathered assembly from the newly installed pipe organ as the procession left the auditorium.⁹⁸

The members of the Board of Trustees in 1964 were: Chairman Curtis Erwin, Dr. Gabe Payne, D. Judson Ellis, Dr. W. C. Lindley, Rev. Gene Myers, Dr. Franklin Owen, M. G. Williams, Dr. Morris Wilson, Owen Billington, Mrs. J. G. Blane, Sr., Rev. Denzel Dukes, Rev. Wesley O. Hanson, Rev. Earl Northern, Rev. J. V. Case, Jr., H'Earl Evans, William S. Howlett, Rev. John Huffman, and R. W. Walter Warmath.⁹⁹

A public auction was held on July 8, 1964, to sell the college furniture. A large crowd attended as such items as clocks, mirrors,

⁹⁷ Kentucky New Era, July 31, 1964.

⁹⁸ Ibid., June 1, 1964.

⁹⁹ Bethel College Catalog, 1964.

tables, and other valuable antiques were auctioned to the community's people who held a strong tie with the old school.¹⁰⁰

Between 1964 and the spring of 1966, the Bethel Board of Trustees made attempts to dispose of the college property. Various organizations showed slight interest in developing the campus. Thought was given to a military school, a shopping center, or a federal housing project as a home for the aged.

Announcement was made on March 3, 1966, that the Trustees had sold the main campus to a group of local businessmen. The group, including Dr. Gabe Payne, Duard Thurman, Joe Rose, and T. George Harris, made plans to build a 64-bed convalescent hospital on the Bethel site. The hospital would provide professional nursing care to patients during the period between intensive hospitalization and the return to normal, active life. The hospital, known as the Hopkinsville Medi-Center, was built on a five-acre section of the campus facing 17th Street. It was built to accentuate connection with Jennie Stuart Memorial Hospital.¹⁰¹

In April and May of 1966, the historic administration building, along with the dormitory wings and the auditorium, was razed to make way for the Medi-Center. The brick from these buildings would be used in the construction of the New Hopkinsville Medi-Center. Physical influence of the old college buildings ended on May 24, 1966, when the four brick-constructed ionic columns were pulled down, but the cultural and social influence of stately Bethel College would extend into the coming generation.

¹⁰⁰Kentucky New Era, July 8, 1964.

¹⁰¹Ibid., March 3, 1966.

CHAPTER IV

HOPKINSVILLE (M & F) COLLEGE

For three quarters of a century, Hopkinsville Male and Female College has occupied a picturesque hill-top campus site in northeast Hopkinsville where it has offered Negro students an opportunity for religious and business training. Throughout the years it has been owned and financially supported by the First District Baptist Association and the Little River Baptist Association. The overall purpose of the school has been a response to the local needs of ministerial and teacher training and it has never undertaken to achieve formal accreditation. The college has never received outside support other than individual gifts.¹

The school was founded at a meeting of the First District Baptist Association in session with the Green Valley Baptist Church at Clinton, Hickman County, Kentucky, in September, 1883. A resolution, which called for the establishment of a school, later named the South Western Kentucky Institute, was offered by the Rev. O. Durrett, D.D. The resolution read:

WHEREAS, We keenly feel and realize our great need for better teachers and preachers from an educational viewpoint; and WHEREAS the distance to the schools already in existence is so great that many are hindered from attending them, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the First District Baptist Association found a college somewhere within its boundary.²

The Little River and Cumberland Valley Baptist Association united with the First District Baptist Association in 1889 physically to establish

¹Frank Thomas, Age 53, Personal Interview, April 18, 1973.

²Hopkinsville (M & F) College Catalog, 1910.

the college which had been created six years before. A board of directors consisting of the Revs. George W. Dupee, D.D., E. Williams, D.D., and P. D. Skinner, D.D., was appointed in 1890. These men inaugurated a campaign to raise funds for the purchase of a college site in Hopkinsville.³

On January 2, 1893, a Hopkinsville real estate developer, James Bradshaw, sold to the Directors of the South Western Kentucky Institute four acres of land situated between Vine and Williams Streets. Of the \$1,600 purchase price, the Directors paid \$1,000 in cash on the day of the sale and the remaining \$500 on January 1, 1894.⁴ The campus site was located on a rolling hill overlooking beautiful Blue Lake and a rugged limestone bluff beyond.

In 1895, through the efforts of a new Board of Trustees, a fund raising campaign was started for the erection of a new building. The new Board included the following ministers: George W. Dupee, D.D., E. Williams, D.D., O. Durrett, D.D., William B. Foster, B.D., James L. Allensworth, and P. T. Bronaugh, of the First District Baptist Association, and W. T. Silvey, D.D., G. W. Darden, A.A., J. E. Ladd, B. McNary, M. S. Jenkins, and B. J. Garrott, of the Little River and Cumberland Valley Baptist Association.⁵

The filing of the Articles of Incorporation on July 26, 1899, legally instituted the school under the name of Hopkinsville (M & F) College. The articles read as follows:

³Prospectus of M & F College, 1952.

⁴Christian County Court Clerk Records, Deed Book 84, p. 450.

⁵Hopkinsville (M & F) College Catalog, 1910.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF HOPKINSVILLE (M & F) COLLEGE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That we, the undersigned do hereby associate ourselves together as representatives of the FIRST DISTRICT COLORED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION and the LITTLE RIVER COLORED BAPTIST ASSOCIATION, as a body corporate under and by virtue of the laws of the State of Kentucky, as set forth in Kentucky Statutes, sections 879 and 880, for the purpose of carrying on a college or public institution for the education of the colored race, and do on this day adopt the following ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, to-wit:

FIRST: The name of said association shall be:
Hopkinsville (M & F) College.

SECOND: The location of said college shall be in the city of Hopkinsville, county of Christian, and state of Kentucky, and the college building to be situated on four acres of ground in the said city conveyed heretofore by proper deed from James Bradshaw to G. W. Dupee, P. D. Skinner, and E. Williams, for the Western Kentucky Institute.

THIRD: The object of said institution shall be for the education of young men and women of the colored race.

FOURTH: Said institution shall be governed by a board of trustees, consisting of thirteen (13) members, seven (7) of whom shall be elected by the First District Colored Baptist Association and six (6) of whom shall be elected by the Little River and Cumberland Valley Colored Baptist Association at their regular meeting.

FIFTH: The term of office of said trustees shall be: Two trustees from each of the said associations shall be elected for a term of two years; three trustees from the said First District Association shall be elected for a term of four years and two trustees from said Little River and Cumberland Valley Association shall be elected for a term of four years; and two trustees from each of said associations shall be elected for a term of six years.

SIXTH: Said Board of Directors shall elect from their number a chairman, a secretary, and a treasurer, the term of office of each to be one year; such election of officers to be held at the regular meeting of said board of each and every year.

SEVENTH: The treasurer of said board of trustees shall give good and sufficient bond for all funds coming into his hands, which bond shall be made and approved by said board of trustees before said treasurer shall enter upon the duties of his office.

EIGHTH: The chairman of the board of trustees shall be present at and preside over the meetings of said board, and when the said chairman is absent the secretary shall call the meeting to order and the board shall elect a chairman pro-tempore to preside.

NINTH: The Secretary shall be present at and keep the minutes of the meetings and deliberations of said Board of Trustees and shall take account of all moneys received and issue vouchers upon the treasurer for all moneys paid out, which vouchers shall be valid only after being countersigned by the Chairman of the said Board.

TENTH: The Chairman of said Board shall be officially a resident of the city of Hopkinsville, Kentucky, which is the principal place of business of this college.

ELEVENTH: Said Board of Trustees shall meet on the first Wednesday in each month and shall transact such business as may regularly come before it, and shall be empowered to make such rules and regulations for the control of said institution as may seem best in their deliberations.

TWELFTH: All property, both real, personal and mixed, which shall come into the possession of said institution, whether by deed, will, purchase or gift shall be held, managed and controlled for the use and benefit of said corporation by said Board of Trustees.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF we have hereunto set our hands, this twenty-sixth day of July in the year of our Lord, Eighteen Hundred and Ninety-Nine.

Edward Williams, Chairman
 P. H. Kennedy
 J. E. Ladd, Treasurer
 J. S. Kirby
 M. S. Jenkins
 James L. Allensworth
 J. J. McCutchen
 J. W. Hawkins
 William H. Leavell
 G. W. Darden
 D. W. Crenshaw
 C. T. Vaughn
 W. T. Silvey⁶

In the fall of 1899, a college building was erected on the Vine Street campus. This structure, which stood for thirty-five years, was a

⁶Christian County Court Clerk Records, Articles of Incorporation Book 1, p. 361-363.

two-story frame building, forty by ninety feet. The first floor contained a combination auditorium-chapel, forty by fifty feet, four classrooms, office, kitchen, and a hall. A stairway was located at each end of the hall. The second floor was used as a dormitory, seven rooms on the men's hall, and ten rooms on the women's hall. A handsome cupola above the roof added a distinctive character to the building.⁷

Hopkinsville (M & F) College opened in the early spring of 1900 with Rev. A. C. Schoffner, A.M., selected as the first president. He served only one term. When the school opened, the first stated purpose appeared.

The College is established for the purpose of training children in the way they should go; preparing young men and young women for business life, teachers and preachers for better and more effective service in their calling.⁸

The College made its greatest progress under the wise and efficient management of President Patterson Tilford Frazer, A.B., A.M. "The Professor," as he was affectionately known, served from August, 1900, until around 1920. Upon his arrival the new president assembled a faculty consisting of seven instructors, and he established a curriculum including: Model School, Teacher Course, Music, Business, College Preparatory, Dress-Making and Ministerial. The faculty included: Professor Patterson Frazer, Languages, Mathematics, and Science; Mrs. Laura T. Frazer, Dress-Making and English; Rev. N. B. Bronaugh, Theology; Miss Mary E. Burse, Music; Miss Mary Samuels, Model School; Miss Lois K. Tyler, Philosophy, Geography, and History; and J. R. Duncan, M.D., Anatomy and Physiology.⁹

⁷ Mrs. R. D. Ladd, Age 71, Personal Interview, April 10, 1973.

⁸ Hopkinsville (M & F) College Catalog, 1910.

⁹ Ibid.

The College expenses included the following in 1910:

Board, per month	\$7.00
Tuition - Model School, per month	1.00
Tuition - Preparatory Department, per month	1.50
Tuition - Teacher's Course, per month	2.00
Tuition - Instrumental Music, per month	2.00
Tuition - Dress-Making, per month	2.50
Tuition - Business, per month	3.00 ¹⁰

A school day at the College sixty years ago began at 5:00 A.M. with the rising bell. Chapel attendance was required at 8:30 each day and classes were conducted from 9:00 until 12:00. Recitations and industrial work were held in the afternoon. Study was the "order of the evening," with "lights out" at 10:00 P.M.

Rules and regulations were very much a part of college life. The association of opposite sexes was strictly forbidden, and no communication, whether verbal or written, was allowed except by permission. All students were required to have a song book and Bible, and to attend all chapel services. The girls were required to wear a uniform which conformed to the following description:

Blue trimmed with red. The skirt is seven gored with three rows of red seven inches from bottom of hem. The waist requires a square sailor collar with a tie.¹¹

Enrollment at the College during the first decade of its operation ranged from fifty to one hundred students. In 1910, twenty-six children were attending the Model School and sixty students were enrolled in the College Department.

In the years following the retirement of Professor Patterson, a number of presidents came to serve--each giving of his own talents. Dr. William Foster served a few months until the Trustees selected Mrs. Lillie

¹⁰ Hopkinsville (M & F) College Catalog, 1910.

¹¹ Ibid.

Fisher Brent to head the school. Other presidents included: Professor R. M. Small, Professor Willis Braxton, Dr. W. K. Moorland, Rev. Timberlake, Rev. William H. Leavell, Rev. John M. Stevenson, Rev. V. W. McLawler, Rev. V. A. Edwards, Rev. J. T. Ridley, Rev. Austin Bell, Rev. W. K. Seals, and Rev. Rafael Sanford who died in office in February, 1973. The Board of Trustees appointed Rev. Alonzo T. Kendrick as Acting President for the remainder of the spring term.¹²

A local newspaper featured a description of social events at Hopkinsville (M & F) College in the closing days of Professor Frazer's administration.

The Valentine Social given by the students on last Friday afternoon was quite a success. A Post Office, with Mr. Elliott Tuisley as Post Master, was in operation and many pieces of mail passed through his hands.

"The Old District School" will be rendered by the students on February 28. If you miss this play, you will miss two of the most cheerful hours of your life. Admission 15¢ and 10¢.¹³

Hopkinsville (M & F) College, not unlike other educational institutions, experienced difficulty in continuing operation during the depression years of the 1930's. In fact, an action of the natural elements one spring night in that decade nearly forced the school to close permanently. On the night of May 2, 1935, a severe wind storm swept through Hopkinsville and blew down the College building.¹⁴ This event was described later by an occupant of the building and a survivor.

¹²Mrs. Mary Winn, Age 90, Personal Interview, April 9, 1973.

¹³The Little Courant, (Newspaper), February 22, 1919.

¹⁴Kentucky New Era, May 3, 1935.

Thursday morning, May 2, when we arose, the weather was sulky and cloudy, and the wind was high all day. About 8:30 P.M., a gust of wind came and with it a loud noise and the building began to shake. At that time we attempted to leave our rooms on the second floor but we found the front stairway gone. Rev. Ladd jumped from the upstairs hall to the floor next to the kitchen and he called for us to jump also. As I started a nail caught my clothes and I went round and round like a spinning top, but when the lightning flashed, my clothes pulled loose and I fell in Rev. Ladd's arms. We started out by the way of the office, but it was blocked with brick and plastering. The lightning flashed again and we could see the side of the kitchen was laid back like an open suit case. We got to the outside through the kitchen.

The next morning we came to see the place where the Lord had so mercifully spared our lives. In the debris we found one of the Bibles opened at Psalms 118 and were impressed to read the twenty-third and twenty-fourth verses. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."¹⁵

Plans were developed immediately for the construction of a new college building, but the shortage of funds made this impossible for around three years. In 1938 or 1939, a building contractor and stone mason, Sam L. Steward, supervised construction of the present college building. The stone structure contained an auditorium and two classrooms on the second floor and two classrooms, a kitchen, and a dining room on the first floor.¹⁶

In 1952, Hopkinsville (M & F) College published its most recent catalog. The faculty at that time consisted of Vinson Allen Edwards, Pastoral Theology; Kate S. Atkins, Commercial; William P. Thurman, Homiletics; J. J. Jenkins, Bible; and Eleanora W. Starks, Missions and Religious Education. The curriculum was reorganized with the offering of the following courses: Bible, Christian Theology, Sermon Preparation

¹⁵ Mrs. R. D. Ladd, Age 71, Personal Interview, April 19, 1973.

¹⁶ Alonzo T. Kendrick, Age 53, Personal Interview, April 3, 1973.

and Delivery, Missions and Religious Education, Sociology, Pastoral Theology, English, Typewriting, Shorthand, and Secretarial Practice. Tuition was \$5.00 a month for each course.¹⁷

In the early 1960's, a movement was started to gain support for a suggested move to change the name of the College. The prevailing belief was that a name more closely related to the function of the school would be of greater benefit. Through the years the college had gradually developed into an institution committed to the education of ministers and Christian Workers. Accordingly, on November 4, 1965, the Articles of Incorporation were amended to read, "the name of said college shall be the Hopkinsville College of the Bible."¹⁸

The college curriculum was reorganized into three departments: Commercial, Mission Work, and Ministerial Instruction. The 1972-1973 academic year operated on a ten-month schedule with an enrollment of 55 students, most of them attending night classes. Tuition remained at \$5.00 per month. The faculty included: Alonzo T. Kendrick, A. R. Lasley, and B. F. Green in Ministerial Instruction; Mary Ann Tooley, Mission Work; Kate S. Atkins, Commercial; and Samella Brown, English.¹⁹

The number of trustees in 1973 remained at thirteen. Members of the Board at that time included the following ministers: Chairman B. F. Green, Secretary C. E. Bagwell, Treasurer A. R. Lasley, H. B. Taylor, Austin Bell, A. T. Kendrick, S. L. Croney, A. D. McCombs, H. E. Dillard, N. A. Kirby, Willie Neal, E. D. Radford, and C. D. Martin.²⁰

¹⁷Prospectus of M & F College, 1962.

¹⁸Christian County Court Clerk Records, Articles of Incorporation, Book 6, p. 463.

¹⁹Kendrick, loc. cit.

²⁰A. R. Lasley, Age 66, Personal Interview, April 9, 1973.

The purpose of the College remained essentially the same in 1973 as was originally intended in the motion of O. Durrett in 1883:

"to serve individuals, families, churches, and district associations in West Kentucky in the following areas:

1. Religious Leadership Training
2. A Religious Center of Inspiration and Information
3. Strengthen Christian Fellowship among the Churches Generally and Particularly Baptist Churches."²¹

²¹Prospectus of M & F College, 1952.

Chapter V

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY HOPKINSVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The most critical problems with which contemporary education must deal are social, rather than physical, in character. They are rooted in the relations existing among men and societies, rather than in man's relations to his natural environment. Of transcendent importance is the problem of achieving lasting peace with justice in a world torn between conflicting ideologies, one based upon freedom and dignity of the individual, and the other dedicated to the supremacy of the state. Closely entwined with this urgent international challenge is the national need to strengthen our political and economic institutions within a framework of democratic values, so that the United States can fulfill its moral and material responsibilities as leader of the free world.¹

Within this framework, it speaks well for the people of Christian County to bring to a reality the philosophy and goals that are so widely respected.

President Truman's Commission on Higher Education pointed out in 1947 the great need for the two-year college and suggested the name "community college" be applied to the institution designed to serve chiefly local community educational needs. These needs have become more apparent since World War II. A need existed for some education beyond high school other than the four-year college. Business and industry expressed a plea for workers trained beyond the secondary level. A potential housing shortage on university campuses across the land was making higher education within commuting distance of a greater segment of

¹B. Lamar Johnson, California Study of General Education in Junior Colleges, (Washington, D.C.: American Council on Education, 1952), p. 15.

the population an imminent necessity. The community college idea seemed to bridge the traditionally weak link between the comprehensive high school and advanced level of university study.²

Community colleges could provide for increasing college enrollments. By 1962, there were more than 700 such institutions, an increase from about ten in the early 1900's. At the present time, one out of every four students entering college enrolls in a community college, and one million were enrolled in 1962. Educational leaders were expanding these colleges with the goal of putting higher education within financial and commuting reach of the entire college-age population of the United States.³

As the decade of the 1960's dawned, university centers in Kentucky served some of the functions generally attributed to community colleges, but their programs were closely related to the parent institution. The institution which was to become Northern Community College had been established in Covington in 1948. Eight others were to be formed: Ashland Community College had been formed in 1957; Fort Knox Community College, 1958; and Henderson Community College and Southeast Community College at Cumberland, 1960. Elizabethtown and Prestonburg Community Colleges were established in 1964, and Somerset and Hopkinsville Community Colleges and the Technical Institute at Lexington in 1965.⁴

Community colleges in Kentucky occupied an interesting position, with university memberships on the one hand and community orientation on the

²University of Kentucky Bulletin, Community College System,
(Lexington, October, 1965), p. 9.

³Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Washington Report,
(Washington, D.C., January, 1963).

⁴University of Kentucky Bulletin, loc. cit.

other. Each college was an integral part of the university with the same standards of admission as applied to the parent institution. And, each college, through its local advisory board and other ties, related itself to the needs of the community.

The community colleges had been charged with three functions:

1. The first was to offer transfer curricula for those who wish to complete the first two years of a baccalaureate program.
2. A second obligation was that the offering of two-year terminal programs designed to prepare the student for immediate employment on a technical or semi-professional level.
3. Finally, the community colleges were to provide continuing educational opportunities for the citizens of their immediate area.

A director was responsible for general administration of each community college. He was assisted by a bursar-recorder, a full-time faculty and staff, and several part-time instructors.

Local advisory boards in the respective communities and the Faculty Advisory Committee on Community Colleges in Lexington was to counsel with the administration of the Community College System.⁵ Members of the Hopkinsville Community College Advisory Board were: William G. Deatherage as Chairman, Louis B. Langhi, Frank B. Lacy, III, George Street Boone, Smith D. Broadbent, III, W. W. Bryan, and Mrs. W. D. Talbert.⁶ Governor Bert Combs appointed this Board in 1962 with the exception of Mrs. W. D. Talbert. Her husband, William D. Talbert, was appointed original Chairman of the Board. Upon Mr. Talbert's death in 1965, William G. Deatherage was appointed Chairman and Mrs. Talbert was placed on the Board.

⁵University of Kentucky Bulletin, loc. cit.

⁶W. D. Talbert, Personal Papers, (Unpublished).

The Hopkinsville Community College had its official beginning in Senate Bill No. 102 which passed March 15, 1960. This bill primarily provided for the establishment of an Extension Center at Elizabethtown, but Section 3 of this bill read as follows:⁷

Section 3. There is hereby created a Commission of five qualified persons appointed by the Governor to study the needs for and placement of additional universities, colleges, and off-campus centers which might best serve the Commonwealth, the types of programs they should encompass and the organizational pattern which would best insure their continuing contribution to the Commonwealth and the particular area served. The Commission will report to the Governor on or before July 1, 1961, in order that sufficient planning may be completed prior to the meeting of the 1962 General Assembly.⁸

The chairman of this committee appointed by Governor Combs was Dr. Otis C. Amis, father of Dr. Jack D. Amis, who now resides in Hopkinsville.⁹ Other members of the Governor's Commission were: W. R. Patterson, Louisville; Cloyd McDowell, Harlan; Maxon Price, Barlow; and R. V. May, Prestonsburg. This committee made a report on November 1, 1961, which contained the following statements and recommendations concerning Hopkinsville.

The Hopkinsville Area. In applying the criteria, using Hopkinsville, in Christian County, as the focal point for a circle with a radius of thirty miles, it was found that the population in Christian, Todd, Muhlenberg, Hopkins, Caldwell, and Trigg Counties were approximately 156,000. 1960 high school graduates in this area totaled about 1,400. This apparently would be a center that might be considered favorably by the State for the location of a regional college, even though the total number of high school graduates falls slightly below the suggested minimum of 1,500.

⁷W. D. Talbert, "Brief History of Hopkinsville Community College," (Unpublished).

⁸Report on the Findings and Recommendations of the Governor's Commission on the Study of Public Higher Education to the Honorable Bert T. Combs, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, (Frankfort, November 1, 1961).

⁹W. D. Talbert, Personal Papers, (Unpublished).

The Governor's Commission on the Study of Public Higher Education would recommend that Prestonburg, Hopkinsville, Somerset and Blackey-Hazard areas be given a priority arrangement for the establishment of a junior college. In establishing priorities, the first consideration should be given to Prestonburg because of the greater population and the greater number of high school graduates. It is apparent from the study made that Prestonburg could eventually grow into more than a junior college. Recent efforts of one of the State colleges in the development of extension classes and an extension program centered at Prestonburg attracted from 200 to 400 students who were immediately interested in the courses offered. This would further corroborate the findings of this commission.

Second in priority as a probable center for a regional junior college should be Hopkinsville. This is based on the fact that Hopkinsville is at least fifty to sixty-five miles from any State facility or institution of higher learning and is not in proximity to private colleges, except for the Bethel Junior College, a Baptist school, which is located in Hopkinsville, with limited facilities and limited resources for expansion.

The State should establish priorities for the development of regional junior colleges at Prestonburg, Hopkinsville, Somerset, and, perhaps, Hazard in this order. These new institutions should be built, maintained, and operated at the expense of the State of Kentucky. This does not mean that localities may not make financial or property contributions to these institutions but these should not be made as inducements to bring the institutions to their respective localities. No new institution of higher learning should be located in an area unless there is definite evidence of local desire for the location of the school in the given area.¹⁰

The next step toward the realization of the Hopkinsville Community College was reached with the passage of House Bill No. 234, February 14, 1962. Before the bill is presented, a view must be taken of the effort to get it through the legislature.¹¹

¹⁰Governor's Report, loc. cit.

¹¹W. D. Talbert, Personal Papers, (Unpublished).

From the very beginning of the Community College movement as suggested by the Governor's Commission on Public Higher Education in 1961, Governor Bert T. Combs gave his full support to the plan. On December 12, 1961, on the eve of the 1962 Legislative Session, Governor Combs heartily endorsed the proposed establishment of state-supported junior colleges. He stated at the time that he would ask the General Assembly to develop a plan and timetable for financing and opening the two-year junior colleges.¹²

The Community College Bill passed in the house with only small opposition. The main contention centered around the representatives from the communities which then contained state colleges. Fear existed that the money needed to start the Community College System would drain the budget received by the state colleges.¹³ The bill passed in the Senate with only two negative votes. Voting against the bill were Senators George Overby and Shelby Kinhead. Kinhead, Democrat from Lexington, offered no explanation, but Overby, Democrat of Murray, said that for various reasons he had been restrained from supporting this legislation. He cast a negative vote with reluctance.¹⁴ The same basic opposition existed with these senators that had occurred in the house.¹⁵

The Community College Bill was passed by the lower house on February 14, 1962, by a vote of 86 to 4. The bill was approved by the Senate with a vote of 32 to 1 on February 21, 1962, and signed by

¹²Kentucky New Era, December 12, 1961.

¹³Dr. Thomas L. Riley, Age 39, Personal Interview, June 23, 1966.

¹⁴Kentucky New Era, February 22, 1962.

¹⁵Riley, loc. cit.

Governor Bert T. Combs on March 6, 1962.¹⁶
 follows:

House Bill No. 234 read as

Committee on Kentucky Statutes No. 3 reported the following bill which originated in the House, was ordered to be printed. An act relating to higher education.

WHEREAS, the need has been established for four additional Community Colleges.

NOW THEREFORE:

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. As used in this Act, unless the context requires otherwise, "Board" means the Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky.

Section 2. The University of Kentucky Community College System is established. Each Community College shall provide a two-year curriculum;

Section 3. A Community College shall be maintained in Ashland, Covington, Henderson, Cumberland and Elizabethtown, and the board shall convert any University facilities existing in these communities to the uses of the Community College System.

Section 4. There shall be established and maintained a Community College in each of the following locations: Prestonburg, Blackey-Hazard, Hopkinsville, Somerset, each to be established as funds are made available.

Section 5. (1) The board has the same powers with respect to the Community Colleges that it has as to the University of Kentucky in general. The board shall designate each Community College with a name that includes the words "Community College." (2) The board shall encourage and may accept funds or both to be used in the acquisition, construction or operation of Community Colleges. The board may commemorate donations from private persons or corporations with suitable memorials. (3) The board may accept Federal Grants to be used in the acquisition, construction or operation of Community Colleges.

Section 6. (1) The Governor shall appoint a local Advisory Board for each community college. Each local

¹⁶W. D. Talbert, Personal Papers, (Unpublished).

advisory board shall serve in an advisory capacity to the board and the head of the community college on the operation of the community college. (2) Each local advisory board shall consist of seven members. A member's term is four years; however, when appointing the initial members of the local advisory boards, the Governor may appoint some members for terms of less than four years. Local advisory board members shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be paid for their actual and necessary expenses.¹⁷

By these actions it would seem that Hopkinsville was soon to have a community college. However, there were many obstacles. First, President Dickey of the University of Kentucky was not too much in favor of community colleges and he took no active part in their creation. However, in 1962, he resigned as president and was succeeded by Dr. John W. Oswald.¹⁸ Dr. Oswald gave the Community College System his full backing, support and cooperation. He stated that he would "work very hard to make the community colleges a very important force in the state."¹⁹

Next, the community was notified that it must furnish the site, with utilities. Finally, the existence of Bethel College in Hopkinsville presented a problem.²⁰

Many committees visited Hopkinsville and many sites were considered including 70 acres on the Western State Hospital grounds, 50 acres on U.S. Highway 41A belonging to the Edmunds' heirs, 30 acres on the rear of Joe Fike's farm on U.S. Highway 68 West, and approximately 70 acres of Emmett Haydon's land immediately north of Christian County High School.²¹

¹⁷W. D. Talbert, Personal Papers, (Unpublished).

¹⁸W. D. Talbert, "Brief History of Hopkinsville Community College," (Unpublished).

¹⁹The Courier Journal, December 13, 1963.

²⁰W. D. Talbert, Personal Papers, (Unpublished).

²¹Talbert, "Brief History," loc. cit.

It was finally decided that the Haydon property would be most satisfactory for a community college because of its location near highways and the proximity to the Christian County High School acreage. Mr. Haydon asked \$1,000 per acre for the property, the same amount he had been paid for the Christian County High School land.²²

The action of the Bethel College Board of Trustees in March, 1964, acting to close the 110-year-old Baptist school removed the last large problem facing the establishment of the Hopkinsville Community College. The Bethel Board of Trustees held the belief that Hopkinsville and the surrounding community could not support two institutions of higher learning. University of Kentucky officials felt that the Community College would complement Bethel by offering courses not offered by Bethel.²³ The lack of financial stability and being placed on probation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools spelled the end of Bethel College in May, 1964.²⁴

On October 18, 1963, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Kentucky accepted a 66.3 acre site for the college and voted to go ahead with the construction.²⁵ The site chosen was the land belonging to Emmett Haydon adjacent to the Christian County High School property.²⁶ This action meant that Hopkinsville must raise the money to buy the property for the college. The Chamber of Commerce Planning Committee was appointed including W. D. Talbert, Frank Lacy,

²²W. D. Talbert, Personal Papers, (Unpublished).

²³Kentucky New Era, March 19, 1964.

²⁴Ibid., March 29, 1964.

²⁵The Courier Journal, October 18, 1963.

²⁶W. D. Talbert, Personal Papers, (Unpublished).

W. G. Deatherage, Louis Langhi, George Boone, Smith D. Broadbent, and John O. Metcalfe. An option for 120 days was exercised on the Haydon property and John Metcalfe agreed to act as chairman of the Fund Drive. It was decided to make a low pressure drive and to do as little as possible to aggravate the Bethel situation. As the Community Givers Fund Drive was underway, the committee did not wish to hurt it in any way.²⁷ The fund raising campaign was begun on December 9, 1963, and the goal was reached on February 15, 1964. The final amount donated was \$72,585.95. There were 71 contributors from Trigg County, 12 from Todd County, and 274 from Christian County, ranging from \$2 to \$7,000.²⁸

The Advisory Board purchased 66.3 acres of land from Emmett Haydon on December 23, 1963, at \$1,000 per acre. To complete the tract of land, 2.61 acres were bought from Waldo E. Adams for \$1 per acre on December 24, 1963. A balance of \$3,647.86 was still in the fund after paying various miscellaneous fund drive expenses, including surveying.²⁹

Deeds to all the property were given to the University of Kentucky on February 19, 1964. The land had cost \$66,632.61. Estimated cost of putting water and sewer lines to the property was \$50,000, making a total contribution by the community of about \$120,000, not including streets, electric power, and gas. This action was taken by the City of Hopkinsville.³⁰

²⁷ Kentucky New Era, December 9, 1963.

²⁸ W. D. Talbert, "Brief History of Hopkinsville Community College," (Unpublished).

²⁹ W. D. Talbert, Personal Papers, (Unpublished).

³⁰ Kentucky New Era, February 20, 1964.

In groundbreaking ceremonies at the college site on September 2, 1964, Governor Edward T. Breathitt said, "All of you here will be touched by the influence of this college as it broadens the opportunity of the community, enriches its people with the imperishable and invaluable commodities of knowledge and understanding, and elevates its standards of citizenship and morality. I pledge to you (he told an audience of about 200) that I will do whatever is possible to speed the development of the college and make it a success. I hope you will avail yourselves of the services and the opportunities it offers. I hope you will welcome its faculty and staff and its out-of-town students. I hope you will make it an integral part of our community, a showplace for visitors, the pride of local residents, a center of culture and knowledge and a symbol of opportunity for all."³¹ Dr. John W. Oswald, President of the University of Kentucky, pointed out that the new extension would open as a part of the University's Centennial year celebration, beginning its first century as the parent university goes into its second century.

Among the dignitaries present for the ceremonies were: Major-General Beverly E. Powell, commanding general at Fort Campbell and the 101st Airborne Division; Dr. Ellis Hartford, dean of the UK Community Colleges; Dean R. D. Johnson, University Extension; Smith D. Broadbent, university trustee; Senator Owen Billington of Murray; Representatives John O. Hardin and James Bruce; Governor Edward T. Breathitt; and University of Kentucky President Dr. John W. Oswald. Mayor Ernest

³¹Kentucky New Era, September 2, 1964.

Lackey was master of ceremonies and music was furnished by the band from Christian County High School.³²

The University of Kentucky sold \$1 million in revenue bonds on September 10, 1964, to help construct community colleges at Hopkinsville and Somerset. A syndicate of five firms entered the lowest of four bids, offering a total of \$980,020, and an average interest rate of 3.74419%. Total interest, with coupons dated 1966 through 1989, would be \$574,059.50. Equitable Securities Corporation, Nashville, Tennessee, and Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, and Smith, New York City, headed the winning bidders. Associates included Stifel, Nicholas and Company, Louisville, and W. E. Hutton and Company, and Russell Long and Company, both of Lexington.³³

Low bid for the construction of the building was made by the Clark Construction Company of Owensboro, and work got underway in mid-September. The \$909,375 bid was for a modern architectural design of brick and steel construction. The structure, to contain 44,000 square feet of floor space, was to have fourteen regular classrooms, three science laboratories, study hall and library.³⁴ Lawrence Casner was the architect for the college building.³⁵

During the first six months of 1965, the University of Kentucky Hopkinsville Community College emerged from little more than the contractor's basement excavation to become a nearly-completed structure that was

³²Scrapbook, Hopkinsville Community College, Program for Ground-breaking Ceremonies.

³³The Courier Journal, September 10, 1964.

³⁴Kentucky New Era, November 5, 1964.

³⁵The Kentucky Architect, December, 1965, p. 19.

useful in its arrangement and beautiful in architectural design. Solid interest and support from the community developed as rapidly as the building itself. A vigorous faculty recruitment and selection made it possible to place highly-qualified instructors under contract for the first academic year. Recruitment had proceeded on the theory that an institution of higher learning can be no better than its instructional staff. Time and much care had been taken in the selection process.³⁶ Instructors appointed were in the fields of English, chemistry, business, accounting, history, mathematics, biology, and a librarian.³⁷

The Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Thomas L. Riley, a native of Carroll County, Kentucky, to become director of the college on February 1. Dr. Riley, who had broad experience in teaching and agricultural work, had been employed in Ohio State University's urban extension project in Cleveland. The director received the B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Kentucky, and the Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago. From 1952 to 1962, he had served as agricultural extension agent in Kenton County.³⁸

Temporary offices for the college were opened on February 1, 1965, on West Ninth Street. The need for the office existed in order that the director could assemble a staff and a faculty and make other preparations for the fall opening date of September 1. Interested community patrons visited the office for an explanation of the program to

³⁶Thomas L. Riley, "Activity Report of Hopkinsville Community College."

³⁷Scrapbook, Hopkinsville Community College.

³⁸Kentucky New Era, January 16, 1965.

be offered at the new school and applications for enrollment were accepted at the office.³⁹

On April 20, 1965, Dr. Riley announced that student applications for the opening of the fall semester had reached 100. The tuition fee for full-time resident students was \$125 per semester, while the fee for part-time resident students was \$11 per semester hour. For out-of-state students, the fee was \$310 per semester for full-time enrollment and \$28 per semester hour for part-time students.⁴⁰

In planning and arranging the curriculum, an emphasis had been placed on four separate yet interrelated phases. Plans were formulated for the liberal arts and sciences for students desiring transfer work; two-year academic courses of study for students desiring terminal associate degrees; credit and non-credit course work and activities of a continuing educational nature designed to meet needs and interests of adults; and lastly, the provision of facilities, publicity and other aid for the limited offering of upper division and graduate level course work to be offered by extension.⁴¹ Arrangements were also made to offer an associate degree in accounting. The curricula would include arts and sciences, agriculture and home economics, engineering, law, education, pharmacy, medicine, nursing, and dentistry.⁴²

During the summer of 1965, announcement was made of a number of advancements for the college. Modern science laboratory equipment was

³⁹The Courier Journal, February 1, 1965.

⁴⁰Kentucky New Era, April 20, 1965.

⁴¹Riley, loc. cit.

⁴²Kentucky New Era, April 20, 1965.

being installed as an electronics laboratory for instruction in Modern Foreign Language, speech, music appreciation, and shorthand. The library would acquire 2,600 volumes as well as equipment for microfilming of historical records, student records, and back periodicals. A telephone system would be tied into the public address equipment so that direct telephone lectures from Lexington campus and Vanderbilt University as well as other schools might be arranged. Outlets for closed-circuit television in all classrooms would also be available for instruction by this means.⁴³

In late August, 1965, the building was completed, and, on August 28, an open house was held for the public to view the new million-dollar structure. Approximately 1,000 persons attended the faculty reception and open house.⁴⁴

The structure the visitors viewed was a completely air-conditioned building that would offer exceptional educational facilities for its slightly over \$1,000,000 construction cost. The architect, working with a basic rectangular shape, created a structure with outside dimensions of 169' x 217'. The building included ample classroom space and also an assembly room (47' x 71') which could be opened to 70' x 71'. The structure also contained a library, food vending area, an administrative section, and 14 offices adjacent to classrooms. Classified as completely fireproof, the building had a reinforced concrete frame with exterior walls of ceramic-glazed brick. Interior walls were cement block, painted a soft shade of blue.

⁴³Riley, loc. cit.

⁴⁴Kentucky New Era, August 29, 1965.

Highlight of the exterior construction was the sawtooth roof, covering the entire inner core of the building, and its extension as a portico, sheltering the main entrance. Colored glass panels on both sides and ends of the raised room section created an unusual decorating effect both from the interior and exterior of the structure. Inside, this sawtooth effect provided another plus. Lighting fixtures had been installed so that they hung flush with the lowest part of the ceiling and the "V" shaped ceiling actually acted as a reflector for each indirect type of lighting unit installed in each "opening."

Two classrooms used folding partitions to subdivide them. One of these, next to the auditorium, also had a folding wall along the auditorium side of the room, so that the capacity of that room could be doubled. All rooms, both along the outer wall and the inner core, were accessible from a central hall which completely circled the building; ending or beginning as it were at the high sawtooth ceilinged foyer. This area was done in green ceramic fired brick. The auditorium and administration offices were immediately adjacent to this entry area. Truly this was an interesting example of modern architecture.⁴⁵

On September 1, 1965, "Opening Day" for the Hopkinsville Community College was held with a beginning enrollment of 300. Officials had not expected more than 175 students. The enrollment included more than 200 beginning full-time freshmen.⁴⁶ An administrative staff of six and a faculty of ten assumed the duties of the college operation.⁴⁷

⁴⁵The Kentucky Architect, loc. cit.

⁴⁶Kentucky New Era, September 2, 1965.

⁴⁷"Directory, Hopkinsville Community College," January, 1966.

A crowd of about 450 persons attended the dedication and Centennial Convocation of the University of Kentucky, Hopkinsville Community College on September 9, 1965. A recurring theme of remarks made by featured speakers was the continuing of a long cultural and academic tradition in Hopkinsville. Governor Edward T. Breathitt featured expectations of the continuing traditions of the community and the commonwealth when he said, "If Kentucky is to grow in wisdom and strength then we must continue to meet our challenges in higher education. This day in Hopkinsville's history will long be remembered because every person will be touched by the influence of this college as it elevates the standards of citizenship and broadens the commodities of knowledge." Dr. John W. Oswald, President of the University of Kentucky, stressed the activities highlighting the Centennial Year of the University. In his continuing remarks concerning the local institution, Dr. Oswald said, "The 332 members of the first class, the 16 members of the first faculty, the director, and the distinguished citizens of this community can take great pride in the dedication of this great institution as a preservation of sound academic tradition."⁴⁸

During the first year of the college operation much emphasis was placed on the development of student activities. Many of the students took the initiative in creating a number of organizations during the year. Before receiving official recognition, all the groups were required to have a faculty advisor, submit for faculty approval a constitution and by-laws, and a membership roster. Groups established during the first year were the following: Circle K Club, Co-Ed League, DeMolay Club, Baptist Student Union, Chess Club, and Honors Reading Group, and a student

⁴⁸Kentucky New Era, September 9, 1965

newspaper, The Community College Chronicle. The newspaper served a particularly useful role during the year. Effective communication with commuter students was one of the difficult problems of the community college. The student paper, well written and interesting, was widely read by all students.

The Student Council was organized with the goal in mind of providing a realistic means of giving the student body a voice in the administration of student affairs. The council was so planned as to give appropriate representation to all geographical areas served by the college. The council served not only as the means of expression of student interests, the "sounding board," but also as the coordinating group for all clubs, organizations, and student activities.

Admissions to the college the first year were of three types: freshmen, sophomore, and non-degree. Students interested in the non-degree program were classified as auditor, irregular, transient, or special student. Enrollment from Fort Campbell during the first year totaled nine students. They were a part of the Military General Education Development Program and received three-quarter tuition assistance from the U.S. Army.⁴⁹

The interest in and support of financing the College's scholarship program by local community and business leaders was outstanding during the academic year of 1965-1966. Qualified students in the area had access to a half-million dollar college student loan fund provided by local sources. These financial resources included the Elizabeth Stone Fund, the Rotary Student Loan Fund, and the First Baptist Church

⁴⁹Riley, loc. cit.

Fund. Some 35 Christian County students availed themselves of this local loan program during the first year.⁵⁰

The financial operation of the college was divided into four major areas. The four functional areas were administration, instruction, library, and maintenance and operation. The budget for 1965-1966 was \$172,000. This amount was abnormal because of initial needs for maintenance equipment and business machines. The funds for this budget were appropriated by the state legislature.⁵¹

After one year of operation, the many programs of the Hopkinsville Community College were well under way. The community of western Kentucky, the faculty and the staff, the student body, and the University of Kentucky were proud of the successful beginning of the college.⁵²

Every effort was made to involve and inform the community as planning for programs of the college progressed. The entire community had come to identify the college as "their community college." Solid and strong support was the result. Much credit for the support was due the advisory board for its untiring efforts in clearing away many potential hurdles for the college. Other community groups active in support were the agricultural planning committee and the business and professional people. A local University of Kentucky Alumni Club had shown active interest. Strong support of the college by this key leadership became a prime product of such organizational assistance.⁵³

⁵⁰Riley, loc. cit.

⁵¹Ibid.

⁵²Thomas L. Riley, Age 39, Personal Interview, June 23, 1966.

⁵³Riley, "Activity Report," loc. cit.

The involvement of the community, with its leaders in all phases of college work, beginning with the initial planning, was a great benefit. It is from the involvement of these various support groups that the college would achieve its greatest opportunities for service in the future.

The improvement of the Hopkinsville Community College in the years ahead is based on four specific aims:

1. A systematic and greatly strengthened program of academic affairs.
2. Informational programs designed to build and further strengthen a desirable "image" for the College.
3. Increased attention will be brought to the comprehensive nature of the College, with additional stress on the terminal, continuing education, and graduate offerings by Extension.
4. To explore all means possible to strengthen the Library's current holdings.⁵⁴

The lifeblood of the Community College will depend on community understanding, involvement, and support.⁵⁵

If we work upon marble, it will perish; if on brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon immortal minds, and imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and love of our fellow men, we engrave on those tablets something that will brighten to all eternity.

--Daniel Webster

⁵⁴Riley, "Activity Report," loc. cit.

⁵⁵Thomas L. Riley, Age 45, Personal Interview, June 23, 1972.

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

A. PRIMARY SOURCES

- Abernathy, Ann. Kentucky New Era. October 14, 1952.
- Alumni Bulletin of Bethel College. August, 1953.
- Anon. "History of Bethel College." Unpublished. 1944.
- Bethel College Catalog. 1875. 1899. 1961. 1964.
- Bethel Female College Catalog. 1884. 1888. 1892. 1903.
- Bethel Scrapbook. 1914 - 1960.
- Bethel Scrapbook. "Origin of Bethel College."
- Bethel Woman's College Catalog. 1918. 1927. 1936. 1942. 1946.
- Christian County Circuit Court Records, Court House, Hopkinsville, Kentucky.
- Christian County Court Clerk Records, Court House, Hopkinsville, Kentucky.
- Courier Journal, The. October 18, 1963 - February 1, 1965.
- "Directory," Hopkinsville Community College. January, 1966.
- Higgins, Shelia (ed.). The Scroll. Bethel College Yearbook. 1932.
- Hopkinsville Kentuckian. February 26, 1884 - May 24, 1912.
- Hopkinsville M & F College Catalog. 1910.
- Kendrick, Alonzo T. Age 53. Personal Interview. April 3, 1973.
- Kentucky Architect, The. December, 1965.
- Kentucky New Era. 1880 - 1966.
- Kirksey, Gloria (ed.). The Scroll. Bethel College Yearbook. 1954.
- Ladd, Mrs. R. D. Age 71. Personal Interview. April 10, 1973.
- Lasley, A. R. Age 66. Personal Interview. April 9, 1973.
- Little Courant, The. February 22, 1919.

Major, J. Brooks. "The Gleaner." Unpublished Quarterly. 1964.
 McCarroll, Joe. Age 79. Personal Interview. April 24, 1966.
 McLean College Yearbook. The 1913 Arrow.

Minutes. Bethel College Board of Trustees. March 6, 1857.

Perrin, Ann (ed.) The Scroll. Bethel College Yearbook. 1957.

Prospectus of M & F College. 1952.

Riley, Thomas L. "Activity Report of Hopkinsville Community College."
 January 1, 1965 - June 30, 1966.

Riley, Thomas L. Ages 39 and 45. Personal Interviews. June 23, 1966,
 and June 23, 1972.

Scrapbook. Hopkinsville Community College. January, 1965 - May, 1973.

South Kentucky College Catalog. 1904.

Talbert, W. D. "Brief History of Hopkinsville Community College."
 1960 - 1964. Unpublished.

Talbert, W. D. "Personal Papers." Unpublished.

Thomas, Frank. Age 53. Personal Interview. April 18, 1973.

Wicks, Mrs. Lena Jones. Age 77. Personal Interview. March 16, 1971.

Willis, Miss Georgia P. Age 85. Personal Interview. February 18, 1971.

Winn, Mrs. Mary. Age 90. Personal Interview. April 9, 1973.

B. SECONDARY SOURCES

Cox, Norman W. (ed.). Encyclopedia of Southern Baptists, Vol. 2.
 Nashville: Broadman Press, 1952.

Johnson, B. Lamar. California Study of General Education in Junior Colleges.
 Washington, D. C.: American Council on Education, 1952.

Masters, Frank M. A History of Baptists in Kentucky. Louisville: Baptist
 Historical Society, 1953.

Perrin, W. H. A History of Christian County, Kentucky. Louisville: F. A.
 Battey Publishing Company, 1884.

C. PERIODICALS

Craig, Coleman. The Western Recorder. December 15, 1949.

Magnolia, The. Bethel College Newspaper. September, 1859.

D. PAMPHLETS

Chamber of Commerce of the United States. Washington Report. Washington, D.C. January, 1963.

Report of the Findings and Recommendations of the Governor's Commission on the Study of Public Higher Education to the Honorable Bert T. Combs, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Frankfort. November 1, 1961.

University of Kentucky Bulletin, Community College System, 1965 - 1966. Lexington: University of Kentucky.