The History Of Bacon College
Early Schools Of The RM

• Buffalo Seminary 1818-1823, Alexander Campbell In His Home, Bethany, Virginia

Hours Each Day Spent In Study Only With Light From Above

Second Edition Added For Seminary
Early Schools Of The RM

- 1817 Thomas Campbell Operated A School At Burlington, Kentucky For Two Or Three Years
- Walter Scott Operated A School At Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Philip S. Fall Began Operating A Female College in 1831, Frankfort, Kentucky
  - Called Popular Hill Academy,
  - Also Called Female Eclectic Institute,
  - The Earliest Female Institute In Kentucky
  - Operated For 26 Years By P.S. Fall
  - Walter Scott’s Daughter Emily Educated There
Rittenhouse Academy & Georgetown College

- 1788 Baptist Minister Elijah Craig Started A Classical School In Georgetown, Kentucky
- 1799 Rittenhouse Academy Absorbed The Classical School
- 1819 Barton W. Stone Began Serving As Principle Of The Institution
- 1829 Baptist Leadership Reorganized The College In Part To Prepare Baptists For The Influence Of The Disciples Movement.
• Attended West Point
• Civil Engineering As A Vocation
• 1829 Moves To Georgetown, Kentucky To Become Professor Of Mathematics & Civil Engineering At Georgetown College
  – Roads And Bridges Were A Major Industry At That Time
  – Resulting In Students From All Over The Country Coming To Sit At His Feet
• Befriended Barton W. Stone, Former Principle At Rittenhouse Academy, Became A Christian
• 1831 Johnson Received Much Pressure From Baptist Leadership Concerning His Influences Among The Students – Conversions To Christian Movement – Resulted in Severed Ties With School

• Note: January 1, 1832 – Merger Stone & Campbell Movement

• 1832 During School Break, He Went With B.W. Stone To Jacksonville, Illinois To Consider Opening Another School
  – Upon His Return He Learned That He Had Been Fired From Georgetown
  – Spent The Next 18 Months Out Of A Job

• 1834, April, Made Serious Plans To Move To Illinois To Begin The School He And B.W. Stone Had Earlier Considered

• Georgetown College Was At The Point Of Closing Having Lost The Confidence Of The Community And The Baptists
1834, May – T.F. Johnson Returns To Georgetown
   - Johnson Was Invited Back To Operate The School To His Own Liking
   - He Began With 9 Students, Seven Of Which Were Children Or Wards Of Reformers, By Weeks End There Were 11.
   - The First Year Ended With 25 Students
   - 60 Students The Next Year, With Two Added Professors
   - During This Time This College Was Considered As An Independent College, Most Of The Students Were From The Reformers

1836, June, Two Months Into The Third Year With 104 Students, The Baptist Trustees Sought To Place A Baptist President Into Position, Mr. Farnsworth
   - October, Mr. Farnsworth Reported To Baptist Convention In Louisville That Georgetown Would Soon Produce A Death Blow To Campbellism In Georgetown, Kentucky
A College Is Planned

- Though Assured By Georgetown Of A Job, He Began Making Plans To Start A Different School
  - Later Learned That The Promised Job Was To Be Short-Termed
- Initial Contact With P.S. Fall To Move His Female College From Frankfort To Georgetown Fails
- Communicates With Leadership In RM About A School Of Their Own Wanting B.W. Stone To Be President
- Purchased Brick Building On Clinton Street, Georgetown For College, November 5, 1836
Bacon College Begins

- The First Trustees Of Bacon Was An Impressive List
  - Walter Scott Lends His Support At The Encouragement Of Alexander Campbell, Agrees To Become Its First President
    - Delivered Inaugural Address
    - But Never Served Other Than Through Helping Raise Money
    - Stepped Down After A Year
  - John T. Johnson, Vice-President & Secretary
  - Samuel Hatch, Treasurer

- Other Trustees Included: James Challen, P.S. Fall, and John Bowman, and Other Lesser Known Early Church Leaders
The Christian
1837
John T. Johnson & Walter Scott And
John T. Johnson
Publish Nine Issues Of A Journal From Georgetown, Kentucky

The Christian:
A Monthly Publication, Devoted To
The Union of Protestants
Upon
The Foundation of the Original Gospel
And
The Apostolical Order of the Primitive Church.

By John T. Johnson & Walter Scott.

Neither pray I for these (the Apostles) alone, but for them also who shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one—that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

A kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation.

Vol. I—No. 1.

Georgetown, Ky.
Printed by Stuart & Stark. Main-st.
1837.
Bacon College Begins

- *The Christian* Reported A Highly Qualified Teaching Staff Was Selected
  - Thornton F. Johnson – Professor Of Mathematics & Civil Engineering
  - Dr. S. Knight – Professor Of Moral & Mental Sciences
  - S.G. Mullins – Professor Of Ancient Languages
  - C.R. Prezriminski – Professor Of Modern Languages & Topographical Drawing
  - Tolbert Fanning – Professor Of Natural History, Chemistry, Geology & Mineralogy
  - J. Crenshaw – Teacher In Preparatory Department
Bacon College Begins

- November 11, 1836 Bacon College Opened Its Doors
  - To Not Appear To Be Stealing Students Johnson Waited Until Georgetown College Started Its Classes
  - When School Began Sixty Students Were In Attendance – Up to 130 Within 4 Mos.
  - Classes Begin on the 14th Because Teachers Had Not Yet Arrived
- Called Bacon College After Famous English Philosopher Sir Francis Bacon
Johnson Builds A House On Hamilton Street To House Teaching Staff
The Road Was Difficult For Bacon

- Charter Granted By Kentucky Legislature Feb. 23, 1837, By Vote of 19-13 In Senate And 61-30 In The House
- The Reformers Were Supposed By The Baptists To Be 1/10th The Size Of The Baptist Church In Kentucky
  - Many Failed Attempts Were Made To Block A Charter For The College In The Legislature
  - “The chartering of Bacon College was a singular instance of legislative blindness as it was in direct opposition to the wishes of those most interested, the citizens of Scott County, in which Georgetown is situated.” – Mr. Sands, Editor Of Baptist Journal, The Religious Herald
  - In Vol. 1 No. 6, The Christian, J.T. Johnson Fired Back At Mr. Sands, The Religious Herald, And The Baptists In Ky For Their Attitudes
- The College Ended Its First Year With The Total Of 203 Students, The Christian Vol. 1, No. 8, p.167
Bacon College
The Second Year, 1837

- D.S. Burnet Becomes Second President Of Bacon College, Serving Two Terms
- Alexander Campbell Gives A Hardy Endorsement To The College
- T.F. Johnson Leaves The School To Begin A Female School In Georgetown
  - Female Collegiate Institute
  - 1837-1850 At Georgetown
  - Later Moved To Millersburg
BACON COLLEGE.

GEORGETOWN, Ky., Sept. 1837.

The Winter Session will commence on the First Monday in November, (being the 4th day of the month) and will continue 21 weeks—Tuition $21 in advance. Boarding can be had in private families at $2 per week, when four students will take a room and supply themselves with Fuel, Candles and the little articles of furniture needed in a bed room. This will make the boarding average them about $2.50 per week. When two take a room and are furnished every thing, boarding will be $3 per week.

FACULTY.

Eld. David S. Burnet, President and Professor of Moral and Intellectual Science, &c.

Eld. W. Hunter, Professor of Rhetoric and Oratory.


Mordecai Yarnell, assistant Professor of Mathematics and Civil Engineering.

S. C. Mullins, Professor Ancient Languages.

T. Vincent, Professor of Modern Languages.

V. V. Baldwin, Principal Teacher in Preparatory Department.
Financial Problems Force A Move For Bacon College

- Because Of Financial Problems The College Is Forced To Relocate In Harrodsburg, KY
  - There Was No Endowment For The School As Of 1839, Only Student Fees, Not Enough
  - No Adequate Building To House The School In Georgetown
  - Trustees Offered To Move Anywhere If Someone Would Offer $50,000 In Scholarships, Or 100 $500 Scholarships
  - Major James Taylor, A Harrodsburg Lawyer, Raised The Necessary Fund Plus $10,000 For A Building
Bacon College Moves
To Harrodsburg, Kentucky

• 1839, Sept. 2, First Session At Harrodsburg
• With The Move
  – D.S. Burnet Resigns
  – Samuel Hatch Becomes Interim President
  – Henry H. White Becomes Head Of Department Of Civil Engineering And Mathematics
Bacon College • Gets A New President

1840, James Shannon Becomes President Serving For Ten Years

– Graduate Of Belfast Academical Institute, Ireland
– Came To Georgia, USA, Teaching At Sunbury Academy, S. Of Savannah
– Minister Of Augusta Baptist Church Four Years
– 1830-1836 Professor Of Languages At University Of Georgia
– 1836-1840 President Of Louisiana College At Jackson, Miss.
– After Bacon, He Served As The Second President Of The University Of Missouri
– Still Later Served As The First President Of Culver-Stockton College, Missouri

1799-1859
Bacon College Gets A New President

- Built 9000 Square Ft. Mansion In Harrodsburg, “Aspen Hall”
- In Inaugural Address Expressed That His Plan Was For A First Rate Educational Institute, Based On A Moral And Religious Foundation, Otherwise “Reasoning Brute”

1799-1859
Bacon College

- 1841 Degree Of Bachelor Of Arts Was First Conferred
- 1841-1850 27 B.A. Degrees Were Conferred
- 1843 Building Completed On A Ten-Acre Tract Of Land
More Financial Problems

- **1843 Financial Difficulties Continued As Average Of 100 Students In Student Body,**
  - Less Than At Georgetown Perhaps Because Bethany Had Started In 1841

- **1845 Board Meeting At Harrodsburg, Accusations**
  - If School Sought To Promote Moral & Religious Education Rather Than Liberal Arts There Would Have Been More Support From Brethren
  - Shannon Defends The College’s Performance
  - Shannon Resigns Due To Financial Troubles
  - Harrodsburg Church Offered Financial Backing
  - Shannon Stay Five More Years
Bacon College While At Harrodsburg, Kentucky

I am happy to inform you, that during the year that has just closed, 113 students, from nine States of the Union, were received into the College. As usual, the general good order and proficiency of the students were worthy of all praise.

As ever your friend and brother,

JAMES SHANNON.

- 1847 Shannon Reports In The Millennial Harbinger That Bacon Had 113 Students The 1846 Year. MH Vol. IV No.1, January Page 30
- 1850, June 14, College Closes Due To Financial Trouble
  - Shannon Becomes 2nd President Of University Of Missouri
Bacon College While Gets A New Name

- 1850-1855 Dr. Samuel Hatch Operated A High School

- 1855, October 22 — A Meeting Was Held To Resurrect Bacon College
  - John B. Bowman: A Trustee & A Bacon College Student Its First Year, & Graduate Called A Meeting At The Harrodsburg Campus
  - Bowman Raises $150,000.00 In 50 Days

- Application Is Made To The Kentucky Legislature For A New Name

- 1858, Feb. 2, Chartered As University Of Kentucky By Trustees
A New Start, But Trouble Still Lies Ahead

- Robert Milligan of Bethany College Was Made President
- Faculty Included
  - John H. Neville, Christian Univ.
  - Robert H. Richardson, Bethany
  - Robert Graham, Arkansas College
- 1859, Sept. 19th, School Begins With 194 Students
- 1860 – The Civil War Begins
  - Student Body Dwindles Rapidly – 174 By 2nd Session, 113-3rd, 62-4th
  - October 8, Battle Of Perryville, Confederates Take Over School
  - Main Building Becomes A Hospital
- 1864, Feb. 16th Harrodsburg Main Building Destroyed By Fire
The University of Kentucky Moves to Lexington

- 1864, A Meeting To Discuss The Future
  - If $100,000 Promised From A Community To Host A University Would Result In The Reception Of The College
- John B. Bowman, Robert Milligan And Henry H. White Selected To Find A Suitable Place For Removal
- 1865, February 28, The State Legislature Approves Of A Merger With Then Defunct Transylvania University In Lexington
  - Transylvania Was The First College West Of The Alleghenies, 1780
The University Of Kentucky In Lexington & College Of The Bible

- Regent Of KU, John B. Bowman
- Old Morrison Held Three Colleges Under Kentucky University Name
  - Arts College – From Harrodsburg
  - College Of Law
  - College Of The Bible
- 1865, October 2, College Of The Bible Begins
- Robert Milligan Was 1st President Of The College Of The Bible
- J.W. McGarvey Accepts A Chair
Bowman’s Vision For Kentucky University

- As Regent, John B. Bowman Wanted To See Kentucky University Grow
- Other Colleges Envisioned
  - A Normal College – Never Materialized
  - A College Of Medicine - 1873
  - An Agricultural And Mechanical College
  - A Commercial College – 1867
- 1869 Problems Began To Arise Between Bowman And McGarvey Over The Future Of The University
  - McGarvey’s Vision Was For More Of A Religious Influence
  - Bowman Leaves Main Street Church Where McGarvey Preached
  - 1873, September 18th, For A Short Time McGarvey Was Forced Out Of The COB, Later Returning June 24, 1875
  - 1877 The College Of The Bible Pulled Away From Kentucky Univ.
  - 1878, January 28th, Bowman Was Removed As Regent
  - 1878, March 13th, Agriculture & Mechanical College Removed & Office Of Regent Was Abolished
McGarvey’s Vision In H.L. Calhoun

- After A Long Career J.W. McGarvey Had Groomed Hall Laurie Calhoun To Be President
  - Calhoun Had Been A Student At The College Of The Bible
  - He Attended And Graduated — B.D. @Yale And Ph.D. @ Harvard
  - Came Back To Teach, Becomes Dean Of College

- 1911, Oct. 6, McGarvey Died
  - Calhoun Becomes Interim President, Only For 3 Months
  - Richard H. Crossfield, Who Had Been KU President, Becomes President Of The College Of The Bible, Feb. 1. 1912
New Teachers With New Theology

• 1912, April 8, Alonzo W. Fortune Came To The College Of The Bible
  - Hiram College Graduate, Close To Ph.D. From University of Chicago
  - Church History And New Testament Theology
  - S.S. Lappin, Christian Standard Wrote Of His Concerns About Fortune Accusing Him Of Being A Member Of “The Campbell Institute”
  - Campbell Institute – Disciple Students At The University of Chicago, Theological Radical Group, Religious Snobs

• 1912, June, William C. Bower Hired To Chair Bible School Of Pedagogy
The War Over False Teaching

• 1917, March 12, Ben J. Battenfield, Older Student Sent Out 300 Copies Of A 1200 Word Letter
  – Claiming Higher Criticism Being Taught By Four Teacher: Bower, Fortune, Crossfield & E.E. Snoddy
  – Signed By Nine Other Students

• Christian Standard Enters The Fray
  – On Editorial Page An Open Letter Stating The For Over One Year He Knew Destructive Criticism Had Been Taught At COB.

• 1917 Hostilities Came To A Head At The College Of The Bible Over Destructive Criticism
  – Trial Took Place Resulting In Calhoun’s Dismissal
  – Turning Point In The Direction Of The COB
Kentucky University Today

• The Colleges On The Campus Of Transylvania College
  – Kept The Name Of Kentucky University Until 1908
  – Name Changed To Transylvania University
  – A Disciples of Christ Liberal Arts College Today

• The Agricultural And Mechanical College Continued Under The Control Of The Commonwealth Of Kentucky.
  – In 1916 The Name Was Changed To The University Of Kentucky

• Kentucky University Today Now Has No Relation To The Restoration Movement
  – 1965, August 1st, College Of The Bible — A New Name Fitting A New Theology Took Place — Lexington Theological Seminary
  – Though Lexington Theological Seminary Is Located On The Campus Of Kentucky University It Has No Connection With It

• Transylvania University And Lexington Theological Seminary Are Still Colleges Operated By The Disciples Of Christ