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GIDDINGS · HALL

# GEORGETOWN COLLEGE





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# Georgetown College

• A HISTORY •

BY

JAMES MORELAND



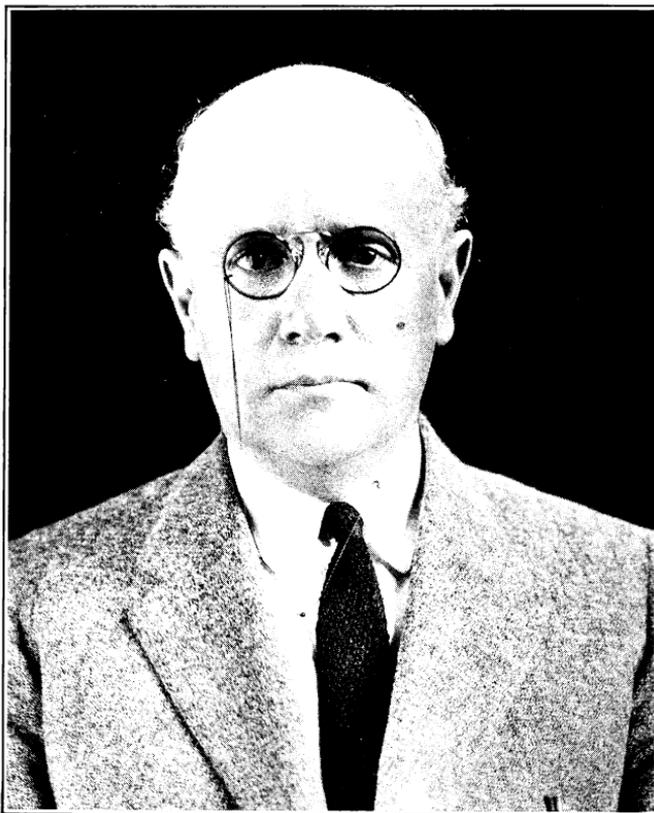
PRESENTED

with the compliments of the



in the interests of the

GEORGETOWN COLLEGE ENDOWMENT FUND



MALDON BROWNING ADAMS, D. D., LL. D.  
President Georgetown College  
Georgetown, Kentucky

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# • Georgetown College •

A HISTORY

By JAMES MORELAND

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## Established by Pioneer

**A**N educational institution rooted in the soil of Kentucky at the very beginning of the settlement of that State was destined to develop through an unbroken line into the present Georgetown College. In November, 1775, John McClelland and a few pioneers floated down the Ohio River from Pittsburgh and settled on the present site of Georgetown. Attracted by the water of the "Royal Spring," as had been these pioneers, others came to take up their abode in the beautiful wilderness, and thus one of the earliest permanent settlements of the State was effected.

Thirteen years after McClelland and his party first looked on the site of their future home, Elijah Craig established his Classical School and opened the doors for men desiring to secure an education. This school was the forerunner of Georgetown College. It was maintained until 1798, when it was absorbed by Rittenhouse Academy. This latter institution was chartered by the Legislature of Kentucky on December 22 of that year, and was endowed with 6,000 acres of the public lands of the State.

### Chartered by Legislature in 1829

A BUILDING was erected by the Rittenhouse trustees, and the institution continued in its educational endeavors until well into the next century. On January 15, 1829, the Kentucky Legislature chartered "The Trustees of the Kentucky Baptist Education Society," the corporate name of Georgetown College, and the trustees of Rittenhouse Academy transferred all the property of the Academy, real and personal, to the trustees of the new institution.

On September 2, 1829, the trustees of the College elected William Staughton, D. D., a resident of Washington, D. C., president of the College. While preparing to come to Georgetown to assume his duties as head of the institution, Dr. Staughton died suddenly on December 12, 1829.

In the meantime the trustees had ordered that the doors of the new college be opened for instruction, and on January 11, 1830, the first session was formally inaugurated with Thornton F. Johnson of Virginia as acting chairman of the faculty. Mr. Johnson was the first faculty member elected by the board of trustees of the College. The first session closed on June 11, 1830, and was followed, on July 26, with the opening of the second term. In the meantime Dr. Joel S. Bacon of Newton Center, Mass., had been elected president of the College, and he made his first address at the beginning of the second session. This session was opened at the Methodist Church in Georgetown, due to the lack of room on college property.

### Four Years Without President

PRESIDENT BACON resigned as head of the institution in 1832, and from this time until 1836 the institution was without a president. In the latter year Rev. B. S. Farnsworth was elected as third president, and assumed his duties. He resigned the same year, however, due to his inability to secure concord among the trustees, and again the educational guidance of the College devolved on the chairman of the faculty, until October, 1838, when Rev. Rockwood Giddings became president.

The term of President Giddings was limited to only one year, due to premature death, but during his administration he demonstrated that the College had a future, and with the proper management could be made a great institution. During his term of office the first permanent building of the College was erected on the campus. This structure, known as Recitation Hall for years, but later renamed, in honor of its builder, Giddings Hall, is at present the central building on the campus, and the architectural type to which all other buildings are to conform.

### First Permanent Building

THE building, a large two-story brick, beautiful in the coloring of its walls, stands, a stately pioneer, in the center of the group of educational buildings of Georgetown College. Its prominent feature is the six Ionic columns of hand-made brick, solid to the core and strong as Gibraltar, that would mark it as Kentucky-designed were it on the plains of Timbuctoo. At present this building is used exclusively for instruction purposes, but is

eventually to be converted into the College library and made the center of the new architectural plan of this seat of learning. It is claimed by men of the building profession that the columns of this building are the only ones of their kind in the world. The bricks for this structure were burned on the campus, and the bulk of the work of erection was carried out by students and faculty members.

President Giddings did not assume any teaching duties, but gave his time to the raising of funds for the needs of the institution, and in securing harmony among the trustees. During his short term of office he erected the main building mentioned above, and secured pledges for \$100,000 as an endowment fund for the College. The bulk of this was never collected, however, due to a financial crisis which swept the country and made impossible the payment of most of the pledges.



PAWLING HALL

On October 29, 1839, President Giddings died. He was succeeded early in 1840 by Dr. Howard Malcolm, who served for ten years. It was during Dr. Malcolm's administration that many of the plans of Dr. Giddings and his predecessors were realized. A boys' dormitory was built,

and named after Issachar Pawling, whose donation of \$20,000 to the College represented the first large gift to the institution. This building brought the total up to three structures on the campus, which were destined to care for the College until late in the century.

### **President Resigns Because of Politics**

**I**N 1849, President Malcolm resigned from the College, being impelled largely by political conditions around him which did not have his sympathy. It was in the period of the anti-slavery agitation. He was succeeded by Dr. J. L. Reynolds of South Carolina, who served until 1851, when he, too, resigned to give way to Dr. Duncan R. Campbell, who took up the duties of his office in 1853.

### **Changes Made in Charter**

**D**URING the administration of President Reynolds there were certain changes made in the charter of the College which had far-reaching effects, and which have played a large part in the development of the institution. By legislative act of November, 1851, it was "enacted that each individual who since January 1, 1840, has donated to the Kentucky Baptist Education Society, \$100, or shall do so in the future, shall be and are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, to be known and designated by the name and style of Kentucky Baptist Education Society, and by that name shall have perpetual succession, and a common seal, with power to change and alter said seal at pleasure."

These changes further provided that this Society should hold annual meetings during commencement week, that 25 members of the society should constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and that this organization should have the sole power to appoint the trustees of the Kentucky Baptist Education Society, which were the trustees of Georgetown College. This change in the charter affected materially the operation of the institution, since before this time there were 24 trustees who were self-perpetuating, and from this time on, these 24 members were elected by the Society. It further changed a mere name into a working body constantly growing in numbers.

### **President Campbell Advances Work**

**W**HEN President Campbell entered on the duties of his office in 1853, the interests of the College were materially advanced. Of the "Giddings Fund" which had been raised in 1839 and 1840, only about \$10,000 remained for general endowment uses, since a large portion of this money had gone into the completion of the main college building and into the erection of Pawling Hall, a boys' dormitory. President Campbell prosecuted a vigorous campaign for funds, and succeeded in securing pledges for \$100,000 for the institution. Of this amount, about one-half was collected and invested as endowment by the trustees. The remainder was taken in the form of personal promises and notes, practically all of which was lost due to the Civil War, which made it impossible

for many of the donors to meet their obligations. This part of the pledged amount was cancelled by the College.

Notwithstanding this severe loss to the finances of the College, the institution weathered the Civil War much better than many institutions which went to the wall through this period. At the conclusion of hostilities the \$50,000 invested had been little if any impaired. It was this fund which in a large measure made it possible for the College to survive the severe period which followed the war.

Dr. Campbell died suddenly in 1865, and was succeeded in the presidency by Rev. Nathaniel Macon Crawford, who resigned in 1871 due to ill health, and who in turn was followed in September of the same year by Dr. Basil Manly, Jr., a native of Alabama and a graduate of the University of that State. Dr. Manly continued as president until 1879, when he resigned to accept again his old professorship in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, from which he had resigned to come to Georgetown.

During these last two administrations no general attempt was made to increase the funds of the institution, aside from an effort to endow a "Students' Chair" and toward which some \$8,000 was collected through the zeal of Dr. J. J. Rucker, a professor of Mathematics in the College. Another forward step made during this period was the erection of a wing to Pawling Hall, which formed a new front to this building. The cost of the improvement was \$7,000.

### President Dudley's Services

DR. Manly was succeeded by Dr. Richard M. Dudley as president. Dr. Dudley was born in Madison County, Ky., on September 1, 1838. He graduated from Georgetown College in 1860, and was the first graduate of the institution to be elevated to the presidency. He served in this capacity until his death, January 5, 1893, having acted as president for thirteen years, or since 1880.

The impress made by Dr. Dudley on the institution was probably the greatest of any president up to his time. During his administration he tripled the endowment, new professorships were created, new courses were added, the student body was increased, and toward the close of his term coeducation was adopted by the College. As a direct result of his work, two large new buildings were added to the College, but these were not completed until after his death.

### Coeducation Introduced

ONE year before the death of President Dudley, women were admitted to the College on the same basis as men. This radical change in the policy of the institution necessitates a flash back to the year 1845, when the College was only sixteen years old. At that time there was founded in Georgetown an educational institution for women, known as the Georgetown Female Seminary. From 1845 until 1868 this educational venture was housed in buildings erected for purposes other than

education. In 1868 Seminary Hall was erected on property belonging to the Seminary, and this structure housed the institution in all departments until 1892, when young women were admitted to the College and accepted in the classrooms with men. It continued to serve as their dormitory until 1895, when the College erected a large dormitory for girls. This building was named Rucker Hall, in honor of Prof. J. J. Rucker, who for years was principal of the Seminary and a pioneer in Kentucky in advocating coeducation. Up to this period, Kentucky had not made provision for the higher education of young women equal to that for young men. The new dormitory was erected on the south side of the campus, and was large enough to accommodate 120 girls.

When the residents of Seminary Hall left to take up their abode in the new building, the boys occupied their old home and the "Old Sem" became a boys' dormitory until 1922, when it was abandoned by the College and the site sold to the city for the erection of a \$263,000 high school building.

### **New Building Erected**

**F**OLLOWING the death of Dr. Dudley, the trustees called Dr. Augustus Cleveland Davidson of Covington, Ky., a graduate of the College in the class of 1871, to the office, and he held this position for six years to August, 1898, when he resigned. During his administration (1894) the Chapel Building was erected, containing a chapel, library, gymnasium, literary society halls, and

several classrooms. Rucker Hall was also built in 1895, as has been mentioned. Following his resignation, Professor Arthur Yager was chosen as chairman of the faculty, and the institution was without a president until 1901, when the trustees called Dr. B. D. Gray to the presidency. Dr. Gray served for two years, and was succeeded in 1903 by Dr. Joseph Judson Taylor. In 1907 Dr. Taylor resigned and Dr. Arthur Yager became president, which office he held until 1913, when he resigned, soon after which he was appointed as Governor-General of Porto Rico by his former classmate, President Woodrow Wilson. He filled this position with high distinction for eight years.

In September, 1913, Dr. Maldon Browning Adams became the choice of the trustees for the presidency, and entered upon his duties. He is still in this position and under his administration the College has made commendable progress.

### **Growth Under President Adams**

**O**N assuming the presidency, President Adams set himself to the task of placing the College on the accredited lists of different standardizing agencies. In 1919 he realized the first step in his plans for the greater Georgetown, when the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States placed the institution on its list of approved colleges. In this same year the Academy, which had been a part of the institution since its inception, was abolished and only regular

college work allowed. Special courses were discouraged, and the great majority of students entering were regularly enrolled for a degree. This same situation has become the settled policy of the institution.

Following its inclusion in the list of standard southern colleges, Georgetown was made a member of the American Association of Colleges, and has since become a member of the American Council on Education.

When President Adams assumed the responsibilities of the presidency, there were only 112 regular college students and ten members of the faculty. During his administration the enrollment has steadily increased until more than 400 are enrolled each year, and the faculty has been increased from ten to thirty-one members.

There was organized a permanent financial department, known as the 2nd Century Fund, the purpose of which is to constantly seek for funds for the use of the institution in caring for its expansion needs in current expenses, endowment and buildings.

### **Expansion Program Started**

**I**N 1923 the trustees of the College purchased a tract of land immediately to the east of the campus for use as an athletic field at such time as the present athletic field will be needed for buildings. They also purchased a strip of land 130 feet wide running from College Street to Main Street in order that the College might have a direct outlet to the residence and business center of the city.

## Georgetown College ..

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A movement was started by the student body in May, 1924, for a new gymnasium. As a result of this movement and after the students had subscribed about \$25,000 toward the erection of the proposed building, the citizens of the town put on a campaign for funds to complete the contemplated cost of \$100,000, and in September of this year, work was started, and the building was completed in 1925.



NEW GYMNASIUM

Anticipating its needs for the future, the institution started in 1925 a campaign for one million dollars for endowment and buildings. Due to the fact that it conflicted with the unified budget of the Baptist denomination in Kentucky, the campaign was discontinued after some four hundred thousand dollars had been pledged to the institution. After this effort the 2nd Century Fund, the permanent financial department of the College, was introduced by President Adams and adopted by the trustees.

## **Summer Session Started**

**I**N 1923, a nine-weeks summer session was added to the regular two-semester term, and students unable to stay four calendar years for a degree were offered a shorter time route for the completion of their liberal arts education. In that first session there were half a hundred students, and one graduate was granted his degree at the conclusion of the session. In the fifth session, 1927, the number of students had increased to 130, and fourteen students received their degrees at the summer convocation.

In 1927, two years short of a century of service to education in the state of Kentucky and the nation, the College had grown from a small frame building, with thirty students and four officers and professors, with no endowment or material resources except a campus valued at \$6,000 donated by the citizens of Georgetown, to a standard college with seven buildings of brick, a student body of more than 400, a faculty of 31 instructors, and endowed funds and real property valued at more than \$1,000,000. Georgetown College has weathered wars and panics and has continued for nearly a century, without interruption, its task of educating men and women to be good and useful citizens. Its policy as a Christian college of the liberal arts has never changed.

Past progress has been too slow. It now faces enlarged tasks, with insufficient endowment and equipment. It confidently relies upon the generosity of American men and women to make possible the continued service

of an honored American College. **Its greatest present need is endowment.** Its every resource of property, endowment, and personnel is strained to the utmost to do its daily work.

Our American civilization needs the character, culture and practical training of the Christian college. Georgetown College seeks aid in its work as it turns the corner toward a second century of service.

Information is on file concerning the vocations of 2800 out of 5200 alumni, graduates and former students, as follows:

Artists . . . . .	11	Nurses . . . . .	11
Advertisers . . . . .	7	Merchants . . . . .	132
Authors . . . . .	46	Missionaries . . . . .	52
Army Officers . . . . .	43	Post Office Employees . . . . .	9
Bankers . . . . .	87	Salesmen . . . . .	61
Civil Service . . . . .	7	Housekeepers . . . . .	550
Commercial . . . . .	30	Insurance . . . . .	51
College Presidents . . . . .	23	Jewelers . . . . .	5
College Vice-Presidents . . . . .	1	Ministers . . . . .	340
College Deans . . . . .	6	Railroad Employees . . . . .	11
College Registrars . . . . .	10	Teachers . . . . .	451
College Librarians . . . . .	5	Public School Superintendents	98
College Professors . . . . .	120	Tobacconists . . . . .	5
College Treasurers . . . . .	4	Undertakers . . . . .	5
Physicians . . . . .	131	Statesmen . . . . .	10
Druggists . . . . .	15	Governors of States . . . . .	2
Engineers . . . . .	30	United States Ambassadors	2
Farmers . . . . .	245	Lieutenant Governors . . . . .	1
Journalists . . . . .	11	Mayors . . . . .	4
Lawyers . . . . .	151	Judges . . . . .	17