

= Introductory. =

Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges in the United States owe their origin to an act of Congress, entitled "An act donating public lands to the several States and Territories which may provide colleges for the benefit of agricultural and the mechanic arts," approved July 2, 1862. The amount of land donated was 30,000 acres for each Representative in the National Congress. Under this allotment Kentucky received 330,000 acres. Several years elapsed before the Commonwealth established an Agricultural and Mechanical College under the act. When established it was not placed upon an independent basis, but was made one of the Colleges of Kentucky University, to which Institution the annual interest of the proceeds of the Congressional land grant were to be given for the purpose of carrying on its operations. The land scrip had meanwhile been sold for fifty cents per acre, and the amount received—\$165,000—invested in six per cent. Kentucky State bonds, of which the State became the custodian in trust for the College.

The connection with Kentucky University continued till 1878, when the act of 1865, making it one of the Colleges of said University, was repealed, and a Commission was appointed to recommend to the Legislature of 1879-80 a plan of organization for an Institution including an Agricultural and Mechanical College such as the necessities of the Commonwealth require. The city of Lexington offered to the Commission (which was also authorized to recommend to the General Assembly the place, which, all things considered, offered the best and greatest inducements for the future and permanent location of the College) the City Park, containing fifty-two acres of land, within the limits of the city, and thirty thousand dollars in city bonds for the erection of buildings. This offer the county of Fayette supplemented by twenty thousand dollars in county bonds, to be used either for the erection of buildings or for the purchase of land. The offers of the city of Lexington and of the county of Fayette were accepted by the General Assembly.