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HOPKINS ACADEMY.

I wish hereby to thank Hon. W. L. Gordon, Sr., for much of the information in regard to the first school building, Hopkins Academy, erected in Hopkins County, <sup>more than</sup> nearly 75 years ago.

The first school legislation in the state of Kentucky was an Act of the legislature approved February 10, ~~18~~ February 10, 1793, donating and setting apart of the public lands of the state for school purposes. Six thousand acres each of this land was set apart for Franklin, Salem, and Kentucky academies, and for Jefferson and Lexington Seminaries.

Within 20 years the same amount of land was granted to a number of other Counties and towns. On January 31, 1818 a new act of the legislature was approved establishing what was then known as Hopkins Academy, ~~for the use and benefit of Hopkins Academy.~~ A board of trustees was appointed to have the management of this property. The site selected was just on the outside the town limits of the town of Madisonville, but afterward when the limits of the town were extended became a part of the city.

The lot was situated on the corner of Cross Main and Seminary Streets and was deeded for school purposes by Joseph Fuqua. The new Cumberland Presbyterian church stands on part of this lot. The first building erected was of brick. It was built soon after the deed was made to the property. From some cause the building soon fell into decay, and rather too small for the purposes, was torn down and a two story frame erected in its stead. It was not long before this was burned and then was erected a brick structure, containing but one room which was about 22 X 45 feet square.

There are many people both in Madisonville and the country who well remember the last building and also quite a number of whom attended school and got much of their education in the old brick Academy.

Please pardon the digression, but the first school I taught in Madisonville was in this same building. It was at that time in a very dilapidated condition but it was the best the town could, or did afford.

For a number of years before the establishment of the present public school system of the town of Madisonville, the old Academy was not used for any purpose. The property had passed on down from one set of trustees to another when W.L. Gordon, Sr., M.K. Gordon, John T Scott, T.B. Jones, Dr R L Bene and C J Waddill became the <sup>Trustees</sup> ~~managers~~ of the old building. As there were no funds for keeping the building in repair and as it was useless for the purpose intended by the legislature establishing Hopkins Academy, the property was sold for about \$1,800. This money ~~was placed at interest and in~~

In 1895, the trustees of the Hopkins Academy fund, turned the money with accumulated interest <sup>over</sup> to the trustees of the Madisonville Graded Schools to assist in paying for the East Broadway School building. The sum amounted to \$2009.00. For this donation it was agreed that the Madisonville Graded School should each year furnish free tuition to seven pupils from the County at large.

It is perhaps not out of place to state in this connection that there was no such a thing known in the state of Kentucky, until as a free, or public school for the boys and girls 75 years ago. It was in February 1838 that an act of the legislature was approved, establishing a system of public schools for the state.. It might also be well enough to state that these schools were not at all efficient until about 1870, as it was in 1869 that there was a tax voted that made it possible to maintain a system of public schools for the state. *J. J. Glenn*

*N.B. The present Trustees 1962 of the Hopkins Academy are Du Gatten Beverly B Waddill & Maurice K Gatten*