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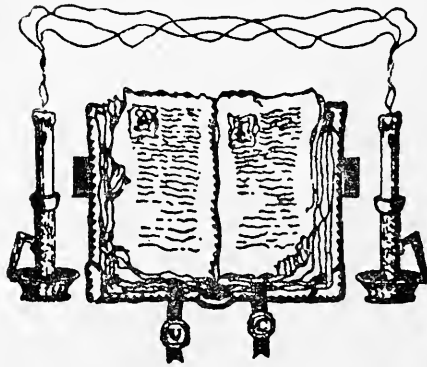
COLLEGE

1879-1954

BY

ERWIN S. BRADLEY

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1879-1954



UNION'S FIRST BUILDING
Erected 1880; destroyed by fire 1906

UNION COLLEGE

1879-1954

WRITTEN IN COMMEMORATION
OF THE
SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF ITS FOUNDING

By
ERWIN S. BRADLEY
UNION COLLEGE

Erwin S. Bradley



Published by
UNION COLLEGE
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To
KATHERINE VAN DEUSEN SUTPHEN
and
ALDIS B. EASTERLING

Foreword

THE STEERING COMMITTEE of the Diamond Jubilee Celebration Program strongly felt the need of a new and complete history of the first seventy-five years of Union College. The desire was to produce a history that will ever be authoritative, and that required exhaustive research into all available sources. The Committee did not have to go afield in search of a competent historian, for on the faculty was Erwin S. Bradley, Ph.D., Professor of History 1947- who was eminently qualified to write this seventy-fifth anniversary history of the college. On request of the Steering Committee, Dr. Bradley was designated by the college administration historian on part-time basis June to January 1953-54, and full time, February to June 1954. The result is the thrilling story contained in this volume.

The reader will be fascinated with several impressive and delightful qualities of the author's writings. His style is simple, direct, and concise. He chooses the best words always to express his meaning and never does he indulge in verbosity. He expresses his meaning and leaves it there. The author also exhibits a rare mastery of detail which makes his writings vibrant with life and enthusiasm. There is not a dry page in the volume. The historical facts become windows of insight into the active lives of Union's leaders and builders and into the moving events of progress of an institution. The struggle and daring of men and women of faith will constitute an abiding inspiration for the reader. The author has a knack at selecting human interest material that is almost uncanny. He recites incidents, for example, that I have known so well during my years on the campus, which in my experience never impressed me as worthy of incorporation into the written story, but, after reading such incidents I then felt they could not have been omitted from the record without certain loss. Then again when the reader has finished the volume, there will linger in the mind a feeling of gratitude to the author for his rare sense of significance of events in the story he recites. For example, in his chapter titles there is in each an appraisal of the significance of that period to the entire history of the institution. All along, there is this masterful work of evaluating the meaning of events and this is all done so well that the reader imbibes a sense of the dignity, bigness, and far-reaching influence of the on-going movement of a college, small if

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measured by statistics, but big if seen in all its chain of human significance.

The private institution of higher education on the American scene in 1954 faces a most critical situation. These colleges are fighting for their existence and no one will hazard a guess as to the outcome. This crisis relates to the financial security of this large group of several hundred private colleges. Most of these are related to religious bodies. The high cost of operation, the low income from invested funds, the problem of plant expansion at excessive building costs, a temporary enrollment decline, serious disadvantage in personnel salary standards in a competitive market of salary inflation, and the drying up of most sources of large gifts through an almost confiscatory taxation—these, with others, threaten to drive private colleges out of the business of education of our American youth today. Certainly hard times are upon our independent colleges, but it must be remembered that they were born in adversity and struggle has been their atmosphere.

A crisis means both a danger and an opportunity. This opportunity of crisis is beginning to develop in our times regarding the plight of private education. Among the Churches which maintain colleges of Christian learning there is a renaissance of responsibility for their colleges. Financial support is on the climb, and the end is not yet. The logic is taking hold of church people that they must adequately support their colleges. Also an entirely new source of financial support of these private colleges is developing. The business world is mulling over the relation of private enterprise and private education. The conviction is growing that one is essential to the other in a free society. Corporation executives are sensing a corporate responsibility for maintaining private higher education in this country in order that public education may have the salutary check of the dual system of education and thus a democratic society may be preserved. Expressing this new hope for corporate support of private college education, groups of colleges in thirty-three states have associated together in organized effort to promote corporation investments in their operating budgets. This movement is in the beginning stage and may ultimately bring a new day for this large group of struggling, yet strategic, private colleges.

Subsequent history will recognize the middle of the twentieth century for two significant developments. One is science's masterpiece—the splitting of the atom and harnessing atomic energy. We stand at the threshold of mankind's mightiest achievement on the physical level and watch the breath-taking changes for war or peace, for good or evil, in the next few years. In our generation, there is the growing

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feeling that the mighty atom will drive the human race to a new destiny, whose character is unknown. The second significant development of middle twentieth century is twin to the first. It is a widespread dissatisfaction with man's achievement in history, a crushing sense of failure, and feverish search for a new basis of security. There is a swing toward the conviction that moral fitness is basic to security. Disturbing questions are being asked whether secular education can produce moral fitness of the individual. We have just about exhausted our efforts in trying to lift ourselves into moral character by our bootstraps. We have become weary with the struggle and a new means to the end is being sought. The place of religion in moral growth is the explosive idea which contemporary thinkers are pondering. The high moral purpose of man is so exalted that God must be brought into the picture and His power joined to man's efforts. All this means that the Christian faith-way is increasingly winning favorable attention, and will probably become the center of experimentation in tomorrow's educational laboratory.

This strong trend of contemporary thought toward the indispensability of dynamic Christian faith confirms the historic position of Christian higher education,—viz: Only that education which makes experiential Christian religion basic to growth of moral character can be trusted with the responsibility of preparing a society capable of survival. All this places the college of Christian higher education at the center of the process of producing that superior life adequate for these times. The Christian college is becoming the hope of more and more people in our day and discriminating parents in increasing numbers are looking to the strong Church college for the education of their children.

I recall a few years ago the executive secretary of a great corporation said to me that in his opinion if the Church colleges should dare be loyal to the purpose of their existence they would lack neither students nor financial support. Over past many years sensitive Christian leaders have been feeling that many Church colleges have been engaged more in aping the secular state colleges and universities than in making themselves genuinely Christian. The struggle to become academically sound has often dimmed the vision to become distinctively Christian. The typical Church college in our day rarely is discernably different from any other college except in material equipment. There is lacking the daring spirit of frank investigation of Christian results of its own program. It is a common observation that the usual campus practices of Chapels, meetings of student Christian Organizations, Religious Emphasis periods, and the like are superficial and

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rarely exhibit that evangelical probing into heart needs of youth and pressing of the insistent and disturbing claims of Christ on the individual. Are we able to staff our faculties with positively Christian men and women? Or do we hesitate to hope for more than a faculty that will tolerate and not interfere with the Administration's efforts in Christian leadership? Are we capable of the heart searching necessary to full spiritual commitment?

Are the Christian colleges prepared to take advantage of the deepening disgust of our atomic generation with material satisfactions and with empty religious platitudes? For such a day as this, the Church may need to launch great campus revivals of vital religion if it is to stay in the business of education. It may well be that the answer to the "crisis" in the Church colleges today is an all-out effort of loyalty to the distinctive purpose of their existence.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Y. Robertson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

President, Union College

July 1954

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CHAPTER I

THE SUCCESSFUL FAILURE

THE BARBOURVILLE of the post-bellum decades differed little in appearance from other numerous small southern towns nestled in the western hills of the Appalachian divide. This "metropolis" of southeastern Kentucky boasted a population of approximately 450 souls, three brick buildings, a new courthouse, and at least two churches. Dust governed the summer and fall seasons with king mud reigning the remainder of the year. What passed for sidewalks consisted of parallel planks or split logs thrown lengthwise in the oozing mud; and street crossings were built of steppingstones set on edge which only the nimble and daring could use. A few kerosene street lamps, rarely lighted, threw a few meager beams for those willing to accept the hazards of night excursions. Communication by telegraph or telephone had not yet been established with the outside world. People still had to travel many miles to hear the scream of the iron horse and transportation could be had only by hack, sled, horseback, or on foot.

However, Barbourville did differ from many small towns in one striking respect—the unusual character of its citizenry. No town in southeastern Kentucky could match the quality of its leaders or the eloquence of its bar. For years its citizens had occupied the leading legislative and judicial offices of the region. "The recurring election day never failed to arouse to high pitch the followers of opposing candidates for office. The men would fight for their political faith, and they often did. They loathed the cowards, and so did the women, but the women did not fight." ¹

From one of its small law offices, there had gone forth Silas Woodson, later to become governor of Missouri, and Samuel Miller, an appointee to the highest court of the land. Green Adams served as circuit judge, congressman, and as an assistant treasurer of the United States. Judge James H. Tinsley rose to become a judge of the circuit court and federal district attorney for eastern Kentucky. Richard Herndon and Steve Golden were prominent members of the bar. Seated in the

¹ James D. Black, "Founders Day Address," MSS., President's office.

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editorial office of the Barbourville *Mountain Echo* was James Henry Wilson, later to represent the area in Congress.

Here lay a small town, isolated and deprived of the cultural and educational opportunities possessed by the larger centers of population. Its leaders were self-made men—individuals who had achieved distinction mainly through ambition, energy, and self-education. Could their children possibly maintain the leadership which had been theirs; or would the flood of progress see them stranded and by-passed, with Barbourville reverting to the status of a culturally barren isle?

It is true that a public system of education had been in vogue many years in Kentucky, and advances were made when the public school system was converted into a free school system in the decade before the Civil War. Changes in the mode of taxation had not improved conditions, if anything, they were worse. Without adequate support, the many public schools became in reality, ephemeral, transient institutions, manned by underpaid, discouraged and poorly prepared teachers.

Barbourville, along with many other communities shared this cultural barrenness. An old log building had long been serving double duty as the "old Baptist church," and as the "free School."² This building was sold in 1876, and the free school again began making its rounds. Sometimes subscription schools were opened after the free school closed, and functioned until such time as their patrons failed to make further contributions.

Besides the unsatisfactory features already enumerated, the people of Barbourville had another reason to feel dissatisfied. At best, the old system provided only the elements of a desirable education. No work approaching the academy level was offered and young folk who aspired to get ahead and "make something of themselves," found for the future, only frustration. Both college and preparation for it must be sought at some distant center of culture—something which few could afford in the depression years of the 1870's. H. C. Faulkner, one of Union's earliest students, gave an adequate picture of the situation when he said:

. . . it had always been difficult to obtain a liberal education in southeastern Kentucky, and the difficulties were seemingly multiplied after the war. The old academies, at best a makeshift, were no more. The private tutor and good private schools were almost a thing of the past; and the public schools, while improving from year to year, failed to keep pace not only with other sections of the Republic, but failed to keep pace with other sections of Kentucky. The generation that grew up

² This log building was located in the rear of the present Universal Garage.

THE SUCCESSFUL FAILURE

during and next after the Civil War found itself left behind in the march of progress, from every point of view.³

Caught in their dilemma, the citizens of Barbourville attempted to solve it by bringing into the town not only a satisfactory elementary and secondary school, but also a program of studies on the collegiate level. For five years they talked without doing much about it, but these years were not spent in vain, because when the opportune moment arrived, the seed which had been sown, bore fruit, and it seemed as if the child was to spring forth full grown.

Apparently, the first public notice of this determination of Barbourville's leaders for something better was inserted in an 1874 issue of the *Central Methodist*, under the heading, "Barbourville College." The article pointed out the town's advantageous position as the "metropolis of twelve counties in Kentucky, Virginia, and Tennessee," all destitute of a college, and also that the normal department needed for training teachers of the area would in itself sustain a college. The article went on to describe other apparent opportunities in glowing terms: "There is a property in Barbourville for sale at low figure, adapted to the occupancy of a family and thirty to forty female boarders. We want a professional educator to come here and purchase or build, with the cooperation of its citizens, and establish an institution for the mountains. . . . We are satisfied that the enterprise will pay readily. It is the best opening for a college we ever saw."⁴

All persons interested in the educational project were requested to contact the Reverend W. B. Godby of Highland, or the Reverend J. W. Sageser, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of Barbourville. Although this advertisement was repeated several times during the year, the ministers failed to find anyone with the initiative required for starting such an enterprise.

Almost a year later, W. B. Godby, the presiding elder of the London district, announced triumphantly:

. . . we had the signal picture to cultivate an acquaintance with the accomplished Prof. Wilson of Carlisle, Pa., who having visited Barbourville and being favorably impressed, readily acquiesced in our solicitations to rent and fit a suitable room and open a High School department September next anticipative of erecting or purchasing a suitable building for regular operation of a number one college at Barbourville. Come to Barbourville. September next."⁵

This first attempt to establish an institution of secondary grade in

³ H. C. Faulkner, "Message for Founders Day," MSS., President's office.

⁴ Barbourville *Mountain Echo*, March 13, 1874, quoting *Central Methodist*.

⁵ Barbourville *Mountain Echo*, Apr. 23, 1875.

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Barbourville led by ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, proved to be abortive. Professor Thomas Wilson of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, did come south as he had promised; but the reason for his inability to open his school in Barbourville as scheduled is likely to remain a mystery. When J. M. Clyde, the new principal of the Laurel Seminary at London, Kentucky, failed to appear, Wilson was elected to the position.⁶

This failure spurred the efforts of another religious group, the Baptists. At meetings held in October, 1875, at Flat Lick and Barbourville, suggestions were made to erect a college at the former place because a free site had been offered, but no decision was reached regarding its location.⁷ Within a month's time, the Grangers were quoted as willing "to aid in building and sustaining a college in the county."⁸ After the foregoing attempts came to naught the editors of the *Echo* suggested rather facetiously, the calling in of Catholics, if necessary, in order to get a college started in Barbourville. A college, there must be in the town, regardless of cost to civic pride.

After several years of fruitless discussion and futile attempts, the school had failed to become a reality. This did not lessen the discontent which continued to grow as restless ten-dollars-a-month teachers quit their jobs in disgust and school sessions were cut to two and one-half months. School commissioners were accused of incompetence in their management of public schools and in the examining of prospective teachers.⁹ Nevertheless, in the autumn of 1879, "Soda Water," the *Echo's* correspondent, announced the opening of a free school in Barbourville.¹⁰

In this same fall of 1879, the well known educator, Prof. T. C. H. Vance of Carlisle, Kentucky, fresh from holding a successful teachers institute at London, arrived in Barbourville, September 20, to take charge of Knox County's institute. Formerly, the annual institute had been held in the new courthouse but this year it met (Sept. 23) in the Christian Church with John O. Davis one of the county school commissioners presiding. Roll call brought responses from sixty-five teachers or prospects, of whom forty-nine possessed certificates to teach. After music by a choir, and class drill in vocal music, a "Prof." Harriett [sic],

⁶ Russell Dyche, *The Laurel Seminary*, 17.

⁷ *London Mountain Echo*, Oct. 8, 1875.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Nov. 12, 1875.

⁹ *Ibid.*, Sept. 5, 1879.

¹⁰ The persistent legend that Barbourville had no free school in 1879 is, of course, erroneous. Neither is it true that Thaddeus Burkett was the town's school master at that time. Burkett had already retired from teaching, first going on a farm at Richland Creek and later becoming a traveling book agent for a firm in Baltimore. See *London Echo*, Jan. 7, 1876.

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reputedly from Cincinnati, was introduced to the institute. The professor presented a difficult problem, and proceeded to solve it for the group's elucidation.¹¹

Abraham H. Harritt, a traveling salesman for a school supply company, was in the habit of visiting institutes over the state, and of making himself known to school men, teachers, and school commissioners, as "guest instructor." He was a tall, dark haired, rather heavily built individual who wore a pointed professional cut beard to enhance his appearance.¹² He seems to have been a glib speaker—one who could answer questions directed at him, in a quick and confident manner.

Harritt, having made the acquaintance of James T. Gibson, one of the school commissioners and a leading merchant of Barbourville, engaged him in conversation regarding the deplorable school situation and suggested the launching of a subscription school in Barbourville. The story goes that Gibson agreed to furnish the space and buy the desks from Harritt on condition that the latter take charge of the school.¹³ This is very likely true, but there was much more involved than the planning of just another elementary subscription school. If not so, it meant a precarious day by day existence, dependent upon the capriciousness of the school's clientele.

First, it must be noted that Harritt was not the type of man to suddenly settle down to become an obscure small town school master; secondly, one is confronted with the astounding fact that in exactly one month from the time Harritt appeared in town, a corporation, organized and signed by the leading citizens of Barbourville, had been formed under the title, "Union College Corporation." According to a traditional account, Harritt had informed his wife before leaving home of his intentions to give up his travelings when he stumbled upon the "right spot" suitable for a college.¹⁴

The new school at Barbourville was conceived from the first as a college, and its quick acceptance by Barbourville's citizenry is a tribute first of all to those who laid the ground work in the preceding years, 1874-1879. Harritt's ability to talk, and willingness to assume leadership quickly brought him the community's recognition as the man best fitted to make a dream come true.

Details were worked out at meetings held at Judge Tinsley's office and at the residence of W. W. Sawyers, where at the latter's home, it is

¹¹ *Ibid.*, Oct. 3, 1879.

¹² James Tuggle to writer, April 30, 1953.

¹³ "Affidavits" of C. H. Gibson and B. E. Gibson, May 22, 1945, regarding the founding of Union College as related to them by their father, James T. Gibson.

¹⁴ James P. Faulkner, "50th Anniversary Address." President's office.

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said,¹⁵ the name, Union College, was adopted upon the suggestion of James D. Black. "Judge Black, in writing about this incident, states that he was led to make this suggestion because of the fact that the movement was receiving the unanimous support of the citizens of the town and county regardless of church or political differences, and he wanted the name to negative any thought of sectarian or party division."¹⁶

No doubt the well known legal talents of Tinsley, Sawyers, Dishman and Black were utilized in the drawing up of the Articles of Incorporation (Oct. 18.), which included ten clauses. These Articles provided for the issuance of \$20,000 worth of capital stock to be sold in shares of \$20 each; and the life of the corporation was set at 25 years. Its affairs were to be conducted by a seven-man Board of Directors, to be elected after the first year by the stockholders. Thirty-five names were listed as subscribers.¹⁷ Officers elected for the first year were A. H. Harritt, president; W. W. Sawyers, vice president; James D. Black, secretary; Green Elliott, treasurer; and John Dishman, attorney.

The London *Echo* of December 12, 1879, carrying its first announcement of Union College, listed the Corporation as having stock of \$70,000 and of being "designed to fill a long felt want in Eastern Kentucky, East Tennessee and Western Virginia." Plans were announced for the "erection of suitable college buildings" expected to be finished at an early date. The term, Union College, was used to designate the combining of three departments; i.e., classical, business, and normal. This co-educational school was declared to be free of all political or sectarian control, and members of all denominations were invited to attend. A semi-annual session of the new college was announced for January 5, 1880.

The announcement of a session beginning in January, 1880, has led to no little confusion as to the date of the first session of Union College. Semi-annual announcements were quite common so no conclusions may be reached from this information. James P. Faulkner was quite certain that a session was held in 1879, but if so, it must have been late in the year as Mr. Gibson's desks had to be ordered, shipped, and installed in two rooms on the floor above his place of business. Mr. Gibson's investment in these desks must have been considerable, but no doubt it was understood that the desks should be sold to the corporation when the new building was completed. Gibson graciously

¹⁵ Mrs. Hattie Edwards to writer, April 15, 1953, as related by her grandfather, W. W. Sawyers.

¹⁶ J. P. Faulkner, "50th Anniversary Address."

¹⁷ Knox County Deed Book, "J," 1874-1881, 492. The "Articles" are dated Oct. 18, 1879, but were not acknowledged until Oct. 21.

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charged no rent for the use of his rooms, and in addition raised money among his merchant friends in Louisville.¹⁸

Contrary to Faulkner's contention of a session in 1879, there is evidence to show that the school did not open until 1880. Mrs. Harritt, who is always listed as one of the first teachers by those who attended, did not come with her husband in September, but remained at her home in Indianapolis. Sometimes before December 12, 1879, Harritt passed through London, Kentucky on his way to Indiana. He evidently stopped at the office of the *Echo* and had a chat with the editor who referred to Harritt as the one "who is to take charge" of Union College and quoted Harritt "as being well pleased with the present prospects of his school," and his intentions of going there to stay.¹⁹ From the context of such a report, one would infer that Harritt was on his way to Indianapolis to spend Christmas with members of his family, with the intention of bringing them back for the January session. James Tuggle remembered the school as opening "in the middle of the [school] year."²⁰ A later notice in the London *Echo*, announcing the "4th session of Union College to begin September 5, 1881," supports Mr. Tuggle's view.

A formal opening of the school was held over Gibson's store²¹ with James D. Black delivering the address of the occasion. Two rooms were found to be inadequate and a third one for primary grades was established in an old store room²² across High Street, belonging to Mr. Pitzer, the postmaster. The first faculty consisted of A. H. Harritt, Edwin O. Bland, Mrs. Josephine Harritt and Miss Jessie Chapman. Bland, who allegedly held an M.A. from the University of Virginia, had the reputation of being a fine Latin scholar. Besides the ordinary common school subjects, instruction was offered in Latin and algebra. It seems therefore, that Union's first session was on the academy level.

One of the striking features of Union's curriculum throughout its history is its offerings in the fine arts. Piano lessons were given by Miss Chapman of Richmond, Indiana, who is still remembered as a vivacious, flaming red-head. As the school possessed no piano, instruc-

¹⁸ Lillian G. Spahr to writer, Nov. 15, 1953. Mrs. Spahr is a daughter of J. T. Gibson.

¹⁹ London *Echo*, Dec. 12, 1879.

²⁰ James Tuggle to writer, April 30, 1953.

²¹ Later known as the Miller and Ball building.

²² This building was near the end of what was formerly known as Buzzard's Roost—a row of squalid shanties extending south on Main Street from the location of the present Gulf Service Station.

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tion was carried on at the home of Mrs. M. S. Costellow where Miss Chapman boarded.²³

The citizens of Barbourville hospitably opened their doors to both faculty and students. Upon the arrival of Mr. Harritt with his wife and two sons, Burt and Frank, Mrs. Martha Costellow welcomed them into her home, for the "munificent monetary consideration of . . . \$10.00 per week for the four—room and board."²⁴ Colonel Dishman showed equal hospitality to Professor Bland.

And when students from out of town began to arrive, nearly everybody took boarders. They simply had to if the school was to succeed, and the prices ranged from \$2.00 per week down to nothing in some instances. Even the Methodist circuit rider, S. L. Kelley, carried in beans, potatoes, and occasionally a ham from McClellans, Trace Branch, Fighting Creek, or Friendship, the currency in which his salary was paid, in order to meet the deficit, at the end of a week, of a table of eight or ten. This was the spirit of Barbourville in the 70's and 80's—a people united in the great purpose—the founding of a school that would give their children and their neighbor's children a better opportunity than their fathers and mothers had known.²⁵

It is not known exactly how many students attended Union's first session in the Gibson building and annex, but at least ninety-six were known to attend between January and June, 1880. In 1929, James P. Faulkner, with the assistance of former students and friends, compiled a list of these pupils. At least twenty from outside Knox County were boarding students. The Howard family from Harlan and the Whites from Manchester had several in attendance.²⁶

A group of thirty-six citizens signed their names to the Original Articles of Corporation.²⁷ This list does not include some who later bought stock in the Corporation. On the other hand, some of the ones listed as original subscribers never bought any stock—or at least their names do not appear on any of the stock certificate stubs. A total of 140 shares of stock was sold during the period from May 5, 1880 through January 26, 1886.²⁸ At \$25 per share, the amount raised should have equaled \$3,500 but there is no way of knowing how much was paid on each share when it was issued, because the Articles of

²³ Mrs. Annie Albright to writer, April 16, 1953. Mrs. Albright is the daughter of Mrs. Costellow. The original piano is now on the second floor of the Corner Drug Building.

²⁴ James P. Faulkner, "50th Anniversary Address."

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ In 1954 three of these first students, Mrs. Annie Albright, George W. Tye, and Sallie Hoskins, were living in Barbourville.

²⁷ This list is not identical with the one given in the Articles of Corporation.

²⁸ Union College Corporation stub-book. The Articles established \$20 per share as the rate, but they were printed as \$25 certificates.

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Corporation allowed the directors to decide on the mode of collection. Seven shares were sold on the first day of issue, May 5, 1880. These first subscribers were Mrs. Harritt, Green Elliott, W. W. Sawyers, and W. E. Grimstead and Company of Louisville.

The six leading stockholders were W. W. Sawyers, James H. Tinsley, James T. Gibson, John A. Black, the Harritts, and Green Elliott, in the order named. While much credit is due to the ones named above, who purchased almost one-half of all the stock, it must be kept in mind that many of the stockholders who bought only one share were likely investing to the extent of their financial ability.

The founders had signed the Articles with the idea of selecting a site, and erecting a suitable building thereon. As it happened, Union's first building was erected in an old apple orchard bordered on two sides by "burying grounds"—the favorite rendezvous, so it was rumored, of goblins and ghosts. One cemetery began at the corner of what is now Coyt and College Streets and extended in the direction of the Methodist Church. The Anderson—Dowis graveyard ran along the curve of what is now the road leading from the east end of Stevenson Hall to the Memorial Gymnasium.²⁹ On trees along the lane leading to Manchester Street, criminals had been hanged and allegedly buried on the spot. During the Civil War, a recruiting station was established in front of what is now Pfeiffer and Speed Halls, for the purpose of enlisting newly escaped Union sympathizers. "Old-timers" told Elmer Decker, the local historian, about graves near the rows of tents.³⁰

Only two buildings existed on what is now the main Union Campus. One was a four-room dwelling, known as the Stickley house, located near the present site of Speed Hall, the other was the small Dishman cottage where Baldwin Place is now located. On the opposite side of the lane (College Street), W. W. Sawyers had his stables.³¹

After the Corporation was granted its charter by a special act of the legislature, February 7, 1880, Union received its first grant of land from Thomas J. Wyatt, a son-in-law of W. W. Sawyers. Wyatt did not possess an unencumbered deed to the plot and this was purchased at a cost of \$132 to the Corporation.³² This strip fronting approximately 100 yards on College Street extended northeast to the edge of a pond. Early the next year, the Corporation bought two small additional tracts from Sally Hinkle and Mrs. Mahala P. Dowis for \$53.³³ and

²⁹ Elmer Decker to J. P. Faulkner, July 2, 1942, *Orange and Black*.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ J. P. Faulkner to Virginia Tye, May 22, 1942, *Orange and Black*, July 27, 1942.

³² J. P. Faulkner, "50th Anniversary Address." No record of this transaction has been found in the Knox County Deed Books.

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\$75, respectively. The first plot of about one-half acre lay on the east side of the Wyatt tract; the second plot, slightly larger, had a frontage of about 50 feet on College Street and ran parallel to the original Wyatt grant.³³

Some time after February 7, 1880, a little pamphlet issued by the Corporation announced the erection of a "new and commodious building." W. W. Sawyers, the leading stockholder and vice-president of the Corporation, stopped work on his own residence and began construction about April 1.³⁴ Two sturdy men, set to work on the campus, burned several thousand brilliant red bricks in a day.³⁵ The new type steam sawmills of John and Isaac Catron, only two miles away on Smoky Creek turned out the finest grade of yellow poplar for inside construction.³⁶

Subscribers of stock were failing to make payments and the first of Union's many financial crises loomed for solution. Without sufficient funds to pay for materials and the wages of workmen, it looked as though construction must be suspended. W. W. Sawyers, as agent for the Union College Corporation, arranged for a loan of \$3,000 from a bank at Stanford, Kentucky. Elbert E. Sawyers, his son, made the three-day trip to the bank on horseback and returned with the badly needed cash; thereupon construction was resumed.³⁷

The building as first erected had a long wide corridor on the first floor leading from the tower to the rear. As one entered, there were two class rooms on the left and a large one on the right, the latter becoming known as the "normal" room. The second floor contained a long chapel or auditorium, located above the normal room, and two rooms on the left. The interior of the third floor remained uncompleted. There was no inside plumbing or water. Coal stoves served for heating and kerosene lamps for lighting. A coal house and two "privies" were erected at a respectable distance in the rear. The narrow front campus, devoid of grass, boasted one or two stunted trees. A few planks thrown across the muddiest spots supplemented the narrow path leading from the front lane.

The ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the building was combined with the closing exercises for the year 1879-80. James P. Faulkner remembered the occasion as one of the most "notable school exhibitions ever staged in Barbourville or Eastern Kentucky." ³⁸ Advertisements

³³ Knox County Deed Book, "J," 607.

³⁴ London *Echo*, April 9, 1880; May 13, 1881.

³⁵ George Tye to writer, April 29, 1953.

³⁶ J. P. Faulkner, "50th Anniversary Address."

³⁷ "Remembrances," Barbourville *Advocate clippings*, Abigail E. Weeks MSS.

³⁸ J. P. Faulkner, "50th Anniversary Address."

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were inserted in the papers of the surrounding territory by local business men. For example, "Boss Anderson" advised the folk from London to be sure to stop at his hotel where both man and beast would be cared for in the best style.³⁹ Announcement was made that great preparations were being made by the people of Barbourville and Union College of that place for the commencement exercise to be given June 4, and for the "laying of the cornerstone of the new college now in course of construction."⁴⁰

Shortly before the great day arrived, a temporary stage was erected on the campus at the front of a natural amphitheater. A leafy tabernacle composed of freshly cut tree boughs enclosed the area on three sides. On the appointed day, June 4, 1880, while preliminary speeches were in progress, John R. Hicks, the town's favorite stone mason, sat at the footsteps of the platform, mechanically polishing his trowel in preparation for his important part on the program. When the time arrived for the Honorable David Lyttle of Manchester to deliver the main dedicatory address, he could not be found. The large crowd was becoming impatient and only quick action could save the day. Suddenly, some member of the audience cried to young Ben Herndon, Union's premier orator, requesting him to give his literary oration on "Education." Others took up the cry and Ben was ushered to the platform, where he acquitted himself nobly. Just as he descended from the platform, the distinguished Mr. Lyttle pushed his way through the crowd and made his way to the rostrum. The "man of the occasion" must have performed in great style, but the loud guffaws and knowing looks which greeted his address should have told him something was in error—because he had delivered Ben Herndon's address verbatim.⁴¹

Officers of Mountain Lodge 187, F & A Masons of Barbourville, officiated at the cornerstone laying. Among the articles contained in a little black walnut box to be sealed within the stone were a certified copy of the act chartering Union College and signed by the governor, a copy of the by-laws of the Lodge, and seven coins.⁴²

Union's first commencement program was composed of orations, readings, tableaux, and a farce. The salutatory and valedictory addresses were delivered by Ella Culton and W. L. Engle, respectively. "Just before Ada Helton rose to give her reading, a townsman rushed on the stage asking whether or not a certain man and his wife were in the audience; he announced that the daughter of this couple had just been

³⁹ London *Echo*, May 7, 1880.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ This amusing anecdote was related to the writer, July 8, 1953, by two eye witnesses of the occasion, Judge Jessie Tuggle and James Tuggle.

⁴² Barbourville *Advocate*, June, 1907.

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burned to death at home. This was an impressive introduction to Miss Helton's reading, for the reading told a story of child-tragedy."⁴³ The highlight of the literary program was a farce, "A Regular Fix." The preceding evening, a pathetic drama, "Out in the Streets," produced the desired effect of bringing tears to almost every member of the audience.⁴⁴

In preparation for Union's first year on the new campus a bulletin, "Union College, Male and Female," was distributed. The chief aim of the course of study "as far as possible [was] to secure a full development of all mental faculties, thereby qualifying the student to grapple with the problem of life." The bulletin listed collegiate, normal, business, music, and primary departments; and two preparatory "courses," classical and scientific. The primary department was introduced for the "time being," in order to prepare pupils for the preparatory work. The classical course offered the standard four-year academy curriculum, including higher algebra, spherical trigonometry, calculus, ethics, and political economy of which college students of later generations might well stand in awe. No degrees were offered and it is doubtful, if at that time, any students in attendance were capable of doing work of college grade. Pupils were admitted to the college on the basis of written examinations given biannually.

Tuition fees, depending upon the department, ran from \$12.50 to \$20.00 per session. Board and room could be obtained from "good families" at \$1.25 to \$1.50 per week. It seems that a boarding student could attend school for a little more than \$100 per year.

Although the college catered to no particular sectarian group, the religious life of the student was given proper consideration; all pupils being required to attend "Chapel exercises each morning through the week and Bible class [on] Sunday afternoon." In addition, all "scholars" were expected to attend the Union Sabbath School in the village.⁴⁵

Literary and debating societies formed the core of Union's extra-curricular activities. Two literary societies, "one by young ladies and one by young gentlemen," were organized in the autumn of 1881.⁴⁶ It is doubtful whether these societies had any particular names—if so Union College's correspondent of the *Echo* would likely have named them. According to Mr. A. M. Decker, one of its members, Union's first playlikers club organized in the school year, 1879-1880.⁴⁷ A program

⁴³ Reprint of program, *Orange and Black*, May 29, 1929.

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵ "Union College, Male and Female, 1880-81." Union College safe.

⁴⁶ *London Echo*, Nov. 26, 1881.

⁴⁷ "Echoes from Anniversary Banquet," *Orange and Black*, May 29, 1929.

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of this club for 1881 announced "dramatic entertainment" by members of the Thespian Society. This play, "Not So Bad After All," was followed by a concluding tableau, "Rock of Ages."⁴⁸

From the first, the school was a cultural and civic center for the community. Public debates were held on the campus, and Teachers Associations, organized by Harritt, received instruction from him. Entertainment was provided by Miss Lillian B. Mayes,⁴⁹ Union's "beautiful and accomplished" music teacher. A Christmas entertainment was staged for the benefit of the Union Sabbath School which at that time met in the Methodist Church.

With about 100 students from eight counties in attendance, the school year, 1880-81, may be considered a successful one. The new college was boasting of its "eight-thousand-dollar building" and 1540 pound bell,⁵⁰ the clear and mellow tones of which could be heard in Flat Lick, six miles distant. Its professors were reputedly "finished scholars," who promised to make Union one of the "best [schools] in the state."⁵¹

At the opening of the third year of school, storm clouds were already appearing on the horizon. Only 50 students enrolled on September 5, 1881, fewer than the free school enrolled at the Christian church.⁵² President Harritt found himself the mounting center of a controversy which not only affected the life of the college, but the entire religious and social life of the community as well.

This controversy, beginning as a journalistic feud, ended in Harritt's total embarrassment and exodus from the community. Sometime in February, 1881, Harritt published the first issue of his weekly, the *Cumberland Chronicle*. A few weeks later when numerous subscribers complained of not having received their copies, the editor placed the blame for non-delivery of papers on Pitzer, the village postmaster.

Thomas J. Pitzer, who was not the type of man to allow such attacks to continue unanswered, replied to Harritt with a withering blast in the *London Echo*, after he found the "P.M." (himself), characterized in the *Chronicle* as Haman. The postmaster responded as follows:

Sir, you have in your great stretch of mind misconceived your object, and your father . . . and your kinsman, Bellzabub [sic] would blush to own you as a legitimate offspring, and you, holding yourself in this community as the Professor of Union College, with all your labored efforts of three solid months, it has been a tissue of false words and scandals

⁴⁸ "Program," Union College Museum.

⁴⁹ *London Echo*, Nov. 26, 1881.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, Aug. 6, 1880.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, April 9, 1880.

⁵² *Ibid.*, Sept. 9, 1881.

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to injure innocent men. You came into this community with all the unblushing effrontery of a mule. . . You have brought young ladies into this community and represented them as competent teachers which no one doubts, and you have turned them off without pay. I have never broken open the private letter of a lady teacher and sought to destroy her reputation as a music teacher by denouncing her in public houses as disqualified and an imposition and a squab . . .

You have proven to be a traitor to the community.⁵³

The editor of the *Echo*, accusing Harritt of shielding himself behind the college, took up Pitzer's cause and insisted that the president either reform his character or go. After Harritt likened the editor's appearance as something like "Moonshine on stilts," the latter found that Harritt's appearance was certainly "by no means prepossessing." His legs were shaped "precisely right to clamp sheep," and all were satisfied that Harritt was a good shearer from the way he had "fleeced the people in these parts."⁵⁴

Probably Harritt suffered his greatest embarrassment when the London editor questioned the president's right to call himself a Master of Arts. Harritt dodged the issue and failed to announce publicly which university had conferred that honor upon him. The London editor slyly suggested Harritt's retaining of the title A.M., if it meant "After Money."

With the president under fire from all directions conditions deteriorated rapidly. Professor Edward Bland, Union's most popular professor took up his new duties as principal of Laurel Seminary at London, Kentucky. Apparently three music teachers were on Union's campus within a period of one year. The London journalist reported with glee the resignations of Professors Greathouse, Harris, and Frasey, all within twelve months. He "wondered" why young ladies were quitting Union, and also, why Harritt's Sunday school class had greatly diminished in size.

Harritt gave up the fight in the spring of 1882. His paper suspended publication about March 1, and a month later the college "suspended operation." President Harritt left Union about the first week in April, allegedly, because of urgent "business" in the "cities,"⁵⁵ and apparently, he never returned.

Members of his family left Barbourville the following summer to make their home in Indianapolis. His defunct printing establishment was sold at a commissioner's sale about a year later in order to satisfy the claims of creditors. So departed a man who had "executive ability,"

⁵³ *Ibid.*, June 24, 1881.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, August 12, 1881.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, April 14, 1882.

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and a "vast amount of energy."⁵⁶ In spite of all his apparent faults, Union will always be grateful to its prime mover, Abraham H. Harritt.⁵⁷

In spite of the disheartening state of affairs in the spring of 1882, what with a mounting debt, unpaid teachers, a closed school, plus a demoralized community, the Board of Trustees decided to keep the college open. James D. Black, the Board's attorney recommended for president, T. C. Poynter, a graduate of Kentucky Wesleyan College, who had a reputation as a fine teacher. Poynter was a brother of Dr. W. T. Poynter, a Methodist clergyman who had lately purchased Science Hill Academy, the oldest school for girls in the old southwest.⁵⁸ Thus it was through the influence of Mr. Black that Poynter was elected Union's second president.⁵⁹

Thomas Clay Poynter, a native of Frankfort, Kentucky, brought with him his sister, Mrs. Sara Griffing and her daughter, Blanche. Mrs. Griffing acted as Poynter's assistant and a Miss Mary Hultz had charge of the primary grades. The family stayed at Black's, a small hotel run by John Brogan and wife.

In line with a tradition already established at Union, it was decided to provide proper instruction in music. A large Emerson square piano transported from London in a wagon, was installed in the chapel and Miss Sara Gordon of Winchester began instruction in music.⁶⁰

About 100 pupils were in attendance during the year, which seemed to have been rather uneventful except for an epidemic of mumps and "high waters," which temporarily isolated Barbourville. Major Mat Adams, one of Barbourville's leading citizens, succumbed to the charms of Miss Gordon, married her, and afterwards succeeded in getting himself elected to Congress.

At the mid-June commencement, visitors from as far away as Rose Hill and Abingdon, Virginia came to hear the Honorable J. Proctor Knott deliver the principal address, but he did not appear because of his wife's illness and there was no Ben Herndon to take his place. At the end of the school year, Poynter was hired to give county examinations for teaching certificates. Annie Costellow, Union's star pupil, only 14 years of age, took the exam just for fun and "received a first

⁵⁶ J. P. Faulkner, "50th Anniversary Address."

⁵⁷ Little is known of Harritt's activities after he left Union. Mrs. Annie Albright located his grave in Indianapolis.

⁵⁸ George S. Savage, *Historical Sketches of Institutions of Learning Within the Bounds of the Kentucky Annual Conference of the Methodist Church, South*, 18.

⁵⁹ Blanche Griffing to writer, July 14, 1953.

⁶⁰ This piano is now in the possession of Miss Blanche Griffing of Perryville, Kentucky.

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class certificate." She made a much higher grade than teachers with many years of service.⁶¹

The second term of the school year, 1883-84, saw the biggest enrollment to date. Over 155 students were reported in January and more enrolled later. As a goodly proportion of students came from a distance, one can see that the boarding facilities of a village of only 400 people must have been taxed. At the closing exercises on May 28, 29, "entertainment" was given; Miss Katie Craig read the "Maidens Martyr" and Annie Costellow delivered the valedictory.⁶²

In June, 1884, the Board of Trustees decided to use a different method of running the school in order to make it pay by offering the property for annual rental. Evidently Poynter did not care to bind himself in any way and the lease was granted to a new man, H. P. Grider, who obligated himself to pay \$250 in rent and to assume liability for any damages to the college property.⁶³

Hartford P. Grider born in 1858 at Germantown, Pennsylvania, had graduated from Centre College (1881), as valedictorian of his class. This powerfully built man, over six feet in height had gained a reputation as an athlete, musician, and orator, at his alma mater.⁶⁴ Before coming to Union he served two years as head of Riverside Seminary in Kentucky.

Besides his wife, Mollie, who had charge of the primary department, Grider secured the services of J. H. Clagett and his sister Annie Clagett, who organized a class in drawing and painting. Annie Clagett later became a missionary to China. J. H. Clagett married the music teacher, Miss Northcott and left at the end of the year 1884-85 to become head of Laurel Seminary at London.⁶⁵ J. P. Faulkner remembered Clagett as a "splendid teacher" and his leaving was a blow to the college.

At the beginning of the school year, 1885-86, the whole community was excited over the coming of Professor Francis Goetz to Union. Goetz, who came South hoping to improve his failing health, was a graduate of the famous Berlin conservatory of music. His wife, also an accomplished musician, assisted him, and organized a cornet band. Later in the year, Professor H. P. Grider's brother, John, came to replace Mrs. Grider in the primary department.

John P. Grider has written an amusing tale of his first coming to

⁶¹ London *Echo*, June 22, 1883

⁶² *Ibid.*, June 6, 1884.

⁶³ Copy of "Petition" of Union College Corporation against H. P. Grider. Union College Library.

⁶⁴ Mrs. A. D. Grider Hewitt to writer, Feb. 23, 1954.

⁶⁵ Dyche, *The Laurel Seminary*, 18.

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Barbourville before the advent of the locomotive in this section. Although pulled by four sturdy horses, the rig in which he was riding, bogged down in the mud after leaving Woodbine. The driver had to wade through the mud, procure fence rails for the exodus of his passengers, and finally succeeded in extricating the axle which had caught on a hidden rock.⁶⁶

The school under Grider was popular and attendance again rose to 150 students. Grider renewed his contract for another year and the London *Echo* announced the community's satisfaction under the "present Corpse" [sic] of teachers.⁶⁷

The Union Literary Society had continued its work under Poynter, giving a "public entertainment" which was pronounced a "smasher."⁶⁸ Its success under Grider seems due chiefly to the efforts of John C. Eversole of Perry County. Literary and musical programs still constituted the bulk of Union's extra-curricular activities—athletics had not yet made its appearance at Union.

The period from the ides of March until April 1, 1885, proved to be the most exciting one of the era. Students turned out with smoked glasses to enjoy an eclipse of the sun and about a week later, John Sexton was hanged for murder. Perhaps the condemned man taught a more impressive lesson on his gallows, than any professor at Union has succeeded in doing. Sexton must have presented a gruesome spectacle as, seated on his rough coffin, and surrounded by fifty picked men, he was slowly drawn to the gibbet. Over 3000 people listened to his long harangue, in which he exhorted the boys "to obey their parents and let cards and whiskey alone."⁶⁹

Union was now at the end of its first era of existence. Professor Grider had financially been unable to fulfill the terms of his contract to the Trustees. At the end of two years, he had been able to pay only \$80 of the \$500 owed the corporation, W. W. Sawyers, now president of the Union College Corporation, presented a petition⁷⁰ in Knox Circuit Court against Grider but as the defendant had no tangible assets, the matter was dropped.

Grider had tried hard to make the school a success but failed financially, and was glad to leave. The following year he served as principal of Ayers Academy under the supervision of the Board of Education of the Kentucky Methodist Episcopal Conference. He did not like teaching and after one year became associated with the old Ft. Scott and

⁶⁶ John P. Grider to writer, Feb. 2, 1954.

⁶⁷ May 15, 1885.

⁶⁸ London, *Echo*, March 13, 1885.

⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, April 3, 1885.

⁷⁰ Copy of "Petition," of Union College Corporation against H. P. Grider.

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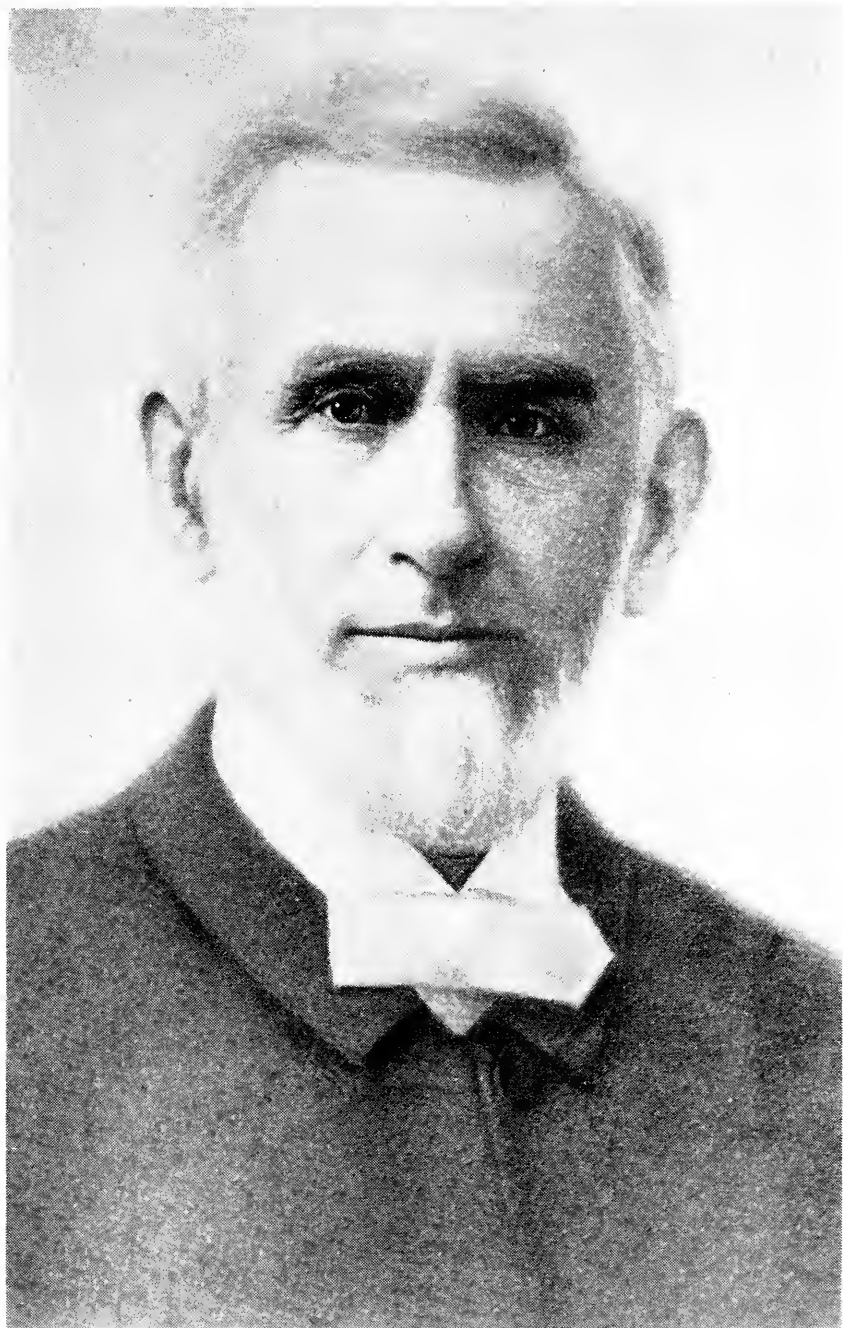
Memphis Railroad. Later he entered the grain business in Kansas City. His father, Frederick Grider, was a famous Methodist minister who later served a pastorate at Barbourville and greatly strengthened the local church with his evangelistic services.

In Barbourville the harried Board of Trustees saw no way out of its dilemma. Income had not been sufficient to pay half the interest due, stockholders were failing to pay their subscriptions and the bank at Stanford was pushing for collection of its notes. For almost two years rumor had it that the college building would be sold. At one time a movement was on foot at the local Methodist Church to raise a fund to buy it. As late as January, 1886, John A. Black made a final attempt to sustain the corporation with his purchase of twelve shares of stock. All these efforts proved unavailing and it looked as if nothing could stay the auctioneer's hammer.

It is in line with later developments—the coming of Dr. Stevenson to Union which makes it possible to describe Union's first epoch as a "Successful Failure." J. P. Faulkner gave an excellent exposition of this interpretation:

Union College, under the original charter had no distinctive religious purpose or appeal. Its Founders never intended it to be irreligious but so-called "schooling" was its major aim. The sheriff's sale, therefore proved a blessing in two respects, it cleared the way for emphasis upon that alone which makes education worthwhile—religious instruction—and at the same time gave better equipment for the "schooling" function . . . It was the failure of the first that made the second possible, and it is the success of the latter that has rescued the original from oblivion.⁷¹

⁷¹ J. P. Faulkner, "Address" on the coming of Dr. Stevenson, 1936.



DR. DANIEL STEVENSON

CHAPTER II

UNION RESCUED FROM OBLIVION

ALMOST ANYONE with a slight knowledge of Union's history can recite glibly that Dr. Daniel Stevenson bought the property of a bankrupt college corporation in Barbourville. Actually the facts cannot be stated in such simple fashion, and the story of its purchase must include the names of the Reverend Samuel L. Kelley, Green Elliott, Mrs. Mahala Dowis, and Fanny Speed, along with Dr. Stevenson's. It is doubtful whether Union's property would have been acquired by the Kentucky Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church if any of the foregoing individuals had failed to play his or her little part in the drama.

Samuel L. Kelley, a veteran of the Union army, became converted at the end of the war and united with the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was received on trial into the Conference¹ at the same time that Professor Harritt was opening the school in Barbourville. Kelley came to Barbourville in the autumn of 1880 as pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The local church had been organized at the end of the Civil War and the struggling congregation had succeeded in erecting a small sanctuary on the site of the present Methodist Church. Its members in the 1870's included some of the town's prominent citizens—T. J. Pitzer, W. W. Tinsley, T. J. Wyatt, W. B. Anderson, J. D. Black and Mrs. Mahala Dowis.

The richest person in Barbourville in 1885 was probably the widow, Mrs. Dowis, whose husband had accumulated a considerable fortune during the war. At church she occupied a prominent seat apart from the pews, in a position where her rich gowns and fans might be admired by the less fortunate ladies of the congregation. Green Elliott, who ran the local drug store "looked after" the affairs of Mrs. Dowis—often escorting her to business and social engagements. Her husband was buried on the site of Union's campus in the cemetery which bore his name.²

During his three-year pastorate at Barbourville, Kelley became acquainted with the problems of the struggling college and no doubt

¹"Obituary of the Reverend Samuel L. Kelley." *Kentucky Conference Minutes*, 1925.

²Mr. and Mrs. James Tuggle to writer, July 8, 1953.

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it was his influence which persuaded the small congregation to hope that it might be able to buy the school property when it was sold—a gigantic task for a village church with less than seventy-five members. When Kelley left Barbourville in September, 1883 to become pastor of the Williamsburg charge, he still retained his interest in the Barbourville church, often returning to assist in revivals. After retirement from the ministry, Kelley made Barbourville his home and when he passed to his reward in 1925, President E. T. Franklin and Dr. John Owen Gross assisted in conducting his funeral services.

In the autumn of 1883, the Annual Session of the Kentucky Conference was held at Barbourville. This furnished the Reverend Kelley the occasion for pointing out to Dr. Stevenson, the leader of the Board of Education, the probable opportunity for acquiring a school for the conference. Dr. Stevenson remembered this particular assembly at Barbourville as the one where "a prominent layman" succeeded in preventing him from being elected to the General Conference showing "that a present interest is with ordinary man more patent than a great principle."³

At the Annual Conference of 1886 held in Lexington, Kelley called the Board of Education's attention to the advertised sale of Union's property at public auction the third week in October,⁴ and urged Dr. Stevenson to buy it for the Conference. The decision rendered by the Board of Education presented Dr. Stevenson with a most distressing dilemma. He was "instructed" to attend the sale "without authority to assume any financial obligation on behalf of the conference."⁵ Obviously, it would be of little advantage to Dr. Stevenson to stand by helplessly, simply as an official eyewitness to the passing of a great opportunity. He saw no promising future for his school at Augusta, and realized that he must make an immediate decision on his own responsibility.

With magnificent courage, Stevenson decided to confront the Conference with an accomplished fact, trusting to the better judgment and common sense of its members to vindicate and relieve him of his charge. The Reverend J. G. Bruce, who had been appointed to go along with him to the sale, could not attend, and Stevenson, with little time on his hands made arrangements through Judge J. H. Tinsley, a Methodist advisor, to have Green Elliott do the bidding while Mrs.

³ D. Stevenson, Journal II, 45. MSS copy in President's office.

⁴ "Obituary of the Rev. Samuel L. Kelley, Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1925; statement of A. M. Decker, *Orange and Black*, Sept. 30, 1922.

⁵ "Report" of Stevenson, Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1888.

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Mahala Dowis furnished the financial backing.⁶ It is hard to believe that Stevenson would have taken this bold step without some nod of approval from his good friend, Mrs. Fanny Speed of Louisville.

On the day of the sale, October 25, 1886, the property was "cried off" to Green Elliott for the sum of \$4,425. At first the public did not understand the significance of the sale, it being supposed that Green Elliott had plans for use of the building. In his Journal, Dr. Stevenson related: "At once I drew up a paper, wherein it was agreed that the school . . . should be reopened . . . under my direction, and under the patronage of the Kentucky Conference."⁷

It was further agreed that the Conference should have two years to take the property off the hands of the buyers. The Conference still trod cautiously, being very careful not to become involved in litigation or to accept a heavy financial obligation. Under state law the right of redemption remained for one year, because the sale had amounted to less than two-thirds of the property's appraised value of \$7,500. About three weeks before the date of the redemption sale, the Conference, upon the recommendation of the Board of Education authorized Stevenson to raise money in order to pay for the purchase in case the redemption right should be cried off to him.⁸

On October 24, 1887, Dr. Stevenson purchased the right of redemption for one dollar and gave his personal note to Green Elliott and Mrs. Dowis. He set to work at once to raise the money. The Conference agreed to sell some bank stock and apply the proceeds towards the purchase. As agent for the Board of Education, Stevenson had the authority to solicit money, make necessary repairs, and to conduct the school.

In the surprisingly short time of five months, Stevenson had raised the full sum and satisfied all creditors, including himself. On March 18, 1888, the Judge of the Circuit Court sitting in Knox County ordered that a deed be made for the Board of Education.⁹ It is said that W. F. Costellow presented the deed to Dr. Stevenson in open court. Dr. Stevenson in turn presented the deed to the Conference at its Annual fall meeting. "That event marks the beginning of what has become a most significant adventure in Christian education."¹⁰

The new régime did not find the same sleepy town which A. H. Harritt had entered in 1879. In 1886 Barbourville's "Modern history"

⁶ Stevenson's Journal, II, 45; J. P. Faulkner, "50th Anniversary Address"; Kentucky Conference *Minutes, 1888*.

⁷ Journal, II, 45.

⁸ D. Stevenson, "Report," Kentucky Conference *Minutes, 1888*.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ President Gross to Board of Trustees, Board of Trustees, *Minutes, 1936*.

began. This new era was ushered in with the coming of the railroad. In October, work began near Barbourville on the extension of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad from Corbin.¹¹ Two years later the line extended through Pineville with an extension projected through Cumberland Gap.

For two short periods of time, Barbourville became a boom town. With the coming of the railroad over 60 houses were built within two years. A huge structure, christened the Queen City Hotel, rose on Allison Avenue but transient clientele failed to maintain it. In the late nineties the town experienced another boom when oil was struck. Some work on the paving and grading of streets began in 1890 and contracts for electric lights were let.¹² Barbourville soon possessed a poorly managed bank and the publishers of the London *Echo* decided to set up a branch organ, the *Cumberland Valley News*. The year 1890 saw also the coming of Barbourville's famed street railway which continued until that nostalgic day in July, 1919, when "Uncle" Ike Golden unhitched old Dob from car 288 for the last time. Dr. Stevenson had reasons for feeling sanguine over the possibilities of his purchase.

Dr. Daniel Stevenson, agent for the Board of Education, was one of Kentucky's best known educators. In 1786 his grandfather, Thomas Stevenson, migrated with his wife and children from Maryland to Kentucky via a flatboat on the Ohio River. His father, Daniel Stevenson, had moved to Versailles, Kentucky, where Daniel Junior was born on November 12, 1823. The timid, sickly lad grew into young manhood unhappy and discouraged, doubting his ability to find his rightful place in society.

A Methodist minister was responsible for pointing the way which rescued young Stevenson from oblivion. He took the discouraged waif along with him to attend the commencement exercises at Augusta College. Here he viewed "the life beautiful." One thing was settled—he would go to college. Using what little spare time was available to an apprentice, Stevenson studied Latin and other subjects in preparation for college. Entering Transylvania College poorly prepared, he forged to the front and delivered the Greek oration at the commencement exercises—an honor reserved for the finest scholar in that field. Stevenson later became proficient in the Hebrew and so it was told proudly by his friends that the scholar could read the Bible in four languages.

After graduation he taught in three states within three years. In

¹¹ London *Echo*, Oct. 29, 1886.

¹² *Ibid.*, March 7, 1890.

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1849, Stevenson married Sarah Corwine, a sister of one of his college chums. The new Mrs. Stevenson could boast of an ancestry running back to John Winthrop of early New England fame. The following years Stevenson combined teaching with the duties of a circuit rider. Now twenty-eight years of age he reached the decision to give himself "wholly to God," and was admitted into the Kentucky Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The coming of the Civil War had its terrible effects on the churches of Kentucky as well as upon its other institutions. Stevenson cast his lot with the Unionists and in 1863 became the candidate of the Union Party for the office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. He served in that capacity until 1867 when he was defeated for re-election.

During the conflict, Stevenson remained within the M. E. Church, South. At the war's end in 1865, he became a leader of the famous "Eighteen"—the nucleus of the new Kentucky Conference. This group withdrew from the southern branch of the church because of the bitter opposition to its proposal to reunite with the M. E. Church in order to help heal the wounds opened by slavery and the Great Rebellion.

Stevenson served a three year pastorate in Louisville as minister of Trinity Church where he captured the lasting friendship of Fanny Speed. Later Stevenson spent four years in New England and when he returned to his native Kentucky in 1879, it was for the purpose of administering Augusta—the school which made a lasting impression upon him in his youth.

For many years, Daniel Stevenson had fought vigorously for an educated ministry. Opposed to him within the conference was a strong group which believed that consecration to God's service enabled anyone to preach the gospel properly. Stevenson determined to secure an educational institution for the training of young ministers in the new Kentucky Conference. He would achieve his aim by reviving old Augusta College.

Upon his arrival in Kentucky from New Hampshire, Stevenson found himself disillusioned. The Trustees of Augusta had failed in their promise to make suitable repairs to the plant. Stevenson decided not to wait until repairs were completed and reopened the old school in the middle of September, 1879. Historic Augusta College had suffered the full impact of the slavery controversy. It closed in 1844 and lost its charter five years later. Other schools bearing slightly different names were opened in its buildings in 1851 and 1863. The Method-

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ist Episcopal Church, South, was bargaining for Augusta's buildings when Stevenson secured a five-year lease.¹³

Stevenson purposed from the first to have the Kentucky Conference accept Augusta as a Conference school. In September, 1882, at the annual conference held in Louisville, Stevenson presented the matter and a year later the contract became effective. Stevenson's dream had come true; the Kentucky Conference now had a higher institution of learning useful for the preparation of ministers—the Augusta Collegiate Institute.

Dr. Stevenson left posterity no direct evidence as to why he decided to leave Augusta and embark upon a new project to revive the school at Barbourville; but J. P. Faulkner gives as his reason "the conclusion that success was impossible at the revived or new Augusta College . . ." ¹⁴ However in his report for the school year, 1886-1887, Stevenson listed enrollment at Augusta as greater than either of the past two years, and described the "general condition" of the school as good.¹⁵

The Board of Education gave no hint of relinquishing Augusta while Stevenson was bargaining for Union's property. In October, 1886 it resolved "that we will do all we can to sustain this institution [Augusta] by speaking in its favor, and endeavoring to secure to it the patronage of the members and friends of our church." ¹⁶ Stevenson's resignation as president at a meeting of the Board of Education held at Augusta, June 4, 1887,¹⁷ placed the situation in an entirely new light. The contract between the Conference and the Trustees of Bracken Academy at Augusta was to be effective only during the period of Stevenson's presidency.¹⁸ Upon his resignation, the Board decided to adopt Union as the Conference college, if possible, and to allow Augusta to revert into the hands of the Bracken Academy Trustees. The same year Augusta became a public grade and high school.¹⁹

For many years, the statement that "Union College is a continuation of Augusta," has gone unchallenged. No evidence has been found to sustain the idea that the school at Augusta had simply moved into new quarters. If such had been the case, why did the Board of Education not adopt the name "Augusta" for the school at Barbourville. What actually happened is this:—Augusta College collapsed for the

¹³ William Hanson, "A History of Educational Institutions in Augusta." (M.A. thesis, University of Cincinnati, 1951).

¹⁴ J. P. Faulkner, "Address on the Coming of Dr. Stevenson," 1936.

¹⁵ Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1887.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 1886.

¹⁷ "Report" of the Board of Education, Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1887.

¹⁸ Hanson, "A History of Educational Institutions in Augusta," *Kentucky*.

¹⁹ Walter Rankins, *Historic Augusta and Augusta College*, 26.

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want of a sponsor when the contract expired in 1887. Union College was re-opened in Barbourville under new management and with added objectives.

Certainly, W. W. Sawyers, Union's heaviest stockholder and president of the defunct Union College Corporation must have thought of the transaction in terms of a revived Union. In spite of heavy losses already sustained, Senator Sawyers donated five rooms of desks to the new Union,²⁰ bringing his gratuity to approximately \$3000.²¹ It would be hard to believe that one of Union's original founders had unwittingly contributed so much to another institution without realizing it.

Again it is dangerous to assume that Union's re-opening depended entirely upon Stevenson's actions. The need for educational facilities in Southeastern Kentucky was greater than ever. Possibly some other sect or group would have purchased the bargain for a similar purpose. In 1891 a short lived "college," Union Normal School College was opened at Flat Lick, and in 1899, the Barbourville Baptist Institute was organized in Barbourville.

In December of 1886, the London *Echo* proudly announced the reopening of Union College "last Monday [December 13,]." ²² Stevenson was still president of Augusta and he found it necessary to send one of his professors, George H. Dains, to take charge at Barbourville. Other members of the faculty were Emma Dykes, Francis Goetz the famous musician and, Dains' stepmother. Stevenson's hurried trip for commencement exercises in June, 1887, had unfortunate results. An inebriated sot at Corbin almost broke his leg, requiring him to use crutches for several weeks.

Stevenson was present part of the school year 1887-1888, but it was not until September, 17, 1888 that he was officially made president of Union College and "Conductor of Ministerial Institutes," with the added title of "member of Barbourville Quarterly Conference." ²³ As president, he served as his own bookkeeper and stenographer, administered college affairs, and taught up to five periods a day, none of which seemed dull to J. P. Faulkner.²⁴

The account which Mrs. Della Rankin has written of her life at Union during Stevenson's régime is so vivid that any attempt to paraphrase it could result only in loss of its flavor and setting. She relates:

²⁰ Elmer Decker in *Orange and Black*, April 12, 1939.

²¹ J. P. Faulkner, "50th Anniversary Address."

²² Dec. 17, 1886.

²³ Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1888.

²⁴ "50th Anniversary Address."

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My earliest recollections of Union College are of some sixty odd years ago when as a little tot I was in the primary grades under a most beloved teacher—Miss—Gardner. Nothing much except the usual school day memoirs of a happy childhood stands out—except that she was tall and gray haired, remarkably gentle and sweet, and that one day before the terrified eyes of a roomfull of children she sank to the floor and as I have always thought died there in our presence—Union College in those days was a somewhat unique institution, in that it not only set the pattern of our scholastic life, but in an almost unbelievable measure dominated the mores of the little community, and pretty well regulated every phase of our (the students) lives. The teachers of those early years I recall as persons highly dedicated to a cause in which they were whole-heartedly interested. The school had something of the missionary aspect, for that section of the state was then quite “primitive” (tho’ we didn’t like the “furriners” to tell us so). Certainly it could not have been for financial gain that those teachers came. The then president was Dr. Stevenson—“old Doctor” we called him, not in disparagement for everyone respected him, and many of whom I was one, loved him. I always (and so did everyone else pretty nearly) stood in awe of him, and many is the time I have skittered across the street to keep from meeting him as I knew he would ask where had I been—or where was I going—and what for etc., etc., and he took it as his privilege to stop our mothers at any chance meeting and give them little counselling talks on how they were to raise us—discipline and the like and no one thought of him as a meddler in something not his business, but rather as a patriarchal overseer of his domain. Among some of the restrictions imposed upon us as students were—no dancing, no card playing (these were prohibitions of most of the churches then) no gum chewing, and of course no drinking and on Monday morning roll call in chapel we must answer either “present” or “church.” The latter was the acceptable answer and meant we had attended a minimum of *two* services the previous day (Sunday). It could be any two, as Sunday School & one church service. If the answer was “present” we had to report immediately after “chapel” to “old Doctor’s” private office and give a good reason *why!* That “chapel” gathering is one of my most impressionable memories. The college at the time I attended consisted physically of one administration Bldg. and a small frame cottage (known as the President’s home.)

The administration Building was a rather austere red brick building with a large centre hall running full length, on each side of which were class rooms and a bell tower sticking up at the center front—this college bell was quite a feature of local life.

The large assembly room where “chapel” was held each morning extended over the North (I believe) side of the second floor—music lessons and occasional other classes were held in it too. Miss Ella Tinsley (later Mrs. Fred Rector) a very beautiful young woman, and the “Belle,” of the town, was the music teacher, and after assembling in our classrooms we marched up to chapel to the rather militant marches she played for us and afterwards marched down again to the stirring music, in perfect order. Chapel exercises, as did much of our school life

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then, had definite religious overtones. There was always responsive scripture reading, singing, not necessarily a hymn. I recall one special favorite of "old Doctor's,"—Felicia Hemoris "The Breaking Waves Dashed High—On a Storm and Rock Bound Coast." I could still sing it for you—after all these years, were you present and had the courage to listen! On Monday morning we had to recite the ten commandments (no peeping in the book, either!) Then followed a talk, usually by Dr. S.—of an inspirational nature. In one of his favorite themes he would quote Pope (I believe) "Vice is a monster of so frightful mien—etc., etc.," and I am sure all of us of that period can quote the passage verbatim. How profound an influence those talks had on our characters and subsequent lives I am sure we also appreciate. Sometimes a student participated maybe with a "recitation" of something original or a musical feature. The stage sat very high and I am sure mine were not the only spindly legs that knocked together as we mounted it. "Old Doctor" as I remember him was a small man in stature—but mighty in his personality. He had rather heavy iron—gray hair, very keen eyes (that saw everything!) and I believe wore a pointed beard (you can verify from pictures). He had a little habit of sniffing his nose and twisting it, with his mouth from side to side. This always meant he was displeased—probably had seen someone misbehaving in class or whatever—and his little mannerism was often the only expression of his displeasure—but the culprit was wise enough to straighten up and behave himself. He was a firm believer in the value of the "dead" languages (Greek and Latin) in education. He, himself, taught a beginners "oral" class in Latin. When I was 10 years old he passed my desk, tapped me on the shoulder and said, "I want this little girl in my Latin class." Quaking in my shoes I went. It turned out to be fun. Doctor's method must have been original with him. He drew a sort of "hop-skotch" diagram on the floor—and I can see him now hopping and tapping with his cane and in a sing-song rhythm going thro the declensions and congugations Hic-haec-hoc—tap-tap-tap—huius, huius-huius—tap-tap-tap- huic huic huic, tap, tap, tap; hunc, hanc, hoc, tap, tap, tap; Hōc, hac, hōc; tap, tap, tap; and so on, and we learned it so that it stuck with us. The date of Dr. Stevenson's death which I do not recall, is a matter of record. In his going, Barbourville lost one of its truly great citizens. A man whose rather brusque interior had a heart that was warm with kindly and human impulses.²⁵

The rigid code of moral and religious conduct prevailing at Union was not peculiar to that institution alone, but merely reflected the standards accepted by society as a whole. For instance in Knox county court a bench warrant was issued for William Fore who "maliciously engaged in a game of cards for profit and amusement on the Sabbath day—the same not being a work of necessity or charity." From the school's first days the better citizens of Barbourville had thundered in vain against the town's saloons. Under the sponsorship of Senator W. W. Sawyers, of Barbourville, a state law was passed making it

²⁵ Della J. Rankin to writer, July 12, 1953.

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"unlawful to sell liquor in any quantities less than half a barrel within four miles of Union College." ²⁶ This special legislation was somewhat nullified by the issuance of Federal licenses permitting the hawking of liquor in the area.

The absence in the early Union College Bulletins of official bans against drinking indicates but one thing—it was taken for granted that no tipplers would be tolerated on the campus. No student was admitted who used tobacco unless he first pledged himself to discontinue its use.²⁷ This effort to enforce rightful conduct on the part of students extended into the realm of speech; "all profanity, all vulgarity" were "kept as far away from the college as possible."²⁸

As Mrs. Rankin has previously written, attendance at chapel and church was rigidly enforced, because "secular knowledge is not enough for the duties of life." The Bible was held to be "the standard of truth, and the fear of the Lord, the beginning of wisdom." Daily chapel consisted of "reading of the Sacred Scriptures responsively, of singing and of prayer." Each Monday morning all students were required to "repeat the Ten Commandments."²⁹

The social life existing on the campus found its place in religious and literary activities. Literary societies had existed since 1880, but the coming of the college curriculum to Union brought about a new awakening. Under the leadership of William E. Shaw, a really great teacher,³⁰ two literary societies were organized, the Philonikean and the Invincibles. Dr. Stevenson thought the latter title hardly suitable for a female organization and it was changed to Fanny Speed Society. The girls countered by making "Invincible" their motto. Presumably the male Philonikeans were lovers of strife.³¹ They took for their motto a Greek saying, which translated meant, "Find a way or make one."

The purpose of these two societies was to enable their members "to practice without restraint, the lessons they had learned in the class room, thereby making college less theoretical and more practical." There was great rivalry between the two societies, but naturally the feeling was not bad—one was composed of girls; the other boys.

The Philos "stuck their necks out" by offering to debate the subject:—"Resolved that women should have equal rights with men."

²⁶ Chapter 426 of the *Acts of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky*.

²⁷ *Union College Catalog, 1896*.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, 1894-95.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ Shaw achieved great success after his days at Union. See *Who's Who in America, 1942-43, 1980*.

³¹ The Greek original means a lover of strife or one eager to control.

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The Fanny Speeds accepted the challenge and upset the carefully laid plans of the opposition by choosing the negative side of the proposition—and they won. The Philos wore a gold button on their lapels as a distinguishing badge, while the Fanny Speeds wore pins.³² After the third floor of the administration building was completed about 1892, a nice room known as "Speed Memorial Hall," was "commodiously furnished and set aside for the use of the societies."³³

Although there were no series of lyceum programs, special lectures were delivered by faculty members and guest speakers. In 1891, Dr. Stevenson's son Richard, gave a series of three lectures on "Old Rome in New Italy," "Shakespeare as a Moralist," and "Clive." The next year, B. D. Mansfield presented a series of lectures on Wolfe, Livingston, Gordon, and Stanley. Special lectures, societies, and clubs were undoubtedly of great value and interest, but the focal point of the school's activities lay elsewhere—in the classical college curriculum.

Dr. Stevenson's coming to Union marked the beginning of class work on a true college basis, and the granting of degrees. The best Union could offer during the years, 1879-1886, was college preparatory in nature. In fact, when the school closed in June of 1886, it was little above a grade school, though special tutoring was given to students on the academic level. Stevenson's plan was to begin classes of academic (college preparatory) grade and when he had a freshman "class" ready, to follow through year by year with a college program.

The curriculum as listed in 1893-94 consisted of four grades; primary, intermediate, academic, and collegiate. These levels took two, four, three, and four years respectively to complete. Besides preparation in the classical languages, grammar, and mathematics, the academic program includes today's grade school subjects of reading, history, arithmetic, and geography.

The first year of the collegiate level overlapped the academic level. Three years of Greek, Latin, and mathematics were required, and two terms each of Bible, philosophy, and political science. One term each was devoted to astronomy, geology, botany, physics, and logic. The college curriculum consisted of one course, the "old time classical course"—leading to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Beginning in 1895-96, an advanced degree of A.M. *in cursu* was offered. Students aspiring to this degree must take one year of advanced work and submit an original thesis of not less than 3000 words. J. P. Faulkner (1896) and George E. Hancock (1900) were the only recipients of this degree.

³² This interesting information on the clubs was contributed by Mrs. Rankin of San Diego, and George Wilson of Philadelphia.

³³ Union College *Catalog*, 1898.

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An improved course of study was announced for 1895-96, with the intention of bringing courses into conformity with the requirements of the University Senate of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1896-97, the primary department was lengthened to three years, and two years later, was increased to four years.

The year, 1893, marked an important milestone in the history of Union's academic progress, when on June 8, President Stevenson conferred the A.B. degree upon Union's first college graduates, James Perry Faulkner, and John Elbert Thomas.³⁴

Dr. Stevenson's carefully prepared address, delivered in Latin, congratulated the two upon receiving the rewards of their labor and admonished them, as Union's "first grown sons," to set an example "for all her younger children."³⁵ An examination of the lives of Union's first two college graduates reveals that they did not betray their trust. On this same day, Union's first honorary degree—that of Mistress of English Literature, was conferred upon Miss Wesleyana Gardiner, a member of the faculty.³⁶

The Commencement week program of June, 1894, furnishes an example of Union's early exercises. On Sunday morning, June 3, the president delivered his "Annual sermon," followed by the "Love Feast" in the afternoon. From June 4-6, examinations were the daily schedule with nightly programs of literary societies, entertainments, addresses, and exhibitions. Graduation on Thursday morning concluded the exercises. The A.B. Degree was conferred upon Charles H. Byrley, Charles Gibson and James S. Lock. Charles W. Sutton received the honorary degree of Master of Arts.³⁷

This carrying through of a college curriculum successfully brought with it heavy financial burdens. President Stevenson's account for 1892, reporting the college free of debt seems almost miraculous when one considers that the total assets of the Board of Education in 1887 consisted of eleven shares of bank stock in Covington in addition to \$130 in cash.³⁸ Stevenson, as agent for the Educational Fund, reported receipts totaling \$7,571.76 for the year 1888. Of this amount, \$1300 was contributed by pastoral charges—the Barbourville church alone contributing almost \$400. The Board of Education's share amounting to over \$2000, probably was raised through the sale of its bank stock. Mrs. Fanny Speed of Louisville was by far the heaviest contributor.

³⁴ There were originally four members in this class. The other two were S. C. Steele and Mrs. James Brittain Tuggle.

³⁵ For English translation of Dr. Stevenson's address, see Appendix.

³⁶ Board of Education, Record, 1892-1903, MSS, President's office.

³⁷ "Remembrances," Abigail E. Weeks, MSS.

³⁸ Kentucky Conference, *Minutes*, 1887.

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As already stated, Dr. Stevenson would probably not have dared to assume such heavy financial responsibility in 1886, had not some individual given him assurance of underwriting the project. This could have come only from Fanny Speed. On the very day in 1887, when Dr. Stevenson redeemed the sale of Union's property, Mrs. Speed gave \$1000. Within the next seven months her donations totaled over \$7500, about half of which was applied on the building debt. The records of Dr. Stevenson and the Kentucky Conference for this period listed contributions from Mrs. Speed amounting to \$14,647, not counting her gifts for ministerial students, Stevenson's salary and preachers institutes. By 1895, Union had a small endowment of \$7400 of which \$5200 had been donated by Mrs. Speed. This early endowment became known as the Fanny Speed Fund. After Mrs. Speed's death, a member of the Board of Education estimated her total gifts during Stevenson's administration as amounting to \$60,000.³⁹

This relatively easy income of Dr. Stevenson's administration also made possible some growth of the physical properties of the college. During this period, 1886-1897, this growth consisted of repairs, completion of the main college building, a president's residence, and the acquisition of added acreage to the original campus.

The total cost of grounds, buildings, bell, interest, insurance, and all improvements up to September, 1888, amounted to \$6571. At the same time the total estimated worth of Union's property was set at \$10,000.⁴⁰ The main building had never been completed—the "chapel remained unwainscoted and unplastered." No work had been done on the third floor interior. Within two years the chapel was completed, damage was repaired, two flights of stairs were run to the third story, new windows were cut, and five usable rooms were added. In addition a piano was purchased and a well was sunk. A total of over \$2000 had been expended on repairs and improvements.

The first addition to Union's campus after 1886 was brought about wholly on the initiative of President Stevenson. Upon coming to Barbourville he had taken up quarters at the Anderson hotel. Afterwards he lived with his family in a little cottage on High Street alongside the site of the present Christian church.⁴¹ Desiring to live closer to his place of work, Stevenson, in 1892, purchased the "Stickley property," a small tract of land about 60 feet wide lying northwest of the college plot, for the sum of \$330 and one share of Cumberland Valley

³⁹ Memorandum by a member of the Board of Education, 1903, President's office.

⁴⁰ "Report" of D. Stevenson, Kentucky Conference, *Minutes*, 1888.

⁴¹ Mrs. Annie Albright related how Mrs. Stevenson, a very lovable lady, would sit on her porch and throw kisses to her friends as they passed by her residence.

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Bank Stock.⁴² On this plot, Stevenson erected a five room dwelling known at first as the President's home but in later years as "Campus Cottage."⁴³ The following year the Board of Education agreed to buy the property and made Stevenson agent for raising the amount set at \$1600. In 1896, Dr. Stevenson was paid in full and the deed transferred. The president had given \$100 toward payment on his own residence and Fanny Speed contributed \$732.49.⁴⁴

The most striking difference between the administration of the new Union College, and that of the old, was in its aims and objectives. The charter or corporation school had for its goal a well rounded education for the individual; and while religious instruction was included, the school's primary objectives were not Christian in nature. The new Union under Stevenson retained all the old aims and placed the goal of Christian education for Christian living in the forefront of its objectives.

These Christian goals were sought through the media of class room instruction, the training of prospective Christian workers, ministerial institutes, chapel exercises, participation in church work, and daily Christian living as exemplified in the lives of the faculty and student body.

One of Union College's first advertisements called "special attention given to the training of young men for the ministry, and of young women for usefulness in the church." The Board of Education of the Kentucky Conference emphasized repeatedly the opportunities at Union for those preparing for the ministry. Although no theological department was established at Union until shortly after Dr. Stevenson's death, special classes were conducted by him during his régime. His first class consisted of J. P. Faulkner and J. Elbert Thomas. "It increased gradually and later there were eight or ten. Sometimes other students came in for certain lectures, and occasionally a faculty member. The courses were all of a practical nature and the talks or readings interesting and inspirational. After a while a few of us were given instruction in sermon building."⁴⁵ In 1895, Union had seven students preparing for the ministry. President Stevenson extended these ministerial services to different districts of the conference. As previously noted, all these ministerial institutes were financed by Fanny Speed. Frequently these institutes failed because not many students could afford to attend, and often, the ones who could have benefitted most were the least concerned.

⁴² Knox County Deed Records, Book "T," 12.

⁴³ This is now the residence of the superintendent of grounds.

⁴⁴ Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1894; 1895; 1896.

⁴⁵ J. P. Faulkner, "Address Celebrating the Coming of Dr. Stevenson. . . ."

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After four years of hard work on behalf of his college, Stevenson determined to spend a much needed vacation in Europe. His party of thirteen included his son Richard, and Mrs. Belle Speed, an aunt of his daughter-in-law. Their itinerary included Britain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Germany and Holland. Richard Stevenson lost his wallet containing 2500 francs and Dr. Stevenson likewise his letter of credit, whereupon the party retired to Westminster Abbey to hear the Reverend Robinson Duckworth preach on the text, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor."⁴⁶ Stevenson returned in September in time for the opening of the new school year.

During Dr. Stevenson's tenure of office, a total of fifteen students received the A.B. degree. The class of 1895, six in number, was not exceeded in size until thirty years later.⁴⁷ The attendance through the years, 1891-96, varied from 93 to 105 students. The maximum number enrolled in the college and academic curriculums were 18 and 30 respectively. About one-third of the school attended primary grades. The early interest in musical instruction continued throughout the years.

On November 13, 1893, Dr. Stevenson made the last entry in his Journal. He wrote, "Yesterday was my birthday, I have now reached the age of seventy, but it is hard for me to realize it, as I feel as if I were not more than forty or fifty years of age." But Stevenson's body had never been strong and four years later, after an attack of erysipelas, he weakened rapidly and died on the second day of the new year, 1897. His faithful wife followed him the next year and was laid to rest by his side in Lexington, Kentucky.

All the tributes paid to Dr. Stevenson would fill many pages—much more than this work can devote to him. The following are illustrative of the love and esteem in which this great and good man was held:

In the death of Daniel Stevenson, D.D., the Board of Education of the Kentucky Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church has lost its most faithful member. Ever watchful, ever faithful and every working. In his integrity and energy in business he has left to his co-laborers and successors on the Board . . . a life to imitate.⁴⁸

He was above all else a teacher of men. He had an ambition to educate a strong class of young men for the church he loved. The Kentucky Conference was very dear to him and he returned to it with a devout

⁴⁶ Daniel Stevenson, *Journal II*, August 24, 1890.

⁴⁷ At this writing, March, 1954, only three members of the early classes survive. They are Mr. and Mrs. George Wilson of Philadelphia and Dr. William C. Black of Lexington.

⁴⁸ Board of Education, Record, March 22, 1897.

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purpose to give it his last as he had given it his first efforts to promote its higher interests.⁴⁹

When I entered Union College forty years ago, it was small with but meagre equipment but it had Dr. Daniel Stevenson—a virile personality, distinguished in appearance. Courtly, radiating good humor, full of wisdom, rather austere but extremely just and kind, a Christian educator and leader, who recognized as his responsibility all who came within his environment, either in school, church, or community. He had supreme respect for human personality.

He was clean in his life, pure in heart and mind, cultured, intellectual, a scholar, a wonderfully high type of the consecrated follower and worker with the Lord Jesus in his Kingdom's enterprise. I do not remember many new facts I learned there—there were some of course—but the spell of his character led me, very soon, to want to give my life to the same service in which he had enlisted. The sermon he preached at our graduation was from Philippians IV, 8-9 and it seems to me now as it did then that he was a superb example of the result of following Paul's suggestions.⁵⁰

But what of his work? Shall it end with his death or shall it continue? I ask you the question. You know it is sometimes said that the youngest child is the most loved of all. Union College was the last and youngest of all his works; and so, we think, the dearest to his heart. What shall be its history? Shall it be dear to us because loved by him? Let me answer the question for you, for I think I know your minds in this matter. I say, no, it shall not die; it shall live and shall continue to grow and shall add luster to his name.⁵¹

Such are the tributes paid to this servant of the Almighty who said: "No man is fit to preach that does not tremble [before God] as he enters the pulpit."

⁴⁹ "Biographical Sketch of Daniel Stevenson," Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1897.

⁵⁰ J. Elbert Thomas to "Founders Day" Committee, May 14, 1929, President's office.

⁵¹ J. P. Faulkner, "Memorial Address," MSS, President's office.

CHAPTER III

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PRESIDENT STEVENSON 1897-1905

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION found itself unprepared for such a blow as the passing of Dr. Stevenson. To many it seemed that Union, shorn of its great captain, was bound to be broken upon the surrounding rocks of adversity. In this period of gloom, the Board turned to its patron saint, Fanny Speed, for her opinion on continuance of the school, and for some reassurance of financial support.

Her answer came as a great relief to all concerned. She was quite willing to "continue her aid to the school in its present condition," but could not contribute as heavily to student aid as she had in the past. She was also willing to pay Faulkner's salary should he be retained permanently as president. Dr. Stevenson's death had brought Mrs. Speed much distress, but her prayers were asking for the "carrying out of his great purpose of doing good to the Kentucky Conference." ¹

Judge J. H. Tinsley, who had served as Stevenson's legal advisor at the time Union's property was sold, was now president pro-tempore of the Board of Education. In this capacity he became the principal "spokesman for the policies of Dr. Stevenson in the trying days following his death. . ." ² In the opinion of J. P. Faulkner, Judge Tinsley performed his greatest services to Union at this period.

On March 22, 1897, the Board of Education elected J. P. Faulkner president of Union College for the balance of the school year 1897-98. The Board placed entire financial responsibility upon the young new president. From the income paid for tuition he was to remunerate the instructors, carry the insurance and \$125 annual rent, which might be paid "in necessary repairs and improvements." Faulkner's salary was set at \$700 per annum in addition to use of the president's house. ³

James Perry Faulkner, upon whom these burdens fell, was a native of Knox County, Kentucky, an alumnus of the college and assistant

¹ Fanny Speed to J. D. Walsh, Feb. 6, 1897, President's office.

² J. P. Faulkner, "50th Anniversary Address."

³ Board of Education, Record, 1892-1903, MSS, President's office.

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to the president at the time of Stevenson's death. His Virginian ancestors were among the early Methodists of America. He was born in a one room log cabin at Swan Pond (near Barbourville) in 1869, the youngest of five children. Born into poverty and sickness, and deprived of parental care at an early age, the youngster was received into the home of an aunt for rearing. The scant fare of education received in the public and subscription schools of the period served to whet his appetite for more learning. His first contact with Union took place when he visited the school over Gibson's store in 1880. Later, on his trips to the grist mill, he "had seen the walls of the college building rise to completion," and during the Grider administration had "been to college" as he termed it.⁴

When Union reopened in 1886, Faulkner could see little hope of attending because of financial difficulties. "In 1887 he became acquainted with Dr. Stevenson, who, perceiving him to be a young man of more than ordinary promise, succeeded in persuading him to attend college."⁵

Faulkner had joined the Methodist Church under the Reverend S. L. Kelley during the days when that pioneer evangelist was serving as a circuit rider, and it thrilled him to be able to attend a school sponsored by leaders of his faith. He was received into the home of Gordon G. Bain, one of Union's founders, was the recipient of a ministerial grant from Fanny Speed, and helped to earn his own way by performing janitorial services after school in addition to clerking in the local drugstore. It is said that he laid Union's first brick walk and planted trees which now form part of Union's beautiful campus. As he progressed in his studies, Faulkner became student assistant and upon his graduation in 1893, was made an instructor in science and mathematics. He continued his studies at Union while teaching and in 1896 took the A.M. degree *in cursu*. At the time of Dr. Stevenson's death he had worked up to the vice-presidency. Faulkner's succession to the presidency of Union was in fulfillment of Daniel Stevenson's wishes.

President Faulkner had been steeped in the philosophy of his "spiritual father," Dr. Stevenson, and it was his determination to follow in his predecessor's footsteps. The school should continue to maintain a collegiate curriculum, to foster Christian education, to take care of the needs of prospective teachers, to add courses of a utilitarian nature, and to go forward with a building program.

The collegiate curriculum underwent a slight revision in compliance

⁴ J. P. Faulkner, "Anniversary Address on the Coming of Stevenson."

⁵ *Western Christian Advocate*, May 19, 1897.

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF PRESIDENT STEVENSON, 1897-1905

with the wishes of the University Senate of the Methodist Episcopal Church in order to enable Union's graduates to stand "on a level with those of colleges of like grade." ⁶

President Faulkner added the normal department in 1900 in accordance with the need of a teacher training program. Its three courses of instruction were the county certificate, the commercial, and the preparatory. The first mentioned led to a teaching certificate in the common schools; the second qualified one for admission to the collegiate course; and the third, a three year course, granted a Normal Diploma provided one held a first class certificate. The county course consisted mainly of common school subjects with the addition of civil government and Kentucky History.⁷ Because the long room on the first floor was used mainly by the Normal department, it became known as the normal room.

The cost of attending Union had gone up considerably since its founding. Board and room now cost from \$2.50 to \$3.00 weekly and a year's tuition on the collegiate level cost \$45. The total yearly cost for a year came to approximately \$150.

A definitely organized college library was one of the achievements of Faulkner's régime. Dr. Stevenson had a small private library near his office on the second floor of the administration building but it was not available for general use by the students.⁸ In 1898 the long "library room" on the second floor was furnished with tables, desks, chairs, and bookcases. This combination library and waiting room was christened the "Speed-Stevenson Library," in honor of Fanny Speed and Mrs. Daniel Stevenson. The three leading contributors to Union's first library were Fanny Speed, Mrs. Daniel Stevenson, and Professor George H. Dains. The latter who had served as acting president in Stevenson's absence, had married Emma Dykes, one of Union's instructors, and gone to Middlesboro to enter the newspaper business. The first year over 1000 books were catalogued and labeled bearing the names of the donors and 150 more volumes were added the following year.⁹

Later a room was furnished on the third floor for use of the literary societies. This room was known as Speed Memorial Hall. A Union College catalog of the period described the societies as the "pulse of the school since they are . . . indicators of its condition." They were reputedly the "centers of its best elements, moral and intellectual," but

⁶ Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1899.

⁷ Union College *Catalogue*, 1901.

⁸ Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Faulkner to writer, March 11, 1954.

⁹ Union College *Catalogs*, 1898, 1898-1900, 1901; "Report" of the Committee on Education, Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1899.

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an examination of some of their programs indicate an interest in the lighter side of life. A Philoneikean program for April, 1899, listed such subjects as "A Boys First Love," "How it Feels to be in Love," and "Advice to Persons not in Love and About to Get in Love."

The literary societies paid for their own lighting bills. One finds such items as 15¢ spent for oil and 20¢ expended for a lamp chimney. Treasuries were maintained by fining each member 5¢ for each unexcused absence. No student was allowed to enter the society hall unless he could give the secret password, which was changed each term for reasons of security. "Excelsior" was a password for one term.¹⁰ The societies were supposed to be under faculty supervision but once during the term of Dr. Stevenson, he entered a Philoneikean meeting unannounced to find a "Kangaroo" court in session.¹¹ Evidently hazing established itself early in Union's history.

The facilities of the one building college were now becoming strained by the swelling enrollment. At the turn of the century, Union enrolled 184 students—the largest number to date. But dangerous symptoms were already appearing. The collegiate department had shrunk to only 6 students while the newly organized normal department numbered 53. The academic department was also falling while the lower grammar and primary departments were swelling. Although 200 pupils were enrolled at the end of Faulkner's administration, the combined collegiate and academic departments counted only 25 students.

With no housing available on the campus for the out of town "Young ladies," the administration was compelled to make arrangements for properly supervised rooms in town. An apartment over the Cumberland Valley Bank (now the residence of George W. Tye), was secured for use as a boarding hall. Mrs. Ellen Thomas, president Faulkner's sister, acted as matron, and now the parents of the young ladies no longer had any fears that their daughters would not "have proper restraints thrown around them."

Added advantages were advertised by the college in order to lure prospective ministerial students. By 1899 eight scholarships were being offered to worthy students and the Kentucky Conference was encouraging prospective ministers to avail themselves of these unusual opportunities. The direction of ministerial work at the college had formerly rested exclusively in the hands of Presidents Stevenson and Faulkner. President Faulkner was relieved of this added burden in 1898, when John Elbert Thomas, his classmate at Union, returned from Boston Theological Seminary to take charge of this work. Union

¹⁰ Philoneikean Society Minutes, MSS, President's office.

¹¹ Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Faulkner to writer, March 11, 1954.

now had, for the first time, a full time teacher and director of religious education.

Faulkner and Thomas were not the only Union graduates serving their Alma Mater during this period. George H. Wilson, May E. Lock, and Daisy C. Tinsley, also taught. This is the only period in Union's history when the faculty was composed mainly of Union graduates and natives of Barbourville. With the coming of a new régime in 1905, an entire new faculty was selected with one exception. Union can be justly proud of her early graduates, several of whom rose to places of high distinction.

During the period 1897-1904, a great deal was heard of a proposed new dormitory for women, and the part Fanny Speed would play in its erection and completion. This lady's name has already been mentioned frequently in this work and it behooves us well at this point to learn more about Union's patron saint.

Fanny Henning Speed was born near Louisville, Kentucky, in 1820. She was descended from some of the first families of Virginia. As a young woman she attended a boarding school for young ladies conducted by the Reverend John Tevis at Science Hill. Her selection as the school's Queen of the May was a tribute to her girlish charm and beauty. But alas, her majesty never reigned—for even monarchs fall prey to measles—and a proxy mounted the throne for that auspicious occasion. At twenty-five years of age, she married Joshua Speed, lately returned from establishing his intimate friendship with Abraham Lincoln, and the couple settled down for a quiet life on a country estate. Later, Joshua moved to Louisville and acquired a sizeable fortune in real estate and stocks.

It was Fanny Speed's decision of 1865 to follow the "Loyal Eighteen," and her association with Dr. Stevenson when he was her pastor at Trinity Church, that paved the way for her long period of Christian service to the Kentucky Conference and Union College. Her interest in Dr. Stevenson's projected buying of Union's property in 1886 made possible the fulfillment of his dream of establishing a Methodist college in the area he considered in the greatest need of service. As previously noted, she helped to pay for Union's original building, assisted needy students, paid the salaries of Stevenson and Faulkner, maintained ministerial institutes, and started Union's first endowment.

However, this good woman was yet to perform her greatest service to Union College—the establishment of a large endowment sufficient to guarantee some degree of permanence to the college. In addition, she donated and promised additional funds to make possible the

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completion of the first important building program set in motion since the founding of the college.

The first positive move to provide a girls' dormitory for Union took place (June 7, 1897), only a few months after Dr. Stevenson's death. At a meeting of the Board of Education, J. H. Tinsley and President Faulkner were made a committee "to secure additional ground upon which to erect a dormitory for girls," and Faulkner was "authorized to raise funds by solicitations from individuals and congregations."¹² The Board decided to solicit the aid of Fanny Speed and wrote her a letter to that effect.

Fanny Speed's reply, read at a Board meeting held in the early spring of 1898, was most disheartening—she "could do nothing on a new building."¹³ At this critical stage, the courage manifested by President Faulkner, J. G. Tinsley, A. M. Decker, and others, will stand as a testimony to the indomitable will of Union's leaders and supporters in Barbourville. Encouraged by the urging of these gentlemen, the Board, after a waiting period of two years, determined to go ahead without the aid of Mrs. Speed. In September, 1900, Faulkner was given authorization to solicit funds for the proposed dormitory. A year later a building committee was appointed to "purchase grounds, secure funds, and build a dormitory." Two of the committee resigned because they could not see how purchases of any kind could be made without funds.

At a Board meeting held September 26, 1901, President Faulkner presented the deed to a "small parcel" of land adjoining the college property, for which he paid \$62.50.¹⁴ At the same time Faulkner was requested to buy the Stickley property if it could be acquired for not more than \$1000. On December 3, 1901, this plot, about 650x100 feet, bordering on College Street was purchased from J. G. and Manda Stickley at the maximum price set by the Board.¹⁵ This was the tract on which Speed Hall was later erected. One more addition to Union's campus was made near the end of Faulkner's administration with the purchase of five acres acquired at auction for \$901. This acquisition later became the site of the dairy farm and a portion of the athletic field.¹⁶

When the Kentucky Conference met in the autumn of 1901, the Board of Education gave an enthusiastic report on the progress made to date. Over \$8,000 in "*bona fide*" pledges had been secured. In the

¹² Board of Education, Record, 1892-1908.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ Knox County Deed Book, No. 4, 554.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, No. 10, 33.

meantime, Mrs. Speed, having changed her mind regarding her ability to help, had contributed \$2,500 and orally promised President Faulkner to give \$2,500 more.¹⁷ It is very likely that Mrs. Speed's \$5,000 was included in the \$8,000's worth of "*bona fide*" subscriptions mentioned in the report. Construction was to begin as soon as the full estimated cost of \$10,000 was subscribed.¹⁸

The passing of Fanny Speed in August, 1902, precipitated a crisis. The Board of Education attended in a body to hear the reading of her will, under the terms of which, the Board of Education fell heir to one-half of her estimated \$500,000 estate. The Henning heirs took steps at once in the courts to have the will declared void.¹⁹ The Board, faced with a long drawn out period of litigation, hired (Oct. 16), the law firm of Helm, Bruce and Helm at a maximum fee of 10% of the net proceeds should the firm be successful in establishing the validity of Fanny Speed's will.²⁰

In the meantime, President Faulkner and the Building Committee had prepared plans, awarded contracts for construction of the dormitory, and work had begun. The Board of Education, irked by what it considered unauthorized assumption of authority on the part of the committee, passed a resolution of censure against Faulkner and his associates. This resolution disclaimed "any liability for the construction of said Building [on the part of the Board] and direct [ed] Mr. Faulkner and the said Building Committee to report at once . . . the amount and nature of the work and contracts entered into, and to discontinue work on said building until further action" was taken by the Board.²¹

In a letter to the Board the following day, President Faulkner countered by asking for his release at the end of the school year in June, 1903, allegedly because of Mrs. Speed's death and the question of his salary.²² Faulkner considered his annual stipend of \$700 inadequate compared to that of \$1,500 paid President Stevenson. The Board voted with alacrity to grant Faulkner's release, and at its next meeting on February 4, 1903, appointed a nominating committee to secure a new president for Union. This committee's report (March 3), recommended no one—merely stating that Faulkner could be secured under new terms.

After accepting Faulkner's resignation, the Board gave permission

¹⁷ Kentucky Conference Minutes, 1904.

¹⁸ Union College Catalog, 1901.

¹⁹ Board of Education, Record, 1892-1903.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ *Ibid.*, Oct. 7, 1902.

²² *Ibid.*, Oct. 16, 1902.

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to the Building Committee to proceed according to the erstwhile "un-authorized plans." Evidently the Board was now ready to sanction construction without waiting for the outcome of its litigation with the Speed heirs. President Faulkner now proved to be recalcitrant and let it be known that he would not accept a new contract until an additional \$1,050 had been subscribed—the minimum sum be considered necessary to insure completion of the dormitory.

This amount set by Faulkner was reached by April, 1903. The former drive had actually netted about \$500. Faulkner's new drive of 1902-03 added about \$2,000. Fanny Speed's old church, the Trinity of Louisville, contributed \$1,000 and Faulkner raised \$500 among the citizens of Barbourville. In addition, the Building Committee was authorized to mortgage the new dormitory and the Stickley lot up to \$3,000.

It must be kept in mind that in this period following Mrs. Speed's death, the school was deprived of its annual payments from her. Speaking many years later of this crisis of 1903, Faulkner said:

There were two elements of danger in this instance—the possibility that the school would have to close to await the outcome of the court proceedings, in which case the morale and accomplishments of the past would be quickly dissipated; and secondly, the danger that the will would be broken. In this event, the friends of the institution could hope for no better fate than that which awaited the original founders. The necessity of closing the school was averted by contributions from a number of the citizens of the town, which, with the income from tuition, made it possible to pay all the faculty salaries except that of the president; he agreed to stand at his post without salary in case the court decision was adverse, but in the event of a favorable decision the salary was to be paid with interest. This was a year when not much consideration could be given either to the past or the future. The present status was all engrossing.²³

Announcements made at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Conference held at Union College, September 28, 1904, were among the most momentous in Union's history. The *Barbourville Mountain Advocate* recognized this in its October 3 issue. The main announcement as given to the conference ran as follows: "We are glad to report that after litigation extending through county, circuit, and court of appeals, the validity of the will of Sister Speed was sustained, and we are happy to announce that the dormitory known as 'Fanny Speed Hall' will be completed by January 1, 1905."²⁴

On June 30, 1904, the assets of the Fanny Speed estate were set at

²³ Faulkner, "50th Anniversary Address."

²⁴ "Report" of Board of Education, Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1904.

\$544,736. At the final settlement agreed upon with the heirs, August 15, the Board of Education was to get \$262,372.02. This was \$10,000 less than the original estimate. According to the agreement made with Helm, Bruce, and Helm, \$25,000 would go for attorney's fees.

Work, which had been suspended since early summer, was again resumed on Speed Hall, but it was not ready for occupancy on January 1, 1905 as scheduled. Not until the beginning of the next administration under President Easley was it available for use. A central power and heating plant was likewise started in the last days of the Faulkner régime but were not completed.

Faulkner again resigned at the end of the school year, 1903-04. The Board promptly elected George H. Wilson, the vice-president as his successor, but that gentleman declined the honor. The Board then made arrangements for Faulkner to stay one more year.²⁵

George H. Wilson ranks among Union's top graduates. Before his birth in Barbourville, the local *Echo*, partly owned by his uncle, John H. Wilson, was agitating for a college, along with Thomas Wilson, his father. Wilson spent long years at Union as a student, graduating in its fourth class, that of '96. He served as a tutor at Union before graduation and became a regular member of the faculty, occupying the chair of Latin, English, and American Literature, and the vice-presidency. His alma mater honored him with two additional degrees after graduation—that of A.M. in 1902, and LL.D. in 1938. After leaving Union he graduated from Harvard Law School and practiced his profession in several states. In the meantime he married Sarah Lock, one of his classmates at Union. In 1910 he became general counsel of the Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company in Philadelphia. He has worked himself up to a vice-presidency and directorship in the company. He belongs to numerous clubs and societies. His residence is in Philadelphia.

Although Faulkner was re-elected president in 1905, he again resigned, wishing to enter divinity school. Also "he came into some disfavor with the church by embracing some of the newer ideas which were branded as heretical . . . and being perhaps too frank about it."²⁶ In September, 1905, Faulkner left with his wife and baby, Maureen, for Boston to enroll in the divinity school. He transferred to Harvard and graduated in 1908. Faulkner had long wished to do work in adult education among the folk of eastern Kentucky. He presented his plan to Berea College, had it accepted, and received an

²⁵ George H. Wilson to writer, Aug. 3, 1953.

²⁶ Della J. Rankin to writer, July 12, 1953. Mildred Johnson, Faulkner's first wife was a sister to Mrs. Rankin.

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appointment as field instructor. Equipped with a stereopticon, slides, rope, wire, lantern, horse shoes, hatchet, and hand ax, he traveled about in a wagon, lecturing on sanitation, health, education, and various religious subjects. In 1913 he organized a state campaign against tuberculosis and in 1915, was called to direct the Raoul Foundation in Georgia. For thirty years he served as executive director of the Georgia Tuberculosis Association besides filling the position of state Director of Public Welfare.

For twenty-five years Faulkner worked on "his philosophy"—his great opus. At his death it was still undergoing revision. "Reactions by . . . readers range from excessive praise to amazement that this mild-mannered, quiet man had been harboring theories that tantalized him almost to the extent of an obsession." He was the universal scholar to end; interested in everything—his Greek or Hebrew, Einstein's theory of relativity, a radio, an old apple tree, or a new design for a dormitory window.

It was one of his dreams to develop a memorial park or forest reserve for Union College. Before his death he deeded his tract of land in Knox County to the college, hoping it might at some time furnish funds for a professorship.²⁷ He performed another great service to Union College by collecting historical data on its early history. This work on Union owes a larger debt to him than it does to any other person.

The building of Speed Hall and the large endowment left by Fanny Speed constituted the major achievements of Faulkner's administration. Behind it all, however, one can see the kindly guiding hand of Daniel Stevenson. Had there been no Dr. Stevenson, it is hard to see how there could have been a Speed Hall or a Speed endowment. There is good reason to believe that before Dr. Stevenson's demise, Mrs. Fanny Speed had already given him assurance of a major bequest. In a letter written to J. G. Walsh, shortly after Stevenson's death she wrote: "All I promise will be provided for should I pass away from this earth."²⁸

²⁷ All this information on Faulkner's life after he left Union, was contributed by Miss Maureen Faulkner, Berea, Ky. It is of interest to note that Faulkner's sister, Ellen, was the mother of Dr. Raymond Allen, Chancellor of U.C.L.A.

²⁸ Fanny Speed to J. D. Walsh, Feb. 6, 1897.

CHAPTER IV

RETRENCHMENT AND EXPANSION, 1905-1910

IN 1904 IT WAS generally known that President Faulkner would not remain at Union for another school year and consequently early in the following year, the Board of Education sought a successor. Late in January, 1905, Faulkner announced Dr. W. I. Watkins, the man of his choice, as the new president of Union College.¹

Dr. Watkins visited Union a week later, delivered an address to the students, and announced plans for the new year. The primary department would be turned over to the town, the faculty increased, and modern foreign languages added to the curriculum. The most important question—his acceptance of Union's presidency, remained unanswered.² After Watkins' rejection of the position some time later, the Board of Education again set to work to select Faulkner's successor. On May 5, 1905, the citizens of Barbourville learned of the new president, J. W. Easley of Wilmington, Delaware.³

The details of Easley's coming to Union are unknown, but undoubtedly he had made contacts during his early life in Kentucky which now stood him in good stead. Some members of the Kentucky Conference called his abilities to the attention of the group and Easley was approached with the offer of a five year contract, and the power to select an entirely new faculty.

James Warren Easley was born at Eminence, Kentucky, in 1853. The young lad helped to support the large family during the later years of the war, while his father was serving in the Union forces. Using the same methods of many self-made Americans of the period he prepared himself by arduous study for entrance into college. He graduated from Eminence College and received his Bachelor of Divinity degree a few years later from Drew Seminary, followed by a Master of Arts from Dickinson College granted him "for distinction in Languages and Liberal Arts."

In 1885, following his chosen profession, he entered the Wilmington Methodist Conference, serving eleven churches prior to his coming

¹ Barbourville *Advocate*, Jan. 27, 1905.

² *Ibid.*, Feb. 3, 1905.

³ *Ibid.*, May 5, 1905.

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to Union. Of his ministry, Dr. Henry G. Budd said: "Mr. Easley was a forceful man in every field he entered. His goodness was never questioned. Sinners accepted his instructions in matters religious, and saints loved him for what they saw at the weekly ministry and the daily living." He married Joanna Matthews, a Louisville teacher, and reared a family of seven. Two of his sons followed the ministry and a third served on the faculty of Syracuse University. Two daughters became teachers in the Philadelphia public schools.⁴

President Easley has been remembered as a tall, well built man, with greying hair. Although possessed of an affable manner he always retained a certain amount of reserve. He was of the school which believed in the old time methods of dealing with "recalcitrant scholars." At his first faculty meeting, teachers were admonished to require "strict obedience" from the pupils.⁵ It was also his intentions to uphold high scholastic standards.

President Easley wished to continue the Christian aims and goals established by his predecessors. The first college catalog published during his régime stated: "The aim of Union College has for its purpose the development of life and formation of character. Right standards of life are placed before the student, and Christian principles of living are given emphasis which is their due and will give force in character building." The college assumed responsibility for "the preservation and developing of the moral life." Although no sectarian principles were taught, the Bible was "believed in and used as a text book."⁶ We find first mention of the Y.M.C.A. in 1906, when over one-half of the young men belonged. This new Christian organization fostered evening Bible study classes and Saturday evening devotional meetings.⁷

President Easley's administration is generally remembered as a period of physical expansion. Speed Hall was made ready for occupancy, a new administration building was erected, and a very pressing need—a men's dormitory, was built. In addition, central heating and power plants came into existence, and a new well was sunk. It was Fanny Speed's bequest which made it possible to complete this program, part of which had been projected during Faulkner's term of office.

Speed Hall, the much publicized women's dormitory was finally made ready for the opening of the school year, 1905-06. Work on

⁴ All of this information on President Easley was contributed by Miss Joan Easley of Philadelphia.

⁵ Union College Faculty Minutes, Sept. 7, 1908.

⁶ Union College Catalog, 1906-07.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 1907-08.

this structure had previously progressed in direct ratio to the added probabilities of receiving the Fanny Speed inheritance. The three-story building, from the outside, did not have the aspects of an austere dormitory, but resembled rather a mammoth residence of the *nouveau riche*. It is said that Fanny Speed requested the erection of a homelike residence for girls.

For years, beginning with Dr. Stevenson's régime, the administration building had undergone steady improvements and repairs. In 1905, the third story was completely redone with the idea of using this space for science laboratories and the use of the literary societies. In addition, a new slate roof was added.⁸

An "Act of God" decreed that the newly finished edifice should be reduced to ashes. On August 24, 1906, a fire, caused by lightning, consumed the structure. Two letters written by eye witnesses on the very day of the catastrophe, have survived. They read as follows:

Mr. Faulkner:

Some one has sent you a telegram about the burning of the college, but I will write you a few of the particulars. It was struck by lightning about 3:30 P.M. today and is now burning to the ground. A dreadful storm came up; it rained for a while, then stopped, but the electrical storm continued. The lightning was very keen and finally one fearful crash came and we knew something was struck. We ran out and found many running up the street saying "Union College has been struck." It was only a little puff of smoke on the very top edge of the cupola. We said it could be easily extinguished, and so it could, had there been the least means of throwing just one bucket of water on it: Of those present, 19 out of every 20 just stood and would not offer to carry even a book. Mr. John A. Black offered money to them, to no purpose. Most of those refusing to help were men from the country. J. W. Black, Ernest Faulkner, Prof. Reibold, Mr. Sevier, Ed England, Mr. McDerMott and many others, whom I cannot mention, worked like three men in one; they begged piteously for more water, but could not get it carried. President Easley and Mr. Decker were both out of town. Mr. Decker getting in on the evening train.

I must omit much that you would like to know, for I have only a few minutes to write. The building is valued at more than \$20,000, but the insurance is only \$4,500. Both pianos, church organ, church table, and Library, and most of the college books were saved, but the books were tossed out windows and badly damaged. Most of the benches were tossed out of windows and badly saved. The Laboratory was destroyed and perhaps that kept many from helping, as a report had spread that it contained many deadly explosives, and I think a slight explosion was

⁸ Barbourville *Collegial Journal*, Sept. 1905.

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what threw the walls down. It is still burning. It was a great blow to us, for we feel that it could have been saved.⁹

My Dear Miss Weeks:

Union College is no more. Lightning struck the tower this afternoon and the building is now in ashes. Most of the furniture was saved. Vernon Faulkner and Alex Tinsley came near losing their lives; they were working in the chapel and had just reached the ground when the second floor fell. Several men were burned but not seriously.

The County Fair is in full blast and it was therefore almost impossible to get help on the grounds until too late to save the building.¹⁰

The loss of the administration building created the third of Union's crises within a few years. The first was the doubtful outcome of the litigation to establish the validity of Fanny Speed's will; and the successful conclusion of this contest led to the second crisis, because Mrs. Speed's will bequeathed the endowment to the Kentucky Conference, rather than specifically to Union College. There was a strong movement within the Conference to close Union and use the funds for the establishment of a new college in Louisville. In January of 1905, at a meeting of the Board of Education held in Covington, it was decided to use the funds for Union and to erect a men's dormitory.¹¹ Plans were also under way to add a wing to the administration building.¹²

The crisis of 1906 was greater than that of 1905, because of the loss of Union's major building. "There followed nearly a year of doubt and agitation for the removal of the school to some location near the central part of the State. This movement was frustrated, however, largely by the citizens of Barbourville and the local members of the Board, Judge James D. Black introducing the resolution, which, being approved, finally fixed Barbourville as the seat of the College."¹³

The Board of Education drew up what amounted to an ultimatum regarding the terms on which a new administration building would be constructed, and the college retained at Barbourville. According to its terms, \$10,000 must be raised by popular subscription within a set period of time.¹⁴ This amount together with the insurance would constitute approximately one half of the amount required to erect the new building.

⁹ Mayme Johnson to J. P. Faulkner, Aug. 24, 1906, reprinted in *Orange and Black*, Nov. 19, 1926.

¹⁰ Grace Howes to Abigail Weeks, Aug. 24, 1906. *Ibid.*

¹¹ Barbourville, *Advocate*, Jan. 27, 1905.

¹² *Ibid.*, Feb. 3, 1905.

¹³ J. P. Faulkner, "50th Anniversary Address."

¹⁴ Ex-governor Flem D. Sampson to writer, March 20, 1954.

RETRENCHMENT AND EXPANSION, 1905-1910

The citizens of Barbourville primarily under the leadership of A. M. Decker, Judge Flem D. Sampson and John A. Black, responded immediately to the call for help. A group of about thirty men subdivided into minor committees to canvass Barbourville and the surrounding area. Judge Sampson and James Black each contributed \$350, and John Black gave \$500. Speeches were made at the courthouse in order to arouse the citizenry of Barbourville.¹⁵ The \$10,000 was subscribed¹⁶ and work begun on the new administration building.

In the meantime, President Easley announced the opening of school as usual. Newly constructed Speed Hall proved a godsend. Easley had moved his family into Speed Hall, and Stevenson cottage was converted into a classroom building. Two rooms on the first floor of Speed Hall served as quarters for girls and some faculty members. The boys had a little "dormitory" of their own down town in Dishman Flat. Oscar Wesley related of life at Dishman's: ". . . there was a fine spirit among the fellows. We made our own rules about keeping clean and took turns in sweeping in the hallway. We used small dirty coal stoves. Toilet facilities [were available] across the street."¹⁷ Grade students were taken to the town schools because there was no room for them on the campus.¹⁸ There was much discontent among both faculty and students, but strangely this was more apparent at the end of 1906-07, when the building program was under way, than during the period of indecision. Students were discouraged and many did not return when school opened in September, 1907.

The cornerstone of the new administration building was laid with appropriate ceremonies on June 29, 1907. Now that twenty-seven years had passed since the historic laying of 1880, it is little wonder that the small black walnut box had almost been forgotten. A few days previous to the ceremony, the old cornerstone was opened, the box removed and its contents noted. Professor Ports approved the new list of articles to be deposited which included a small Bible, current issues of the *Mountain Advocate* and Union College Catalog, and a few coins.¹⁹ After the Rev. T. B. Stratton of Barbourville, and President Easley placed the stone, appropriate short talks were delivered by Judges Faulkner, Dishman, Sampson, Black, and others. Many who had witnessed the impressive ceremonies of 1880, returned to exchange reminiscences of "Ye Olden Days." This celebra-

¹⁵ Both Governor Sampson and George W. Tye concur in agreeing that Mr. A. M. Decker was the leading spirit in this great fight to save Union.

¹⁶ "Report" of the Board of Education, Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1908.

¹⁷ Oscar Wesley to writer, Dec. 9, 1953.

¹⁸ Mrs. Myrtle Minton to writer, Apr. 20, 1953.

¹⁹ Percy L. Ports to writer, March 29, 1954.

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tion had something the first had lacked—a cornet band composed of members of the Noble Order of Red Men. James P. Faulkner said that this ceremony had linked the new with the old, “giving the institution a continuous historical background and justifying the faith, the foresight, and the sacrifices of the Founders of 1879.”²⁰

Early in January, 1908, the Board of Education together with 200 loyal citizens of Barbourville joined in a great banquet at the new administration building with the young Judge Flem D. Sampson presiding as toastmaster.²¹ These friendly ties were again demonstrated in the fall of 1908, when the people of Barbourville gave a reception to the ministers of the Kentucky Conference.

The following description of the new administration building appeared in the 1911-12 *Union Catalogue*:

This is a magnificent and spacious three-story building, constructed of brick and concrete, and trimmed with Tennessee marble. The building is steam-heated and lighted by electricity . . . and is scientifically ventilated to insure plenty of good fresh air. In it are the classrooms, the library, the President's office, the chapel, and laboratories. The classrooms are fifteen in number. Each is equipped with single desks and slate blackboards of ample size. From the President's office are speaking-tubes to each room, and also electrical connections, so that a modern program clock situated in the office rings automatically in each room the bells for the change of classes and other signals. The chapel is commodious and is seated with comfortable opera chairs. There are three laboratories—Chemical, Physical, and Biological. These are equipped throughout with modern apparatus and enable the student to do unusually thorough work in science.

In the same bulletin, Fanny Speed Hall was described as a three-story building of unique design with spacious halls and parlors. The rooms were “elegantly furnished” and the hall was possessed of every advantage for the work of the student.

A new men's dormitory was the most pressing need on the campus in 1905-06. Plans were formulated for one and announced in January, 1906. The loss of the administration building in the summer of 1906 stopped any further progress on the project until the Board of Education announced its intention of rebuilding the administration building. During the summer of 1907 work was pushed on both the administration building and Stevenson Hall, the former being rushed to completion first. Construction was awarded to contractors and both the bricks and lumber were imported, mostly from Knoxville. About three or four bricklayers were kept busy together with the same num-

²⁰ J. P. Faulkner, “50th Anniversary Address.”

²¹ Barbourville *Advocate*, Jan. 24, 1908.

ber of carpenters. Erection was uneventful on either building, everything working out according to plan.²² When school opened in September, 1907, boys were quartered in the unfinished edifice. The dormitory was erected on a lot newly purchased in 1904.

This "men's College Home" answered the following description: "It is a fine brick structure, three stories high. It has a large number of finished rooms, accommodating two students each. Nothing is lacking for convenience, comfort, or health. . . . The furniture is equal to the best in use among boarding-schools. This building is fitted with toilet-rooms and ample baths with cold and hot water."

Other worthwhile improvements of the period were the heating plant, a generating plant, a campus water supply, and proper sewage disposal. The heating plant which was begun in 1905, first furnished steam heat in Speed Hall and the old administration building. The electric power plant came next and then followed the huge standpipe insuring water pressure on the top floors, and finally, the college sewerage system which carried the waste to the Cumberland river.²³

Old Stevenson Cottage served a multiplicity of purposes. In the fall of 1905 President Easley took up his new quarters in Speed Hall and the revered cottage was newly christened, "Music Hall." After the fire of 1906 it was used for classrooms, and in 1908, again became Music Hall. This was Union's first fine arts building—serving also for art classes.²⁴

Another building program related to Union College was progressing in Barbourville during the years, 1906-07. The old wooden Methodist Episcopal church building, which had seen service since 1865, was razed and replaced with a brick edifice. The cornerstone was laid on June 2, 1906, but the sanctuary was not dedicated until spring of the next year. When first opened for service under the Reverend T. B. Stratton, all but \$1,700 of the required \$8,000 had been subscribed.²⁵

Union's building and refurnishing program of 1906-08 cost a huge sum for that day—perhaps a total of \$68,000. Newly completed Speed Hall had already cost in the neighborhood of \$20,000. The cost of the new administration building and the men's dormitory was approximately \$30,000 and \$20,000 respectively. The heating, power, water, and sewage improvements added another \$10,000. This large expenditure confronted the Board of Education with two alterna-

²² Thomas Fuller, carpenter, to writer, March 19, 1954.

²³ The city of Barbourville did not begin to install a sewerage disposal system until 1953.

²⁴ Union College *Catalog, 1908-09*.

²⁵ "Program" of dedication, May 19, 1907, President's office.

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tives: either a portion of the Fanny Speed estate could be sold, or the Board of Education could borrow, offering the bequest as security for a loan. At that time the Kenyon Building, valued at \$208,000 was producing an annual income of \$12,000.²⁶ It was therefore decided to keep this valuable asset in Louisville and borrow \$50,000 from the Fidelity Trust Company. Unfortunately for the future years of Union College, the Fanny Speed endowment was handicapped almost from the first with a large encumbrance which annually consumed about a quarter of its income. The "running expenses" of the school from 1907-10, averaged \$9,000²⁷ yearly, but tuition was producing only \$3,000 annually.

Although school costs were constantly mounting, the administration slashed the expense of attending the college in an attempt to attract more students. College tuition was reduced \$4.00 per year while board and room totaled only \$2.50 weekly. In addition, incidental and small laboratory fees were charged. In 1908, the college took the unprecedented step of offering free room rent, including "light and heat."²⁸

In spite of these added inducements, the trend begun during President Faulkner's administration continued. Fewer students enrolled at the collegiate level and only five graduates received degrees during the two school years 1905-07. About 200 pupils were enrolled in 1905-06, almost all of them in the academy, normal, or the elementary curriculums. Beginning in 1908, after the college curriculum was dropped, the academy, normal, and grammar groups counted 72, 53, and 25 respectively.

When President Easley came to Union it was his desire to broaden the college curriculum in line with trends prevailing in other liberal arts colleges. Beginning with the school year 1905-06, two baccalaureate degrees, the Ph.B., and B.S., were offered in addition to the classical A.B. The Latin-scientific course leading to the Ph.B. degree was the same as required for the A.B. except biology or German was substituted for Greek. The scientific B.S. degree placed more emphasis upon biology, geology, chemistry, and astronomy, and allowed 12 or more electives.²⁹ At the same time, the discontinuance of "any grade work of a primary or intermediate character," at the end of the school year 1906-07, was announced.³⁰

President Easley brought with him an entirely new collegiate

²⁶ Kentucky Conference Minutes, 1907.

²⁷ Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

²⁸ Advertisement of Union College, Kentucky Conference Minutes, 1908.

²⁹ Union College Catalogs, 1905, 1906.

³⁰ Barbourville Collegial Journal, Sept., 1905.

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faculty of well prepared instructors, three of whom were graduates of Dickinson College in Pennsylvania, and three were graduates of Ohio Wesleyan. Among the new teachers were Miss Abigail E. Weeks and Miss Katherine V. Sutphen both of whom gave many years of service to Union College. The old faculty, several of whom wished to continue their graduate studies apparently resigned *en masse*. Regarding this exodus, the town paper merely commented: "No reason has been made public for the action of the teachers."³¹

President Easley's forward plans came to naught. In 1905, no college student registered beyond the sophomore year. What with an enlarged college faculty to pay, a reduction in the number of college students, a broadened college curriculum to maintain, a huge building debt, and an inadequate income, his whole program collapsed. The college curriculum was entirely discontinued in 1907-08³² and Union reverted to a college preparatory and normal school. In addition, the grades were reintroduced after the completion of the new administration building.

In order to compensate for the loss of a college program, President Easley continued the fine arts,³³ strengthened the normal course and added a high grade commercial department. The new four-year normal course was offered with the object of meeting "the growing demand for skilled teachers" and of answering the crying question of county boards, "Where can we get well equipped teachers for the public schools." After a prospective teacher qualified for a first-class certificate, he was to be admitted to the second year of the normal course. Upon graduation the student received a normal diploma entitling him to complete the curriculum of the Liberal Arts in three years. The idea that a collegiate curriculum might some time be re-instituted had not been lost, and when that day arrived, fully prepared freshmen and sophomore classes would be available to initiate the program.

The new commercial department consisted of two courses of study: the business, and the shorthand-typing. It aimed "to develop business men and women, and to prepare them for immediate entrance into the business world." Graduation from these departments was dependent upon achieving a standard of skills rather than upon the time required.³⁴

The erection of a "men's" dormitory brought new disciplinary

³¹ Barbourville *Advocate*, May 5, 1905.

³² One student, a senior, was carried through the year and graduated.

³³ Union College's music department graduated one student in each of the years 1908 and 1909.

³⁴ Union College *Catalog*, 1907-08.

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problems to the campus. The building was occupied by a group of immature adolescent lads of academic grade who required close supervision. At one time three faculty members were on assigned duty in the hall to help maintain order. From faculty minutes one can cull such amusing items as the case of the three rogues that purloined wine from Mrs. Dishman's smokehouse; or the intractability of ————, ³⁵ who was "reprimanded for having in his possession a pistol, for carelessly handling it and accidentally discharging the same during chapel exercises." After two more incidents of "pistol discharging" in the dormitory, the president issued an ultimatum requiring all firearms to be checked at his office. So marked was the reign of bedlam during chapel periods, that three faculty members were deputized to sit on the platform each morning "for the purpose of disciplining disorderly or inattentive students." Seven incorrigible students were expelled in one school year.

Student life was somewhat regimented. At 6:30, the ringing of an old fashioned hand bell aroused everyone for breakfast served promptly at 7:00 in the basement of the administration building. Boys and girls entered the room from different ends and ate in separate groups. Following breakfast students were expected to "tidy their rooms" and prepare for class. At the end of the school day, boys could do "pretty much" as they pleased, but girls were not allowed to leave the campus. Not long after the evening meal all students must be in their rooms for study. Permission to go into another room could be granted only by the faculty member in charge. Girls were allowed out one night per week—chaperoned of course. Only girls with a straight "A" average could spend time with a young man or have any kind of special privileges. Mrs. Myrtle Minton remembered having been called into the president's office for the offense of waving her hand at a boy. The famous walk extending from the administration building to the street served as a dividing line between male and female since the days of President Stevenson.

Oscar Wesley related an interesting account of his life at Union:

Because of the strict rules about courtship, there were many cases of "boy meets girl" on the QT. Smoking was not allowed and we had but few cases. Some of us were shocked when we learned that even some of the faculty "played cards." There was a great deal of swearing and rough talk among the students. There was some unpleasant rivalry between town boys and dormitory boys. One night I was severely stoned. A large gash was cut in my head, I supposed by a group of town boys. The police come into the dormitory the next day to see me and get

³⁵ For obvious reasons, the name of this culprit is omitted.

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leads on the guilty, when to my great surprise, some of the dormitory boys admitted that they were guilty, just trying to scare me. They were arrested right in the class room and a trial was held in police court. Since they pleaded guilty a light fine was imposed then suspended.

One Mountain boy was asked about his ancestors. It was quickly seen that he did not know the meaning of ancestors. He thought it was some kind of disease. So the fellows concocted a remedy made of shoe-polish, bay rum, salve and several other ingredients and had him taking "doses" till the faculty found out what the trouble was.³⁶

Life was not entirely droll during the late collegiate days. The literary societies continued their activities and a new one, the Photoze-tean, appeared. And an entirely new feature arose at Union—the appearance of organized athletics in the form of football, basketball, baseball, and tennis.

Much of this new interest may be attributed to a young faculty member fresh from college. Percy L. Ports entered Union in 1905 as head of the science department. He was a man of many hobbies—athletics, photography and music. Although no money was available for subsidizing football, Ports sent out a call for practice and Union's first football team was born. The boys bought their own uniforms with orange and black jerseys.³⁷ This seems to be the first recognition of Union's school colors. None of the members had ever participated in a game except Mr. Ports and little could have been expected of them, but morale was running high. The first game was played October 16, with Williamsburg Institute on the present site of Stevenson Hall; the second, a week later, was played at Williamsburg, Union losing both games 37-0, and 49-0. Union had its revenge, beating Williamsburg, 27-0 on November 4.³⁸ In April of 1906, call went out for spring training but the fire of 1906, the discontinuance of a collegiate program, and the injury of Ports early in the fall of 1906, all were factors which led to the discontinuance of football. In 1906-1907, men's basketball was substituted.

During the winter of 1905-06, the girls organized Union's first basketball team. Frank Hunsinger was manager, Lena Wilson, captain, and Mrs. Percy Ports was the coach. Miss Katherine Sutphen, a faculty member, played on this team. Two tennis courts were laid out in the spring of 1906, but there is no record of intercollegiate competition in tennis at this date. This same spring marked the be-

³⁶ Oscar Wesley to writer, Dec. 9, 1953. Dr. Wesley is Professor of Sociology at Drexel Institute.

³⁷ A. M. Decker, Jr., to writer, March 17, 1954.

³⁸ Barbourville *Advocate*, Nov. 7, 1905. Union's first football team was composed of William Dishman, Vader McDonald, Jack Hale, Ben Dishman, Woods, Remarks, Andrew Decker, Jr., Ray Fellows, Clarence Faulkner, Prof. Ports, Ernest Faulkner; Substitutes, Robert Howes and Van Hoose. See *Collegial Journal*, Nov. 1905.

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ginning of Union's second baseball team which suffered a 11-0 defeat from Williamsburg. All athletics were "carefully fostered under the control of a student and faculty organization known as the Athletic association."³⁹

President Easley completed his five-year contract in 1910. In his semi-annual report of 1909, the president expressed his desire to change his work and in line with that statement tendered his resignation to become effective at the end of the college year, 1909-10. The Board of Education regretfully accepted his resignation and took immediate steps to fill the office. On January 18, 1910, a list of six candidates was presented for the Board of Education's consideration. Heading the list was Judge James D. Black of Barbourville, whose name was presented through a petition of the leading citizens of Barbourville.⁴⁰ The Reverend F. C. English of Cincinnati also received favorable consideration. On March 11, 1910, the *Barbourville Advocate* announced Black's election.

President Easley returned to a regular pastorate in the Wilmington Conference, serving until his retirement in 1919. He died in Philadelphia, November 25, 1935. "Mr. Easley was an instinctive teacher with lofty standards in both his educational pursuits and in his way of living. He possessed the ability to recognize high potentialities in young people and at all times followed their successes with deep gratification. This interest in his former students endured to the very end of his life."⁴¹

The era, 1905-1910, presented an anomaly—a period of retrenchment but at the same time, one of expansion. Not until thirty years later did Union embark upon a program of physical expansion eclipsing that of this epoch. This expansion was more than physical, extending into fields of added service. But Dr. Stevenson's dream of a full collegiate program which he had inaugurated and seen realized, had passed away and none could foretell its return. Union was entering its "dark ages" a period of indecision and of uncertainty, but still one of great service.

³⁹ Union College *Catalog*, 1906-07; Union's first baseball team was organized under President Faulkner.

⁴⁰ Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

⁴¹ Joan Easley to writer, Sept. 1, 1953.



MANDOLIN CLUB, 1911

CHAPTER V

THE YEARS OF INDECISION, 1910-1915

JAMES DIXON BLACK, Union's president from 1910-1912, and one of its original founders, was born (1849) on Big Richland Creek in Knox County, Kentucky. His grandfather, Alexander Black, who was of Scotch-Irish lineage, migrated to America, settled first in South Carolina, later in Tennessee, and finally in Knox County. As a lad, James attended rural and subscription schools in and near Barbourville. In 1872 he received his A.B. degree from Tusculum College. Almost forty years later, his Alma Mater conferred the LL.D. degree upon him in recognition of his distinguished public services.

After graduation from college, Black taught school, using his spare time for the study of law. In 1874 he was admitted to the Kentucky bar and worked his way to a place of acknowledged leadership in his profession. He took an early interest in politics, serving in the lower house of Kentucky's legislature. Black recognized the great educational needs of southeastern Kentucky—always working for the betterment of its schools. His services in connection with the founding of Union have already been noted.

Immediately upon taking office as Union's president, Black listed the deficiencies in the administration of the school, and attempted to create more interest on the part of the Board of Education. His arguments followed in logical sequence. Union could not hope to survive permanently even as a high school, because as free public high schools grew in the territory, students would be weaned away from Union's Academy. Secondly, because Union did not possess any legal status, it could not borrow money or act as a legal person. Only the Kentucky Conference Board of Education had a right to act in this capacity for the college. The dangers of this system had already been demonstrated when the Board of Education came into possession of Fanny Speed's bequest. Obviously it was unfair not to allow gifts to be made directly to the college. However, Black's great plea for Union's incorporation fell upon deaf ears, and this great need remained unfulfilled for a dozen years.

President Black had already requested all members of the Board of Education to use their influence in securing one student each for

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the school. When he failed to receive responses from any of them, the new administrator naturally concluded that a lack of interest in Union was being manifested by the Board. Although the people of Barbourville, stated Black, had given \$10,000 toward a new building they had "very little voice at Union College."¹ Using a phrase which to him must have been a truism, Black concluded: "Union College must be made a college in the true sense."

Black also pointed out the need for additions to the physical plant. Union must have three things: land, a library, and a gymnasium. Basketball was conducted as an open air sport until the old Christian church was secured, but this was a poor substitute for an athletic building. The library was housed in a room of the administration building.

The Board made no response to Black's cry for physical expansion. In March, 1912, near the end of Black's régime, Abigail E. Weeks sought to whip up enthusiasm for a new gymnasium by making the first donation—27¢.² However, some work was done on improving the grounds. Almost \$1,000 was spent for new concrete walks, two of which ran from College Street to Speed Hall and to the men's dormitory. A. M. Decker and Percy Ports gave much of their time in assisting with these projects. The latter donated part of his summer vacation to painting and superintending repairs.

The Board of Education on its part reminded President Black of the "shameful call for money from Barbourville," and stated flatly that repairs could not be made on the valuable Kenyon Building in Louisville because of "enormous and unwarranted bills payable at Barbourville," and set \$6,000 as the maximum amount to be paid by the Board of Education during the school year 1910-11.³ A year later, President Black surprised the Board by refunding to it \$1,000 which represented the amount "over and above the expenses" of conducting Union for the year, 1910-11.⁴

During these years, approximately \$15,000 was required annually to support the school. Income from tuition and board varied from eight to nine thousand dollars. Salaries for the faculty including the president totaled about \$7,300. The better paid teachers residing on the campus received \$600 annually in addition to board and room. At the end of his second year, Black reported another small surplus.

In line with Black's resolve that Union must eventually become

¹ Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926, MSS., President's office.

² These original coins, five nickels, and two one-cent pieces are in the college museum.

³ Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

⁴ "Report" of treasurer, Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1911.

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a true college, junior college work was offered for the year, 1911-12. Starting only with the freshman year, it was hoped that the sophomore year could be added. Completion of two years of work would entitle the student to a Junior College Diploma. Two students enrolled as freshmen under the new program.⁵

Much had been expected of the new business course offered under President Easley, but lack of student response had forced the closing of this department.⁶ The Black administration turned to a new field—that of domestic science. In 1911-12, this department was introduced with the understanding that it would be continued only if tuition rates were sufficient to maintain it.

The normal and Academic departments continued as the main-stay of the school, the former undergoing considerable growth. Desire was expressed to offer courses in the history of education, psychology and methods of teaching. Over 100 students were enrolled in the normal department, and about 65 in the Academic curriculum. Instruction was continued in the primary and intermediate departments but students of lower grades were not considered mature enough to room on the campus. A total of 256 pupils enrolled for the year 1911-1912.

These years brought an added interest in musical extra-curricular activities. For the first time we hear of the famous mandolin club of 12 pieces, and also of a college glee club. The busy Professor Ports, who was already directing athletic activities, organized Union's first band⁷ of about twenty pieces. The administration supported Port's efforts with the purchase of 14 Conn band instruments.

When Professor Ports found himself unable to maintain his football team, he concentrated on baseball. In 1910 he had a successful season and the following year for the first time, an athletic team from Union went "on the road," winning seven games and losing three.⁸

Early in 1912, President Black became interested in the position of assistant attorney-general for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. In February, 1912, he notified the Board of Education of his willingness to continue as president of Union contingent upon an advance in salary to \$2,500. This was \$500 more than he had received the previous year. A committee of the Board of Education commented on President Black's frequent absences from the campus and hesitated in giving a reply; thereupon Black (February 20) declined the presidency for another year.⁹

⁵ Union College *Catalogs*, 1911-12, 1912-13.

⁶ During the summer of 1912, Ports was "authorized" to restore the business department.

⁷ Percy L. Ports to writer, Feb. 26, 1954.

⁸ Barbourville *Advocate*, May 26, 1911.

⁹ "Report" of Committee on Education, Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

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After leaving Union, James D. Black served as first assistant attorney-general of Kentucky. In 1915 he was elected lieutenant-governor, and succeeded to the office of the governor four years later. In 1920 he was made chief prohibition officer of the state. He continued to maintain his interest in Union College the remainder of his life.¹⁰ During his presidency he had strongly urged the only path possible for Union, should it hope to eventually survive.

Within a month after President Black's resignation, the Committee on Education met to select his successor. Although half a dozen names were presented for consideration, Percy L. Ports received every vote except one. At the time of his election, Mr. Ports was serving as vice-president.

The new president was born in Sunbury, Ohio, in 1878. After graduation from the local high school he worked in a store for three years and then entered Ohio Wesleyan University from which he graduated in 1905. He had the unusual experience of working at both the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, and the Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis. Shortly before coming to Union, (1905), he married Bessie E. Wood, a local acquaintance. As head of the science department, he worked hard arranging the laboratories in the newly refurnished quarters on the third floor of the administration building. After the disastrous fire of 1906, he had the whole work to do over again in the new administration building. From the first, Ports showed a great deal of initiative, pioneering in both athletics and music at Union. His work in promoting these extra-curricular activities has already been noted. He had seen seven years service on the faculty in the capacity of teacher of natural science, and two years as vice-president.

The strength of Union's new biology department was recognized by the Kentucky State Board of Health and Mr. Ports consented to cooperate in the Board's fight against hookworm and pellagra. As a result, the first hookworm clinic in the state of Kentucky was established in Union's laboratories. Ports also assisted James P. Faulkner, who was representing the Russell Sage Foundation, "in a campaign against tuberculosis and other pulmonary diseases. Mr. Ports prepared lantern slides for him and operated the college stereopticon when Dr. Faulkner lectured at Middlesboro, Pineville and other places where he needed a more powerful projector than the one he carried with him."¹¹

¹⁰ For biographical sketch of James D. Black, see Charles Kerr, ed., *A History of Kentucky*, IV, 3-4.

¹¹ Percy L. Ports to writer, Feb. 26, 1954.

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Before the end of Port's first year of office, Union College was confronted with its worst crisis since the closing of the school in 1886. At a meeting of the Committee on Schools, held February 3, 1913, C. B. Nordeman, of the Board of Education, recommended the closing of Union (September 3, 1913), for an indefinite period. One unacquainted with the true financial picture would question such a move in light of a "productive" endowment of \$400,000, and an accustomed annual income of over \$12,000.

The total indebtedness of the Board of Education amounted to \$45,000 on which an annual interest of \$2,250 had to be paid. This amount included \$28,000 owed the Fidelity Trust Company, \$4,000 on Sandy Valley Seminary, and \$10,000 to the Callihan estate. The amount owed the Fidelity Trust Company came about as a result of the building program of 1907-08. The Board of Education found the Sandy Valley Seminary a white elephant and had agreed to pay \$4,000 in order to have the West Virginia Conference take it off its hands. It appears that the Callihan payments resulted from a court decree invalidating a \$10,000 inheritance which the Board had already spent.

The Kenyon Building of Louisville had been the Board's chief source of income. Erection of new buildings in Louisville had lowered rentals and reduced the income by one third. The Board could expect a total surplus of only \$2,000 annually and this would be needed for insurance. Nordeman closed his arguments with the following statement: "It seems to me that there is but one course open and that is to close the school at Barbourville at the close of the present contract for a period of two years or until such time as the income of the Board is such to justify your again resuming operations at Union College."¹²

The Committee then passed a resolution not to take any action in the matter of contracts with the teachers of Union College for the next school year, until it received further instructions from the Board of Education. A call was issued for an early meeting of the Board. When the Board met on February 12, 1913, it accepted Nordeman's recommendations of February 3, and appointed a board of five members to see if sufficient funds might be raised to continue the college's operations.

Again the citizens of Barbourville responded in order to keep the school in operation. A petition with 26 signatures affixed requested that the Board of Education enter into a written contract with five

¹² C. B. Nordeman to Committee on Schools, Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

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of its members, granting the local committee the right to operate the school for one year. The petition listed as its reason the action of the Board of Education in making it known that it was not able to maintain and finance the college during the school year, 1913-14.¹³

On June 26, the Board of Education signed a contract with J. D. Black, J. M. Robsion, George W. Tye, A. W. Hopper and A. M. Decker, with the understanding that the Board "is not now and will not be in condition to finance" the school for another year. The contract empowered the local committee to have full use of the college properties, to accept subscriptions, pay salaries, and handle all fees secured from students. It was also bound to maintain and conduct said school on the proper Christian and educational lines. . . .¹⁴ Besides the local committee, 21 other citizens of Barbourville were bound by the contract.

The committee went to work raising the amount needed to open and maintain the school. Subscriptions did not have to be paid in a lump sum but were spread out over a period of one year. A total of \$2,117 was subscribed by sixty-six persons. A. M. Decker, John A. Black, and T. J. Asher led with \$100 each; and \$75 was subscribed by J. E. Golden and by J. H. Turner.¹⁵ When the Board of Education met at the annual conference on September 3, it commended the local trustees for their action and rejoiced in the announcement that Union College was "to continue its noble mission of furnishing enlightenment and equipment to our worthy young people." It also recorded its appreciation of the liberality of the people of Barbourville.¹⁶

The treasurer's report for the year 1912-13 showed a deficit of \$5,581 in the accounts of the Board of Education chiefly because income from the Kenyon Building had fallen to \$4,551. Interest, insurance, and payments to the Fidelity Trust Company amounted to over \$6,000, and Union College received \$5,926. It looked, therefore, as if the \$2,000 raised by the citizens of Barbourville would prove insufficient to enable Union to pay its own way.

Ports had continued to serve as president under the direction of the local board and when the Board of Education indicated its intention of reassuming responsibility for the administration of the school dur-

¹³ "Petition" of citizens of Barbourville, June 7, 1913, Union College Museum.

¹⁴ "Agreement," between Board of Education and local committee, June 26, 1913.

¹⁵ Subscription Sheet, Union Museum. Others who gave \$50 or over were J. R. Jones, W. H. McDonald, Alex Sevier, Read Black, C. S. Nield, John H. Lawson, P. D. Black, W. H. Davis, F. D. Sampson, George W. Tye, A. D. Smith, Percy L. Ports, William Tye, S. B. Dishman and the citizens of Camp Ground in Laurel County.

¹⁶ Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1913.

ing the coming year, it was understood that the president should remain in office. When the annual conference met in 1914, the treasurer's report showed a disbursement of \$2,908 to Union, evidently the amount needed to cover the deficit. At the same time the Board made no promises of accepting financial responsibility for the school year, 1914-15.

Under these circumstances it is little wonder that confusion arose as to the exact position of the Board of Education. It is doubtful whether the members themselves were in agreement. According to E. R. Overley and A. M. Decker, the outgoing president of the Board, Dr. Boreing, told them he would sign contracts for teachers for the year 1914-15. President Ports and A. M. Decker then proceeded to hire faculty for the coming year thinking that the Board of Education would sign the contracts. To their amazement, Dr. Boreing denied having made such a statement and G. B. Bunton, the new president of the Board asked for Port's resignation (October 1) on the basis of assumption of authority. Ports immediately resigned with "good grace and spirit."¹⁷ An examination of the Board's Minutes leads one to conclude that the Board was interested primarily in getting rid of Ports and used the charge as a pretext. At any rate, after Port's resignation, the Board signed the contracts.

President Ports followed a distinguished career after leaving Union. He attended graduate school, supervised the administration of public schools in Ohio, did special war work for the government during the war years, and in 1920 prepared a special government report on oil reserves in Texas. Shortly afterward he worked as geologist seeking oil prospects in Bolivia. From 1938 to 1948 he served as a conferee on the commissioner's technical staff with the Bureau of Mines. Since 1948, Mr. Ports has been pursuing his hobbies, shop-work and photography, together with leadership in civic affairs at Arlington, Virginia.¹⁸

In view of the financial crisis, the Board wished to have a "business man" in active charge of administration. Under a rather peculiar arrangement, the Reverend E. R. Overley was elected nominal head of Union and field agent, with no administrative responsibility, while B. C. Lewis, former head of the normal department, acquired the title of vice-president and business manager, with direct administrative responsibility. For this reason, the period, 1914-15, is remembered as the régime of Overley and Lewis.

Emery R. Overley, Union's nominal head, was serving at the time

¹⁷ Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

¹⁸ Percy L. Ports to writer, Feb. 26, 1954.

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of his election as vice-president and as professor of Bible at the college. In addition he was filling a pastorate at the Barbourville Methodist Episcopal Church. He had entered the Kentucky Conference in 1908, served a pastorate at Maysville and came to Barbourville as minister in 1912. At the end of the school year 1914-15, Reverend Overley became superintendent of the Covington District and later of the Ashland District in 1926. He devoted twenty years of service to evangelistic work.¹⁹

The Board of Education now proceeded to take responsibility from the local trustees. It "estimated" that it could give \$1,000 for the year 1914-15 and that the New York Board would contribute the same amount. In addition \$1,000 in pledges was expected from Barbourville. G. W. Bunton, the president of the Board reported: "If we do not make good at Union this year, then I am in favor of closing indefinitely."²⁰

In the meantime school had been going on much in the same fashion. The attempt to revive the business department proved temporarily successful. Largely through the influence of A. M. Decker, a branch of the Bryant and Stratton Business College was established at Union beginning September, 1913. This department enrolled almost 100 students its first year, but fell to 47 in 1914-15. Registration in the normal and grammar departments continued to rise, while the academy lost ground with only about 50 enrolled. The Junior College department enrolled only 4 students in 1913-14, and was discontinued the following year. Only one student, Charles L. Howes, graduated (1913) from the Junior Collegiate department. Only four faculty members were employed above the normal or grammar grades.

Extra-curricular clubs and activities continued to function. The old Philos and the Fanny Speed Societies put on programs for the last time in 1914-15. A new one, the Kiadelphic, organized in 1914, had an ephemeral existence. The school still had its basketball and baseball teams but competed of course only on the Academy level. The basketball team had been able to practice only in the outdoors up to 1914. In that year the old Christian church was moved back of its former location and used for a few years as the college "gymnasium."²¹ The first formal physical education classes for women were being taught in a course listed as "Expression and Physical Culture."²²

During these years of adversity, the primary objectives established by Dr. Stevenson were not forgotten. Efforts were always made to assist

¹⁹ At this writing, 1954, Reverend Overley is still active in evangelistic work.

²⁰ G. W. Bunton to Board of Education, Oct. 1, 1914.

²¹ Abigail E. Weeks, MSS.

²² Union College Catalog, 1913-14.

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worthy students and especially those expecting to enter the ministry. In 1911, the Conference, realizing that many needy and deserving students did not have sufficient funds to enter Union, resolved "That we, the preachers of the Conference seek, by collections and personal gifts, to procure a fund each year to be used by said Board of Education to assist worthy young people to obtain their education in said college."²³ The preceding year the Reverend J. Taylor donated the Joshua S. Taylor Fund of \$1,500, for the purpose of aiding worthy students studying for the ministry.

Union College was nearing the end of its period of indecision but the struggle was far from over. The Reverend Overley took office with the understanding that a new man would be selected in 1915. The General Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church became interested in the college, and Union's catalog interpreted this as an omen of brighter days: "The darkest hour is just before the dawn. The outlook . . . for the future is the brightest in its history."

²³ Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1911.

CHAPTER VI

ON THE ROAD BACK

IN THE SPRING of 1915, Union College reached the nadir of its existence. The Academic faculty which had been teaching without pay since the preceding October resolved to leave. The Kentucky "Annual Conference had next to no interest in the school."¹ At a meeting of the Board of Education held April 20, Dr. Walsh offered the resolution and C. B. Nordeman seconded it that Union be closed because "no one stands ready to assume the burden of financing the school as the people of Barbourville generously did two years ago. This Board does not see how it can afford to do it now. . . ."² This resolution, one of the most momentous in Union's history, was debated hotly for several hours before being withdrawn. Perhaps only the arrival on the scene of Dr. Thomas Nicholson, Secretary of the General Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who had already manifested his interest in Union's welfare, saved the day. Dr. Nicholson immediately presented five points for discussion, all of which were related to Union's future. Among several plans studied, one was adopted calling for the selection of a field agent to raise \$2,500 annually in cash. In addition, the General Board of Education could be expected to make yearly contributions. A local committee, the "Prudential" of five members, was to have "detailed supervision of the school."³ Dr. Nicholson let it be known that he was willing to furnish counsel and aid through the New York Board on condition of his approving the nomination of Union's new president. The Board of Education readily agreed to accept Dr. Nicholson's terms.

The Board's next problem was to find an able man willing to accept the challenge offered by precarious circumstances. Such an individual the Board found in the person of E. T. Franklin, vice-president of Asbury College. E. R. Overley interviewed Franklin regarding his interest in the presidency, and after a visit to the college together with "careful and prayerful consideration," Franklin indicated his willingness to accept. Thereupon the Board promptly elected him president.

¹ President's "Report" to Trustees, 1925.

² Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

³ *Ibid.*

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About two months after assuming his new position, Franklin was called to Cincinnati to confer with Dr. Nicholson and several members of the Board of Education. Here for the first time the new president learned of the agreement between the Board and Dr. Nicholson—most embarrassing information for an executive who had already, as he thought, assumed office and entered upon a definite program. Worst of all, Franklin's program for Union was directly adverse to that of the secretary's. It was Franklin's bitter experience to learn that Dr. Nicholson envisaged nothing higher for Union than an academic (high school) program. It was the secretary's "carefully formed judgment that an effort to establish a college in that remote mountain section was a waste of time and money—that all one could *hope for*; all that was needed by such a community was a good high school with a commercial department."⁴

This historic Cincinnati conference upon which the future of Union lay hanging, as it were, from a thread, can best be told in Dr. Franklin's own words:

Dr. Nicholson began by asking what kind of program I had in mind for Union College. I replied that I proposed to establish a four year accredited College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with the object of furnishing leadership for that section of the mountains with many of the graduated becoming teachers, ministers, doctors, lawyers, government leaders and directors of business. He looked at me in utter astonishment and began trying to let me down with as little shock and humiliation as possible.

Dr. Nicholson had been a college president. He had studied carefully a recent educational survey of the Kentucky mountains made by the Rockefeller Foundation. Based upon that survey and upon his own study he said that the most that should be attempted in addition to the Academy would be some commercial subjects such as bookkeeping, type-writing and stenography. When he explained his ideas and ideals of such a school, I replied that I was not interested in so limited a service since I believed the larger service could be developed. I had thought it through and had dedicated myself to the task.

At this point I waited to hear him say, "we cannot use this man. His proposed program is both impracticable and impossible." But he didn't. All who knew Dr. Nicholson knew him as a most thorough interviewer, open-minded, and eagerly seeking to get the full picture and significance of the things as seen and felt by those whom he interviewed. He never belittled an honest soul.

For the next hour and a half Dr. Nicholson covered every important step in the development of a standard college, asking how it could be done at Barbourville. He went into great detail. I answered all questions as the answers seemed clear to me, never doubting the supreme impor-

⁴ Dr. E. T. Franklin to writer, March 3, 1954.

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tance of the proposed program, nor the possibility of its achievement.

When the probing was over, Dr. Nicholson turned to the members of the Board and he said: "Well, I like the young man. He knows what he wants to do and I am going to let him try it." ⁵

This young man, Ezra T. Franklin, who had just received permission to attempt the "impossible"—the converting of Union from a high school into a *bona fide* institution of college grade, possessed an excellent educational and professional background for his difficult task. He was a native Kentuckian, born at Glensboro, February 24, 1881. He received the two baccalaureate degrees of A.B. and B.Pd. from Asbury College and Valparaiso University respectively. At Indiana University two more degrees were conferred upon him, the A.B. and A.M. He continued his graduate studies at Columbia during summer sessions and the school year, 1913-14, as a research scholar.

He began his teaching career in the graded schools, and later served as a city superintendent of schools. In 1908 Franklin went to his alma mater, Asbury College, as dean and professor of philosophy. He transferred to Olivet for two years and then went back to Asbury in 1912 as vice-president and professor of philosophy and systematic theology. Franklin came directly to Union from Asbury in June, 1915. Before Franklin had completed his first year at Union, the Board of Education awarded him a five-year contract.

President Franklin's delayed inauguration program ran through a three-day period, February 4-6, 1917. Bishop Bristol and others spoke on the first day, the academic procession took place on the second, and the inauguration proper, on the third. Greetings were extended by Lieutenant-governor Black, and Professor J. T. C. Noe, representing Kentucky's Colleges. On Tuesday evening, February 6, the Board of Education concluded the festivities with a reception to the new president and his lady.

Long before his inauguration, Franklin was working hard on plans to achieve his goals. He sat down at his office for the first time in the summer of 1915 without a dollar's worth of operating assets. Besides the presidency he inherited the positions of treasurer, bookkeeper, dean, registrar, together with an overdrawn bank account. Money was needed at once to publish catalogs, to buy stamps and stationery and for other operating costs. A. M. Decker, Union's faithful friend, lent \$20 for stamps and W. S. Hudson did the printing on credit. Traveling had to be done at Franklin's own expense. At the opening of the school year, the Board of Education set an appropriation of

⁵ *Ibid.*

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\$2,500 as the limit of its contribution to the school budget. Although his predecessors had experienced deficits from appropriations over twice this amount,⁶ Franklin hung Fanny Speed's portrait across from his desk, accepted the realities of the situation and set out to place Dr. Nicholson's *carte blanche* in motion.

In January, 1916, at a meeting of the Board of Education, Franklin argued for the first concrete move in the direction of a "real college." He pointed out that in 1916 there were over 100 four-year high schools in Kentucky, whereas in 1906, there were less than a dozen. In Barbourville a public high school was being developed, and the Baptist Institute was offering work on that level. Here was Union's opportunity to offer service beyond the high school level. President Franklin concluded his arguments with a request "that a college course of standard grade be put on one year at a time, and that every effort be made toward building a real college . . . if, after two years have been put on, the income will not carry more, than let it run as a first class Junior college until further help can be secured and the other two years added."⁷

The Board consented to Franklin's suggestions on the same day they received them; but unfortunately, the rebuilding of Union into a college involved something much vaster and infinitely more complex than the mere addition of college classes. In order for Union to become a "real" college, it must become an accredited one. To achieve this accreditation, President Franklin inaugurated a long range program including the following six points: (1) Restoration of the college curriculum; (2) A building program which must include a gymnasium; (3) Improvement of library and laboratory facilities; (4) Addition of \$200,000 to the college endowment; (5) Removal of the grades and academy; (6) Incorporation of Union College.

The people of "quality" in and around Barbourville had long been in the habit of sending their children to a private school, securing excellent instruction for them at low cost. They could not harbor the thought of sending their sons and daughters into the squalid, crowded, and poorly equipped schools of the town and country—there to mingle with the unclean progeny of the common herd. Mrs. Franklin, the president's wife admitted her reluctance to send her children to the public schools.⁸ Nevertheless, Franklin began at the bottom by lopping off the first six grades. A local committee composed of Franklin, A. M. Decker, J. D. Black, and L. W. Harrop, prepared the

⁶ President's "Report" to Trustees, 1925.

⁷ Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

⁸ Mrs. E. T. Franklin to writer, March 17, 1954.

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way by conferring with the citizens "concerning the elimination of the grades." Two months after this action, President Franklin in a letter (November 13, 1917), to the Board of Education, reported the move as wise because it met the "approval of all the people of Barbourville, and it has made room for the extra classes that we have due to the increase in the student body." Even with the dropping of 60 primary and intermediate students the enrollment would "probably surpass" that of last year.⁹

The next cutting from the bottom did not take place until 1923, when the seventh and eighth grades were dropped. They had been retained because of their usefulness in preparing retarded students for the academy. The final lopping, that of the Academy, began in the fall of 1926 when no academic freshmen were admitted. This was necessary if Union were to receive recognition from the University of Kentucky as a grade "A" college. The last academy class graduated in 1930. This was a blow to the total enrollment as the Academy had increased from 39 in 1915-16 to 247 in 1925-26. Beginning with September, 1926, the Academy dropped to 177. Fortunately this loss of 70 students was mostly offset by an increase of 57 in the college department.

When Samuel P. Franklin graduated in 1919, Union conferred its first degree since 1908.¹⁰ Because this one-man "class" had finished its work in three years with an average of 94 per cent, it petitioned the faculty for exemption from all final examinations and the privilege was granted. The new freshman class which entered in September, 1916, with 8 members, graduated as a class of 3 in 1920.

The second battle which President Franklin had to fight was not directly connected with the reestablishment of the college curriculum, but concerned rather, the spheres of service which the college might offer. For many years the Normal department at Union functioned in turning out teachers for southeastern Kentucky by preparing students for state examinations. In 1916-17, county and state certificates might be acquired in the foregoing manner.

With the coming of the state normal schools, and the normal certificates which they granted, not on a basis of examination, but upon completion of a specified curriculum, the picture changed. No liberal arts college could hope to compete with state schools in the training of teachers unless their graduates were likewise certified by the state upon completion of normal courses. This battle was fought

⁹ E. T. Franklin to Board of Education, Nov. 13, 1917.

¹⁰ Samuel P. Franklin, a brother of President Franklin's, later became Dean of the School of Education, University of Pittsburgh.

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in the state legislature; and a furious one it was, as the proponents of the state institutions fought zealously to preserve a monopoly on the issuance of normal diplomas. The fight presented two phases: first, the passing of general legislation which would allow private institutions to have their graduates certificated; and secondly, the individual fight of each institution to secure recognition under the general law.

Speaking of the terrific struggle which was won only through "great skill and strategy," President Franklin relates: "The first thing was the securing of the approval of the State Board of Regents to do standard Normal work and have our graduates certified the same as those graduating from the State Normal. In the first place, it took a long and hard fight to get the law passed making it possible; in the second place, the private schools had to fight for their rights under the law, and there were many very interesting battles in which, if you will excuse the apparent boast, your president played a prominent part."¹¹

In 1921 Union's graduates could qualify only for the elementary normal certificates. By 1925, the Kentucky state department of education had added its approval to the issuance of teaching certificates at the intermediates and high school levels. Union was now fully accredited to issue teaching certificates for all grades.

Union could qualify as a teaching training institution only if prospective teachers could engage in practice teaching and undergo observation under properly trained supervision. This brought on a local struggle in Barbourville when Union College applied for use of the city grades as a "model school." At that time there existed likewise in Barbourville another institution of learning operating under sectarian auspices. At first proponents of this school were afraid that Union was seeking to gain an unfair advantage over it. But after the situation was thoroughly explained, the privilege of establishing a model school for Union's purpose was granted; and apparently all parties concerned were well satisfied with the results.

Another important phase of Franklin's program leading toward recognition was a drive for expansion of the physical plant. Now that Union was already possessed of an administration building and dormitories for both boys and girls, it was apparent that a gymnasium constituted Union's most pressing need—although at this time over fifty girls were "jammed" into Speed Hall,¹² and the president was citing the need for four additional buildings.¹³

¹¹ President Franklin to Board of Education, Jan. 24, 1922, Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

¹² "Report" of Committee on Schools, May 28, 1918.

¹³ President's "Report," Kentucky Conference, *Minutes*, 1918.

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The need for a gymnasium had long been recognized but funds had never been available. Abigail E. Weeks had sought to work up enthusiasm with her token contribution of twenty-seven cents but this move likewise came to naught. In his first annual report (September 5, 1916), President Franklin named the gymnasium as Union's first need, estimating its cost at \$20,000. In addition more land would have to be acquired on which to lay out an athletic field. The Board of Education agreed with the President but no action was taken.

The following spring (May 31, 1917), at a special meeting of the Board, A. M. Decker introduced a resolution authorizing the Property Committee to buy an athletic field. The motion was carried and C. B. Nordeman was authorized to negotiate with Alexander Sevier for rent or lease of his property until such time as a permanent field could be secured. In February, 1918, a committee was authorized to rent a field at not over \$100 per annum. On May 28, the committee reported that a field had been secured for \$50 rent which could "partly be repaid by rent as a pasture field."¹⁴

Almost three years passed by and still no direct action had been taken toward building a gymnasium. The student body, exasperated at what it considered criminal procrastination on the part of the powers that be, descended like a plague of locusts upon the Board of Education as it sat in the President's office on Union's campus, and presented that board with a petition signed by virtually every member of the student body. This direct action led by Horace Barker produced immediate results.¹⁵ President Franklin was authorized to contact an architect in Knoxville for plans.

Breaking of ground for the gymnasium took place during commencement week, May 28, 1919. The Board of Education requested all of Barbourville's merchants to close their stores from 2:00—3:00 P.M., "incident to the breaking of ground," and promised to serve refreshments. On the appointed day, following speeches by President Franklin, Dr. Walsh, and A. M. Decker, who reviewed the history of Union College, a plow was set in motion by the four Reverends. "F. W. Harrop made the motion that the new gymnasium be a memorial to the soldiers and sailors of Knox county, and the service men of the M. E. Church," for the state of Kentucky.¹⁶ To help defray the expense of erection, each charge was asked to donate \$5.00 for each enlisted man serving from its local circuit. In addition a subscription campaign was set in motion by students, faculty and friends of the college.

¹⁴ Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

¹⁵ MSS. by unknown author, President's office; *The Stespean*, 1921.

¹⁶ *Barbourville Advocate*, May 30, 1919.

The contract for the gymnasium was let on August 9, to Mr. Perkins of Woodbine for the sum of \$34,829. This did not include plumbing, wiring or inside furnishings. The total was expected to come to \$45,000, or over twice as much as the original estimate.¹⁷ Thanksgiving Day, 1919, was the occasion for another round of festivities when the cornerstone was laid. The building was not finished in every detail until late in the fall of 1920.

It is said that the gymnasium had been "a thing of imagination" so long that the students could hardly believe their eyes when it came into being. It was reputedly the finest building of its type in the state, constructed of brick and Bedford stone. A college catalog of the period describes the interior as follows: "The basement has a swimming pool, showers, toilets, lockers, and dressing rooms. The playing floor is 90x60 feet and gives ample room for all kinds of indoor athletics and physical exercises. The balcony is fixed for a running track. The whole building is well equipped."

Along with the gymnasium, came a financial crisis. Besides the building program, President Franklin and the Board had to cope with the problem of raising the endowment sufficiently to secure recognition. In his first message to the Board of Education in January, 1916, President Franklin discussed financial needs and the basis on which he should appeal for funds—that is, a keynote. A loosely conceived policy meant failure, or only partial success at best. In order for one to ask for help, the school's mission must be succulently set forth. Franklin's survey of the situation had convinced him that Union "must be fostered wholeheartedly by Kentucky Methodism if she is to be a source of blessing in any large measure;" and should it "lose its church connection it would with the greatest probability pass away as fifty or more other private schools have done in Kentucky within the past twenty or thirty years." All should agree "that Kentucky Methodism owes the State, the Church, and the world a good college of first class standing."¹⁸ The Conference responded with a resolution "calling upon the various members of the Conference and the people of their charges to make a contribution for the current expenses of the college."¹⁹

Union's position was definitely defined but that did not alleviate the immediate acute financial distress. In September, 1916, the family of R. T. Miller presented Union a check for \$5,000 to be used as needed. This saved Franklin much embarrassment during the school

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, Aug. 13, 1919.

¹⁸ Franklin to Board of Education, Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

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year, but it was always his hope to replace the amount and use it for an improvement fund. In addition, \$1,000 was raised in Barbourville, one-half of it coming from the local Methodist church.²⁰

When the annual Kentucky Conference met at Maysville in the autumn of 1917, its leaders awakened to the distressing financial situation. Franklin expressed his doubts as to whether another college year could be added unless a larger source of income was found. His plan of the past year calling for each individual charge to raise a set amount, had not been carried out and he had been forced to spend a great deal of time visiting these charges.

Under the leadership of Dr. Hancher, who addressed the Conference (September 3, 1917) at length on the subject, the Conference voted to put on a drive known as the Educational Jubilee Movement, which was expected to net \$200,000 less 2½% for the General Board of Education.²¹ This was the first time in Union's history that the Kentucky Conference had backed a great drive for Union College and was indicative of its new interest in the college's welfare.

The Educational Jubilee Movement had barely begun when two factors temporarily brought about its abandonment. Its greatest moving spirit, Dr. Hancher became ill, and in addition, concentration on the war effort—the subscribing of war bonds diverted public attention from the movement. In February, 1918, the Board of Education voted unanimously to postpone the Jubilee drive because of the war effort. Mr. A. M. Decker, one of Union's ardent supporters through 50 years of its history, revived the question of the drive at a Board meeting in May, 1918, and urged a new drive with a goal of \$100,000. Decker's motion was carried and September, 1918, set as the starting date of the new drive. When the Conference met in September, President Franklin made a strong appeal to it for immediate action. Again the Conference voted to sustain a drive for \$100,000, with a reminder to its members that "this task is the present task of every preacher and church in our Conference."²²

Before much progress could be made on the drive, two other problems loomed which made the task much more formidable and threatened to kill the Jubilee Movement. The building of the gymnasium called for an immediate outlay of \$25,000, and at the same time the Boards of Home and Foreign Missions inaugurated their Centenary drive throughout the forty-eight states. Because it was virtually impossible to put on two drives within the Kentucky Conference at the

²⁰ President's "Annual Report," Sept. 5, 1916, Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

²¹ Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

²² Kentucky Conference, *Minutes*, 1918.

same time, the promoters of the Centenary requested "that all other proposed finance campaigns in the church be sidetracked for the Centenary."²³ The members of the Board of Education were reluctant to accede to the request and under the leadership of President Franklin determined to have Union included in the Centenary drive.

The ensuing struggle marked another milestone on Union's road back. Inclusion of Union, or of any private college for that matter, was contrary to the policy laid down by the Centenary's manager. The Board members, under constant pressure from top people of the church yielded regretfully one by one but President Franklin continued the struggle. "In great anguish and argument," Franklin insisted that to delay the college program would mean "the sacrifice of the proposed standard Union College."²⁴

The victory, according to Franklin, was a hard one and "was gained through much hard persuasion and continued insistence that Union College be included in some way in the Centenary campaign, and were taken in for one-fifth of the total subscriptions from our conference."²⁵ The total expected to be realized by Union from the drive was \$35,000,²⁶ which was much below the goal set by the Jubilee Drive. The actual amount subscribed, \$80,000,²⁷ far above Franklin's estimate, was expected to be applied on the endowment. In the meantime, Union's productive assets had fallen from \$296,000 to \$266,000 in two years due to disposal of the Kenyon Building. This drop, had in advance, the effect of largely nullifying the recent gains.

Realizing the inadequacy of the returns expected from the Centenary movement, the Board of Education recommended another drive with the object of raising \$750,000. Enough was to be set aside from its proceeds to increase the endowment to \$500,000. The remainder was to be applied to physical expansion, maintenance of the yearly budget, and to cover the expense of the campaign. The Conference accepted the challenge, authorized the drive, and asked Governor Black to assume (September 19) the chairmanship.²⁸

President Franklin realized that \$300,000 was the minimum that dared be applied to the endowment; at the same time, there was good reason to believe that \$300,000 represented the total that could be raised for any purpose. Franklin's solution for this dilemma was to

²³ E. T. Franklin to writer, March 3, 1954.

²⁴ Mrs. Grace Franklin to writer, March 17, 1954.

²⁵ E. T. Franklin to Board of Education, Jan. 24, 1922, Board of Education Minutes, 1910-1926.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ Union College Catalog, 1923-24.

²⁸ Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926: Barbourville *Advocate*, Sept. 30, 1921.

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have the General Board of Education promise \$200,000, should the Kentucky Conference raise the \$300,000 for endowment purpose in five years. President Franklin knew this was an unusual request and gave his reasons in a special paragraph: "We understand that the General Board does not ordinarily assist institutions that are not already well established as colleges, but Union College is in a section far removed from a good college of Liberal Arts and the topography is such that it is difficult to get any appreciable number of people over the mountain ranges into Tennessee or out into the blue-grass for higher education."²⁹

Although Franklin's plea struck no responsive chords on the part of the General Board, it did have the effect of calling the Board's attention to Union's needs; and helped to insure a small annual contribution from the New York Board. Actually the local Kentucky campaign results exceeded the expectations of its leaders. True, \$750,000 had been set as the goal, but hardly half that amount was expected.

The Kentucky Conference was scheduled to hold its annual meeting that year (1922) at Barbourville. This furnished the opportunity for celebrating the successful completion of the drive. On the second night of the conference, E. R. Overley, president of the Board of Trustees, spoke on the results of the campaign recently closed and announced the subscription of \$452,000 up to July, 1922, when the campaign closed.³⁰ A. M. Decker, treasurer of the Board of Education of the Kentucky Conference, requested President Franklin to stand "so the audience could see the man who said 'We can do it,' when most, if not all the board didn't know whether it could be done or not." Other addresses were delivered by the Reverend F. W. Harrop and President Franklin. John Owen Gross, pastor of the local church, addressed the conference on September 27, "In commemoration of Union College's successful endowment endeavor."

In 1924 the Conference expressed its gratitude first to the Board of Education "for the assistance it had rendered in both council and finance," and secondly, "to our people and constituents for their subscriptions to the endowment fund, which, if collected in full, will enable the college to hold to the program laid out for it the next few years. . . ." ³¹ The fears expressed by the Board regarding collection of pledges were realized. As late as 1927, the Board was considering

²⁹ Annual "Report," 1921-22, of the President, Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

³⁰ *Orange and Black*, Sept. 30, 1922. This paper lists Barbourville's subscription as equal to one-fourth of the total. Certainly, this statement must be in error.

³¹ *Kentucky Conference Minutes, 1924.*

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the cases of seven people who had given estate pledges, or subscriptions, some as high as \$500. Various excuses were offered by the people themselves or their heirs.³² At any rate this drive put Union within "shooting distance of its four-year college rating with the University of Kentucky."³³

Another great victory for Union College simultaneously with the completion of its great drive in 1922, was its recognition as a legal entity—in other words, a corporate person. Governor Black had pointed out the legal dangers under the system, whereby a gift intended for Union College could be given only to the Board of Education of the Kentucky Conference, which acted as a kind of guardian or godmother for the college. It must be kept in mind that the original Board of Trustees had passed out of existence when the Corporation became defunct in 1886. The local Board of Trustees instituted in 1914 when the Board of Education withdrew financial support from the college had only such powers as were delegated to it by the Board of Education and was of course only immediate in nature.

Regarding the "battle of incorporation," Dr. Franklin wrote: "I began early to point out that in order for the college to be successful it should be incorporated and given full corporate rights within itself to operate as a college. This was an educational process. . . . This proposal to incorporate the college carried with it the proposition to transfer the Speed properties to the college. This required a lot of persuasion based upon sound procedure. Patience and reason finally prevailed."³⁴

E. T. Franklin presented his resolution for incorporation at the annual meeting (September 24, 1921), of the Kentucky Conference, and had the great satisfaction of seeing it adopted. His resolution called for a group of twelve men, assisted by "one or more experts, to be designated by our General Board of Education, . . . [to] incorporate Union College, at Barbourville, Kentucky."³⁵ The resolution included two provisions with respect to the trustees; First, two-thirds of the Trustees of Union College were to be members also of the Board of Education of the Kentucky M. E. Church; secondly, the Board of Education was to transfer all of its "property, lands, build-

³² "Minutes," Executive Committee, Board of Trustees, Minutes, June 4, 1927.

³³ Dr. E. T. Franklin to writer, March 3, 1954.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1921. The twelve men authorized to incorporate Union were E. R. Overley, A. S. Bennett, E. P. Hall, James D. Black, J. M. Literal, A. M. Decker, W. W. Shepherd, C. B. Nordeman, A. B. Cornett, F. W. Harrop, H. E. Bullock, and E. T. Franklin.

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ings, and equipment . . . at Barbourville," to the Trustees of Union College.³⁶

According to the third article of incorporation, the purposes of such incorporation are "to make and constitute Union College a legal entity and corporate person, that it may . . . manage, operate and administer Union College . . . for the promotion of liberal education, devote its efforts and being to the interests of Christian education and to qualify and equip men and women to engage in the several employments." The college was authorized to confer collegiate and honorary degrees, to make contracts, to acquire property, to accept gifts and to borrow money.

As a non-profit organization, not being "used or employed for gain," or for "any private pecuniary profit," Union College was exempt from taxation as provided by Section 170 of the constitution of Kentucky. The Seventh Article limits indebtedness to \$100,000, and exempts the private and individual property of the Trustees from corporate indebtedness. It also provided that in case the College should "cease to function," all properties of Union shall revert to the Board of Education.

The trustees, rather than the president, had authority to run the school. They may appoint the faculty, fix rates of tuition and other college expenses, fix all salaries, and "make rules for the general management of the affairs of the college and for the regulation of the conduct of the students. . . ." The Board of Trustees is to consist of not less than 18 or more than 27 members. Two-thirds of them are elected by the Conference from the Board of Education and the other one-third by the Alumni and Board of Trustees; namely, Conference, Alumni, and Trustees at Large.

The first Board of Trustees of Union College, appointed by the Board of Education, met at Union Church in Covington, April 26, 1922, for the purpose of organizing the Board. E. R. Overley was elected president, and A. M. Decker, treasurer.³⁷ Less than two weeks later, (May 8, 1922), the secretary of state of the Commonwealth of Kentucky issued a certificate authorizing Union College Corporation to do business under its charter subject of course to restrictions imposed by Kentucky state statutes.³⁸

Near the end of Franklin's administration, at a meeting held in Pikeville, (September 23, 1927), Article III of Union's charter was

³⁶ *Ibid.*

³⁷ Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1922-1934. MSS, President's office.

³⁸ Sillous G. Hembree, "A History of Union College" (M.A. thesis, University of Kentucky, 1938), 14.

amended to permit the issuance of "annuity bonds and to pay annuity thereon. . . ." ³⁹ The Articles were amended again in 1931. The Board of Trustees was divided into the Executive, Finance, Education, Endowment, and Building and Grounds committees.

The last important step on the way back was accreditation. It was extremely difficult to ask students to attend a college, the credits of which were not recognized, and at the same time secure enough students to achieve recognition. In 1921 the President stated that with a heavier endowment, entrance could be had at once into the University Senate. He predicted recognition from the Kentucky College Association within two years if the campaign proved successful. A year later Franklin said the time had come to ask for admission into the Association of Colleges and Universities of Kentucky and into the University Senate of the Methodist Episcopal Church. As it happened however, first recognition came from the University of Kentucky in 1925, when that institution granted Union the rating of a standard four-year college.⁴⁰ This meant Union's graduates were accepted on condition.

In May, 1927, Franklin appeared before the University of Kentucky Accrediting Committee to prove that Union deserved the rating of a grade "A" college. First the committee was told that the Academy and college faculties were entirely separate,⁴¹ and that 135 students were enrolled in the college department—more than the minimum number required. Next he had to show that Union's graduates were already proving their worth. This Franklin did by presenting statistics showing how about one-half of Union's graduates since 1919 had earned advanced degrees or were working on them—two already had Ph.D. degrees. Union's faculty were represented as being well prepared. Franklin related how he spent two hours before the committee using five points as the basis of his arguments. At the conclusion of his arguments the committee agreed to grant grade "A" accreditation on condition that the library be enlarged. On the following day, May 18, 1927, Ezra Gillis, the Registrar, wrote President Franklin as follows: "I take pleasure in reporting to you that the committee on Accredited Relations of the University of Kentucky at the House Meeting of May 17, rated Union College as an "A" grade four-year college. Graduates of Union beginning with the class of 1927 will be admitted to our graduate school the same as our own graduates." ⁴² It was wonderful

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 15.

⁴⁰ "Report" of President to Trustees, June 2, 1925.

⁴¹ This was started in 1926-27.

⁴² *Barbourville Advocate*, June 3, 1927.

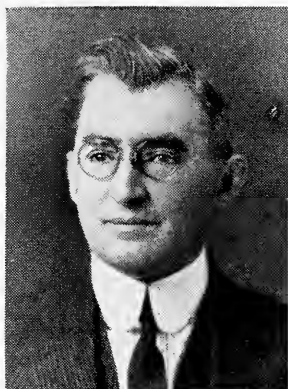
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to know that Union's graduates could now enter unquestioned into the largest graduate school in the state.

President Franklin likewise realized that recognition could not be had from the Kentucky Association nor the Southern Association as long as the Academy was located on the same grounds and in the same buildings as the college. Union could not afford a new campus with new buildings for the Academy and that meant it must be sacrificed for the sake of complete accreditation.

Although the college had been moving logically in that direction, the Board of Trustees hesitated when the fateful time arrived. The members were "not enthusiastic, perhaps some were even opposed to the idea, but having committed themselves to the plan of building a college far in the past, agreed to go ahead." Almost none of the faculty, related Mrs. Franklin, approved the plan to abolish the Academy. Likewise many business men in town opposed it—seeing a falling off in their trade. Following his announcement that no Academy freshmen class could ever again be admitted to Union, President Franklin found himself perhaps the most unpopular man in town. But the last great battle on the way back had been won and before Franklin left Union in 1928, he had the satisfaction of seeing the College gain admission to membership in the Association of Colleges and Universities of Kentucky.

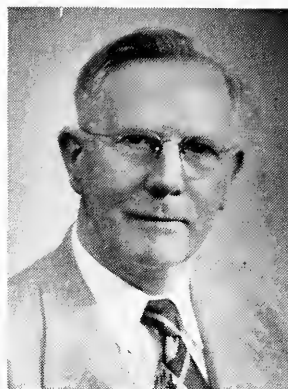
The course had now been set. There could be no retrenchment. Most of President Franklin's 6-point program had been realized with 13 years of hard labor, and only a few more years would be needed to reach the ultimate goal. In 1928 President Franklin stood upon Mt. Nebo looking into the land of Canaan.



JAMES P. FAULKNER, 1897-1905



JAMES D. BLACK, 1910-1912



EZRA T. FRANKLIN, 1915-1928



JAMES W. EASLEY, 1905-1910



PERCY L. PORTS, 1912-1914



JOHN O. GROSS, 1929-1938

UNION'S PRESIDENTS, 1897-1938

CHAPTER VII

GENERAL GROWTH AND ACTIVITIES, 1915-1928

FINANCE WAS certainly the most confusing problem during this whole period. It is next to impossible to ascertain the real assets of the Board of Education at a given time. The Kenyon Building juggling brought confusion during the early period and during the later period it was brought about by the stock market boom which spiraled merrily upward until the crash of 1929.

Out of approximately \$250,000 received from the Fanny Speed estate, \$200,000 of that amount was represented by the Kenyon Building at Louisville. Although this building continued to decrease in value and income over a period of years, at the end of the fiscal year, 1915-16, it was listed on paper as worth \$206,000 out of a total "productive" endowment of \$290,000. During President Port's administration, C. B. Nordeman had begged for authority to sell the building when an opportune moment presented itself—this the Board refused to grant.¹ For years the Board had proposed to dispose of the building and invest the receipts in stocks. At first (January 29, 1918), the minimum price was set at \$90,000,² but when an offer was made at a much lower figure, C. B. Nordeman was authorized to sell at a minimum net price of \$75,000.

In March, 1919, Walter S. Adams, agent, agreed to pay \$28,000 for the Kenyon Building within 5 years and a balance of \$50,000 within 10 years, or a total of \$78,000. The Board accepted the offer and borrowed \$25,000 from the Lincoln Savings Bank and Trust Company to pay off the Kenyon Mortgage owed the Fidelity and Trust Company of Louisville. It will be remembered that the Kenyon mortgage originated because of the building program of 1907-08.

Although the Kenyon "notes" were listed in 1919 as worth only \$48,000, (a loss of over \$150,000), the treasurer of the Board of Education reported Union's productive endowment at \$266,000, or only \$30,000 less than that reported in 1916, when the Kenyon Building was "worth" \$206,000. This meant that sometime between 1916 and 1919, the Board of Education had mysteriously acquired \$120,000.

¹ Percy L. Ports to writer, May 31, 1954.

² Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

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The mystery deepens further when one finds in 1921, the "productive assets" of Union set at \$163,000³ or \$100,000 less than 5 years before—this after a drive that is supposed to have netted \$80,000, (not including \$25,000 subscribed for the gymnasium). Seventeen years after Fanny Speed's death, Union's productive endowment had decreased by \$100,000.

Further study of fiscal reports throws little light on Union's financial labyrinth. The financial report for 1925 lists productive endowment at almost \$360,000, including \$200,000 worth of Louisville Cement Stock. But by July, 1922, over \$450,000 had been subscribed for Union's endowment in a single drive. Counting off \$25,000 for the gymnasium, and \$20,000 for the President's home, Union's assets should seemingly have been worth over \$200,000 additional or at least \$560,000. When one discovers that the Louisville Cement Stock had a face value of only \$53,333,⁴ he is left further confounded.

This same year (1925), the total indebtedness of \$46,000, of which \$30,000 remained on the gymnasium, was reduced \$11,000, and the president's new residence was completed and paid for. Starting out with an annual budget of \$10,000, Franklin gradually increased the amount to \$20,000 when he began hiring a full college faculty and tripled the amount by the end of his administration.

As the income from the Kenyon Building gradually decreased annually from \$12,000 to a deficit of \$2,000, other sources gradually took its place. The chief "God-send", proved to be the Louisville Cement Company's stock which netted \$6,500 in 1917-18. The income from the Seelback Realty Company, the Southern Pacific Railroad, and the Louisville Hotel Company, totaled about \$2,500 annually. In addition, the New York Board of Education of the M. E. Church usually contributed \$1,500 to \$2,000 each year. After completion of the president's home and the gymnasium, Union's property was valued at \$300,000.

The chief bequests of the period were the Miller fund of \$5,000, already mentioned, the John D. Hearne estate valued at \$23,000, and the Wilson and Baldwin contributions which will be discussed later. Union's income from the Conference and outside sources gradually increased from \$3,000 in 1916, to about \$20,000 in 1927-28. The Louisville Cement Company, alone, was netting \$9,000 annually. At the end of Franklin's administration, income from tuition exceeded \$14,000 per annum compared with \$3,500 in 1915-16.

Student costs doubled during the same period. Within a dozen

³ Treasurer's "Report" to Board of Education, Sept. 21, 1919.

⁴ Kentucky Conference *Minutes*, 1925.

years, board and room at the college increased from \$85 a year to \$180. The Academy student's tuition had increased from \$30 to \$50. Tuition for college students usually amounted to about \$20 more than that of the academic. In 1915-16, a boarding student in the Union Academy could attend one year for \$125; in 1927-28, it had risen to \$265.

In order to arrive at an understanding of this extraordinary rise in costs one must think in terms of national growth. The period of the 1920's following the first World War was one of inflation and rising prices. Another factor in the increased costs was the maintenance of a full collegiate faculty. Before the war, most of the boarding faculty was working for \$450 per annum plus board and room—or exactly the same salary paid in 1905 to the "professors." Better paid instructors like Miss Weeks were earning \$600. The number on the faculty from 1915-28, varying from 12 to 20, fell to its minimum during the war years. Following the war when Union was offering four years of training in both the academy and the college with expanded curriculums, the faculty increased to its maximum. When the Academic program was dropped, the faculty decreased to 15 or approximately the same size as when the collegiate program began.

Restoration of the collegiate program called for a better trained faculty and after the war there was a sparse sprinkling of professors with Ph.D. degrees. This rarity of advanced degrees was quite common to small colleges of the period. The Academic faculty was unusually strong for the era—most of those teaching had acquired the Master of Arts degree—a situation one was not likely to find in many Kentucky high schools of the 1920's.

The duties of the faculty were not limited to the dissemination of knowledge in the secular world; but extended also into the moral and spiritual realms as well. This they exercised in their capacity as spiritual leaders, teachers, advisers, and custodians of morals. With the reestablishment of the college curriculum, and the increased number of "young ladies," coming to Union as boarding students, it was imperative that the school accept the responsibility for upholding the strict moral codes and mores common to Kentucky and the South. Parents of the period would have been extremely reluctant to send their daughters away from home to a school where promiscuous mixing of the sexes was permitted.

Franklin's administration had inherited many rules and customs regarding boy-girl relations. In the spring of 1915, three girls were punished for playing tennis with boys while unchaperoned and for going on the boys' side of the campus. At the same time a faculty

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resolution read "that thereafter in accordance with a long established precedent in the school the girls shall not be allowed to go to the boys' side of the campus for any purpose whatever." ⁵

Girls under eighteen could not receive calls from the boys except by "written request from the parents addressed to the preceptress." Under the new president, Franklin, girls were allowed two "social evenings" per week, in Speed Hall, on Wednesday and Saturday evenings. These were known as "informal socials." In 1923-24, we find the first recorded "open house." At the first one held in September, 1923, the girls were "at home" to the Stevenson Hall boys from 7:00 to 8:00 P.M. A program of "pieces," dialect stories, singing, piano-playing and games for all, "Bird, Beast, or Fish," were presented. At the second in January, 1924, the boys "inspected" from 6:00 to 7:00 o'clock. "They were ushered into the parlor where, after being divided into three groups, their explorations began under competent feminine guides. A hostess in each room received the guests and 'shooed' them out when they had stayed long enough." ⁶ In 1925 girls were allowed to go down town during the daytime, unchaperoned, provided they "checked out." They were likewise allowed dates to "appointed functions," if chaperoned.

Before 1920 the school did "not care to adopt uniforms for girls to insure economy and balance" if it could secure these results otherwise. Girls were asked to wear "coat-suits or blouses and skirts for church and school wear." Fancy dresses could not be permitted for school wear, and at no time were "extreme low necks and sleeves above the elbows" permitted. In the early 20's correct dress for young ladies was more clearly defined: "1. Dresses and waists in the neck must not be lower than one and one-half inches below the collar-bone in front and correspondingly low in the back and should be near the neck on the shoulders. 2. Sleeves must be long enough to come at least to the elbow." ⁷ During the late 1920's, dress specifications for girls were dropped and the young ladies were admonished only to dress in a simple manner—"not elaborate or faddish." ⁸

Boys were naturally given more freedom than girls but even they were required to be in their rooms by 7:00 P.M. They could get special permission to stay out "week nights" and were always allowed to stay out until 10:00 or 11:00 on Saturday nights. In the middle 1920's, Sunday night privileges were considered debatable.

⁵ Faculty Minutes, April 16, 1915.

⁶ *Orange and Black*, Oct. 2, 1923; Feb. 5, 1924.

⁷ *Union College Catalogs, 1920-21, 1923-24.*

⁸ *Ibid.*, 1927-28.

Throughout the régime of President Franklin, regulations against the use of tobacco and intoxicating liquors were in force. One has only to glance at the faculty minutes to realize how frequently these rules were broken. When a student was caught drinking, he was usually severely reprimanded for his conduct, perhaps temporarily dismissed from the campus, and the faculty made haste to pass a resolution providing for expulsion from school in the future in such cases. Rather amusingly enough, the faculty would repeat this process year after year, with the idea that somehow they were establishing precedents for future action in such cases. Actually, very few students were permanently expelled for drinking. The fight against the use of tobacco was a losing one—at least, apparently so to one willing to face the realities of the situation. Smoking (covertly of course) had long been going on in the men's dormitory. In 1923 the faculty voted to expel students for smoking after the first offense. The next year, at a special meeting, the faculty changed its mind and decided to try fines; \$10 for the first offense and \$25 for the second. In the late 1920's the situation was compromised by permitting smoking off the campus. Other prohibitions included the breaking and defacing of property, profanity, obscene language and the reading of "trashy" literature.

There was nothing approaching true student government although student councils were organized by the dean and representatives of the students consulted with the deans in regard to regulations. Under Dean Vogel, the Academy had its own separate council apart from the collegiate. Student government for the girls of Speed Hall under the leadership of Abigail E. Weeks, was announced for 1918, but this seems to have been short lived. In 1925 an administration demerit system was in force. Twenty demerits for a campus student and fifteen for a day student meant automatic dismissal.

The large study hall kept for academic students always presented disciplinary problems. A "self controlled" study hall underwent experimentation in 1922, with a committee of two from each class establishing the rules. According to an article in the *Orange and Black*, the study hall was failing in its noble object of exercising self control. The school paper asked for a study hall so well conducted that when "a professor looks in he will not have to dodge to keep from getting his head cracked with chalk." The paper issued a warning—it might be necessary to have the faculty control it once again.⁹

One of the best examples of the ideas on discipline prevailing at Union, was the case of Robert Peters, editor of the *Orange and Black*

⁹ *Orange and Black*, Oct. 17, 1922.

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during the school year, 1924-25. In an editorial dated April 29, 1925, Peters asked several questions: Why there was no school spirit, why four-fifths of Union's students were new each year, and why students, almost without exception were dissatisfied with Union. Peters then proceeded to give the answers to his own questions. All academy study hall students had been punished because a few had broken the rules, work had to be done on the *Orange and Black* at night, and social privileges were looked upon as a "necessary evil." He could see no reason why boys and girls should be separated so completely, or why a girl had committed a crime by talking to a boy "around a tennis court." Peters concluded his editorial by castigating first, the faculty for looking upon "dates, twice a week," as a waste of time; and secondly, the administration for maintaining attitudes "ten years behind the times." In order to grow, wrote editor Peters, Union "must change."

The editorial caused much excitement among both the faculty and student body. By vote of the faculty, Peters was asked to resign as editor of the school paper and the "Scribblers Club" accepted responsibility for the *Orange and Black*. An editorial, evidently prepared by a faculty committee refuted Peters under the caption, "A CAT STORY." The article termed Peters' charges gross exaggeration and pointed out that at the beginning of the past year, 60 per cent of the college department returned and likewise, 50 per cent of the academy, notwithstanding the fact that many graduated or went into teaching.

In spite of all the restrictions on boy-girl relations, Dan Cupid seemed to have held his own very well on the campus. President Franklin's brother "lost his bachelor's degree" three days after graduation and the following year's class had 50 per cent "casualties." When one speaks of such a high proportion of marriages for one class we must keep in mind the smallness of the college classes in the period 1915-1928. From 1919 through 1927 the total number receiving degrees was 38, an average of about 4 per year. Franklin's last commencement in 1928 must have been a joy to him when he saw seventeen graduates receive degrees—two more than received diplomas from the Academy.

When President Franklin first came to Union, "primary entertainment" by the lower grades was a part of the commencement exercises. Later the intermediate, and finally the grammar grades had this part of the final program for the school year. Community receptions and art exhibits were usually planned and during the 1920's, orchestra, band, and voice recitals became a part of the commencement festivities. Something new for commencement week was added in 1920 when 50 alumni appeared for the first "annual" alumni banquet.¹⁰ The alumni

¹⁰ Barbourville *Advocate*, May 28, 1920.

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association although formed in 1894, remained dormant through most of the years and in 1919 had undergone a revival due to the influence of Abigail E. Weeks. Another interesting commencement took place in 1924 when Union presented its first diploma in voice to Lila Vincent, and the Reverend E. P. Hall, achieved the distinction of being Union's first graduate to preach a Baccalaureate sermon at Union.¹¹ Three years earlier, (1923), the Academy senior class established the precedent of tree planting. Other features of commencement in the 1920's were dramatic productions, and exhibitions by the swimming classes, usually under the direction of Cora Sevier.

The building of the gymnasium in 1919 brought with it an added interest in athletics—especially basketball and swimming. In addition the revival of the college curriculum meant eventual return of intercollegiate athletics.

During the thirteen years of Franklin's régime, basketball was the major sport at Union. An Academy team was maintained at a time when there was no gymnasium. In November, 1917, Franklin reported the basketball team as "doubtless the best in the entire section."¹² Intercollegiate basketball was revived in 1917 and continued with successful seasons through 1923. Union was especially proud of its Academy teams of 1921 and 1922. In 1921 the Academy team was undefeated in regular season play and was beaten only in the finals of the state tournament by Manual Training High School of Louisville. In 1922 the team won both the southeastern Kentucky championship and the state tournament. The girls' varsity team almost matched the boys' record this same year. It captured the championship of southeastern Kentucky and counted the University of Tennessee among its victims.¹³

Baseball likewise was continued as a popular sport. Union had winning teams from 1918 to 1921. Football had not been played since its first season in 1905. Although Union's catalogues gave one the impression that the administration was not sympathetic towards intercollegiate athletics, it must be kept in mind that collegiate football could not have been reintroduced until the twenties because of the very small enrollment in that department. September, 1922, saw Union's first football in 17 years. This team, under W. B. Trosper, was green and most of the games were played against high school teams. Within two years, Union was playing almost entirely a collegiate

¹¹ *Orange and Black*, June 3, 1924.

¹² President Franklin to Board of Education, Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926.

¹³ *The Stespean*, 1922.

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schedule. With the coming of coach John B. Wolfe in 1926, the caliber of Union's teams improved, but college enrollment was too small to support a first class team.

Two new sports, swimming and tennis, came to Union in the early 1920's. With the completion of the new gymnasium, equipped with a swimming pool, all students of Union College were required to be able to swim. The school boasted many expert swimmers and fancy divers. Yearly swimming exhibitions were given from 1920-1926, under the direction of Miss Cora Sevier.

Tennis for the first time in the history of Union became an inter-collegiate sport in 1925 under the direction of Dr. John B. Ripperer. This first team played two matches with Williamsburg and split the honors. The second year (1926), Union's mixed team of boys and girls had a perfect season—five victories and no defeats. Again in 1928, the team won the Cumberland Valley Tennis Tournament.

If it is true that the period of the "Golden Twenties" was marked by an increased interest in athletics, the same can be said for increased interest in the fine arts. As has been already pointed out, Union, from the first, offered instruction in music and often a goodly proportion of all the students were taking music lessons. It seemed that Union was "hitching its wagon to a star," when it aspired to contain a conservatory of music.

Union's conservatory opened in 1918. Its five departments were piano, voice, violin, wind instruments and band, and theoretical work. Graduates of the conservatory took the Bachelor of Music degree. Since 1907, Union had graduated six students from her music department.¹⁴ Although students still graduated from the departments, none received the coveted degree in music. The interest manifested in music is shown by a registration of 55 students in that department for the year 1922-23.

Perhaps the school attempted too much in the way of musical organizations. It had a band, orchestra, saxophone club, mandolin club, the Treble Clef Club, Appollo Glee Club, besides an excellent girls quartet—the Kentucky Cardinal which toured Eastern Kentucky on behalf of the endowment drive.¹⁵ The moving spirit of the conservatory was Charles E. Ahler who left Union in 1922. He was succeeded by Francis A. Nunvar a graduate of the Berlin Conservatory, who remained two years. With Nunvar's going, the conservatory became defunct and only a music department remained. Near the end of his

¹⁴ The first graduate was Joan Easley, the president's daughter, in 1908.

¹⁵ Members of the quartet of 1922-23, were Thelma Morehead, Love Morris, Jessie Stratton, and Margaret Wilson.

administration, President Franklin complained that the tuition from this department was not sufficient to maintain a full time music teacher because of the low rates offered by music teachers in town.¹⁶

If one seeks recompense for the nostalgic days of Union's conservatory which are no more, he can find it elsewhere in the solid lasting literary achievements of the period. Two "traditional" student publications, the *Orange and Black*, and the *Stespean* rose almost simultaneously in 1921. The latter has suffered many vicissitudes due to war emergencies, rascally printers, and financial troubles; but the former has been able to maintain an almost unbroken line of publication from its first issue. Strangely, the school catalogs of the period gave no recognition to these two publications except to note that the "Scribblers Club" contributed articles to the "school paper."

The *Orange and Black* owed its beginning to the suggestion of George E. Ryder, a junior in the Academy. The first issue appeared on Washington's birthday, 1921. A week earlier, Ben Haynes had given a special talk in chapel concerning the new paper. The first volume consisted of a four-page paper, 8"x11" in size, published bi-weekly by the Junior Academy class.¹⁷ The first editor-in-chief was Ben Haynes, with Miss Weeks as faculty censor. The purpose of the new paper was explained in George Ryder's own words: "when we put this paper into the hands of the public we hope to feel that we are not only giving an account of the daily happenings on the campus from the right point of view, but that we are giving a little paper chuck full of articles of good literary value. . . . With this initial edition of the *Orange and Black* we greet all and kindly ask your loyal support for the *Orange and Black* for all time to come."¹⁸

The paper's first motto, that of the Junior Class, *Labor Omnia Vincit*, appeared under the title. Beginning with the second volume in September, 1921, the paper was slightly increased in size and the second number changed the motto to "We must not stop here; yonder lies the port." Later, other mottos were used, and then finally dropped altogether. In 1925, the *Orange and Black* became the college paper rather than a class paper.

The *Fledgling* of 1920 represented Union's pioneer efforts in class annuals. Portrayed on its front green paper was a newly born fledgling drawn by Robert Blair. This first annual was dedicated to President E. T. Franklin "as an expression of gratitude for the interest he has

¹⁶ President's "Report" to trustees, Feb. 28, 1928.

¹⁷ A. H. Harritt's *Cumberland Chronicle*, (1881), and Professor Reibold's *Collegial Journal*, (1905), were not college publications, but were privately printed.

¹⁸ *Orange and Black*, Feb. 22, 1921.

shown in the upbuilding of Union College." Its editor was Anna Mae Sloan, one of Union's four college graduates for that year. And so the puny *Fledgling* set forth on its trial flight:

The Fledgling fieth forth!

Long live the Fledgling! ¹⁹

When the time came for publication of Union's second annual, the editors were presented with the dilemma of selecting a permanent name. The *Fledgling* was bound to grow into something—perhaps "a Cardinal or Mocking Bird, but the Editors felt that in giving a permanent name" to the Annual, "they should in some way do honor to those who, years ago, did so much to make the Union College of today possible." ²⁰ The name, *Stespean*, was derived from the first three letters of the names, Stevenson and Speed, with the suffix, *an*. Violet Humfleet, associate editor of the first *Stespean* is credited with the "happy coinage."

The first *Stespean* was dedicated to Abigail E. Weeks in appreciation of the sympathy, good advice, high ideals, true friendship, help, and other virtues as exemplified in her life. In this first issue, there appeared photographs of the main buildings on the campus together with useful historical sketches of each. This number also contained the photographs of Academy seniors like Robert Blair, Kenneth Tuggle, Josh Faulkner, and James Blair, who became well known for their later success in life.

The older literary societies were somewhat eclipsed by these new literary efforts but some continued on their way and new ones rose to vie for membership. The early years of Franklin's administration were plagued with "delphic" societies. In 1915 the Kidelphic died and the Diadelphic was born. Early the next year, President Franklin discovered that no literary societies were functioning on the campus and called the students together for the purpose of organizing one. This organization known at first simply as the "Literary Society" of Union College, was shortly rechristened the Adelphean Literary Society, and allegedly merged with the Diadelphic which already had ceased to function. The Utopian Society was then added as a competitor to the Adelphean. Every student was expected to join one of them. One can understand why interest might languish—meetings were held in lieu of Saturday afternoon classes from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M.

The next year, seven alumni petitioned for the revival of the old Philoneikean Society. Union's most famous society had died along

¹⁹ The *Fledgling*, 1920, on loan to writer by Mrs. Sallie (Frederick) Treadway, Academy, 1924.

²⁰ *Stespean*, 1921.

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with the Junior collegiate curriculum. S. P. Franklin, who had lately returned from Northwestern University with an advanced degree to serve on Union's faculty, was largely instrumental in bringing about its reorganization. The resurrected club remained active through 1923-24.

Other clubs tracing their origin or revivals to the 1920's were the Demosthenes (1921), Philomathean (1922), Stevensonian (1924), French (1924),²¹ Latin (1925), Three W. Circle (1926), the "U" (1926), and the Playlikers (1927). The "U" Club appeared with the revival of collegiate athletics. It was organized during the winter of 1925-26 by Coach Funk for men who won their varsity letter in any branch of athletics.²² Both the Stevensonian Literary Society and the Demosthenes Debating Club ceased to exist with the passing of the Academy.

Another club, the Playlikers, underwent a revival in the late 1920's. Such a club had been organized as early as 1881, and there may have been various dramatic clubs after that time. One source²³ states that the Playlikers revived in 1921, but there is no mention of them in the college catalogues, *Stespeans*, or *Orange and Black* before the middle twenties. In 1927, they became active and the club was named the Playlikers.²⁴

The revival of athletics, musical organizations, and dramatics did not mean that the college was turning away from the ideals of its new founders, Mrs. Speed and Dr. Stevenson. On the contrary no president of Union has exceeded President Franklin in his strong religious convictions, or the desire to further Christian education at Union. The letterheads which President Franklin used were captioned, "Union College—A School That Likes to Serve—Founded and Sustained for Christian Education." In his annual reports he delighted in reviewing the religious life of the school during the preceding year and would usually list the number of conversions achieved through semi-annual revivals. For instance in his first annual "Report," he noted "two gracious revivals" netting at least seventy-five conversions. He considered no part of the year's work "more encouraging than this religious development among the students and faculty."

It was one of Franklin's goals to have Union College endeavor "to do a class of work" justifying the support of the "Methodist Church and Christian people in general as well as other philan-

²¹ In 1927 this club changed its name to La Societe Française.

²² *Stespean*, 1926.

²³ Hembree, "A History of Union College," 190.

²⁴ *Orange and Black*, Dec. 7, 1927.

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thropists who want a specific moral and Christian atmosphere about student life.”²⁵ In his first catalog, President Franklin named as his specific aim for Union College, “the development of life and the formation of genuine substantial character. It [Union] interprets the meaning of life and sets itself to the task of fitting young men for the manifold and responsible duties the age demands.”

Chapel was held five days a week from Tuesday through Saturday. Attendance, of course, was compulsory. As a rule either President Franklin or a faculty member delivered the address, although occasionally there were guest speakers. During the early years of Franklin’s régime, chapel lasted forty minutes. For a period of one year, divided chapel for the sexes was held two days a week. The new dean, Francis E. Matheney had suggested such a move in order to work on problems peculiar to the different sexes. At one of these sessions, Mrs. Gunn gave a talk to the girls on the “Old-Fashioned Virtues.”²⁶

Besides chapel, students were also required to attend revivals, Sunday School, Sunday preaching services, and one weekly evening worship usually held on Thursday. In 1923, compulsory night services were discontinued by the President because of the “strain” and the “unnatural attitude connected with them.”²⁷ Each Tuesday at the beginning of the chapel period individual cards were turned in reporting church attendance on Sunday.

Union’s work in the preparation of ministers was still going forward. When the Kentucky Annual Conference met at Barbourville in 1922, it was discovered that about 25 of its members (almost half) were connected with Union College at one time or another.²⁸ Union had been charging only one-half the regular tuition rates to ministerial and missionary students and children of ministers. Beginning with the fall term of 1919, ministerial students of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and children of members of that church were given free literary tuition.²⁹ The Joshua Taylor fund was another source of aid to ministerial students.³⁰ Students of other faiths continued with favored rates.

With the coming of Franklin, a “theological department” was reestablished at Union. This was described as not intended to give

²⁵ Union College *Catalog*, 1916-17.

²⁶ Faculty Minutes, Sept. 20, 1923.

²⁷ *Orange and Black*, Oct. 24, 1924.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, Oct. 31, 1922.

²⁹ Board of Education, Minutes, 1910-1926, May 29, 1919.

³⁰ This fund as announced on May 31, 1921, amounted to \$1,700. It was later increased to \$3,100.

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a theological seminary course, but was offered in order to give training which would meet the needs of one wanting "some help in Christian work before going to a theological seminary." The course was also recommended to any student as a "mind and character builder."

Since the days of President Faulkner, the presidents had shouldered most of the burden of providing instruction in Bible and theology. With the leaving of the Reverend Overley, President Franklin provided instruction in Philosophy, Bible, and systematic Theology. During the early years of Franklin's régime the local Methodist ministers assisted him. Beginning in 1920, the college dean assumed this duty.

Up to this time no special fund, solely for the purpose of providing instruction in religious education, had been established at Union. In 1926, friends of the college were overjoyed to hear of a bequest of \$50,000 for the purpose of endowing "A professorship of Ethics, for teaching by lecture, class instruction, or otherwise, the fundamental principles of morality and good conduct."³¹

The donor of this bequest, Mrs. Amanda Landrum Wilson of Cincinnati, who had died recently at the advanced age of 94, at one time was a student of Augusta College. The endowment was in honor of her father the Reverend Francis Landrum, a trustee of Augusta. Mrs. Wilson became interested in Union because of its historical connection with Augusta College. The Reverend F. W. Harrop, a former Union faculty member, "called on Mrs. Wilson a number of times and furnished a great deal of historical information together with things of personal interest to Mrs. Wilson. Bishop Anderson also made a very effective and urgent appeal to Mrs. Wilson. . . ." President Franklin finally persuaded Mrs. Wilson to include Union in her will only two years before her death.³²

On June 7, 1927, Union received the Mrs. Obed J. Wilson bequest netting \$46,362.50. The professorship so endowed became known as the Francis Landrum Memorial Professor of Ethics and Moral Conduct. The first professor to occupy this chair was the Reverend Charles Clark Smith, A.M., S.T.M., D.D., who at the same time was Dean of Union College and Professor of Bible and Moral Philosophy.

There is no record of the number of ministerial students attending Union from 1919 to 1927, or are there any ministerial or religious groups featured in the school annuals, except in the *Fledgling*,³³ but in the fall of 1917, the number of ministerial students increased from 9 to 17, of which 4 had been recommended for entrance to the

³¹ Barbourville *Advocate*, Apr. 2, 1926.

³² President's "Report" to the Board of Trustees, 1926.

³³ In this first annual, 14 "Christian workers" are pictured. Three of them are girls.

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conference.³⁴ During the next two years a dozen students are listed in the college catalogs as ministerial prospects. Without question, President Franklin was instrumental in attracting such students, and made special efforts to induce them to attend Union.

In the preceding chapter mention was made of Union's main physical achievement of the period—the new gymnasium. However there was other growth of the physical properties during this period, the most important of which was the president's home. After the completion of Speed Hall, Dr. Stevenson's cottage was abandoned as the president's home and thereafter the administrators had lived generally in Speed or in the Stevenson Hall apartments. In 1916 President Franklin spoke of a president's home as one of Union's "pressing needs." Three years later the college acquired the Dishman cottage and property comprising about ten acres, at a cost of \$7,775.³⁵ A portion of the gymnasium was built on this land.³⁶ On January 23, 1922, the school received a check from Mr. F. E. Baldwin for \$4,750. This was applied to the debt on the Dishman lot and practically freed it of all encumbrances.³⁷

In 1923 the Board of Trustees took definite action to erect the president's residence on the Dishman property. E. T. Franklin, W. W. Shepherd and A. M. Decker, composed a building committee. The contract signed on November 19, 1923, called for construction of the building for the sum of \$4,000. The Union College corporation was required to furnish all materials.³⁸ It was hoped to complete the building for a total cost of \$15,000 but as experience has proven in almost all cases of like nature, the contractor's estimate of materials was far below the actual costs. In addition, extras like water and sewerage pipes had not been taken into consideration. Final estimates brought the total costs to almost \$20,000. It is amusing to note that the edifice was listed in 1935 as being worth \$7,364, although it would cost \$15,000 to replace it.³⁹

The Franklins moved into their new home early in 1925. On February 9, 1925 they gave the first president's reception to faculty members at present Baldwin Place. In 1934, almost a decade had passed since the erection of the president's home and still it bore no name of particular significance. Then an annuity of \$12,000 from

³⁴ President's "Report" to Trustees, Sept. 1917.

³⁵ Hembree, "A History of Union College," 70.

³⁶ Dr. E. T. Franklin to writer, April 27, 1954.

³⁷ *Orange and Black*, Jan. 24, 1922. The school paper gives the donor's initials as M. C. instead of F. E. Mr. Baldwin first promised this money in 1916, at the general conference. E. T. Franklin to writer, March 3, 1954.

³⁸ Building contract, Nov. 19, 1923, President's office.

³⁹ Analysis of buildings and contents of Union College, MSS, President's office.

the Baldwin Family was announced. The Board of Education invested the amount in securities and determined to show its gratitude by naming the president's home Baldwin Place in honor of the two donors, Francis E. Baldwin and Anna G. Baldwin.⁴⁰

Franklin's administration achieved one more important item of growth—that of the library. In the twenty years after its founding, it had grown slowly, adding less than a thousand volumes to the original one thousand housed in one room over the first floor of the administration building. In 1917, the library received two important contributions; one from Mrs. J. H. Good of Ashland and the other from Mrs. E. J. Langdon, who contributed the late Professor Langdon's private library. The following year, Dr. E. C. Wareing presented the college with "several hundred splendid volumes." In addition, Mrs. F. E. Baldwin of Elmira, New York and Mrs. Mary E. Means gave \$1,000 each, to be paid in installments for the acquisition of new books. In 1925 the college received \$5,000 to be used for the library and science laboratories. Mention must also be made of the 200 valuable and out of print history books contributed by Dr. A. M. Hyde, Professor of history at Union.

In 1927 Union's one room library was literally bursting. At that time an additional adjoining classroom was utilized. In it were placed the volumes seldom used, and the French collection. For this reason the new library room was known as the French room. In one of his last reports, President Franklin suggested the building of a combined library—science hall. Speed-Stevenson Library had now grown to contain 7,000 volumes together with numerous magazines.

The time of Franklin's stay at Union was now fast drawing to a close. A few more years, and he could expect to get complete accreditation from the Southern Association, but as his wife has aptly stated, he, like Moses could not enter the promised land. Their eldest daughter had developed an asthmatic and bronchial condition which gave little indication of clearing up. So upon the advice of their physician they decided in the summer of 1928 to leave Union. Franklin found a new position in the fall of 1928 and resigned on October 11, to take effect November 5, 1928.⁴¹ The news of Franklin's resignation did not reach the campus until the third week in October.⁴² The Board of Trustees accepted his resignation on October 18, and passed a resolution in his honor which read:

⁴⁰ Board of Trustees, Minutes, Feb. 21, 1934.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, Oct. 18, 1928.

⁴² *Orange and Black*, Oct. 24, 1928.

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WHEREAS:

Thirteen years ago during a critical period in the life of Union College, the Board of Education selected Reverend E. T. Franklin for its president. The Wisdom of that choice has been fully vindicated by the development of the institution during the past thirteen years. From a graded school and academy with serious and financial problems to an "A" grade college of liberal arts, now firmly established with growing endowment is evidence sufficient of his wise administration and prophetic vision.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That in accepting the resignation of President Franklin we deeply regret his passing from us, are truly grateful to the beneficent providence that brought him to our institution and wish for him divine guidance and abundant success in his new field.⁴³

The Franklins left the middle of November for Southwestern College in Kansas. The following February, President Franklin was called back to Union to become the recipient of Union's first honorary doctor's degree.⁴⁴

The *Orange and Black* has given an excellent summary of Dr. Franklin's achievements at Union.

Thirteen years ago Union College was nothing more than a high school with a very dark future. Its founders were no longer sure of its possibilities; its teachers were never sure of its finances, and its board of trustees were almost ready to become discouraged. . . .

The new president of the college evidently had a vision of the future. . . . Soon the college course was reviewed, the grades dropped, and Southeastern Kentucky saw a new beginning of an old institution.

During the past thirteen years under the careful leadership of President Franklin, our College had received additional endowments which now total well over \$400,000, and the standing of the college has been raised until our graduates are accepted as equal to those of the other colleges of the states. . . . Its present condition is due in no small way to the faithful, earnest efforts of President Franklin. Union College has always had first place in his thought and affection.⁴⁵

⁴³ Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1922-1926. This resolution was submitted by John O. Gross, James D. Black, and John Lowe Fort.

⁴⁴ *Orange and Black*, March 1, 1929.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, Nov. 7, 1928.



FANNY H. SPEED



ANNA M. PFEIFFER



C. B. CAWOOD



ARTHUR V. DAVIS

SOME OF UNION'S BENEFACTORS

CHAPTER VIII

UNION FINDS ITS PLACE

UNION'S NEW president, John Owen Gross, was no stranger to Union's campus. For eight years he had served in the Barbourville area, first as pastor of the local Methodist Episcopal Church and later as district superintendent. He was born at Folsom, Kentucky, in Grant County on July 9, 1894. He received his A.B. degree at Asbury College in 1918, and the S.T.B. degree three years later from Boston University. In addition, he had studied in the graduate schools of the Universities of Kentucky and Cincinnati. The next year after his elevation to Union's presidency, John O. Gross was called back to his alma mater, Asbury, to have the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity conferred upon him.

Before graduation from college, Gross determined to follow the ministry. He was received on trial into the Kentucky Conference in 1915 and accepted as deacon in 1921—the same year he came to Barbourville as pastor. While attending divinity school at Boston, he had married Harriet Bletzer. During the 1920's, Gross often appeared on Union's programs and his long association with the school provided him with an excellent key to the proper understanding of Union's problems.

Following President Franklin's departure from Union, the college had remained without a head for a period of two months. Finally, when the Board of Trustees met at Union College (January 30, 1929), the nominating committee, upon the motion of Governor Black, decided to consider Gross' name for the presidency. After several conferences that same day with Gross, the committee passed Black's motion without dissent. The next day, Gross was elected unanimously by the Board of Trustees and was instructed to begin his duties at once, February 1, 1929.¹

Completion of former President Franklin's drive for full recognition was recognized by the new president as Union's immediate goal and he set to work to attain it. With the graduation of Union's academy class of 1930, work of high school grade was no longer taught on the college campus or in the same buildings with that on the collegiate

¹ Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1922-36.

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level. This action cleared one major stumbling block toward full recognition. According to President Gross, such recognition could be secured by: (1) Securing a slight addition to the endowment; (2) Reorganization of the library with employment of a full time librarian; (3) Additions to the science equipment of Union's laboratory; (4) Strengthening of Union's faculty.

All the foregoing obstacles were removed during the school year, 1930-31. Abigail E. Weeks was relieved of her duties as part time librarian, and a full time librarian took charge of the library. At the same time a drive was inaugurated to increase the endowment. New science equipment was added to the laboratories and an additional lecture room was added. For the second time in Union's history, three professors holding the degree of Doctor of Philosophy appeared on the faculty.

Union's first petition for membership in the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States was rejected in February, 1932, but this rebuff was somewhat softened by Union's recent election into the American Association of Colleges at Cincinnati on January 21,² and by the assurance that membership in the Southern Association could be secured when deficiencies in standards were overcome. When the Southern Association held its annual meeting at New Orleans in late November, 1932, Union was again a candidate for accreditation. President Gross presented Union's case at its sessions, and on December 1, 1932,³ the dream of many years came true—Union was elected to membership in the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States. This insured full recognition of Union's credits at any college or university in the United States.⁴

The students, faculty, and friends of Union planned a huge ovation for President Gross on his return from New Orleans; and when Dr. Gross arrived at the Louisville and Nashville railroad station in Barbourville on Saturday afternoon, December 3, he was greeted by an enthusiastic crowd. Seated upon the town's fire engine truck, Union's president rode to the town square followed by a long line of cars and marching students. Flowing pennants bearing the slogans, "Watch Union Grow," "Union Fully Accredited," and "Union Second to None," were attached to many of the cars.⁵

Upon arrival at the square, Mayor Jarvis, County Agent Mayhew,

² *Orange and Black*, Jan. 21, 1937.

³ Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1922-36.

⁴ Union College Scrapbook, 1929-33. It is said that when President Gross' telegram announcing Union's election into the Southern Association arrived, Union's bell rang continuously throughout the day.

⁵ *Orange and Black*, Dec. 13, 1932.

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Governor Black, and the Reverend C. M. Thompson gave short talks on what accreditation meant to Union and Barbourville. Dr. Gross concluded the impromptu program with a long address on the late happenings at New Orleans. The following Monday Chapel was devoted to a program celebrating the event of the year—full accreditation. At the next meeting of the Board of Trustees, President Gross reiterated the importance of Union's achievement of the year, 1932.

Three other important celebrations took place during the administration of Dr. Gross in 1929, 1931, and 1936. The first was held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of Union College; the second to dedicate a memorial to Union's founders; and the third to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Dr. Stevenson's coming to Union College.

Before the end of Dr. Franklin's régime, a motion was adopted by the Board of Trustees to make plans for the celebration of a semi-centennial at the proper time. Dr. Gross, who had presented the motion, was placed on a program committee along with President Franklin, A. M. Decker, James D. Black, and J. L. Fort.⁶

This 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration took place from Saturday, May 25th 1929, to May 29, inclusive. The first day was used as a combined founders and alumni day, the second for the Baccalaureate, the third for the meeting of trustees and the historical pageant, the fourth for the Academy commencement and the fifth for a special address in the morning on Union's future, followed by commencement exercises at night. James P. Faulkner delivered the principal Founders' Day address and Mr. A. M. Decker gave a talk on Union's early history.

The historical pageant written by Professor James Watt Raine of Berea, was divided into six episodes, each of which was directed by a member of Union's faculty. None of the episodes were relevant to the history of Union College except the last, "Union's Gift to Appalachia." Other persons taking a prominent part in the celebration besides the ones already mentioned were James D. Black, Governor F. D. Sampson, Bishop H. Lester Smith, and the Reverends, Bovard, Fort, and Hall.

J. P. Faulkner's lengthy address was a fine contribution to Union's history; in fact it is the finest single source bearing on the early period. Speaking of Barbourville's part in the building of Union he said:

And now lest some one should think that I am playing favorites in claiming that Barbourville built Union College, I am quick to claim, and

⁶ Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1922-36; May 29, 1928.

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justly, that Dr. Stevenson built it, with equal justice that Mrs. Fanny Speed built it, and I believe that some of you know that it would not be fair to my own and other administrations not to give them credit for the part they have played in its development. However, this is Barboursville's day in court and no one will dare now to question the original, the lasting and the significant contribution made by her citizens—by such a large number of her citizens that we are justified in not speaking of them individually but collectively—justified in speaking of Barboursville's contribution—in saying that Barboursville built Union College.

Four of Union's original founders, E. E. Sawyers, John H. Catron, James D. Black, and Gordon P. Bain were present for the impressive ceremonies, but five other survivors were unable to attend the celebration. Some of Union's first students, A. M. Decker, T. F. Faulkner, Mrs. A. M. Decker, Mrs. E. E. Sawyers, Sallie Hoskins, and Mrs. Annie Albright, were in attendance.⁷

Although Union's founders had been honored with a special ceremony, it was felt that there should be more tangible and lasting evidence of Union's gratitude—perhaps a memorial. As J. P. Faulkner aptly described the situation, something was wanted that might not lie hidden away in a library but rather a memorial “that would arrest attention and keep alive the memory of their service, their sacrifice, their vision and their faith. . . .” For years, Faulkner had “timidly hoped” for such a memorial, but President Gross was the first to make the suggestion.

By late summer of 1929, the type of memorial—a gateway, had been selected, and a drive for contributing donors begun under the direction of President Gross. The memorial was to consist of two entrance posts of carved stone with the names of the founders inscribed on the stone.⁸ Thomas D. Tinsley suggested a bronze plate rather than cutting into the stone and his ideas were adopted with modifications—marble plates being used instead of bronze. The marble plate on the left pillar described the purpose of the memorial, and the one on the right (as one entered), listed the founders' names.⁹ Each pillar is surmounted with a concrete slab and a large globe light. About 1500 bulletins were mailed to former students, graduates, and friends of the college asking for contributions.¹⁰ Response was poor and at the end of two years only \$150 had been subscribed, over half of which had

⁷ From photographs appearing in *Louisville Courier Journal*, June 23, 1929.

⁸ The memorial gateway of Dickinson College, the alma mater of Miss Weeks, was used as a model.

⁹ Strangely, the name of A. H. Harritt (which is misspelled) does not appear near the head of the list, although he was president of Union College Corporation, and together with his wife one of the heaviest stockholders.

¹⁰ *Barboursville Advocate*, Nov. 1, 1929.

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been given by J. P. Faulkner, George S. Wilson, and Miss Katherine V. Sutphen.¹¹ The next year after its dedication, \$75 of the total cost of \$450 remained to be paid.

The gateway Memorial Dedication exercises were held November 7, 1931. President Gross delivered the welcoming address, James P. Faulkner presented the memorial, and Mr. A. M. Decker of the Board of Education accepted on behalf of the seven surviving founders.¹² Again James P. Faulkner was the orator of the day. An attempt, said Faulkner, was being made to make amends for delayed appreciation of the founders. Some gave more than others, but each had given according to his ability. "The outstanding thought back of their effort was the Union of purpose—a Union so evident and so strong that it suggested the name which the institution still bears and perhaps will ever continue to bear."¹³

President Gross, wishing to pay annual tribute to Union's founders, designated the first class week of October 23, as Founders Week. Its first observance was held October 23, 1933, when six of Union's founders attended Union's chapel services to hear Judge T. D. Tinsley deliver an address on Knox County pioneers. Since that date, Founders Week has not been observed every year at Union.

The year, 1936 brought with it the 50th anniversary of President Stevenson's coming to Union College.¹⁴ This celebration was held in connection with the commencement week program, May 24-28. On May 27, James P. Faulkner gave the commemoration address, speaking on the subject, "Dr. Stevenson as I knew Him." Dr. W. E. Shaw followed Faulkner with a talk on the first commencement address (1893). The Union College of today said Faulkner, "is a growing monument to the genius of Dr. Daniel Stevenson, hence this fiftieth anniversary celebration."¹⁵

When the Kentucky Annual Conference met at Maysville in September, another commemoration service was held in Stevenson's honor. Among those participating were President Gross, Governor Flem D. Sampson, Dr. E. P. Hall and James P. Faulkner, who delivered another fine eulogistic address on Dr. Stevenson's character and services. The Board of Education, meeting at the same conference, recorded the following tribute to Dr. Stevenson: "The adventure made by Dr.

¹¹ Founders MSS, President's office. Through the influence of the Honorable Hiram Owens, a Knoxville firm donated the marble slabs. See President's "Report," May 31, 1932. The Senior Class of 1931 donated the concrete walk leading from the Memorial.

¹² Founders Memorial "Program," President's office.

¹³ J. P. Faulkner, "Founders Memorial Presentation Address," President's office.

¹⁴ President Stevenson did not actually come to live on Union's campus until 1888.

¹⁵ J. P. Faulkner, "50th Anniversary Address on the coming of Dr. Stevenson. . . ."

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Daniel Stevenson in 1886 in the purchase of Union College for \$4,425 is an epoch in the history, not only of our Conference, but of the educational movement in Kentucky. For fifty years the college has given itself to constant and efficient service for the people of the conference. It has trained more than half as many ministers as now compose the Kentucky Conference, as well as many teachers and other professional men and women." ¹⁶ Dr. Gross suggested that a chair of education be established at Union in Dr. Stevenson's honor, but no action was taken on the proposal.

In addition to paying tribute to Dr. Stevenson, Union was called upon to pay its last respects to two other great names associated with the college, Andrew M. Decker, Sr., and James D. Black. Andrew M. Decker's death on June 20, 1933 at the age of 72, was a blow to Union College. For half a century this staunch friend of Union's stood at the vanguard of those always ready to support Union in her times of stress. While Andrew was still a young lad, his parents, Dr. Andrew and Eliza J. Decker from Claiborne County, Tennessee, moved to Stinking Creek, where the boy shortly became the sole support of his widowed mother and three sisters.

Speaking of Decker's early contacts with Union College, President Faulkner said:

Mr. Decker had a triple relation to the school. His connection began with the session over the Gibson store when he was a student, who accepted nothing as true or proved, on the word of the teacher. He had to be shown. This was a habit that sometimes proved rather annoying to professorial dignity. I am sure my authority for this statement, my brother, was equally guilty and took equal pride in his teacher's discomforture and got a great deal of enjoyment out of the many pranks which they together played on any innocents. During the summer of 1880, Mr. Decker carried bricks to the masons, as the college building was being erected, and, when the school opened in the fall, he entered as a student and acted as janitor in order to pay his tuition. It was while acting in this dual capacity that he was also assistant in the Primary department. There is no further record but it is presumed that he left the pranks to his former accomplice when he was elected to the faculty.¹⁷

During the winter of 1880-81, while attending Union, Decker met Lida Sawyers, daughter of W. W. Sawyers whose services to Union have already been noted, and not long afterwards made her his wife. In June, 1883, Decker accepted a position with the Swann-Abram hat company of Louisville,¹⁸ a firm with which he maintained connec-

¹⁶ Kentucky Conference, *Minutes*, 1936.

¹⁷ J. P. Faulkner's "50th Anniversary Address."

¹⁸ London *Echo*, June 29, 1883.

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tions for almost half a century and which appropriately dubbed him "Andy—the Million-Dollar Salesman!" Actually during his lifetime he sold almost two million dollars worth of his wares.¹⁹

Beginning with the early 1900's, Mr. Decker was elected to the Board of Education, serving in the capacities of secretary and treasurer. In 1922 he was elected to Union's first Board of Trustees for the long term and later being reelected, served until his death. His home was always open to faculty, students and friends of Union College. His many services to the school have already been discussed. At its next meeting, the Board of Trustees resolved that:

WHEREAS Andrew M. Decker was during his life time a student of Union College and later by his staunch friendship to the institution and service in its behalf merited and was elected to a place of responsibility upon its Board of Trustees serving its interests more than a score of years with untiring energy and zeal, having endeared himself to all the Board members and proved of great worth to the faculty and student body is greatly missed in this meeting. THEREFORE be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Union College assembled this 20th day of February, 1934 at Barbourville, Kentucky, express its sincere sympathy to the members of his family and deep appreciation for his valuable service.²⁰

Early in 1935, another of Union's leading founders, James T. Gibson, passed away. In 1922 when the Kentucky Annual Conference convened at Barbourville, Mr. Decker asked Mr. Gibson together with the Reverend Kelley to stand so the conference might meet two men who had helped "to build the first Union College."²¹

The same conference which sent a note of sympathy to Mrs. Decker in 1933, made James D. Black a life honorary member of the Board of Trustees with the power to vote. Five years later on August 5, 1938, the best known of Union's founders, and one of its presidents, passed to his reward. The same meeting which elected a new president for Union College on November 4, 1938, also adopted a resolution that "the Board of Trustees of Union College has suffered irreparable loss in the death . . . of James D. Black. His passing removes from our ranks one of Union's best friends. We shall miss his wise counsel and leadership. We shall think of him when we speak of Union College, as being the one who insisted that it be called 'Union.'" ²² "The name," according to Governor Black, "was not one selected at random

¹⁹ Circular of Swann-Abram Hat Company.

²⁰ Board of Trustees, Minutes, Feb. 20, 1934.

²¹ *Orange and Black*, Sept. 20, 1922.

²² Board of Trustees, Minutes, Nov. 4, 1938.

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but was very carefully selected. Through the years the name has given the college direction."²³

During this same period in which Union was seeking to find her place, and honoring her founders, she was also attempting to keep pace with the trends current in the modern educational world. In college educational circles it was beginning to be realized that the average college freshman needed a great deal of guidance to help him orient himself to his new surroundings. For the first time at Union, a freshman orientation program was held in September, 1931. This preliminary to the opening of the college year, and so very important to its success, has become a regular established feature at Union College.

When this freshman guidance program began there was only one type of beginning student on the campus—the college freshman. With the passing of the primary, intermediate, and academy curriculums, which were often integrated with studies in the normal, business, and music departments, the different plans of study became easier to understand and the pessimists that had foreseen a big drop in enrollment in the fall of 1930 because there was no longer a Union Academy were disappointed; because in spite of the business depression, total enrollment increased from 260 to 400.

Only one degree was offered in 1929-30, the same one first offered at Union almost 50 years ago when President Stevenson inaugurated the first college curriculum. Although the curriculum was no longer "classical," every student had to complete 12 semester hours of foreign languages in order to graduate. For many years, two foreign languages, Latin and French, were offered, but the closing of the Academy and lack of interest in "dead languages," brought about the removal of Latin, which was taught for the last time in 1931. Graduation requirements included one major field and two minors. Most majors required a minimum of 24 semester hours, although 30 hours were required in education and chemistry. Most minors required not less than 18 hours of work. A minimum number of semester hours was required in English (12), foreign language (12), history and political science (12), the sciences (2 years), physical education (4), Bible (6), religious education (3), and psychology (3).²⁴ The requirements for the A.B. degree were to change but little in the next twenty years.

Union's Normal School for the training of teachers continued, with the Barbourville city schools serving as training schools for the grades. After the last academy class graduated (1930), arrangements

²³ Dr. Gross, "Founders Day Address," *Orange and Black*, Nov. 9, 1938.

²⁴ Union College *Catalogue*, 1929-30.

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also had to be made for practice teaching in the city schools on the high school level. Upon satisfactory completion of various curriculums, or minimum number of hours, the state department issued four types of elementary certificates and three types of high school or superintendent's certificates. A model training school for rural teachers was maintained for almost a year.

Union continued its traditional instruction in music. Seven grades of piano and four of voice were offered. In addition, instructions were given in public school music, theory, and three types of instruments—reed, brass and strings. In 1931-32 the music department offering 10 hours of work, acceptable toward a degree, was reclassified as a "division," with one teacher.

Under Dr. Gross, two additional degrees, the Bachelor of Science in Education, and the Bachelor of Science was offered.²⁵ This was in line with efforts to place teacher training on a higher academic level, to "liberalize" the curriculum, and in fulfillment of the needs of the college as shown by a study conducted by Dr. Gross. In 1929 he said:

"An analysis of our curriculum is to be made this year to discover whether our courses are in their proper sequence. We must prevent our graduates from leaving with bits of knowledge instead of comprehensive training. Union College is still in its infancy . . . our developments have come within a comparatively short time. Some of the established precedents have proved faulty and must be abandoned. It will help us to keep ever in mind the fact of the youthfulness of Union College."²⁶

The new B. S. in Education degree first offered in 1931-32 did not require any work in foreign languages, otherwise, graduation requirements were the same as those for the A.B. degree. Two majors, one professional, and one teaching, each consisting of a minimum of 24 semester hours, were required. In 1932 one third of the graduation class took this degree. The following year, the class of 42 graduates was evenly divided between the A.B. and B.S. in Education curriculums. In 1937-38 the new B.S. degree required 12 hours in a foreign language. The student must complete at least one major and one minor in science. The first group, five in number, to receive this degree, graduated in 1939.

In 1930-31 it was possible to list definitely the departments of instruction at Union. The departments, nine in number, were Bible and Moral Philosophy, Economics and Sociology, Education, English, Foreign Languages, History, Natural Science, Physical Science and

²⁵ It will be recalled that the B.S. degree was first offered in 1905, but the collegiate curriculum began to collapse the same year.

²⁶ President Gross to faculty and administration, Sept. 16, 1929.

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Physical Education. In 1937 the departments were reduced to eight in number by combining French and English into one—the Language. A “division” of Fine Arts which included music and art was added in 1935-36. The terms, divisions and departments, are likely to cause confusion if some attempt is not made to define, or at least to differentiate between them. A division, although not a subdivision of a department, ranked below it because neither a major nor a minor was offered in any field.

The emergence of physical education as a *bona fide* study in the college instruction, was one of the most striking features of the change in the college curriculum. No courses in physical education were listed in the college catalog for 1928-29, but such courses were recommended for graduation. The following year, three physical education courses were listed, one of them in the technique of coaching basketball. By 1932-33, eleven courses were offered in physical education and 4 semester hours of it were required for graduation.

Honors to graduates underwent a change in the early 1930's. Before 1932-33 honor students graduated either *cum laude* or *magna cum laude*. High honors were won upon completion of 100 semester hours of work with a grade of “A” in 60 hours, besides a few minor conditions. With the addition of *summa cum laude*, graduation honors were based on an averaged point system, ranging from 2.0 for honors, to 2.8 for the highest.

In spite of the emphasis placed upon scholarship, it is doubtful whether the academic quality of the student coming to Union was increasing. In 1938 a faculty personnel committee found that 39 out of 130 freshmen would have been placed on probation under the former ruling system, and the freshman class of that year ranked as high school juniors under the Kentucky classification tests.²⁷

The number of students attending Union continued to spiral upward until the middle 1930's, declined slightly and then maintained a “plateau.” College enrollment increased from 262 to 405 students in 1930-31. This is remarkable indeed when one stops to consider the onslaught caused by the depression upon college enrollment throughout the United States. The all time high was achieved in the spring of 1935, when the spring session swelled enrollment to a total of 497 students. This did not include 59 taking extension work.²⁸ Almost 400 enrolled for the first summer term.²⁹ It should be added that a dead-line requirement for certain types of certification in Kentucky

²⁷ Faculty Minutes, Dec. 5, 1938.

²⁸ Union College Catalog, 1935-36.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

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was the greatest factor contributing to this unusual high enrollment.

The cost of attending Union continued to rise, but the depression and "hard times" tended to keep it at a minimum. In fact the total cost of attending Union in 1937-38 was only about \$30 per semester more than it was in 1929-30. Tuition had increased from \$45 to \$60, and board and room from \$90 to \$102. According to college advertisements, economical schooling constituted one of the major attractions of Union College.³⁰ To a nation or state in the throes of its worst panic in history, such attractions must have played their part in maintaining Union's high enrollment for the period.

³⁰ Union College *Catalog*, 1929-30; 1937-38.

CHAPTER IX

STRUGGLING THROUGH THE DEPRESSION YEARS

NEXT TO UNION'S final recognition as a college, and the honoring of her founders, perhaps the most discussed subject at Union during these years was her athletic program. During Franklin's administration the enrollment in the collegiate department would not support first class collegiate teams, which called for many players or substitutes. As a result the football teams were of poor caliber.

In 1928 Union's football team broke even. The following year under its new coach, James R. Bacon, Union had its best season to date, winning five games out of eight with one tie. In 1931, "the Bulldogs, hard hit by graduation . . . faced their schedule with the smallest and most inexperienced team in the history of the school," and won only two games. The years, 1933 and 1934, marked the zenith of performance in football, when they were undefeated in Conference play.

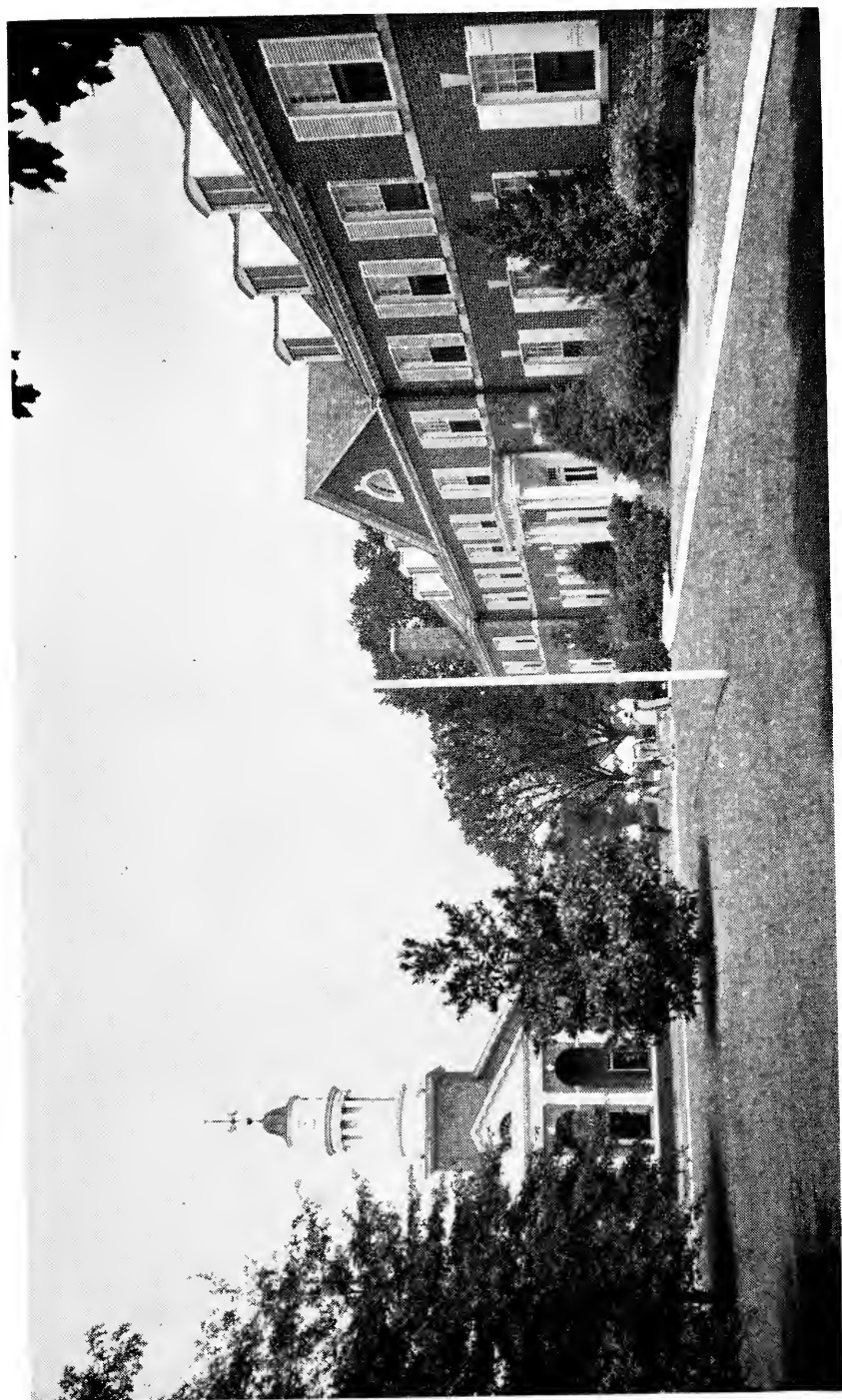
Union's admission into the Southern Intercollegiate Association took place in December, 1932, shortly after its recognition by the Southern Association of Colleges, and after serving a probationary period. In anticipation of larger crowds at games because of conference participation, a fence was erected around the athletic field and lights installed for night football at a cost of \$1,243. Union lost its first game of night football against Lincoln Memorial University, 13-12, on September 25, 1931.

Plans for a stadium had been under way for several years but nothing was done until the spring of 1934 when a campaign was started to erect one unit seating 1000 people. Everyone who contributed \$1.00 received a free ticket to the first game and about \$1,000 was raised in this manner.¹ It was hoped to build six units or sections but construction never passed beyond the first unit which was completed in September, in time for the first game.²

Union's first year of participation in conference play was highlighted by its victory over the University of Louisville, 32-6. Approximately one thousand fans accompanied the team to witness the victory

¹ "Report" of Building and Grounds Committee, May, 1931.

² *Barbourville Advocate*, Apr. 27, 1934, Aug. 17, 1934; President's "Report," May 28, 1935.



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sparked by the 130 pound quarterback, "Runt" Patterson.³ In 1935 Union registered another victory over Louisville.

Union was successful in the other sports as well, her basketball teams registering winning seasons from 1929-30 through the 1934-35 season.⁴ Union's tennis teams likewise were supreme. In 1929 the team won the Sutcliffe Cup for the third straight year and retained permanent possession. The same year, Union defeated the University of Kentucky. In its second year of SIAA participation, 1934, the football team was undefeated.⁵ Only interest in baseball lagged. In 1931, finding only two intercollegiate teams in Kentucky, the college decided to drop baseball for the year. The preceding year Union's baseball team had gone undefeated.⁶ An interesting sidelight in sports was furnished by T. G. Lewis who won the amateur welter-weight title of Kentucky at Louisville, February 19, 1935.⁷ Beginning with the school year 1936-37, Union began its first participation in the KIAC.

If one examines the lists of clubs and societies operating at Union from 1938-1939, he might well wonder whether athletics really stole the show. Approximately 30 clubs or societies, not counting athletic teams, were in existence during this period. One college annual (1935) pictures 17 of them.

Five new clubs—History, Journalism, Science, Education, and Vocational Guidance, all came into existence in 1935.⁸ The next two years marked the installation of three local chapters of National honorary Fraternities. The honorary scholastic fraternity of Iota Sigma Nu was established at Union on May 26, 1936, for those graduating with honors. On March 6, 1937, the Alpha Psi Omega National Honorary Dramatic Society presented a charter to the new Zeta Chi cast at Union. This chapter is recruited from members of the Playlikers Club. Miss Stella Ward, the dramatics instructor, was largely instrumental in winning this recognition.⁹ Dr. Wayne T. Gray secured the chartering of the local Omicron chapter of the Zeta Sigma Pi honorary social science fraternity. Membership is based on scholarship, especially in the field of the social sciences, and the qualities of character, service, and leadership. The Beta Chi Alpha (BXA), a social sorority, stressing artistic and cultural development, made its first appearance on the campus in 1932.

³ Union College Scrapbook, 1929-33.

⁴ *Orange and Black*, Feb. 20, 1935.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Mar. 27, 1935.

⁶ Union College Scrapbook, 1929, 1933.

⁷ *Orange and Black*, March 6, 1935.

⁸ "Report" of Extra-curricular Activity Committee, 1937.

⁹ *Orange and Black*, March 24, 1937.

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The two leading student publications, the *Orange and Black* and *Stespean*, continued to grow in size and quality. In fact the *Orange and Black* grew almost too large—beginning in February, 1933, as a full size newspaper sheet. The *Golden Stespean*, issued in 1929, featured Union's growth of half a century. Its several books were prefaced with beautiful colorplates, and quotations from the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam. This same issue contains photographs of the presidents of Union College from 1888 to 1929, and of early students. The *Stespean* of 1936, besides having an unusually attractive cover, contains many snapshots which graphically depicts campus life of that period. No *Stespean* was published in 1937 because of the fact that the press that was contracted to print the 1937 issue, upon receiving payment for expenses, was never heard from, nor heard of again.

Two more literary efforts of the period deserve mention. On May 25, 1931, the Constance Literary Club, under the sponsorship of Miss Whiteside, began the publication of the club *Echo*. The club wished to encourage the writing of literary essays. It seems that publication of the little paper never developed beyond its first number. The other was a "History of Union College" by Sillous G. Hembree who did the work as a thesis in partial requirement for the degree of Master of Arts. The history contains a great deal of statistical matter and is especially valuable for one wishing to trace the development of Union's curriculum.¹⁰ The Board of Trustees of Union College voted its thanks to Mr. Hembree, class of 1931, for his labors and hoped "that he might find time to gather material for a more detailed history."¹¹

Changes in social regulations came about gradually during the 30's. At its beginning special rules regarding the conduct of students were itemized in the college catalogs. Hours were listed during which all students on the campus were expected to be engaged in study, and Union College still regarded "promiscuous mixing of the sexes as detrimental to good work" and insisted that "all social privileges be regulated according to . . . formulated rules," presented to every newly enrolled student at Union.¹² The transitions of the early 1930's are well described in a letter by Mrs. Catherine Faulkner Singer:

I entered Union College as a freshman in the fall of 1938, a member of a class that saw the end of one era and the beginning of another. It was not by any means my first contact with the college as I had attended two high school summer sessions previously and had lived in Barboursville all of my life. Our class was small compared with present day classes. But we were as noisy and vivacious as most freshmen are. As

¹⁰ Sillous G. Hembree, "A History of Union College."

¹¹ Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1922-39, May 31, 1938.

¹² Union College *Catalog*, 1939-40.

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president we elected a boy from Wise, Va. He came to Union, named Earl Kilbourne, but a receding hairline earned him the nickname of "Von" and from that day to this, he has never been anything else to those who knew him at Union. I'm sure he never expected to be elected class president, but he did a good job, and furthermore he stayed with us through the four years and was a member of the graduating class of 1932. There were not many of us who stayed throughout the four years. Dean Charles C. Smith was dean of the college, and Dr. E. T. Franklin was president. In addition to the four years of college there were at that time still two years of the Academy, although it was in the process of elimination. That was a time of demerits and the accumulation of a certain number of these black marks in the dean's office brought about expulsion. Of course they could be acquired for things which seem very funny to the present generation of students. For instance, the campus was then divided by the main walk into two sections—the Boys' Side and Girls' Side. Social life was restricted to such an extent that the boys were not allowed on the girls' side of the campus during the day except for strictly business purposes. Neither boys nor girls residing on the campus were supposed to leave the dormitories earlier than 10 minutes before classes in the morning or at noon. The same restrictions also applied to town students, and to make it easier, a 10 minute bell was rung—the Big Bell in the Administration Building Tower—so that the town students could know how they stood. In fact, we stood on the corner across the street from the campus or across from the dormitories if we happened to arrive too early. There was some leniency on rainy days, but not much. Wasting time by getting to school too early was something of a sin in those days. I am sure that Es Davis '31 will not mind my telling of the time he was dating one of the lovely young ladies in the dormitory and met on the Big Walk one sunny day somewhat earlier than 10 minutes before class time. It wasn't much fun standing there on the walk so they wandered a little way over on the girls' side of the campus. Es had not counted on the fact that Dean Smith had unusually good eyesight, and needless to say, he was spotted and recognized! He was called to the Dean's office, given a severe reprimand and a specified number of demerits! Can't you just see today's students under that sort of regulation! Many a day have large groups of us been "Bawled out" for congregating on the Ad Bldg. steps before classes. And gathering in the halls was just as bad! The division of the campus extended into the building. The steps on the Speed Hall side were for the girls, and the steps on the Stevenson Hall side were for the boys, and it was a long time after the rules were relaxed in that respect before I could remember that the stairs could be used equally. If we had classes upstairs on the Stevenson Hall side (the Chemistry, Physics, and Math classes were held there then), we girls climbed the steps on the girls' side went through the chapel and to the classrooms. The boys reversed the procedure! Chapel was compulsory then, every day, and the chapel was divided down the middle, with the only "lucky" ones being those who sat in the center section and in the middle of it. Usually the faculty members who assigned chapel seats tried to see that the "man-haters" sat next to the "woman-haters" in chapel, so that the temptations would not be too great! But we had our

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good times nevertheless. The old pump stood then just outside Speed Hall, and there was no lovely library there then. For some reason pump water was judged to be better for drinking purposes than tap water, so each room was supplied with a pitcher and glasses for its occupants. The boys had to come to the pump to get water, and if you were enamored with certain Speed Hall occupants, it was very easy for both to get thirsty at the same time, and casually wander to the pump to fill the pitchers! Many a romance flourished around the Pump! Of course chaperones were very necessary in those days. The parlor was consistently chaperoned, and there just were not any movie dates in pairs. All the Speed Hall girls who had dates went in a group with their dates to the movies. The group was chaperoned by a faculty member or a senior who was specifically designated as a chaperone. After my graduation, as a staff member of the college, although a very young one, I was qualified to act as a chaperone for any of the Speed Hall girls who were allowed out in town over night or for automobile rides; and I must confess that I wasn't too bad a chaperone! At least by that time we chaperones were allowed to have dates—the chaperone wasn't a fifth wheel. Classes were conducted just as they have been for years. And there were some good students, and some poor ones, and some dropped out because they could not make the grade, and with the depression coming some dropped out because of finances. But it was no disgrace to have to work for part of one's college education, even if the pay was only about 20c per hour. And many of our graduates put in hours doing kitchen work, waiting tables, doing janitor work in both dorms, working in the library, and working at manual labor on the farm or the campus. Most of the work was hand done, not machine done, and Col. Bender was the "Campus boss." Prof. Peavy taught biology, also plane and solid geometry in the academy, and at times certain courses in education. He had a heart of gold, and many a boy or girl took his classes because he was too soft-hearted to "flunk" anyone. Academically, that probably was not such a good idea, but the students loved him while they took advantage of him. I think a person must have been well-nigh incorrigible for Prof. Peavy to say there was no hope for him. He and his wife were real "saints," not only at the college but in the community. They went among the underprivileged and brought them to Sunday School, and they bought many a meal for those who needed it. Mr. Peavy's class was a never-to-be forgotten one at the Methodist Church, and even today I occasionally run across someone who remembers it. I have always remembered him telling me that it would not rain if there were spider webs on the hedges in the morning. He was a wonderful person.

Another faculty member who was an inspiration to all her students was Miss Abigail Weeks, for whom the Library was named. She was at Union for many years, and even taught some of the children of her former students. She had a marvelous insight into human nature, and although she was known as a strict teacher, she always left something more than mere subject matter. There is no student who had her, no matter what grades he made, who was not able to say many years later that she had left something worthwhile with him even if he could not remember a single thing that she taught. During the last years she was at

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Union, she enjoyed telling how things had changed since she had come. She liked to tell of the time when the front stairs at Speed Hall were reserved only for Sundays and special occasions. At other times one used the back stairs. Also ladies were supposed to wear high necked dresses and blouses with long sleeves. She never forgot the first time the president caught her descending the front stairs on a weekday, with a shortsleeved dress on! But she kept up with the times, and she stayed young in heart even though her body grew frail, and she finally had to give up her beloved teaching. She did not live many years after that, but no one really expected her to, for her teaching and her students were her life.

We had athletics then too. There were not only boys' basketball teams, but girls' teams also. Coach Wolfe was the Athletic Coach my freshman year, and as he was unattached, he made many a feminine heart turn over. I don't remember him too well, except that he had blond curly hair! Where he went, I have no idea! In my sophomore year, Dick Bacon came from Corbin High School to be athletic Coach, and he stayed throughout the entire time I was connected with Union, as student, and later on the staff. He was a bachelor when he arrived at Union, and I am sure many of the young ladies had dreams of capturing his heart, but it was not too long before a young lady down in Western Kentucky had become Mrs. Richard Bacon, and the undergraduates could go back to their books! As for me, I had to take Physical Education, and even if they gave me the basketball and put me under the basket with positively no opposition, I couldn't put it in, so I was never very fond of the course. At that time, the girls in gym class wore white middies and black bloomers. We were really a sight! For some reason, most of the girls managed to escape Physical Education, but I never could. Our class was quite small—at times not more than ten of us—and I know Coach Bacon often wondered why on earth he had to be burdened with ten such useless bits of femininity! But our teams were good—we did not have great numbers of reserves, but Coach Bacon always managed to turn out a reasonably good team with what material he had. Until I got into the office and worked with the student personnel, I did not realize what difficulties often beset a coach who tries to put out a good team in spite of financial and scholastic difficulties.

In the late fall of 1928, Dr. Franklin announced that he was going to accept the presidency of Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. In the spring of 1929, Dr. John Owen Gross, who was then District Superintendent of the Barbourville District of the Methodist Church, became president of Union College. So ended one era and began another which was to last until the fall of 1937 [sic] when Dr. Gross left to become president of Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa. It is inevitable that a new presidency brings new faculty members and changes in policy and procedure. So the coming of Dr. Gross marked the end of the demerit system, the end of chaperonage system, although that continued, along with the 10 o'clock "lights out" in the dormitories, throughout the period while he was president. The rule of "No Smoking" on the campus was strictly enforced, except for outsiders at the athletic contests. Many a dormitory resident, boys that is, sat on the log across from Stevenson Hall or leaned against the telephone pole, or occasionally walked around

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the block in order to smoke. If the girls smoked, they did it more secretly.

Social events were highlighted by Chautauqua programs, the semester receptions for the students, class hikes and parties, the Halloween Party, always put on by the Junior Class, and usually with the Spooks Walk throughout the basement of the Gym before coming upstairs. Masking was the rule. I never could fool anyone. But there were many clever costumes, and we had wonderful times. Even then lest the present generation think it is the only one beset with troubles, we were even then much concerned because social dancing was outlawed on the campus. We always thought it would "someday," but actually none of us really expected to be on the campus when it did! Of course we too thought the elder generation was made up of "old fogies." And it really came as a shock to some of us in a recent alumni meeting when a graduate of 1950 made the statement that the Alumni Association was being run by *old folks* who had graduated in the '30's! The clubs and the organizations were much the same as now. There was a French Club, "Le Cercle Francais," two Glee Clubs, the Playlikers Club (which probably is the oldest club on the campus in continuous existence), the YMCA and the YWCA with its branch called the "Pollyanna Club" (an organization much like the Secret Pals of today—we drew names every two weeks, and we endeavored to get acquainted with other girls whom we did not know), the "U" Club, the Pep Club, the country clubs: Harlan County, Clay County, and the Corbin Club. I belonged to many of them. In fact, during my senior year, it was somewhat of a joke that I belonged to everything on the campus except the YMCA, the Men's Glee Club, and the "U" Club! Needless to say, I didn't miss much!

In the spring of 1929, Union celebrated its 50th Anniversary. We had a pageant too, and it was in preparing for that, that I got my first experience with stage make-up and grease paint. My love for it continued throughout my four years in college. Dr. James Watt Raines from Berea College, in collaboration with Miss Abigail Weeks, wrote and directed the pageant. It was presented in the old chapel in the Administration Bldg. In 1936, the Fiftieth Anniversary of the College's association with the Methodist Church was celebrated. Scenes from the original pageant were used, and also some which were based on Dr. Stevenson's Journal, which we had been able to borrow and use by then. The keynote of the celebration then was held more to the theme of its connection with the church, and that fall the Kentucky Conference held its session on the campus.

During the years before 1932, the Baccalaureate Services were always held in the Methodist Church. The Commencement Exercises were held in the chapel. On at least one occasion lightning struck the tower during the commencement services! Insofar as I can at present remember the last time Commencement Exercises were held in the chapel was for the class of 1932. The class of 1933 may have used the chapel, but I believe not. At any rate, after that, the Baccalaureate and Commencement programs were held in the Gym. On at least one occasion the Commencement program was held on the campus with the side porch of Stevenson Hall serving as the rostrum. Many prominent men have appeared on the

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platforms of Union College, at special services, at Baccalaureate and at Commencement., Especially have we been fortunate in obtaining many of the outstanding religious leaders, not only of the United States, but of the world as well. We have seen men who came to our campus as ministers become Bishops, and others become prominent in political circles and economic circles.

In 1932, I added A.B. to my name, and took a quarter of post-graduate work at the University of Chicago, intending to become a teacher, since I had completed requirements for a teaching certificate. But depression was deep, and in 1933 the Bank Holiday made life uncertain for many of us. In the late summer of 1933, Dr. Gross asked me to become his secretary, and I came back to Union campus in a somewhat different capacity, but still with a deep love for it. Because of my job on the staff, first as his secretary, and later as Secretary of Admissions and Director of Student Labor, I stayed at Union College until my marriage in 1937. Of course it was only natural that I should meet my husband at Union College—but strange to say, it was not until after I had graduated and was in the office. The fall of 1932 had brought many changes to the faculty and staff of Union College. It was that fall that Dr. C. R. Wimmer came to be dean of men and head of the chemistry dept. He brought with him a brand new bride, and they lived in the faculty apt. in Stevenson Hall. Dr. and Mrs. Harwell Sturdivant and Dr. Byron Gibson also were among those present that fall. Dr. Gibson was so young-looking that Owen Wiley, who was working in the Dean's Office, tried desperately to make him take the registration papers for freshmen, as he arrived in the midst of Freshman Orientation! Owen will never forget the time he answered the telephone, and thinking he recognized the voice on the other end said, "This is Dean Seay—hotcha-cha-cha-cha!" The voice replied, "This is Mrs. Seay!" Needless to say, that was NOT the voice Owen expected! The year of 1933-34 brought a faculty romance. A new English teacher arrived to take care of the unusually large number of freshmen who had appeared. Before school was out, she became Mrs. Byron Gibson.

Before World War II, marriages among undergraduates were not only discouraged—they were forbidden. Any couple who were married during the school year was automatically expelled immediately. There were several secret marriages, which were not announced until the end of school but the faculty and staff never knew about them. They may have suspected, but they had no proof. What a contrast to the young folks today who marry and go right on to school! But then our colleges thought that marriage and school just would not mix. College undergraduates were supposed to be carefree and footloose and fancy-free, or at least they were not supposed to be able to carry a college load and take care of a home. Of course there was no such thing as a GI bill then, either, and workships went to deserving young people who were having a struggle just keeping themselves in school, without trying to keep two people there.

It was about 1933 and 1934 that the campus began to bristle with baby buggies. With a young faculty, and many of them not long married, there came many infants. Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Gray were ahead of the rest, for their twins—Lois and Lowell—had arrived in the summer of

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1931. But then there was Marty Blair, Molly Wimmer, Barry Bacon, Jack Gibson, Douglas Laymon, Betty Sturdivant. In the President's home were three youngsters: George, Birney, and Lucille Gross. And the Blairs had an older daughter, Ina.

Although we talked much about new buildings, and we were bulging at the seams with an unusually large enrollment, there was not too much we could do because of the economic condition of the country as a whole. We did acquire property across from the college campus and relieved the faculty housing situation to some extent. We also acquired a large two-story house which for a while was known simply as 420 College St., and which housed an overflow of boys. (It is now Dean Smith's home). A little cottage which sat where Pfeiffer Hall now is housed the Fine Arts Dept. and the Ad Bldg. was remodelled somewhat. The offices were changed around some, and the library was enlarged. It had started in the corner room on the first floor, and by 1934 or 1935 occupied three rooms which are now classrooms. It was a good library, under the direction first of Miss Weeks, then Mrs. Arva Stackhouse, and then Miss Euphemia Corwin with Mrs. Florence Ridgway as her assistant. Miss Perma Rich came later to take over the direction of the library. But it was not until the economic condition of the country began to show signs of improvement that the congestion in the buildings could be relieved. The Old Water Tower came down and the Maintenance Building was erected to replace the old Power Plant. This was in 1936-1937. We were getting started at least. In 1934 our Football team was really good, and we were so proud of the new concrete stadium which had been erected that summer. I do believe however that it was either that year or the next that we were "Holbrooked" and the present coach (who came from Holbrook College, I believe) could probably tell something about that! At any rate, we were beating everything in the SIAA, and here comes this college from Ohio and we get beat! We didn't forget that for a long, long time! In the fall of 1935 we did win the SIAA championship in football, and we were really proud of it! While we were having to forego new buildings, we did manage to be accepted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in the fall of 1932, and as it was customary to announce everything big by ringing the Big Bell, it rang and rang and rang when the news came! Of course it rang every time we won a victory in football or basketball. Homecoming was always held in the fall, with one of the home football games as the drawing card. Another big event in the fall was the meeting of the UCEA which always brought back many former students and graduates who were teaching in the Upper Cumberland Valley. We always arranged to have a good football game for that weekend too, and it and Homecoming were big weekends for all of us.

The Alumni Association had been organized in 1913, but it limped along through the years because there were so few to hold it together. But there was a banquet every spring at Commencement time, and because there were so few, they were more loyal, and there was a large percentage of them in attendance. It was not until about 1940 that the number of graduates became large enough to make taking care of the alumni roll much of a job.

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My direct association with the college ended almost at the end of that era. I was married in June 1937, and in the winter of that year, Dr. Gross left Union College to go to Simpson College. He was followed by Dr. Conway Boatman, who has been president of Union College since that time. And, as I said long ago—a new presidency brings changes in faculty, in staff, and in the physical plant of a college, and we can look at the campus today and see that changes have come through Gross's presidency brought accreditation, maturity of academic standards, and increasing enrollment, along with an awareness that Union College had a specific place to play in Southeastern Kentucky. Dr. Boatman's presidency has brought new buildings, an improved physical plant, a continued increase in enrollment, and an ever widening horizon among the student body which comes each year from farther away. Through all the years the emphasis on a Christian education, as well as a college education has been stressed.¹

A student of economics may well ponder how a college with only a slight increase in income could be maintained with the faculty, curriculum, and physical expenses all in the process of expansion. In fact, tuition rates provided the only increase in income, because Union's endowment, based as it was, primarily on public securities, suffered as did all such investments after the market crash of 1929. Union's era of depression actually antedated the national depression by one year. When school opened in September, 1929, President Gross expected to have difficulty in meeting faculty salaries and expenses. Because one of Union's chief investments, sufficient to pay a full time professor had defaulted, and in addition, needed repairs to the physical plant had brought unanticipated expense, Dr. Gross reported a probable deficit of \$7,000.¹⁴

The dangers to Union's endowment were recognized long before the bubble burst. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees in May, 1928, the treasurer's report showed that Union's investment in the Louisville Cement Company had a market value of \$200,000 with a face value of only \$53,000. The stock market boom had pushed Union's Proctor and Gamble stock from \$20,000 to \$45,000, and some bank stock had likewise doubled its value of \$21,000.¹⁵ At this time, Union had a "paper" endowment of over \$600,000. Legal advisors asked for the sale of the Proctor and Gamble stock, with no further purchases in industrial stock. A year later Union's stock in Proctor and Gamble had soared to \$100,450, but it couldn't be sold because Mr. Gamble had restricted sales until September, 1930.¹⁶ By that time of course it

¹³ Catherine Faulkner Singer to writer, March 11, 1954.

¹⁴ President Gross, Address to faculty and administration, Sept. 16, 1929.

¹⁵ President's "Report" to Trustees, May 29, 1928.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, May 28, 1929.

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was too late and Union was caught in a flood which threatened to engulf it. The re-establishment of the Seelback Hotel in 1929 had already brought a loss of almost \$10,000.

The treasurer's report covering from May, 1929 to January, 1930 presented a picture of the financial maelstrom into which Union had fallen. The total value of stocks and bonds were listed at \$275,906 and \$107,900 respectively.¹⁷ By May, 1932, Union's book value of \$415,000 in stocks and bonds actually was worth only \$155,000 on the market. Bottom was reached in 1934 when the entire income from Union's endowment stood at only \$2,931.¹⁸ This amount represented a decrease of 85 per cent in six years. Actually this was less than Union's outside income for 1913-14, when the Board of Education withdrew its financial support. Union was now beset, said President Gross, by the most disastrous storm ever to visit its economic life.¹⁹ Union ended the school year with a deficit of \$15,123, half of which was due the faculty for unpaid salaries.

The Board of Trustees, seeming not to realize that financial stress at Union was not peculiar to that institution alone, and that identical situations were being duplicated in dozens of educational institutions throughout the country, sought to place the blame upon poor financial management, and proceeded to employ fiscal experts to direct Union's financial policies. The Fidelity Trust Company was chosen for this delicate task and assumed financial management in 1932. Three years later, this responsibility was transferred to the First National Bank of Chicago.

To add to the Board's financial woes, that old white elephant, the Kenyon Building, reappeared again to haunt it. For over a decade, the Kenyon notes were listed annually at \$48,000—the amount owed Union. In 1935 the Hail Estate confessed its inability to honor the notes and offered to deliver the building back into the hands of Union's trustees free of encumbrance except for a lien of \$25,000. At the end of a year's haggling, the Board agreed to repossess the building and authorized its treasurer to borrow not more than \$13,000 to pay for the Kenyon Building Bonds. This magnificent gift from Fanny Speed, valued at one time at \$208,000 had shrunken in value to \$48,000.

Near the end of President Gross' administration, Union's financial picture became much clearer. Stocks and bonds tended to remain steady, and income from the endowment climbed steadily. In August,

¹⁷ Board of Trustees, Minutes, Jan. 25, 1930.

¹⁸ Treasurer's "Report," *Ibid.*, May 29, 1934. If collected the student tuition fees should have amounted to \$40,000.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

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1937, Union's endowment stood at \$373,000 or approximately a decline of \$50,000 within a decade, and only \$100,000 more than it possessed after coming into the Fanny Speed bequest. The worst panic in the nation's history must bear the primary responsibility for reducing Union's endowment by almost 20 per cent. At the end of Dr. Gross' régime the endowment had climbed to \$414,000 of which approximately \$300,000 represented investments in stocks and bonds.

In 1938 Union's total annual income stood at \$133,214 of which \$18,000 and \$15,000 respectively, represented income from endowment and gifts. Other sources of income are listed as follows: room rent, \$6,562; board, \$24,000; and athletics, \$3,425. Student fees amounted to almost \$55,000. "Unproductive" assets included the campus buildings valued at \$242,000.²⁰

Leading expenses were faculty salaries, plant operation, and the dining hall, listed respectively at \$43,000, \$17,000 and \$16,000. Less than \$2,000 was spent on public relations and publicity.²¹ The college had an indebtedness of approximately \$30,000, about twice the amount owed in the early 1930's.²²

Financial woes of the student body added to those of the college. When the effects of the depression began to be felt, the college started the practice of allowing students to defer their payments. In five or six years' time, it looked as if many former students wished to have the moratorium made permanent. By June 1, 1937, accounts of this nature totaled almost \$33,000 and the college was forced to terminate its costly program.²³

Throughout the depression years the college made every effort both independently, and in cooperation with the federal agencies to assist needy students at Union. For example, 60 scholarships were awarded for the school year 1931-32. Under the NYA and other agencies, from 25 to 50 students were employed on various projects. Beginning under the FERA, extra classes were conducted in music, carpentry, and woodworking. One of the biggest FERA projects was the landscaping of Union's campus under the direction of Dr. Sturdivant, Mrs. F. D. Sampson and Mr. Bender. Besides the Lombardy poplars, arbor vitae, dogwood and redbud trees planted, some of the hedges now seen on Union's beautiful campus were planned and begun at this time.²⁴

Under NYA, landscaping continued together with many other

²⁰ *Ibid.*, May 31, 1938.

²¹ Financial Statement, Board of Trustees, Minutes, Aug. 31, 1938.

²² In 1934, the debt stood at \$18,000. See President's "Report" for 1935.

²³ *Ibid.*, June 1, 1937.

²⁴ The beautiful row of redbuds along the right entrance to the campus was planted in 1934.

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worthy enterprises. Miscellaneous printing issued from a press secured through the generosity of the Pikeville Hospital. During the year 1935-36, 264 pieces of furniture were rebuilt and 35 new pieces added. Some students typed manuscripts of historical value, while others were doing social work in the community. At one time, eleven student assistants were working in the library, most of them employed through federal funds.²⁵ Such grants-in-aid made possible Union's first resident nurse in 1935-36. Loan funds were available, especially for students preparing for the ministry or Christian service. The John A. Black fund of \$5,000, and the Elizabeth Gates Memorial fund were both established for students expecting to do Christian work. The Anna G. Williams loan fund gave aid to students whose scholarship was above average.

Another device used to cut expenses at Union during the depression years and to furnish employment for needy students, was the school farm and dairy. Under the direction of Roy Faulkner over 20 acres were placed under cultivation. Canning equipment was installed for the use of Aunt Mae Wallace, "Mistress of Union's scullery knaves." Mrs. Mae Wallace has already become a legendary figure at Union College. Her good humor and ability to direct a prodigious amount of work, endeared her to both the faculty, and student body. Repeated articles appeared in the *Orange and Black*, commenting on the virtues of Aunt Mae. In the fall of 1936, this good woman had preserved in the school larder 475 gallons of string beans, 1,100 quarts of corn, 260 quarts of sauer kraut, and 100 quarts of chow-chow.²⁶

What with a debt ridden college, radically reduced endowment income, and an unpaid faculty, Dr. Gross could hardly be expected to embark upon a huge expansion program during the depression years. But in 1931, President Gross and Dr. Fort, his assistant, were authorized to work out plans for a drive to secure a minimum of \$200,000 which was to be applied on a new heating plant, the removal of all indebtedness, general college promotion, a new library, and the remainder for an increase in the endowment.²⁷

Actual acreage of land acquired during Dr. Gross' administration far exceeded prior acquisitions to date, but unfortunately, much of this was lowland likely to be covered by annual floods. In 1934 Union College acquired several additions of real estate. In February, the Board of Trustees authorized the purchase of the Dishman property

²⁵ President's "Report" 1934, 1935; Faculty Minutes, 1934.

²⁶ *Orange and Black*, Nov. 11, 1936.

²⁷ *Barbourville Advocate*, May 29, 1931.

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which lay east of Baldwin Place bordering on Allison Avenue,²⁸ and in April, its purchase was announced.²⁹ About the same time 50 acres of land were purchased from the Barbourville Brick Company at a cost of \$5,000. At an additional cost of \$750, seven acres bought from the same company were added in 1936.³⁰

Because of the pressing need for faculty housing, the college acquired the Kennedy property consisting of 6 lots with three houses, in September, 1934. The purchase price of \$10,000 was to be paid from the endowment fund.³¹ Another house and lot, 80x208½, was purchased three years later from James H. Jackson for the sum of \$1,536.³²

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held early in 1936, the purchase of three properties, the Black, Decker, and Sevier, was under consideration.³³ The Sevier was given preference over the others because of its close proximity to Union's main campus, bordering it on the south and west. Arrangements for the purchase of the Sevier property were completed in June. On it were located seven buildings adjacent to Speed Hall and another close to the eastern wing of the present location of Pfeiffer Hall. The adjacent Sevier homestead was converted into the fine arts building,³⁴ the other, a two-story house was used for a boys' dormitory—the famous "420 College Street." A small cottage³⁵ in the rear of Speed, was used for student housing, and three residences were rented. Union College did not receive its deed for the Sevier property, of 8 acres, until March 5, 1938.³⁶

The new maintenance building constituted the main addition to the physical plant during Dr. Gross' régime. Dating from the days of President Easley, Union had a central heating plant which in addition to supplying heat, also housed a dynamo and pump. In 1931 the college decided to purchase electricity and water from the public utility power company and the municipal water supply company. In 1937 the old building was rebuilt into a two-story, fireproof

²⁸ Board of Trustees, Minutes, Feb. 21, 1934.

²⁹ Faculty Minutes, Apr. 13, 1934.

³⁰ Hembree, "A History of Union College," 70-71.

³¹ C. P. Kennedy Papers, President's office; Treasurer's "Report" May, 1935. These lots bordering on Main, Coyt and College streets are now part of the Viall and Dickinson properties.

³² Board of Trustees, Minutes, May 31, 1938. This property is at 412 Manchester Street.

³³ Board of Trustees, Minutes, Feb. 24, 1936.

³⁴ *Orange and Black*, Sept. 30, 1936.

³⁵ The small cottage was later moved to the rear and became "Cozy Cottage," now the residence of the director of physical education. The other became the Dean's residence and was moved across the street.

³⁶ Board of Trustees, Minutes, May 31, 1938.

maintenance building at a total cost of \$11,743.³⁷ Besides the heating plant, this building housed a wareroom, and a student wood-working shop equipped as a gift from the estate of the late Robert Norton of New Albany, Indiana.³⁸ Other improvements worth noting were the biology laboratory, newly equipped in 1934, and the addition of another room to the library in 1934, to meet the requirements of the Southern Association.

The need for a new women's dormitory had been realized for years. During the early thirties, 40 girls were crowded into Speed Hall. This gradually increased until it was crammed with over 50. In 1935 when Union's enrollment was near its peak, an endowment committee suggested a government loan of \$50,000 to build a women's dormitory.³⁹ Two years later, President Gross, at a chapel session, announced his intention of planning a million dollar expansion program, the first \$100,000 of which was earmarked for the dormitory.⁴⁰

When the Board of Trustees met in September, Kenneth Tuggle characterized a new dormitory as an imperative need, and offered a resolution to issue Union College bonds up to \$75,000.⁴¹ No action was taken, but the Board asked for an endorsement of the building program from the Kentucky Conference then in session. The following day (September 17), after President Gross presented his program to the conference, a "resolution endorsing the forward program of Union College and authorizing a financial program to raise \$100,000 for the erection of a dormitory and \$100,000 for additional endowment was unanimously passed."⁴² The following March (1938), the Board of Trustees authorized a development committee to have an architect prepare plans and specifications, but no contracts were to be let before May, 1938.⁴³ In the meantime President Gross entered into a understanding with John L. Wilson, architect of Lexington, Kentucky regarding plans.⁴⁴

President Gross did not remain long enough at Union to carry out his building program. In 1938 the country was beginning to show signs of financial recovery and prospects were better than at any time since Gross took office. Although President Gross was able to add only \$6,000 to the endowment fund, the indebtedness of the

³⁷ *Ibid.*, Minutes, May 31, 1938.

³⁸ *Union College Catalog, 1939-40.*

³⁹ Board of Trustees, Minutes, May 28, 1935.

⁴⁰ *Orange and Black*, June 2, 1937.

⁴¹ Board of Trustees, Minutes, Sept. 16, 1937.

⁴² *Kentucky Conference Minutes, 1937.*

⁴³ Board of Trustees, Minutes, March 1, 1938.

⁴⁴ "Articles of Agreement," President's office.

college had been reduced from \$40,000 to \$14,000,⁴⁵ and his successor was to enter office with almost a clean sheet. Instead of operating on an annual budget of less than \$60,000, the school was now operating on an amount over twice that amount. Preserving even the *status quo* throughout such a chaotic era was in itself an achievement.

President Gross was probably Union's first president to use the device of extensive advertising in order to boost the college's enrollment. Such papers as the *Pineville Sun*, *Louisville Herald-Post*, *Western Christian Advocate*, *Cumberland Courier*, *Corbin, Times-Tribune*, *Lexington Herald*, and *Harlan Enterprise* carried Union's advertisements. Dr. Gross also traveled extensively in connection with finance and student promotion. One of his reports listed 27,000 miles of travel, delivery of 134 sermons and addresses, including 9 baccalaureates, or commencements in addition to many addresses to churches, service clubs, and college chapels on the Mountain Rehabilitation program.⁴⁶

The president's work among the various churches during the period of promotion indicated that he had not lost sight of Union's Christian goals and objectives which had been maintained throughout the years. In agreement with Union's charter, the college was devoting its efforts to the interest of Christian education and to the maintaining of a Christian atmosphere. Before Robert N. Cornett passed to his reward, he recognized Union's efforts in this direction and willed the college \$10,000, the income of which was to be used for young men preparing for the Methodist ministry. At this time President Gross was striving for a "more definite beginning in religious work" and was asking that several ministerial grants be set aside for work among the mountain churches. The Conference was already recognizing Union's contribution to the Southern Highlands.⁴⁷

In the summer of 1938, Dr. Gross telegraphed to Barbourville his acceptance of a new position—the presidency of Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa.⁴⁸ His letter of resignation to Harry E. Bullock, president of the Board of Trustees, dated his resignation effective, November 1, 1938.

Before his departure from Union, President Gross was honored at a banquet given by the Board of Trustees. Dr. C. M. Laymon, speaking for the faculty, congratulated the retiring president for having maintained academic freedom and a democratic spirit. On the campus, Dr. Gross, stated the speaker, had determined to lift the mountain

⁴⁵ This reduction in the debt was aided considerably by Judge A. B. Cornett's gift of \$10,000. See President's "Report," June 17, 1929.

⁴⁶ Board of Trustees, Minutes, May 29, 1934.

⁴⁷ Kentucky Conference, Minutes, 1933; President's "Report," May 29, 1934.

⁴⁸ Barbourville *Advocate*, Aug. 19, 1938.

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students, from "beyond the mountains" to a "panoramic world beyond," never doubting his conviction of Union's place as a church school. The Board of Trustees conferred the degree of Doctor of Letters of Humanities upon Dr. Gross in recognition of his past services to Union.⁴⁹

It was during President Gross' administration that Union finally found her place. Beginning in 1915 under President Franklin, Union had started on the road back which was to lead to Union's final recognition in 1932 as a member of the family of colleges in the south.

⁴⁹ *Orange and Black*, Nov. 9, 1938.



PRESIDENT CONWAY BOATMAN



MRS. CONWAY BOATMAN



CHAPTER X

UNION MOVES FORWARD, 1938-1954

BEFORE PRESIDENT Gross left Union to take up his new duties in Iowa, the Board of Trustees met on November 4, 1938, for the purpose of selecting his successor. Among the three candidates—Doctors Hughes, Broyles, and Boatman, interest centered at once upon the latter who had been mentioned for the position in 1929.¹ Dr. Boatman had presented his idea of a program for Union, upon the adoption of which, "he was willing to accept the presidency of Union." The Board, after consultation with Bishop Smith, considered the candidate's ideas near enough to that of its members "to assure him of . . . sympathetic cooperation in working toward objectives which he had in mind;" and without further ado, Union's Board elected him the new president.

Of his lineage and early life, Robert L. Blackwell, a member of the Board of Trustees, said: "He came of old-line English stock—stock which was rugged but had deep roots of personal dignity—of a people who eked only a meager existence from the small farms which they owned.

The rural schools, even when measured by the poor standards of the day, were even poorer, with only a three months' term each year. By the time he reached the fourth grade he was so advanced in years he was promoted at one jump to Senior high school."² In 1915 he married Caroline Brasher, a fellow graduate of the John H. Snead Seminary at Boaz, Alabama. Three sons, John Paul, Joseph Brasher, and Wilson Morehead, were born to this union.

Not long after his graduation from college, and in accordance with his decision to follow the ministry, Conway Boatman was received on trial into the South Dakota Conference and two years later, upon ordination as a deacon in 1918, he accepted a call as an educational missionary to India. Following a study of languages at Jubbulpore, India, he spent one year at the Bareilly Theological Seminary, and then, as a Charter Member, helped to organize the Methodist Leonard Theological Seminary at Jubbulpore. For the next four years he

¹ Board of Trustees, Minutes, Jan. 30, 1929.

² Robert Lee Blackwell, Presentation of Portrait "Address" Jan. 30, 1953.

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taught church history and systematic theology at the seminary to graduates of colleges from Burma and India. After nearly seven years of work, India's enervating climate, so often fatal to Europeans, had its depressing effect upon the Boatmans and they resolved to return home on a leave of absence.

Back in the United States, Conway Boatman attended Columbia University and Drew Theological Seminary, receiving the A.M. and B.D. degrees from those respective institutions. After two years as head of the department of education at Sterling College in Kansas, he was elected president (1928) of the Iowa National Training School at Des Moines. Besides directing this school designed for Christian leadership, Dr. Boatman found time to engage in advance study at the University of Chicago. In 1930, Fletcher College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in recognition of his outstanding work in the field of Christian education. The following year he was called to head his alma mater, the John H. Snead Seminary. Dr. Boatman's accomplishments at this school included the elevation of this institution to junior college level, the erection of a president's residence, the procurement of Snead's first endowment of \$50,000, and the raising of funds for a new library and women's dormitory.

Union's thirteenth president was formally inducted into office on March 24, 1939.³ The colorful inaugural procession included representatives not only from Kentucky Colleges, and member colleges of the Southern Association, but also from many Methodist Colleges outside the commonwealth. With Harry E. Bullock, president of the Board of Trustees, in the presiding chair, Bishop H. Lester Smith, in a most impressive ceremony, administered the charge to Dr. Boatman.

Recognition of his predecessors' accomplishments constituted a portion of the new president's first message to Union's Board of Trustees when he met with them for the first time. Said Dr. Boatman:

It frequently happens when a new man comes to the helm of an institution that he inadvertently makes the impression that what has been done prior to his coming is not recognized and appreciated. The many friends of a college who have been laboring for its success many years are often sensitive to a new man's attitude in regard to his appreciation of what has been done prior to his coming. Let me make it plain and emphatic at my first meeting with this board that I make full recognition of the services of those who have preceded me. I can see the evidence on Union College campus of the struggles and heroic achievements of the several presidents who have preceded me, of the labors, of the Board

³ The figure, 13, is computed by counting Union's acting and nominal heads since 1879.

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of Trustees, of the faculty who are now in service, and many others whose service has been terminated, as well as contributing friends all over the country. Let it be understood that nothing I may say or do should in the least ever be construed to reflect upon the service or achievements of those who have preceded me. I inherit the fruits of their labors, and it is my responsibility to build on what they have done. I cherish a most grateful attitude toward my predecessors and enter into the results of their work with reverent respect.⁴

With such a short stay on the campus it was not possible to give a complete report, but Dr. Boatman issued a general statement of his policy and the needs of Union. He warned of the dangers of a professionalized athletic program and of subsidies to team members. Debts were to be avoided because "they constitute the burial shroud of a college and are the very best preparation for its demise." He saw a need for an expanding curriculum especially in the field of commercial science. The present policy of the governing board in giving a large measure of freedom to the college head was commended because an executive wishes not to be restrained; rather to be pushed on and up to the highest and best.⁵

It was also at this first meeting with Union's Trustees, that the new president struck the keynote for his administration—the Forward Program. Within the past few years, Union had sought and found official recognition for the place which it was to fill in the educational world. But, inadequate equipment for carrying out a mission, however worthy it may be, insures failure or at best, mediocre results. Yet, this was partially true of the college in 1939, because Union, after a struggle of many years, still remained poorly prepared to carry out to the fullest its mission of Christian education to the many entering its doors; and an increase in numbers could add only to one of Union's greatest problems and deficiencies—an inadequate physical plant.

The Forward Program, as first envisaged by Dr. Boatman, called for a three-unit building program—a library, a women's dormitory, and a chapel. Because of the increasing possibility of a general European War, and much uncertainty regarding the attitude of a united Methodism in Kentucky toward Union's future, the Board decided to follow President Boatman's advice and to embark at once upon the Forward Program. Speaking at a later date of this momentous decision in 1939, Dr. Boatman stated that the very life of Union College was at stake as a Methodist institution, and that the advances secured

⁴ Board of Trustees, Minutes, Feb. 28, 1939.

⁵ *Ibid.*

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before the catastrophe of war broke upon America, was indeed a great cause for rejoicing.⁶

Union's dead-end street could be opened only with an organized campaign set in motion to raise funds for such a program. Exactly three months after its inauguration, Dr. Boatman reported over \$147,000 in total pledges and contributions, of which \$17,000 was in cash. Nearly one half of Barbourville's quota of \$8,000 was reported as subscribed the first day the campaign opened.⁷ Included in the total raised was a \$100,000 conditional pledge from a name unknown to Union's campus—that of Mrs. Anna Merner Pfeiffer. This pledge for endowment purposes was contingent upon Union's ability to secure an equal amount from other sources.

Now that Union had committed itself to a three-unit building program, another important question remained to be answered—that of priority in terms of Union's most pressing need. At a special meeting of the faculty, President Boatman presented the matter of submitting to the Board of Trustees a request for placing the library first on the Forward Movement's agenda. The faculty likewise agreed as to its immediate necessity.⁸ One month later, the Board sitting at Cincinnati passed a resolution providing for the library's construction. From this point, plans moved forward rapidly and before the middle of June, the Board awarded a contract to the John Muncy Company of Berea, Kentucky, calling for construction of a Georgian style, two story brick structure to be completed by October 15. As is usual in such cases, the cost proved to be much higher than the original estimate of May, 1939; and the \$35,000 earmarked for construction of the new library was stepped up to approximately \$50,000.

Homecoming, Founders Day, and dedication of the Abigail E. Weeks Memorial Library were all combined into a gala celebration scheduled for November 9, 1940. The Homecoming and Founders Day programs featured addresses by C. Nevil White, and Frank McVey, President Emeritus of the University of Kentucky. Photographs of Fanny Speed, Dr. Stevenson, Governor Black, A. M. Decker, Abigail E. Weeks, Dr. Franklin, Dr. Gross, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer were unveiled as part of the Founders Day Program. At 11:45 A.M., an impressive open air ceremony, conducted by Bishop U. V. W. Darlington, featured the laying of the library's cornerstone followed by the Dedicatory Services. The Bishop was assisted by President Boatman, Harry E. Bullock, Dr. Horace Sprague, and the Reverend J.

⁶ "Report" of the President, June 1, 1942.

⁷ *Barbourville Advocate*, Oct. 20, 1939.

⁸ Union College Faculty Minutes, Feb. 2, 1940.

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Ralph Wood. Among the interesting records placed in a copper box within the cornerstone was a copy of the Board of Trustees Minutes for March, 1940; a copy of Union's catalog, 1940-1941; a list of subscribers to the library fund; a student directory; programs of the day's festivities; and recent copies of the *Orange and Black* and the *Barbourville Advocate*.

The new library was named in honor of one of the greatest names connected with Union's history—Abigail E. Weeks, who had passed from this life less than a year before the library's dedication. Miss Weeks had retired in 1937 as Professor Emeritus of English Literature after almost thirty years of fruitful service to the college she loved so well. She began her teaching career in her home town of Elkland, Pennsylvania and attended the Mansfield Normal School not far away. After completing her Ph.B. degree at Dickinson College in 1905 she first came to Union as professor of English and History. Her first period of service to Union lasted two years, the second (1910-1915), five years, and the last, twenty-one years, beginning in 1917 when she was recalled to the college as head of the English Department, and as librarian. During her absence from Union she had enriched her life with travel in Europe and the acquiring of an advanced degree. She had first served as Union's librarian in 1910.

As early as 1923 recognition for Miss Weeks' services was sought when the Board of Trustees was presented with a memorial signed by President Franklin, the faculty, and the student body, requesting the establishment of the Abigail E. Weeks chair of English. No action was taken on the petition and no public honors were bestowed on her until the time came for her retirement in 1937. The June 2, edition of the *Orange and Black*, of that year, the largest in its history, was dedicated to Miss Weeks. Regarding her services to Union, the school paper commented:

AN AFFECTIONATE DEDICATION: It is with a feeling of profound gratitude that we dedicate this, the largest edition of the *Orange and Black* in Union's history, to Miss Abigail E. Weeks, and to the members of the Alumni association with whom she is so closely affiliated.

This memorable commencement, the greatest in Union's history, marks the close of thirty-two years of service to Union College for Miss Weeks. (1905-1937). During this time she has evidenced the remarkable growth of the college, and much of its advancement may be attributed to her untiring efforts. She has helped to bear the burdens through dark periods, and rejoiced with the administration through periods of bright, optimistic advancement.

The entire life of Miss Weeks has been centered around three great affections: 1. Her subject. Not only has she been a great lover of the

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English language and literature, but she has been a great interpreter of it to many others who were in dire need in that respect. 2. Her students. It is to them that she gave the best that she had. She gave to them a philosophy of idealism that has been of inestimable value to them. 3. Her Institution. She gave to Union College her sacrificial loyalty, and fulfilled the sentiment of her own lines, written as a fitting close to the college Alma Mater, "We will live for thee."⁹

Miss Weeks is a true lover of beauty. To others she showed the stars, the trees, the birds, the flowers, like they had never seen them. She felt and appreciated the rhythm, even in the commonplace things of life, in smoke coming from chimneys, in the wind, in the contour of the mountains.

Although she retires from active service at Union College at this commencement, she leaves the deepest affectionate impression that will make her presence one that will be felt at all times on the campus.

From the east coast to the west coast are scattered students in all walks of life who sat in Miss Week's classes, and learned great lessons of life. These are the Alumni. And Union College is justly proud of her alumni. They have made enviable records. In their hearts Miss Weeks holds a treasured place as, Teacher, Friend, and Ideal. To them, also jointly with Miss Weeks, this special issue is affectionately dedicated.¹⁰

When the Board of Trustees met in June, 1937, it reiterated the same sentiments expressed in the *Orange and Black* and recorded that Miss Weeks' active work had ended *summa cum laude*.

After her retirement from Union, Miss Weeks went back to her home in Elkland, Pennsylvania, not to enjoy a rest well earned, but to care for an invalid brother although she was ill herself. Her interest in English Literature and libraries never lagged to the end of her life. She would borrow English journals from a neighbor and discuss with her the teaching of English. Her last act of service was performed for her home community of Elkland where she helped to organize the public library and to catalog its books.¹¹ At a memorial service held for Miss Weeks on February 2, 1940, C. Nevil White spoke of her as a "lover of beauty and expression."¹² Even in death Abigail E. Weeks did not forget Union. The bulk of her small estate amounting to \$900 was received as a bequest to buy books for the library she loved so well.

Union's library facilities had come a long way since that day in 1888 when Dr. Stevenson installed a few book stacks in his outer office. As already noted, Union's first organized library, the Speed-Stevenson,

⁹ According to Percy L. Ports, Miss Weeks wrote the Alma Mater early in 1906.

¹⁰ *Orange and Black*, June 2, 1937.

¹¹ Eleanor P. Donovan to writer, March 30, 1954.

¹² *Orange and Black*, Feb. 14, 1940. Dr. White noted her reluctance to aid cupid—"she knew all the courting couples . . . but when it came time to make dining room assignments no couple was seated together."

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began in 1898 under President Faulkner with about 1,000 volumes. Magazines and papers were contributed by friends. After the disastrous fire of 1906, Miss Weeks found many library volumes lying in a heap on the floor of a near-by building and took them under her care. In 1907 the library moved into a room (105) in the new administration building. When Miss Weeks assumed charge in 1910 the library had grown to 1,500 volumes and for the first time students were allowed to take books from the library. By 1937 the library had increased to 12,000 volumes and had expanded to include the French and mathematics rooms. The same year (1931-1932), all the index cards, formerly hand written, were typed.

The middle 1930's had brought about a change in administration of the library. Miss Euphemia Corwin became Union's first full time librarian and students had access to the stacks. A recataloging process began under a full time catalog librarian in 1935. Four years before Union's library building was built, it was necessary to add the old English room to the library. The library may be likened to a monster which had already consumed badly needed class room space and which gave no indication of changing its insatiable appetite.

When the Abigail E. Weeks Library opened for service on January 13, 1941, it contained approximately 16,000 volumes together with almost 300 periodicals. This beautiful Georgian structure, built with an eye to Union's future needs, will house approximately 40,000 books. The large reading room containing the reference books, current magazines and papers, will accommodate 150 readers. The first floor includes the book stacks, two offices and lounging and toilet facilities. The second floor provides additional stack space and contains the bound periodical reading room. The library was furnished through the generosity of Mrs. Abbie E. Stewart of Des Moines, Iowa, in memory of her husband, George B. Stewart.¹³

From 1938 to 1954, Union's library of 13,000 volumes almost doubled in number, and the 160 current periodicals increased almost to 300. Starting in the 1920's the college library began the binding of a few periodicals, gradually increasing the number until in 1954 it bound 40 periodicals at a cost of \$200. The amount expended for books exceeded \$1,000 annually, and four-fifths of that same amount was spent on newspapers and periodicals. "Special collections of material on Union College, the Kentucky Methodist Church, Knox County, and Southeastern Kentucky have been placed in the library.

¹³ This gift amounted to \$3,350. See President's "Report," June 2, 1941.

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Plans are being made to enlarge the Southeastern Kentucky collection and for moving it to the Administration Building." ¹⁴

Besides the library, Dr. Boatman was able to launch upon the second item in his Point-Three program before America became enveloped in the second world holocaust of war. Had this project, a women's dormitory, been delayed six months longer in getting started, its building would likely have been postponed until the end of the war. This would have led to double the cost and would have found Union less able to take care of the demands of a greatly increased post-war enrollment.

The inadequacy of Speed Hall as a women's dwelling had been recognized for thirty years. Actually, only the second floor of Speed was suitable for such purposes, but as many as 50 girls had been crammed into the building. The construction of a modern fire-proof dormitory for women would also release the terrific demands being made upon the old administration building in regard to office and classroom space. As early as 1920 President Franklin had moved the appointment of a committee of five empowered to make plans for a girls' dormitory and science hall.¹⁵ The imperative demands of an increased endowment for standard recognition precluded any progress in that direction during the 1920's and the depression years blocked later developments.

At first Dr. Boatman planned a small dormitory costing about \$62,000.¹⁶ A few months later when campaign objectives were presented to the Board of Trustees, the dormitory was made to include a dining hall at an additional cost of \$6,000.¹⁷ In September, 1939, the public had its first opportunity to see drawings of the proposed building. The announcement of a gift of \$100,000 in cash from the Henry Pfeiffer estate meant that a much finer building could be constructed than at first anticipated. Mrs. Henry Pfeiffer had previously visited Union College in April, 1940 to study Union's Forward plans and to confirm her great pledge to Union College's endowment. Regarding this gift, President Boatman said: ". . . none of us can properly express or conceive what this magnificent gift through Mrs. Pfeiffer will mean to this institution." ¹⁸

Bids for construction were accepted in September, 1941,¹⁹ and work began the following month. Then came the surprise attack at

¹⁴ Union College *Catalog*, 1938-1939; 1954-1955.

¹⁵ Board of Education. Minutes, Jan. 29, 1920.

¹⁶ "Report" of the President, Board of Trustees, Minutes, Feb. 28, 1939.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, May 29, 1939.

¹⁸ "Report" of the President. Board of Trustees, Minutes, May 29, 1939.

¹⁹ *Barbourville Advocate*, August 29, 1941.

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Pearl Harbor and the nation's sudden plunge into war. At once the federal authorities gave building material priorities to construction concerned with the war effort. At first it was thought that the building could be finished in time for the opening of the fall semester, 1942, but September passed and still Pfeiffer Hall could not be completed. Finally on next to the last day of the year, after returning from Christmas vacation, about 40 girls moved into their new quarters. On January 30, 1943, Mrs. Flem D. Sampson and Mrs. Boatman held a formal tea; tours were held for the guests, and the hall was officially opened.

May 11, 1943 was the day selected for the hall's dedication. The day's festivities included four programs: the Founder's Day service, the ceremony of laying the cornerstone, the dedicatory service, and the crowning of Miss Union. Dr. Edgar B. Wesley, a Union alumnus, delivered the main Founder's Day address. In the afternoon, after a colorful academic procession, the Honorable Keen Johnson, gave the Dedicatory Address. James F. Blair was master of the cornerstone's box, and Mrs. Pfeiffer, assisted by the architect, Otis C. Poundstone, laid the stone. The keys were first given to Mrs. Pfeiffer, who in turn presented them to Harry E. Bullock representing Union's Trustees. Unfortunately the inclement weather forced most of the ceremonies to be held indoors in the college auditorium which was crowded to capacity. Others participating in the program were President Boatman, Bishop Darlington, Dr. H. W. McPherson and the Reverend G. M. Haggard. Recipients of honorary degrees on that memorable day numbered eight; among them were Mrs. Anna Pfeiffer and Edgar B. Wesley.²⁰

In the light of public relations, President Boatman looked upon Pfeiffer Hall's dedication as "perhaps the most fruitful and most inspiring event of the year."²¹ The following comments by distinguished guests is proof of the favorable impression made upon them by Union College:

I thought your services were well planned. . . . Everything certainly looks fine around your campus. You are to be congratulated on getting the new building and keeping the property in such good repair. . . . Union has made a great place for itself and we are all hoping that its future may be even better than anything that has yet come.²²

It was a pleasure to represent your sister institution at Cumberland Gap. Certainly you have a marvelous angel in Mrs. Pfeiffer, who has

²⁰ "Programs" of Dedication exercises; Barbourville, *Advocate*, Apr. 30, 1943; *Orange and Black*, May 19, 1943.

²¹ President's "Report" May 24, 1943.

²² Dr. McPherson to Dr. Boatman. *Ibid.*

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provided two of the most beautiful and useable buildings for a college of your size that I have ever seen. Your work at Union has been justified beyond your years of service.²³

The program for the dedication of Pfeiffer Hall was splendidly conceived and beautifully carried out. I have never attended a more impressive one. . . . The thing that impressed me most in this connection was not so much the mechanical readjustment but the fine spirit in which it was done. Boys and girls are safe in the hand of folk who can meet emergencies in such a Christian manner.²⁴

Before work on the most important item on the three-point program, the construction of a sanctuary, could be launched, the flood of students at the war's end made imperative prompt measures to provide more housing space for men, mostly veterans; and to add classroom and laboratory facilities.

In 1945, Tye House, located at the corner of Main and Manchester Streets, had been purchased with the idea of using it as a residence for girls. This \$10,000 investment, known as Senior House,²⁵ was used at first for senior girls but the greatly increased enrollment of men forced its use as a men's dormitory. Added temporary housing for men was provided by two steel barracks acquired from the federal authorities and rebuilt at a cost of approximately \$5,000. These two buildings erected in 1946 and 1947 provided housing for 40 men. In addition, the college acquired about 25 trailers for the use of married veterans.

The second immediate post-war need, classroom space, was provided by the acquisition of a surplus government building, 30x150 feet, located at Bowman Field, Louisville. Unlike the barracks, this fine \$50,000 building erected during the summer of 1947 was intended for permanent occupancy. Known at first as the science building, it was officially christened the Veteran's Building at a combined Founder's Day-Dedicatory program held in November with Congressman J. M. Robsion delivering the main address.²⁶ Almost two weeks later (November 20), Union received the deed from the Federal Works Agency. Besides housing the chemistry laboratory, which later received a large grant in 1950, the building provided classroom space for the English department.

At the war's end, plans for the chapel-auditorium, differed little from those first projected in 1939 when it was intended to build a structure almost identical with the library and locate it on the south-

²³ Dr. Kincaid to Dr. Boatman. *Ibid.*

²⁴ Dr. E. L. McClurkan to Dr. Boatman, President's "Report," May 24, 1943.

²⁵ Faculty Minutes, Sept. 22, 1945; President's "Report," June 3, 1946.

²⁶ Barbourville *Advocate*, June 13, 1947, Oct. 31, 1947; *Orange and Black*, Nov. 26, 1947; President's "Report," May 31, 1948. Although this building was "free," \$4,000 had to be spent to convert it for classroom needs.

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east side of the administration building, with the same kind of ambulatory connections that building afforded with the library.²⁷

The recent growth and needs of the college brought a drastic revision in plans. The new fine arts department (1946-1947), having no home of its own, was forced to use the limited facilities available on the first floor of Speed Hall. Revised plans worked out early in 1947 called for a combined chapel-fine arts building to be constructed on the northwest side of the college grounds suggesting the later development of a quadrangular type of campus. Of course this structure would cost much more than the one first planned because of its increased size and the post-war inflation.

In the early spring of 1947, Dr. Boatman expressed hope of getting construction started by July 1.²⁸ Bids received for the project seemed exorbitantly high—one of \$513,000 and another of \$496,000 being rejected.²⁹ Nevertheless, in early September, the Board of Trustees decided to go ahead with construction, and work began in October, 1947. It seemed illogical to start construction on a project with theoretically no limit to the cost, and with cash assets of only \$110,000 in addition to \$55,000 in pledges. Before her death in 1946, Mrs. Pfeiffer had pledged an additional \$100,000 toward a chapel, but the executors of her estate would not pay the amount to Union College Corporation because construction had not begun. A plan was worked out whereby Mrs. Pfeiffer's executors transferred the sum of \$100,000 to the Board of Education of the Methodist Church to be held in trust until such time as tangible evidence of construction was offered.³⁰

From the first, the building of the chapel-fine arts structure was plagued with unforeseen troubles. A firm foundation could be had only after the driving of many piles into the sandy subsoil. Then came labor troubles—the men were afraid to work because of intimidation from others. The hiring of local labor, although beneficial to the community proved to be harmful in the long run because few skilled workers acquainted with this type of construction could be found in the locale.

By the last of May, 1948, the first floor had been completed at a cost of over \$50,000. At this time, President Boatman predicted that the struggle to get through with it would be the severest ever experienced on Union's campus. The handicaps of raising \$200,000 while the building was already under construction seemed almost unsurmountable. The Board of Trustees authorized a loan of \$100,000, if neces-

²⁷ Union College *Bulletin*, I, No. 3 (July, 1939); *Orange and Black*, Jan. 26, 1945.

²⁸ Faculty Minutes, March 10, 1947.

²⁹ Barbourville *Advocate*, Sept. 5, 1947.

³⁰ Board of Trustees, Minutes, June 2, 1947.

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sary,³¹ to insure completion. Eight months later about two-thirds of the building had been completed at an expenditure of over \$200,000, whereupon the revised estimated cost was set at \$350,000.³² By the end of the following May, after \$290,000 had been spent, and \$100,000 borrowed to date in temporary loans, the total was reestimated at \$381,000.³³ The edifice in its unfinished state was first used for commencement exercises on May 31, 1949.

As early as February, 1949, a joint committee composed of faculty and board members had been selected to make plans for its dedication.³⁴ Bishop William T. Watkins exclaimed: "I thank God for the glorious history of Union College . . . I look with keen anticipation to the coming years for the contribution this college will make . . . far beyond the borders of the State." Governor Clements considered this expansion of Union's plant facilities as symbolic of the progress which characterized Union and as marking another milestone in the service contributed to the community and state; while Dr. Nicholas Mitchell thought the chapel would prove to be a source of inspiration for many years to come.³⁵

Dedication services of the chapel-fine arts building were highlighted by an act of recognition indeed rare in the annals of mankind—the naming of a monumental piece of work for its builder within the life span of its prime mover. Without the person of Conway Boatman it would be difficult for one acquainted with Union's history, to visualize the appearance of such a structure on the college campus. The Board's timely announcement of the Conway Boatman Chapel brought with it prolonged applause from the enthusiastic audience.³⁶ On this same auspicious occasion, honorary degrees were conferred upon William T. Watkins, William Woodson, Robert B. Pierce, Joseph D. Jones, Carl E. Vogel, Elizabeth Harpst, and Torney O. Nall, Jr.

Final honors for President Boatman came on January 30, 1953, when Robert L. Blackwell, representing Union's Board of Trustees, presented Sudduth Goff's brilliant portrait of the President to the college. At the ceremony of presentation directed by Miss Kathleen Moore of the college faculty, Mr. Blackwell, in sketching Dr. Boatman's successful career, stated:

³¹ Article VII of Union's charter had been amended to permit loans up to \$500,000. Board of Trustees, Minutes, May 31, 1948.

³² President's "Report," Feb. 4, 1949.

³³ *Ibid.*, May 30, 1949.

³⁴ Board of Trustees, Minutes, Feb. 4, 1949.

³⁵ *Orange and Black*, Oct. 26, 1949.

³⁶ The Dedication number, (vol. 6, no. 1), of the *Union College News*, contains the addresses of Bishop Watkins and Governor Clements.

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The trustees have assembled this convocation . . . to honor one in the very midst of his life's work, who in his youth learned well what . . . Cardinal Wolsey learned too late.³⁷

It is a great privilege to participate in the ceremonies of this occasion—an occasion which is an outward mark of the high esteem so justly due to a man of high purpose. . . . A man with purpose is a man with power; power of achievement which is limited only by his capacity to imagine and by his will to pursue!³⁸

President Boatman's dream of many years, the Chapel-Fine Arts Building, is, as the name suggests, really two buildings in one. The two-story Fine Arts section located in the rear contains ten piano practice rooms, two student studios, a radio control room, an instrumental room, a music library, an art room with laboratory equipment, classrooms, division administrative offices, and a student prayer room. In addition there is a small concert hall with stage and a projector booth. This "Little Theater" was furnished through the generosity of the family of Fred C. Rector, a prominent member of Union's early faculty. The sanctuary, built as the name implies for the purpose of worship, seats 700, which is considered adequate for future needs. The divided chancel for the use of Union's robed a cappella choir, and the \$13,000 Kilgen organ lends dignity and solemnity to the worship services. The organ is the gift of Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Cawood, in memory of Hiram Cawood and A. B. Cornett. The Maas 32-note chimes in combination with the Westminster Clock, the gift³⁹ of the Oscar H. Viall family was dedicated at an impressive ceremony on March 17, 1951.⁴⁰

Dedication and use of Union's pride of the campus did not mark the end of the heavy financial problems connected with it. At the time of dedication, the building debt was approximately \$150,000, but only 18 months later President Boatman made the amazing announcement that the chapel-fine arts building was free of debt.⁴¹ Practically the entire amount had been raised by President Boatman through personal solicitations. Two major gifts of \$50,000 each were contributed by the Kresge Foundation and the E. L. Lilly Endowment, Incorporated. The other great gift of \$100,000 pledged by Mrs. Pfeiffer before her death has already been noted.

The name of this great benefactress to Union College, Anna

³⁷ In Shakespeare's King Henry VIII, Wolseys says, "Had I but serv'd my God with half the zeal I serv'd my King . . ." etc.

³⁸ "Presentation Program," Jan. 30, 1953. Office of the President.

³⁹ This gift cost approximately \$10,000.

⁴⁰ The class of 1953 donated the system of lights surrounding the Westminster clock.

⁴¹ President's "Report," May 28, 1951.

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Merner Pfeiffer, has been mentioned in connection with Union's two major buildings, but nothing so far has been said of her unusual life. As a seamstress in Cedar Falls, Iowa, she married Henry Pfeiffer, a rising young druggist who achieved the extraordinary success of becoming owner of the Hudnut Perfumery Company and the William P. Warner Drug Company. Promotion of their wares in the South brought the Pfeiffers into personal contact with the people, mores, and problems peculiar to that region. They recognized the special educational needs of a section of our country not yet fully recovered from the awful effects of a fratricidal war.

Union College was not alone among Southern institutions to benefit from the Pfeiffers' generosity; two junior colleges in North Carolina, Florida Southern College, and Snead Junior College in Alabama, also shared. While president of the latter institution, Dr. Boatman became acquainted with the Pfeiffers and proposed to Mrs. Pfeiffer a unique system of control of a college's endowment funds, whereby a local board of trustees relinquished its control of funds to a higher body, which presumably was of a more responsible nature. This system was applied to the care of the Pfeiffer endowment by allowing the General Board of Education to handle the gift.⁴²

Shortly after Mrs. Pfeiffer's death on January 8, 1946, at the advanced age of 86, the Board of Trustees passed in the form of a resolution the following memorial:

"No one could come into her presence without sensing that fine, chastening, . . . benediction of her personality, simplicity, cheerfulness, a rare sense of humor, profound sympathy for human need, and suffering, an uncanny, practical wisdom in the administration of great wealth to achieve the greatest service, or inspiring loyalty to the service motive in life, a rare patience with people and their faults, a personal dislike of pious thoughts that failed to issue in deeds of usefulness, a burning love of God and man."⁴³

Union's three-point building program was bound inseparably with Union's greatest permanent problem—an adequate endowment. This inadequacy, operating in a vicious circle, tended to nullify all phases of Union's growth. Because the income from Union's endowment was insufficient in any given year to balance operating costs, the president was forced to apply the gifts he received (at a great deal of cost to him in time and labor), to make up current deficits rather than applying them to the endowment thereby insuring a larger annual

⁴² Dr. Boatman to writer, May 3, 1954.

⁴³ Union College *News*, January, 1946.

income. For instance in the fiscal year, 1953-1954, President Boatman had to raise \$36,000 in gifts in order to balance the budget.⁴⁴ In addition, the large building programs and unexpected outlays for plant repairs have retarded the growth of Union's endowment.

Since 1888, Union had been the child of the Kentucky Conference representing the Northern branch of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Although the conference at times fostered and sustained other institutions of learning over the years, Union finally emerged as the conference's only college. Reunion of Methodism in a border state such as Kentucky where two former alien conferences found it difficult to forget the wounds engendered by the terrible civil conflict of 1861-1865, further complicated rather than simplified Union's status within the two newly formed conferences.

Three colleges, Union, Kentucky Wesleyan, and Lindsey Wilson, were now operating under the joint auspices of the Kentucky and Louisville conferences of the Methodist Church. In 1941 a survey report recommended complete withdrawal of support from Lindsey Wilson, the continuance of Union, and a study of the possibilities of moving Kentucky Wesleyan or merging it. The compilers of the survey assumed that the burden of maintaining three conference colleges was too great to bear. But the Joint Commission on educational survey rejected the recommendations and advocated the continuance of both Lindsey Wilson and Kentucky Wesleyan with the idea of making the latter a fully accredited four year college.⁴⁵ The commission also thought that Union should "continue its program of securing a major part of its operating expenses at large, receiving only a nominal part of the regular conference benevolence and of College Day collections."⁴⁶ In other words, this commission on educational policy was blandly asking the Kentucky Conference not to hold itself responsible financially for its first child, Union, but at the same time to indicate its willingness to take care of its newly adopted waifs, Lindsey Wilson and Kentucky Wesleyan.

Rumor had it that Union was well able to shift for itself, although only a cursory examination of the school's finances would have been required to reveal an entirely different picture. These dangers to Union's existence were succinctly stated by Dr. Boatman: "The impression is being made throughout the two conferences that Union College is not the sick child of the three colleges." Throughout the conferences the idea prevails that Union "no longer needs financial

⁴⁴ President's "Report," May 25, 1953.

⁴⁵ Kentucky Conference, *Minutes*, 1941.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

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aid. I can think of no menace for the future of Union College," concluded President Boatman, "so serious as this impression."⁴⁷

Dr. Boatman won a great victory for Union in September, 1946 at Wilmore, Kentucky, where after spirited debate, it was decided to distribute the Educational funds of the two conferences equally among the three colleges. At first the Educational Board voted for the *status quo*, meaning that Kentucky Wesleyan should receive one half with Lindsey Wilson and Union sharing the remainder. But happily the conference rejected the Board's recommendation following an "impassioned plea" by President Boatman.⁴⁸ In 1946 Union was receiving 10 per cent of the funds while Kentucky Wesleyan got 70 per cent. After years of pouring the major share of Conference funds into what appeared to be a fruitless financial investment, the conferences changed the site of Kentucky Wesleyan to Owensboro, Kentucky. However, efforts to build a new college plant at Owensboro has again caused Union to lose its share in the great conference drive of 1953.

In spite of the handicaps mentioned, the college was able to sustain a huge building program with a relatively small increase in the indebtedness, and to witness a large increase in its endowment at the end of the Three-Point building program. The major items—the Library, Pfeiffer Hall, and Chapel-Fine Arts Building, together with some minor items like the Veterans (science) Building and barracks had boosted Union's property value from \$242,000 to \$1,075,000 or over four times its prewar value. While Union's property value was increased by over \$800,000, the debt totaled only \$67,000 in 1951, although it had reached \$200,000 in 1950. The year 1950-51, had been a banner one in respect to gifts; \$178,000 being contributed within a twelve-month. During this same thirteen-year period (1938-1951), Union's endowment had increased by 50 per cent its value of \$414,000 in 1938, reaching \$600,000 in 1951.⁴⁹

Union's operating expenses in 1951 had multiplied over 2½ times that of 1938. The prewar budget of \$135,000 paled into insignificance alongside the 1950-51 budget of \$360,000. In 1954-1955 it reached a high of \$396,000. During the same period endowment income had doubled—growing from \$15,000 to \$30,000. The conference and College Day Collections for Union had increased from \$2,000 annually to \$20,000. Over a period of twelve years these contributions totaled \$145,000.

⁴⁷ President's "Report," to Trustees, June 1, 1942.

⁴⁸ Barbourville *Advocate*, Sept. 6, 1946.

⁴⁹ These statistics which are given in round numbers are taken from the "Reports" of the President, and the Treasurer of Union College for the period, 1938-1951.

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One would think that with such an amazing record of physical expansion over a dozen years that most administrators would have been content to rest upon their laurels, but Dr. Boatman realized that Union was still far removed from the place where the college would be in a position to render maximum service to its students, the community, and its faculty. Scarcely had the books been closed upon the Three-Point Program of the Forward Movement when President Boatman proposed to embark upon another—A Five-Point Program, more ambitious than the first and contemplating expenditures over twice as great.

Three of these items on the new Forward Program were concerned with housing. For years new faculty members were confronted with the difficult problem of finding suitable housing on short notice. The steel barracks, intended only for temporary student housing were fast proving inadequate; and with the disintegration of the Trailer Village, Union had no special attraction for the Korean Veterans or any married couples wishing to attend school. By 1954, two of these housing needs were fulfilled and completion of the third was guaranteed.

During the summer of 1953, a timely announcement was made of a \$75,000 anonymous gift to be applied toward construction of housing units for married couples. Originally, 20 units consisting of two rooms each in the style of a modern motel were planned. Later changing of the plans to three-room units plus additional conveniences and furnishings upped the estimate an additional \$51,000. The donor readily agreed to give the additional amount.

The story of Arthur Vining Davis who bids fair to become added soon to Union's growing list of "saints," reads like one of Horatio Alger's typical success tales. This son of a Yankee Congregational minister graduated from Amhurst College the same year that Dr. Stevenson moved on Union's campus. Hired as a handyman for the newly born Pittsburgh Reduction Company at \$14 per week, he assisted in pouring the world's first commercial aluminum. By 1928 he had forged ahead to become chairman of the Aluminum Company of America—that giant sprung from a pigmy company of five employees. Besides his interest in ALCOA, Mr. Davis served as director of five other corporations. Because of these achievements in the world of industry, Union College bestowed upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Commercial Science. This immensely wealthy tycoon, through the efforts of Dr. Boatman became interested in the welfare of Union College and donated the amount needed to build the College Courts.

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This need for married couples attending Union was cited in a report of the Special Study Committee on May 30, 1949,⁵⁰ but the committee could hardly have foreseen its coming into being 3 years later. In late 1953, the contract for the College Courts was let to the J. W. Wyan Company of London, Kentucky for \$135,570.⁵¹ With furnishings the total expenditures exceeded \$165,000. By May, 1954, about \$15,000 in gifts had already been subscribed for furnishings. This important addition to Union's fast growing plant was expected to be completed by September, 1954.

As late as 1949 there was talk of purchasing an aluminum hangar from the government for use as a gymnasium. The initial cost was set at \$50,000 with an additional \$75,000 needed for installation and equipment. Although abandonment of this plan deferred the time when Union was to realize her dream of a modern physical education plant, in the long run, the delay proved fortunate. In the first place, a hangar gymnasium was completely out of harmony with recent architectural developments on Union's campus and would have marred the beauty of one of Union's greatest assets—her beautiful campus. Secondly, such makeshift equipment would have in the end, proved unsatisfactory and Union's needs would still have remained unfulfilled.

The great combined Kentucky and Louisville conference drives of 1953 provided the financial nucleus for construction of Union's projected \$500,000 field house and gymnasium. This drive was expected to net approximately \$900,000, which meant that Union could expect about \$240,000 as her share from this source. By May, 1954, Union had received in cash, over \$75,000,⁵² and an outside pledge of \$100,000 was anxiously expected. The Board's resolution of February 18, 1954, provided for starting of construction when \$100,000 was received in addition to the development fund.

Upon completion of the new field house, it is planned to convert the old gymnasium into a student-union building. One of the severest criticisms directed at Union College throughout the years by students and alumni has been the school's inability to cope with the problem of satisfying student demands for a fuller social life on the campus. At a meeting of the College Administrative Council in the fall of 1951, the urgent need for a building which the students could call their own, was discussed and immediate action followed. Union's miniature student-union building opened its doors on February 16,

⁵⁰ "Report" of Special Study Committee, 1949.

⁵¹ *Union College Alumnus*, December, 1953.

⁵² Treasurer of Union College to writer, May 10, 1954.

UNION MOVES FORWARD, 1938-1954

1952, as part of the winter homecoming festivities. This well equipped rendezvous located near Cozy Cottage at first underwent a great variety of names but finally by common consent, this student "hang-out" crystallized into the Snack-Shack. Its cost of almost \$9,000 was financed entirely by friends of the college. In President Boatman's opinion, this little adventure has proved to be by far the greatest help to the student body social life that this college has ever provided.⁵³

The last important item on President Boatman's new Program, and actually the most critical in 1954, was the new housing for men students. There is good reason to believe that the Federal Housing and Home Finance Agency will grant a loan of \$300,000 to be used in building a wing to Stevenson Hall and for renovation of the old dormitory itself.

Completion of the present phase of the Forward Movement, stupendous as it appears (and actually is), is only part of a larger one projecting into the future. Apparently, in the fast moving atomic age of the 20th century, a college which seeks to maintain only what appears to be a satisfactory *status quo* will soon find itself stagnant and unproductive. In complete agreement only with the material phases of this philosophy of education, President Boatman has outlined further material growth under 25 year objectives.⁵⁴ This includes major repairs to the old classroom building, a small modern hotel, a new combined science-cafeteria hall, a campus radio station, an additional women's residence hall, hard surfacing of campus driveways, additional faculty housing and an endowment three times the 1953 size of \$715,000.

The celebration of Union's 75th anniversary in 1954 marks not the finale of a glorious epoch in material growth for the college, but only a phase which began with the Fanny Speed era a half-century hence, and which experienced a tremendous acceleration with the coming of the Conway Boatman régime. In 1954 the Forward Movement seeks to help shape Union's destiny with a well directed step into tomorrow's unknown.

⁵³ President's "Report," May 26, 1952.

⁵⁴ "Looking Forward." Union College, 1954-1979. This is the official 75th Anniversary brochure.

CHAPTER XI

UNION SERVES

WHILE IT IS true that the over-all aim of Union College, the efficient preparation of Christian leaders for a contemporary society,¹ has remained constant since the days of Dr. Stevenson, the college's ability to carry out included goals have increased during the last 60 years to an extent that even Dr. Stevenson would hardly have dared to hope. And moreover while it is also true that increased ability to serve has come about because of the school's gradual growth over the years, Union's expansion of more recent years has greatly increased the college's potential in this respect.

Only one with limited vision could think of Union College as serving only the students that attend it. A broader interpretation must include service to its faculty, the national community and finally to the cause of Christianity. New media through which these services function have likewise come into being and multiplied in conjunction with the college's growth. A public, often bewildered by the various claims of educational institutions must needs be informed of Union's place in its peculiar field of Christian education. In years past this work has been carried on, often haphazardly, by the personal contacts of faculty and staff, and, through Union's students, friends, alumni, and descriptive literature. In recent years two developments, the offices of Public Relations and of Alumni Affairs, have greatly strengthened Union's ties with the public and her former students.

Union secured its first full time director of public relations in 1942.² Obviously during the trying war years little could be done with respect to student contacts. During the past few years, the Director of Public Relations has used such tools as college speakers, personal contacts, radio programs, visual education, college student organizations, and high school activities on Union's campus, to foster better relations between Union and the public it serves.

Union's a cappella choir, because of its annual tours has rendered the name "Union College" a familiar term in areas of the nation far distant from Barbourville. The choir made its initial debut on

¹ Union College *Bulletin*, 1954-1955.

² Board of Trustees, Minutes, June 1, 1942.



THE BULLDOGS OF 1954 IN ACTION

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television over WKRC-TV, Cincinnati, Ohio, in the spring of 1952. Variety shows, organized under Union's Director of Public Relations gave performances before Kentucky High School students and service groups. The famous show of 1951-1952 consisted of the "Uke" team, and the "Ink Blots," with the versatile Dave Jones as master of ceremonies. The following year, Dave presented his gorgeous "Show of Shows."

Union's first public relations radio show was presented over station WCTT, Corbin, Kentucky on March 20, 1953, in conjunction with High School Senior Day. The next month, the Union College program emanating from the Conway Boatman Chapel began as a quarter-hour weekly feature. On January 27, 1954, a similar monthly program was instituted from WMIK, Middlesboro, Kentucky. The advent of television has brought increased opportunities for presentation of Union College to the public.

Pioneer work at Union in promotion of Alumni relations began at a propitious time in 1944, when Union was making plans for post-war development. Credit for much of this work belongs to Catherine Faulkner Singer, '32, and Phillip E. Peters, '41. The first *Alumni Newsletter*, 4 pages, mimeographed, was edited by Mrs. Singer in November, 1944.³ The publication of the second issue, (about February 1946), was made possible by the contribution of James P. Faulkner, who paid \$26 in back alumni dues, thereby giving him the distinction of having paid his dues in full for 52 years.⁴ In December, 1945, Phillip Peters, then a member of Union's faculty, took charge of these letters. The issue of November, 1948, related an interesting story of the organizing of the New England Chapter of Union's Alumni Association, at the home of Bob and Mary Pearson in Braintree, Massachusetts. This chapter meets twice a year to renew friendships and exchange reminiscences of life at Union. Mrs. Willa Peters, '42, prepared the only printed *Alumni Newsletter*, the commencement number of 1950.

Beginning in 1952 the *Alumni Newsletter* grew into the *Union College Alumnus*, now published quarterly by Union College. The first issue, February, 1952, prepared under the direction of Union's director of Alumni Affairs, Milton Townsend, '48, brought greetings from President Boatman to the Alumni, listed the whereabouts of many alumni, and cited the New England Chapter for its outstanding work. Perhaps the most prominent number to date has been the

³ This number was not dated or numbered; but the second issue which is numbered, refers to the date of the first publication.

⁴ *Alumni Newsletter*, #2, n.d., [1945].

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directory of September, 1952 which listed all Alumni receiving degrees and Academy graduates from 1908 to 1930. The Alumni Association was strengthened in June, 1952 through the establishment of a Board of Directors, with four-year terms expiring at the rate of three annually.⁵

Another Union publication of interest is the *Union College News*, first appearing in September, 1944. This bulletin purported to be "a tie of information and understanding between the college and its friends."⁶

High School and youth activities on Union's campus, as a medium for acquainting prospective freshmen with the college, have rapidly increased in number during the post-war period. The first of these activities was High School Senior Day beginning in 1940, when 250 high school seniors visited Union's campus. These visits, which gives an opportunity for high school students to witness Union at work, have become an annual event, and the number attending has swelled to approximately 700. Local high schools are also taking advantage of Union's special facilities to hold dramatic and music festivals. The same is true in the field of physical education. Union's track, the best in southeastern Kentucky, is used annually for regional meets.

The Kentucky Conference has been using Union College as the site for holding its Methodist Youth Fellowship Assembly. This event which promises to become an annual event on Union's campus has special features for each day of its weekly program. Courses in Bible, Life of Christ, and Christian Living, are offered by trained pastors of the Conference. Union thus assists in bringing Christian education to youth not sufficiently advanced to enroll in the college.

When Dr. Boatman took office war clouds were already appearing on the European horizon. Hitler, leader of the trio of international bandits, had succeeded in reuniting the Teutonic world and was preparing Germany for her long heralded thrust toward the East. War broke out the next year, and again a European conflict threatened America's isolationism. To one possessed of hindsight, Dr. Boatman's voice of 1940 seemed almost prophetic: "When we look out upon our present world, security of every kind is gravely threatened. . . . The holocaust now raging in Europe may engulf not only our own individual interests but the interests of this college, smash enrollment, reduce income, and for the appeal for funds for Christian education purposes, substitute campaigns to pay staggering war costs."⁷

⁵ *Union College Alumnus*, Dec., 1952.

⁶ *Union College News*, Vol. I, No. 1, (Sept. 1944).

⁷ President's "Report," May 27, 1940.

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Not long after America's entrance into the world conflict as a belligerent power, President Boatman presented a seven-point program explaining how Union was prepared to serve during the war emergency. The streamlined accelerated program would permit graduation in three years. Courses in science, physics, and business which tended to function more directly in the war effort would be strengthened. Union would struggle to cope with the problems of teacher shortage, and the training of women for emergency services. And finally the college would strive to uphold the quality of instruction, strengthen the civilian moral, and preserve the integrity of the moral character of the people.⁸ At the same time, in order to avoid "financial anemia," strictest economy would be practiced in concert with a drive for increasing endowment resources—Union's "only hope of survival."

As a wartime service Union offered non-credit courses to local citizens at only a \$1.00 registration fee. Ten faculty members, all volunteers, taught courses which were related to wartime problems one day per week.⁹

The years, 1943 and 1944, were the darkest during the conflict. Only 15 candidates were considered for degrees in May, 1943. Low point in enrollment was reached in January, 1944, when fewer than 100 students enrolled for the second quarter. Not many students survived the crisis at Union. In June, 1945, Union graduated only 9 out of the 113 that entered in 1941.¹⁰

The first marked improvement in enrollment (103), came about during the 1945 summer session. At the Lindsey Wilson Junior College workshop, an additional 54 affiliated students received credit from Union. Dr. Otis Amis had instituted a similar workshop at London the preceding summer.¹¹ The large freshman class of 100, eleven of whom were veterans, proved that the crisis was over by September, 1945.

The influx of veterans brought with it certain expectations regarding Union's immediate future. It was thought that the veterans would constitute a problem on the campus and that extreme laxity of morals could be anticipated as part of the war's aftermath. Fortunately such dire predictions failed to materialize; most of the veterans proved to be excellent students—leaders in all phases of campus activities, and there came about a "more genuine and deeper interest in re-

⁸ Conway Boatman, "Program of Union College in Relation to the War Emergency," Pamphlet, Union College Library.

⁹ Barbourville *Advocate*, Jan. 15, 1943; Schedule of classes.

¹⁰ President's "Report," June 4, 1945.

¹¹ Faculty Minutes, June 9, 1944.

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ligion." ¹² Veterans were assisted in attaining vocational rehabilitation and education through a guidance center opened at the college in the fall of 1945.

Union College did not wait until the war crisis was over to make plans for its place in the post-war world. Suggestions for a self survey of Union College were made on October 8, 1943, at a meeting of the Upper Cumberland Association on the campus. At a faculty meeting (November 22), Dr. Otis Amis of the college faculty presented a tentative plan. A few days later his plan was adopted and Dr. Amis was appointed co-ordinator of the study. Three area committees and nine sub-committees were appointed to work on the project intended to answer three questions: (1) Whom does Union College Serve? (2) How adequately does Union Serve? (3) How should Union College organize to serve? ¹³

The survey, which took two years to complete, is embodied in two typewritten bound volumes. Crammed with statistics (116 tables), the survey covered high school students of the area, 56 freshmen entering Union in 1943, Union Alumni, and former non-graduating students.

Summaries of the study of high school students indicated a swing to commercial, scientific and mathematical interests. Music constituted the largest extra-curricular activity, with athletics second. Church was the largest area of activity outside the high school area. The chief interest within high school was preparation for college.

Opinions of the college freshmen, characterized as being based upon "immature and inadequate judgments," ¹⁴ gave answers to questions concerning church affiliations, religious interests, leading occupations, and standard of living as indicated by the number of newspapers, painted houses, refrigerators, average incomes, *etc.*, found in the area. Returns (493) from Alumni and former students showed that Union's location (nearness), was the biggest factor in attracting students. Influence of friends, and low college costs placed second and third respectively. About 13 per cent were businessmen and 3 per cent had entered the ministry. Although two-fifths of Union's former students had engaged in teaching, most of them found history and education courses of least value to them because they had "little or no need for them after graduation." The most valuable courses, according to the survey, were English and physical education.

The things they liked most about Union, said her former students,

¹² President's "Report," June 2, 1947.

¹³ Faculty Minutes, November 22, November 26, 1943.

¹⁴ "Union College Faculty Self-Survey," I, 80.

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were the faculty-student relationships and "friendly atmosphere." The things most disliked about Union were its "inadequate social life" (16 per cent), its restrictions (12 per cent), and the ban against dancing (8 per cent).¹⁵ Only 5 of Union's former students disapproved of Union's geographical location.

A total of 348 suggestions for improvement at Union were made by these students. The leading suggestions in order of importance were: (1) A larger college; (2) More Christian influence; (3) More athletics and social life.¹⁶

The committee's recommendations, based primarily on its findings, asked for: (1) curriculum changes in the direction of vocational needs such as secretarial science and accounting; (2) A full fledged department of Fine Arts; (3) A new counseling program; (4) Plant improvements; (5) Student industries; (6) Teacher education laboratory; (7) Improved faculty retirement system; (8) Minimum increase of \$250,000 in endowment.¹⁷ President Boatman had no doubt as to the Survey's importance—it would "stand out in Union College's history as a landmark of success and the beginning of a better college on this campus."¹⁸ Furthermore, Dr. Boatman expressed his hope to incorporate the recommendations gradually into the total program of the college.

Some of the curriculum trends toward vocational subjects had already been anticipated by the college in the pre-war years. In 1939-40 the "division" of secretarial sciences offered one year of work. When war came, two instructors were required to teach the sixteen courses offered. In 1941 five graduates received the first diplomas in secretarial science. Two years later the two-year diploma course in accounting was replaced by an accelerated one-year course for the purpose of relieving the critical shortages in that profession.¹⁹ At the end of the war the two-year course was re-instated. Forty-eight students received diplomas in this field in a five-year period (1948-1952). The next logical step, in view of the post-war needs of the business world, was to offer a four-year curriculum in the field carrying the baccalaureate degree.

Placement of a home economics division in the curriculum was another step in the direction of offering work in the "practical arts." Entrance of the United States into the war hastened this step because girls now constituted the great majority of students attending college.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 105.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, Table 92.

¹⁷ *Union College News*, Jan. 1945.

¹⁸ President's "Report," June 4, 1945.

¹⁹ *Union College Bulletin*, 1943-44.

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In February, 1942, the faculty moved that home economics be added to the curriculum.²⁰ Beginning with the freshman year, 1942-43, it was intended to add additional years until the degree of Bachelor of Science in Home Economics could be offered.²¹ In spite of the addition of a well equipped home economics laboratory, the small enrollment continued in the courses and failed to justify the effort or the high expenditures. The biggest hindrance to the growth of the division was the inability of the college to train for such work under the provisions of the Smith-Hughes Act. State public school institutions hiring personnel trained under the provisions of the act qualified for federal grants-in-aid which underwrote the salaries of vocational teachers in home economics and agriculture. In 1952 home economics was dropped from the curriculum²² with the hope that sufficient demand would soon justify its reinstatement.

The curriculum leading to the Bachelor of Science degree likewise suffered from small enrollment in the post-war years and beginning in 1948-49, new students were not allowed to register for this degree. In 1948 Union College conferred its last B.S. degree.

Union's requirements for graduation in 1954 were approximately the same as they were in 1938. The number of semester hours required in science had been reduced while those in physical education were increased. Six semester hours of work required in "social science" has been changed to sociology, and courses formerly listed under Bible and Moral Philosophy are now under the caption, Religion and Philosophy. The minimum number of semester hours, 126, and the quality point standing of 1.00, has remained unchanged.

Admission requirements to Union College have become markedly more "liberal" during this sixteen-year period. In 1938 the applicant for admission had to submit 15 units of standard high school work including 3 units in English and 2 in mathematics; and not more than 4 units in vocational subjects were accepted. In 1954 graduation from an accredited high school was sufficient for entrance, and even graduates of non-accredited high schools were admitted on condition. Neither did veterans need to qualify for entrance under general admission requirements. It may be added that these changes in entrance requirements at Union are in harmony with changed requirements in other colleges.

A study of degrees conferred in the early 1950's indicated the direction in which Union was moving, and the fields of service expected

²⁰ From College Faculty Minutes, Feb. 23, 1942.

²¹ Union College *Bulletin*, 1942-43.

²² One student graduated with a major in 1953 through special arrangements.

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from potential graduates. Only about ten per cent of Union's graduates were coming from the liberal arts curriculum, preparatory, it was assumed, for work in the advanced professional fields of ministry, medicine, law, *etc.* On the other hand, approximately sixty per cent of Union's graduates had prepared for teaching certificates in the elementary field, and another thirty per cent for teaching in the public high schools.

In an effort to serve Southeastern Kentucky's need for more public school teachers, Union increased the course offerings in the field of education and offered work to teachers in the field. At first, the in-service training was carried on through extension courses at night in towns not far distant from Barbourville. Beginning in the early 1950's, Saturday classes on the campus were inaugurated for teachers in the area living within commuting distance. This offering, successful from the start, enabled teachers in training to carry approximately one-third of a normal school load. For many years, Union has offered a special spring term for the convenience of teachers whose schools closed early in the spring.

When President Boatman assumed office at Union, all courses in the curriculum were listed under seven departments of instruction and the two divisions of fine arts and extension. Early in 1947, there was much discussion at faculty meetings concerning the need for curriculum reorganization, and a committee went to work on the problem. At a later meeting (February 24), three proposals were voted down by the faculty. Not until almost a year later did the faculty adopt a new divisional system, effective June 1, 1948.²³ Under the new organization, all courses were listed under the six divisions of Religion and Philosophy, Education, Fine Arts, Languages, Sciences, and Social Sciences. These divisions were at first subdivided into 24 departments. The numbers and titles of some of these subdivisions have undergone change especially in the Education and Social Science Divisions. The new system was easier to run from an administrative viewpoint and raised the status of the former Fine Arts, Home Economics, and Secretarial Science groups.

One of the services offered to many students of Union College is the opportunity to earn a portion of the expenses incurred while attending college. This service in the form of workshops greatly expanded in the post-war period. For example in 1953-54, approximately 60 students were earning a total of \$10,000 at Union. In addition to the workshops, the college has been giving many more

²³ Faculty Minutes, Jan. 28, 1948.

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scholarships and grants than in former years. During 1953-54, it issued eleven athletic and five music scholarships, totaling almost \$2,500. Ministerial grants cost the college another \$2,300 in tuition fees, and the freshman scholarships, 54 in number, totaled approximately \$7,500. It is almost unbelievable that Union College could grant and pay its students \$22,000 or more yearly—more than the full tuition fees of 100 students.

Union's first services, geographically, were in Southeastern Kentucky. While statistics proved that Union's major sphere of service still lay in this area, it is erroneous to think of Union as a "mountain school." Beginning in the 1920's the proportion of students not living in the immediate vicinity of Barbourville, gradually grew until it seemed that there was no geographical limit to Union's areas of service. In 1928-29, about 4 per cent of Union's students came from homes outside Kentucky. By 1936-37, the percentage had risen to 9 per cent. During the past five-year period, 1947-1952, Union enrolled from outside Kentucky an average of 104 each winter term out of an average enrollment of 475 students. One can hardly any longer consider Union's atmosphere provincial, when over 20 per cent of its resident winter students come from outside the Commonwealth. It is of special interest to note that one-fourth of the out of state students in the post-war period came from New England, a section of our nation which led in public education from the first.²⁴

As long as Union discriminated racially in the selection of its students, it was hard to justify to its fullest, Union's precepts of a Christian education for all. The question of admitting negro students to Union became a lively issue in 1946, when the college received its first application from a member of that race.²⁵ In the fall of 1950, both the faculty and the regular student body voted favorably to admit negroes.²⁶ Only Union's Board of Trustees had the authority to take such action and that body on February 18, 1954, passed by a unanimous vote the motion ". . . that negroes should and are now permitted to enter Union College as day students. . . ." ²⁷

Another great service which Union College has rendered through the years and increasingly so in the last two decades to the community has been purely outside the educational and cultural spheres. Union College has become Barbourville's biggest business. Coach Bacon in 1943, was among the first to call the public's attention to this fact. A

²⁴ The number attending from New England in each of the school years from 1947-1952, were 28, 36, 28, 22, 21, respectively.

²⁵ "Report" of Committee on Admissions, 1949-50.

²⁶ *Orange and Black*, Oct. 25, 1950.

²⁷ Board of Trustees, Minutes, Feb. 18, 1954.

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payroll of \$70,000 and other income was bringing in a total of \$114,000 to Barbourville annually. The college saved commuting students many thousands of dollars, making it possible to remain at home while attending college.²⁸ If this was true in 1943, it is much more so over a decade later. Unemployment in the area has placed Union College, as never before, as the community's chief economic bulwark. An institution which has an operating expenditure of almost \$400,000 annually, is bound to be exerting a powerful influence on the economic life of a small community of only 3,000 people. The total payroll has more than doubled in the decade, 1943-1953.

Services for the community must include services for the faculty, and much progress in this direction has been made during the Boatman régime. These chief lines of progress are in the fields of faculty housing, retirement, salaries, and tenure.

Before the war began, a few properties were secured adjacent to the campus. During the conflict and shortly after when Union was engaged in her plant expansion, little could be done in this direction. With completion of the chapel-fine arts building in 1949, Dr. Boatman turned to the problem of securing better housing for Union's faculty. After a plea for action on the part of the Trustees, Dr. Boatman said: "Therefore I make bold to say this should be a trustee meeting that will go down in history for doing something for the faculty. Little has been done for the faculty because there have been no resources. . . . I want this Board to go all out for faculty at this meeting and if we do I think we can overcome 50 per cent of the faculty short tenure problem."²⁹ President Boatman proposed a loan of \$75,000 from Federal Housing funds if necessary. The Board had been presented with a way that was open and a need that was imperative.

A year later, the Board of Trustees authorized the building of four new housing units to be completed by September. Construction was expected to take place on the newly purchased Decker property. The buying of this property together with the renovation of the old home of Andrew Decker into two apartments cost the college almost \$25,000. This construction of three new housing units in close proximity to the old Decker home, raised the total expenditure to \$87,000.³⁰ In 1953 the college acquired another property on College Street for \$14,830. In a two-year period faculty housing had cost \$90,000. By 1954, the college owned thirteen residences occupied by

²⁸ Barbourville *Advocate*, Sept. 24, 1943.

²⁹ President's "Report," May 30, 1950.

³⁰ These new units were first occupied in October and November, 1951.

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faculty or staff members.³¹ It is of special interest to note that \$32,500 of Union's total debt of \$90,112 in April of 1954, was due to expenditures on faculty housing. These units rent for considerably less than the amount usually charged by private investors for like investments.

A retirement system for teachers was first inaugurated during Dr. Gross' administration in 1938. Under arrangements with the New England Mutual Life Insurance, faculty members and the college each made flat contributions of \$50 annually. In 1945 the Development Committee recommended participation in the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association of America.³² The draft of retirement as adopted, provided for entrance into the plan as suggested. Two years of academic service were required for participation. Under this system, retirement was voted compulsory at the end of the academic year in which the member attained the age of 70.³³ By special vote of the trustees, retirement might be postponed for a period not to exceed one year. As first adopted the faculty member and the college each contributed 5 per cent of the annual salary,³⁴ but later the college raised its contribution to 6 per cent. Five members of the staff and faculty were allowed to continue under the old system, but in 1954, only one faculty member was still participating in it.

In 1950 an amendment to the Federal Old Age and Survivors Insurance Act (Social Security), gave Union's faculty the right to qualify for federal retirement benefits. In January, 1951, the board decided to continue T.I.A.A. while at the same time entering the federal system. Union entered the system in 1951, four months "late." In 1952-53, the annual cost to the college for T.I.A.A. and Social Security benefits amounted to approximately \$7,000.

Although the college has not been able to pay for sabbatical leaves for faculty members, it does grant leaves of absence for additional graduate study or other approved purposes. In 1953, when a faculty member proposed to make a European tour, the college offered to pay one-fourth of this member's expenses.

The salaries paid at Union in 1954, when compared even to the lush year of 1929, appeared stupendous. In 25 years the salaries of full professors had doubled. In February, 1950 a salary scale based upon rank was adopted with a range of about \$700 within each rank.³⁵

³¹ These are 411, 420, College; 205, 402, 412, 416, Manchester; 310, 416, 418, 420, 422 N. Main; and two residences on the campus. During 1952-53, approximately \$38,000 was secured in gifts to help pay for this housing.

³² "Report" of Development Committee, Board of Trustees, Minutes, June, 1945.

³³ In 1936 the Board of Trustees set the age limit of retiring teachers at 70.

³⁴ Draft of Retirement, Board of Trustees, Minutes, June 4, 1945.

³⁵ Board of Trustees, Minutes, February, 1950.

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In four years the established maximum became approximately the minimum and the base salary of a Ph.D. with rank of professor was set at \$4,000. According to a faculty scale worked out under Dr. Gross' administration in 1936, an associate professor must have completed two years of graduate work and a full professor must hold a doctorate. These qualifications for rank have been generally followed except when the member is a department or division head.

Speaking of salaries at Union, President Boatman said: "I venture the judgment that Union College exceeds any college in America with comparable endowment and student fees income in expenditures on faculty salaries and benefits."³⁶ At the same time it is admitted by everyone that Union's salaries are still much below the scales found not only in many colleges and universities, but also public schools. If it is true that salaries have doubled in the past 20 years, it is also true that living costs have doubled; actually, in purchasing power there has been little change in this respect.

At a faculty meeting held December 2, 1946, permanent tenure was announced for faculty completing a three-year period of service. At a later meeting the Dean of the college explained that a "continuous contract" meant that a teacher's election was automatic after three years, but a contract was signed as a "pledge of good faith."³⁷ However, tenure at Union College is not to be interpreted as meaning that a teacher whose services are considered unsatisfactory must be retained year after year. In 1938 the average period of service of Union's faculty was 4.5 years. In 1953-54 the average had risen to 4.8 years. In summing up the major problems connected with short faculty tenure, President Boatman said: ". . . living conditions of this rural area, I have over the years found to be a far greater hindrance to getting and holding superior faculty than is our comparatively low salary scale. Together they present a formidable obstacle which constitutes Union College's biggest problem."³⁸

When the Committee on Faculty Welfare made its report in 1950, it recommended or approved most of the measures later achieved in 1954. It asked for additional faculty housing, continuance of T.I.A.A., retirement optional at the age of 65, closer observance of Southern Associations standards in regard to percentage of faculty rating at different levels and no "apparent discrimination" as to rank at social functions.³⁹

³⁶ President's "Report," May 25, 1953.

³⁷ Faculty Minutes, January 13, 1947.

³⁸ "Report" of President, May 31, 1954.

³⁹ "Report" of Committee on Faculty Welfare, Faculty Minutes, Feb. 20, 1950.

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In making this survey of service rendered by the college to the students, the community, the state, and the faculty, through the media listed, no mention has been made of the extra-curricular organizations which functioned on the campus in the period 1938-1954, and which promoted the physical, social, and spiritual well being of the student body. At no time in the history of Union have these adjuncts to learning, so essential to a well balanced college life, played such an important part.

The coming of the war soon had its adverse effects on Union's intercollegiate athletic program. On the eve of the conflict, Union's football mentor, Coach Bacon, had gained wide recognition for his outstanding work at the college. Bacon's success was no accident—he had prepared himself with study under such famous coaches as Knute Rockne, Frank Leahy, Bernie Bierman and "Pop" Warner. In 1939, he missed by one vote, the nomination for Kentucky's outstanding coach, and the following year, he was awarded the coveted honor.⁴⁰ In 1941 Coach Bacon won the Berea Cup Award for doing the best basketball coaching job in the KIAC with his material. Six weeks after Pearl Harbor, the faculty voted unanimously for discontinuing intercollegiate football for the duration of the war.⁴¹

In the spring of 1945, with victory in sight in Europe, the faculty took up the problem of a post-war athletic program, and passed a resolution that the future program of Union College "emphasize health, track, well directed intra-murals for all students, and that the college eliminate intercollegiate football but concentrate on intercollegiate basketball to the extent that the college may become distinguished for success in some particular popular sport."⁴²

Unfortunately in the post-war years, success in any popular sport such as basketball usually can be measured in direct ratio to the amount of subsidies expended on players. In effect, the resolution meant that Union must be prepared to subsidize, not lightly, but heavily, an intercollegiate basketball team in order for the school to become distinguished in that sport. In 6 years of KIAC competition, 1947-1953, Union had three successful seasons, and in 1948-1949 broke even. Four years of competition (1949-1953), in the Smoky Mountain League, proved more successful; Union having a winning team each year, and winning a total of 28 games while losing 12. In 1950 Union captured the Smoky Mountain Tournament.

⁴⁰ *Orange and Black*, March 11, 1942.

⁴¹ Faculty Minutes, Jan. 19, 1942; President's "Report," June, 1942.

⁴² President's "Report," June 4, 1945. This resolution was passed also by the Board of Trustees.

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The resolution on post-war athletics contained a clause asking for Union to pioneer in developing track. This, Union's administration determined to accomplish, and on May 16, 1948, the college inaugurated its new \$28,000 track by winning a tri-college meet against Berea and Georgetown. Because Union possessed the finest track in South-eastern Kentucky, the school became a focal point for participation in this sport. The Swim brothers, Cliff and Gerald have proved to be Union's two outstanding field and track athletes to date. The former holds Union's record in the low hurdles, broad jump, 220 yard dash, and 100 yard dash while the latter holds Union's record in the pole vault, high jump, and the high hurdles. Cliff Swim, as Union's outstanding athlete (baseball, basketball, and track), was honored by having his number 22, retired at Union College in May, 1952.

In 1950 Union withdrew from the old SIAC conference because it was the only member also participating in the Smoky Mountain Conference. In addition, Union played only three SIAC schools and did not have a football team for conference participation.⁴³ This same year Union, under Coach Bill Bolyard, achieved probably its most successful all around sports year in its history. The track team was undefeated in the KIAC, and the baseball team tied for first place. In basketball, Union took first place in the KIAC conference play and captured the Smoky Mountain tournament.

Besides athletics, Union's old extra-curricular student clubs continued to play their part in the student life at Union. During part of Dr. Gross' administration, student participation in some extra-curricular activity was made compulsory. This plan of giving one semester hour credit for such participation was followed for 4 years with slight modifications. Some clubs had 75 members, but very few took active part.⁴⁴ Although the compulsory features were dropped in 1938, at least 20 clubs sprang into existence during the period, 1938-1954. Some of these were offshoots of older organizations with changed titles; for instance, the French club became the Le Cercle Français; and the old Spanish club now dead, resurrected as La Tertulia; and the History Club emerged as the International Relations Club.

Some of the clubs which passed out of existence after 1938 or were merged with others were the Y.M.C.A., the Y.W.C.A., Education club, Public Speaking club, Vocational club, Guidance club, Science club, Sociology club, Home Economics club, Secretarial Science club, and the Quill Club. Some of the new student organizations which have

⁴³ "Report," of Athletic Committee, May 14, 1951.

⁴⁴ "Report" of Extra-curricular Activities Committee, 1942, copy attached to Faculty minutes.

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come on Union's campus since 1938, are Beta Chi Alpha, Oxford Club Auxiliary, Union College Christian Association, and Women's Athletic Association.

In 1940-1941, the Committee on Extra-curricular Activities made an interesting study of clubs and social life at Union. The committee report showed that almost half of Union's students did not belong to any organization although the "average student" belonged to from 2 to 3 organizations. Amusing was the discovery that one-third of the students thought that Union's 15 student clubs and organizations were too few. For improvement of social life on Union's campus, the students suggested: (1) Dancing on the campus; (2) Increased student participation in planning student social activities; (3) Reduced faculty class assignments for classes on days following social functions; (4) Establishment of a date bureau; (5) Recreation center on the campus; (6) More hikes and picnics; (7) Saturday entertainments.⁴⁵

An interesting account of life at Union over most of the period, both as a student and faculty member, has been recorded by Phillip Peters:

My father was pastor at the Barbourville Methodist Church while I was in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades at the city school. I remember what fun it was to go to the old Chatauqua programs that the college sponsored each year. To this day I can remember the intense excitement that I felt on those occasions—the name of a play that particularly appealed to my childish mind ("Old Crusty Hits the Air") still stays with me.

In my freshman days I was lucky to be "dormitoried" in a two-story frame house on the campus with about a dozen other boys who made me feel very much at home. The "house-father" was Prof. Virgil Smith, head of the Union's fine-arts dept. at the time; I was his student secretary for the four years of my college life, and I owe much of my music education to his fine direction. I might say that the house I mentioned above has since been moved from its original site and is now the residence of another Smith—Dean H. B. Smith.

In my sophomore year, Dr. Conway Boatman became the ninth (I think that's right) president of Union. I remember so well his inauguration. There were official representatives from quite a number of colleges and universities—to bring good wishes from their respective institutions; they wore academic regalia, and I recall one dignified old lady who wore the usual robe with a most unusual hat—it was her own street hat. I learned later that she had refused to don the mortar-board that was prepared for her, because she feared that it might harbor vermin from some previous wearer. I was singing in the a cappella choir at the inauguration, and as we sat (behind the dignitaries) on the rather small platform of the old auditorium, I had a quite intimate view of the entire affair. It seemed so solemn and important an occasion to me then.

⁴⁵ "Report" of Extra-curricular Activity Committee, 1942.

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In my junior year, the editorship of the *Orange and Black* fell to me. At first I was quite flattered at the honor, but later I found that underneath the glory lay an enormous amount of hard work. We published only once a month, but for about one week of each month the small staff went through a never-to-be forgotten horror. We had no office then, and frustrations were legion. I must say, however, that when the paper finally came out, we felt some pride in getting a hard job done.

My junior and senior years at Union were made possible by a very generous loan from Mrs. Annie Pfeiffer, Union's late fairy god-mother. Mrs. Pfeiffer charged me no interest on the loan, asked for no security or note, and allowed me to repay the loan at my convenience.

In my senior year, I edited the school yearbook—*The Stespean*. Our advisor, Prof. Donald Stewart, who later got his Ph.D. in history and is now on the faculty at Drake University, was a hard worker and full of good humor, although he did now and then assure us solemnly that, if we didn't raise enough money to pay for the publication of the yearbook, the college would take it out of his paycheck. I didn't know until several years later that we actually did go "in the red" that year, but of course, the college didn't hold Professor Stewart financially responsible. Incidentally, that (1941) was the last yearbook Union had until 1945.

Another noteworthy event of that year was the opening of the new Abigail E. Weeks Memorial Library. After the small, crowded quarters of rooms 104, 106, 107 in the old administration building, the new library seemed like a palace. Along with perhaps twenty other students, I helped carry books from the old library to the new. I fully appreciated for the first time how many books Union College owned.

Teaching at Union did prove to be a wonderful experience for me. In my ten years on the faculty, I think I served on every committee (except the committee on athletics) at least once, my particular favorite was the chapel-programs committee. Although it involved much hard work, and the possibility of cancelled programs was ever hanging over my head, I really enjoyed this opportunity to be creative. The students were always so responsive to good programs (and so critical of poor ones) that it was a real challenge to find new and interesting material.

One particular responsibility got attached to me early at Union—for eight of my ten years, I was marshal of the academic procession at commencement time. The pageantry of that occasion never failed to thrill me, although the close planning (to make everything click) began to worry me in the later years.

Although I have many poignant memories of Union, the most recent one is that of the commencement day in May, 1953. Near the end of the program, we stood to sing the *Alma Mater*. I began singing lustily, and then it suddenly dawned on me that this would be the last time I would sing that song as an official member of the Union family. I must confess that a lump of tremendous size came in my throat, and it just wouldn't go away. I did manage to join in the last chorus.⁴⁶

During the school years, 1938-1954, many interesting features appeared on Union's campus and even a catalog of them would fill

⁴⁶ Phillip I. Peters to writer, March 7, 1954.

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many pages. In 1945 the student annual, the *Stespean*, appeared again after an omission of three years. Under the leadership of Dr. Karl Bleyl, in May, 1948, Union participated in the first Daniel Boone Festival. The next spring the college International Relations Club was host to the Ohio Valley Conference, composing more than 60 colleges and universities. Approximately 200 delegates attended the conference which was under the direction of Clyde Pearson, Union's I.R.C. president. In March, 1953, Union enjoyed the greatest musical treat of its history when the Louisville Symphony orchestra presented a program in the Conway Boatman Chapel. For a period of 10 years Union College students enjoyed the superb piano numbers presented by the duo team of Miss Katherine V. D. Sutphen and Professor Phillip Peters.

Miss Sutphen retired in 1954 with the second longest period of service in Union's history, only one less year than that given by Miss Weeks. After graduation from the New England Conservatory of Music, Miss Sutphen came to Union in 1905 with the beginning of the Easley régime. Speaking of these days at Union nearly a half-century ago, when he was a young professor, Dr. James E. Dunning wrote: "I wonder if Miss Sutphen will recall how a group of the faculty used to gather in one of those rooms in the evenings to sing. I still have a copy of *Der Erlkoenig* which Miss Sutphen made for me in pen and ink. I marvelled at the dexterity with which she played the accompaniment (64/th triplets as I recall), and I learned that and many songs with her accompaniment."⁴⁷

Besides her services at Union, Miss Sutphen taught at the School of Fine Arts, Marshalltown, Iowa; Allentown College for Women, Pennsylvania; Agnes Scott College for Women, Decatur, Georgia, and at Alabama College. In addition she served as Field Secretary of the Rockport Art Colony and as director of the Baker Church Choir at Baker University. She supplemented her musical education with study in organ under Dr. J. Laurence Erb, and did additional work at the University of Washington and Nebraska.

Miss Sutphen had continuous service at Union after 1932. Union's commencement in 1930 was named in her honor and the class of 1953 planted a tree for her on Union's campus as a memorial. Miss Sutphen entertained the students and faculty for the last time (May, 1954) at the President's reception for seniors with Paderewski's, "Menuet a l'Antique."

⁴⁷ Dr. James Edwin Dunning to writer, March 26, 1954. Dr. Dunning was a classmate of Miss Weeks at Dickinson College. At this writing, Dr. Dunning is Field Secretary of the Southern California-Arizona Annual Conference of the Methodist Church.

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One phase of student life for the period, 1938-1954, remains to be discussed—that of religious life at Union. Although the college, since the days of Dr. Stevenson has suffered hardships, temporary retractions, and wounds almost until death, her administrators never lost sight of Union's prime goals. Concerning Union's place as a Christian institution, Dr. Boatman said:

. . . if "Christian" in Christian Education does not become effective in the lives of Youth we have failed dismally. As trustees you should understand that as Methodist Colleges go, Union College is different, and that difference consists in the sincere, persistent effort, organized and individual, on this campus to exalt Christ in student thinking as essential to happiness and success. The Christian religion is a matter of both personal experience and way of life. Rarely is found a college that is so active and energetic as Union in efforts to integrate mental and spiritual growth. The insistent emphasis here is that desirable character can not be developed apart from conscious experience of Christ. The service motive is introduced as the guide to useful living. No individual or institute can boast of Christian attainment for there always remains such to be desired. Nevertheless, there is much to encourage us in the religious life of our student body. Religion is a sincere, natural subject of informal conversation all about the campus.⁴⁸

The leading student Christian organization on the campus, the Union College Christian Association was formed in September, 1939, by combining the old YMCA and YWCA organizations. The movement came about because of a student vote on the matter.⁴⁹ Article II of its constitution sets up three objectives: (1) To enable its members to live a richer life through a growing knowledge of God and a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ his son; (2) To sponsor good will projects throughout the year; (3) To cooperate with other campus organizations in order to promote fellowship and social activities.

All members of the Oxford Club—those anticipating entrance into the ministry, and the Oxford Club Auxiliary, participate in the work of the UCCA. Under the sponsorship of Dr. Horace Weaver, the UCCA has grown into Union's largest and most popular campus organization. It has already become a tradition for the Oxford Club and Oxford Club Auxiliary to join together, twice a year, for a "retreat" at Cumberland Falls. Besides the clubs mentioned, other factors contribute to the spiritual life of Union's students. They are "challenged and inspired" by the Wednesday chapel services, the local church services, class work, Religious Emphasis Week, and the counseling furnished by Union's Director of Religious Education.

⁴⁸ President's "Report," May 30, 1950.

⁴⁹ *Orange and Black*, Oct. 1, 1939.

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Union's Department of Religion seeks "to encourage students to see the relevance of religion for their lives; also to see that Religion and science do not conflict, but supplement each other in their own peculiar ways. We also try to show that religion is a normal human need, and has a proper place in the academic, recreational, social, economic, and aesthetic life of the student. Religion is seen as a part of life—not something divorced from life. Class-room instruction attempts to show the intellectual integrity of religious persons, and to challenge the student to appropriate the truths being discussed."⁵⁰

As a means of improving spiritual life at Union, Dr. Weaver proposed increased faculty participation in religious activities, the hiring of a part time Director of Religious Life, and a sense of the "community" (no cliques), among the faculty.⁵¹ Dr. Boatman felt that some deficiencies in student religious life could be overcome by eliminating the wrangling between "liberal and conservative" groups, by overcoming passive religious attitudes, and finally by encouraging increased student religious leadership.⁵² In spite of these acknowledged deficiencies, visitations to Union's campus by men who are in a position to pass judgment, have repeatedly led to favorable comments on the fine religious atmosphere at Union. The following extract is only one of many recorded in Union's archives. "Your school is doing an outstanding job of Christian education and I look forward to these occasions which draw me to your campus."⁵³

After having studied this brief survey of Union's services carried through the restless years of mid-twentieth century, one finds, upon arriving at the year, 1954, excellent reasons for pausing to look back over the time space that separates 1954 from 1879—a period of service extending across three quarters of a century. And after a student of the history of Union College has learned the story of Union's rise, vicissitudes, and many narrow escapes from destruction, he may well be willing to think of Union's history as the "Miracle of Union College." So it came about that Union's friends sought in 1954 to celebrate this "miracle" of Union's existence, growth and completion of seventy-five years of service, with a mammoth celebration.

Perhaps the first mention of a jubilee celebration was made by President Boatman himself in his annual message to the trustees. "In five years," wrote Dr. Boatman, "we should celebrate the 75th anniversary, the Diamond Jubilee. It is both fitting and imperative that this college set up and achieve unprecedented goals worthy of the present

⁵⁰ Dr. Horace Weaver to writer, March 2, 1954.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² President's "Report," June 2, 1941; May 31, 1948.

⁵³ William Canson of the Candler School of Theology, to Conway Boatman, April, 1947.

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crisis and demands, and come to the 75th anniversary with the celebration of achievements worthy of a great jubilee." ⁵⁴ Three years later the Board of Trustees authorized the establishment of a Jubilee Steering Committee composed of faculty, trustees and alumni.

When the Jubilee Steering Committee met for the first time on March 17, 1953, a tentative list of general objectives, implementation, and personnel was adopted; and the permanent officers, Buford Clark, president, and Milton Townsend, secretary, were elected. "Looking Backward and Thinking Forward" was chosen as the guiding principle, and the enlisting of thousands of people to work for the welfare of Union College was selected as the general goal. The proposed implementation consisted of a six-day series of gala celebrations, each named for the group or event being honored. In addition, two special works were authorized to be written in connection with the celebration—a historical pageant, and a history of the College.⁵⁵ The latter task was assigned to the Professor of History at Union College.

At the second sitting of the Steering Committee in September, 1953, six sub-committees were appointed to plan and carry out programs for each of the six days. Bishop Fred P. Corson, President of the Board of Education of the Methodist Church was announced as Commencement speaker for 1954, and Bishop Watkins was named to deliver the Baccalaureate address. Mrs. Tom Easterly, formerly of Union's division of Fine Arts, was approved for the directorship of the Diamond Jubilee Pageant. As an added feature, the publication of a special commemorative 75th anniversary brochure was unanimously approved. Final jubilee plans were completed at a third meeting of the Steering Committee on February 19, 1954.

In March, 1954, the most beautiful brochure in Union's history appeared. Entitled, "Looking Forward," this pamphlet, principally the work of President Boatman, summarized Union's past, her growth, and her planned 25 year objectives with a projection of a quarter of a century into the future. In addition, the well illustrated pamphlet contained special articles on Union's trustees, Fanny Speed and Anna M. Pfeiffer, the academic program, and Christian influence at Union.

Union's grand series of festivals ran almost a week, beginning Thursday, May 27, through Tuesday, June 1. The divisional daily celebrations were named Barbourville, Faculty and Student, Alumni, Louisville and Kentucky Conferences, Trustees, and Annual Commencement days.

⁵⁴ President's "Report," May 30, 1949.

⁵⁵ As early as 1952, J. William Harris, '01, in a letter to Union's director of Public Relations, suggested the necessity for a history of Union.

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The most picturesque event of a week packed with the unusual was the historical pageant presented outdoors in front of the Conway Boatman Chapel. This unique production, "Towers of Strength," had for its theme, Union's primary objective, Christian education. Each of the eight epochs into which Union's history was divided portrayed several poignant highlights of Union's history. At the end of the grand finale, Union's friends swung into the final chorus of Union's alma mater, lifting their eyes to witness the floodlights playing upon the stately spire high above the college sanctuary—the symbol of Union's mission, *pro deo et homine*.

As the curtain fell upon Union's first three quarters of a century of service, the college turned to face the future. Union had finished looking backward in honor of its past and was thinking only forward.

I find thee, Union College, still,
Enduring as the sun;
And just as fair as in those days
When dreams had just begun;
A fortress strong, our citadel,
Among your stately elms;
Your grandeur through the passing years
Our memory o'erwhelms.
You've proven to be our beacon light
Through a thousand yesterdays
And through the morrows we'll give
To thee our solemn praise.**

** By Martha Teague, *Orange and Black*, May 25, 1949.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

THE AUTHOR wishes to acknowledge his indebtedness to the following persons who were either interviewed or contributed by mail.

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Mrs. Annie Albright, April 6, 1953.
Dr. Conway Boatman, May 3, 1954.
Gertrude Black, July 7, 1954.
Pitzer Black, July 7, 1954.
Andrew M. Decker, III, March 17, 1954.
Mrs. Hattie Edwards, April 15, 1953.
Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Faulkner, March 11, 1954.
Thomas Fuller, March 19, 1954.
Mrs. Myrtle Minton, April 20, 1953.
The Honorable Flem D. Sampson, March 20, 1953.
Miss Katherine V. Sutphen, April 23, 1953, March 3, 1954.
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Dr. James E. Dunning, Los Angeles, California, March 26, 1954.
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Dr. Ezra T. Franklin, Fort Wayne, Ind., March 3, 1954; April 27,
1954.
Grace R. Franklin, Fort Wayne, Indiana, November 13, 1953.
John P. Grider, Ravenna, Ohio, February 2, 1954.
Blanche Griffing, Perryville, Kentucky, July 14, 1953; August 25, 1953.
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E. R. Overley, Union, South Carolina, March 15, 1954.

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Percy L. Ports, Arlington, Virginia, February 26, 1954; March 29, 1954.

Della J. Rankin, San Diego, California, July 12, 1953; September 19, 1953.

Catherine Faulkner Singer, Beech Grove, Indiana, March 11, 1954.

Mrs. Ida Tribble, College Hill, Kentucky, November 4, 1953.

Dr. Oscar Wesley, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, December 9, 1953.

Dr. George H. Wilson, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 3, 1953.

APPENDIX

I

THE ORIGINAL ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF UNION COLLEGE, OCTOBER 18, 1879

"This certificate of Incorporation made and entered into this 18th day of October 1879, in pursuance of the provisions contained in chapter 56 of the general statutes of Kentucky, defining the right, duties and privileges of Incorporated Companies.

* * * * *

All being citizens of the United States and being desirous of forming a corporation for the purpose of founding, establishing and carrying on an Institution of Learning at Barbourville, Knox County, Kentucky, to be known as Union College of Barbourville, do make this certificate of Incorporation in writing and state and certify the following particulars, viz:

1st. The corporate name of the company hereby organized, shall be Union College Corporation, and its principal place of business shall be at the town of Barbourville, Knox County, Kentucky.

2nd. The object of the formation of said corporation shall be to found, establish and carry on said Union College of Barbourville, Kentucky.

3rd. The amount of capital stock of said corporation shall be, (nominally) Twenty thousand Dollars divided into shares of twenty dollars each.

4th. The term of existence of said corporation shall be twenty-five years from the filing of this instrument in the proper office for record.

5th. The affairs of the Corporation shall be conducted by a Board of Directors composed of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Attorney, and two other members of the company.

6th. The names of the officers who shall service the first year are A. H. Harritt, President, W. W. Sawyers, Vice President, James D. Black, Secretary, Green Elliott, Treasurer, and John Dishman, Attorney, and Peter Hinkle and W. B. Anderson.

7th. Annually after the first year the officers shall be elected by the stock holders representing the paid up shares.

APPENDIX

8th. The stock subscribed shall be paid up in such amounts as shall be ordered by the Board of Directors.

9th. The indebtedness of the Corporation shall at no time exceed two thirds of the amount of capital stock subscribed.

10th. The private and individual property of the members of the Incorporation, officers and stock holders shall not be liable for the payment of the debts of the Corporation."

II

LEADING STOCKHOLDERS OF THE UNION COLLEGE CORPORATION

NAME	NO. OF SHARES	DATE OF PURCHASE
1. W. W. Sawyers	16	May 5, September 21, September 24, 1880.
2. James H. Tinsley	13	January 23, 1881, February 16, 1882.
3. James T. Gibson	12	January 28, 1881.
4. John A. Black	12	January 26, 1886.
5. Green Elliott	6	January 5, October 21, 1880.
6. Mrs. Josephine Harritt	4	May 5, 1880, February 2, 1881.
7. William Lock	4	January 4, 1881.
8. A. H. Harritt	4	February 2, 1881.
9. Peter Hinkle	4	February 16, 1882.
10. Ellen C. Lyttle	4	January 24, 1881.
11. Eupemia Pogue	2	January 4, 1881.
12. John D. Jarvis	2	January 4, 1881.
13. A. E. Pogue	2	January 28, 1881.
14. J. N. Baughman	2	February 27, 1884.
15. Mrs. M. S. Costellow	2	February 27, 1884.

III

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNION COLLEGE IN THE LONDON *ECHO*, DECEMBER 12, 1879

A company with a capital stock of \$70,000 has been duly organized to establish the above named institution. This enterprise is designed to fill a long felt want in Eastern Kentucky, East Tennessee and Western Virginia. Steps have been taken looking to the erection of suitable college buildings which will be completed at an early date.

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Under the title, "Union College," it is designed to combine three departments, classical, business and normal. The institution will not be under partisan or sectarian control. It will be open to all denominations and to both sexes.

It is intended to begin a semi-annual session about January 5, 1880. The rates of tuition and the names of the faculty will be announced in due course of time.

IV

ADDRESS BY DR. DANIEL STEVENSON IN CONFERRING DEGREES UPON THE FIRST GRADUATING CLASS, JUNE 8, 1893. TRANSLATION FROM THE LATIN

BY JAMES P. FAULKNER, 1936.

It is now my privilege, honored seniors, to address you briefly. Faithful students, you have been with us more than four years. The road through which you have come to this hour has been tortuous and difficult, and there have been times when without doubt you have been discouraged and nearly ready to give up, for the way of the learner is not always lined with roses; it is often beset with thorns. However, after much labor and great effort you have finished the course prescribed by this college for those who, as time goes on, may wish to receive its honors.

I congratulate you that you have been thought worthy to receive the reward of all your labors, and, now, giving you your diplomas, I wish for you prosperity in all your future and pray that, in your entire journey through life, you may honor the name of your Alma Mater. You are her first grown sons, and it will be incumbent upon you to act as examples for all her younger children.

Sending you from our halls, let me give you our most heart felt blessings. May you strive so to live that no preparations will have to be made by you, when you come to the end of this life but you will be able to die in peace, sustained by the hope of eternal life.

I give to you now these evidences of your faithfulness and learning: James Perry Faulkner, accept this diploma. John Elbert Thomas, accept this diploma.

APPENDIX

V

UNION COLLEGE FACULTY UNDER THE HARRITT,
POYNTER, AND GRIDER ADMINISTRATIONS, 1879-1886

- Bland, Edwin O., A.M.; Latin and English, 1879-1881.
 Chapman, Miss Jessie, Music, 1879-1880.
 Clagett, J. H., (?), 1884-1885.
 Clagett, Miss Annie, Art, 1884-1885.
 Clagett, Mrs. J. H., Assistant, Music, 1884-1885.
 Decker, A. M., Jr., Primary assistant, 1880-1881.
 Douglas, Mollie, Music, 1881.
 Frasey, Mr., Music, spring, 1882.
 Greathouse, Mr., (?), 1882.
 Griffing, Sarah Poynter, Primary principal, 1882-1884.
 Goetz, Francis, Diploma, Berlin Conservatory, Music, 1885-1886.
 Goetz, Mrs., Music, 1885-1886.
 Gordon, Anna, (?), Music, 1882-1884.
 Grider, John, Grades, January-June, 1886.
 Grider, Hartford P., A.B., President, Academic subjects, 1884-1886.
 Grider, Mrs. H. P., Grades, 1884-1885.
 Harris, (?), Spring, 1882.
 Harritt, Abraham H., A.M., President, Mathematics, Belle-Lettres,
 1879-1882.
 Harritt, Mrs. A. H., Primary grades, 1880-1882.
 Hultz, Miss Mary, Primary grades, 1882-1883.
 Mayes, Lillian, Music, 1881-1882.
 Northcut, Lula, Music, 1884-1885.
 Poynter, Thomas Clay, A.B., President, academic subjects, 1882-1884.
 Perry, Mr., (?), 1882.

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