FAIRS AND FAIR MAKERS OF KENTUCKY

VOLUME I
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

AMERICAN GUIDE SERIES



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Compiled by Workers of the Kentucky Writers' Project
of the Work Projects Administration in Kentucky

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FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY

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FOREWORD

Seldom does it become the privilege of a state official to participate in the publication of so splendid a work as FAIRS AND FAIR MAKERS OF KENTUCKY.

In these pages is contained a factual account of the trials and tribulations experienced by our early Kentucky agriculturists, and the gradual rise to prominence of Kentucky as an agricultural state. In its pages also is found all of the glamour and romance surrounding the breeding and development of thoroughbred race horses in Kentucky, a comprehensive background of blood lines and breeding stock and a historical record of the ever increasing predominance of the Kentucky thoroughbred on the race courses of America.

The interested reader may follow the rise of Kentucky pure bred live stock to its present high place in the Nation's agricultural picture, and may find the contributions made by famous Kentucky breeders throughout a century and a half.

The Work Projects Administration and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture are proud to jointly sponsor such a work, and we feel that the time and resources spent in marshaling the material will be justified by the reception which will be given the publication upon its release.

For years Kentucky has needed a complete study of its agriculture over the long and glorious period covered by this book and it is with a deep feeling of pride that we now present it to the agricultural leaders of the State as a monument to their efforts and the efforts of their predecessors in bringing about the position of leadership now generally accorded to our State by agricultural authorities throughout the Nation.

William A. May

State Commissioner of Agriculture

PREFACE

The fairs of Kentucky, like those of other States and those of earlier times from which contemporary fairs are descended, have borne since their inception a close relationship to the economy of their region. For that reason, this book contains more than its title suggests; contains, by more than implication, the story of Kentucky's agricultural development in addition to the recital of the rise of the fairs in this State.

It is appropriate, therefore, that these two volumes of Fairs and Fair Makers of Kentucky should appear under the sponsorship of the State Department of Agriculture. We wish to thank William H. May, Commissioner of Agriculture, and William G. Harris, his administrative assistant, for their cooperation which made publication of the book possible.

In assembling the material for Fairs and Fair Makers of Kentucky, the Writers' Project received the unstinted assistance of many volunteer workers throughout the State. The list of these workers is too long for personal mention, but their part is not forgotten. Especial thanks is due to L. B. Shropshire of the Kentucky State Fair for his part in the conception and early planning of the work; To Otto H. Rothert and Ludie J. Kinkead of the Filson Club; Edna Jeanette Grauman and Ellen Temple Harding of the Louisville Free Public Library; Carrie L. Hunt of the Lexington Public Library; Mrs. Jouett Taylor Cannon of the State Historical Society Library, Frankfort; members of the staff of the University of Kentucky Library, Lexington; J. C. Wehrley, assistant manager of the State Fair; Anne McCrocklin, secretary to the Fair Board; Col. Lucien Beckner of Louisville, and the secretaries of the national breed associations.

Fairs and Fair Makers of Kentucky was prepared under the direction of Hugh J. Hughes who wrote Volume I of the book. Frederick L. A. Eichelberger collaborated in the writing of Volume II. Data for the book was gathered by a research staff of Writers' Project workers under their supervision.

WILLIAM R. BREYER,

State Supervisor,

Kentucky Writers' Project

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VOLUME I

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES

CHAPTER I

SOILS AND CLIMATE, MEN AND BREEDS

Soils, climate, the people and the stock they brought with them are the materials out of which Kentucky was created. Nature gave generously of soil and climate. These came into the possession, more than a century and a half ago, of a people with a strong agrarian tradition and a love of the domestic arts. What follows is the story of the use made by the people of Kentucky of the gifts nature entrusted to their keeping.

The soils of Kentucky vary in character from the highly productive lands of the Bluegrass, the Pennyrile, and the numerous valleys of the State to the sandy or weather-worn soils of the more rugged and otherwise less fortunate sections. The topography, in general, is that of a high-rolling plain, crossed again and again by river valleys, from which extend arms that give to the traveler the impression of traveling over a mountainous country. Actually, the only real mountains of the State are in the extreme southeastern section along the Virginia border.

Originally this rugged terrain, except for a region in the south-central part of the State known as "the Barrens," a region kept burned off by the Indians as pasture ground for buffalo and other game they protected, was heavily timbered. This timber was largely oak, beech, maple, sycamore, tulip, pine and many others less common. Native grasses and legumes filled in the space vacant of trees. The Bluegrass, a practically level and nearly circular area extending from Louisville in the west to Winchester in the east,was covered with canebrake, except spots where, like islands, rose clumps of giant oak and other trees. Survivors of this old forest may still be seen standing, beaten and scarred by storms, in the pastures throughout the region.

A deep and rich vegetable mold originally covered the entire area of the State. This gave to the settler an illusive idea of inexhaustible soil fertility that, during the 1830's, began to be dispelled. Cultivated fields began to erode and crop yields diminished. Such evidences of the coming exhaustion of the soil were closely associated in time with the rise of the agricultural associations. With the work of these associations came general recognition that upon stock breeding and the development of a varied livestock industry, rather than upon grain farming, depended the economic welfare of the State.

The climate of Kentucky favored such a shift in emphasis from grain to livestock. The grazing season is long. The winters are comparatively mild. The rainfall is usually sufficient and well distributed throughout the year. Extremes of heat or cold are uncommon. Pure water is abundant. The materials out of which to make shelter for stock were close at hand. Markets were developed before the agricultural associations and their fairs entered the picture. These associations effected no drastic change in the manner of living. They were conservative in character, merely seeking through united action to adapt the existing agricultural order more closely to the resources nature had provided.

The people of Kentucky are twice removed in culture from those who ruled the great estates of rural England during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The cavalier settlers brought with them to the Virginia Tidewater, the Carolinas, and Maryland traditions and memories of the baronial style of living. They transplanted the laws and customs of England. They imported both the virtues and vices of their forbears. They possessed an innate, high courtesy, especially toward women; they were quick to resent an insult. They looked for ease of circumstances rather than for large wealth. They enjoyed a horse race or a camp meeting with equal zest. Being tolerant, they saw no particular harm and perhaps much of good in both.

By the time their grandsons had removed from the seacoast into the hunting grounds of Kentucky, they had changed but little inwardly even though outwardly they wore the rough trappings of the frontiersman. Their numbers had been augmented by Scotch, Irish, a few French, and a few Pennsylvania Germans. These additions conformed to the original English pattern in their ambition: to possess an estate the wide acres of which would assure to them and their children the good things of life without too much labor. Such was, and such is today, the Kentucky ideal.

Later immigration has altered but little the original racial composition of the State outside of the Ohio River cities, where there was, during the early industrial period, a large influx of German and, later on, other racial elements. However, the racial stock of the State is still predominantly English and Scotch-Irish. The ratio of Negro to white population has lessened from 20 per cent in 1810 to about 8 per cent in 1940. There is a friendly adjustment between the races. Kentucky today is a busy agricultural and industrial State, with important developments since 1880 in the fields of mining and transportation; while the noncommercial pursuits of education, religion, and social intercourse are undergoing constant development.

EARLY KENTUCKY FARMING

The equipment of the farmer arriving in Kentucky differed little from that used by his relatives and friends east of the Alleghenies. His necessities included the essential land-clearing tools-- axes, saws, and wedges; a heavy hoe to serve as a spading tool, an iron plow point to be fitted to a wooden beam and moldboard; a scythe, a reaping hook, and a fork. His harrow, or drag, was a simple device of brush, drawn over the surface to cover the broadcasted grain; or later, of iron pegs set into a wooden framework easily made at home. These, together with a flail and a sieve for threshing and winnowing the grain, constituted the average farm machinery. Cart, wagon, sleigh, ox yoke, harness, pails, churn, and the lesser equipment of the farm and home were made in the neighborhood. The spinning wheel and loom, essential alike to the domestic and to the industrial picture, were either brought over the trails or, after the first wave of migration, manufactured by local artisans. Cutlery, including the essential

sheep shears, came from the seaboard. Not until after the arrival of the steamboat on the Ohio between 1812-19, had lowered transportation costs and breakage risks did the chinaware and period furniture, common in the later homes of Kentucky, come into general use.

This picture of the equipment of the Kentucky farm and home holds good for the period beginning with the first settlements down to the end of the third decade of the nineteenth century. It will be noted how few and feeble were the tools with which to subdue the richly timbered wilderness that became Kentucky. As a consequence, while the farms were usually large in area, the cleared acreage on any given farm tended to remain small. This left wide, uncleared spaces that afforded rich pasturage for "cattle," a generic term used in that day to include all livestock except horses and mules. Beechnuts and acorns furnished the mast on which hogs fattened. Native grasses and legumes shared the rich limestone and leafmold soil with the widely spaced ancient timber. Shortly after settlement took place an early-ripening grass, native to the shores of the Baltic, arrived by way of seed carried in hay from the valleys of Virginia. This new grass found favorable environment and went out and possessed the land, giving the name by which it was known, "bluegrass," to the State of its adoption. Much later came the clovers, alfalfa, and the present-day pasture grasses. But the fame of the bluegrass outweighs them all.

Another consideration that early turned the mind of the farmer to stock raising, rather than grain farming, was the problem of markets. The high prices obtained by the earlier settlers for their products faded when, as soon happened, a balance was struck between local supply and demand. New acreage was constantly added to that already under cultivation. Production went up. The surplus glutted the local markets, resulting in low prices. Attempts to move the surplus in its original form, chiefly grain and fibers, occasioned controversies that more than once brought the Nation perilously close to foreign war and to disunion. Such dangers were partially removed when, in 1803, Jefferson bought Louisiana from Napoleon, and completely so in 1819, when Spain ceded to the United States the Floridas with their freebooter nests, out of which swarmed the pirates that long had preyed upon the commerce moving between the Mississippi, the West Indies, and the Atlantic coast.

But the termination of foreign control of the Mississippi and later of piracy did not solve the export problem of the early-day Kentucky farmer. It continued to be a problem, chiefly because of low prices in Europe, until after the War between the States. The general adoption of the reaper during the 1860's and the opening of the Western prairies gave the Kentucky farmer a rival with which he could not hope to compete. More than ever he centered his efforts on hemp, tobacco, and livestock.

Hemp, in demand for calking and rigging of America's fast-growing commercial fleet, was one of the field crops to which the rich vegetable mold upland and alluvial soils of Kentucky were especially adapted and, by 1787, it had become a leading product of the State. Incidentally, its culture tied in economic interest the farmers of Kentucky with the industrialists and ship owners of New England and the States bordering the Great Lakes; and had much to do with the drive for a protective tariff and the formation of the Whig party, ancestor of the Republican party.

Still another lasting effect of hemp culture, due to the absence of satisfactory breaking machinery, was to bring Kentucky inventors and farmers close together in an effort to improve the methods used in hemp processing. The large

part the farmer played in the preparation of the fiber made every grower a semi-manufacturer, keenly aware of the vital economic interest shared by the grower, the manufacturer, and the user of the final product. This alliance between agriculture and industry was extended in the 1830's and later to the development and perfecting of all lines of agricultural machinery and farm equipment, as well as to their manufacture and use. The close relationship found expression in the name "Agricultural and Mechanical," applied to the societies organized during and after the third decade of the nineteenth century.

Tobacco was another crop that early came into the Kentucky agricultural and industrial picture. Like hemp it required much labor and gave correspondingly largefinancial returns per acre under cultivation. Unlike hemp, which reached the peak of its industrial importance in the day of the sailing ship, tobacco did not assume its present-day major role until it was brought into prominence by the pressing economic need of the State as a whole after 1865 and the gradual decline of hemp growing.

Flax, a leading fiber crop of the early years, followed closely the fortunes of hemp, and the linens of Kentucky helped bind still closer the alliance between farmer and manufacturer. Corn, a crop easily grown under pioneer conditions and a basis of one of Kentucky's greatest industries, the manufacture of whisky, has never achieved any more than local marketing importance. Wheat, rye, and barley, the other leading grains, have entered into the manufacturing and marketing picture with varying degrees of intensity. With the possible exception of wheat, these grain crops were geared to the home demand and only pressed upon the Nation's markets after the adoption, in the 1850's, of modern farm machinery.

COMING OF THE BREEDS

The pioneer of the late eighteenth century, along with the meager equipment he could transport across the mountains, brought his greatest possessions, his horses and his cattle. No introduction to the story of the fairs of Kentucky would be complete, and no such story would be understandable, without some mention of what had taken place in the pastures and breeding lots of Virginia, Maryland, and, perhaps, Rhode Island and New York. Certainly these sections and counties of England and Scotland whence the great breeds came cannot be forgotten - Holderness and Durham, Berkshire and Yorkshire, Hereford and Devon in England; Ayr, Aberdeen, Galloway, and Angus in Scotland-- all these for "horned cattle," as our ancestors called them; Shropshire, Essex and Lincoln, the Cotswold and Cheviot hills, and the downs of Southampton for sheep; the dry Spanish plateaus for Spanish Merino sheep; also for jacks and jennets, foundation of the mule industry.

THE HORSES OF LONG AGO

First mentioned are the great rural counties of southern and central England where, in the days after the Crusades, managers of great estates, while directing their tenants, rode horses known simply as the "English breed." These horses possessed, very conceivably, more than a little of the blood of the Barb or Turk. They are described by Thomas Blundeville, writing in 1580, as "a race of swift runners to run for wagers or to gallop the buck." A smaller, gentler type frequently spoken of in literature as the "palfrey" was also in common use, particularly by women and children. In the ballad of "Fair Annet," the ambling or pacing gait characteristic of the palfrey is thus mentioned:

The horse fair Annet rade upon
He amblet like the wind;
Wi' siller he was shod before,
Wi' gleaming gowd behind....

Compared with the Thoroughbred of today, either breed was smaller and less speedy, but notable for sureness of foot and the staying power known to horsemen as "bottom."

During the seventeenth century marked attention was given to improving the breed; and in 1689 Captain Byerly, an officer of the English army in Ireland, rode at the Battle of the Boyne a Turk stallion, which afterward, as Byerly's Turk, stood in England as the first in point of time of the three great stallions back to which all present-day registered Thoroughbreds, both in England and in America, trace their lineage. In 1709 the Darley Arabian, second in time of arrival in England of the three progenitors of the Thoroughbred, was imported by a brother of Mr. Darley of Oldbey Park, midway between York and Malton. In 1728 the third of the great trio, the Godolphin Barb, either an Arabian or a Barb, was found, according to tradition, on a water cart in the city of Paris. The finder was a Mr. Coke of Norfolk, who presented him to R. Williams who in turn gave him to the Earl of Godolphin. He was a brown bay, large for the time, standing fifteen hands. He stood at service until his death in 1753.

The blood of these three sires, mingled with the best blood of native English stock, is notable for the fact that after two centuries it still survives, while of the 174 sires mentioned in the first General Stud Book, published in 1781, the blood lines of all the rest have been broken. The Thoroughbred of today in all pedigrees traces back in the direct male line to one or more of the three.

The intermingled blood of these founding sires appears in the three great families founded by Eclipse, foaled in 1764, a great-grandson of the Darley Arabian and of The Godolphin, by Herod, great-great-grandson of the Byerly Turk and closely related on the side of his dam to the Darley Arabian. Matchem, grandson of The Godolphin and descended on his dam's side from the Byerly Turk, completes the second trio of great sires. To one or possibly to all of these the blood of every American Thoroughbred traces.

The most famous sire of the three was Eclipse, never beaten in a race, and winner of twenty-six races and matches. He won eleven King's Plates. In twenty-three years at stud he sired 344 race winners. His earnings amounted, in present-day American money, to approximately $750,000.

THE ENGLISH HORSE IN AMERICA

The first English horses imported into America came to New England in 1629. Later in the same century, Rhode Island became a horse-breeding center from which the stock, English of the period prior to the infusion of Eastern blood, spread first to Long Island where a race track was built in 1665, and later (c.1690), to all the other English Colonies along the Atlantic coast.

The first horses imported to Virginia, shortly after Jamestown was settled met an ignominious fate. They were eaten. A later importation fared little better. In 1639 the Privy Council approved an order permitting "Thomas Stegg and Jeremy Blackman to furnish Virginia with horses, mares, and such like beasts of carriage, and to export from thence the like number of neat cattle..." In 1646 a

total of between two and three hundred horses were in the colony. Later the exportation of mares was prohibited. This exportation ban was lifted in 1667. By the middle of the eighteenth century racing was an established sport. During this period it is supposed that there was an infusion of Andalusian blood by way of horses owned by the southern Indians; horses descended from those possibly left behind by early Spanish explorers.

In 1702 a Swiss traveler visited Virginia. His eyewitness account follows:

"Going to church means at some places a trip of more than thirty miles, but, as can be seen from what follows, it is not a great hardship, because people are well mounted there. Horses, which are hardly used for anything else but riding, are half deers. They run always in a fast gallop. When services are held on Sundays or on other days none goes to church except on horseback....

"The horses, like the English breed, are very lightfooted.... They are very common. It must be a poor man who cannot afford one. Not many people can be seen traveling on foot, even if it is only an hour's distance. They are seldom used to draw wagons or plows, because the nature of the country does not demand it. They cost from three to eight pounds of sterling....

"The wild horses are hunted in April and May, at the time of the year when, being famished after the winter, they fill themselves with the fresh grass to such an extent that they become lazy and are unable to run. The English place their best horses for four or five weeks into the stable, feed them with oats. Then they mount and ride their horses in companies while they hunt them. They are soon found, because they run about in large numbers. As soon as they are sighted, they are chased. They can stand running for some time, but are finally overtaken by the horses that have been fed with oats. They are then caught, kept for a time with the tame horses and broken in. They develop great endurance. They are grey, but not quite as tall as the others. Their meat is good to eat. They are also caught in pits. When it is known which way they go to water, a deep pit is dug, which is covered slightly. When the horse passes over it, it falls down and can't get out again, until it is bound with ropes and pulled out. There are people who make their living by this practice."

Toward the end of the seventeenth century, laws intended to improve the breed were passed. A minimum of thirteen and one-half hands was set for stallions and continued as the legal requirement up to 1792. In 1716 the "Knights of the Golden Horse Shoe," a racing organization, was in being. From this time forward rapid advance in quality became apparent. The ideal of the day was a hardy, fleet, strong, easy-riding animal. Such were the Virginia horses, English stock, bred along lines similar to those followed in England up to the importation of the founding sires of the Thoroughbred.

In 1730 Samuel Gist, of Hanover County, Virginia, brought from England the stallion Bulle Rock, of the mingled blood of Darley's Arabian and Byerley's Turk, first of a series of thirty-nine great English stallions imported to America and bred upon the pick of Virginia's mares. This was but three decades after the Turk had reached England; and The Godolphin did not cross the English Channel until the year after Bulle Rock's crossing of the Atlantic. The point is that the effort at breed improvement came, both in England and America, within the same

period of time and with practically the same foundation stock on either side of the Atlantic.

Of the imported stallions, Dabster, Crab, and Monkey arrived, in addition to Bulle Rock, prior to 1750. In that year Jolly Roger, Morton's Traveler, and Silver Eye landed in America. In quick succession came Tayloe's Childers, James, Shock, Sober John, Jack of Diamonds, Valiant, Juniper, Buffcoat, Crawford, Whittington, Starling, Ranter, Aristotle, Fearnought, Vampire, Lofty, David, Bucephalus, Tom Jones, Regulus, Bolton, Merry Tom, Dotterel, Hero, Sterling, Koulikhan, Harris' Eclipse, Shadow, Oscar, Roan, and Carver.

In addition to these importations, ending with that of Carver in 1774, seven stallions-- Dormouse, Junius, Justice, Jack the Batchelor, Granby, Brunswick, and Merry Pirtle, are believed to have been imported before the Revolution.

Formal racing in Virginia developed out of the quarter races of the seventeenth century into the distance races of the eighteenth. In the Rappahannock Valley, where racing came into full flower around 1750, the ultimate test - one that required bottom-- was best two out of three at a distance of four miles, carrying 10 stone or 140 pounds. Of such stuff and breeding was the horse flesh that came to Kentucky in the years immediately after the Revolution.

A letter addressed to the American Turf Register in 1829 by Robert J. Breckinridge, Sr., Fayette County horse breeder and lawyer, carries the story forward to the time of the founding, in 1826, of the Kentucky Association, which is a direct link with the present-day fairs, local and State. The letter, in which the writer uses the term "blood-horse" as equivalent to Thoroughbred, follows:

Braedelbane, near Lexington, Oct. 15, 1829

"Mr. Editor:

"There are portions of the United States which have been and are wholly destitute of the blood horse; there are other portions where the taste and public spirit of the people, accident, the force of circumstances, or some other causes, have brought that noble animal to a high degree of perfection.

"Your recollection will supply many instances of the first description. Of the second, East Jersey, the southern part of New York, the southeastern part of Virginia, the central parts of South Carolina, the upper or northern part of North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee, are the best specimens. Maryland is not far behind; you may think not at all. Virginia, the Carolinas, and Kentucky are certainly the first. My present business is with Kentucky.

"While this state was yet a part of Virginia, its population seems to have brought with them a passion for fine horses which has grown with their growth. As early as in 1795 (two years only after we set up on our own account), there were many extensive studs of fine horses. Among others, Mr. Hubbard Taylor and Colonel Abraham Buford had, thirty years ago, very large studs of blooded horses; and in 1806, at the sale of the late Hon. John Breckinridge (the author's father, founder of Braedelbane) not much short of two hundred mares, fillies, and colts of pure blood were dispersed to different purchasers. There were many other breeders on a smaller scale. Both then and afterwards, scattered through the State; and the bred stal-

lions from Europe, and the East, and South America, have here found their most profitable market, and propagated by far their most numerous stocks. Buzzard, Royalist, Dragon, Speculator, Spread Eagle, Forrister, Alderman, Eagle, Pretender, Touchstone, Archer, and many other of the finest stallions of England, stood many years in this State, and most of them left their bones among us. These horses were let to mares (brought here by gentlemen settling in the State), the get of Janus, Fearnought, Diomed, Medley, Wildair, Sterling, Shark, and, indeed, most of the best stallions bred or imported into the Eastern, Southern, or Middle States.

"In many instances the race of horses thus produced has no doubt been injured by inferior crossing; but many animals are preserved pure; and the general effect on our stock has been such, that half and three quarter blooded horses are (1829) more numerous by far than the scrub, and form in general not only the saddle and carriage horses, but also the wagon and farm horses of the State.

"For many years back, blooded mares and stallions have been annually brought into this State, in return for cattle, hogs, mules, geldings, etc., driven to the eastern and southern market by our citizens. To say nothing of our native horses, who are little, if at all inferior to any on the continent, our State is full of foreign stallions of the purest blood. Two brothers of Sir Archy, one (Potomac) by his sire, and the other (Nephestion) out of his dam, stand within a few miles of Lexington. The latter is, I believe, the only living son of Buzzard, and was out of the best mare on this continent. Bertrand, Cherokee, Saxe Weimer, Sumpter, Kosciusko, and several other of the first sons of Sir Archy, stood within less than a day's ride of Lexington. His brothers, Hambletonian, Florizel, Cashier, and Eclipse (the sire of Doublehead), have a numerous progeny among us. Aratus recently died among us. No part of the United States can, perhaps, produce so large a number of the blood and kindred of that first and noblest of American horses as this State, and this part of it.

"Our stock of horses, of other bloods than the Diomed or Archy, or only remotely related, is very fine. Blackburn's Whip was a Thoroughbred son of the imported Whip, and was, except a defect in the withers, the most beautiful horse I ever saw. His brother, Rees' Whip, his sons, Tiger, Paragon, Whipster, Kennon's and others, are fine horses; and that family is the most extensive, and perhaps the handsomest of any. The Winter Arabian, an Oriental horse of the purest race, is a remarkable animal, and is producing a striking and very superior race of horses. I saw, in the possession of his owner, a picture of Jouett, and was struck with the likeness to the print of (The) Godolphin. A memoir and print of this horse could not fail to interest your readers. Moses, Son of Sir Harry, formerly owned by Mr. Haxhall, of Petersburg, Virginia, was a fine animal, and left a small but very choice stock. Melzor by Medley, and Albert by Melzor, out of his own dam, have also produced very superior stock.

"I will not, however, unnecessarily cumber you with names. I am no racer, never was, and never expect to be. But I am (and my ancestors before me have been the same), a particular breeder of blooded stock. I do not, therefore, pretend to more knowledge or accuracy on this subject than any gentleman may easily acquire, and

every breeder ought to possess. I have omitted many of our best horses, and indeed many whole families, intending only to give a general view, that I might satisfy the reader of the facts which I set out to establish, namely, that we now have in the State of Kentucky every race of high bred horses which have been distinguished in England or America since the era of Godolphin...."

ROBERT J. BRECKINRIDGE, SR.

Other authorities confirm the Breckinridge opinion. The issues of the Kentucky Gazette, covering the years 1788-97, carry advertisements of Pilgerlick, Darius, Castor, Nero, Flimnap, Redbird, Mogul, Godolphin (not the Godolphin mentioned above), Slider, Arabian Gray, Don Carlos (spelled Careless), Dolphin, Perfection, Union, Tippo Saib, Ferguson's Gray, Alfred, Nebuchadnezzar, Acteon, and Blaze. Of these twenty sires standing in the Bluegrass, one was of unknown breeding, one was an Arabian-English cross, one an Arabian, and two were grade English. The remaining fifteen, if we may believe the advertisements, were of English extraction, several of them eligible, according to modern standards, to the title of Thoroughbred.

Robert Peter, in his History of Fayette County, names more than thirty Thoroughbred stallions in service in the Bluegrass between 1797 and 1822. He especially mentions Spread Eagle, Blackburn's Whip, and Robin Gray, and remarks that to the importations of Col. John Tayloe and Col. John Hoomes, both of Virginia, Kentucky is indebted for much of its foundation stock.

From this early English-Virginia-Kentucky stock has descended the horses that have since supplied the farm horses of Kentucky and the herds that for many years were driven to market in the Deep South. Its mares helped found the important mule-raising industry. It has furnished a large percentage of the racing stock seen at local fairs.

The cold-blooded draft horse has made little impression upon the horses of Kentucky. The common farm horse of Kentucky still carries, and in good measure, the blood of the English horse out of which came both the original English and American Thoroughbreds, the Standard-bred (American Trotter), and the American Saddle Horse. Infusions of the refined blood of these breeds help to retain and augment the best qualities of the old English strain. The development of the blood-horse industry, within the limited meaning of the cultivation and expansion of the American Thoroughbred, the Standard-bred, and the American Saddle Horse, runs parallel in time and purpose with that of the fairs. The importance of the work done by the horsemen is expressed by the fact that the Kentucky Association of 1826 and its successors have given to the State race meets a national repute. They have established horse shows of the highest class; and, still more noteworthily, they have aided in the development of the Standard-bred and have established, as a distinct type, the American Saddle Horse.

While these varied activities have called for special events and shows outside the scope and general purpose of the fairs, it is to be remarked that, throughout their long, contemporaneous history, the two-- the fairs and the horse associations-- have been closely affiliated. The exclusiveness that marked the early-day cattle shows disappeared about the time, around 1840, that formal trotting and pacing in competition and against the watch became popular. From that time forward, and in increasing degree, horsemen shared with cattlemen and other interests in the promotion of the local, regional, and State-wide fairs headed, since 1902, by the Kentucky State Fair.

A GLIMPSE AT RACING

Since racing had and still has a distinct bearing upon the industrial and social life of Kentucky, and since its development is intimately bound up with that of the fairs, the story is not complete without some account of its rise and general history.

The attention given racing by Kentuckians can best be understood if we remember the conditions that surrounded the pioneer. To the statement that "An horse is a vain thing for safety," he would have doubtless replied, "Not my horse!" And he would back up his answer with instances when the speed of his horse, its sure-footedness, its stamina, and dependability had been the means of saving his life.

Long after the Indian enemy was no longer a menace, the Kentuckian looked to his mount for those things that denoted the qualities just mentioned. Again and again succeeding generations of Kentuckians rode into battle the horses upon which, in time of supreme danger, they depended for their lives. Under such conditions, tests of speed and stamina are not only natural but inevitable. The race track and the show ring were and are, for the horse, what the judging arena is for other classes of stock--the proving ground of excellence.

With this idea uppermost, impromptu races were run wherever, in pioneer days, good riders met.

The Shallowford Course, conveniently located between Boonesborough (now Boonesboro) and Harrodsburg, was run in 1775. At a race at Haggin's Track in Harrodsburg, run in 1783, Hugh McGary bet a horse worth $60 on the outcome. For this he was arrested, tried, convicted in court, and found to be "an infamous gambler ... not eligible to any office of trust or honor within the state." Humble's Course at Harrodsburg (1783) and Col. William Whitley's Course at Sportsman's Hill, about 1810, are among numerous examples of early-day race tracks conducted by private enterprise. As early as 1783 Louisville held races on Market Street.

During the 1790's race meets became common throughout the State. A purse race run in Danville, November 30, 1796, was "free to any horse, mare, or gelding." Three-, two-, and one-mile heats were run on successive days. Aged horses carried 130 pounds; colts and fillies 118. In general, at such meetings the Newmarket rules already in vogue in Virginia were employed.

At Lexington where, early in the 1780's, racing had been banned from Main Street, and in 1788 from the common where next the horsemen congregated, a quarter-mile course was laid out on South Broadway. This was succeeded, after the formation of the Lexington Jockey Club, by a track located on the site of the present Lexington Cemetery. Here, in the autumn of 1797, a three-day meet was held. The notice of the event, first in point of direct sequence of the long series of meets that is continued in the most recent Kentucky Derby, reads:

> "Resolved - That there be a purse race run over the Lexington course on the second Wednesday and the two following days in November next; the first day, four-mile heats; second day, three-mile heats; and third day, for four-year-olds, two-mile heats; aged horses carrying 130 pounds; six-year-olds, 120 pounds; five-year-olds, 100 pounds; and three-year-olds, a feather (70 pounds).

"Resolved - That Samuel Downing, A. Holmes, G. Anderson, R. W. Downing and J. B. January be a committee to admit persons wishing to become members of the club.

"Resolved - That the next meeting of this club be at this house on this day week, at six o'clock P.M.

(from minutes) C. BANKS, Secretary"

The race was held and the results, published in a subsequent issue of the Kentucky Gazette, are interesting for the brevity of the account published in the form of a notice:

Lexington Races

"Wednesday (first day) 4 miles to the heat; first heat taken by Quicksilver - second and third by the Weazel— three started.

"Thursday (second day) three miles the heat: first and second heat taken by the Cynthiana mare-- five started.

"Friday (third day) two miles the heat: first and second heat taken by Mr. Markham's three year old colt-- three started."

A meet shortly before that at Lexington was held in Bardstown. In the Kentucky Gazette of October 7, 1797, appeared the notice:

Bardstown Races

"Will commence on the third Wednesday in October next and will continue Thursday and Friday, free for any horse, mare or gelding-- the first day, the 3-mile heats-- second day, 2-mile heats, and last day one-mile heats.

"There is one hundred and fifty dollars subscribed now. The rules of the Jockey Club of this state are to be observed in these races."

September 2, 1797.

The Lexington Jockey Club, which, from the foregoing quotation seems to have assumed the character of a State-wide organization, continued active for several years. It is mentioned during the following decade. The War of 1812 brought near-disaster to the Kentucky horse industry. That war called about 20,000 Kentuckians to the colors, and a large proportion of these troops were cavalry or mounted infantry. In addition to the horse so ridden, several thousand more were employed, under extremely difficult foraging conditions, in transport and supply service. The larger number of horses drafted were the personal property of the soldiers, who in turn represented in good part the well-to-do farmers of the Bluegrass and the Pennyrile. A decade passed before breeding was again fully under way and public interest in racing revived. An immediate result of the revival was a law passed in 1821 prohibiting racing on the public highways of the State.

In 1822 racing was resumed in Lexington. In 1823 mention is made of a Louisville Jockey Club meet to be held beginning October 15 of that year. Doubtless more was happening than appears from the now fragmentary records of that time, for, in 1826, the Kentucky Association received its charter, held a meet in

1827, and, in 1828, opened its new course in the city of Lexington. Dr. Elisha Warfield, Robert J. Breckinridge, Senator Henry Clay, and other horsemen of the period were among those active in the revival of the blood-horse industry. Excellent sires were in the State. Importations of Thoroughbred blood were numerous during the late 1820's and throughout the 1830's. Imp. Hedgeford (sire of Denmark, foaled in 1839) came to Kentucky subsequent to 1832; other founders of the American Saddle Horse breed arrived during the same decade, among them Tom Hal, John Dillard, Davy Crockett, and Boston. Dr. Dudley's Vandal and the mare Levity, also Imp. Torkshire, belong to the 1820's.

By 1840 the founding sires and dams of the Standard-bred and the American Saddle Horse were already in Kentucky pastures. Due to the growth and widening of the industry, numerous localities built courses and vied for the support of the public. Two of these, Lexington and Louisville, have consistently maintained their position; Lexington, with the Kentucky Association events of the late 1820's, extended into the present time through the new Keeneland Course; and Louisville, with its racing associations of the early years climaxing, in point of time, with the Kentucky Derby, which dates continuously from 1875 to the present day.

The American Turf Register of 1833 recognized race meets at Lexington, Louisville, Georgetown, Russellville, Franklin, Paris, Crab Orchard, and other Kentucky centers. The Oakland Course in Louisville was established before 1830. The Latonia Track at Covington is among the notable. During the long years, the horsemen of other cities have held speed events that alternately rose and fell in public favor.

But it was the affairs of the 1840's and subsequent decades that brought racing back whence it started - into the vision, and life, and interest of every Kentuckian. By the 1870's, and from that time forward, racing, both running and trotting, or pacing, had become an essential part of the average agricultural-fair program. Such races were to major racing events what bush league baseball games are to the World Series. Men and horses alike received training; and the public found in the races an interest and excitement, because of its knowledge of local horses and their trainers that not even the flash and color of the trots or the Derby could give.

The horses performing at these local and regional fairs, many of them only slightly inferior to the top-flight performers on the great tracks, came, and still come, from the neighboring pastures; and the horsemen were, and still are the sons and brothers of the crowd seated in the grandstand or leaning over the fence.

CATTLE OF EARLY TIMES

The early settlers in Kentucky brought with them the stock common to their neighborhoods east of the mountains. This stock in turn was descended from imported cattle from England to Virginia, the Carolinas, Maryland, and New England.

Of the nature of these importations, save perhaps that in 1623 to New England, little is known. The description of that importation fits the Devon breed, which survives in family traditions throughout New England and the states westward to the Mississippi as the "Old Red Cow" - the settler's standby as a milk producer and work animal. Few if any of this breed appear to have been brought into the South during the colonial period.

Concerning the cattle brought into Virginia, little or nothing is known beyond the fact that at an early date cattle were brought over from England. Shortly thereafter trade sprang up with the Spanish possessions in the West Indies, and the importation of cattle became an item in that trade. Such importations would seem to argue an infusion of the blood later found in the "Texas steer." Three-quarters of a century of a lack of attention to cattle breeding is summed up in a word picture left us in 1702 by an observant European visitor to the Colony:

> "Horned cattle are found in large numbers, so that in summer time much milk is used. Butter is also made, as much as is needed. But most of the people know nothing of cheese. There were a few who undertook to make it. It was good but could not be compared to ours. The common farmer has usually from ten to forty heads of cattle. The gentlemen have about a hundred. There is little trouble taken with cattle, because they are left the whole year on the meadows. Not even a stable is built for them, but they are driven into pens, as stated above, in order to fertilize the ground, where wheat is to be planted. No hay is stored, for the winter is not like ours, and even if it snows a little or is cold, it passes away in a few days. It is true the poor cattle are at times half frozen and starved, as I have seen in spring by their bodies. But when the weather is severe, they are given corn. The north wind is said to blow very cold. But such weather does not last long; as soon as the south wind comes it is warm again."

Another century, and conditions had changed. The disunited Colonies were now a united Nation. Agriculture and industry were astir under the impulse to economic as well as political freedom. The growing cities of Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore were consuming centers where cattle markets were growing up in connection with packing industries. Their markets paid premiums for heavy, well-marbled beef cattle. Such cattle the farmers of southeastern Pennsylvania, central Maryland, and the great Virginia valleys attempted to supply.

In the year 1783 Matthew Patton, Sr., then living in Virginia on the South Fork of the Potomac, bought of Gough and Ringgold, of Baltimore, a bull imported by them that year. This bull was a Longhorn, quite similar in all other respects except length of horn to the early Shorthorn. According to the best standards of the time, it was a well-developed beef animal.

In 1785 three of Patton's sons and his son-in-law removed from Virginia to the vicinity of Nicholasville. In 1790 Matthew Patton, Sr., came to Clark County. These five men brought with them numerous heifers described "as very large and rangy, fattening slowly and late, but at maturity making excellent beef." They had "very long horns, wide between the points, turning up considerably." This perfectly describes the one-time popular grade Longhorn.

In 1795 Patton, Sr., tried a second cross. From Gough and Miller of Baltimore, he bought two animals out of their Maryland-Virginia herds. These are described as of the "milk breed"-- an early-day synonym for the Shorthorn. The bull was Mars (1850 in the American Shorthorn Herd Book. The number thus used here and subsequently shows the herdbook registry number of the animal in question). He was deep red in color, white-faced, rounded in form, with heavy bone and good size. Mars, bred chiefly to common stock, died in 1806, leaving his get of half-blood calves scattered through the Bluegrass. Mars' companion, Venus, dropped two bull calves, one of which was taken to Ohio. The other calf, a full-blood

Shorthorn, stood during his lifetime in Kentucky.

In 1803 came the Shorthorn Pluto (825). He was out of imported stock, large, with small head and neck, an indication of fine bone. This blood infusion gave a "double Shorthorn cross on the half-Longhorn" and produced animals of markedly superior quality.

Other bulls of note were the Miller-bred Buzzard (304), a Shorthorn-Longhorn cross-bred, which added little to the improvement of Kentucky stock. His description, "very large and coarse, taller than but not so heavy as Pluto," partly explains his unpopularity. The slowness of his progeny to mature was another objection, especially so in a day when from four to seven years was considered a reasonable period for growth and fattening. Inskip's Brindle, in breeding similar to Buzzard, was brought to Kentucky in 1813. The following year, the "Carey Stock," a pair of rather small, rawboned, and spotted animals, arrived. They were unpopular. None of the animals mentioned in this paragraph appear to have measured up to the high standard set by the "Patton Stock."

In 1805 the Shakers, a religious body, opened their famous experiment in community living at Shakertown in Mercer County. They brought with them from Ohio the purebred Shorthorn bull, Shaker (2193). In 1814 this bull was sold to Hutchcraft and Welton, of Bourbon County.

These, according to Robert Peter, "were all that were brought to Kentucky prior to 1817 ... crossed on the native stock of the country, that which is known as the 'Patton Stock' spring."

Out of this stock, then prevailingly Shorthorn in blood, was gathered the cattle exhibited at Sanders' Cattle Show of 1816, and at the subsequent cattle show of the Kentucky Agricultural Association in 1817; for "The Seventeens" imported by Sanders did not arrive in the Bluegrass in time for that exhibition. Nor are the two Shorthorn bulls mentioned as brought to Fayette County in that year by James Prentice mentioned in connection with the cattle show of 1817.

For an understanding of what followed, both in 1817 and through the long years of Shorthorn ascendancy in Kentucky, the story of breed development, particularly of the Shorthorn and its great rival, the Hereford, is briefly reviewed:

The Shorthorn

The long and eventful history of the Shorthorn begins in northeastern England where, in the counties of Durham (whence the name that was formerly applied to the breed), Northumberland, Lincoln, and York the breed was developed. Here, along the Teeswater and in the Holderness country, at an early time, fleshing quality was bred from the native cattle of England, strains notable for size. These strains, very similar in appearance, were locally known as the Holderness and the Teeswater. In the middle of the eighteenth century, out of the Teeswater and Holderness stock, Charles and Robert Colling, by careful selection and breeding laid the foundation of the modern Shorthorn. The great founding sires of the breed were Hubback and Comet.

Thomas Booth, of Yorkshire, who began breeding Shorthorns in 1790, carried forward the work of Charles and Robert Colling, stressing in his breeding quick maturity and heavy fleshing. In 1819 Booth sold part of his herd to his son John, another part to his son Richard, and kept part for himself. The breeding work of these three men in large part fixed the characteristics of what has since been

known as the Booth or "beef strain" of the Shorthorn.

Meanwhile, Thomas Bates, also of Yorkshire, beginning his career as a breeder in 1800, was working for a combination of high beef quality with that of liberal milk production. Out of this work, extended by that of later breeders, developed what became known as the "Bates strain," the "milking Shorthorns," or the "dual purpose (i.e. beef and milk) Shorthorns."

By the 1820's the preliminary breeding work was done. The characteristics of the breed were firmly established. In 1822 George Coates of England started the first Shorthorn Herd Book of the breed. The American Shorthorn Herd Book dates from 1846, and that of Canada from 1867.

Intense rivalry developed and still exists between the beef and milking strains of the breed. This rivalry, which afforded the buyer his choice of either of two excellent qualities, was far from being a detriment to the breed as a whole. On the contrary, it strengthened the position of the breed as against all comers. Subsequent to 1800, numerous importations to America were made. Gough and Miller, of Baltimore, were among the early American importers. Kentucky availed itself liberally of this source of supply; later, Powell, of Philadelphia, became a leading importer and breeder.

For two generations-- until, in the late 1870's, the Hereford rose into popular favor-- Kentucky was the chief source of supply of those throughout the Nation who desired winners in the show ring, the auction sale, or as top-of-the-market run of cattle. To this constant demand for breeding stock at good prices is due, more than to any other reason, the comparative agricultural prosperity of Kentucky during the 1830-80 period. The history of the rise and decline of the great local agricultural and mechanical societies, together with their local fairs, may largely be read in the rise to favor, the dominance, and the later decline in Nation-wide demand for Kentucky-reared foundation stock of the Shorthorn breed.

The Hereford

Native cattle in and about Herefordshire, England, were the foundation of the breed known as the Hereford. Richard Tompkins, who died in 1723, is given credit in large part for the selection that produced this breed. John Price and Henry Hewer were his able followers. The aim was to produce "plow oxen" of low and massive build. In this they and later generations of breeders succeeded. At the same time, while fixing these characteristics, these breeders of the Hereford produced a quick-maturing and excellent beef type of animal, quiet in temperament, a good feeder, one well adapted to mass production under open range conditions, or to quick maturity and fattening.

The first importation of the Hereford to America was unfortunate. Henry Clay, visiting in England after the War of 1812, procured a pair of the breed. Their blood was lost in that of surrounding Bluegrass herds. No further importation to Kentucky was recorded for many years. Importations to America took place in 1824 and 1840, but it was not until the Hereford showing at the Centennial Exposition of 1876, followed by the Fat Stock Show of 1878, that the breed attracted Nation-wide attention of cattlemen, especially those of the Western range. The even color and white-face markings, a sure indication of Hereford blood and of its prepotency as demonstrated by the improvement shown by first and subsequent crosses on ordinary stock, created a wide demand for Hereford sires. Between 1880 and 1886 several thousand Hereford bulls were imported. These im-

portations went not only to the range, but into the States north of the Ohio River that formerly had been consistent buyers of Kentucky-bred Shorthorn foundation stock. Indiana and Illinois in particular developed, during the early 1880's, great purebred herds intended to supply the prospecting demand of the western range and other sections for prepotent sires of Hereford blood.

Out of this increasing competition between Shorthorn and Hereford developed what is known in breeds history as "the Hereford invasion of 1886." In that year herds both from Indiana and Illinois entered the Bluegrass State, showing Hereford against Shorthorn in the rings of the Shelby and other county fairs. Here the findings of the judges were divided, and justly so, between the Shorthorns of Kentucky and the visiting Herefords. This drawn battle of the breeds on the stamping groung of the Shorthorns marked the end of the century-long supremacy of that breed, in the estimation of the breeder interested primarily in supplying the demand of breeders throughout the Nation for purebred cattle. Thereafter the drift was away from exclusive Shorthorn breeding and toward a general recognition of all the breeds, both beef and dairy, that by the close of the century had attained public favor.

Other Breeds

For the purposes of a preview of the fairs of Kentucky, the breeds already mentioned are those of major importance. The rest, though important in their own right, play a secondary part in the story. This does not consider sheep, the story of which is closely bound up with that of the early-day industrial life of the State. It does include the remainder of the cattle breeds, also hogs and poultry. Horses and mules have already been considered. Hogs were more or less incidental. For many years poultry was raised mainly as a way of paying current store bills. Cattle, aside from the dominant breeds, were looked upon as interesting curiosities, but of sheep it may be remarked that they, by reason of their wool, early formed a close connecting link between the farm and the factory and between the home and industry. In the early period of the fairs, sheep clothed the family, not by way of barter and sale, but with wool taken off their backs, carded, spun, woven, dyed, and patterened into the "homespun" that was worn by the early fair-goers as part of the long and losing battle against "furrin goods," a term that early came to include goods manufactured outside of the State as well as those imported from abroad. Hence the importance attached to the sheep exhibited, to the quality of their wool, and to the products of the loom.

RISE OF THE EARLY MECHANICAL INDUSTRIES

The phrase "agricultural and mechanical," used in connection with the names of the societies organized in the 1830's and later, records the early and close connection between agriculture and manufacturing. It harks back to a day prior to the industrial revolution of the eighteenth century, when spinning and weaving were done in the home, and the products of household and factory alike went on the wholesale market, when manufacturing in general had not progressed beyond the individual shop or forge.

The British Colonies in America were founded and developed well in advance of the changes effected by the introduction in England of the power loom and the factory system. Colonial America continued the old British industrial system of home manufacture until after the American Revolution. Subsequent to the close of that war, America struggled to free itself industrially, as it had politically, from Great Britain, whose factory-made goods were thrown upon the American market bringing distress and near disaster to the few and feeble factories in America; and equal distress to the American farmer in whose home, for example, the

wool produced on the farm was washed, carded, spun, dyed, woven into cloth, fulled, and then offered in trade or made up into clothing.

Other crafts early transferred to Colonial America were similarly handicapped in their development by the increasing pressure of foreign competition, which continued throughout the Napoleonic era and well into the middle of the nineteenth century. The British Parliament, in an attempt to retain control by England of the markets of the world, early passed laws seeking to prevent the exportation of machines or factory equipment. America answered by importing skilled mechanics who brought with them their knowledge and gave to America the first beginnings of the modern factory system.

The protection of the resulting "infant industries," and of the long-established home industries as well, had caused, as early as 1800, under this policy and in spite of ever-present rivalry between American home and factory-made goods, the factory and the home to be bound together in defensive union against any and all foreign competition.

In early-day practice this protective principle was first applied to the home, next to the neighborhood, and finally to the region or Nation. As a national political movement, this program was launched at a long-considered convention of representative farmers and manufacturers, which met in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, July 20, 1827. Kentucky, deeply concerned in the protection of its hemp was active in the proceedings at Harrisburg, where was outlined the so-called "American System" from which later developed two great political parties-- the Whig and the Republican. Henry Clay of Kentucky and Daniel Webster of Massachusetts became the spokesmen of the new national program. This political union of the rising West with New England is understandable only when it is remembered that pioneer Kentucky was an industrially isolated section within an industrially undeveloped Nation. The first settlers were separated from the older part of the Nation by the width of the Alleghenies. They were flanked on the north by savage tribesmen. Their free access to the seas was blocked by the fact that the lower Mississippi was, prior to about 1800, in the hands of Spain, then in an unfriendly mood. They had come to Kentucky motivated by one supreme desire-- to make the region between the Big Sandy and Mississippi rivers their permanent home.

With this end in view, the Kentucky pioneers took with them, as far as individual circumstances and the restrictions of transportation permitted, all the equipment pertaining to life as they had lived it along the Atlantic seaboard and in the Great Valley of Virginia. In spite of the lack of roads, for the Wilderness Road of that day scarcely deserved the name, the more necessary tools required in the building of an industrial life immediately found their way into the region. In 1787 the press on which was printed the Kentucky Gazette was floated down the Ohio to the river landing at Limestone, where Maysville now stands. Two years later the Kentucky Society for the Encouragement of Manufactures, a group of private individuals concerned in the promotion of industry within the Bluegrass State, was formed. As a result various essential industries were secured and prospered.

As early as 1791 a small blast furnace on Slate Creek, a branch of the Licking River, was turning out pig iron. Other furnaces and forges followed, and the most serious industrial lack of the new community, that of raw iron, was removed. Artisans adept in the use of saw and broadax, hammer and trowel, developed noteworthy architectural skill, as attested by the homes, both urban and rural, dating from and after the closing decade of the eighteenth century. Each

and every neighborhood and town combined with the development of agriculture, naturally the basic industry, that industrial development best adapted to its own needs. As soon as agricultural production outran local consumption, this development took on the form of processing for export, chiefly by way of the Ohio to New Orleans, the West Indies, and the Atlantic seaboard. These exports consisted largely of flax, hemp, wool, livestock, grain, and other raw materials. This industrialization was especially active in centers such as Lexington, Bardstown, Danville, Frankfort, Georgetown, Paris, and Louisville,the fast growing riverport at the Falls of the Ohio, where cargoes were cleared for West Indian, Atlantic, and overseas destinations.

By 1800 the struggle of Kentucky farmers and manufacturers against the flood of foreign importations that followed the free use of the Mississippi had assumed such proportions that, at a meeting held in Bourbon County, the following illuminating picture of the times went into the record:

"At a meeting of sundry inhabitants of the county of Bourbon, at the courthouse (Paris) on the 19th day of February, 1800, after taking into consideration the alarming financial situation of our country, occasioned by the great scarcity of money, and deeming it indispensable that some system of economy should be adopted. In order to prevent as far as possible the total ruin of our citizens and the more fully to enable us to avoid that ruinous intercourse between the merchants and the people, came to the following resolutions, to wit:

"1. Resolved, That after the first day of April next, we will not purchase from merchants, traders or others, any of the following enumerated imported manufactured articles, to wit: woolens, linens, cottons, silks, hats, shoes, saddles, sugars, or imported liquors of any kind (wines used as a medicine or in religious societies only excepted), unless the same can be purchased and paid for in articles made of the growth or manufactures of this State.

"2. Resolved, That we will encourage the raising of sheep, the cultivation of hemp, flax, and cotton, and the promoting of home manufactures of every kind.

"3. As the manufacturing of paper is important to the good citizens of the commonwealth, Resolved, That it be recommended to each family to preserve all cotton and linen rags, and to butchers and tanners, to save all horns and remnants of hides for making glue, those articles being deemed necessary to the manufacturing of that article.

"4. Resolved, That there be stated monthly meetings in the town of Paris at the court-house, on the fourth Saturday in every month.

"5. Resolved, That the county of Bourbon be laid out into four districts forming the angles made by the Limestone road and Stoner, and that each of these districts form separate meetings at such times and places as the people shall judge most proper, and that the chairman of these meetings make report, in writing, from time to time to the chairman in Paris, of the progress of those meetings.

"6. Resolved, That it be recommended to the field officers of the militia and Captains of companies to use their endeavors in promoting and carrying into effect these resolutions.

"7. Resolved, That we whose names are annexed to these resolutions do pledge ourselves to each other that we will in the most scrupulous manner adhere to their contents, and that we will not directly or indirectly violate them.

"8. Resolved, That we do in the most cordial manner invite our fellow citizens throughout the state to consider this or some better mode to save our country from bankruptcy and our citizens from ruin.

"9. Resolved, That the different printers in the state be requested to give these resolutions in their useful papers.

Attest:
THO. ARNOLD, clk. protem. A. BASTIN, Chm."

Such determined action found response later in the same year in the address of Gov. James Garrard, Kentucky farmer, to the legislature. Governor Garrard said:

"Nationally connected with this subject (e.g. transportation) is that of home manufacturers. Our soil and climate is adapted to production of materials for carrying this branch of industry to beneficial extent. Our domestic manufacture even on its present scale, as imperfect as it is, has a very honourable claim to public maintenance-- we have every reason to hope it will be extended. I will suggest it might be expedient for the legislature to encourage manufacturing men of industry, probity and ability-- by affording such pecuniary aid as may be deemed consistent with the interests and resources of the commonwealth."

All this is symptomatic of general conditions then facing industry and agriculture alike. As manufacturing within Kentucky increased, the bond of common interest strengthened. A digest of the United States Census report of 1810 on manufacturing in Kentucky shows the prominence industry had by that time assumed in the State:

Manufactures of Kentucky for the Year 1810

Products		Amount	Value
Maple Sugar	pounds	2,471,647	$ 308,932
Cloths and stuffs, all sorts	yards	4,685,385	2,057,081
Bagging for cotton and hemp	yards	453,750	159,445
Nails	pounds	196,000	33,660
Spirits distilled	gallons	2,220,773	740,242
Gun powder	pounds	115,716	38,561
Salt	bushels	324,870	324,870
Looms	number	25,559	
Tanneries	number	167	
Rope-Walks	number	38	
Carding Machines	number	21	
Fulling Mills	number	33	
Furnaces	number	4	
Forges	number	3	
Paper Mills	number	6	
Oil Mills	number	9	
Saltpeter	pounds	201,937	33,648
Hemp	tons	5,755	690,600
These, together with other items, make a total of			$6,181,024

"Gross value of the manufactures of Kentucky excluding the "doubtful articles" such as Maple-sugar, salt-peter and hemp, so called because it does not appear certain whether they are not agricultural products rather than manufactures.

"But this amount is, probably, not more than half of the real product of the year 1810; the manufactures of grain into flour and meal, and many other articles that we know Kentucky exported in vast quantities are not mentioned at all. The hemp raised in 1811 was nearly double the quantity raised the preceding year; and the salt-peter and gun-powder made is greatly increased. "Big Bone Cave" yields 500 pounds of salt-peter per day, and many waggon loads of gun-powder are latterly brought to the states on the sea-board. It is stated that the number of rope-walks have doubled since 1810; some of them are very extensive establishments. The quantity of cotton bagging made is calculated at 1,000,000 yds. per annum.

"The flour, whisky, tobacco, bacon, hemp, coarse linens, and cattle, that Kentucky is capable of exporting, is immense. Cotton manufactories, with liberal capitals, are just getting fairly under way; they promise to become of great importance; but it takes some time to make their machinery in the"backwoods." In one or two years, many thousand spindles will be at work. The steam power is applied to some of those as well as for grinding of grain. In Kentucky, until lately, but little attention was paid to raising sheep; but the approved breeds are pretty well dispersed, and there are some fine flocks. The general attention of the farmers is excited to them, and the country is exceedingly well adapted to support millions, at the smallest expense. There are some woolen manufactories, but the want of the raw material has prevented them from assuming the desired importance. The business of paper making has risen nearly to the demand. The state is rich in minerals; and the manufactures of iron are rapidly increasing. The cheapness of living in Kentucky, and the distance of a great part of the state from a market for its agricultural products, have taught the people the important advantages to be derived from giving to their commodities an increase of value by labor which so much reduces the proportionate charges of transportation. We look to Kentucky for a full supply of such sail cloths, sheetings and linens as were heretofore received from Russia.

"Lexington, is the chief town ... population about 6000. The public buildings are numerous and neat-- it has one or two banks. Steam power is applied to several manufactories. In 1811 its manufactures of hemp were valued at $500,000; there were 8 cotton factories and 3 wool. Some have been erected since then, and every business has enlarged.

"Louisville has several flour mills and saw mills, and an iron foundry has been recently established. The rope walks are extensive and much bagging is made. Population from 1500 to 2000."

The population of the State in 1810 was 406,511, of which 324,237 were whites, and 82,274 were Negroes. Of the latter only 1,713 were free.

During the years prior to 1812, great interest centered in the improvement of the wool used in weaving. More than 20,000 sheep of the Spanish Merino breed

were imported to America for that purpose, and Kentucky secured its full quota. High prices of wool, induced by the disruption of trade during the Napoleonic Wars in Europe and by the shortage of native American wool, prevailed. With the market returning as high as $2.00 and more a pound for high-quality merino, prices of breeding stock skyrocketed. At a sale in New York, while the Spanish Merino boom was at its height, sixty-eight full-blood ewes averaged $26.28; half-bloods brought only $10.50 a head. Warnings that the fine wool of the Merino was not wholly adapted to the looms then in use went unheeded. When the War of 1812 ended, British merchants loaded their vessels with stored-up woolens, swamped the American market, and the "boom" was over. The crash carried with it the fortunes of one Lewis Sanders, important in the Kentucky story as the originator of the first "cattle show" held in the State.

Two important results of the Merino boom long survived its demise. During the height of interest in the breed, from 1800 to 1815, powerful associations composed of both farmers and manufacturers were organized. Among them were the Merino Society of the Middle States, organized near Haddenfield, New Jersey, in 1811, the Athenian Society of Baltimore, Maryland, and the Columbian Agricultural Society of Georgetown, District of Columbia, with membership drawn from the District, Virginia, and Maryland. These and similar societies organized sheep shearings, offered prizes for weight and quality of wool, weight of carcass, and products of the loom, including cotton, hempen, and linen goods, as well as woolens. These prizes were awarded following exhibitions that took on the aspect of early-day fairs. Women were leading competitors for the prizes offered for loom products at the Columbian Society's 1812 spring exhibition.

These sheep shearings, at least one of which is recorded as being held in Kentucky, prepared the mind of the public for further and fuller co-operation between farmer and manufacturer.

An even more lasting effect of the Merino boom, especially in Kentucky, was the deep infusion of the blood of that breed, evident today in the prevailing fine-wooled fleece produced throughout the State, which gives the grower an excellent competitive position in the wool market.

With the opening of the era of agricultural and mechanical societies, the farmers in control of these organizations offered prizes both for crop and livestock improvement and also for mechanical improvements that would lessen their labors. Improved farm machinery was welcomed. Awards were given for the best-designed agricultural implements. Meanwhile, prizes were offered for products of the household, including those of the domestic loom. Only gradually was the old association of local manufacturer and farmer broken, to be replaced by the growing interest of the farmer in the latest factory-made inventions, notably the reaper and threshing machine.

During the 1870's a new relationship developed. Industry, particularly that in Louisville, established its own expositions, which, during the 1880's, widely advertised the State. When, in 1902, the stockmen of Kentucky came to the legislature demanding the establishment of a State fair, the business interests of the State lent their support to the movement but did not share directly the responsibility. Once Kentucky State Fair was permanently established on suitable grounds, and an industrial building provided by action of the legislature, the merchants and manufacturers (for whom the building is named) took over, in practice, that part of the State Fair within the field of industry and outside that of agriculture.

PRE-KENTUCKIAN SOCIETIES AND FAIRS

The name "fair," now greatly changed from its original meaning of a general market where goods were offered for sale, goes back to the central counties of England where such fairs or markets were held on particular days. An attempt to introduce this type of fair in Virginia was made early in the seventeenth century. The purpose was to assemble the tobacco and other exportable goods of the smaller planters in quantities sufficient for making a paying shipload. This seems to have been looked upon as unwarranted interference with private business, for it failed.

More than a century later, acts of the Virginia Legislature established fairs in Alexandria, then a leading Atlantic seaport, at Winchester in the Great Valley of Virginia, and also at Fredricksburg, Richmond and Mecklenburg.

The feature common to these fairs is their strictly commercial character.

"In the case of Alexandria it was provided that for the future:

> "... two fairs shall and may be annually kept, and held, in the said town of Alexandria, on the last Thursday in May, and the last Thursday in October each, to continue for the space of two days, for the sale and vending of all manner of cattle, victuals, provisions, goods, wares, and merchandise, whatsoever; on which fair days, and on two days next before, and two days next after each of the said fairs all persons coming to, being at, or going from the same, together with their cattle, goods, wares and merchandise, shall be exempt and privileged from all arrests, attachments and executions whatsoever, except for capital offenses, breaches of the peace, or for any controversies, suits, and quarrels that may arise and happen during the said time, in which cases process may be immediately issued, and proceedings thereupon had, in the same manner as if this act had never been made; and this act shall commence immediately after the end of this session of assembly, and continue and be in force for two years, and from thence to the end of the next session of assembly, and no longer...."

These fairs, all substantially the same as to purpose and set-up, proved successful. From them is derived the name "fair" as it is now used in Kentucky. The original meaning of a "market" disappeared in the 1830's.

Agricultural organizations, similar to those that have staged the fairs of Kentucky, also antedated the Revolution. Again the beginnings are traced to Great Britain where, prior to 1731, Jethro Tull had invented the grain drill and was preaching the gospel of land fertilization. Stirred by his experiments, such men as Arthur Young, first secretary of the British Board of Agriculture, established in 1793; Thomas William Coke of Norfolk (Earl of Leicester), and others including the great breeders previously mentioned, helped give publicity to the value of improved farming methods. To Coke, agriculture is indebted for the introduction of public sheep shearings, at which "all the improving landlords and farmers of the day met and exchanged their experiences. There, too, the improved livestock of the time could be seen and judged."

Meanwhile, societies and shows were developing in connection with livestock improvement. The Bath and West of England Society, dating from 1777, held stock shows annually for at least forty-four years. The Highland Society was formed in

1784. The Smithfield Club, organized in 1798, was long a leader in the exhibition of fine cattle. These were followed by like organizations throughout rural England, where, during the closing quarter of the eighteenth and the first three decades of the nineteenth centuries, the keenest of rivalry between breeders and their favored breeds existed. This rivalry was not limited to horses and cattle alone, but extended to sheep, hogs, and poultry. Shows featured the meetings of the county, or shire, societies, and out of the testings of the period have come down the great present-day English breeds, chosen by popular favor from among others little less worthy. The breed names bear, in many cases, the names of the British counties where they originated.

America, in the matter of agricultural organization, as in other matters pertaining to the advancement of farming, closely followed the lead of England. This was for the reason that leading American farmers of that day kept themselves informed as to the progress of agriculture in England and on the Continent. In 1766 the New York Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts was organized; in 1792 it published its findings. The New Jersey Society for Promoting Agriculture, Commerce, and Arts was formed in, or prior to, 1781. In 1785 the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture and the South Carolina Agricultural Society came into being. The latter immediately bought land, which it devoted to experimental purposes.

In 1792 the Massachusetts Society was issuing agricultural bulletins. Nine years later someone suggested to the society the holding of agricultural shows. The formation of agricultural societies in Virginia and Maryland completed a chain that now extended along the entire Atlantic coast. Washington, leading American farmer of his time and honorary member of the British Board of Agriculture, had said, in 1790, in his first annual address to Congress:

> "The advancement of agriculture, commerce and manufactures by all proper means will not, I trust, need recommendation; but I can not forbear intimating to you the expediency of giving effectual encouragement as well to the introduction of new and useful inventions from abroad as to the exertions of skill and genius in producing them at home, and facilitating the intercourse between the distant parts of our country by due attention to post-offices and post-roads."

This oblique reference to the pressing problems of agriculture, particularly as they then presented themselves in Kentucky, foreshadowed his opinion as expressed in his final message to Congress, December 7, 1796:

> "It will not be doubted that with reference, either to individual or national welfare, agriculture is of primary importance. In proportion as nations advance in population and other circumstances of maturity this truth becomes more apparent and renders the cultivation of the soil more and more an object of public patronage.
>
> "Institutions for promoting it grow up supported by the public purse, and to what object can it be dedicated with greater propriety? Among the means which have been employed to this end none have been attended with greater success than the establishment of boards (composed of proper characters) charged with collecting and diffusing information, and enabled by premiums and small pecuniary aids to encourage and assist a spirit of discovery and improvement. This species of establishment contributes doubly to the increase of improvement by stimulating to enterprise and experiment, and by drawing to a common center

> the results everywhere of individual skill and observation, and spreading them thence over the whole nation. Experience accordingly has shown that they are a very cheap instrument of immense national benefit....
>
> GEO. WASHINGTON"

This direct appeal for the establishment of an American board of agriculture, named and supported by the Government, failed to meet with the approval of other leaders, chief among whom was Thomas Jefferson, farmer and inventor, who felt that the agricultural societies then forming should remain independent of official Govermental leadership and control. In a letter written during 1801 to Robert Livingstone, he reveals his reasons for differing with Washington:

> "I have on several occasions been led to think on some means of uniting the State agricultural societies into a central society; and lately it has been pressed from England with a view of co-operation with their Board of Agriculture.
>
> "You know some have proposed to Congress to incorporate such a society. I am against that because I think Congress cannot find in all its enumerated powers any one which authorizes the act, much less the giving of public money to that use. I believe, too, if they had the power, it would soon be used for no other purpose than to buy with sinecures useful partisans. I believe it will thrive best if left to itself as the philosophical Societies are. There is certainly a much greater abundance of material for Agricultural Societies than philosophical. But what should be the plan of Union? Would it do for the state societies to agree to meet in a central society by a deputation of members?

The Jeffersonian idea prevailed and became the guiding principle of the associations of the nineteenth century. According to Jefferson himself, a national agricultural society was born about the year 1800. In a letter to John Sinclair, written subsequent to that just quoted, he says:

> "Our Agricultural Society has at length formed itself. Like our American Philosophical Society, it is voluntary, and unconnected with the government and is precisely the execution of the plan I formerly sketched to you. Some state societies have been formed heretofore. Each state society names two of its members of Congress to be their members in the Central Society. Mr. Madison, Secretary of State, is their president."

All that is now known of this first National Agricultural Society is that it met, or was supposed to meet, during sessions of Congress, to consider the national problems of agriculture. It may reasonably be inferred that great farmers like Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, and Clay of Kentucky met and, to a certain degree, blended their local views into a national agricultural program, that had bearing upon the later developments at Harrisburg; but on all that, as on other events in the life of this first National Agricultural Society, the records appear to be silent.

In 1807, during the Merino boom, Elkhana Watson, a Massachusetts farmer, secured two Merino sheep. These he exhibited on the public square in Pittsfield, seat of Berkshire County. The interest aroused grew so that, in 1811, through his efforts, supported by ten other men, was held what is generally accepted as

the first stock show staged in America. This stock show, which drew a crowd estimated at several thousand people, is thus described by an eyewitness:

> "A procession was formed on the public square and proceeded through the principal streets in the following order:
>
> "Sixty yoke of plowing oxen, connected by chains, and drawing a plough held by Charles Goodrich, esq., and Mr. Nathaniel Fairfield, being the two most aged farmers present.
>
> "Farmers of the county carrying a flag representing a sheaf of wheat on one side and a plough on the other. A large stage drawn by oxen, carrying on it a large (broadcloth) loom, with a flying shuttle and a spinning Jenney of 40 spindles-- both of these machines in actual operation by skillful workmen.
>
> "Mechanics of the county carrying a flag, representing a ram on one side, and a shuttle on the other.
>
> "A large stage drawn by horses, carrying on it various specimens of Berkshire manufactures, among which were a number of rolls of broad cloth, rolls of sail duck, handsome rose blankets, muskets, etc., with the flags of the United States and of the Commonwealth displayed on it.
>
> "Officers and members of the Berkshire Agricultural Society with heads of wheat (being the badge of the society) in their hats.
>
> "The whole was attended and regulated by the marshal of the day on horseback (Mr. Sheriff Larned) together with four deputy marshals, all mounted on white horses, and carrying the badge of their office. The members of the Pittsfield band of music accompanied them, and enlivened the procession.
>
> "A number of premiums were awarded by the Berkshire Agricultural Society, according to previous regulations.
>
> "The society have also resolved to pay certain premiums upon household manufactured woolen clokes, to be exhibited in January next."

During the years that followed, the fame of the Berkshire Agricultural Society fairs became Nation-wide. The Berkshire plan, modified to meet local conditions, was the model on which other fairs were instituted, so that, in 1816, Elkhana Watson, then head of the New York State Agricultural Board, at a meeting of his old society, could say:

> "... The eyes of America are fixed on your patriotic course with anxious solicitude. For some weeks past, we find the public papers from Maine to Georgia - from the Atlantic to the Mississippi - all teeming in the praises of your society, and holding it up to view as worthy of general imitation. Several agricultural societies are recently organized - others in contemplation - and all avowedly on your model. It will, also be peculiarly grateful to every member of this society, to know that the mother society of this state (Massachusetts) is following your footsteps in their first cattle show, to be exhibited the ensuing week at Brighton. They are blessed with an over-

flowing treasury, and have, at length, evinced a disposition to appropriate a small portion of their income, to excite a laudable spirit of emulation in the vicinity of the capital.

"Your exemplary measures are considered National, since their influence is extended into every section of this great republic...."

In such manner the cattle shows of England became the fairs of America. July 25, 1816, eleven weeks prior to Watson's speech, Lewis Sanders, of Fayette County, welcomed as his guests those who attended the first "Cattle Shew and Fair" held in Kentucky.

* * * *

Such, in broad outline, are the material sources out of which originated the fairs of Kentucky.

Good soil, a favorable climate, the best of their day in horses, cattle, and sheep; these, together with the early rise of manufacturing, gave to a people endowed with a strong bent toward friendly co-operation the materials out of which they fashioned, primarily for their own education, entertainment, and enjoyment, the fairs of the Bluegrass State.

CHAPTER 2

EARLY ORGANIZATIONS AND STOCK SHOWS

The fairs of Kentucky, especially those of the nineteenth century, are notable for two things: first, their marked educational purpose; and second, the high degree of co-operation between industry and agriculture from the fairs inception throughout their history.

The close alliance early formed in Kentucky between farming and manufacturing has already been remarked. The period of initial settlement had not ended before steps were taken to bring the economic forces of the coming Commonwealth into closer and more effective union.

THE FIRST KENTUCKY SOCIETY IS BORN

In 1787, five years prior to Statehood, a distinguished group of citizens organized what they called "The Kentucky Society for Promoting Useful Knowledge." The similarity of name to the "New York Society for the Promotion of Useful Arts," organized in 1776, is striking. While there is no record extant of its proceedings, it may be inferred, from the recorded labors of the New York society, and from the high quality of the membership of the Kentucky organization, that the latter functioned, as occasion demanded, as a chamber of commerce, as a clearing house for opinions relative to the welfare of the Colony at large, and especially as an agricultural society devoted to the distribution of experience gained by its members relative to crops and cultural methods best adapted to the region.

The record of its formation is brief:

> "Whereas, The subscribers to the proposals for establishing a society, to be called The Kentucky Society for Promoting Useful Knowledge, were prevented from meeting on the Fourth Monday in September last, according to appointment; and as it is probable that a meeting of the subscribers cannot in any short time be had, and absolutely necessary that something should be done for the benefit of the society, without further loss of time; it is proposed by sundry subscribers, that a Select committee, Curator and Treasurer, shall be forthwith chosen by the subscribers, in the (only) manner which their dispersed situations will at present admit of. The committee, Curator and Treasurer, to act, in their several capacities, till a meeting of the subscribers can be had.
>
> "Each subscriber is therefore requested to forward to Mr. Thomas Speed at Danville, before the first day of February next, a list of such gentlemen as he chooses to constitute a select committee; and also the names of such gentlemen as he wishes to be appointed Curator and Treasurer.

"It is proposed, that such gentlemen as are found, on the said first day of February next, to have a majority of such votes in their favour, as have then come to hand, shall be a select committee and act as Curator and Treasurer, till a meeting, as above mentioned, can be had. A list of all the subscribers, sub-joined; and it is necessary to observe that the select committee is to consist of seven members, including the chairman, who is to be chosen by the committee."

(SIGNED)

George Muter	John Jouett	John Coburn
Samuel McDowell	Thomas Allin	George Gordon
Harry Innes	Robert Todd	Alexander D. Orr
James Speed	Joseph Crockett	Robert Barr
William McDowell	Ebenezer Brooks	Robert Johnson
Willis Green	T. Hall	John Craig
Thomas Todd	Caleb Wallace	James Garrard
Thomas Speed	William Irvine	Isaac Shelby
Gabriel J. Johnson	Charles Scott	David Leitch
Joshua Barbee	Levi Todd	H(umphrey) Marshall
Stephan Ormsby	James Parker	C(hristopher) Greenup
J. Overton, jun.	Alexander Parker	
J(ohn) Brown	John Fowler	

The balloting, as announced under date of February 1, 1788, resulted in the election of Messrs. Innes, Wallace, Johnson, Levi Todd, Muter, Garrard, and Marshall as committeemen; of John Coburn as treasurer; and of Christopher Greenup as curator. Thomas Speed acted as secretary.

There, so far as can be ascertained a century and a half later, the record of this society ends. There is no further account of what was proposed, planned, or accomplished.

But there is abundant evidence that the thirty-eight young men who signed the charter were exceptional in ability and character. While the average age of the twelve whose ages are known was then but thirty-two years, the group was already distinguished. Several had served in the Virginia Legislature. Of the thirty, whose records have survived a century and a half of time, sixteen are known as soldiers of the Revolutionary or Indian wars. Of these, Craig and James Speed were captains; Leitch and Thomas Speed were majors; Irvine, Samuel McDowell, Orr, and Johnson bore the title of colonel. Scott and Robert Todd won on the battlefield the title of general.

In private life the membership distinguished themselves as farmers, businessmen, surveyors, industrialists, leaders in law and in the professions. Marshall, a prominent lawyer, wrote, in 1824, a history of the State. Another, Gen. Robert Todd, was the grandfather of Mary Todd, wife of Abraham Lincoln. Shelby, a leading farmer, became the first president of the first State Agricultural Society of Kentucky. John Brown, by the building of his home, Liberty Hall in Frankfort, gave to Kentucky one of the best surviving examples of Georgian Colonial architecture. Individually, for more than three decades, the men of this group stood high, both in the business affairs of the State and in social esteem.

In the field of politics and statecraft, history gives the thirty especial mention. A majority later served in the legislature of the State. Muter, Innes, and Thomas Todd were justices of the Kentucky Court of Appeals. James Speed was

a justice of the District of Kentucky, prior to its Statehood. Coburn was Federal Judge, in 1812, of the Orleans Territory, remainder of the Louisiana Purchase after Louisiana was admitted as a State. Thomas Todd sat as an Associate Justice on the bench of the United States Supreme Court. Four of the thirty, Thomas Speed, Ormsby, Greenup, and Orr served the State in the National Congress. Brown and Humphrey Marshall were United States Senators; and, in the persons of Isaac Shelby, James Garrard, Christopher Greenup, and Charles Scott, first four governors of the Commonwealth, the group contributed the leadership that from 1792 to 1816 set the political, and in large part the industrial, course of Kentucky.

That such a company, organized a society having the broad purpose previously outlined, and then accomplished nothing, is hard to believe. It should rather, be assumed that, in keeping with the practice of that early time, official records were considered of little value, and that the deliberations of a society that met only to consider the public welfare did not make the "news" of a kind that found place in the crowded columns of the Kentucky Gazette, at that time Kentucky's only newspaper.

AN INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION

The rapid influx of population during the 1780's confronted District of Kentucky businessmen with a major problem of finance. Raw materials were plentiful; barter within the district was a comparatively simple thing; credit was good; but actual money, either gold or silver, was scarce-- and hard money was needed to purchase the larger equipment of factories desired to create an economically well balanced community.

All this is explained in an agreement entered into at Danville in August, 1789, for the organization of an association known as "The Kentucky Society for the Encouragement of Manufactures." This agreement said in part:

> "From a conviction that the welfare of Kentucky must depend in a great measure on the establishment of useful manufactures, and that this desirable end cannot be attained by individuals who are not able of themselves to purchase the machines and to advance such sums of money as would be necessary to carry them on with sucess....
>
> "We the subscribers have agreed to associate ourselves by the name of "The Kentucky Society for the Encouragement of Manufactures," and we do oblige ourselves to pay to the managers hereafter to be chosen by the society the several sums affixed to our names at the periods and on the conditions mentioned below; six shillings to every pound to be paid on or before the last day of September, 1789; one moiety of the remainder, on or before the last day of November in the same year, and the residue on or before the last day of March, 1790. We do further agree, that if the first payment is not made within twenty days of the time prescribed therefor that the person failing shall forfeit his interest in the society and also be obliged to pay to the managers for the use of the society the amount of his first subscription, and that another subscriber may be admitted into his place, and that if the last payment is not made within twenty days of the time prescribed therefor, that the first payment and all the interest in the society of the person so failing to pay shall be forfeited and that another subscriber may be admitted into his place.

"Provided that no person subscribing hereto shall be obliged to pay any part of his subscription unless the sum subscribed altogether shall, on the 20th day of September, 1789, amount to 500 pounds at the least."

This amount was divided into 500 shares with a par value of one pound each. Each share carried a vote. Proxies were permitted. A majority of the membership was necessary to any business commitment, and any action taken by them bound the entire society. Additional shares might be sold, but original stockholders held priority as to their purchase. Shares might be paid for either in labor or materials, at the option of the managers of the society.

The society got under way at a business meeting held in Danville on December 5, 1789. The managers, not named in the surviving records but evidently chosen at an unreported meeting, stated that 3,000 pounds had already been subscribed, that this money had already gone to Philadelphia to pay for spinning and carding machines and stocking looms, and that 300 pounds additional capital should be provided. Thirty additional shares were voted. The transactions of this meeting are recorded by Thomas Todd, one of the charter members of the 1787 Society for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge.

Further account of the doings of this association is meager. An invitation extended to the businessmen of Lexington to co-operate, whether by affiliating with the Mercer County society, or by forming a like society for Fayette County, is in the record. What action, if any, was taken is not known. The effect of the stimulus given to industry may possibly be seen in the growth of manufacturing, chiefly in the Bluegrass area, during the succeeding years. New industries were established, many of them small and well within the financing ability of a single individual. Many of them, on the other hand, were of a nature and size to suggest that the hand of the Society for Encouragement of Manufactures was still guiding. Of the many industries established, a few typical examples are mentioned.

In 1790 Jacob Todhunter established a tanyard five miles from Lexington, on South Elkhorn. A notice dated March 29, 1793, tells that: "Craig, Parker and Co., Paper Manufactory is now actually making paper (and will) soon be able to furnish this State all kinds of paper, provided all old rags are saved. The manufacture of paper depends entirely on that article."

During the late 1790's other factories entered the field and widened the local market for farm products. In 1798 a stock company under the title "Society for the Establishment of a Vineyard," undertook the making of wine. George Morton established a wrought-iron factory in Lexington in 1801. Two years later William Todd built a cotton factory. In 1805 James and Thomas Prentice built a woolen factory and paper mill, bought farms, and brought Merino sheep, then becoming known along the Atlantic coast, into Kentucky.

The city of Lexington alone, at the peak of its industrial greatness in 1810 had 140 shops and factories turning out goods ranging from paper, powder, and tobacco to books, dyes, and looking glass. Important to the story of the earlier fairs were the five wool-carding machines then in operation, the one sailcloth factory, the thirteen ropewalks, the five linen factories, the bagging factories, the tanneries, the harness and boot shops, which, through their use of raw materials, directly linked the industrial life of the city with that of the Bluegrass farms.

MERCER SOCIETY FOR THE ENCOURAGEMTNT OF AGRICULTURE

The next step leading toward the fairs of later times was taken, in 1794, by the farmers of Mercer County. At a meeting held on September 15 of that year, in Harrodsburg, it was unanimously agreed to organize an agricultural society that should give especial attention to the immediate problems of the farm.

The conditions surrounding the formation of this society will be remembered. Schools of agriculture were a century in the future. Even such education in the common branches as was available was still of a private character. Publications on agricultural topics were scarce, and their contents relevant to conditions quite different from those found in Kentucky. The best obtainable were the writings of Jethro Tull and Arthur Young, both of England. The British Board of Agriculture had been organized in 1793. The papers of the time, especially those published in England, gave as matters of general interest the opinions of well-known gentlemen farmers on questions relating to crop production, the use of improved tools, and especially matters of stock raising and farm management.

Undoubtedly the leading men in Mercer County were acquainted with these scattered and inadequate sources of information. The essential purpose of the society was the application of such general agricultural information to the farm problems of Mercer County in the year 1794.

Both general and specific problems were worked out in detail and approved by the Mercer Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture.

Kentucky Gazette, October 11, 1794

"That from the apparent necessity of ascertaining by actual experiments the productions and mode of culture which are best adapted to our soil and climate; and from the greater degree of certainty and facility, with which those experiments may be made and communicated, when numbers are engaged in making them at the same time, it is highly expedient to form such an institution.

"Resolved, Therefore, that the members of this meeting do federate themselves into a Society, for the encouragement of agriculture; and for better effecting the object, do adopt the following constitution:

"1. This Society shall be known and distinguished by the name of The Mercer Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture.

"2. The society shall meet regularly on the third Saturday of April and September in each year at the courthouse in Harrodsburg.

"3. No person shall be admitted into this society but upon the recommendation of two members and with the consent of a majority to be taken by ballot.

"4. The officers of this society shall consist of a president, vice president, Secretary and a committee of correspondence, to be elected by ballot every year.

"5. The committee of correspondence shall consist of five members, of whom, the Secretary for the time being shall be one; they shall correspond with individuals and public bodies for promoting the objects of this institution.

"Resolved, That this society will thankfully receive from any member or other person, information on any subject which will have a tendency to promote the object for which it is instituted.

"Resolved, That the members of this society be requested to turn their attention particularly to the subjects herein afterwards enumerated, and that they prepare themselves to give the society at their meetings, information on such of them as they are best acquainted with, specifying particularly any experiments, which they have made or been witnesses to, which justify their observation.

Subjects for General Inquiry

"What steps ought to be taken to preserve and improve our timber, and to supply any deficiency in it by planting, stating the kind of trees most proper for that purpose, and the seasons when they ought to be transplanted: What is the best and cheapest way of fencing and attended with the smallest expenditure of timber.

"Whether hedges can be raised to advantage in this country, and what are the most proper materials for that purpose?

"What (everything considered) is the best method of clearing new land for the plough?

"What are the best seasons for cutting timber of different kinds? And why different seasons are preferable for different kinds? What is the best rotation of crops to be observed in this country (Kentucky)?

(Subjects for Specific Inquiry)

"Meadow - What is the best method of preparing it in both old and new land? Whether high or low land is most proper for it? Advantages of watering it? Most proper season and manner of doing it? Kinds of grasses most proper for meadow? Best season for sowing grass seeds? Most proper quantity of seed of each kind of grass, for an acre of land? Best way of preparing each kind of seed for market, and for the farmer's own use? Most proper state for cutting, and the best manner of curing and preserving the different kinds of grass?

"Pasture - Kind of land most proper for it? Sorts of grasses best adapted to it? Manner of preparing the lands, and the proper seasons and best manner of sowing the seed, and the best seasons for grazing. How far woodland may be beneficially used in that way without injuring the valuable timber?

"Weeds - Most effectual method and best season for getting clear of them?

"Wheat, Rye, Oats, and Barley - Some inquiries as to each: What kind of earth is best suited in this country and why? What is the most proper way of preparing ground for each?

"Best Seasons for Sowing - Whether old or new seed is the best? Quantity of seed most proper to be sown, of each kind? How far pasturing of grain may be practiced without injury? If it is always injurious? Whether the benefits of the pasture more than compensates for the injury done by it to the grain? Proper manner and season for pasturing it? Kind of land best adapted to each sort of grain? Best way of managing the grain until it is housed? Difference in the crops between fallow and corn ground? Difference between the different kinds of fallow? Average, and the greatest crop that may be expected from each sort of grain in the different kinds of fields.

"Flax, Cotton, Hemp, Indigo, and Rice - How far each of them is suited to our climate and soil? Kind of soil most proper, and the best way of preparing the soil for each? Most proper way of managing each, until it is fit for use? Average and greatest crop that may be expected of each kind?

"Corn - Proper season to break up corn ground? Best season for planting it? Proper number of stalks to be left in a hill? Proper distances to give it, as well when you intend to feed among it, as when you do not? Whether it is best to feed among the corn, or after it is taken off?

"Questions of General Management Include - The best method of getting out grain of each kind? How far is it necessary to change seed of any kind? Whether the keeping of it (seed) to any particular age has a tendency to prevent its degenerating? How far houses or shelters are necessary for stock of every kind in the winter? What is the cheapest and best way of erecting them? What kind of barn is most useful in proportion to its first cost? What waggons, carts, slides (sleds) etc., ought a farmer to keep to enable him to carry on his business to the greatest advantage?

"Ploughs and Harrows - How many different kinds are necessary on a farm? And what is each kind best suited to?

"Stock - Is the raising of horses of black (beef) cattle the most profitable? If they ought to be mixed or some of both kinds raised on each farm, in what proportion should it be done?

"Horses - Best season for putting a mare to the horse? Manner of keeping proper for each year? Best kind of pasture for them? How far mares may be used without injury? Best age to sell at?

"Black (Beef) Cattle - Should the males and females run together constantly, or only suffered to do so at particular seasons, and when? What kind of calves ought to be raised? Of the advantage of spaying heifers? Proper manner of treating them in each year? Best age to sell at for the greatest profit? Best way of stall feeding, and of pickling and curing beef?

"Sheep - When ought the ram to be suffered to run with the ewes? What proportion of rams ought to be in a flock? What kind of pasture suits them best? How far wood range is necessary or proper for them? What is the best winter food for them? What is the best method of keeping them clean and healthy? How far, and when is it necessary to change the rams, or the whole flock? What part of the lambs ought to be raised and what part of the old sheep killed in each year? Of the necessity of changing their pasture, and how often it ought to be done? How many may be kept to advantage in one flock? How far is it proper to shear the old sheep twice, and the young ones once?

"Hogs - Best seasons for the sow to take the boar? Proper way of managing them from the time they are littered until they are killed? The best age to kill them at? And the best method of pickling pork, and curing and keeping bacon?

"Oxen - Advantages of using them instead of horses?

"Salt - How often and in what quantity ought it to be given to stock of every kind, and particularly to hogs; and whether it may be aided, and the quantity which would otherwise be necessary lessened, by any substitute, and what?

"Manure - Best way of making, preserving and using of it?

"Roots - Is it an object in this country to raise roots, or other vegetables for winter food, for stock of any kind: if for any for what? What is the best kind to raise, and how ought it to be preserved and fed?

"Orchards - Best methods of planting and managing fruit trees, particularly apples and peaches?

"(Erosion) - Best method of keeping land from washing?

"(Labor) - How ought the business of a farm to be conducted, so as to find useful employment for every season, and all kinds of weather? Best way of preserving flour and meal through the summer season.

"Bees - Advantage of raising, and best manner of treating them.

"Cheese - Best manner of making and preserving.

"Published by order of the Society. SAMUEL M'DOWELL, Pres.
JOHN THOMAS, Secretary"

The keen, questioning, analytical brain of Farmer Samuel McDowell, member of all four constitutional conventions precedent to statehood and president of the first two, is here seen exploring the agricultural problems of the State, not only of that day but for future years. The work outlined offers a program that has fully occupied the best minds of the State, together with all the added educational and research equipment placed for more than a century at their command; and there are questions propounded in 1794 that still remain unanswered. Few basic problems have been added. Seldom have the farmers of Kentucky found themselves exploring possibilities of improvement not here mentioned. It was, and remains, the chart by which the stock shows, the agricultural societies, the

fairs, the schools, The Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, and Agricultural College of Kentucky have steered their course from that day to this.

Other than given above, there is no record of the activities of the Mercer Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture.

AN EARLY IMMIGRATION SOCIETY

By 1797 the movement of settlers into the West had become a stream that, without some information as to conditions within the Commonwealth, threatened to disorganize the economic life of Kentucky, since 1792 the fifteenth State of the Union. Under date of August 8 a notice appeared in the Kentucky Gazette of September 6, 1797:

> "Conceiving that a society for the promotion of emigration, and the admittance of emigrants, would be productive of many beneficial effects, it is proposed that a meeting should be held at the house of John Postlethwait, in this town on next Friday evening, at 3 o'clock, for the purpose of establishing such an institution - Those of the citizens of Fayette who are disposed to favor the plan are requested to attend."

Three days after publication of this notice, on Saturday, September 9, a meeting convened "at the house of Mr. John Postlethwait." The purpose of the meeting was explained as "deliberating on the propriety of forming an association for the purpose of promoting emigration and assisting emigrants." The meeting resolved:

> "... That a society for the above objects would be productive of many beneficial effects not only to individuals migrating to this state, but also to the community at large.
>
> "Resolved, That the citizens now assembled, do form themselves into an association for the above purposes to be known by the name of The Lexington Society for the Promotion of Emigration.
>
> "Resolved, That John Bradford, Samuel Brown, and George Nicholas be a committee to form a plan for the same, and to make report thereof to the next meeting
>
> "Resolved, That James Morrison, Andrew McCalla, Thomas January, William Leavy, Samuel Downing, Thomas Hart, John A. Neitz, Hugh McIlvain, James Brown, and John W. Hunt be a committee to collect and report to the next meeting such facts as may, by being published, best promote those objects.
>
> "Resolved, That this society will hold the next meeting at this house on Wednesday the 13th inst. at 4 o'clock at which time the attendance of all those who approve of the objects, and are disposed to promote the views of the society, are requested."

On the thirteenth of September, the committee submitted its report in the form of a list of normal crop yields and current prices of farm products, costs of labor, and prices of finished goods. This action was thus explained:

"The committee thinks it necessary to call attention of public to prices - on account of an impression made on minds of many who reside at distance, that citizens of this state are rapidly removing to the Spanish dominion on the Mississippi (Any part of the region west of that river) - great numbers are induced to visit that country. Few indeed have settled there, but the greater number have returned with increased interest in Kentucky."

The adoption of the report, which made a favorable showing for general farming and stock raising, and especially the publicity given it, had the desired effect. Immigrants continued to pour into Kentucky by road and river. The census of 1790 had given Kentucky a total population, white and Negro, of 73,677. In 1800 the figures rose to 220,955. Ten years later, 406,511 inhabitants were counted. This rapid increase must be ascribed, in part at least, to the efforts of the Emigration Society and similar groups, whether organized or active for mutual interest without formal organization.

This period of rapid migration into Kentucky saw marked increase both in stock raising and crop production. Markets developed for cattle, hogs, and wool destined for shipment by way of the Ohio-Mississippi rivers to the "outside." Lexington, chief manufacturing center of Kentucky, was growing, while Frankfort, Louisville, and Maysville, all riverports, were rapidly increasing in population and importance. With outlet market assured, stockmen increased their herds and gave attention to breed improvement. This applied particularly to cattle and sheep.

SHEEP SHEARINGS OF THE SECOND DECADE

The introduction of Merino sheep during the first decade of the nineteenth century marked the rise throughout the Atlantic coast States of the sheep shearing events that, in their day, received special attention in papers of national circulation. Among the more famous of these sheep shearings was that held at Arlington, the plantation estate of George Washington Custis, grandson of Martha Washington and later the father-in-law of Robert E. Lee. Here, within sight of the city of Washington, on a rolling plain overlooking the Potomac, Custis annually gathered the elite of Washington society and the recognized agricultural leaders of the Nation. A description of the 1812 sheep shearing portrays the scene:

"On Thursday last (May 30, 1812), being the 8th anniversary of the Arlington Sheep Shearing, a number of gentlemen who have encouraged the laudable purposes of that useful institution, assembled with their sheep as competitors for the various prizes to be distributed on the occasion. The most liberal attention was paid by Mr. Custis to the accommodation and convenience of the company, in producing a profusion of necessary refreshments, and in furnishing books for the amusement of those who were not immediately engaged in the business of the day (The women in the party are thus referred to.) After the judges had carefully attended to the duties assigned them - the company consisting of several members of the national legislature, some French gentlemen of distinction, and a number of respectable characters from the states of Virginia and Maryland, and from the District of Columbia, repaired to the marquee (large tent) prepared for the occasion, where, at half past three o'clock, they sat down to an elegant dinner, consisting principally of a great variety of fish, served up in various and tasteful style, furnished from the adjoining river.

"The awning, composed of a canvas which had so often sheltered the immortal founder of the liberties of his country, beautifully ornamented with festoons of laurel, and a striking likeness of the general, suspended over the foot of the table, altogether inspired feelings of unutterable expression. Mr. Custis presided, supported by the Hon. Judge Cranch as senior, assisted by governor Lee, and J. C. Herbert, esqs. as junior vice-presidents - on the right of Mr. Custis sat William Herbert, esq. president of the Washington Society of Alexandria, an old and intimate friend of the departed general. After dinner, the following toasts were drank in excellent wine, the product of our native grape. Toast the 1st. by Mr. Custis - The company all rising, and after a solemn pause - "Industry and Independence." 2nd. by Mr. Custis - "The memory of Washington." 3d. by Judge Cranch - "The Arlington Sheep Shearing; many happy returns of this aniversary to its patriotic founder." 4th. by Mr. Custis - The company rising - "The memory of Geo. Clinton...."

"The Judges of the sheep and fleeces were - Thomas Lee, esq. of Needwood, Md.; John Tayloe, esq. of Mount Airy; George Graham, of Lexington, Va., Jacob Morgan, esq. of Alexandria, D. C....

"The prize cup for the rams was awarded to George Mason, esq.

"The cup for the ewes to L. Lewis, esq.

"The prize for cloth was given to Mrs. Ann Lowden, Prince William county, Virginia."

An account of another sheep shearing, that held by the Columbian Agricultural Society of the District of Columbia, in August of the same year, gives less social data and more statistics:

"... The following are the weight of the sheep:

"1st. Those which obtained premium:

"Gen. John Mason's Merino ram lamb, Golden Fleece - 1st. prem. for fine wool; carcase 93 lbs. 6 oz. fleece 10.6 - total, 103.12.

"2nd. prem. to Gov. Lloyd's Merino ram lamb Talbot, for fine wool; carcase - of 123 lbs. 6 oz. fleece 13.10 - total 137.

"Geo. Calvert's ram lamb of the Persian breed crossed on the country sheep, which took the first premium for long wool; carcase 108 lbs. 4 oz. fleece 12.6 - total 120.10.

"William Marbury's ram lamb, half blood Merino, crossed on the North Friesland, breed which took the second premium for long wool; carcase 157 lbs. 8 oz. fleece 11.14 - total 169.6.

"2nd. Of the unsucessful Competitors of the fine wooled breed:

"1. Mason's Marquis; carcase 110 lbs. 8 oz. fleece 11.14 - total 122.6. Roger Brook's: carcase 88 lbs. 5 oz. fleece 8.6 total - 96.11.

"Basil Brook's; carcase 82 lbs. 5 oz. - fleece 9.7 - total 91.12.

"Lawrence Lewis's; carcase 95 lbs. 8 oz. fleece 12 - total 107.8.

"Gov. Lloyd's D. Manual; carcase 122 lbs. fleece 10.8 - total 132.8.

"P. B. Key's; carcase 123 lbs. fleece 8.12 - total 131.12.

"Thomas Peters'; carcase 145 lbs. 8 oz. fleece - 9.1 total 154.9.

"3d. Of the unsuccessful competitors for the long wooled breed:

"Benard Gilpin's; carcase 67 lbs. 12 oz. fleece - 9.4 - total 77.

"Roger Brook's; carcase 124 lbs. fleece 9 - total 133.

"Gov. Lloyd's; carcase 145 lbs. 8 oz. fleece - 9.1 - total 154.9.

The average weight of carcass at the Columbian shearing was 106 pounds 14.7 ounces; that of fleece, 10 pounds 6.3 ounces. To equal or better these records was the ambition of every society interested in wool production.

A KENTUCKY SHEARING

These and similar shearings in the East were challenged, in 1812, by William Story, part owner of a flock belonging to Story and Nichols, of Georgetown, Scott County. The only record of this sheep shearing, possibly but not likely the only event of its kind ever held in Kentucky, is that contained in Niles' Weekly Register of June 6, 1812:

Sheep Shearing

Georgetown, Ky., April 29

"On Tuesday last, Wm. Story, of Georgetown, sheared, of the flock belonging to Story and Nichols, sixteen full blooded Merino Sheep - 10 of which were imported from Spain - The product was as follows:-

	pounds	ounces
A Buck (Judas)	12	4
A Buck (Don Carlos)	9	12
An imported Ewe	7	0
" " "	7	8
" " "	7	8
" " "	10	4
" " "	8	4
" " "	8	0
" " "	6	12
" " "	6	4
An Ewe Lamb (Sancho) 5 months old	9	0
A Buck (Palleford) 15 months old	8	8
A Ewe Lamb 15 months old	7	8
A Young Buck (Columbus) 10 months old	7	0
A Young Buck, 10 months old	5	0
A Young Ewe about ten months old	5	4

"Agregate amount 125 lbs. 12 oz. Averaging the flock, including the lambs, at about seven pounds, fourteen ounces.

"The above shearing was attended by about one hundred persons, among whom were a number of the most respectable citizens of Scott county. An agreeable repast was furnished by Wm. Story, and all retired surprised to see that the wool of the Merino sheep so far exceed in quantity and quality, the best wool of the common sheep of the western country."

The average fleece of the Story and Nichols flock weighed 7 pounds 13.75 ounces as compared with an average of 10 pounds 6.3 ounces for the selected sheep at the Columbian Agricultural Society shearing; if mature weights alone are taken, the 10 mature sheep of the Story and Nichols flock averaged 8 pounds, 5.6 ounces, a full 2 pounds per fleece under the picked group at the District of Columbia contest; the best Kentucky fleece, 12 pounds 4 ounces, was but 22 ounces below that of the champion of the Columbian selected flock.

This showing, entirely creditable to the Kentucky farm flock, and the manner in which the shearing had been staged may have had much to do with the popularity of the Merino in the Bluegrass during the succeeding four years. From 1812 until 1816, when the bottom fell out of the "Merino boom," prices ruled high. Breeding sheep sold up to $1,250 each. Lewis Sanders, who kept a flock of 300 or more Merinos on his farm at Sandersville, Fayette County, tells of selling culls during this period at $100 each; prices based upon wool at $2.00 a pound offered an illusive promise of continued profits.

SANDERS' CATTLE SHOW OF 1816

In the Lexington Reporter of May 31, 1816, appeared the following notice as a prelude to the first agricultural fair ever held west of the Alleghenies:

Cattle Shew

"On Thursday, the 25th day of July next, there will be exhibited at Sanders, 2½ miles N.W. of Lexington, fine Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Horses, &c.

"Gentlemen breeders or owners of fine stock are requested to exhibit, either for shew or sale - there will be purchasers from distant parts of the state. One object is to bring sellers and purchasers together; another is to form an Agricultural Society for Kentucky on that day. Gentlemen disposed to promote so laudable an object, are solicited to attend.

"Premiums will be given to the owners of the best stock upon principles which will be published in this paper next week. Lots, for the accomodation of stock, will be found gratis."

No signature is found attached to this or to later advertisements relative to the Sanders' Cattle Show of 1816, either in the Lexington Reporter or in the Kentucky Gazette of that year; but a casual reading of the above reveals a considered program already well under way. A stock show, a public sale, and the excitement attendant upon forming still another Kentucky society, this time directly for the benefit of agriculture, are the major inducements offered the "gentlemen breeders or owners of fine stock." Premiums are mentioned: "see your next paper!" And "everything free!" Week after week, in the two papers with a State-wide circulation, the proposed "Cattle Shew" was advertised.

Then, on June 26, appeared a deftly worded editorial under the caption "Cattle," in the Lexington Reporter, it said:

> "The breed of this stock has been much improved in our state, and farmers who have turned their attention to grazing are amassing large fortunes; those of Fayette and Clark counties are particularly celebrated. We understand that Mr. Goff of Clark (County) lately sold a drove of 130 for the sum of ten thousand dollars, nearly 77 dollars a head! An advertisement in this paper shews the premiums proposed to be given for the best specimen of stock exhibited at Sanders on the 25th of July. It is expected that gentlemen of spirit and enterprize will find it convenient to attend from all the adjoining counties. They are greatly interested in the agricultural society intended to be formed that day, and we hope the plan will receive the extensive encouragement which it merits. The farmers are much indebted to Mr. Sanders for setting it on foot."

So was revealed the identity of the one responsible for the "Cattle Shew" announcements that had by this time reached every town and hamlet in the Bluegrass and the Pennyrile.

The same issue of the Lexington Reporter and also, incidentally, the current and later issues of the Kentucky Gazette, carried the list of stock classes promised in the preceding notices, and the premiums provided for in each class. Horses did not appear, but manufactured goods, made either of hemp or linen, were given place. The announcement follows:

Cattle Shew

> "Ths following prizes will be given to the best specimens of stock, &c. to be exhibited at Sanders, on the 25th July next:
>
> | | |
> |---|---|
> | For the best bull, a silver cup | $15.00 value |
> | For the best cow, " " " | ($15.00) " |
> | For the best bull calf not more than 16 mos. old | ($15.00) value |
> | For the best heifer, not more than 16 mos. old | ($15.00) " |
> | For the best ram " " " " " " | ($15.00) " |
> | For the best ewe " " " " " " | ($15.00) " |
> | For the best boar " " " " " " | ($12.00) " |
> | For the best sow " " " " " " | ($12.00) " |
> | For the best piece of flax or hemp linen, not less than 20 yds., ...cup | $12.00 |
>
> Judges
> HENRY INNES, Franklin — JOHN FOWLER, Fayette
> NATHANIEL HART, WOODFORD — HUBBARD TAYLOR, Clarke
> JOHN JOUETT, Bath"

This advertisement, with its detailed information and its special appeal of notable names, was repeated in subsequent issues of the Lexington Reporter and of the Kentucky Gazette. Then, for the immediate weeks preceding the event, the simple original notice again appeared.

The directing mind back of all this advertising campaign was that of Col. Lewis Sanders, who, for the preceding decade and a half, had been an important figure in Lexington. Sanders had just recently plotted and sold a 200-acre real estate addition on the west side of Lexington. Merino Street in that city still

marks the site of that venture. His stock farm, northwest of Lexington, reached from his residence on Georgetown Pike to his up-to-date cotton and woolen mill, two and one-half miles downstream on Town Branch of the Elkhorn, near Leestown Pike. Here he indulged his hobby of Merino sheep, as well as that of assembling and breeding fine beef cattle. As a manufacturer of textiles he was a highly competent judge of fibers, especially wool, hemp, and cotton. Colonel Sanders was a man of substance, with important business connections in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia. His mill, using water power and steam, gave steady employment to 150 hands, who lived in the thriving little factory town of Sandersville. The factory had a weekly output valued at more than a thousand dollars. Sanders' ginghams, cassinettes, tablecloths, shirtings, and other goods were displayed in the retail stores. His associates were the leading men of the Bluegrass. Finally, Sanders had the knack of asking for and obtaining the co-operation of men whose presence would bring prestige to the occasion.

Such is a fair appraisal of the man to whom, more than to any other, Kentucky owes its fairs. His stock importation of 1817, the business collapse of that year which carried him into bankruptcy, and the long years of his retirement to the hills of Eagle Creek in Carroll County were yet in the future. In the future, too, were his services to the State as a sheep breeder, and as a contributor to the early agricultural press on sheep breeding and agricultural topics. How, toward the end of a long life, his expert knowledge of fibers was called into play to bring America's hemp industry into the front rank, until iron ships and steam drove oakum and cordage from the shipyards of the world is, too, a part of the long story.

Concerning his part in the promotion of the show,and that of the donors of the prizes, Colonel Sanders, in a letter written many years later to the Western Farm Journal, said:

> "... for the truth of history, I will state my recollection appertaining to the first cattle show in Kentucky. At the close of the War of 1812, I was living in Lexington, then the center of commerce, and the seat of refined literature of the west. This was before the paddle of the steamboat began to move. My father was a farmer. I was reared on a farm. Cattle shows and exhibition of fine stock were common in England and in some parts of the United States. These considerations induced me to publish in the Lexington newspapers that a Grand Cattle Show and Fair, free to everybody would come off on my farm adjoining Sandersville, on the (25th) day of July 1816. Premiums in silver cups to be awarded. The five judges were named. This was a novelty bringing together citizens of the neighboring counties, making a great assemblage. Never was anything like it seen in the county before. The first cattle in the state were there. Captain (William) Smith's famous bull "Buzzard," many other fine cattle, good display of sheep, hogs, etc. The judges awarded premiums of fifteen to twenty silver cups costing $12.00 each. (Note discrepancy with advertised list given above.)
>
> "This cattle show - the first west of the Alleghenies that I have any knowledge of - was gotten up by me individually and took place on my own farm. I selected and named the judges. The Citizens of Lexington, on my personal application contributed the funds to pay for the silver cups. The five judges were: Harry Innes, of Franklin, Judge of the Federal Court, Mr. Nathaniel Hart of Woodford, Capt. John Fowler of Lexington, Col. Hubbard Taylor of Clark, Capt. John Jouett

of Bath. There were on the grounds many distinguished strangers. I recollect Governor Poindexter (of Mississippi), Dr. Samuel Brown (later of Transylvania University) and others."

The judges chosen by Sanders were among the best-known men of their day, and experts, according to the standards of the time, in stock breeding. Fowler, Innes, of the original quintet selected, and Jouett were charter members of the Society for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge. Hart and Taylor were leading farmers. The substitution of two outstanding Bluegrass farmers, Thomas Todd and James Shelby, for Innes and Jouett, on the morning of the show, did not weaken the value of the judges' findings.

James Lane Allen thus describes the occasion and the judges originally named:

"A distinguished soldier and honored gentleman, with a taste for agriculture and fine cattle, has announced that on a certain day he will hold on his farm a "grand cattle show and fair, free for everbody....

"The summer morning came; old pioneers, Revolutionary soldiers, volunteers of the War of 1812, walking in picturesque twos and threes, walking out of the little town to the green woods where the fair was to be held; jogging thitherward along the by-paths and newly open roads of the forests where the fair was to be held, clad in homespun, and mindful of cold lunches and whiskey bottles in their pockets or saddle bags, some perhaps drawn thither in wagons and aristocratic gigs.

"The five judges of the fair - coming from as many counties, the greatest personages of their day - one (Innes) a brilliant judge, one (Hart) an early settler, with a sword hanging up at home to show how Virginia appreciated his services in the Revolution, the third (Fowler) a gentleman of the old school; fourth (Taylor) and fifth (Jouett) earlier Kentuckians who brought into the society the noble style of country place with park and deer."

The Kentucky Gazette of July 29, the Monday following the fair, carried the current record of the doings at Sandersville:

Fair--

At Sanders, July 25, 1816

"A deep red Bull, 7 years old past, bred by Miller of Virginia, was exhibited by Captain William Smith of Fayette.

"A Brindle and white Bull, his age not stated, said to be of Patton's breed, was exhibited by Mr. Roberts of Jessamine.

"The judges admire both Bulls - think them of superior quality, but there is a decided preference in favour of Capt. Smith's in colour, size and form and therefore award a cup to Capt. Smith.

"A red Bull, 14 months old, by Smith's Bull, out of a cow by the same Bull, grandam Patton's breed, was exhibited by Mr. Charles Carr of Fayette.

"A red Bull Calf, 1 year and 12 days old, by Smith's Bull, out of his big red cow, was exhibited by Dr. C. Rogers of Fayette.

"The whole of these young Bulls are fine specimens of the improvement making in the breed of cattle.

"Mr. John Roger's (bull) being over the age specified in the advertisement, and being objected to on that account, was excluded. The judges have no hesitation in declaring him to be of the first class and meriting the cup, but are compelled to exclude him as not coming within the age mentioned in the advertisement.

"The cup is awarded to Mr. Carr, for the best young Bull within the age prescribed, at the same time the Judges think the others merit much praise.

"A red cow, 4 years old, by Smith's Bull, was exhibited by Capt. Wm. Smith of Fayette.

"A cow, 28 months old, of Patton's breed, bred by H. Taylor of Clark, with several crosses - speckled colour, was exhibited by Mr. Thomas B. Warren of Fayette.

"The red cow is believed to be one of the finest of her species, in colour, size, form and blood. The cup is awarded to Capt. Smith at the same time the other deserves much praise and promises to reward her owner for his attention and care.

"A red Heifer exhibited by Capt. Wm. Smith of Fayette. She is promising, but there being no competitor, the cup is awarded Capt. Smith, without further remark.

"A Boar, half-blood Calcutta, was exhibited by Maj. Simpson - no competitor - a cup awarded.

"A piece of Linen, 22 yards, of flax, bleached was exhibited by Miss Sally Turnham, of Fayette.

"A piece of Linen, upwards of 20 yards, of flax, not bleached, was exhibited by Mr. Edmund Long, of Sanders. The manner in which the first piece has been handled and bleached is deserving of much praise, but the other is deemed the finest and strongest, and deserves the cup.

"Several full-blooded Merino Bucks and Ewes were very fine - a cup is awarded the best Ewe.

"Mr. Sanders designated one of his Bucks, 3 years old past, of fine form and fleece.

"Mr. Prentiss exhibited several very fine Bucks, but as the weight of fleece and sample could not be particularly designated, the judges defer awarding a premium to either, until next shearing.

"The owners of Sheep are requested to exhibit the fleece with the animal at future exhibitions, in order to aid in the decisions.

THOMAS TODD JAMES SHELBY
HUBBARD TAYLOR JOHN FOWLER
NATH'L HART Judges"

The "deep red Bull" exhibited by Capt. William Smith of Fayette County was Buzzard, famous in his day as the greatest Shorthorn bull west of the Allegheny Mountains. The rest are hard to identify, but from the descriptions it appears certain that, in addition to Smith's herd of Shorthorns and the Patton Stock shown by M. Flourney of Jessamine County, there were representatives of all the beef strains then in Kentucky, including the "Carey Stock" which later proved unpopular.

By mentioning "color, size, form, and blood" in their comments on the "red cow," the judges reveal the standards set by breeders and buyers of that day. Blood (breed) is last considered. The things that might visibly impress the prospective buyer-- color as indicating the breeding, size as denoting uniformity for the block, form as showing availability for an especial block purpose-- all came, at that time, before the matter of breed. But breed as an index of uniformity was even then coming to be a recognized measure of the three essential qualities.

No horses were shown at this first of all the Kentucky fairs, nor, it is to be noted, was provision made for them in the rings. Hogs fared a little better. One, of a breed no longer known but indicating East Indian origin, was exhibited. Of Merino sheep, there was a comparatively strong showing; but the season was too far advanced to show them in the wool. Shearing-time had long since passed, and the fleeces were not available. The request of the judges that at future fairs the fleece be exhibited is a hint of the lack of full satisfaction on the part of sheep exhibitors.

The Sanders Fair was notable in one other respect-- it linked together agriculture and the mechanical industries in a bond that, so long as the societies lived, was never broken. It was more than a mere "Cattle Shew." It was not yet the full-statured "fair" of the later decades; but by its exhibits and awards it recognized the pasture and feed lot, the fruits of the cultivated field, and those of industry.

The awards on linens exhibited in the industrial classification call for mention. One entry evidently was from a hand loom, the other from a factory loom; one was by a skilful housewife, the other from the hands of a skilled artisan. Thus was foreshadowed the eighty-year common interest and rivalry between the home and the factory, as evidenced in county and State fair exhibits. The name of Miss Sally Turnham of Fayette County is recorded as the first woman exhibitor at a Kentucky fair-- worthy to be recorded with those of the six women who exhibited at the 1819 fair and with that of Mrs. Shelby-Breckinridge of the 1840's as upholding the right of women to contest with men for the honors of the show ring.

Sanders' work as a pioneer and promoter was done, broadly and well.

KENTUCKY'S FIRST STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

What happened on July 25, 1816, to the suggestion that a State agricultural society be formed is now known. Those present reached a general agreement to go ahead. This agreement, discovered in January, 1939, in a rare file of the bound volumes of the Kentucky Almanack brings to an end the long controversy as to what actually happened at Sandersville.

Isaac Shelby, farmer, soldier, and twice Governor of the Commonwealth, was made the first president; John Fowler, of Lexington, was vice-president; Thomas T. Barr was the society's first secretary.

A constitution setting forth the objects of the society was adopted. The organization was to be concerned with agriculture alone. Provision was made for honorary memberships, in order to bring into the circle of its activities members of like societies in other states. Research into agricultural problems was provided for. Fairs were authorized and premiums were to be allowed. Stock pedigrees were to be attested. A simple system of financing was set up.

This document, as printed in the original, paper-bound booklet, follows:

Constitution

of the

Kentucky Society for Promoting Agriculture

"ART. I. The Society shall be styled "The Kentucky Society for Promoting Agriculture.

"II. The Society's attention shall be confined to agriculture and rural affairs.

"III. The Society shall have a President and Vice-President, a Treasurer, a Secretary and an Assistant Secretary, when the increase of business shall require it - all of whom shall be elected by the tickets of a majority of the members present, at the stated meeting of the Society in the month of January in each year. The persons so elected, to continue in office one year and until others are appointed in their stead - and in case of any vacancy by death, resignation or otherwise, the same may be filled by a new election, to be made at the first meeting of the Society thereafter. The persons thus newly elected to serve the remanider of the year.

"IV. A quorum for business shall consist of at least five members including the President or Vice-President.

"V. At all meetings of the Society, the President shall exercise the usual duties of that office. All motions shall be addressed to him, and on all questions he shall collect and declare the votes, and the result thereof. He shall have power to call special meetings of the Society, by notice published in at least two Newspapers in Lexington. In the absence of the President his duties shall devolve on the Vice-President. And if at any meeting of the Society, both President and Vice-President be absent, the members present being a constitutional quorum of five, may choose a President pro tem for the time being.

"VI. The treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Society in books provided for that purpose, and whenever called on to produce them for inspection. At the last meeting in every year, or whether he resigns or his office expires, he shall produce a fair and regularly stated account of all receipts, payments and expenditures; and deliver the same together with his books, and all the money, property, and effects of the Society, into the hands of his successor in office, or to the orders of the Society.

"VII. The Secretary and his Assistant shall have in charge all the other books and papers of the Society, and keep the same in fair and complete order, subject at all times to the inspection of the Society, or its members.

"They shall keep a correct register of the proceedings of the Society, and preserve all the letters, communications and papers thereof, as well as those received by the same.

"VIII. A Committee of Correspondence, consisting of five members, shall be chosen at the annual meeting of the Society in January (any three of whom may act) for the purpose of corresponding with any other Society or individual, concerning the objects and purposes of the Society. The same members shall also be a Committee of Accounts, to receive and adjust all claims against the Society, for its contingent expenses; and the President shall give orders on the Treasurer, for the payment thereof.

"IX. The stated meetings of the Society shall be held at Lexington, or its vicinity, on the third Mondays in January, April, June and September, in each year.

"X. The members of the Society shall be distinguished as members and honorary members. All members of Agricultural Societies, in other states and countries with whom we shall correspond, and all persons of this state and other states and countries elected as such, shall be honorary members; and such members are hereby solicited to attend our meetings, and assist in the deliberations and other purposes of the Society. - Strangers who desire to be present as auditors may be introduced by a member.

"XI. New members of either description shall be elected by ballot, and the Secretary shall notify each person of his election, in the following manner:

"On the...day of...A.D. of...was elected a member, or (honorary member) of the Kentucky Agricultural Society. The Society invites his co-operation and assistance in the advancement of their designs.

"XII. The Society shall annually propose premiums upon interesting subjects, relative to the actual experiments and improvements, and for the best essays written on proposed subjects. And in order more effectually to disseminate the knowledge of useful discoveries and improvements in Husbandry, the Society will from time to time publish collections of memoirs and observations, selected from such communications, as shall be made to them. To promote their views the friends of Agriculture are invited to assist the Society with information of experiments, incidents and improvements in Husbandry.

"XIII. Premiums shall be offered for the best specimens of Stock exhibited at the Fair, which shall be held under direction of the Society.

"XIV. For defraying the necessary expenses of the Society for premiums, prizes and other important objects, and contingencies, every member shall annually pay to the Treasurer, a contribution of four dol-

lars; this contribution shall be considered as due and payable at or before the last day of December, in every year. And the Treasurer shall from time to time, as often as required, lay before the Society at either stated or special meeting, a list of the members specifying who have, and who have not, paid their contributions; and every member who shall continue more than one year in arrears (provided payment has been personally required by any one authorized to collect and receive) such members shall be considered as withdrawing from the Society, and no longer deemed a member thereof, and such withdrawal shall be registered and recorded by the Secretary for the time being.

"XV. The applicants for premiums at the Fairs shall state in writing the precise age of the animal - by whom it was raised - its pedigree - and by whom bred (or as nearly so as can be ascertained) which must be certified by one or more respectable persons.

"XVI. When a part of the Society's funds are to be disposed of (except for ordinary contingent expenses) the same shall be done at a stated or special meeting, after having been proposed at a previous stated meeting.

"XVII. For the present year the Society will proceed forthwith to the appointment of officers, and the adoption of such rules and regulations (consistent with this constitution) as may be deemed necessary, and the officers now elected shall continue in office until their successors are appointed.

"Resolved, That the subscribers will now proceed to pay two dollars, as a portion of their subscription for the present year, and the residue (two dollars) on or before the last day of December next."

The evidence that the first State-wide agricultural society within Kentucky was organized on July 25, 1816, rests upon the following facts: (1) this was the date advertised for its organization; (2) its constitution was printed prior to 1817; (3) meeting of the society held in March, 1817, was a regularly called meeting of an already going organization.

In the light of these facts, and in spite of Sanders' statement fixing the time of organization as 1817, the July, 1816, date must be accepted as the time when the farmers of Kentucky first organized their own society and took over the direction and management of the fairs that followed-- the two fairs of 1817, and the fair of 1818, followed by the last and greatest of the fairs of that period, the well publicized fair of 1819.

THE SOCIETY GOES INTO ACTION

As related above, the Kentucky Almanack of 1817, which appeared prior to January of that year, carried in full the constitution of the new society and under date of February 26, 1817, the Kentucky Gazette published, under the caption Agricultural Society, the following notice:

"A meeting of this Society is requested at 11 o'clock on Friday the 7th of March at the house of Capt. John Postlethwait in Lexington.
Feb. 18, 1817

JOHN FOWLER, Vice Pres't"

The action taken on the seventh of March, 1817, follows:

Kentucky Agricultural Society

"In pursuance of a call from the vice-president, the Society met at the house of Capt. Postlethwait's, in the town of Lexington, on the 7th day of March.

"It was resolved to notify the absent members, through the Lexington newspapers, that the Society would, at the quarterly meeting, to be held on the third Monday of April next, proceed to consider the propriety of electing officers for the present year.

"Resolved, That the next Fair shall take place at Capt. John Fowler's Garden on the last Monday in May.

"The following premiums for the next Fair were voted:-

(1)	For the best Bull	A Silver Cup
(2)	" the best Cow	the same.
(3)	" the best 2 year old Cow	the same.
(4)	" the best yearling Bull	the same.
(5)	" the best yearling Heifer	the same.
(6)	" the best Bullock	the same.
(7)	" the best merino Ram imported or not	the same.
(8)	" the Ram exhibiting the best wool for Blanketing, with the heaviest fleece	the same.
(9)	" the best Boar	the same.
(10)	" the largest and best cheese of domestic manufacture	the same.
(11)	" the best piece of Domestic Woolen Cloth to contain at least 20 yards	the same.
(12)	" the best piece of home made Linen of not less than 20 yards	the same.
(13)	To the distiller who shall make 100 gallons of the best Whiskey, a specimen, with satisfactory Certificates, and to be produced	the same.

THOS. T. BARR, Sec'y.

A public report on the meeting held April 21, 1817, does not mention the results of the election of officers, but it is known that Isaac Shelby, then recently retired from the governorship of the State to his farm south of Danville, was elected president; John Fowler, a prominent businessman of Lexington and owner of Fowler's Garden, where the fairs of 1817, 1818, and 1819 were held, succeeded himself in the vice-presidency; and Thomas T. Barr, also of Lexington, was continued as secretary.

At this "quarterly meeting" an amendment was made to the classification as given above:

"Resolved, That the premiums for a bull of two years old include those calved in 1815, and for one year old those calved in 1816 -

"The Judges having due regard to the difference in their ages.

THOMAS T. BARR, Sec'y."

Here the record ends, temporarily, in confusion. The advertised date of the spring fair of 1817, as given in the Kentucky Gazette, was "the last Monday in May." In the Lexington Reporter, carrying the same specific information, the date set is for "the last Thursday in May."

After that, files of both papers are incomplete, and there is no available information as to how the conflict in announced dates was cleared up; nor is there an account of the fair of that spring.

First Fair of the Kentucky Society for Promoting Agriculture

All evidence points to the fact that a spring fair was held, late in May, at Fowler's Garden in Lexington. That it was considered successful is attested by the fact that a second fair was held that autumn! This is revealed by close examination of the available broken files of the Kentucky Gazette.

The Second Fair of 1817

A standing notice, the accepted form for advertisements of the time, appears in the Kentucky Gazette of August 30, 1817. It reads:

The Agricultural Society

Propose At The Fair To Be Held

On the 2d Thursday in September Ensuing

"At Capt. Fowler's Garden, to invite the exhibition of the following objects, and to present the exhibitor of the best of each class, with a premium or certificate of honorary preference.

(1)	For the best brood Mare & Colt	a Silver Cup.
(2)	do do Gelding	Honorary
(3)	do do Bull	Cup.
(4)	do do Cow	Cup.
(5)	do do Spring Calf	Cup.
(6)	do do Boar	Honorary.
(7)	do do Sow and Pigs	Honorary.
(8)	do do Merino Ram	Cup.
(9)	do do Merino Ewe	Honorary.
(10)	do do Long Wooled Ram	Cup.
(11)	The best piece of woolen cloth, cassimere, casinet or carpeting made in private families	Cup.
(12)	The best piece of diaper linen, ticking, jeans or dimity of cotton or linen, made in private families	Cup.
(13)	The best Cheese	Cup.

Aug. 16, 1817. - 4t. By the Committee"

Again there is no available record of the fair itself. Lost files of the Lexington papers may, if recovered, reveal what took place in the rings. The widening of the classes is marked. At the May fair, awards were offered for cheese, whisky, and home-made linen as distinguished from domestic (that is, manufactured in America) cloth. This was a departure from the dominance of stock classes of the Sanders Fair, and toward recognition of products outside of those directly connected with livestock.

In the September fair list of awards, horses appear for the first time. Hog breeding is emphasized by an award to brood sow with litter. The English breeds of sheep are recognized, along with the Merino, in the cup offered for the best long-wooled ram. All these awards are widenings of the "Cattle Shew" concept that had prevailed up to the time of the Sanders Fair of 1816, and that Sanders and those he invited to co-operate with him had cautiously expanded.

Once more, absence of files of the press of the time deny the reader even a glimpse of the crowds that attended, of the awards made, of the procession of cattle as they entered the ring to compete, Shorthorn against Powell stock, Carey stock, and Longhorn. This first judging, it may reasonably be assumed, was the crowning moment of that fair, so near in its history to the ancient English cattle shows, so close in concept and ideals to later fairs of the Bluegrass State.

It may well have been fresh memories of this fair that led the editor of the Kentucky Gazette to quote, in his issue of November 29, 1817, from a letter published in the Boston Centinel, written by DeWitt Clinton of New York, under whose direction the Erie Canal soon was to be completed:

> "We have already noticed the increase of Agricultural Societies, particularly in the northern states. They appear to unite all parties, and to be fixed on the most useful and permanent foundations.
>
> "We have now before us an account of the first Cattle Show and Fair, instituted by the Agricultural and Manufacturing Society of Otsego County, New York. It was held the 14th ult. at Cooperstown. The proceedings were splendid; but we were sorry to add, that the day was ushered in by a discharge of artillery; and that the procession was escorted by a military company. Mars ought to have no seat with the rural Deities. In one part of the procession a Plough was drawn by a team of oxen; the plough was held by a Col. Campbell, in the 80th year of his age. The meeting was opened with sacred music; and the throne of the God of the harvest was addressed in prayer. Gen. Morris delivered an address, and Elkanah Watson, Esq. gave a history of the rise and progress of the Berkshire Institution - the parent society in America.
>
> "Premiums, from 3 to 20 dollars, were awarded for the best buck lamb; three years old bull; male and female swine; oxen; milch cow; the best crop of Spring wheat; best do. of barley; best manufactured woolen cloth; best linen cloth; best flannel; best 200 lbs. maple sugar; and the best cheese. Several of the prize gainers being opulent men, presented the Society with the amount of their several premiums....
>
> DEWITT CLINTON"

Such may have been the method employed to spur local Kentucky enthusiasm for the doings of the struggling Agricultural Society of the Commonwealth.

The Fair of 1818

Again fragmentary records; again no completed account of a fair. But again a steady widening of the agricultural and industrial program underlying the exhibitions at Fowler's Garden.

The announcement, which is all that remains of the record of the fair of 1818, tells the story:

Agricultural Society

"It is proposed by the Agricultural Society to give the following Premiums at the next Fair which will be held on the 2d Thursday in June next. This notice is given in order that the various objects may be made ready for exhibition.

(1)	For	the	best	Bull ..... A Silver Cup.
(2)	"	"	"	Cow and Calf ..... A Silver Cup.
(3)	"	"	"	Saddle Horse ..... A Whip.
(4)	"	"	"	Mare and Colt ..... A Bridle.
(5)	"	"	"	Merino Ram Kentucky bred ..... 6 pr. Sheep Sheers.
(6)	"	"	"	Long wooled do ..... 6 pr. do do.
(7)	"	"	"	Boar ..... An Elegant Carving Knife.
(8)	"	"	"	Sample of Whiskey with satisfactory assurances of the exhibitor's having 100 gallons more made in the preceding season ..... A Silver Cup.
(9)	"	"	"	Cheese made in season. A Silver Cup.
(10)	"	"	"	Piece of 20 yards of the fine woolen cloth made in private family .... One pr. Plated Goblets.
(11)	"	"	"	Linsey, thick, strong and not twilled ..... One pr. Silver Sugar Tongs.
(12)	"	"	"	Piece of vesting of any material ..... One pr. Sugar Tongs.
(13)	"	"	"	Carpeting ..... One pr. Candle Sticks.
(14)	"	"	"	Cassimere ..... ½ doz. Tea Spoons.
(15)	"	"	"	Cassinet ..... 1 Cream Ladle.
(16)	"	"	"	Twilled or plain cotton or wool, or mixed cloth undressed ..... 1 pr. Sugar Tongs.
(17)	"	"	"	For the best Hearth Rug ..... A plated Goblet.
(18)	"	"	"	Piece of Linen ..... A Silver Cup.
(19)	"	"	"	Ticking ..... 1 pr. Sugar Tongs.
(20)	"	"	"	Dimity ..... ½ doz. Silver Tea Spoons.

March 11, 1818 By the Committee"

The first mention of the Saddle Horse in a Kentucky show ring is the outstanding feature of this fair. Only slightly less noteworthy is the place given to industrial exhibits. Out of twenty awards provided, thirteen go to industry, against seven to stock. This may be interpreted as reflecting the battle then being carried on by both farmer and manufacturer for the preservation of American industry as a home market for the products of American agriculture.

GREAT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FAIR OF 1819

The Western Monitor, then published in Lexington, throws light on what was taking place in the western cattle world, and also upon some earlier fairs, otherwise unrecorded, that had immediately preceded the leading agricultural event of 1819. In its issue of June 22 the Western Monitor says in editorial reference to the announcement of the Kentucky Agricultural Society Fair of that year:

Agricultural Society

"We have much pleasure in publishing the advertisement of the committee of the Ky. Agricultural Society, containing a list of the objects, which will be entitled to premiums at the Cattle Show in September. The encouragement of agriculture, domestic manufactures, the breed of cattle &c. certainly merits the attention of a wise and prudent paper. Scarcely anything indeed is so essential to the prosperity of a nation. The people of Kentucky especially must be an agricultural people. Possessing a soil unrivalled in fertility and a climate mild and healthy, they have every advantage of improvement in agriculture. As yet however it is certain that much remains to be done. The very ease with which we can cultivate the soil, has prevented our attention to the modes of doing it.

"The change of season for holding the Cattle Show is certainly judicious. In the fall, the farmers generally will be (at) leisure to attend, and will be able to evince the full results of their last year's labours and experiments. The fair, it will be seen, will be held three days, so that ample time will be afforded for the deliberate examination of anything which may be brought forward worthy of notice, and farmers, probably, will (find) it for their interest to attend, not only to display their cattle, etc. with a view to the premiums offered, but to effect sales of their produce and surplus stock, and to transact any other business which at such a place may be conviently and advantageously attended to.

"We anticipate much good from the arrangement, and we hope our brother editors throughout the state will comply with the request of the committee, and by inserting the advertisement, endeavour to excite the laudable emulation of farmers in their respective neighborhoods."

The standing notice of the 1819 fair, which appeared in all the Lexington papers for some two months before the event, announced silver cup awards in twenty-three events. The meeting place was Fowler's Garden, Lexington; the date the last Thursday in September.

The official report on this greatest and last of the fairs of the first Kentucky Agricultural Society, made by the corresponding committee, was published in the Lexington Gazette:

Agricultural Society

"The Kentucky Society for Promoting Agriculture, held its annual meeting on Thursday the 30th day of September, 1819, at Captain Fowler's Garden. Col. Hubbard Taylor of Clarke County, one of the vice presidents, presided at the meeting. It attracted an immense concourse of respectable citizens from all quarters of the State, as well as many foreigners (people from states other than Kentucky) during the two days of the exhibition. The society (meeting) was numerously attended and a valuable addition of many members was made to it. (This meeting accounts for the third day of the fair as advertised.)

"The spectators were highly gratified with the finest exhibition of various objects brought forward for premiums that has ever been made in the state, as well as with many other specimens of industry

and produce, for which no premiums were advertised. Among the objects of the latter description were an uncommonly fine eight months old calf, by a Buffalo Bull, from a cow the property of Col. Geo. Thompson, of Mercer, and a remarkably fine sow, the property of Mrs. Shannon, and several samples of very excellent snuff, manufactured by Mr. Tho. J. Garret of Mount Sterling.

"Committees were appointed to examine the various descriptions of stock, and domestic manufactures, and to award premiums agreeably to the advertisement.

(Awards on Domestic Fabrics)

"The committee appointed to report on the specimens of domestic fabrics exhibited for premiums, reported as follows:

"That they have awarded a premium of a silver cup for the best piece of carpeting to Mrs. E. Warfield. Several pieces were exhibited by different persons of excellent carpeting. Mrs. John Hart had the superiority in point of texture, but taking into consideration all the circumstances, particularly the important one of coloring, Mrs. W's was preferred.

"The best piece of Flax Linen was exhibited by Lewis Sanders, unbleached, spun by Mrs. Gillespie and wove by Mr. Gillespie, for which the premium of a silver cup was awarded. Mrs. John Hart offered a piece beautifully bleached.

"Several pieces of Jeans and Cassinets were exhibited. The premium of a silver cup was awarded to Mrs. McKinney, Jun., for the best piece of Jeans. Mrs. John Hart's was deemed the next best.

"Several samples of excellent cheese were exhibited. The Premium of a silver cup was awarded to Mrs. E. Warfield for the best. Mrs. Joshua Brown had the next best.

(Award on Grains)

"The premium of a silver cup for the best wheat was awarded to John Stark.

(signed) R. FRAZER
H. CLAY J. BRAND
D. HARRISON Committee"

(Awards In The Horse Division)

"The committee appointed to adjudge the premiums for the best Gelding, and for the best colt reported,

(A) that Mr. O Keene exhibited a gelding, the property of Mr. Crittenden, much approved for figure and color. Mr. Anderson exhibited a gelding of fine size. Mr. M. Elder exhibited a very fine gelding. Mr. Bowman exhibited a gelding by (Imp.) Whip, which, for size, figure, and action, is deemed the best, and a silver cup is accordingly awarded to him.

(B) The colts exhibited were considered fine. Mr. Anderson's had superior size: Mr. Clay's was considered very fine: but taking into view size, action and figure, the committee award the premium of a silver cup to D. Bryan's mare colt exhibited by Wm. Bowman.

(signed)

E. WARFIELD R. CROCKETT
R. HIGGINS W. BROWN
A. BLANCHARD Committee"

Cattle Division

"The Committee appointed to adjudge the premiums for cattle report as follows:

(Aged Class)

"Wm. Smith exhibited Imported Bull, Bright, of the long horn breed 4 years old; H. Clay exhibited an imported Bull, Ambassador, of the Herefordshire breed 4 years old:

"N. Hart exhibited an imported Bull, John Bull, of the short horn breed.

"The premium of a silver cup for the best imported bull is awarded to Captain Smith for his imported long horn bull.

(Three-year-old Class)

"Stephen Fisher, of Lincoln County exhibited a fine red bull three years old, got by Captain Fowler's bull, Buzzard, for which a premium of a silver cup is awarded.

(Two-year-old Class)

"Robert Crockett exhibited a young red bull 2 years old 27th November next, out of Captain Smith's imported cow of the Teeswater breed.

"Wm. T. Banton exhibited a young bull, beautifully marked red and white 2 years old 22d. Dec. next, out of M. Munday's imported cow, Mrs. Motte, of the Teeswater breed, got by Tecumseh, an imported bull of the Holderness breed.

"The committee deem it proper to state that they awarded the premium to Mr. Crockett's young bull by a majority of one only.

(Under One Year Class)

"Daniel Harrison exhibited a bull calf, 9 months old, got by Ambassador.

"H. Clay exhibited a bull calf six months old, got by same, out of an imported cow.

"Wm. Smith exhibited a bull calf six months old, got by San Martin an imported bull of the Teeswater breed, out of an imported (short) horned cow.

"John Spears, exhibited a bull calf 9 months old, of Patton's old breed.

"E. Warfield exhibited a bull calf 4 months old by Comet (otherwise Coronet of Sir. H. C. Ibbetson's Denton Path Herd) an imported bull of the short horn breed. (Not to be confused with Chas. Collings' Comet that sold for 1,000 guineas in 1810)

"The committee awarded the premium of a silver cup to D. Harrison for his bull calf by a majority of one only.

(Aged Cow Class)

"Wm. Smith exhibited an imported cow, 4 years old of the Durham breed.

"Wm. T. Banton exhibited a red cow (with) white back by Capt. Fowler's bull Buzzard, out of Captain Smith's Virginia cow.

"John Spears exhibited a very fine and large cow, 9 years old, of Patton's old breed.

"Daniel Harrison exhibited his cow, Puss, got by Pluto, 11 years old.

"E. Warfield exhibited a cow, four, another five, and another six years old.

"The committee awarded the silver cup for the best cow to Wm. T. Banton.

(Three-year-old Cow Class)

"S. Fisher exhibited a large red cow, 3 years old, got by Captain Fowler's Buzzard.

"R. Crockett exhibited three cows, each 3 years old.

"The committee award the premium of a silver cup, for the best three year old cow to Mr. Fisher.

(Two-year-old Heifer Class)

"The premium of a silver cup for the best 2 year old heifer was awarded to R. Crockett. No competitor.

(Yearling Heifer Class)

"Wm. T. Banton exhibited a yearling heifer by Comet, out of his cow, that obtained the premium at this meeting; also a yearling by Robert Wickliffe's bull.

"Wm. Smith exhibited a brindle heifer by Fowler's bull (Buzzard), 18 months old; also two half blood long horn heifers 14 months old.

"Robert Crockett exhibited an heifer of the Herefordshire breed, bred by H. Clay, also an heifer 18 months old, raised by himself.

"The premium of a silver cup is awarded to Wm. T. Banton for the best yearling heifer.

(Junior Heifer Class)

"Wm. Smith exhibited a red heifer calf by San Martin out of his imported cow of the Teeswater breed: also an half blood long horn heifer calf.

"Wm. Bowman exhibited an heifer calf by Comet.

"Robert Crockett exhibited an heifer calf by Smith's long horn bull.

"Wm. T. Banton exhibited an heifer calf by Smith's long horn bull, and of his cow that won the premium.

"E. Warfield exhibited a heifer calf (by) San Martin.

"The premium of a silver cup is awarded to Wm. Bowman.

(Fat Stock Class)

"John Boyce exhibited three fat bullocks.

"John Spears exhibited two very fine bullocks.

"The premium of a silver cup is awarded to John Boyce for his 4 year old steer, bred by G. McKinney, treasurer of this Society.

(signed)

M. D. HARDIN GEO. COONS
B. P. GAY J. MUNDAY
M. ANDERSON Committee"

(Distilled Spirits Class)

"A sample of excellent whiskey was exhibited by Robert Crockett.

"A sample of excellent whiskey was exhibited by Robert Huston & Co.

"A sample of excellent and fine flavored whiskey was exhibited by John Spears.

"For strength and flavor, Mr. Crockett's was thought superior: the committee awards to him the premium of a silver cup.

(signed)

R. HIGGINS J. MORRISON
S. FISHER A. BLANCHARD
Committee"

(Results of the Society Election)

"Officers of the Society for the next twelve months:

ISAAC SHELBY, Pres	R. CROCKETT, 4th vice Pres
HUB'D TAYLOR, 1st vice Pres	M. D. HARDIN, 5th
NATH'L HART, 2nd " "	LEWIS SANDERS, Secy
JOHN FOWLER, 3rd " "	GERARD MCKINNEY, Treas.

"Corresponding Committee, and Committee of arrangements for the next year:

ROBERT CROCKETT JOHN BRAND
LEWIS SANDERS JOHN HART
E. WARFIELD"

Once again mention is made of the expanding purpose and program of the Kentucky Agricultural Society. Most interesting event of the occasion, as viewed after nearly a century and a quarter of time, is the presence of six women exhibitors, one showing a sow, especially mentioned, and five others in the domestic fabrics classification. To the name of Sally Turnham, sole woman exhibitor at the Sanders Fair of 1816, must be added those of Mesdames Shannon, Hart, Warfield, McKinney, Gillespie and Brown, as forerunners of Mrs. Shelby-Breckinridge who, in the early 1840's, demanded and secured the full right of women to exhibit stock (and anything else) in the fairs of that period-- a right accorded women without question from that time forward.

More immediately spectacular, however, was the cattle division, in which the greatest sires and dams in Kentucky were shown or were represented by worthy progeny. The exhibitors were the great or near-great of the Kentucky cattle farms, now approaching a maturity that was to make itself felt through the years to come and especially until the opening of the twentieth century. "The Seventeens" had already arrived in the Bluegrass and were scattered throughout its pastures. In the same ring imported stock was pitted against the home-bred; each breed against all comers.

The cattle rings of the 1819 fair would do credit to any like event of the present time. The individual excellence of the champions in the rings of the 1819 fair was unusually high-- advancement in cattle breeding since then has been made by bringing the average of the herd up to or nearly to the level of size, conformation, and finish of such excellent breed specimens as Ambassador, Buzzard, and Bright.

The 1819 fair marked a transition in thought on the part of both exhibitor and bystander from the ideal of individual excellence to that of breed excellence. In this show, both standards were held in mind. This dual standard of stock judging is still retained. Individual excellence is demanded of the winner, but individual excellence must be in line with the special demands of typical form, build, and coloring of the breed.

The fair of 1819 ended on a high note of confidence in the future.

Then-- silence!

OTHER AGRICULTURAL FAIRS OF THE TIME

Lewis Sanders mentions in his letter previously quoted in connection with the fair of 1816:

"Bourbon County was the first to branch off from the Lexington organization, and hold Shows and Fairs for the county. Some few years after-

ward several of the counties formed societies for themselves - Franklin, Mercer, Jefferson, and others not now recollected.

"All of the Agricultural Societies, Cattle Shows and Fairs in Kentucky and Ohio, prior to the year 1840, originated, as I believe, from the society formed at Lexington....

Respectfully

Grass Hill, Ky., July 18, 1856.

LEWIS SANDERS"

Details of the doings of such societies have faded from the records, and even tradition gives scanty support to the theory that agricultural fairs in Kentucky prospered during the early 1820's.

As late as 1866 a well-founded tradition with respect to the earliest Bourbon County Fair was recited, in answer to a query in the Louisville Daily Courier: "The first one (Bourbon Cattle Show) was held in 1819, at Hornakeck's mill, but the present association was organized in 1835." Collins gives the date as 1818, but furnishes no details.

Only one other county, that of Jefferson, supplies even such meager data. In the Louisville Public Advertiser of December 1, 1821, "A Farmer" addresses the editor as follows:

Agricultural Society

"Mr. Penn, through the medium of your newspaper, permit me to address the farmers generally of Jefferson County.

"In the circle of my acquaintance, the project of forming an agricultural society has frequently been talked of and a very general wish expressed that it should be carried into effect.

"By way of testing the wishes of my brethern of the sod upon the subject - and believing that much good might, and no possible injury would result from such association, I have thought proper thus briefly to call it up, and propose that farmers and others who feel disposed to favor the proposition will meet on the 28th of December next (1821) by 10 o'clock A.M. at Buckner's Tavern on the turnpike between Middletown and Louisville - then and there to take the subject into consideration, and adopt such measures as they may deem proper.

A Farmer"

What followed is recorded in the Louisville Courier-Journal of September 12, 1871:

"The first agricultural association of Jefferson County was organized in the year 1822, by the appointment of the following gentlemen as officers, viz.: Hon. John Rowan, Pres.; John Speed, vice-Pres.; Lee White, Secty.; James Brown, Treas.; William Chambers, Corresponding Secretary. The existance of this association was of short duration. Of some thirty members who, in 1822, signed their constitution, but one name, after a lapse of forty-nine years, survives - that of the venerable Robert Miller of the Pond settlement.

"The first county organization lasted for only two or three years, and no effort was made to revive it until the years 1834 and 1835, when, under the Jackson dynasty, the price of agricultural products ruled high, and farmers felt an ability to indulge their tastes for fancy stock...."

What Caused the Fairs to Collapse

What happened in Franklin, or Mercer, or the "other counties" not mentioned by name in Sanders' letter is not in the available record. The societies ceased to exist early in the 1820's and left no memories behind. The cause of their disappearance is intimated clearly in the last sentence of the preceding quotation. Stated in another way, the collapse of credit, the long years of low agricultural prices, and the failure under such conditions to pay market premiums for superior products accounted for the failure of the effort at improvement in stock breeding, in agriculture, and in mechanical pursuits so gallantly begun at Sandersville in 1816; and that ended, as far as the records tell, at Fowler's Garden in Lexington in 1819, save for the hidden story of the local fairs to which that effort gave birth.

Men lived to tell the story of 1816-22 to their sons and, after the lean years of the 1820's had passed away, a new generation of Kentucky farmers created anew their societies that became for three generations a living force in the economy of the Commonwealth.

* * * *

CHAPTER 3

KENTUCKY COMES OF AGE

DEPRESSION OF 1816-30

The economic depression that followed the War of 1812 was Nation-wide in its scope. It lasted from the close of that war until the later 1820's. Europe, prostrated by the Napoleonic Wars, was a cautious and sparing buyer of farm products and other raw materials offered by America. England and France, both further advanced industrially than the United States, were flooding the American market with factory-made goods produced under labor conditions intolerable on this side of the Atlantic. Chaos in agriculture and in industry threatened. Each community, each State, and the Nation itself were engaged in a desperate struggle for economic survival-- a struggle that called into question every accepted belief about business and manufacturing methods, farming tradition and practice, stock breeding skill, financial procedure and, lastly, political controls of industry and trade.

The great Atlantic ports of New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Alexandria looked to the West, especially to the region north of the Ohio River, for future trading possibilities. The Erie Canal was begun and completed within this period, thus giving to the port of New York a water-level route to the prairies of Illinois and Wisconsin. Philadelphia was driving westward, by canal and later by railroad, to the headwaters of the Ohio. Baltimore in the later 1820's was making the beginnings of the future Baltimore & Ohio railway system and, finally, the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Company, economic forerunner of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad of the present day, was competing on behalf of Virginia with Baltimore for the trade of the middle and lower Ohio region.

Meanwhile, Boston, Marblehead, Plymouth, Providence, New Haven, and other New England seaports, placed at a disadvantage in their trade with the interior by the new canals to the south, began in earnest the building of that great fleet of clipper ships that from 1830 to 1860 rivaled in tonnage and in trade the merchant fleet of Great Britain. This expansion of the American merchant marine was closely linked with the prosperity of the already well-established hemp industry of Kentucky as purveyor of oakum and cordage. The political effects of this community of economic interests between New England and Kentucky were to be far reaching. In addition to becoming overseas carrier for the Nation, New England, by reason of abundant water power, established itself as the center of American textiles manufacture, while Kentucky long continued to be, as it was in 1810, an important producer of textiles and other goods required by the Western market, especially such iron products as stoves, kitchen utensils, nails, and hardware in common farm use. This again linked Kentucky in economic interest with New England.

The close intersectional community of interest along industrial lines developed during this period was voiced by the American Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Manufacturers. This society was organized on the last day of 1816, at a meeting of manufacturers in the city of New York with Gov. Daniel D. Tompkins of that State in the chair. Spokesmen for this group argued for more American factories and wider overseas outlets for American goods. They made a special appeal to the farmers to study their problems, including, besides production, their markets and the market demand for their products, and urged them to co-operate with the manufacturers. This opened the Nation-wide campaign for the defense and protection of American industries that culminated in the Harrisburg Convention of 1827.

Where Agricultural Organization Survived

Support for this movement for a national program of protection and aid to agriculture and manufacturing was found among the leaders of the agricultural societies that had survived the depression. Although the Kentucky societies disappeared entirely in the early 1820's, those of New England and the Middle Atlantic States continued to function. At least four State societies, those of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Virginia, were especially active during the 1820's.

As early as 1817 the Berkshire County Agricultural Society of Massachusetts, the original society founded by Elkhana Watson, petitioned Congress for a national board of agriculture, which should have as its purpose the "promotion of agriculture within the United States." It was proposed to finance the board to the extent of $20,000 per annum by the sale of public lands set aside for that purpose. The effort failed but marked the growing feeling on the part of farmers that educational aid should be given them in solving their problems.

Agricultural papers made their appearance about this time. The Plough Boy, published in Albany, New York, had a national circulation by 1820. Niles' Register, published in Baltimore, 1811-49, brought with each issue, to businessmen and farmers alike, a brief summary of current national and international events, particularly those of interest to industry and agriculture. The work of these and similar journals was primarily educational.

Meanwhile, the fairs held in New England and southward along the Atlantic coast were steadily growing in breadth of interest and in educational values. Especially close was the association in economic interest of goods manufactured in the home with those made in the factory, and of both with the products of the farm. Women took part in these eastern fairs of the 1820's, as they had in the Kentucky fairs of 1816-19.

The demand of the manufacturers and farmers for national legislation affording them relief grew stronger with the deepening of the business depression. At length, in 1827, a national convention of farmers and manufacturers was called to meet in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on July 30. George Robertson, Richard H. Chinn, Thomas C. Howard, James Cowan, and a Mr. Harvie were chosen as Kentucky delegates to this convention at a State-wide meeting of farmers and manufacturers held in Frankfort on July 14. The Frankfort meeting was made up of delegates chosen in county meetings called "to elect delegates to the State Convention at Frankfort to choose State delegates to the national meeting to protect wool growers and manufacturers of Kentucky." Among the leaders in the State convention were Benjamin Gratz, James Cowan, and Thomas Bodley of Fayette County, Joseph Smith and Peter Dudley of Franklin, Mr. Flourney of Scott, and Mr. Helm of Lincoln.

The objects of the Harrisburg Convention are further explained by the following account of the Frankfort meeting:

> "The delegates chosen at the meetings of the friends of agriculture and domestic manufacturers in many counties of this State, assembled in Frankfort on the 14th day of July, to select delegates to meet the delegates from other states in a General Convention to be held at Harrisburgh (Pa.) on the 30th of this month, to take in consideration the wool growing and wool manufacturing interests, and such other manufactures as may require protection.
>
> "The delegates....consider....the above subjects of vital importance to the future happiness and prosperity of the United States, and particularly to the cultivators of the soil, in creating a home market for those agricultural products for which there is no adequate foreign market."

Among the measures of interest to Kentucky adopted at Harrisburg were the resolution and the memorial to Congress cited below:

> "Resolved: That a committee of nine persons be appointed to consider and report as to the propriety of providing further protection to the growth and manufacture of hemp and flax.
>
> "Memorial To Congress: Your memorialist respectfully submits (that on) all goods composed of wool costing over 8 cts per lb. in foreign countries, a duty of 20% per lb. (be levied), to be increased annually 2½ cts per lb. until it reaches 50 cts per lb.
>
> "Your memorialist respectfully submits that a duty of 1 cent per lb. (be laid) on hammered iron and a corresponding advance in steel.
>
> "Flax and hemp, with their products, may be obtained in such quantities as to superseded the use of foreign flax and hemp and the manufacture from them, if protected from the large importations of these articles from foreign countries."

These objectives were strongly urged by the delegates from Kentucky.

A current account of the meeting at Harrisburg says of its membership and spirit:

> "A majority of the members of the convention, we believe, were agriculturists--several of them persons who till their own luxurious fields or feed their own numerous flocks with their own hands--many distinguished for sound and discriminating judgment, and possessed of great practical knowledge, and some of high rank as orators and statesmen. But this was not a talking body. It was made up of business men, who had reflected deeply upon the subjects which had brought them together, and much discussion would only have been a waste of time. Hence the promptitude of action--the minds of most persons immediately grasping a proposition when presented for consideration. But some of the short speeches delivered, and the free and delightful private intercourse that prevailed among the members with the mutual goodwill and kind feeling which they entertained for one another elicited a mass of information the fruits of which will hereafter appear

in a better understanding of the resources and the wants of our country and in whatever relates to the welfare and harmony of its parts, more intimately united in a common interest than many believe. And all who attended the convention will long remember the new and valuable associations which they formed. We met and parted with the best disposition of the human heart."

Such was the atmosphere in which the so-called American System, whose chief political advocates were Webster of Massachusetts and Clay of Kentucky, was formally offered to the Nation as a solution of the production and marketing problems of the time. This system looked for an economic balance of intersectional trade between East, West, and South, with a minimum of foreign imports; while the surplus, except in the case of surplus cotton, was to be worked up into manufactured form for the export trade. China and the East and West Indies, rather than Europe, were considered America's export field; and payment for goods exported was to be made, as far as possible, in goods that did not compete with American products.

The exclusion of the cotton-growing South from any direct benefits that might accrue from the workings of this system is noted; also that New England, as a direct competitor with England and France, desired cheap cotton. This, by isolating the cotton-growing states politically, set the stage for the national struggle that was to make of Kentucky a battleground during the War between the States, and was to alter profoundly the course of Kentucky's later agricultural history.

The program of the American System demanded, for its effective expression, political action. Out of this situation developed the Whig party that, until its demise in 1854, represented the theories of governmental relationship to private business since held by the Republican party. Since the objectives sought by the Agricultural and Mechanical Associations of the 1830-60 period were those professed by the Whig party, there was in general a close alliance in action as well as in sympathies between the two. Whigs held the governorship continuously from the election of James Clark, in 1836, to the seating of John Helm, a Democrat, in 1850. Throughout the 1830-50 period, whether in power or not, members of this party formed an aggressive bloc working for State and Federal aid to roads, for popular education, and educational assistance to agriculture. With the break-up of the national Whig party and the rise to power within the State of the American (Know-Nothing) party under the leadership of Charles S. Morehead, Governor from 1855 to 1859, the Whig party in Kentucky, not always nor exclusively, but very largely, a spokesman for the interests of the earlier agricultural societies, passed from the scene.

KENTUCKY IN THE 1820's

While these national movements were shaping future Kentucky history, the State was helping to shape its own present as well as its future. Within the State the first warnings of economic disaster came with the collapse of the Lexington boom of 1812-16. By late 1819 the collapse was complete. The struggle between debtor and creditor that lasted for more than a decade was on in earnest.

To the bitterness engendered by this fight may well be credited in good part the disappearance of the fairs that had appeared in 1816 and that still survived in the early 1820's. Debtors, through no personal lack of effort, found themselves unable to meet their obligations. Under certain circumstances, debtors' prisons faced them. Others saw foreclosed property paid for in depreciated currency. Many were left without means of subsistence.

To all this, various answers were given. To conserve the small specie reserves rapidly leaving the State, Kentucky had, in the summer of 1818, suspended specie payment. Still later in that year the banks resumed payment of obligations in specie. During 1819 monetary troubles continued. The banks within the State then held approximately $10,000,000 in mortgages, mostly overdue. Much of this indebtedness consisted of frozen assets-- lands, etc.-- for which there was no present market, even at ruinously low prices. In August of that year citizens of Bullitt County demanded suspension of specie payment. The weaker banks failed. The Bank of Kentucky and the United States Bank, commonly known as Biddle's Bank, survived. Wherever possible, especially in the case of vacant lands, time extensions on defaulted payments were given. In 1820 poor-houses were authorized to care for the most needy. To give added value to a money crop, State inspection of tobacco was ordered. From the practice of breaking open the casks for examination originates the name "breaks," attached to later tobacco markets. In 1822 notes of the Bank of Kentucky dropped to sixty-two and one-half cents on the dollar. In 1823 a law was passed requiring that foreclosed property be evaluated in specie. By 1826 thirty-two of the eighty-one counties of the State were unable to meet their current obligations. By February, 1827, with the worst of the depression over, prices at Maysville were still distressingly low, as shown by the following quotations:

> "Bacon, per pound, 3¢-3½¢; butter, 9¢-12¢; tallow, 6¢-7¢; corn, per bushel, 14¢-16¢; potatoes, 25¢-30¢; flour, per barrel, $3.00-$3.60; hemp, per ton, $6.50-$7.00; whiskey, per gallon, new, 16¢-18¢; old, 27¢-30¢; coffee, per pound, 19¢-20¢; sugar, per pound, maple 8¢-9¢; cane, 10¢-12¢."

The Revival of Racing

With all this disaster went certain favorable happenings. It was not altogether incongruous that, in 1820, the Middletown Jockey Club advertised that races "will commence on the first Tuesday in November next, and will be continued three days, free for any horse, mare or gelding, running agreeably to the rules of the Jockey Club." Coming in the middle of a long period of silence as to racing, this notice is evidence that, while the sport may have temporarily died out in Lexington and other large centers, racing still remained popular in the state at large. In 1826 the Jockey Club of Georgetown, Scott County, held a three-day meet:

> "... on the 2d Thursday of October, and Friday and Saturday following, 1st and 2d days free for any horse, mare or gelding. First day, four miles and repeat; purse $125 and entrance money. Second day, two miles and repeat; purse $100 and entrance money. Third day, one mile and repeat; free for nothing, one (and) two year old colts; purse, the gate money of the third day, and the entrance and such other money as belongs to the club not otherwise appropriated.
>
> August 23, 1826 JAMES H. MAHONEY, President"

In October of the same year horsemen of Green County announced:

> "The Greensburg Course Races will commence on Thursday, the 26th of October, and continue three days. The purse to be run for is respectable, two-thirds of which will constitute the purse for the first day, free for any horse, mare or gelding, and the residue will constitute

the purse for the last day, free for any horse, mare or gelding. On the 2d day several horses will run for a sweepstake.

October 4, 1826"

This revival of racing as a sport told horse breeders that the experiments that resulted in the improvement of the Thoroughbred, the development of the Standard-bred or Trotter, and the creation of the American Saddle Horse were already under way.

THE KENTUCKY ASSOCIATION

Although racing as a public sport had declined in Fayette County during and after the War of 1812, the Jockey Club continued to function, and, in the early 1820's, held races on the old course west of Lexington. For several years thereafter, racing on the Lexington course seems to have been discontinued entirely.

In 1826 movement was set on foot to revive the old club, or rather, to supersede it with one better organized. A notable group of horsemen, breeders, importers, and public-spirited residents of the Bluegrass interested themselves in the enterprise. The list of incorporators included the following:

"Elisha J. Winter
E. Warfield
Elijah Cartmill
Charles Buford
T. H. Pindell
John Dishman
James K. Duke
Wm. R. Morton
O. Keene
Peter Gatewood
W. Sanders
Pritchard & Bobinson
William Buford
Leslie Combs
J. Boswell
Thomas Smith
William Bowman
B. P. Sanders
Thos. Stevenson
J. L. Downing
Geo. H. Bowman
John Hunnicutt
Ater & Boswell
E. Yeiser
Edward Lafon
B. W. Dudley
Joseph Bowman
R. L. Breckinridge
Thos. W. Clay
John Brand
Robert Wickliffe
James Clark
Ralph B. Tarlton
Geo. Boswell
S. Davenport
Willa Viley
Charlton Hunt
J. S. Berryman
D. Parrish
James C. Rhodes
Downing, Grant & Co.
R. Downing
David Bryant
George & Abram K. Smedes
John Bruce
John Tilford
J. Logan
L. J. Fenwick
F. Montmollin
Geo. W. Anderson
R. Hawes, Jr.
John Wirt
J. M. Pike
John C. Talbot
Ludwell Beckley
Thos. E. Boswell
A. Barnett
E. M. Blackburn and
George Miller
Thos. Shelby
W. H. Richardson
John Postlethwait
D. Megowan
Bird Smith
Benj. Warfield
William Brown
James Long
John Wheelan
E. P. Johnson
Geo. B. Knight
C. J. Blackburn
Miles Wash. Dickey
William Carroll
E. M. Johnson
Sidney Burbridge
James Gaines
John W. Kant
James Shelby
John Hart
William Buchanan"

Such was the sponsorship of The Kentucky Association, an organization whose track, with the exception of two brief periods, the first during the War between the States and the other at the turn of the present century, was in constant use until, in 1932, the final program over the association course was presented. Four years later, 1936, Keeneland, its successor, opened.

Among the founders of The Kentucky Association are found men identified closely with cattle as well as horse breeding. The Warfields, the Bufords, the Shelbys, and others come to mind. This mutuality of interest took practical form when, in the early 1830's, the association staged stock shows and fairs on its grounds. These grounds, prepared for use during the summer of 1827, were formally opened at the first meet of The Kentucky Association held in 1828.

YEARS OF TRANSITION

Meanwhile, despite the hard times, the West was growing. Transportation methods were changing. Centers of trade were shifting. New markets were being developed, and new ideas and inventions were being tested out.

After 1815 the steamboat began to replace the swarming early river craft on the Ohio. By 1819 fifty-nine steamboats were plying the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. In 1822 estimated total traffic of the upper Ohio River amounted to 77,750 tons, with a total estimated valuation of $3,206,000, including the following major items:

> "15,000 hogsheads of tobacco; 50,000 barrels pork; 25,000 (barrels) hams and bacon; 5,000 barrels beef; 75,000 gallons whiskey; 300,000 pounds flour; 5,000 barrels beans; 4,000 barrels cider; 8,000 barrels apples; 100,000 kegs lard; 30,000 kegs butter; 3,000 bales hay."

It is noted by the same authority that most of the tobacco crop of 1822 remained unsold in the spring of 1823, as prices barely covered freight and warehouse charges.

Kentucky furnished its share of this river traffic. Under compelling necessity the State had long since begun the improvement of its rivers by removing snags, dredging sand bars, and blasting rock obstructions. The steady expansion of the agricultural area of the State, combined with the gradual clearing of the principal river valleys, called for further river-channel improvement. The Licking, Kentucky, Barren, Hinkston, Stoner, Green, Red, Mud, and Pond rivers, and Rough Creek were put in usable condition for the craft of that day. This work, continuing into the 1830's and '40's and after, provided employment and at the same time improved marketing conditions and encouraged the expansion of grain farming throughout the regions along these streams. The Falls of the Ohio, chief obstacle to the full use of the Ohio River, had been, since 1804, the subject of legislation looking to the building of a canal that would open the entire river system from Pittsburgh to the Gulf of Mexico for uninterrupted voyages. The falls made necessary a time-consuming and expensive transfer by wagon from boats above to boats below. In 1826 Governor Desha urged completion of the work. Congress provided for the purchase of 1,000 of the original 6,000 shares of capital stock, and the work, begun in March, 1826, was completed in 1831.

The "Good Roads" of the 1820's

During the 1820's the surfacing of roads was begun. Many of the present-day roads that radiate out from Lexington or that link these radial roads date from that decade. The old-time turnpikes, mere unimproved dirt roads trodden into quagmires by the feet of stock moving to market, were replaced by macadam, then the latest in road construction. Of these well-preserved and stonewalled roads, that known as Old Frankfort Pike (Shady Lane to local residents), connecting Lexington with Frankfort, is perhaps best known. The effect of the building of these hard-surfaced roads was to facilitate movement to and from centers where,

as at Lexington, Paris, Harrodsburg, and other towns, they intersected; or where, as at Frankfort, Bowling Green, Covington, Newport, Maysville, and like-situated towns they reached established river landings. These highways connected with similar roads north and east of the Ohio River and brought Kentucky into immediate touch, by way of the National Pike, with the mid-Atlantic states and the Capital City of the Nation.

Manufacturing and trade responded to the changed road conditions. Inland factories relocated at river points where the costly cross-country haulage or transfer of the finished goods might be avoided. From the 1820's dates the rapid growth of the important cities of Louisville, Owensboro, Evansville, and Covington-Newport-Cincinnati, while at the same time the industries of the interior of the State struggled to maintain their existence. Dr. H. McMurtrie, a visitor to Louisville in 1819, gives an eyewitness account of the scene-- a scene that might have been duplicated in other industrial centers of that day:

> "... The market house is a neat structure, kept in good order, and well supplied, two days in the week, with everything that can be desired in a similar place. There is, however, no great variety of vegetables, which is owing to the want of proper gardening establishments, a few of which, well constructed, would yield a great revenue to any persons who would engage in them. Fish, of which there are an abundance in the river, of a most delicate flavor, are seldom to be had for want of fishermen; and wild fowl, geese, ducks, trouts, etc., which abound in the neighborhood of the Falls, are rarely presented for sale, and there is not a single person who makes it his business to procure them. Beef and mutton is in great plenty, equal in quality to any of the Eastern States. Venison is common and extremely cheap, fifty cents being the usual price of a ham weighing from fifteen to twenty-five pounds. Pork, veal, poultry, including turkeys wild and tame, rabbits, squirrels, etc., are common; in fine, although not quite equal to that of Philadelphia, it contains all the luxuries of a good market, and with respect to fruit, it is perhaps unequaled by any in the United States. Peaches of great size and beauty, such as bring six and one-half cents each in the Philadelphia market, are sold here for fifty cents per bushel; inferior ones in proportion. Apples, without exception the finest I have ever seen, are sold at the same price in (the) fall, and at $2 per barrel in the winter. European grapes, melons of various kinds, cherries, raspberries, and strawberries, are to be had in their respective seasons.
>
> "The principal articles of export are steam-engines, beef, pork, bacon, lard, flour, whiskey, tobacco, and formerly hemp. (Russian hemp was at that time crowding the Kentucky product off the market.) Large droves of cattle, beeves, and horses are annually taken from the surrounding country to the Atlantic States, which are much more indebted to Kentucky on this score than their inhabitants are generally aware of.
>
> "In addition to the articles above mentioned may be added various pieces of household furniture, such as bedsteads, tables, sideboards, chairs, etc., numbers of which are manufactured for the several towns between Louisville and New Orleans.
>
> "European goods are imported directly from that continent; those from the East Indies and from the Atlantic States are received from

Philadelphia, Baltimore, or New Orleans, and owing to the facility of transportation by means of steamboats, principally from the latter. By the same way we have the coffee and other products of the West Indies, as well as the rice, sugar, cotton, molasses, etc., of Louisiana. A great change, however, is about to take place in the importation of East India goods, which (I speak Prophetically) ere ten years will be brought to Louisville direct from China and Bengal via Columbia (River).

"During the last twelve months there have been made and fitted up at (the Prentice and Bakewell) factory eight engines for steamboats and two for land manufactories, equal to $100,000, besides castings to the amount of $25,000, the greater parts of which were used as materials for their own engines and castings for the neighboring country, of the value of $5,000. They are under contract to deliver engines and steamboats, in the ensuing six months, to the amount of $70,000, and which, from the number of hands employed, they will be enabled to comply with. There are employed in the different shops about sixty workmen, whose (total) wages are $600 per week, all of which is, of course, immediately spent in the town. From a rule they have adopted of dismissing every one that is drunken or worthless in any way, they can exhibit a set of men who, by their decency of deportment, form a striking contrast to those of many similar establishments."

A steady growth in the exchange of goods with the lower Mississippi River trade region marks the entire period prior to the War between the States. Before the advent of the railroads, the Port of New Orleans was the principal destination of heavy tonnage originating along the navigable Kentucky rivers and from the adjacent interior as far as highway development permitted. The up-river Kentucky-bound traffic consisted, not only of sugar, raw cotton, and other goods of Southern origin, but also of goods from the Atlantic seaboard, the West Indies, and from Europe. The furniture in the homes built in the 1830's and after came crated to landings along the interior streams of the State, in exchange for goods shipped from Kentucky down the Ohio. The more favored rural homes of Kentucky, during the decades succeeding the 1820's and preceding the War between the States shared with the Middle and South Atlantic States the amenities of a common civilization. For the Bluegrass and the Pennyrile, the period of pioneering was over and, with confident assurance, the Commonwealth looked to the future.

CATTLE TRAILS OF THE PERIOD

While the Ohio-Mississippi route to the north Atlantic and European markets was open to the surplus grain products of the West, the time consumed in the voyage coupled with the risks by river and sea effectively discouraged any rapid expansion of early-day grain farming in Kentucky. This would have been true even if agricultural machinery had earlier made its appearance. But it was not until the 1820's that the cast-iron plow gradually replaced the plow with an iron point and wooden moldboard that had been in use up to that time. Otherwise, with the exception of the introduction of the cradle and fanning mill, the tools of farming remained essentially those of pioneer days. The 1840's and, still more notably, the 1850's, marked the advent of modern farming tools such as the reaper, mower, threshing machine, and that most necessary of all agricultural tools, the self-scouring plow.

This poverty of equipment with which to cultivate properly the somewhat difficult soils of Kentucky explains in large part, in spite of long-continued low market prices, the emphasis placed upon stock-raising. Under such conditions, partially cleared woodland pastures materially added to the farm income without greatly increasing the seasonal labor required. The net result was a steadily growing movement of stock to market.

As in early pioneer days this movement was of two kinds. First was the stock driven to the nearest local killing floor or river shipping port. The excess above local consumption moved down the Ohio-Mississippi to the Southern and West Indies trade. Second was the stock driven to distant markets along the mid-Atlantic coast and within the Cotton Belt. Either movement necessitated driving the stock over considerable distances. This was attended by loss of weight that severely cut prices on the terminal markets. These marketing conditions favored the rangy hog or steer, the nimble-footed sheep, and the light horse, already common in Kentucky. Such animals could, when given reasonable care, make the long journey from Kentucky to Baltimore or to the cotton fields of the South and arrive in reasonably good condition. Stockmen bred for such result, and they selected breeding stock for further improvement with these conditions in mind.

Great estates, in the period prior to the War of 1812, were common. North of Lexington was that of the Breckinridges, which, about 1800, consisted of 12,000 acres. The Humphrey Marshall land holdings of the early 1800's extended from Frankfort to Versailles, a distance of twelve miles. The Cunninghams, the Renicks, the Taylors, and many others, were extensive land owners. Naturally, they were among the more extensive breeders of cattle, horses, hogs, and sheep. Mule breeding did not occupy a prominent place in husbandry, until Henry Clay, in 1832, gave it an impetus that caused it by 1850 to rank among the leading livestock activities of the Commonwealth.

Along with the founding of great estates, either built up out of land script holdings or bought outright from previous owners, the region was filling up with small farmers whose stock, in the aggregate, was of even greater commercial importance than that of the great landed proprietors. The surplus of this stock was sold in local markets where, in time, buyers established the practice of "Court Day" stock purchasing. During the second and third decades of the nineteenth century, this method of stock marketing became firmly established and has continued, much changed by transportation and marketing conditions, down to the present time.

Ownership of marketable horses, cattle, hogs, and sheep intended for export from the State early became centered in the hands of two relatively small groups-- the extensive breeders and the traders who periodically visited areas where they had established contact with the smaller farmers. The depression of 1816-30 brought about the gradual breaking up of the larger estates, and the passing over to professional drovers of the bulk of the livestock-marketing business.

The rising stock markets of Baltimore and Philadelphia and the expanding cotton fields of the Deep South became the objectives of long "drives" that included cattle in the main, together with droves of hogs and flocks of sheep. Horses, in addition to cattle, hogs, and sheep, and later, mules, moved southward and westward in like fashion. In the 1840's mules became a factor in this trade.

These drives were timed to catch the peak of the market, which was usually in the late fall. Consideration was also given to the question of gaining the maximum poundage before setting out on the long journey; also to that of finding sufficient pasturage along the way.

Well-traveled "cattle trails" led from the Kentucky pastures to the terminal markets. Best known were the Lexington-Cincinnati Pike, the Kanawha Route to Baltimore, and the trails that led into the South.

Shortest of these was the pike leading from the heart of the Bluegrass to the Ohio River at Cincinnati. This trail, about eighty-five miles in length, was a favorite with hog drivers because of the shortness of the journey and beacuse the Cincinnati butchers early geared their business to that trade.

An alternate northern route about which little is now known in Kentucky was one that left the Ohio River at Limestone Crossing (Maysville) and continued to Chillicothe, Ohio, central starting point of the Ohio drives that went eastward to the Philadelphia and New York markets.

Best known and oldest of the Kentucky cattle trails was that which started at Lexington and headed eastward via Winchester, Mount Sterling, and the mouth of Big Sandy River past Gauley Mountain, and on into the Great Valley of Virginia, thence down that valley to the ford of the Potomac, and from that point eastward through Fredericksburg into Baltimore; a total distance of 564 miles.

This route, in use by cattlemen as early as 1805, became known as the "Kanawha Trail." It was still in use when the railroad transferred the packing business of the West to points west of the Alleghenies. At short intervals, inns afforded shelter. Once in the Great Valley of Virginia, the remainder of the journey led past stock feeding farms whose owners, for 150 miles, were potential buyers of the stockers and feeders in the herd. This afforded the drover opportunity to dispose of his thin stock at the best possible price rather than offer it as culls or rejects on the butcher market.

John Greenleaf Whittier, a century ago, described the scene as the drover and his herd went on their way:

"We sought them where in warmest nooks,
The freshest feed is growing,
By sweetest springs and clearest brooks,
Through honeysuckle flowing,
Wherever hillsides, sloping south,
Are bright with early grasses,
Or, tracking green the lowland's drouth,
The Mountain streamlet passes.

In our good drove, so sleek and fair,
No bones of leanness rattle;
No tottering hide-bound ghosts are there
Of Pharaoh's evil cattle,
Each stately beeve bespeaks the hand
That fed him unrepining;
The fatness of a goodly land
In each dun hide is shining.

We see them slowly climb the hill,
As slow behind it sinking;
Or, thronging close, from roadside rill,
Or sunny lakelet, drinking.
Now crowding in the narrow road,
In thick and struggling masses,
They glare upon the teamster's load,
Or rattling coach that passes.

Day after day our way has been,
O'er many a hill and hollow;
By lake and stream, by wood and glen,
Our stately drove we follow.
Through dust-clouds rising thick and dun,
As smoke of battle o'er us,
Their white horns glisten in the sun,
Like plumes and crests before us.

The night is falling, comrades mine,
Our footsore beasts are weary,
And through yon elms the tavern sign
Looks out upon us cheery."

This picture, true for the hills of New England, was no less true for the drives that passed over the Kanawha and its kindred trails. The stock grazed and browsed along the way. The aim of the drover was to arrive with his herd in at least as good condition as when he set out from the Bluegrass. But the journeys were long, the risks great. It was a hard life; the glamour of it, like that of the life of the Western cowboy, is largely an illusion.

Similar to the Kanawha Trail was the one that led through Cumberland Gap to the Carolinas and the trail that crossed Cumberland Ford and spread out into the expanding cotton fields of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi. Gradually these southern trails took on major importance as the demand for horses, mules, cattle, sheep, and hogs grew with the growth of one-crop cotton farming.

Into southern Indiana, southern Illinois, and westward into Missouri led other trails along which passed the migration that made of these areas a northward expansion of the Old South. The strong Kentucky influence of that early movement still remains as a reminder of the time, along in the 1810-30 period, when covered wagons rolled westward accompanied by small foundation herds of Kentucky stock.

Reliable statistics on livestock production are lacking before the census of 1840, but an index of the volume and value of the livestock movement of the 1820's is found in the fact that, in 1824, stock to the value of $900,000 moved southward through Cumberland Gap. This included 4,013 horses, valued at $90.00 each; 1,019 mules at $60.00; 63,036 hogs at $7.00; 1,393 cattle at $30.00. Besides these, pork products valued at $100,000 were shipped by river to New Orleans, and over the Kanawha route an additional 35,000 hogs walked to market. The following year, according to another authority, the total value of livestock exported from Kentucky approximated $6,000,000. This was an amount equal to one-tenth of the total exports of the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1831.

Breed Improvement is Continued

The financial importance of the livestock industry in general had been appreciated by Hubbard Taylor of Clark County and others as early as 1800. Mention has already been made of the development of the horse industry. The sheep industry, which had suffered a severe set-back through the collapse of the Merino boom of 1810-15, began recovery during the 1820's. During this decade, attention was also being given to the improvement of hogs, due largly to the better market facilities offered by the rise of the western packing centers, chief of which was Cincinnati.

Sanders Re-Enters the Picture

The Stock Show and Sale staged in 1816 by Lewis Sanders had revolved around the cattle already in the State. These, a mixture of excellent strains of stock-- the Patton breed, Longhorn, Shorthorn, and various crosses-- satisfied to a high degree the demands of Baltimore, then, and for many years after, the price-making market for Kentucky cattle. The chief claim to preference by advocates of the Shorthorn lay in its early maturity, as compared with the other breeds then in Kentucky. Fashions in butcher meats were then changing to tenderer, juicier, better-marbled cuts, and these, so it was claimed, the Shorthorn provided in about two-thirds the time required to mature and finish from the earlier breeds.

This alone, if breeders generally were agreed as to its truth, would have decided that early-day "battle of the breeds" in favor of the Shorthorn. Land prices were on the upgrade. Open range was getting scarce. The costs of bringing a steer to market condition were increasing.

Early maturity meant a crop of cattle every four or five years instead of every six to eight years-- a material saving in time, shelter, and feeding; in losses due to disease, and of acreage necessary to the production of a given amount of beef on the hoof.

In England, at that time, the Shorthorn, under its various aliases of Durham, Teeswater, and Holderness, had won public attention. A convincing measure of the regard of cattlemen for the breed was the hitherto unheard of price of 1,000 guineas (about $5,000) received for the bull Comet at the Charles Colling distribution sale of 1810 at Keeton.

ARRIVAL OF "THE SEVENTEENS"

The high regard in which the Shorthorn was held in its native land, combined with the showing made by the Shorthorns at Sanders' Fair of 1816, led Lewis Sanders to write Buchanan, Smith & Company, of Liverpool, England, early in the spring of 1817, commissioning that firm to buy, regardless of individual price paid, a pair of the Holderness breed, a pair of the Durham breed, and a pair of the Longhorn breed. All females were to be red in color.

The firm sent Mr. Etches, a butcher and celebrated stock judge, to execute the commission. The invoice accompanying the firm's letter of March 11, 1817, explained that, on account of the low prices then current in England, their agent had been able to secure "not the six ordered but twelve head," as follows:

"(1) One bull, from Mr. Clement Winston, on the River Tees; got by Mr. Constable's bull, brother to Comet.

"(2) One bull, Holderness bred of Mr. Scott, out of a cow that gave thirty-four quarts of milk per day; large breed.

"(3) One bull, from Mr. Reed, West Holme, of his own breed.

"(4) One bull, Holderness breed, from Mr. Humphreys; got by Mr. Ware's bull of Ingleton.

"(5) One bull, Long-Horned, of Mr. Jackson Kendall, out of a cow that won the premium.

"(6) One bull, Long-Horned, from Ewartson, Crosby Hall, is of a very fat breed.

"(7) One heifer, from Mr. Wilson Standeross, Durham breed.

"(8,9,10) Three heifers, from Mr. Shipman; his own breed.

"(11,12) Two heifers, Long-Horned breed from Mr. Ewartson, Crosby Hall, of Westmoreland breed."

Arrived in Maryland via the ship Mohawk, the cattle were pastured near Baltimore, subject to Sanders' orders. When they arrived in Kentucky, the herd consisted of six bulls and five cows. Two of the bulls, numbers five and six on the invoice, were of the Longhorn breed. The four remaining bulls were all Shorthorns, since the Holderness of that day was what later became known as the "Milking Shorthorn." Of the six heifers, all bred before leaving England, two, numbers eleven and twelve, were Longhorns. Number ten died in Maryland. Numbers seven, eight, and nine, respectively known later as Mrs. Motte, the Durham cow, and the Teeswater Cow, remained, reproduced, and died in the Bluegrass.

SANDERS' DISPERSAL SALE

Before the consignment reached Lexington, Colonel Sanders had met with financial reverses, and his properties were in litigation. Some doubt remained as to the exact legal ownership of the shipment on arrival. The essential fact is that the herd was held together until scattered at a dispersal sale in 1817, the notice of which throws light on the situation:

English Cattle At Auction

"On Thursday the 29th October will be sold without reserve 100 head of choice cattle, of the improved breed, consisting of breeding cows, heifers, yearlings and calves. The principal part of this stock was selected with great care by Mr. Lewis Sanders from the best stock in the state,and sold by him in October last; some of the young calves are imported bulls, and all the cows and heifers with calf by imported bulls.

"So fine a stock of cattle has not been offered for sale before; the important advantages this breed possesses over the common breed of the country, are too well known to require a recital in an advertisement: intelligent agriculturists know their interest well enough to insure their attendance at this sale which will take place at the lower end of the town of Lexington, at the White Gate on the Leestown road, at 12 o'clock, on a credit of 60 days for approved negotiable paper.

DANIEL BRADFORD, AUCTR.

"The following animals are listed:

"40 prime breeding cows--four of which are with calf, by Capt. (William) Smith's Long-horn imported bull--9 with calf by Tecumseh, an imported bull of short-horn, or milk breed--27 with calf by Gen. San Martin, an imported bull of the Teeswater breed.

"20 two years old heifers, with calf by imported bulls.

"20 yearling heifers.

"20 bull and cow calves some of which are by imported bulls.

JOHN FOWLER, Trustee
(of the Sanders properties)"

The language of the notice would lead to the inference that Sanders had been developing a herd, chiefly Shorthorns, on his extensive farm northwest of Lexington, and that he turned over this herd, as well as his other properties, to his creditors in October, 1817,-- approximately the time of its arrival in the Bluegrass. William Warfield names Captain Smith and Dr. Tegarten as each buying a one-third interest, Sanders finally disposing of his remaining interest, prior to the dispersal sale, to James Mundy. In a letter dated November 9, 1843, Sanders mentions conditions surrounding the collapse of his enterprises, and throws some light on his subsequent activities:

> "As to sheep - I have had some experience in this stock, having handled them for forty years. In 1814, I owned a large flock of Merinoes, then selling the cullings of the flock for over a hundred dollars each at public auction; true it was time of war, and I was paying two dollars per pound cash, for all the Merino wool I could get, in its natural state too. In three years thereafter (1817) I sold (or the sheriff did for me) the selected flock of Merinoes, upwards of three hundred head, for two dollars each. This flock, that brought a little over six hundred dollars, would have produced three years before upwards of thirty thousand. But peace having taken place in the meantime, and the repeal of the double duties (war duties) in 1816, knocked the Merinoes in the head, as it did the manufacturers."

Mrs. Motte, the Durham cow, and the Teeswater Cow, proved themselves prolific. Altogether, within the 1818-30 period, they dropped twenty-six calves; of these, thirteen were bulls and thirteen heifers. All of them with one exception, a heifer out of the Teeswater Cow, were purebred Shorthorn. With one exception, an 1827 bull out of Mrs. Motte, sold to the Ohio Shakers, the direct offspring remained in Kentucky. Among the owners of this second generation were Gen. James Garrard, T. P. Dudley, Col. Lewis Sanders, Dr. S. D. Martin, Walter Dun, Benjamin Warfield, Robert Wickliffe, Charles Garr, Major Gano, and Mr. Scott. Under the management of these men the blood lines were preserved.

In 1817, also, James Prentice brought to Lexington the Shorthorn sires Prince Regent and John Bull. These animals passed into the hands of John and Nathaniel Hart, and (in the opinion of William Warfield) made little impression on the herds of the Bluegrass.

Henry Clay, meanwhile, had been in England and had secured a pair of Herefords, which joined the Sanders shipment for the long journey across the mountains. Misfortune, due to lack of numbers and possibly to bad management, followed this importation, and it was not until the 1880's that the Hereford became popular in Kentucky.

These three importations of Sanders, of Prentice, and of Clay, particularly that of Sanders, constitute what is known in breeds history as "The Seventeens."

EFFECT OF THE 1817 IMPORTATIONS

By 1830 the blood of these importations had been tested in the show rings of the agricultural society fairs and in the pastures and feeding pens of the Blue-

grass. Crosses of various sorts had been tried out. The potency of the Shorthorn when bred to the common stock of the country had been noted. Comparisons of Shorthorn with Longhorn, Hereford, and the old "Patton Stock" had resulted in general acceptance of the Shorthorn as best adapted to the range, feed lot, and sales market conditions of the time. Individuals of this breed were, in comparison with the Longhorn, quicker to mature, while the fleshing was at least as good. They reproduced a more even quality than the "Patton Stock." The Hereford, quicker maturing and more compact, did not suit the popular fancy of the time. Finally, the Shorthorn met the trying conditions of the long journey to market and the final test of acceptance by the buyer for the feed lot or the block. Warfield sums it all up in a paragraph:

> "The verdict of the Kentucky breeders was unmistakable for the Shorthorns; within a few years all else was discarded, and tarces of the other races could only be found lost in a pedigree otherwise true Short-Horned. Descendants of the Patton stock, and the Short-Horns of the importation of 1817 alone can be found in Kentucky, of all its early stock, and the Patton stock only as made Short-Horn by a long series of crosses of thoroughbred bulls of that race.
>
> "By 1831, the minds of the Kentucky breeders were fully made up on the point before them and the period of testing was over. At that time, the majority of well-bred cattle was in the hands of the following gentlemen: Messrs. G. N. Sanders, Gen. James Garrard, Benjamin Keningham (Cunningham), Jefferson Scott, Abr. Spears, Samuel Smith, Nelson Dudley, Rev. T. P. Dudley, Hector P. Lewis, Ab. Smith, Capt. Warfield, D. Sutton, and H. Clay (Herefords); and, by that time, the doom of the Long-Horns and Herefords was already sounded. The testing had taken place; the decision had been arrived at."

In 1833, with returning prosperity in full flood, Walter Dun made a Shorthorn importation consisting of one bull and five cows purchased in Yorkshire. This small herd, first importation since that of "The Seventeens," marks the advent of a new era in Kentucky agriculture. The herds of the State continued to be of mingled stock, but through the 1830's and 1840's purebred Shorthorn sires were in demand. Their conformation and coloring was impressed upon their grade sons and daughters. By the 1850's Kentucky, still busily importing the best Shorthorn blood of British pastures, was "the stamping-ground of the Shorthorns."

This result came not without effort. To accomplish it, importer, breeder, stockman, farmer, and drover united in one common endeavor to raise the quality standard of Kentucky stock to a point where it could demand and get top position on any markets available within the Nation. At one end of the chain, the drover made a high standard of Shorthorn excellence his base of prices paid for cattle on court days or in the feed lot. At the other end of the chain, purebred stock and stockmen battled royally in the show rings of the fairs of the 1830's, nominally for some coveted cup, actually for the sales of breeding stock that might be expected to follow.

Attempts were made, from time to time during the 1830's, to revive the ancient English idea of the agricultural fair as a market for the general sale and exchange of goods. These efforts failed. With the great business of cattle and other stock sales in the skilled hands of traders who knew conditions on the terminal markets, there remained little of ordinary trading to offer itself at fairs. Bereft of the character of a general market, the fairs of the 1830's speedily became, as they continued to be, exhibitions of blooded stock, of choice

agricultural products, and of the best creations of the home and the factory. Linked with all this were the impelling necessities of the times for common school and technical agricultural education, for united action in behalf of agriculture, for improvement of grains, grasses, farm machinery, and the appliances of the home. To this medley of interests, later flavored with a stirring of sports in the way of racing, the Kentucky farmer and his wife and family gave their more or less hearty support.

* * * *

In such fashion agricultural societies and their fairs of the 1830's were born, not as something given to the farmer and breeder, but as something created by himself and by himself alone.

CHAPTER 4

THE DECISIVE ERA--1830-50

A GLANCE AT TWO DECADES

The two decades beginning with 1830 were years of great change within the Commonwealth. Despite the panic of 1837 and the hard times of the early 1840's, these decades were characterized in a notable way by material and cultural progress. They witnessed the beginnings of a common school system within the State. They saw agricultural societies spread from the Mountains to the Purchase. They encompassed the years of expanding river trade and the early phases of railroad development. In these years the lumber industry came to full stature. The mining possibilities of the State were being explored. Manufacturing was centering along the Ohio River and was taking on its modern appearance as to organization, equipment, and labor conditions.

Prices for agricultural products, including livestock, had risen to a remunerative level. Improvements in transportation, among which the completion of the Louisville Canal around the Falls of the Ohio ranked foremost, promised better returns on exports and cheaper prices on goods arriving in Kentucky from the Atlantic seaboard and abroad. Growing world demand for American cotton indicated a permanent and increasing Southern demand for Kentucky's cattle, horses and mules, sheep, and hogs. The marked industrialization of New England pointed in the same general direction. To the westward, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and the regions beyond, all still in the pioneering stages of development, gave promise of a coming rich harvest of inter-regional trade. The agricultural area of the State was being widened at the expense of the open woods pasture that in earlier days had afforded free range to cattle and hogs. This disappearance of range conditions was attended by a steadily increasing number of farmers, brought about mostly through the breaking up of large land holdings by sale, and by the process of dissolution through division of estates. The virgin timber was gradually disappearing, while brush pastures and cultivated fields took its place. Farms were being enclosed by stake and rider or post and rail fences; often by well-built stone walls that were to endure for a century and more. Many of the more comfortable homes that still grace the Commonwealth were planned, erected, and furnished within the period. Often these homes were years in the building; to that end went the labor of master and servants during the seasons of comparative idleness that regularly recur on the farm.

With all this brave showing the law of diminishing crop yields was already at work and increasingly in evidence. The Federal census of 1850 reveals that out of every three acres devoted to farming but one was in crops. That could mean but one thing-- permanent pastures that wore themselves out, and a one-crop system of farming that repeated corn year after year until the rich, deep mold of pioneer days was being washed into the streams; until the underlying clay of the subsoils appeared through the thinning topsoil; until the more rolling fields had been gutted beyond possibility of cultivation and had been given over to briars.

The practical questions as to soil use raised in 1794 by the Mercer Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture had been ignored. The wasteful methods of farming followed everywhere by pioneers had been repeated as a rule by the second generation of Kentucky farmers. Thoughtful farmers of the third generation awoke to the fact that something-- perhaps soil, perchance seed, maybe climatic changes or wrong cultural methods, possibly a combination of all these-- was radically wrong with many of the once best farms of the Bluegrass State. Of more immediate concern to the stockman was the problem of markets; how to hold and expand them; and the closely related problem of breed development and improvement, as indicated by market preferences and requirements.

Such were the farm problems of the 1830's.

Fifty-five years had elapsed since, in 1787, George Muter, Thomas Speed, and those associated with them had organized the "Kentucky Society for Promoting Useful Knowledge." Of that distinguished company, few were now in active service to the State of their creation, but the influence of this group, powerful during a half century, still remained the directional force within the maturing Commonwealth. The men who had founded the Mercer Society for the Encouragement of Agriculture, the Emigration Society, and who, in 1816, had organized the first State Agricultural Society, had all drawn their inspiration from this notable group of pioneers. Shelby, Marshall, and Fowler were active well into the 1820's. The latter was among those who organized the Kentucky Association of 1826, intended as a racing association, but also destined to lead off with the new cycle of fairs in Fayette County that began in 1833. Garrard, also a signer of the pact of 1787, was among those active in the planning of the new order. John Postlethwait, associate and advisor of these men throughout the long years, died in the autumn of 1833, during the cholera epidemic. This event was subsequent to the holding of the Kentucky Association (Fayette County) Fair of that year. In unbroken succession, men and events connected the earliest years of settlement with the agricultural and mechanical developments found in the early 1830's. New faces appeared, bound by kinship and by association with those passing off the scene, and the story of the Commonwealth moved on.

A Farm Program Develops

These problems were discussed at length by the press, both local and agricultural. In the latter, especially, leading farmers throughout the Nation aired their opinions. The practices of Jethro Tull and the theories of Arthur Young were remembered and argued pro and con. The discoveries of Justus von Liebig, a rising young German chemist, relative to plant food requirements, were being made known for the first time. From England came word of the practical field demonstrations that were being carried on at Rothamsted by two young men, John Lawes and J. H. Gilbert, who, for more than a half century, were to lead the world in the field of agricultural experimentation. Interest in, and a respect for, the opinions of such men in matters of agriculture developed a desire for State and Federal aid in the solving of the farm problems of the time.

Meanwhile, the urgent problems gave rise to a three-point agricultural program that may be stated as follows:

(1) To widen still further the outlets for Kentucky stock and cash crops
(2) To breed livestock still closer to the current trend of market demand
(3) To increase the carrying capacity of pastures and fields by using better seed, by better soil handling, and by the use of better cultural methods.

The first of these three objectives, fundamental to all future development of the agricultural resources of the Commonwealth, called for little change in the existing order of things. The great farms continued, as in the 1820's, to send out their finished stock over the trails to markets that were then constantly growing and widening. The smaller producers found wither local or itinerant drovers ready to buy their stock, and markets for other salable crops were already to be found within hauling distance.

The second objective, an intelligent breeding program, called for agreement as to market requirements and the methods of breeding that would meet them. The attention of the State had been fixed since the early 1800's upon two breeds having very similar characteristics-- the Longhorn and the Shorthorn. Although the Shorthorn had won the favor of the great stockmen and breeders, Longhorn and Patton blood still dominated Kentucky pastures. For more than a decade, well into the 1840's, while importers were, with possible exceptions, bringing to Kentucky from the pastures of the East and from England the best blood of the Shorthorn, expanding that blood, and top-crossing on the older strains, the "battle of the breeds" raged. The Shorthorns won, not easily, but by the sheer force of their adaptability to block requirements expressed in the higher prices on the leading cattle markets of that day.

The third and last major objective of the times, mingled with the practical individual problem of breed and sire choice, involved all the problems relative to agriculture propounded by the Mercer Society for the Improvement of Agriculture, as well as the now-pressing questions relating to the use of farm machinery and equipment versus human labor.

Since there was at that time no common school system, no agricultural college, no experiment station, no farmers' institutes nor extension service, nothing resembling in any way any of these agencies, the farmers, looking back to the State Agricultural Society of 1816-19, revived both the form and the spirit of that institution, in their own agricultural societies. These were to be, for them, all the things that were lacking, until, through joint action of these societies, State-supported educational agencies geared to the needs of agriculture could be established.

The several aspects of this general program developed without leadership, in the common acceptance of that term, and simultaneously. Widening of markets, importation and improvement of stock, the experimental and educational work of the societies were all contemporaneous and co-mingled parts of one process that extended from 1830 down through the years. For purposes of clarity, these developments are separately presented.

Kentucky's Role as "Older Sister"

It is difficult to understand or to explain the full-blown maturity of Kentucky in the 1830's. The Kentucky of 1810 is distinctly a pioneer state; that of 1830 is as distinctly full-statured, and self-reliant. Whence the change from youth to maturity? Somewhere along the road of those busy, hard-pressed, wrangling years, the role of younger sister among the states was dropped, and that of an older sister to the group of states rising all along her borders was assumed.

The figures for Kentucky alone tell but part of the story. They show, for example, the growth of Louisville from a small river town of 1,357 population in 1810 to a thriving young city of 10,341 in 1830. They reveal that Kentucky's neighbor, Cincinnati, during the same interval, grew in population from 2,540 to

24,831. What they fail to uncover are the forces that caused these changes. They do not explain, for instance, that the westward movement into southern Indiana and Illinois, which became a mass migration prior to 1820, and within a few years moved on across the Mississippi River into the young state of Missouri, was largely a migration of Virginians and Kentuckians to found new homes in the West. They do not mention the demand for equipment required for the journey, nor supplies after arriving in the new home, particularly for breeding stock with which to carry on the Virginia and Kentucky grazing traditions. The cattle that furnished the foundation stock for these new areas came largely from Kentucky. So did much of the horse flesh. So, also, did much of the farm equipment. In 1833, the year following Dun's Shorthorn importation, James N. Brown and J. D. Smith took from Kentucky to Sangamon County, Illinois, the first purebred Shorthorn herd to reach that State, and probably the first purebred herd exported from Kentucky. This exportation coincided closely, in point of time, with the renewal of blooded stock importations from the East and from Europe.

RISE OF THE SOUTHERN MARKET

Meanwhile, prior to the 1830's, a new market for cattle and other stock had arisen in the South. Cotton was commanding good prices, and, as fast as the Indian lands in Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi could be brought into use, these states turned to cotton culture. The new one-crop agricultural area depended largely upon the states to the north to furnish horses, mules, and provisions. This demand, which arose in the second decade of the nineteenth century, widened and grew steadily up to the outbreak of the War between the States. By 1830 it had reached proportions that brought the high tariff views professed by many Kentuckians of that time into sharp conflict with the low tariff professions of the South Carolimian stock buyers. About that time, meetings held in South Carolina passed boycott resolutions against the Kentucky drovers. Said Senator Clay of this incident, addressing Vice-President Calhoun:

> "..They (the south-Carolinians) must have supposed us as stupid as the sires of one of the descriptions of stock (mules) of which that trade consisted, if they imagined that their resolutions would affect our principles. Our drovers cracked their whips, blew their horns, and passes Selenda (Saluda) Gap to other markets where better humors existed and equal or greater profits were made. I have heard of your successor in the other house, Mr. President, this anecdote: that he joined in the adoption of those resolutions: but when, about Christmas, he applied to one of his South Carolina neighbors to purchase the regular supply of pork for the ensuing year, he found that he had to pay two prices for it, and he declared, if that were the patriotism on which the resolutions were based, he would not conform to them...."

Some idea of the importance of this Southern market may be gained from the fact that during the years 1836-42 in excess of twelve million bales of cotton were sold at New Orleans at prices dropping from 15.5 cents in 1836 to but 7.25 cents in 1842. The figures for the latter year's crop reflect the economic disaster that fell crushingly upon the agricultural and mechanical societies that year. In 1839, when prices stood at thirteen cents ($65 a bale), and the sales of that Port topped $85,000,000, there passed through Cumberland Gap southward 4,039 horses, 3,177 mules, 4,549 beef cattle, 68,764 hogs and 3,250 sheep having a total estimated value of $1,829,976-- this for a single southern outlet, which in 1821 had seen but $623,180 worth of stock pass its turnstiles.

During the period prior to 1830, the pork-packing business was widely scattered, but was gradually tending to center in Cincinnati, which became in the 1830's the largest packing center in the world. To this and other markets, hogs of from eleven to eighteen months of age, and an average weight of 250 pounds, were wagoned or driven to arrive during the packing season, which began in November and continued into February. The market hog of that time was usually a mixture of the Berkshire, Byfield, Irish Grazier, Russia, and China breeds. Out of this mixture was later developed in Ohio the breed known as the Poland China. The shoats lived on acorns or beechnuts, were wintered over, and in the autumn of the second season were finished off with a six-weeks fattening period on the cornfields. In the middle 1840's, Louisville became important in the packing field. Its average pack at that time ranged from 91,000 to 215,000 hogs, while Frankfort, which earlier had handled a large local trade, fell to a minor place in the business. During the 1830's the average Cincinnati pack was 85,000 to 199,000 hogs; during the 1840's from 95,000 to 287,000. Throughout this entire period hogs still moved over the Kanawha Trail, as well as into southern markets. The chief market outlets of th packing plants along the Ohio were the lower Mississippi River and West Indies trade.

Following the disastrous break in wool prices in 1816 that led to the Sanders' failure, little was done in the breeding of sheep until the middle 1820's, during which years Merino sheep from Saxony were brought to America and widely bred. This was followed a decade later by the introduction of the long-wooled Cotswold which, crossed upon the sheep already in the State, produced a fleece that met the current market demand. The effect of this cross is still seen in the unpedigreed flocks throughout the State.

However, world demand and tariff changes appear to have had a major controlling influence upon the State's sheep industry. A glance at the figures shows that in numbers the industry, with 1,009,240 head reported in 1840 and 1,006,151 in 1860, remained practically stationary while the wool clip, showing a slight increase per fleece, rose from 1,786,847 to 2,325,124 pounds. Sheep continued to be driven to the markets of the East and South, and the wool clip in 1860 ranked fourth in the Union.

CATTLE DRIVING IN THE EARLY 1840's

Throughout the 1830's and 1840's stockmen and drovers were intent upon exploring all potential markets. While they paid especial attention to the growing Western and Southern demand, they did not neglect the possibilities in the East. Pressing on beyond the Baltimore stock pens, they entered the Philadelphia, New York, New Haven, and Boston markets. The following account of a drive made in 1843 from Kentucky to Bull's Head market in New York tells its own tale of the skill of the breeders and drovers; also of trail and terminal market conditions of the period before rail shipments of livestock took the place of the long and difficult drive:

> "Happening up at the Bull's Head the other day, with a view of looking over the cattle there, our eye was instantly attracted to a fine lot of grade Short Horns; and inquiring for their owner, we soon found him among those present, in our excellent friend, General (James) Shelby, of Kentucky; and as there has been much dispute about the ability of Durhams driving as well as the native stock, we solicited the facts relative to the journey of the present drove. It seems, owing to their heavier weight, that over the frozen ground, they did not travel as well as the common animals; but on a good road they did. A four-year-

old steer, three-fourths bred, was the leader of the lot the whole of the way; and he would weigh at least 1,200 lbs. He would make English mess beef, and if sold alone would have brought at least one cent per pound more than any native animal present, although the market was full on that day, and several hundred fat beasts for sale. As it was, Gen. Shelby had the satisfaction of taking one-half cent more per pound for his entire lot than the best herd of native animals present could command. And the same was the case when we were in the New Orleans market last spring; the grade Durhams from Kentucky, being floated down the Mississippi, and arriving in better condition than they (do) here (New York), after their long tedious drive over the mountains, sold for at least one cent more per pound there than the native cattle. Here then, is the striking difference exemplified in dollars and cents of the utility of improving our cattle."

Shelby himself goes further into the details of the drive:

"Messrs. A. B. & R. L. Allen: New York, 18th Jan., 1843

"The 22 head of cattle which you examined at Bull's Head, on Monday last, were the residue of a lot of 54 head, which I sent off to this market on the 2d of October, with the desire of getting them in about Christmas. One half were common stock, five years old, and estimated to average nine hundred. The others, such as you saw, being about three-fourths bred Durhams, of the importation of 1817, upon the Patton stock, were five and six years old, and estimated to weigh fifteen hundred at home. One-half the distance was made in the usual time, the large cattle evincing as good travelling qualities as the others; and this, I doubt not, would have proved to have been the case, the large stock had to lay by, and it was barely practicable for the others to keep in motion; there was consequently a difference of fourteen days in the times of arrival. The separation of the drove, which at first was only about half as large as we usually have them, and the long period of 90 to 105 days they were on the road, occasioned an expenditure of 50 per cent more than our stock ordinarily costs in driving in the spring season.

"So far as I have been able to judge of the weights of the cattle here, I think the common stock lost about 12 per cent and the large ones about 15 per cent of their weight. It is presumable that there would have been little or no difference in this respect, provided the state of the roads had permitted the stock to keep together, and perform the trip in the ordinary time of 65 or 70 days.

"The foregoing facts with the inference deducible therfrom, touching the relative merits of the improved and unimproved breeds of cattle are at your service.

"I am respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES SHELBY"

The road from Paris to New York, by way of Pittsburgh, is given as 673 miles. This Shelby drive consumed about ninety days traveling time, or less than eight miles per day. The comparative ages and weights of the common stock as compared to the Shorthorn cross indicate the improvement brought about by breeding.

New Haven's Horse and Mule Market

A hundred miles beyond New York is the city of New Haven, in the 1830's and 1840's, the seat of a brisk overseas trade with the West Indies in horses, mules, and cattle. Under the caption, "Shipping Horses," the Dollar Farmer quotes the New Haven Courier thus:

> "Most of them are sent out in large vessels, called by the craft, "horse jockies." The deck of the vessel is converted into a stable, by placing a sort of roof, eight feet high, over the whole of it, and the horses are tied in parallel rows with their heads towards each other. The water for their use is carried in the "hold" of the vessel, and the hay, pressed in bundles, is laid upon the temporary roof. When they are shipped, they are packed as closely as possible, like herrings in a box, so that during the whole voyage they are compelled to stand up. At first, they suffer a great deal. Most of the mules are brought here in large droves from Canada, but oftentimes they are driven from the West, even as far as from Ohio and Kentucky...."

How Kentucky Cattle Were Sold at Boston

At Brighton, on the outskirts of Boston, more than a thousand miles distant from the Bluegrass, was at that time one of the great cattle markets of the Nation. A description of this market and of the business methods employed was written especially for the benefit of Kentuckians of a century ago, in the hope that its methods might be found "worthy of imitation in our western cities:"

> "When we were in Boston, last summer, we requested a friend to give us an account of the manner of conducting the cattle fair at Brighton, thinking that perhaps there might be something in it worthy of imitation in our Western cities. We have received the following, which will be found interesting. We trust that a fair of this kind will be established in this neighborhood:
>
> "To the Editors of the Louisville Journal: Boston, Nov. 9, 1843
>
> "Gentlemen: I promised in my last to give you some account of the manner in which the cattle fair is conducted at Brighton.
>
> "You may remember that, in coming from Cushing's garden last summer, we passed through Brighton, and I pointed out to you the cattle-fair hotel, and the pens adjacent thereto. This hotel and the pens belong to a company who lease the hotels and grounds, and drivers, coming in to market their cattle, are allowed the free use of the pens for the purpose of disposing of their cattle.
>
> "There is no system about the matter except what is observed at a barber's shop, of "first come, first served," as to the use of the pens. The cattle are generally driven into the immediate neighborhood on Saturday or Sunday, and on Sunday evening, or very early on Monday morning, the cattle are placed in the pens, where they remain until they are disposed of; which is usually during Monday forenoon. The butchers from Boston, New Bedford, and the large towns in this vicinity, meet the drivers at this hotel, and "dicker" with each other for beef, pork, or mutton, in their own way; some selling their cattle by the head; some by gross weight and some by net weight; and in the lat-

ter case the butcher drives off his cattle after making the price, and takes them to his slaughter-house, which may be five, ten, or fifty miles distant; and, in a day or two, meets the driver at some place agreed upon (generally to some hotel) and brings with him, on a slip of paper, the net weight of the cattle, and pays the money, as agreed upon at Brighton. The driver relying upon the honesty of the butcher for the weight of his cattle: and I am told that it has scarcely, if ever, been known that any dispute or difficulty arises in consequence of this mode of dealing. The sheep are generally sold by the head and hogs by the weight.

"During nearly the whole day of Monday of each week, the roads leading from Brighton to the neighboring towns are filled by little squads of cattle, sheep, and hogs, which are marched off to the "place of execution"; where they are dressed for the market, and then transported to the city in wagons and placed in the butcher's stalls ready for sale.

"The season for packing beef and pork has now commenced, and Brighton village, on Monday mornings, presents a lively scene. There are several large packing establishments in Cambridge and Nrighton, where beef and pork are put up for the use of the navy, for shipment, and for general sale. The same establishments frequently render the tallow, make candles and soap, and sell the bones, or ship them to Europe. Near Day's rope works, in Roxbury, is a perfect "Golgotha," where beef is jerked, and the bones and heads are piled up like Egyptian pyramids, waiting for shipment, or, which sometimes happens, to be ground up for manure.

"At Brighton we find fat cattle from all the New England States, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and "Old Kentuck," and sometimes from the rich prairies of Illinois, we have a great variety, and the prices generally range higher than at New York and Philadelphia...."

The hope entertained that a market comparable to that at Boston might be developed in Louisville remained unrealized, until, in 1877, the packing firms then operating set up at the Bourbon Stockyards, the leading stockyard south of the Ohio River, since that time.

A VETO AND WHAT CAME OF IT

Along with the extension of stock driving to far-off markets went a similar movement of farm products and manufactured goods into the new trade regions, principally into the "back country" of the Cotton South, where the developing markets for livestock brought acquaintance and invited export of such products as hemp, flour, cured meats, and other goods produced by Kentucky. This trade movement, which supplemented the extensive commerce already developed by way of the Mississippi was, necessarily, by wagon. The manner and extent of this wagon trade is illustrated by Henry Clay, who tells of a train consisting of 300 loaded wagons being turned back in South Carolina during nullification days (c.1832), because the story had got abroad that the wagons and their lading were his personal property. The owners, according to Clay, lost heavily. To the westward, this trade in manufactured goods moved mainly by way of the Ohio, upper Mississippi, and Missouri rivers and their various tributaries.

Naturally this development of trade opportunities brought an intensified demand for road improvement and further road construction. Something better than the ill-constructed and ill-kept Wilderness Road and Natchez Trace, principal roads leading into the South, was demanded. Already, in the 1820's, marked progress had been made in construction of hard-surfaced roads leading from the trade centers of the Bluegrass to the river landings, also in connecting these trade centers one with another. But the means for building the long roads connecting Kentucky with the South were not at hand, and the State sought aid of the Federal Government.

In Washington's time a great highway connecting the Capital of the Nation with its western border on the Mississippi River at St. Louis had been conceived. Unable to find warrant for the interstate project elsewhere in the Constitution, its construction was urged under the "common defense" clause of that instrument. Nothing was done about it, however, until 1806, when a bill was passed authorizing construction from Cumberland, Maryland, to Wheeling, on the Ohio. This section was completed in 1818. Though supposedly built out of funds furnished by the sale of Western lands, the road actually was built through appropriations provided by Congress. In 1817, and again in 1822, Presidential vetoes delayed appropriations for the further extension of the road, then building across Ohio. This road, known as the National Pike, was ultimately completed by the states interested as far as Vandalia, Illinois, where its further construction was abandoned in 1838 because the railroad had proved itself a superior competitor.

Meanwhile, in the late 1820's,a southwestern branch of this road was planned to leave the main pike at Zanesville,Ohio, and to lead across Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi to New Orleans. Like the parent road, it was advocated on the ground of military necessity. Obviously, it would be transportation development of first importance to Kentucky traders and business men, hence to all her industries including agriculture. In 1828 a measure was introduced in Congress for the construction of a section of this proposed road, extending from Maysville on the Ohio River to Lexington. The bill bore the title "Maysville and Lexington Road." It failed. Reintroduced at the next session, it passed, only to be vetoed by President Jackson, who drew a sharp line between Federal and intrastate matters, on the ground that it was beyond the powers of Congress to appropriate Federal funds to be expended solely for intrastate purposes, and that the measure as drawn and passed expressed in its title that it was for the benefit of Kentucky alone.

This veto, which for more than a century has governed the course of national legislation with reference to intrastate public improvements, dashed the hopes of Kentuckians, centered their attention for three decades upon State development of highways and rivers, and acted as a powerful stimulus to the upbuilding of the Whig party within the State; a party that chiefly for this reason, numbered among its staunch supporters many of the leading farmers, bankers, business and professional men of the time.

The State's Public Improvements Program

The rivers and roads improvement program of the period was an extension of that of the 1820's. Rivers were looked upon as major highways of commerce; and roads as feeders to these streams. Even the railroads when they arrived were looked upon as glorified toll roads having the same functions as other land highways, and subordinate to the rivers throughout the period of State development of transportation facilities. Consequently, river improvement was given first attention. In 1835 the Board of Internal Improvements, established in that year,

ordered surveys of Barren and Green rivers and began their improvement for purposes of navigation. Later the Licking was surveyed, the channel deepened, and dams built. Even a water route plan to connect Kentucky with the Atlantic coast via Cumberland Gap was considered among the projects of the time. The practical accomplishments of the period prior to 1840 are shown by the fact that Governor Wickliffe's message of that year recounts that 812 miles of State roads were then completed, 120 miles of the Green, and 80 miles of the Kentucky rivers, made navigable; and that "the State taxes are the lowest in the Union, while 813 miles of roads and 853 miles of slackwater navigation remain to be dealt with."

The building of chartered or toll roads, made popular in the preceding decade by use of macadam surfacing, continued throughout the 1830's and up to the outbreak of the War between the States. The Maysville and Lexington Pike, having failed to obtain the anticipated Federal aid, was granted by the State, $150,000 toward the cost of its construction. The toll road system became general-- and within a short time generally unpopular, yet remnants of the system still remain, and tollhouses built a century ago, now idle, are not uncommon.

While Kentucky was first among the states of the West to begin railroad building, it made little progress in that direction prior to the late 1850's. The one project completed in the 1830's was the Lexington and Ohio, connecting the Bluegrass with Louisville. This road, now a part of the Louisville & Nashville system, was begun in 1830 and completed in 1838.

The modern conception of the railroad as a major trunk highway did not reach Kentucky until the late 1850's, when lines connecting both Cincinnati and Louisville with the Deep South were projected and begun. The War between the States further delayed their completion until the 1870's. This long wait upon modern transportation accounts for the State's pause in industrial and general agricultural development, and, on the other hand, with favorable livestock markets and a rising demand for breeding stock, for the development of a high type of farming based on animal husbandry.

KENTUCKY ARRIVES AT MATURITY

In 1840, when the first Federal agricultural census was taken, Kentucky ranked first among the states of the Union in the production of wheat. It is certain, says the Dollar Farmer, that it was also first in hemp production-- a position it retained through the era of wooden ships. In swine the Commonwealth stood in second place, as it did in corn and tobacco. Flax and rye held, respectively, third and fourth places. In the value of goods manufactured in the home, Kentucky ranked third with an output valued at $2,522,402. In 1841 the assessed valuation of Kentucky was nearly equal to that of Ohio and Indiana taken together, and the property value double that of Ohio. Meanwhile, the Kentucky State debt was one-seventh that of Ohio.

Ten years later, according to the census of 1850, Kentucky had dropped to ninth place among the States in wheat production, a change due chiefly to increased production north of the Ohio. But the State held three first places-- in corn, in flax, and in hemp; also three second places-- in swine, in mules, and in tobacco. In total value of livestock, the State ranked fifth; in wool, seventh; in rye, eighth. Kentucky's crop of 1843, as reported by Niles National Register, included 4,674,845 bushels of wheat, a 10,000,000-bushel oat crop, a corn crop just under 60,000,000, and 52,322,543 pounds of tobacco-- a yield topping that of all other States. In 1850, with a 55,000,000-pound tobacco crop, Kentucky was second only to Virginia with 56,800,000 pounds. In 1847 the estimated population of the State was 855,000, and its real and personal property wealth $740,000,000.

Such a showing, actual as well as comparative, serves to dispel the idea that the Kentucky of the 1830's and 1840's was still a pioneer State. There is additional proof in the United States Census livestock figures for the period 1840-1937 inclusive:

Comparative Table of Kentucky Livestock - 1840-1940

Year	Population	Horses	Mules	Cattle	Sheep	Hogs
1840	779,828	363,039	32,804	787,098	1,008,240	2,310,533
1850	982,405	315,682	65,609	752,512	1,102,091	2,891,163
1860	1,155,684	355,704	117,634	836,059	938,990	2,330,595
1870	1,321,011	317,034	99,230	700,327	936,765	1,848,227
1880	1,648,690	372,648	116,153	843,794	1,000,269	2,225,225
1890	1,858,635	401,356	146,521	1,066,091	937,124	2,036,746
1900	2,147,174	451,697	190,665	1,083,248	1,297,343	1,954,537
1910	2,289,905	443,034	225,043	1,000,937	1,363,013	1,491,816
1920	2,416,630	382,442	292,857	1,093,453	707,845	1,504,431
1930	2,614,589	347,955	252,250	904,983	1,597,223	1,034,593
1940	2,845,627	238,757	217,566	1,242,000	988,986	1,053,242

The 74,777 farms reported in 1850 had a total estimated valuation of $155,-021,262. The value of all farm machinery and equipment was placed at $5,169,037, or an average per farm of $69. Yet, at the close of the "Decisive Era," there was ample occasion for emphasis on the mechanical phase of farming. Kentucky's investment in agriculture other than land, buildings, and livestock still amounted to less than $1.00 for each improved acre within the farms of the State.

The Farmer's Labor Problem

The labor supply, both for the farm and for the mechanical industries, were closely fitted to the demands of the dominant rural economy based upon grazing. Opportunities, both within the State and beyond its borders, were too many and inviting to hold for long in the ranks of paid labor men whose training fitted them for agricultural pursuits. Chief among these opportunities was that of becoming a landowner and farmer in one's own right. Only a small initial capital was required. If desired, lumbering or other industries assured a cash part-time income until the farm got on a paying basis. As a result, the white labor available was neither sufficient in numbers nor of the dependable character demanded by men whose business was the year-round job of stock production.

The backlog of the farm labor supply throughout the State was found in the institution of slavery. The earliest settlers coming from Virginia and Maryland had brought their slaves with them, and the balance between white and Negro had been maintained, with a slight decrease in percentage of Negroes, throughout the years. In 1830 the population of Kentucky was 687,917, of which 515,787 were whites, 165,213 were slaves, and 4,917 free Negroes. Twenty years later the census showed 982,405 total population, of which 761,413 were whites, including a sprinkling of 31,420 foreign born, 210,981 were slaves, and 10,011 were free Negroes.

During the twenty-year interval the number of free Negroes had doubled, while the percentage of Negroes held as slaves had dropped, in terms of total population, from 24 to 21 per cent. In 1850 one out of three white families held slaves, and the average number so held was five and one-half to the family, as compared to nine and two-tenths for slave-holding families throughout the

nation-at-large. Kentucky, with its 210,981 slaves in 1850, ranked ninth in the list of slave-holding states, and third lowest after the District of Columbia and Delaware in numbers per family. When it is remembered that comparatively few Kentuckians owned as many as thirty slaves, the wide distribution of slavery throughout the Commonwealth becomes evident.

This slavery was patriarchal in type. At its best it offered the farmer a constant, and on the whole a dependable, labor supply sufficient to his needs. The quality of the labor performed was largely up to him. The servants (as slaves were always referred to in Kentucky) were as a rule well trained to the duties expected of them. Many among them were artisans of a high order, skilled as blacksmiths, brickmakers, masons, or in the weaving or other crafts then a part of the household life. Master and servant usually worked side by side. House servants, stable and field hands, by reason of their lifelong acquaintance with the produce of the farm, knew what was expected of them. This was a type of training and service especially adapted to the successful breeding and care of stock.

In return for this service the owner housed and fed the servant and his family. Their home was a plain cabin; their fare, coarse but substantial. Even if humane consideration did not motivate him, a sense of the value of his property inpelled the owner to house, feed, clothe and care for his servants in such manner that their work might be profitable. Individual instances of cruelty could be cited, but they were rare. Rare, too, until the 1850's was the "selling south" of slaves. In that decade the introduction of machinery to replace slave labor and, above all, the combing of the State by traders who offered fabulous sums for likely Negroes destined for the slave blocks of the Deep South, brought into prominence this least defensible aspect of slavery. It is said that, during the decade preceding the War between the States, about 6,000 slaves were annually sold to traders for this Southern market.

On the whole the relations between master and servant were not hard. With rare exceptions, the servant was kindly treated. In return he gave his master and mistress a family affection and a deep loyalty that in many instances long survived the coming of freedom. For these reasons the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which gave liberty to the slaves then in Kentucky, did little to disrupt either the social or the economic conditions that had existed prior to the middle 1860's. To these conditions must be attributed the relatively quick recovery of Kentucky, as compared with other states overrun by contending armies, from the effects of the conflict of 1861-65.

Labor-Saving Equipment Arrives

The mechanical equipment of the Kentucky farm of 1830 had changed but little since the first settlers brought with them the crude plow points used in Colonial days. An improved plow with interchangeable parts, in which the wooden moldboard was replaced by one of cast-iron, had come into use during the 1820's. The cradle, developed around 1818 from the sickle employed for unknown ages, had greatly lessened the labor of harvesting. Hoes, lighter, but patterned after the heavy, wide-bladed mattocks used by Continental peasants in lieu of spades or plows, had recently come into use as soil-stirring tools. The needs of the day were for further improvement in the plow; for a grain drill to replace hand seeding; for harrows and cultivators with which to combat weeds and retain moisture; for machines that would reduce the labor of preparing flax and hemp fiber for use; for grain reapers and threshing machines that would do, in America, what English inventions already had indicated as possible when certain mechanical difficulties had been overcome.

During the 1830's and 1840's these and many other inventions were introduced, but popular acceptance lagged, as a rule, a full decade or more behind the marketing of the improved tool or machine; so that, even in the late 1850's one of the major problems of the agricultural and mechanical societies was to demonstrate and popularize the reaper and other farm equipment of the time. The very low average investment per farm in equipment, already mentioned, was due in part to the employment of slave labor, in part to the type of agriculture, and in a far larger degree to the natural reluctance of the farmer to invest his capital in equipment not yet fully proved both efficient and labor-saving.

As an example of the lag following invention, Obed Hussey's reaper was tried out at Cincinnati in 1833 before a committee of the Hamilton County (Ohio) Agricultural Society. It "met their fullest approbation," but in 1845 the Dollar Farmer could still write under the caption, "Harvesting Machines":

> "We have often spoken favorably of Hussey's harvesting machines which we have seen in successful operation. McCormick's wheat cutter, as we see from the Cincinnati papers, has been tried in the vicinity of that city. The Cincinnati Chronicle says:
>
> "Yesterday afternoon, by way of ruralizing, we went into the country to see a field of wheat cut by McCormick's wheat cutter. This is a machine invented by Mr. McCormick, several years since, but has never, we believe, been used in this part of the country. We confess we had doubts whether the nice operation of reaping wheat, so long performed by the sickle or the cradle, could be done by a machine drawn by horses. In this, however, we were very agreeably disappointed. It did do the work, thoroughly, neatly, and perfectly.
>
> "The machine is drawn by two horses and attended by two men, one to drive the horses, and one to rake the wheat from the cradle. A swath is cut just broad enough to lay the wheat in rows suitable for binding. It is cut by a long knife with sickle edge, moving with great rapidity, is turned over on a large cradle, and from that raked off by one of the men in quantities just sufficient for a sheaf. The field we saw it upon was very uneven and rough; so that it was a fair experiment, and beyond doubt it perfectly succeeded.
>
> "The questions which a practical farmer will ask are: 1. Does it do the work well? To this we answer, it does very well. 2. The next question is, is it economical? To this we answer that in large fields it unquestionably is.
>
> "The machine will do the work in common fields of six men, and on very heavy fields of eight or ten. Two men attend the machine. On common fields, then, the machine does the work of four men, and in heavy grain of six. It is therefore decidedly labor-saving, and what is perhaps more important to the farmer, time-saving. Many times the crop is injured or lost by the inability to get it in...."

Not until shortly before the War between the States was the reaper generally accepted throughout the better developed agricultural sections of the Commonwealth, and, even today in secluded hollows, the cradle universally used in the 1830's still harvests its share of the grain.

Winston and Company, of Louisville, during the 1840's, carried in stock the following equipment:

"Gentry's patent French buhr (Stone) horsemills; Baldwin's stockmill, for crushing and cob; Green's, Brown's and Sinclair's straw-cutters; corn-shellers, barkmills, horse-powers for machinery, anti-freezing cistern engine-pumps, Peacock and Rounder ploughs,

"Baldwin's corn-crusher is one of the oldest and best in use, and has recently been very much improved. Green's straw-cutter is one generally in use in the Eastern States, and is there considered the best. It cuts hay as well as straw, consisting simply of a cylinder of knives working with rawhide. The engine-pumps we consider very valuable...."

The thresher of that time merely hulled the grain. Late in the 1840's a combined huller and cleaner was put on the market by Isaac Tobias of Ohio. A list of farm implements and machinery deemed necessary to the efficient handling of a 150-acre general-purpose farm, published in 1862, is given below:

"3 ploughs fitted for work (steel plows are best)	$ 34.00
1 subsoil plough; 1 double Michigan plough (*)	24.00
1 one-horse plough; 2 cultivators	22.00
1 harrow ($12); 1 roller ($10)	22.00
1 corn-planter; 1 seed-frill	15.00
1 wheat-drill ($65) (*) fanning mill ($25)	90.00
1 root-slicer; 1 straw-cutter	20.00
1 horse-rake; 2 handrakes	10.00
2 farm wagons; 1 one-horsecart	190.00
Hayrack; harness, etc., for cart	38.00
1 sled and fixtures, $30; 1 combined mower and reaper	155.00
2 scythes, 1 grain-cradle	7.00
1 shovel; 1 scoop-shovel; 2 spades	5.00
2 manure-forks; 4 hay forks	6.00
1 horse-fork for hay ($10) (*) 1 pointed shovel ($1)	11.00
1 pick; 1 crowbar	3.00
2 ladders; 2 sheep shears	5.00
Large and small steel-yards ($3); half-bushel measure ($1) ...	4.00
1 maul and wedge; 1 axe; 1 wood-saw	4.00
1 wheelbarrow; 1 grindstone	8.00
Hand-hoes, baskets, stable lantern, currycomb, hammer, &c	5.00
1 endless-chain horse-power threshing machine and separator (*)	160.00
1 circular saw (*)	30.00
Platform scales for weighing cattle, hay, &c	100.00
	$968.00

"With few exceptions, with approximate prices, fits the well equipped Kentucky farm of the 1830's and 1840's."

Deducting $584, the aggregate list price of the items marked (*), it appears that an outlay of approximately $400 was required by the well-equipped farm of the early 1830's, while thirty years later the total cost of farm equipment had more than doubled. The inevitable argument between tool maker and farmer took the general form of "Use our improved plow and cut the labor required from thirty to ten days," to which the farmer replied "What's time to a steer or a hog?" and geared his farming more closely to a well diversified livestock production schedule.

PEDIGREED SHORTHORN IMPORTATIONS

Prior to 1822 the breed since known as the Shorthorn had gone under at least five different names. Three of them-- "Teeswater," "Holderness," and "Durham"-- were place names descriptive of the little region in northeastern England where the breed had its origins. The remaining two-- Short Horn Durham and Short Horn (the latter since contracted to Shorthorn) both were derived from the most obvious breed characteristic.

In 1822 British breeders had established the herdbook of the breed and had accepted the descriptive name "Shorthorn" in preference to all others. The names "Teeswater" and "Holderness" quickly succumbed, but "Durham," as a name for the breed as a whole, lingered on in America until the dawn of the twentieth century.

Meanwhile, under the spur of attention given the breed by the agricultural press as well as by the private efforts of breeders, both in Great Britain and in America, a demand for cattle registered under the new breed name arose. John Hare Powel, of Pennsylvania, already well established as an importer of the stock out of which the Shorthorn emerged, stocked his great farm at Powelton, near Philadelphia, with sires and dams registered in the new herdbook, and when, in 1830, a demand for breeding stock came from Kentucky, he was in a position to supply, in part, that demand. Altogether, between 1830 and 1836, he shipped into the Bluegrass a total of fifty-four purebred Shorthorns (see table below). Notable among these shipments was the bull Oliver. Meanwhile, a trickle of importations came from Great Britain direct to Kentucky. With the 1834 importation came Young Mary, prolific founding dam of the family that bears her name. It is recorded that she dropped fourteen heifer calves, besides one or two bulls. Along with the shipments of 1836 came Mary Ann and the bulls, Comet (not to be confused with the 1,000-guinea Comet of 1810), Illustrious, Matchem, and Goldfinder. The less noteworthy importations of 1839 included such cows as Wild Rose, Harried, and Blossom and the notable sire, Van Buren. Among the importations of the 1839-41 period was the bull, Locomotive.

These are names that highlight the history of the founding years of the Shorthorn breed in Kentucky. They are in no sense intended to exclude any others that might be mentioned. They merely indicate the basic fact that England and Scotland gave of their best toward the upbuilding of the Shorthorn breed in America, and especially in Kentucky.

In the table that follows are included most, if not all, of the importations of the "Decisive Era," the names of the importers, the counties that primarily received the stock, and names or locations of previous owners. For further details the reader is referred especially to Alvin H. Sanders' Short-Horn Cattle, and to other authorities mentioned in the notes.

Shorthorns of English Registry Brought to Kentucky Between 1830-50

Year	Number Male	Number Female	First Ky. Owner	County	Bought From
1830-36	22	32	Various persons incl. B. & E. Warfield	Fayette	John Hare Powel, Pa.
1833		1	David Sutton	Fayette	Powel
	1	6	Walter Dun	Fayette	Wm. Douglas, Scotland
1833-34		1	Wasson & Shropshire	Bourbon	Wm. Jackson, New York
		1	Nimrod L. Lindsay	Bourbon	Wm. Jackson
1834		5	I. Cunningham and I. Van Meter (Purchased in 1836 through E.J.Harkness)	Clark	Ohio Importing Co.
1835	1		Brent	Bourbon	Wm. Jackson
c.1835		several	Henry Clay	Fayette	R. D. Sheppard
1835-36		1	James Renick	Bourbon	Ohio Importing Co.
1836	2	3	W. Dun & S. Smith	Fayette	Wm. Douglas, Scotland
		1	Cunningham	Clark	Ohio Importing Co.
		1	Abram Renick	Clark	Ohio Importing Co.
	2		Messrs. Renick, Cunningham, and Warfield	Bourbon Clark Fayette	Ohio Importing Co.
	2	2	Dr. S. D. Martin	Clark	Powel, Pa.
	1	1	Hubbard Taylor	Clark	Powel, Pa.
1836-37	2	9	H. Clay, Jr.	Fayette	Great Britain
1837		1	Benj. Scott		Jonas Whitaker Otley, England (Powel Sale)
		1	Shakers	Logan	Gordon & Bradford, Tennessee
1838	2	2	Walter Dun	Fayette	England
	1	1	Jas. Dudley	Fayette	Thos. Weddle, N. Y.
1838	2	10	H. Clay & Jas. Shelby	Fayette	England (Booth bred)
1839		9	Dr. S. D. Martin H. & J. P. Taylor	Clark	Mr. Paley, England
	2	5	R. H. Hutchcraft	Bourbon	England
	7	21	Fayette County Importing Co.,	Fayette, Bourbon, Scott, Mercer Jessamine	England
	4	3	Shirley & Birch	Jefferson	by S. Wait, England via New Orleans
1839-41	2	several	W. T. Clames	Fayette	England by Jas. S. Letton
		1	Shakers	Logan	S. Wait via New Orleans
c.1840		5	J. Higgins & C. Morgan	Fayette	Mr. Crisp, England

From the above it appears that, during the 1830-50 period, no less than 53 bulls and more than 124 Shorthorn cows came to Kentucky. These animals were distributed among eight counties, seven of them in the Bluegrass, and one (Logan) in the Pennyrile. More than thirty individuals or firms shared in the expense attendant upon these importations. The size of several of the shipments made necessary the co-partnerships out of which grew the importing companies of the period of later importations that began with the 1850's.

Importing Companies of the 1830's

In 1833 a group of about fifty men, all of them living in Ohio except two, W. H. Cunningham, of Virginia, and Isaac Cunningham, of Kentucky, formed the Ohio Importing Company. This group was closely bound by business and family ties to the great breeders then living in Kentucky. It sent Felix Renick and two associates to England early in 1834, with instructions to buy according to their own judgment. After seeing Richard Booth's herd, and failing to make terms, they fell in with Thomas Bates. The outcome of this acquaintance was a meeting with Jonas Whitaker and the purchase, with his advice, of seven bulls and twelve cows, "at least as good as the country affords," to quote Mr. Renick. This shipment included, besides Young Mary mentioned above, the heifer, Rose of Sharon, whose progeny, brought to Kentucky, rival Young Mary's numerous family. Upon arrival in America the herd was driven to Renick's farm in Ohio where it was held intact, the bulls being distributed for service among the stockholders. Meanwhile, Mr. Whitaker, having proved himself an able and honest advisor, was retained by the company in the capacity of resident buyer.

During 1835-36 Whitaker shipped, according to agreement, forty-two animals, making sixty-one head in all imported by the Ohio Company. On October 29, 1836, a dispersal sale was held, following which several head, including Matchem, Goldfinder, Illustrious, Young Mary and Pocahontas, became the property of Kentucky breeders. This mutuality of interest between the breeders of the two states did much to create a general opinion favorable to the Shorthorn breed.

In 1837 steps were taken to organize a Kentucky importing company, obviously modeled on that of Ohio. A meeting was held in Frankfort. An organization was effected and $8,000 stock subscribed. Apparently the panic of that year killed the enterprise, for the record ends at that point.

Two years later a group of breeders in the Bluegrass organized the Fayette County Importing Company, fashioned after the Ohio company that had already completed its work and had been disbanded. Rev. R. T. Dillard and Nelson Dudley sailed for England in 1839, and returned with seven bulls and twenty-one cows, including among them some of the best blood ever imported. Victoria, Lady Elizabeth, Rosabella II, and Fashion are mentioned. Eclipse and Carcase were both of this importation. Upon arrival the twenty-eight were placed under the care of David Sutton, near Lexington where, in July, 1840, twenty-six were auctioned. Fayette County breeders bid in eight head; Jessamine, four; Mercer, Scott, and Bourbon, five each. The average price received was $621.35; the top, $1,750, was paid for the cow Victoria. The bull Eclipse brought $1,050. It is noted that the cows, selling at an average of $642.50, topped the prices paid for bulls, whose average was $563.60.

A Problem of "Selling the Public"

Through all this story of events runs a strongly commercial trend. Importers gambled on a rising demand for newly arrived Shorthorn blood, either for

purposes of Shorthorn herd founding and expansion or for top-crossing upon the older stock of the country. But definite opposition to further experiments existed. A certain amount of breeder indifference as to the claims of the imported Shorthorn had to be overcome. A partisan interest in the breed had to be created, and now ballyhoo methods were called into play. The plan was to invite actual competition; the pitting of the Shorthorn against all comers. The effort was to make the Shorthorn of the 1830 importations "the fashion" and to "talk down" the "Seventeens" and the Patton Stock-- both excellent lines of beef cattle. More than this, rivalries existed between breeder and breeder; between county and county. The keener this rivalry, up to a certain point, the greater the public interest and the better the sales prospects for individuals of the breed.

Partisans of the opposite point of view, whatever that view was, could be relied upon to accept or invite competition, and competition was, in this instance particularly, "the life of trade." It called forth crowds. Crowds stimulated the competitive spirit. The public or private sales that resulted were often so conducted as to make still further demands upon the interest of both breeder and stockman. The ultimate aim of all this was to show a profit to the importer on his outlay of money, time, labor, and advertising expenses up to the hour of sale.

The Buyer Becomes a Promoter

It will be observed that the imported stock was widely distributed both throughout the State and among individual owners. The new owners made their farms centers of Shorthorn herd-building and, in time, such farms became distribution centers that grew and interlocked and, finally, spread the Shorthorn blood beyond the borders of the Commonwealth.

Early in this development the need of a method of reaching out beyond the limited circle of Shorthorn admirers was felt. Advocates of the older stock welcomed any form of competition that should place the Patton or the Seventeens where their merits could be measured alongside those of the newcomers. The stockmen of the State, without exception, welcomed the Shorthorn challenge as an opportunity to widen the market for their own breeding stock, by making the raiser of common cattle aware of his own personal stake in breed betterment.

For this purpose a stage, a ring with judges in the neutral corner, became necessary.

Ready at hand but unused since 1819 was such a stage with all the necessary back drop and settings. People then in middle life remembered the fairs of the Sanders period as "Cattle Shews." With the dust of a quarter of a century gathered over its memories, the "Cattle Shew," stirred into renewed life by a younger generation of men, became the agricultural and mechanical society with its fairs of the 1830's and of the many years to come.

SOCIETIES AND FAIRS OF THE PERIOD

A notice appeared in the Lexington papers published during July, 1833, to the effect that:

> "The "Kentucky Association for the Improvement of the Breed of Stock," having made arrangements for annual exhibitions of stock and awarding premiums, the undersigned Committee on Finance and General Superinten-

dence, hereby give notice, that the first meeting for the Exhibition of Stock for competition and for the sale of such as may be offered, will be held on the grounds of the Association on the third Monday in September next (being the 16th day)....

SAMUEL SMITH
THOMAS SMITH
JAMES SHELBY"

The Kentucky Association had been active since 1826. It was now holding successful race meets on its grounds on the edge of Lexington. Its founders and members were not only horsemen; they were interested, as breeders, in all lines of stock.

The fair, wholly a stock fair, so far surpassed in number of exhibits and in attendance anything previously seen in Kentucky that, in spite of liberal arrangements for judging and exhibition, it took two days to show the stock examined and placed by the judges. Among the judges were Henry Clay, Jacob Hughes, William P. Hume, Isaac VanMeter, James Garrard, John Hart, Robert C. Goggs, Samuel C. Carr, James Shelby, James Dudley, and David McMurtry.

The breeders who showed were no less well-known men of the time. In the horse division, E. M. Blackburn, owner of the celebrated Blackburn's Whip; James Berry, James Erwin, E. Warfield, George H. Sanders, Benjamin Cunningham, and J. Hutchcraft stood out as among the leading horsemen of their day. The blood of Copperbottom, Whip, Hamiltonian, Leviathan, Bertrand, Saxe Weimer, and other great sires of that era contested for place in all ten classes, from "Thoroughbred Stallion" to "best pair of Carriage Horses."

Jacks and mules, hogs and sheep appeared in the rings, but keenest competition, possibly the most notable feature of the fair, and certainly the chief center of attraction, was the cattle division. Here were gathered together in friendly rivalry such well-known cattlemen as Benjamin Warfield, Walter Dun, G. N. Sanders, Samuel Smith, James Garrard, David Sutton, and Isaac Cunningham, men who met (and not always won from) all comers from Fayette and the surrounding counties.

In the cattle rings ensued a battle-royal between the blood of the old Longhorns, the "Patton Stock," the "Seventeens," and the recent Shorthorn importations-- a battle that was to be resumed again and again throughout the decade at every fair held within the State. In the end, the net honors rested with the proved excellence of the "Seventeens" and the "Patton Stock," both of which were merged into the blood of Kentucky herds driven to market in after years.

Perhaps the belle of the show was David Sutton's imported Cleopatra, described as a "thorough bred short horned Durham." A protest arose over the disqualification of Young Sportsman, an outstanding bull, three-quarters Shorthorn and one-quarter Patton. The root of the protest was that individual excellence had been ignored (according to the rules of the show), and preference given to breed purity. The "individual versus breed" controversy here opened, raged throughout the entire nineteenth century in the show ring, in the breeding lot and in the cattle pens on the terminal markets. The issue raised in 1833, once full of peril to the livestock industry of Kentucky, has long since been settled by the compromise that "both purity of breed and individual excellence within the breed" are necessary factors to any advancement in livestock breeding.

This stock fair was typical of those held without interruption in Fayette County to and including 1841. A committee of the Kentucky Association for the Improvement of the Breed of Livestock fixed the dates, set the rules, and arranged all the details. An annual membership costing $5.00 entitled one to all the rights of stockholders including the privilege of entering stock for exhibition or sale. Aged animals that had already won premiums were excluded from competition. In and after 1837 stock pedigrees were required; the cattle of that year were "very superior." The stallion, Eclipse, twenty-four years old, was an object of much interest; seemed to be "in good condition." The suckling mule colts "were nearly equal in size to the full-grown mules of former years; the yearlings seemed to be about 15 hands high, and the two and three-year-olds upwards of sixteen."

In 1838 the association, previously acting as a common partnership, was incorporated; no change occurred, however, except in personnel in the management of the fairs. A North Carolinian visitor thus describes the scene on the first day of the fair of that year:

1838 Lexington Stock Fair

Sept. 27, 1838

"On Wednesday the 5th inst. it being the last day our southern party had to spare, we attended the first day's exhibition of the great "Stock Fair" at Lexington. We were kindly invited by the judges to take our places within the stand. Mr. Clay, Judge Robertson, Mr. Crittenden, and Mr. R. Wickliffe, and others were also within the enclosure. The first day was appropriated entirely to the exhibition of cattle, and there were numerous entries of the finest specimens for the various prizes. The prizes consisted of silver cups; those for the best stallion over two years old, and the best bull over three years old, worth $30 each; those for the best stallion over two years old, and the best bull over three years old, $30 each; those for the best mare over two years old and the best cow over three years old, worth $20 each; and all the others, for the best colts, fillies, jacks, jennets, geldings, carriage horses, mules, young bulls, heifers, calves, stall-fed beef oxen, $12 each. Although the prizes were of small value the greatest emulation manifestly existed to obtain them, and to this honorable and worthy rival, is due the high improvements in Kentucky horses, asses, mules, and cattle. The Kentuckian prides himself on the possession of the finest specimen of either class of these animals, and the greatest men of Kentucky embark eagerly in the competition, as worthy of their ambition. To own the finest horse, ass, bull, cow, or heifer, is I verily believe, regarded as a distinction fully, or nearly as enviable as a seat in Congress...the cattle especially demands attention. Our party staid out the entire exhibition of the day, admiring the successive shows of notable cattle of both sexes and various ages; and we were all gratified to see, in the specimens of younger cattle, and the numerous competitions among them, the pledge and assurance of continued and increased improvement for the future. I am not sufficiently possessed of the name of the cattle and their owners to give all the particulars of the exhibition. The Bulls, over three years old, entered for the cup, were Goldfinder, Kirkpatrick, Comet, and Rover; and Goldfinder, a noble animal, but scarcely more than his competitors, carried off the silver...."

In 1839 the financing of the fair was segregated from that of other activities of the association. Stockholders were permitted to exhibit free of charge. Competition, including "the premium animals of fairs in other counties," was invited. As a concession to the changing times, five premiums were offered for agricultural tools; no mention is made of exhibits or awards. Among animals whose weights are mentioned were Remus Paynes' Osceola, 1,805 pounds; his Fanny Kemble, seventeen-month-old heifer, 990 pounds; also Wasson and Shropshire's Otley, three-year-old bull, 1,985 pounds.

After 1842 the Kentucky Association stock fairs were dropped, only to be resumed under other management in the 1850's, though the racing features continued without interruption.

Other Counties Organize

In 1833, quite independently of the action taken by the Kentucky Association (otherwise referred to as Fayette County), an agricultural and mechanical society was organized at Danville under the name "Union Agricultural Society," of Mercer, Lincoln, and Garrard counties. A fair was held in October of that year, "for the improvement of the breed of stock and the encouragement of various kinds of manufactures." Thus was revived the industrial note struck by the fairs of the Kentucky Agricultural Society of the Sanders period. Carpeting, table and sheeting linen, jeans (also spelled "janes"), linsey, and stockings were shown, and awards made. Several of the animals shown at Lexington were exhibited at Danville. Benjamin Warfield, of Fayette, was one of those who thus early established the custom still generally followed by breeders of "making the circuit of the fairs" within the field of their sales territory.

At the Danville fair of 1838, Berkshire hogs and Saxony sheep were shown in the livestock classification. A. I. Caldwell and John Mock's wheel cutting box was given both cup and certificate, and premiums were awarded Mrs. Willis Grimes for flannel and Mrs. Ann Williamson for linsey. At this fair Mrs. Virginia Shelby (later Mrs. Robert J. Breckinridge), a farmer in her own right, demanded and was accorded the right to exhibit her own livestock-- the first time in Kentucky history that a woman was granted complete equality in the affairs of the agricultural and mechanical societies of the State.

Chief among the rivals of Fayette County in the later 1830's were Clark and Bourbon. From these three counties, with Clark leading in point of time, spread the cattle industry of the Commonwealth. The fairs that first developed in Bourbon in 1836, and in Clark in 1838, immediately partook of the maturity and excellence of the Fayette County Fair. Unlike Fayette, these counties at once widened their classifications to include premiums for field crops, mechanical devices, and goods of home manufacture. At the first Clark County Fair (1838), a prize offered for the best acre of corn was won by William R. Duncan. For the best sod plow (tried out on the grounds) the prize went to Mathew D. Hume. A premium for work oxen was awarded Jesse Cunningham. Abram Renick, of Clark County, great cattle breeder of the Bluegrass, won an award for the best piece of carpeting. In the fields of mechanics, the Bourbon Fair of 1836 offered premiums for plows and hemp brakes; other than this, there was little to indicate the far-reaching agricultural program by which that society was able to survive the disaster of the 1840's that overtook the other societies throughout the State.

It was in the field of stock exhibits that the fairs of Clark, Bourbon, and Fayette asked and gave no favors. In 1840 Clark had 311 entries of stock alone, while Bourbon, with 208, was not behind in quality. Dr. Samuel Martin, Isaac,

Abner, and Jesse Cunningham, their neighbors and their successors, long made the Shorthorns of Clark County famous in the show rings of the State and in the cattle markets of the Nation. Gen. James Garrard, first president of the Bourbon County Agricultural Society, Abram Renick, Nimrod L. Lindsay, George N. Bedford, the Hutchcrafts, the Shropshires, and their immediate associates and successors did the same for Bourbon County. Bourbon, in the persons of George W. Williams and Brutus J. Clay, contributed the leadership that safely guided the farmers' movement through the difficult 1840's and no less important 1850's.

Fairs of The Pennyrile and Purchase

The existing record of Pennyrile fairs held during the period is scattered, in many cases unavailable, and in every instance incomplete. Apart from those already mentioned are the four fairs held in Barren County, at the second of which, held near Glasgow in 1839, fifteen premiums were awarded, all to cattle, sheep, and hogs. Among other fairs of the Pennyrile are mentioned two in Caldwell County, one date unknown, the other held in 1840, where twenty-three premiums were awarded. Carlisle County, in the Purchase, was organized and in action in 1837, but no record of fairs has been found. The Christian County and Hopkinsville Agricultural Society held its second fair in 1840. Premiums were awarded in forty-four classes, the total so given amounting to $375. J. W. Cook received a $25 pitcher as award for the best tobacco; a $10 premium was given W. D. Jones for the best acre of corn, yielding 125.5 bushels. Cattle, horses, sheep, asses, and hogs competed in the various rings. John P. Campbell was president, and A. Stites, secretary.

In 1838 Todd County held a fair; awarded thirty premiums. Most of these were to stock, some of which was of the importations of that period; the remaining premiums were awarded exhibitors of domestic manufactures. T. M. Ewing was president, and B. B. Roberts, secretary. Logan County is credited with four fairs. The dates of two are uncertain; a fair is known to have been held in 1837, and another is credited to 1838. Secretary J. B. Peyton reported twenty-four premiums in the earlier year..

The Green County Agricultural Society was organized in 1838. W. E. Allen was secretary. At the two-day fair of that year, held near Greensburg, twenty-four cups were awarded for stock, domestic manufactures, and mechanical devices. In 1840 the Hopkins County Agricultural Society held a fair and awarded premiums to the usual stock classes. Date of organization is uncertain. Russell County held a fair in 1840; no other data is available.

Fairs of the Middle Region and Western Bluegrass

The Marion County record is of an organization meeting held in 1838; of a fair, there is no mention. In 1838 the Nelson County Agricultural Society held a two-day fair at Bloomfield. Secretary J. R. Montgomery reported twenty-nine cups given for the "usual exhibits." Other data is unavailable. Bullitt County held five fairs. The date of organization of the society is not found. A two-day fair was held in 1840.

The Jefferson County Agricultural Society was especially active from 1838 to and including 1843. Unverified mention is made of fairs held in 1834-35. William Mix, recording secretary, reported seventy-one premiums offered either in 1839 or 1840. Awards were for the usual stock classes, one for the most manure produced on the farm, several for the best agricultural implements, several for field crops.

Shelby County, organized in 1836, held fairs continuously, with the possible exception of 1842, to and including 1843. At least two reorganizations featured this period. The names of Charles S. Todd, E. C. Payne, James D. Allen, and George W. Johnson are connected as leaders with the fairs of the period. The Shelby Fair was essentially a stock fair, after the fashion set by the Kentucky Association of Fayette County. Henry County, organized in 1838, held a fair that year under the direction of S. M. Hunt and B. Thomas. "A speech was made"; the usual livestock awards given; to William Smith for the best crop of Baden corn (then a new variety) yielding 110.5 bushels per acre, a premium was awarded.

Franklin County Agricultural Society was organized November 7, 1835, with Robert W. Scott, president; J. C. Herndon, secretary. Five consecutive annual fairs of two days each were held; public addresses were made; the usual livestock awards given; also awards for field crops, for needlework, and for domestic and mechanical manufactures. In 1837 the Franklin Society joined with that of Carlisle County in petitions to the legislature for the establishment of a State Geological Survey (see below). This was the initial move that resulted in the surveys of 1838, 1854, and those following.

Gallatin, Trimble, Owen, and Carroll counties combined as a Union Society in 1838, and three fairs are of record. George N. Sanders was corresponding secretary. Livestock and domestic manufactures were awarded thirty-seven premiums.

Fairs of the Knobs and Outer Bluegrass

Mention has already been made of Mercer, Lincoln, and Garrard, south of the Knobs. Fairs were held near Harrodsburg in Mercer continuously from 1833 until at least as late as 1842. It is uncertain whether or not they were entirely abandoned after the latter year, but no positive record has been found until, in the 1850's, there was general resumption of fairs throughout the Commonwealth.

Lincoln County branched off from the Union Society in 1838, and held fairs on its own account, 1838-41. Forty-one premiums were awarded, divided between livestock, agricultural implements, and domestic manufactures. William Craig and H. J. Roberts, as president nad secretary, were leaders. Garrard County branched off from the Mercer Union combination in either 1839 or 1840. The Agricultural Society of Garrard held fairs in 1840 and 1841; awarded thirty-six premiums divided between livestock and domestic manufactures.

Boyle County organized in 1838 and held fairs in that and the two succeeding years. Madison Agricultural Society held its second fair in 1837. The date of the first fair is uncertain, but it is assumed to be 1836. A fair was held as late as 1840. In the fair of 1838, extended to two days, twelve premiums were given to "horses, four to mules, nine to asses, twelve to cattle, one to sheep, two to hogs and two to domestics." W. S. Irvine was secretary.

Other Fairs of the Bluegrass

Jessamine County, associated intimately with Fayette in all its earlier fairs, including those of the 1816-19 period as well as those of the early 1830's, organized its own society and fair in 1838, and held fairs near Nicholasville as late as 1841. The secretary was Thomas T. Cogar. Thirty-three premiums of $10 each were awarded in 1839 "to horses, cattle, sheep and hogs." In 1840 the list was extended to include crops and domestics.

Woodford County organized in 1837 and held fairs to and including 1841. From 1838-41 inclusive the society was known as the Central Association of Woodford and Jessamine counties. This is not to be confused with the Jessamine Agricultural Society just mentioned. Benjamin Harrison and H. Wallace were president and secretary of the Central Association. Accounts of some of its fairs survive in the files of the Lexington papers of that time.

The Scott County Agricultural Society record is meager, in spite of the fact that Scott was then a leader of livestock, especially in horses and cattle, and had long held noteworthy race meets. In 1838 a two-day fair was held on September 24-25, but no mention of the date of the society's organization is made nor of other fairs that may have been held.

Brief mention of Harrison and Mason County societies and their fairs completes a survey that is all too meager in known facts and details.

Of Harrison, the only known existing record says: "Held first fair in 1841. She held one fair and offered premiums." Considering Harrison's position within the circle of the inner Bluegrass, this account is entirely inadequate.

The Mason County Agricultural Society, with H. Taylor as secretary, organized in 1838 and held a fair in 1839 at which forty premiums were awarded to livestock, domestic manufactures, and agricultural implements.

FAIRS BY COUNTIES AND YEARS

The following table gives, by counties and years, the fairs of the thirty-three county agricultural societies known to have been in existence during this period. The greater number of the societies were known simply as "Bullitt County Agricultural Society," etc. Exceptions were: Kentucky Association for the Improvement of the Breed of Stock, of Fayette County, Clark County Association, Union Society of Mercer, Lincoln-Garrard counties, Union Society of Gallatin, Trimble, Owen, and Carroll counties and Central Association of Woodford and Jessamine. These union fairs are credited to the leading county in the organization. The other counties are marked "S," "F," and "S F." These union fairs are counted only once in the totals column. The Kentucky Association was formed in 1826; the Bourbon Society continued to hold fairs into the 1890's. The State Agricultural Society held annual meetings from 1838 to 1842, but no fairs. The meetings are indicated below:

Area	1833	1834	1835	1836	1837	1838	1839	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845
State Agricultural Society	....	....	....	....	....	S	S	S	S	S	....	....	....
Barren	....	....	....	....	....	SF	F	F	F	?	....	....	....
Bourbon	....	....	....	SF	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F
Boyle	....	....	....	....	?	F	F	F	?	....	....	....	....
Bullitt (a)	....	....	....	....	....	....	?	F	?	....	....	....	....
Caldwell	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	F	?	....	....	....	....
Carlisle (b)	....	....	....	....	S	?	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Carroll (c)	....	....	....	....	....	SF	SF	SF	....	....	....	....	....
Christian	....	....	....	....	....	....	F	F	?	....	....	....	....
Clark	....	....	....	....	....	SF	F	F	F	....	....	....	....
Fayette	SF	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	S	S	S	S
Franklin (b)	....	....	S	F	F	F	F	F	?	....	....	....	....
Gallatin (c)	....	....	....	....	....	SF	F	F	?	....	....	....	....
Garrard (d)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	F	F	?	....	....	....
Green (e)	....	....	....	....	....	F	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Harrison	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	F	?	....	....	....
Henry	....	....	....	....	....	F	?	....	....	....	....	....	....
Hopkins	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	F	?	....	....	....	....
Jefferson (f)	....	?	?	....	....	SF	F	F	F	F	2 F	?	....
Jessamine (g)	....	....	....	....	....	SF	SF	SF	SF	?	....	....	....
Lincoln (d)	SF	SF	SF	SF	SF	F	F	S	F	?	....	....	....
Logan (h)	....	....	....	....	SF	F	?	F	?	....	....	....	....
Madison	....	....	?	F	F	F	S	F	?	....	....	....	....
Marion	....	....	....	....	....	....	F	?	....	....	....	....	....
Mason	....	....	....	....	....	SF	F	?	....	....	....	....	....
Mercer	SF	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	?	....	....
Nelson	....	....	....	....	?	F	?	....	....	....	....	....	....
Owen (c)	....	....	....	....	....	SF	SF	SF	?	....	....	....	....
Russell	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	F	?	....	....	....	....
Scott	....	....	....	....	....	SF	?	....	....	....	....	....	....
Shelby	....	....	....	SF	F	F	F	F	F	S	F	?	....
Todd (one fair, no dates)	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Trimble (c)	....	....	....	....	....	SF	SF	SF	?	....	....	....	....
Woodford (g)	....	....	....	....	SF	F	F	F	F	?	....	....	....
Total													
Counties	4	4	5	8	10	25	22	24	15	5	3	1	1
Fairs	2	2	3	6	8	21	16	19	12	4	4	1	1

"S" indicates the year of organization, when known.
"F" indicates a fair held.
"?" indicates no fairs of record.
(a) Held five fairs, dates of four unknown.
(b) Petitioned, 1837, for State Geological Survey.
(c) Union of Gallatin-Trimble-Owen-Carroll.
(d) Mrs. Shelby exhibits stock, 1838. Possible fairs 1843-45.
(e) Number of fairs uncertain.
(f) Held two fairs in 1843.
(g) Central of Woodford and Jessamine counties, 1838-41.

Education the Basic Purpose of the Societies

The agricultural societies were a westward extension of the farmers' self-educational movement that began with Elkhana Watson's cattle show of 1811. This show was unquestionably the parent of the cattle shows and fairs that spread throughout New England and southward along the Atlantic coast, and of the Kentucky Agricultural Society fairs initiated by Lewis Sanders, and in general of the agricultural fairs and societies of the 1820's. During that decade the wave of interest in the fairs was receding throughout New England, but gathering impetus in the West. Kentucky adopted the general plan and purpose of these earlier societies, as well as the name commonly applied to them.

The fairs of Kentucky were great local gatherings of participants and spectators, who met for one, two, or possibly three days to view the stock of the county, inspect the exhibits, study the latest agricultural devices, and admire the home-made products of the loom and needle. In a very real sense, these early fairs of the 1830's preceded the societies. As they prospered, so did the societies; when they died, the societies also died.

The societies, as organized units, originated in the action of small groups of farmers. They were in no sense promoted by outside private or public aid. A few breeders met, discussed the local situation and its possibilities, and announced a "fair." If, as was usual, the fair went off well, the group, already going under the name of the Agricultural Society of "Blank" County, grew in numbers, held meetings at which they discussed practical farm problems, laid out an agricultural improvement program adapted to the local need, and arranged for future fairs. At these succeeding fairs livestock was stressed as the most sertain way of attracting the attendance necessary to pecuniary success, but those societies that prospered widened the general interest in their doings by advertising the experiments they were making along the line of trial, introduction, and improvement of farm equipment and machinery, and in the field of crop improvement. A weakness of these societies, ultimately to prove their undoing, was the partnership feature of the set-up, under which the obligations of the organization became a binding obligation upon the individual members, jointly and severally.

"Experiment Stations" of Long Ago

The current press of the 1830's carried much matter relative to methods of improving the soil, increasing yields, and improving livestock. These societies tried out, in the fields and pastures of their members, the theories discussed in general terms in the press and with more specific local application at their meetings. The results of these experiments, attested by committees appointed by the society, have been properly termed "amazing." From a long list of achievements a few, selected at random, are given: In the year 1842 Gen. James Shelby, of Fayette County, five-acre field of corn, 110 bushels; George N. Williams, of

Bourbon, 128.22 bushels; Walter C. Young, of Jessamine "raised a field of corn, of which two acres, gathered ... by gentlemen of Jessamine Agricultural Society, yielded 195 and 198.25 bushels respectively. The season was remarkable for corn and these fields received special attention. In 1843, Williams, whose acre-yield for that year was slightly over 127 bushels, reported his methods:

> "... The acre was inclosed about the first of September, 1842: is in a square, and exhausted by long previous cultivation in corn and other crops and, when inclosed, was such land as, I suppose, in the common way of planting corn might have yielded 35 or 40 bushels per acre: the other half inclosed was good hemp land a small part of it being, in fact, too strong even for hemp. Early in September I commenced feeding 110 hogs within the inclosure, and continued to do so until they were fatted, which was about the 10th of November. In March following, I carted from the stable green stable manure enough to cover with a light coat, the whole of that part of the ground which did not occur until after the 1st of April, I ploughed it well, harrowed and cross ploughed it, in this way pulverizing the soil thoroughly. On the 14th of April, with a shovelplough, I laid it off into rows each way, two feet apart, and planted it, dropping two grains to the hill: I covered with a harrow, and followed the harrow with a roller. The whole after cultivation was done with a hoe which was tedious and required an amount of labor I had not anticipated on account of the growth of grass, timothy, and clover, and of many weeds, I gave it two hoeings, and, to have done it justice, it should have had the third. The crop was greatly injured and reduced by the occurrence of two storms of wind which swept nearly the whole to the ground, and besides many ears were entirely ruined, by blight, the consequence of bruises received in hoeing. On the 7th day of September I had the crop cut and put into stacks. I cut it thus early because being mostly on the ground and many rains of occurring the crop was injuring very much..."

In 1841 the Jefferson County Society, in co-operation with the State Agricultural Society, staged a great plowing match. Numerous societies of the period offered premiums for agricultural tools. Local blacksmiths and carpenters, eligible to membership, competed for these honors. To this competition in the field of mechanics in Kentucky, as well as in other States, was largely due the rapid development made in the plow, hay rake, harrow, cultivator, and other farm implements of the period.

A detailed record remains of one of the many livestock experiments of the time. B. P. Gray, of the Woodford Society, crossed an Irish boar on half-blood Thin Rind sows and fattened twenty-six of the resulting pigs under the same conditions as twenty-two scrubs, then compared results: at fourteen months the scrubs averaged 178 pounds; the Irish Thin Rind cross at ten months averaged 232 pounds, or 54 pounds more than the pigs four months older.

Similar contests were held and comparable results were obtained in other agricultural societies. Hemp, wheat, oats, and other products were made subjects of close study. Seed, soil, and cultural methods were all noted, and the weight of evidence in favor of some method of bringing to the farmer the fullest experimental data had already grown.

By the end of 1837 the evidence was already conculsively in favor of some wider agency to carry the gospel of improved agricultural methods to the farmers and breeders of the State.

A SECOND STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY IS BORN

In April, 1838, thirty-four Kentucky counties sent delegates, among whom were Gov. John L. Helm, C. A. Wickliffe, Hon. C. S. Todd, Thomas B. Stevenson, and Hon. Chilton Allen, to Frankfort where they formed a State-wide Agricultural Society and adopted a constitution. As organized, the society was composed of individuals representative of agriculture from the various congressional districts of the State, supplemented by appointed delegates from such local agricultural societies as chose to become auxiliary to the State society.

The number of the auxiliary memberships was never large. At the first annual meeting, held in January, 1839, with individual members in attendance from all agricultural sections of the State, but seven auxiliary members reported-- Bourbon, Franklin, Henry, Jefferson, Nelson, Scott, and Shelby counties. The number of auxiliaries in 1840 was sixteen. Bourbon, Clark, Franklin, Jefferson, and Woodford responded to the roll call of 1842.

At the 1838 meeting, officers, most of whom served throughout the lifetime of the society, were elected. The list includes Chilton Allen, able attorney from Clark County, president; Thomas B. Stevenson, of Franklin County, editor of the Franklin Farmer, corresponding secretary; Robert W. Scott and Philip Swigert, both from Franklin County, respectively recording secretary and treasurer; and an executive committee consisting of Messrs. Harrison Blanton, C. J. Blackburn, A. C. Keenan, Joel Scott, and John Lewis.

In addition to this administrative group the society chose thirteen vice-presidents, one from each of the thirteen congressional districts within the State. The names of these men were David S. Patten, Robert B. M'Afee, Daniel Morgan, C. S. Todd, and Lewis Sanders (see below). Alvey M'Lean, Charles A. Wickliffe, William Smith, James Shelby, Jonathan Hobson, Frank Ballinger, Edward B. Gaither, and James Garrard. The chief duty of each vice-president was to collect statistics from his district, and to hold meetings of farmers, somewhat on the order of the farmers institutes of a more recent time. The group of elected officers, taken as a whole, and including Editor Stephenson and the able corps of writers-- Adam Beatty, Lewis Sanders, and others-- that gathered about him, constituted the "faculty" of Kentucky's first "agricultural college"--a "college" that existed through four momentous years, not by legislative sanction, not within walls nor provided with books and a curriculum, but by the will of the farmers and by the practical knowledge possessed by these leaders and conveyed by them to the membership of the State society.

Besides the meetings held, prizes were offered for essays on announced topics, including the necessity of agricultural education and schools, the value of home manufactures, and diversified versus one-crop farming, and kindred topics.

The society worked in close co-operation with the livestock interests of the State. As it was barred from holding fairs, the stockmen held, in connection with its annual meetings, exhibits of stock which brought out the best available specimens of cattle, horses, sheep, and hogs. Expert judges of type and condition pointed out the chief qualities of each individual, and thus again closely approximating, both in purpose and in manner of presentation, present-day agricultural methods.

Membership fees went into a fund devoted to these immediate objectives of the society. The State made no contribution. Voluntary aid was hoped for from the various county societies. Beyond the slight aid of the $5.00 annual membership fee of an auxiliary society, that aid was of very little account.

The Franklin Farmer (1838-39), next the Kentucky Farmer (1840-42), and after the demise of that journal the Dollar Farmer (1842-46) were the ably edited succession of official organs of the society, through which it distributed information, well-digested agricultural statistics and other matters of moment, not only to the members of the society, but to the State at large.

A Far-Reaching Agricultural Program Is Adopted

At the outset of its brief career the State Society adopted and later expanded as a definite program for Kentucky agriculture. This program included, apart from the work of the local societies:

"1. The passage by Congress of a bill authorizing free distribution of seeds for experimental purposes through a division in the Federal Patent Office.

"2. The establishment or endowment of agricultural schools.

"3. The making of a thorough geological survey of the soil and mineral resources of the State.

"4. Collection and publication of information as to production, consumption, exports, and imports of the State.

"5. To assist in the formation of county societies, and to encourage the experimental work of these societies.

"6. Appropriation by the State of a fund to the State Agricultural Society with which to award premiums for essays on agricultural subjects."

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY

Into this ambitious program, the society threw all its energies. The appeal of the states to the Federal Congress for "free seeds," in which Kentucky joined, was the initial step that led to the establishment of the United States Department of Agriculture. From the office of Henry L. Ellsworth, then Commissioner of Patents, went out seeds gathered from all over the world, greatly encouraging the experimental spirit among farmers. The actual value of this distribution, it is now known, was small; the stimulus to the use of better methods of farming was beyond computation.

The demand for agricultural education brought the State Society into the forefront of a battle that lasted for nearly two decades and won for Kentucky, in the 1860's, the Agricultural and Mechanical College, parent to the present-day University of Kentucky. Kentucky, as a whole, held to the old English and Virginian tradition that the education of one's children was one's own business and responsibility. It was with reluctance on the part of the public that the State, early in 1838, adopted the common school system; years passed before it was generally accepted. The agricultural group in the legislature had joined with the friends of universal education to pass the measure; the educational group had reciprocated by backing the bill for the formation of the society. The mutual interest so declared found expression in the selection, in 1847 (long after the society had dissolved), of Robert Jefferson Breckinridge, a great Fayette County farmer, a great pulpit orator, and a great educator, to the vital post of State Superintendent of Public Instruction. As owner-manager of a great farm north of

Lexington, and husband of one of Kentucky's ablest and most respected farmers, Mrs. Virginia Hart (Albert) Shelby (one-time daughter-in-law of Isaac Shelby), Breckinridge brought to bear upon the common school problem of his day his great personal ability, supplemented by all the prestige of his family and business connections. Breckinridge found the common school system in disfavor; he left it well organized and respected. He laid broadly and deeply the foundations of its present educational program. On this concept as to the fundamental purpose of common schools rests the work along agricultural lines now done by the secondary schools of Kentucky.

Prior to the Breckinridge school administration of 1847-53, H. H. Kavanaugh, an earlier incumbent of that office, had voiced in his report of 1840 the considered opinion of the State Society:

> "... as the only proper education for man is, first, to develop the powers he possesses, and secondly, to direct them to useful purposes ... I would inquire if its claims (those of agriculture) are not such as to entitle it to special study and reading ...in the common schools of the State. And especially so since any State is, and must be, emphatically Agricultural in its business character."

This suggestion fell by the wayside, as did one for the immediate establishment of one or several agricultural schools. So also did a measure introduced in the 1840 legislature providing for an agriculture college and model farm.

The determination of the society to carry forward its program of State-wide expansion went on throughout its lifetime. Kentucky, from the mountains to the Purchase, became a great experimental farm. In its fields and pastures, theories regarding the breeding of livestock and the culture of crops were being worked out. Emphasis was placed upon mule breeding and more especially upon crop production. Silk raising was tried but proved a failure. The use of clover was largely extended during this period. Special attention was being paid to farm equipment, and a profusion of new devices were tried out. Farm machinery manufacturers began the practice of exhibiting their latest plows, harrows, cultivating equipment, threshing machines, and similar tools. These activities materially increased the variety and number of exhibits. From this time a growing public interest is shown in the fairs, greatly strengthened toward the close of the period, after horse racing was permitted.

At their meetings the local societies discussed, with better-planned purpose than in earlier years, methods of farm improvement. A softer, more genial social atmosphere prevailed. Women became associated intimately with the doings of the fairs. At the suggestion of Solon Robinson, afterwards president of the United States Agricultural Society, music was introduced. "Let us," said he, "in all rational and moral ways learn to enjoy life while we may...."

As the "hard times" of the 1840's appeared, the State society met the situation with the statement of its president, Chilton Allen:

> "If all the men in Kentucky will wear home-made shoes, and boots, and hats, and coats, and eat home-made cheese and butter, and sow none but Kentucky clover seed, the prosperity of our State will be restored.
>
> "The new tariff will do much good, but Kentucky must not rely alone on it. The states beyond the mountains cannot furnish a demand for all the agricultural products of the valley of the great river. In Ken-

> tucky we must have more employment; too much capital is invested in farms, farms are too large, the greater part of the earnings of our farmers for many years past, has been invested in more land, and thus vast numbers of our people have been sent to the new States; land has been kept at ruinous prices, and our country is now suffering under the exhausting process; the large farms are fast losing their fertility by bad husbandry, while our population is becoming sparse....
>
> "In the year 1840 it (household industry) seemed to be almost annihilated by the tide of general extravagance; yet in this year household industry was worth $40,000,000 in the Nation, and in Kentucky was worth $2,000,000. It can easily be made to reach $6,000,000. And in this change in our habits will be seen the revival of good old-fashioned industry and economy, and sensible morality. Let all who take these views meet our Society at Frankfort at our annual celebration and unite their efforts with ours in the cause of labor, which is the great cause of the country. On that occasion industry will be honored by a grand procession, in which the Governor, officers of Government, and the two Houses of the General Assembly will join. It will be remembered that, at the last meeting of our Society, a resolution was passed requiring the members to appear next January in home-made clothes. It is hoped that the members of the General Assembly sympathizing with our Society and the resolutions of large meetings of the people and the common sentiment of the country will also at the next session set the good example of coming in home-spun."

The meeting was held. It was the end. Only five societies of a possible thirty or more reported. The prize essays were read. There was no money in the society treasury with which to pay the awards. Already a national disaster as great as was ever known was sweeping in from famine-stricken Europe. Prices were falling. The Southern markets were "shot." Stockmen were holding dispersal sales of herds gathered with infinite care. The next year only three county societies held fairs; in 1844, but two. After that, but one-- Bourbon.

Curtain Call For Lewis Sanders

After the collapse of prices in general in the early 1840's, hemp, then cultivated extensively in Bourbon, Fayette, Mason, Fleming, Woodford, Scott, and other counties of the Bluegrass, became, because of its "immediate cash" feature, the subject of great public concern. Russian hemp, deemed superior, was used by the United States Navy, principal buyer of the fiber, in preference to the Kentucky product. In 1845 George W. Williams, of Bourbon, called upon Lewis Sanders for help.

Sanders, at that time hemp buyer for the United States Government with an office in Louisville, responded. Since the collapse of his enterprises at Lexington twenty-odd years before, he had been living at Grass Hills, his home in Carroll County, in semi-obscurity. He had been engaged, prior to his election as a vice-president of the State Society in 1838, in sheep breeding. Subsequent to that election, he became well known as an able and pungent writer of occasional agricultural articles for the current organ of the society. Still more recently he had been appointed to the Federal post of hemp buyer.

Sanders, acknowledged expert in fibers, especially wool and hemp, secured samples of the best commercial hemp exported from Europe, and on June 9, 1845, he staged a simple official and public demonstration of their tensile strength as

compared with that of Kentucky water-rotted hemp. The results reported to Commodore Morris, chief of the Bureau of Construction of the United States Navy, showed conclusively the superiority of the Kentucky product over the imported fiber. The Navy was convinced. As a result the market for Kentucky hemp was restored, and that industry was saved to America for the lifetime of the wooden sailing ship.

Such was the last public appearance on the Kentucky stage of the man to whom, more than to any other single individual, Kentucky owes its fairs.

VARIOUS TRENDS OF SOME IMPORTANCE

Among the events of the 1840's that had a decided influence upon the farming industry and the fairs of after years must be mentioned the organization of two local horticultural societies: the Louisville and Jefferson Society (1824) and a society in Franklin County (1845). This action was preparatory to the advent of the Kentucky State Horticultural Society, organized in 1852.

In spite of the long-continued "hard times" of the 1840's that blasted the hopes of the farmers for early educational aid to agriculture, the State moved forward. During the later 1830's, and throughout the 1840's, numerous importations of hogs, chiefly of the Berkshire breed, greatly improved the quality of this branch of livestock and widened public interest in the stock exhibits of the 1850's.

The development of trotting and pacing, through the selection and breeding of the Thoroughbred for those gaits and by the infusion of Canadian blood, brought to the fairs of the next decade a feature of especial interest-- the trots so popular throughout the later history of the fairs.

Nor was the effect of the dispersal sales mentioned above altogether without benefit to the State at large. Through them the blood of the best Shorthorns became widely distributed. Farmers either used it to top-cross and so improve their common stock for the markets or, as happened in many cases, carefully conserved it. These owners came forward in the 1850's to contest with the great breeders of the 1830's and 1840's their claims to leadership. For such information in breed development and agricultural methods as the State society had for a time supplied, the more progressive farmers turned to the agricultural press and to Court Day discussions, which continued the public interest in good stock and better farming methods awakened by county fairs and the State society.

Late in 1837, prior to the organization of the State Society, the agricultural societies of Carlisle and Franklin counties had petitioned the Legislature for the establishment of a geological survey of the State's soil and mineral resources. Introduced immediately by Senator Cyrus Wingate, of Carlisle, such a measure was passed early in 1838, and during the summer of that year a reconnaissance survey reported to the next legislature, was made by William Williams Mather, first State geologist of New York. Requests that the work be continued and expanded were denied. Not until 1854 was the survey resumed, this time at the request of the agricultural and mechanical associations of Fayette, Jefferson, Shelby, and Bourbon counties. This later survey was conducted under the leadership of David Dale Owen, of New Harmony, Indiana, between 1854 and 1857. After the War between the States, the work was resumed and carried forward ably and comprehensively by the distinguished geologist, Nathaniel Shaler.

The vice-president of the State society, who was assigned to gather agricultural statistics, found obstacles to the accomplishment of this task too great to overcome. Late in the 1840's the State assumed this duty. But appeal to the legislature for funds with which to carry on the educational program outlined by the State society met with a rebuff. This was due probably to the natural jealousies of local societies arising when the granting of State funds to larger and potentially stronger societies was proposed.

BOURBON GOES ON ALONE

The story of the solitary fairs held by Bourbon County from 1845 to the early 1850's is an epic of courage on the part of the Kentucky farmer. The account of a three day fair held in 1845 says in part:

> "The first day was devoted to the exhibition of articles of domestic manufacture. Several thousand persons were present, of whom the larger part were ladies. There were quite a number in attendance from the adjoining counties, among whom was the "Farmer of Ashland" (Henry Clay). The competition for prizes among our fair friends seemed quite animated and excited, and they crowded so closely around the booth that we were able to see only a few of the beautiful fabrics exhibited, except at a very respectful distance.... We have the authority of others much more competent to judge than ourselves, for saying that the articles exhibited were, in fineness of texture and beauty of finish, in the highest degree creditable to the skill of our fair friends many of them far surpassing, in quality and value, the best articles of the same kind imported from abroad.... There were blankets and bedquilts, table cloths and embroidery, jeans, linsey, flannel, and fulled cloth, hearth-rugs and carpets, artificials and butter, yarn socks and cheese, and other things too tedious to mention, but very nice to look at and very comfortable to have....
>
> "The second day was devoted to the exhibition of cattle, hogs, and sheep, and of agricultural implements, among which were some machines for breaking hemp. Of the stock it is scarcely necessary for us to speak. In the quality of the animals presented for premiums, the high character of this part of our State, as one of the finest stock-raising counties in the world, was fully sustained. The number was respectable, perhaps as large as has ever been present.
>
> "The hemp-brakes, of which there were three, two from Tennessee and the other an invention of Colonel Rice, of this county, excited great interest. They were tested in presence of the judges appointed for that purpose, and of a large number of spectators. Neither of them gave satisfaction and the general verdict seemed to be that they were all useless.
>
> "The third day was devoted to the exhibition of horses, mules, and asses. Quite a large number of each of them were shown. The exhibition on this day, especially of young horses and colts, was very fine indeed - much superior to those of previous years, giving ample proof of very great improvement in this kind of stock.
>
> "We noticed upon the ground several implements of husbandry, which, though not entered for premiums, attracted much attention. Among the number was the plough made by Messrs. Hays and Co., of Louisville, and

presented by them to the Hon. Henry Clay, of Ashland. It is a most splendid specimen of workmanship.... A machine for sowing grain was an object of much interest. It sows all kinds of grain, and can do it evenly to any quantity per acre, from a pint to three bushels, and will sow forty acres per day. Those who have seen it tried, and some gentlemen of this neighborhood have had a tolerable fair experiment with it, speak of it in commendable terms. It is drawn by one horse, is fixed upon wheels, and cost, we believe about fifty dollars...."

And here is an echo of the fair of 1848:

"The Thirteenth annual fair of the Bourbon Agricultural Society commenced on Wednesday and will terminate on today.

"Wednesday was devoted to the exhibition of domestic manufactures. Cattle, sheep, hogs, and farming implements were exhibited on yesterday; & horses, mules, and Jack stock will be exhibited on today. An immense concourse of men and women attended the first day's exhibition --much larger than we have ever witnessed at any previous fair. The number in attendance, we heard variously estimated from 5,000 to 10,-000....

"... Our fair country women deserve great praise for the spirit, which they manifest to maintain in their supremacy in the society. May the ladies day continue as it has always been, to be a great day of the fair...."

The record of the Bourbon fair of 1855 is evidence that the women of Bourbon County lived up to the faith expressed in them. The 5,000 or more visitors at that fair saw a wide variety of exhibits that indicated how much the continuance of the annual exhibition had depended on feminine interest and initiative. At this fair were shown articles made in the home, dairy products, vegetables, fruits, flowers, poultry, implements, as well as the usual inclusive breeds and classes of livestock. The awards given growing crops judged in the field prior to the fair were announced on that occasion. Meanwhile new agricultural and mechanical societies were rising throughout the State to resume this battle for improvement of stock and for betterment of farm conditions; for education of the rising generation adapted to the needs of a rapidly changing agriculture.

The achievements of the 1830-40 period were positive in character. The trend of livestock development became evident and assured. Horticulture was recognized as a department of agricultural life. Toward the end of the period, interest in racing was widened by the development of the Trotter out of the old Thoroughbred and other hot-blooded stock. State-wide interest in field-crop improvement had been developed, and the mind of the farmer had been turned toward agricultural machinery as a solution of the growing labor problem. The beginnings of a soil survey had been made. The Federal Government had been prevailed upon to assist the farmer in his field experiments. The common school system had been established and expanded. A more genial social atmosphere had developed, Women had come to have a recognized place in farm affairs. Only the far-looking dream of agricultural education remained to be realized-- that, and the further development of agricultural and mechanical improvements already well under way.

* * * *

CHAPTER 5

THE GOLDEN YEARS

THE NATIONAL SCENE

The year 1850 began for the Union at large, an era of marked material prosperity, and for the Bluegrass State a decade of affluent and gracious living.

As a result of the Mexican War the Nation had expanded all the way to the Pacific. The "hard times" of the 1840's were of the past. The gold rush of 1849 was still on. The European economic situation had improved. As a result, the Deep South was again exporting cotton at remunerative prices. New England, at the peak of its agricultural greatness, was rapidly expanding its industrial plant, and Yankee clippers, loaded with "Yankee notions" and the more substantial products of loom and forge, sailed on long trading voyages that carried the flag into the Baltic, the Mediterranean, and the South Seas. Incidental to this trading was Commodore Perry's forcible opening, in 1854, of the long-sealed ports of Japan. It was the closing of the "Age of Candles," and the whaling industry was at its zenith. The inclusion of California within the Union had created an intercoastal trade that was constantly growing. Immigrants, a steady stream, were landing at Castle Garden, at Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore. These newcomers worked their way inland along the Erie Canal route into the region west of the Great Lakes, or over the Alleghenies and down the Ohio into growing cities along that river, the Missouri, and the upper Mississippi. As a by-product of this navigation the Kentucky towns situated along the Ohio, notably Louisville and Covington-Newport, benefited largely through the inclusion in their civic life of skilled artisans who stopped to earn money for their journey, but found conditions so attractive that they remained, many of them to become leaders in Kentucky's industrial development. Those who went on found homes and ready employment in the rapidly growing states of Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, or Iowa, either in the cities and towns or on fertile lands that were coming into cultivation for the first time, thanks to the recent invention of the steel moldboard plow.

The decade was unprecedented as an era of railroad building. The telegraph had already bound together the principal cities and even many of the minor towns. Reaper and threshing machine had both arrived at mass production. The sewing machine and the kitchen range had salesmen traveling from door to door.

The iron and coal mines, the blast furnaces, the steel mills of the Nation as well as the factories turning out the equipment called for by the changing times, gave employment to every man who wanted a job. The idle were few.

KENTUCKY'S PLACE IN THE SUN

All this national and international business activity reacted strongly upon Kentucky. Her long-established livestock trade with Baltimore and points east

continued. That with the Deep South shifted and fell off, as the cotton fields spread beyond the Mississippi. That river became more than ever the main arterial road between the Bluegrass State and the outside world. The decline in Southern livestock markets was more than compensated for by the cash returns from slaves "sold South" throughout the decade, in ever-increasing numbers and at ever-increasing prices. Westward, a trade in breeding stock-- cattle, horses, and jacks-- had already grown to comfortable proportions. Cincinnati, pork-packing center of the West, and Louisville, Kentucky's leading hog market, assured the swine raiser near-by competitive markets and spot-cash returns for his "pig crop." Throughout the decade, production of wheat and tobacco, sources of immediate cash revenues, markedly increased, while the hemp industry, believed to have an unlimited future in the outfitting of commercial fleets on the ocean and the Great Lakes, was seen as an assured source of ready money. The shortening of the livestock cycle from breeding pen to market, which had taken place during the 1830-50 period, had effectively increased the net yearly income from Kentucky's pastures. Railroad building within the State, as the Louisville & Nashville and other lines pushed southward from the river landings, helped to make money plentiful.

All this, coupled with a long-suppressed desire for the creature comforts money can bring, brought about a marked change in the life of the Commonwealth. The Kentuckian had long been a "good liver," known as keeping an amply supplied larder and a well-stocked cellar. His protests against "furrin" goods, his avowed preference for homespun, and his long battle for a high protective tariff had all been part of an economic policy dictated by necessity-- the lack of markets and of ready cash-- rather than by any personal hostility to the soft textures of English and French looms or any deep-seated affection on his part for the blessings of plain living. When, in the late 1840's, the economic tide turned, the third generation of Kentuckians joyfully laid aside the restrictions that had been an accepted part of the lives of their fathers. Training days and religious revivals had their successors in the fairs and in race meets, which men and women attended without regard to social distinctions. More tolerable road conditions invited neighborly relations. More stately homes provided the means of entertaining. Refinements of social intercourse made life a thing to be enjoyed in the present.

Education and travel widened the outlook of the younger generation. The courts of Napoleon III and of Victoria set the fashions for the Western world, and the smartly edited columns of Godey's Lady's Book brought the latest modes in crinolines to the homes of the Commonwealth. Private academies where young ladies received training in belles-lettres, in the arts, and in manners befitting the daughters and grand-daughters of a landed gentry that included statesmen, jurists, nationally known men of the learned professions, diplomats, soldiers, writers, sculptors, and painters, were at their zenith. The name of Transylvania University commanded the respect of educated men throughout the Nation. Centre and Georgetown colleges and similar institutions were bringing collegiate or academic training to many of Kentucky's younger generation.

Harrodsburg, Crab Orchard, Olympian Springs, Blue Licks, Paroquet Springs, and other localities, celebrated for their mineral waters, were fashionable resorts that attracted the wealth and beauty of the Cotton States, come to escape the intense heat of the Southern lowlands, and staying long enough to intermarry with the sons and daughters of Kentucky.

To the strains of the waltz and polka, young gallants led their ladies through the windings of the dance. The nostalgic music of "Darling Nellie Grey"

and "Old Kentucky Home" gave Kentucky a place in the American scene. The novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin, supposed to portray normal slavery conditions in Kentucky, was deemed a gross libel upon the State. Verses written by the editor of a Kentucky town newspaper, Theodore O'Hara, in memory of his companions-in-arms of the Mexican War, had found their way into the Nation's heart:

On Fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread,
And Glory guards, with solemn sound,
The bivouac of the dead.

. . . . . .

Nor wrack, nor change, nor winter's blight,
Nor Time's remorseless doom,
Shall dim one ray of holy light
That gilds your deathless tomb.

The beauty of Kentucky women, the speed of Kentucky horses, and the bravery of Kentucky men had become an accepted tradition. Pride in the State reached a point where it might be said to have been boastful.

There was much to justify this attitude. A Kentucky farmer, Zachary Taylor, sat, in 1850, in the seat of Washington, Jefferson, and Jackson. At the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, North and South, in the persons of Webster and Calhoun, waged a verbal battle that threatened to split the Republic. As representing a middle course, Henry Clay, Kentucky horseman and stock breeder, had just won the 1850 compromise that gave the Nation more than a decade of peace. Later in that decade a Breckinridge of the great landowning and stock-breeding clan served as Vice-President, while a Kentucky-born Mississippian, Jefferson Davis, was Secretary of War from 1853 to 1857. Still another son of Kentucky, become an Illinois attorney, was heading for the Presidency. He attained it in 1861.

Kentucky spoke with authority in the business and commercial world as well as in the field of national affairs, and the mightiest voice within Kentucky, the voice to whom her politicians and statesmen listened, was that of the great stockmen and breeders of their day-- men who had placed their money and staked their reputations on the Shorthorn and the Thoroughbred. These men lived-- the Cunninghams, the Bedfords, the Garrards, the Duncans, the Burbridges, the Van-Meters, the Renicks, the Shropshires, the Clays, the Warfields, the Williams', the Breckinridges, and others of their time-- in an open-handed, hospitable manner, reminiscent of Jefferson's dream of a day when the American farmer should live, each on his own spacious estate, independent of all the world.

AGRICULTURE LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

The 1850 outlook for agriculture, as casually seen, appeared most promising. Trade was active. Prices in the main were good. But to the well-informed within the industry there were structural weaknesses that called for immediate strengthening.

Most urgently demanding the attention of the stockmen was the need of strengthening the herds of blooded cattle within the State, in order that cattlemen might secure the sires needed to maintain Kentucky's position in quality of market cattle production.

From 1817 onward the State had been one vast laboratory where experiment after experiment had been made in cattle breeding, and with one general result--that the Shorthorn was accepted as best fitting in with general market demands and with the experience and equipment of the stock producer. The maintenance of quality that attracted buyers had depended upon two things-- breeding and handling. Most Kentucky farmers were good handlers of stock; knew how to pasture and finish their stuff for the market. Few of them had the skill or the means, or the perseverance, to breed and mature herd sires essential to the long-continued maintenance of qualities demanded by the markets. This fact had led, early in the history of cattle raising, to a division of labors within the industry, between the cattleman whose main attention was devoted to the production of market stock and the breeder whose place was to supply sires capable of maintaining the average of herd excellence.

This latter group was always comparatively small in numbers. And this obviously small group comprised many who were assemblers rather than builders of the herds they owned. The great figures in the breeding world of 1817-60 were more than assemblers, more than importers, more than expert herdsmen and able salesmen. They were all that and the "something" more possessed by only a few men-- the ability to select, out of many excellent individuals, those possessing desirable qualities that, combined in one individual member of the breed, could be transmitted by that individual to its progeny. Since at that time there was no ultimate authority beyond one's experience, the wonder is, not that the number of breeders was so few, but rather that it comprised so many still remembered. The names Renick, VanMeter, Cunningham, Bedford, and Warfield still stir memories of a day when there were no experiment stations, nor any mass of accumulated scientific breeding data, only the meager experience of perhaps two or at the most three generations of men devoted to an idea, and armed with the mental equipment of the real scientist. These men and others of their day were the advance guard of scientific breeding.

When, in the early 1840's, prices crashed, the inevitable had happened. Only the few who placed the value of their breeding experiments above profits, or who were able to disregard for a decade or more any idea of balancing their books, had remained actively in the breeding business. Even these rode out the economic storm with diminished herds, operated on a stop-loss basis. The rest abandoned stock breeding as a business and devoted themselves to the relatively safer business of producing for the general market. The purebred herds, so abandoned, decayed. In a time when little regard was paid to pedigrees, their blood was wasted or lost. The general cattle-raising industry found itself, by 1850, without sources of supply sufficient to replenish and improve herds that had gone for half a decade or more without infusion of new blood. Importation from the pastures of Great Britain was the obvious shortcut to quick breed improvement.

Importations of the 1850's

The Shorthorn importations of the 1850's were not so noteworthy for their numbers as for the influence they had upon the future of the breed. The dozen or more shipments outweighed somewhat in numbers the exports from Kentucky to Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and other States.

In 1850 the Reverand John Gano, of Fayette, imported from England the bull, Earl of Sealham. Two years later James S. Matson of the same county bought Imp. John O'Gaunt. Dr. Elisha Warfield, of Fayette, purchased Imp. St. Lawrence from Samuel Thorn, of Dutchess County, New York.

This trickle of Shorthorn blood from overseas was followed in 1853 by the first mass importation of the Northern Kentucky Association, a group of breeders within the inner Bluegrass, of which Brutus J. Clay, of Bourbon, was president; and Solomon VanMeter, of Clark; Nelson Dudley, of Fayette;and Charles T. Garrard, of Bourbon, leading members. Funds for a buying expedition to England were raised and the three members just named were commissioned to purchase the best they could find for the money on hand. They left the Bluegrass on March 10, 1853, and returned to the Brutus J. Clay pastures on August 4 of that year. The odyssey of their travels, as told by Garrard, historian of the expedition, recounts their adventures. After an unusually rough outward voyage, seasickness, delightful travels through the Shorthorn counties of England, entertainment at great breeding farms, and a fortunate homeward journey, they returned with twenty-five head of cattle, ten bulls and fifteen cows, for which they paid, all expenses included, a total of approximately $23,000. This bill took into account the purchase of a Cleveland Bay stallion, for which they paid $2,800, and eighteen head of sheep of the Cotswold, Leicester, and Southdown breeds. At an auction held August 18, 1853, the association sold to breeders from Bourbon, Clark, Fayette, Franklin, Jefferson, Scott, and Woodford counties the entire consignment at an aggregate price of $55,976, realizing a clear profit of $32,976.

Among the bulls of this memorable importation were Diamond, Challenger, Orontes II, Young Chilton, Fortunatus, and Yorkshire Maynard; among the cows, Mazurka, Lady Caroline, Lady Stanhope, and Lady Fairy. The top bull, Diamond, was sold to a partnership consisting of Brutus J. Clay, Henry Clay, Jr., George M. Bedford, and Jere Duncan at $6,000. Among the bidders was a young man recently come to Woodford County, Robert Aitcheson Alexander, who bid in Mazurka, a roan heifer in calf to Orontes II, at $3,050, top price for females. Alexander also bought Orontes II himself at $4,550, Maid of Melrose at $2,200 and the yearling, Equity, for $1,000. The other animals at the sale went into capable hands, and the influence of their blood is still seen.

Late in 1853 the Scott County Importing Company sent W. Crockett and James Bagg to England on a venture similar to that of the Northern Kentucky Association. They returned with five bulls and seven cows that at auction in January, 1854, brought a total of $7,535. The bulls, Baron Faversham and Pathfinder, came with this importation. Later in 1854, the company again sent James Bagg, accompanied by Wesley Warnock, to England on a second buying expedition. They returned with six bulls and fifteen cows, which were auctioned at C. W. Innes' farm near Lexington. Among the animals that later made breed history was Sirius, knocked down to R. A. Alexander at $3,500. Alexander also purchased at this sale the cows Bessie Howard and Lizzie, adding the three animals so obtained to his growing herd at Woodburn. These, together with his purchases at the sale, helped materially to lay the foundation of his great herd at Woodburn (see below).

Other importations of the period include the purchase of the bull, Duke of Cambridge, by the Pleasant Hill (Shakertown) religious community, in 1854; also the considerable importation made in 1856 by the Mason and Bracken Association, similar in purpose and plan to the associations above mentioned. This importation consisted of five bulls and twenty-one females which on arrival were pastured and held for future sale. When, in 1859, the herd was dispersed, prices following the panic of 1857 were still low, and during the War between the States the breed values of this last of the great importations prior to that conflict were largely lost.

Any account of the breeding developments of the 1850's must include some mention of the operations of the greatest private importer and breeder that Kentucky has ever known-- Robert Aitcheson Alexander. "Robert A." was born in Franklin County, 1819, where his father, Robert Alexander, had married the daughter of Daniel Weisiger, of Frankfort, and subsequently had become one of Kentucky's leading financiers and the president of the first Kentucky State Bank. The elder Robert's father was Sir William Alexander, of Scotland; and his mother, also of Scotland, was heiress to the entailed estate of Airdrie House. Robert A., a grandson of this union, was educated in England, and in the early 1850's returned to Kentucky, where he purchased 2,700 acres of Woodford County land, nine miles west of Lexington, from the heirs of General Hugh Mercer, of Virginia. Besides a large fortune inherited from his father, Robert A. received through the law of entail the income from his grandmother's family estate of Airdrie House. All this, together with the fortune Robert A. accumulated in the course of an active business career, passed on to his brother, Alexander John Alexander, the "A. J." of breeds history, upon Robert A.'s death in 1876. Robert A. had never married. A. J. was twice married, first to Lucy Humphries, of Woodford County, and subsequently to a Miss Fullerton, of Chillicothe, Ohio. He left five children, whose heirs are still living.

Robert A., a born breeder and showman, went to Great Britain in the winter of 1852-53, accompanied by A. J., where he studied the great breeding farms of England and Scotland and decided upon a far-reaching course of action. His purpose was to duplicate in America, and surpass if possible, what he had seen overseas. His vision was not limited to the Shorthorn but included Thoroughbreds, cattle of the best milk breeds, and sheep. His later importations included Ayrshire and Alderney cattle, Cotswold and Southdown sheep, and some of the best Thoroughbreds ever brought into the Bluegrass. This program was enlarged upon and extended over the remaining years of the nineteenth century by A. J., a worthy successor in ability, as in material wealth.

The Alexander Importations

Robert A's first departure from the groove followed by Shorthorn importers since the early 1830's was the early inclusion of individuals of the Bates or milking Shorthorn. His purpose was to maintain a nursery of the milking strain of the breed, as well as one of the Booth, or beef strain, so that customers might have their choice within the breed, either of the well-known and popular beef-type Shorthorn, or of the less-known "milking," or "dual purpose," type. Considering the competition from the Hereford and also from the distinctively dairy breeds already appearing in America, this move had the effect of strengthening Shorthorn popularity with Kentucky breeders and stockmen and to consolidate Kentucky's position as the Shorthorn center of the Nation.

Alexander's first importation, consigned, not for sale, to Woodburn, where it arrived in 1853, was made up of five bulls and thirty-six cows selected from the best in the British Isles. Among the cows was Miss Hudson, founder of the Miss Wiley and Loudoun Duchess families. In the two years following, he added at least thirty-two more by importations. Among these were Duke of Airdrie, Duchess of Airdrie, Duchess of Athol, Pearlette, Victoria, Filigree, Dr. Buckingham, Fame, and others of like quality. In the second importation came the great Thoroughbred stallion, Scythian.

The "milking" or Bates strain was represented in these shipments by Duke of Airdrie II, Duke of Athol, Dr. Buckingham, and other great bulls. According to William Warfield, Alexander "gave no particular strain the sole benefit of his

great influence ... on the contrary ... few breeders ever have been so catholic in their tastes.... All of good sterling worth ... was to be seen on his farm at Woodburn.... He set us an example ... which it would do us of this day good to follow more closely."

This is the opinion of a great stock expert and breeder. Whether or not Alexander's presence in the show rings of his time was good for the stock industry in general is still debatable. Another competent observer of men and stock gives it as his opinion that Alexander's stock, displayed at the United States Fair of 1857, held that year in Louisville, discouraged practically all competition. Only such master farmers as Brutus J. Clay and others of like caliber and breadth of experience could hope to meet him in the rings and carry off anything better than second honors. This was a situation discouraging to the small breeder. As nearly as any one man could do, Alexander, and later his brother, filled the place in stock breeding and experimental work along animal husbandry lines now occupied by the breeding lots of the Kentucky Experiment Station.

THE AMERICAN HERDBOOK IS ADOPTED

Prior to the 1850's, the Shorthorn Herdbook gotten out in England in 1822 and kept up to date, was accepted as the final authority on all matters pertaining to breeding and breed records. An American herdbook issued for the first time in 1846, was generally accepted only in the East. Kentuckians as a rule still referred to the English herdbook or depended on their own records. From every standpoint, this was unsatisfactory, especially so to a rapidly expanding industry. In 1855 the American Shorthorn Herdbook was all but universally adopted by the Shorthorn breeders of Kentucky; both the new importations and the older families that could be traced were included in its records, and the followers of the "Red, White, and Roan" were at last fully prepared to battle for the breed markets of the West.

THE TROTTER APPEARS

While the cattle-breeding industry of the State, and in a quiet way other breeds interests as well, were strengthening their positions-- for the better part of the sixth decade-- another factor of major importance to the story of the fairs was entering the field.

All through the history of horses bred for speed runs the story of the ambler or Trotter (which includes the pacer), known and liked for the smoothness of his gait under saddle and for the beauty of his action in harness. The modern Standard-bred or Trotter derives from Messenger, a Thoroughbred imported to America in 1788. Messenger blood, crossed with that of the Canadian, the Morgan, and individuals that have come largely from Thoroughbred lines, began to appear in track events as early as the 1800's. Trots, in those days, were scarcely distinguishable from running events. Both were under saddle, and the conditions were similar. The runner had the edge, but only by a comparatively small margin. Instead of the long distances favored in running events the trots were broken up into mile distances, best three out of five. Comparisons of speed with runner pitted against trotter were common. All this gave the spectator plenty of action and excitement during the course of a five-heat race.

Toward the end of the 1830's a further change had taken place. With the improvement of roads came light vehicles in place of the saddle horse of former years, and farmers, professional, and business men naturally took pride in a fine turn-out drawn by a pair of good roadsters. Canadian trotters, among them St.

Lawrence and Pacing Pilot, came to the Bluegrass, and their blood, mingled with that of the Thoroughbred, produced offspring of pronounced speed in harness. The racing events in which Trotters engaged were still under saddle, but with the appearance of the high-wheeled sulky evolved out of the chaise in the 1850's, trotting emerged as an event, semi-sporting and semi-social, which a Bluegrass or Pennyrile or Purchase family could attend without offense to any of the proprieties that, even at that late date, frowned upon the running track as something associated with gambling and its attendant objections.

During the sixth decade, trotting established itself as one of the main attractions at the fairs-- a position it has since maintained in face of the great popularity of the Kentucky Derby and like events. The War between the States shifted the center of trotting interest from Kentucky and Virginia to the East and North, but Kentucky still maintains its reputation as a nursery of Trotter stock, while at the State Fair may be seen in paddock and on track, and in stands and bleachers, the 1940's version of the county fair trots of ninety years ago.

American Trotting Track Records - 1806-1922

The record since 1806, when Yankee, on a New York course, trotted the mile under saddle in 2:59, shows the progressive lowering of the trotting record for that distance:

Name	Year	Equipment	Track Record
Yankee	1806	Saddle	2:59
Lady Suffolk	1843	do.	2:26 1/2
Tacony	1853	do.	2:25 1/2
Flora Temple	1856	Harness	2:24 1/2
Flora Temple	1859	do.	2:19 3/4
Dexter	1867	do.	2:17 1/4
Goldsmith's Maid	1871	do.	2:17
Goldsmith's Maid	1874	do.	2:14
St. Julien	1879	do.	2:12 3/4
Jay-Eye-See	1884	do.	2:10 3/4
Maud S	1885	do.	2:08
Nancy Hanks	1892	Low Wheel Sulky	2:04
Dan Patch (pace)	1905	do.	1:55 1/4
Directum (pace)	1915	do.	1:56 3/4
Peter Manning	1922	do.	1:56 3/4

The appearance of the Trotter in connection with the racing programs of the county fairs added variety to the track events and also opened the way for the Kentucky (American) Saddle Horse. During the 1850's, colorful riding competitions were staged at the fairs, but not until the 1870's did the exhibition of horsemanship known as a tournament become the exciting precursor of the "Horse Show" feature of today's State Fair.

UNSOLVED PROBLEMS OF THE FARMER

Meanwhile, problems of more immediate concern to the Kentucky farmer were calling for solution. Soil erosion, under its earlier names of "worn out," "washed," "gullied," and "pizened" land, was an ever-growing problem. The legislature of 1855 ordered a resumption of the geological survey begun im 1839. Under David Dale Owen this was continued until 1859; again to be resumed in 1873,

under direction of State geologist Nathaniel Southgate Shaler, his assistants, and their successors.

From another direction aid was extended the farmer. Congress, in 1855, in answer to a demand voiced by the National Agricultural Society organized in 1853, voted additional funds to the bureau in the office of the Commissioner of Patents that still continued the free distribution of seeds begun in 1839. This was for the purpose of giving the farmer aid in his battle against insect pests, notably the chintz-bug, the Colorado potato beetle (bug), and the Rocky Mountain locust (grasshopper), the latter for the first time then appearing as a major menace to American agriculture. The ultimate effect of this Congressional action was the establishment, in 1862, of the United States Department of Agriculture, which in 1899 was recognized as a major department of the Federal Government.

Further immediate help was demanded by the farmer. Problems of soil use were uppermost. Hemp fields were failing. Corn crops showed unprofitable returns. Tobacco was known to be "hard on the land." The economic practicability of the use of manures was still a debated question. Fruit growing was as yet a doubtful commercial possibility. Observant viewers of the general situation noted that the center of mule production, long in Kentucky, was shifting westward; that there was wide room for betterment in the market quality of hogs and of wool; that poultry, as a means of cash farm income, was overlooked.

Perhaps more than all else, save that of selection and improvement of their stock, the questions posed by the modern plow, the reaper, the mower, the threshing machine, the barrel churn, and other devices to lessen labor on the farm and in the home were demanding an answer not given by the agricultural societies of the 1830's or left inconclusive by the fast-moving events of the times.

The farmers of the State, finding no source to which they could turn for the answers, again as they had done two decades before, created their own authority. Made wiser by the failure of that earlier attempt at self-education, they organized in more business-like fashion and with more definite purpose the Agricultural and Mechanical associations as successors to the societies of that former time. Then they fashioned, with deliberate purpose, a great third State Agricultural Society, primarily to act as a clearing house for the discussion and solution of current problems, secondarily to act upon a none-too-willing legislature to secure from that body the realization of their dreams-- an agricultural institution that should have or find the answers.

There was still another purpose in the creation of these associations, local and State. Never expressed in so many words, but implicit in every act, was the determination to bind together in co-operative action, and under powerful and efficient leadership all the agricultural forces of the State, to the end that Kentucky should become, and remain, united in economic purpose and action-- under the banners of the Thoroughbred, the Trotter, and the "Red, White, and Roan."

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL ASSOCIATIONS OF 1850-60

The farmers' Organizations of the 1850's closely followed in set-up, purpose, and methods those already described. The name "Agricultural and Mechanical," shortened for convenience in the parlance of the days (and also in this account) to "A. & M. Assn.," or, even more simply, "A. & M.," connotes the close connection of interest that, prior to the War between the States and the rise of great industrial units, existed between the farmer on the one hand and the artisan or mechanic on the other. The membership was made up primarily of the better, more

alert and energetic farmers and breeders, and the wheelwrights, carpenters, blacksmiths, and local manufacturers who, made up the industrial life of the area included within the scope of the association's activities. Unlike the societies of the 1830's, which, with three exceptions, were unincorporated, the A. & M. associations were as a rule stock companies chartered by the State. They were usually well managed and, in the main, sufficiently financed. The money came, not only from stockholders, but also from exhibitors, who were charged fees for showing their stock or other offerings. In return the exhibitor was allowed certain rights of membership during the fairs, usually including free entry to the grounds for himself and family.

After the expenses incurred by the association in holding its fairs had been met, the net proceeds, if any, went to the stockholders in proportion to the stock held by them individually. The desire to enlist the interest of as many people as possible, coupled with a natural fear of investing too heavily in an enterprise that, because of weather and other factors, was highly speculative, as a rule made the enterprise essentially one in which the entire community was interested, directly or otherwise.

The physical properties of the association varied greatly in extent and value. Unlike the societies of the 1830's, which had often rented grounds for their fairs, the associations of the 1850's early set out to acquire land suitably located, usually on a main highway just outside the principal town or city in the area. On this property buildings were erected-- sheds for the stock and, later, other buildings adapted to the needs and finances of the organization. The early acreages were limited in extent, revealing the dislike of the cattlemen to have anything to do with racing-- a prejudice which was thoroughly broken down by the end of the decade. Some few associations remained aloof from the trend of the times, but by 1860 the popularity of trotting had been generally conceded, and the larger associations had acquired grounds suitable for half-mile or mile tracks, and "the trots" had become a regular feature.

Chief among the problems that early confronted the fair officials was the maintenance of order. Records of the period 1850-1900 are replete with legislative action along this line. Police powers were granted, early in the 1850's, to fair officials within their own properties. This proving inadequate, the police powers were extended to the immediately surrounding areas; in certain cases as far as a half-mile in all directions. The matter remained a moot question down to the close of the century. Evidently more than legal prohibitions were required to prevent betting, gambling, drinking, swearing, firing of guns and pistols, cock fighting, dog fighting, bull baiting, and the like.

In this connection Cassius M. Clay, Kentuckian and one-time minister to Russia, to whom is ascribed an influential part in the purchase of Alaska, tells of visiting the Bourbon County Fair (year not given) in company with his brother, Brutus J., at that time president of the Bourbon County Agricultural Society. A gang of gamblers, estimated by Cassius as between two and three hundred, became unruly, crowded around the judging rings and attempted to bulldoze the judges into making awards to their liking. What the law on the subject was, Cassius does not say. In company with his brother, he walked over to the mob. Brutus ordered the judges to withhold public announcement of the awards, and told the gamblers that they could find out what the judges decided by reading the next week's papers! In the face of that showing of courage, the mob slunk away.

Date, Names, and Area of Organizations - With Other Data

The associations existing in 1850 and those organized during the decade are presented below in the order of their appearance. A definite date, as July 9, 1836, indicates that on that day the act granting a charter to the organization had received the approval of the Governor, though in numerous cases the membership had met and in some cases had even held a fair prior to the granting of the charter. Where information as to day of the month is not specific, it indicates that the organization is known to have been in existence though no official charter had as yet been granted by the State:

July 9, 1836-- Bourbon County Agricultural Society. Continuous from date of organization until dissolution in the late 1890's. George W. Williams, president.

April 13, 1850-- Kentucky A. & M. Association. A revival of the Kentucky Association fairs of the 1830's under organization and management separate from, but still closely allied to, the Kentucky Association formed in 1826. Officers elected April 13, 1856: Benjamin Gratz, president; H. C. Payne, vice-president; J. A. Harper, secretary; D. A. Sayre, treasurer; Robert J. Breckinridge, Abram VanMeter, H. T. Duncan, Ed. Oldham, James Wasson, James Kinkead, J. O. Harrison, Isaac Shelby, also Richard Allen, of Jessamine County, directors. First fair of 1850 showed a net profit of $164.95. Rented grounds of Maxwell Spring Company, a holding corporation. (For later history, see Chapter VII.)

January 9, 1852-- Union A. & M. of Shelby, Oldham, Henry, and other counties. Robert Mallory, president; Orville Ford, vice-president; W. S. Helm, secretary; Morris Thomson, treasurer. Held fairs at Eminence. Charter prohibited use of spiritous liquors.

In 1852-- Central Kentucky Stock, A. & M. Association of Mercer, Marion, Casey, Lincoln, Garrard, and Boyle counties (see Central Kentucky A. & M. of January 17, 1854).

In 1853-- Green River A. & M. Society of Daviess County. First organized by Robert Triplett and others of Owensboro. Idea revived, organized in 1853, held fair in 1854. Buildings erected in 1855. Officers for 1857: C. T. Noel, president; J. C. Talbott, R. M. Hathaway, vice-presidents; J. H. McHenry, secretary; W. B. Tyler, treasurer. In 1854 name changed to Daviess County Agricultural Society.

In 1853-- A. & M. Association of Logan County. Reorganized in 1858 as Russellville and Logan County Association.

January 16, 1854-- Kentucky State Horticultural Society. Incorporators: Edward D. Hobbs, A. G. Munn, Ormsby Hite, T. S. Kennedy, John P. Morton, Lawrence Young, Arthur Peter, Philip Speed, and E. Wilson. Property holdings limited to $100,000. Officers: a president, six vice-presidents, and an executive board of four members, treasurer, and secretary. Developed out of local societies formed in 1842 and 1845 at Louisville and Frankfort respectively. Member of State Agricultural Society. Active, especially in the years after the War between the States, in promoting fruit growing throughout the Commonwealth. Among early horticulturists were Dr. James J. Johnson, L. L. Shreve, Thomas and Hamilton Smith, John P. Morton, E. D. Hobbs, and L. Young, all of Jefferson County. Officers in 1857: L. Young, A. Peter, W. Mix, L. P. Yandell, James Buchanan, W. D. Gallagher. Numerous members of the society were scattered along the Ohio River, especially in the vicinity of the larger towns. Among the early Franklin County

horticulturists are named Charles H. Webb, Thomas B. Stevenson, Robert W. Scott, Stephen F. Gano, John Bruen, and Charles Norwood.

January 17, 1854-- Southwestern A. & M. of Jefferson County et al. Organized in 1853. George Hancock, president; George Anderson, secretary; William Short, corresponding secretary; Thomas Y. Brent, treasurer. Grounds on Brownsboro Road, eastern Louisville, first cost (43½ acres) $20,375. United States Fair held here in 1857. Site of several State Agricultural Society fairs. Gibson Mallory, Robert N. Miller, Lawrence Young, Arthur Peter, Collin Ormsby, and W. D. Gallagher, officers in 1857. In 1858 great cattle ring contest between Brutus J. Clay and A. J. Alexander. In 1860 harness, saddle, blooded, and utility awards in horse division.

January 17, 1854-- Central Kentucky A. & M. Association of Boyle et al. (See Central Kentucky Stock A. & M. Association of Mercer, et al.) Incorporators: Abram I. Caldwell, W. L. Tarkington, A. G. Talbott, Joseph Helm, Clifton Rodes, A. D. Myer, J. S. Hopkins, J. P. Fisher, J. B. Akin, D. W. Jones, Tho. W. Varnon, George Carpenter, W. C. Nichols, Wm. Whitley, Wm. A. Cook, Dr. John A. Tomlinson, Wm. Thompson, F. B. Kinkead, Wm. J. Moberly, John B. Bowman, Jr., Jas. McAfee, John S. Hoskins, G. J. Salter, James Beasley, H. Z. Perkins, John Dinwiddie, W. H. Paxton, Robert McChord, and Dr. J. C. Maxwell et al.

January 17, 1854-- Southwestern A. & M. Association of McCracken County. Organized by "divers persons." Charter provided for a president and ten directors.

February 5, 1854-- Daviess County Agricultural Society, successor to Green River A. & M. Association of Daviess (see 1853, 1856.)

February 11, 1854-- Green River A. & M. Association of Barren County. Charter provided for sale of stock, fixed shares, life membership, and the holding of fairs "at or near Glasgow, for the exhibition of the products of the soil, specimens of the mechanic arts, of useful and domestic animals, and whatever else serves to represent the labor and industry of the State, and award necessary and proper premiums."

February 24, 1854-- Crab Orchard A. & M. Association of Lincoln County. Organized by "divers persons."

March 7, 1854-- Southwestern A. & M. Association of McCracken County et al. Charter prohibited sale of "spirits or liquors" during fairs, on grounds or adjacent territory, with penalties for violation of act. Each separate sale considered a separate offense.

March 9, 1854-- Anderson County Agricultural Society. Incorporators: William H. McBrayer, William W. Peuney, Edward Sherwood, Isaac Oliver, Berry Young, George Catlitt, Richard H. Paxton, Jeptha D. Elliston, Daniel Willson, James C. Fidler, Ephraim Lillard, John Witherspoon, Allen Wash, James H. McBrayer, Keeling C. Gaines, Geo. W. Kavanaugh, Thomas H. Hanks, John McCall, David Bond, Darius Hackley, Richard Crossfield, Richard Kercheval, Alfred Leathers, Wilks Morgan, Horace Edwigton, William H. Stephens, Jon L. McGinnes, Leroy J. Mountjoy, Chas. N. Kavanaugh, and Allen S. McKee, et al.

March 10, 1854-- Northern Kentucky A. & M. Association (see under date of February 15, 1858).

In 1854-- A. & M. Association of Mason and Bracken counties. Fair held at Germantown. Better than the usual equipment. Officers in 1854: Anthony Killgore, C. M. Gibbons, James Dawson, E. A. Savage, Ben Wood, Jr., and E. Currans. In 1857 the Mason and Bracken Importing Company held a sale of the increase of their herd imported from England in 1856. Eight Shorthorn calves sold at an average of $240. The stallion, Lord Raglan, Thoroughbred, imported with the cattle, was shown at this fair.

In 1855-- Clark County Stock Improving Company. Year of formation uncertain. Officers: J. H. Moore, B. B. Groom, W. R. Duncan. During the fair held in the autumn of 1858, attendance ran between eight and ten thousand daily. Rings complete and well contested. Downing's Woodford County stallion took first; Henry Nichols' Harrison County stallion, American Boy, second. H. S. Parker's Fayette County mare, the favorite, lost to Col. John Moore's local mare.

January 14, 1856-- Northern Kentucky Agricultural Society of Mason, Fleming, Lewis counties et al. Amended January 15, 1858, to permit improvements to be made by private individuals, subject to control of society. Debt limit set at $5,000.

January 14, 1856-- Union Agricultural and Improvement Association of Mason and Bracken counties.

February 5, 1856-- A. & M. Association of Daviess County (see Green River A. & M. Society of Daviess County, 1853). Renamed on account of a prior association of the same name in Barren County. Fair held at Owensboro.

February 5, 1856-- A. & M. Association of Christian County. Commissioners: Isaac Lewis, James T. Jackson, B. T. Torian, James M. Ford, William T. Moore, J. H. Lander, E. R. Cook, J. C. Whitlock, J. U. Wallace, H. B. Owsley, and John Stitts. Officers: Thomas Green, Isaac Lewis, J. I. Thomas, J. T. Jackson, C. E. Merriwether, Jesse McComb, Rice Dulin, J. C. Latham, and James S. Phelps. Fairgrounds at Hopkinsville. Last fair prior to the war, 1860. United States Vice-President J. C. Breckinridge was speaker of the occasion. No further meetings until 1869. Buildings used as barracks by C. S. A. troops in 1861.

February 5, 1856-- A. & M. Association of Warren County et al., including Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Logan, and Simpson counties. Grounds at Bowling Green consisted of twelve acres. Amphitheater seated 5,000. Floral Hall, cottages, stalls, etc. Woodford Dulaney, N. S. Strange, R. Curd, F. C. Herrick, T. C. Calvery, and W. E. Duncan officers in 1857.

February 5, 1856-- Southern Kentucky Fairgrounds Association. Holding company for the properties used by A. & M. Association of Warren County et al., (see above).

February 5, 1856-- Springfield A. & M. Association of Washington, Marion, Nelson, and other counties. First fair held prior to incorporation, October 16-18, 1855. Officers: M. H. Rogers, J. R. Jones, Joseph Spalding, E. L. Davidson, Jesse Moore, and Hugh McElroy.

March 3, 1856-- Agricultural Society of Nelson County. Incorporators: Felix G. Murphy, A. C. Wilson, Wilson Samuels, Edward L. Miles, James Maxwell, Thomas S. Speed, William Hunter, Morgan R. Jewell, J. P. Mattingly, J. P. Jewell, James Miner, William Bowman, Abner King, Miles Hagan, Joseph Brown, Thomas P. Linthicum, Isaac L. Miller, William Elliot, Joseph Hard, and Henry Harned. Fairs

held near Bardstown. Premiums, upwards of $1,500, said to be largest in State. A feature of the third fair, held in 1858, were trotting matches against time.

March 5, 1856-- A. & M. Association of Harrison County. Incorporators: Lucius Desha, Henry Nichols, David Dills, Caleb Walton, Wm. Turtroy, H. F. Crowell, Francis Grey, and Noah S. Patterson. Officers: Lucius Desha, John Kirkpatrick, Joseph Desha, Henry F. Cromwell, and L. Axley. Farm implement manufactures, of Cynthiana, exhibited plows and wagons. The Cromwell plow considered superior to all others in the field.

March 6, 1856-- A. & M. Association of Logan County. Incorporators: David King, Robert Browder, and J. B. Peyton. Stock limited to $3,000. Spiritous liquors prohibited.

March 10, 1856-- Third State Agricultural Society (for details see Chapter VI).

March 10, 1856-- Columbia Fairground Association of Adair County. Commissioners: Junius Caldwell, Robert Coffey, William N. Robinson, William Walker, and Milton P. Wheat. Capital stock $3,000; shares $25; grounds limited to 25 acres.

March 10, 1856-- Agricultural Society of Kenton County. Incorporators: Napoleon B. Stephens, T. A. Wilson, and S. Shaw.

In April, 1856-- Horticultural and Mechanical Association of Henderson, Union, and Hopkins counties. Held first fair October, 1856. Attendance, 5,000; more than 100 entries in the horse division. Second fair of State Agricultural Society held at Henderson in 1857.

April 14, 1856-- North Kentucky Agricultural Society of Boone and Kenton counties. Officers and directors: John H. Watson, Washington Watts, John L. Grave, Ezra K. Fish, William H. Buckner, John Barton, John J. Switman, Samuel K. Hays, Thomas C. Graves, Albert Price, Volney Dickerson, William A. Moxley, W. Chamblin, Cary T. Allen, Hubbard T. Buckner, John W. Leathers, and William Bishop. Capital stock, $10,000, divided into $25 shares; debt limit, $25,000.

January 23, 1858-- A. & M. Association of McCracken County. Incorporators: Richard A. Bacon, Alfred Boyd, James C. Calhoun, Isaac Clark, E. Norton, Epps Allen, William Morrow, and George Allen. Original grounds situated nearly a mile beyond Guthrie Avenue, Paducah, on Maysville road; had mile track. Later, grounds moved to Twenty-ninth Street and Jefferson; fast half-mile track. Horticulture featured at fairs.

January 23, 1858-- A. & M. Association of Fulton County, at the city of Hickman. This was a tri-State organization, including residents of the states of Tennessee and Missouri as well as the County of Fulton.

January 26, 1858-- A. & M. and Domestic Society of Ohio County. Organized by "divers persons." Capital stock, $10,000; shares transferable; property limited to fifty acres.

January 29, 1858-- Agricultural Society of Campbell County. Originally formed in 1856 (see above). Reincorporation to clear various legal questions. Incorporators: Benjamin Smith, Alex. Caldwell, John T. Parker, Thos. L. Jones, Samuel McIntosh, Samuel Wright, Benj. F. Riley, Henry Blattner, Ed. Morian, Fred.

Brown, Daniel Pollock, Benj. Beall, Samuel Smith, and Foster Byrd et al. Power granted to officers of society to "eject all persons who may scale the enclosure of their grounds, and all disorderly, lewd, or obnoxious persons deemed detrimental to the fair...."

February 11, 1858-- A. & M. Society of Russellville and Logan County. Continuation of Logan County A. & M. Association, an organization on the membership plan, limited to five years. Reorganized on stock membership plan; shares $100. Investment of $10,000 in land and buildings. Commissioners: Wm. Barnett, John P. Tully, David King, E. O. Hawkins, M. Crum, James W. Ryon, B. J. Tully, T. M. Mont.

February 15, 1858-- North Kentucky Agricultural Association of Mason, Fleming, and Lewis counties et al., Fairgrounds near Maysville. Twenty-seven acres with $16,000 improvements. W. D. Hixson, secretary.

February 17, 1858-- A. & M. and Domestic Association of Muhlenberg County. Incorporators: Edward R. Weir, George W. Haden, Joseph C. Reynolds, Jacob Imbler, Hugh W. McNary, Thomas Summers, George D. Park, James Murphy, Joseph Short, S. M. Brewer, Sanders Eaves, J. E. Reno, A. M. Jackson, James T. Quisenberry, Robert Williams, James W. Rice, Mosely P. Wells, Edmund Drake et al.

February 16, 1860-- Agricultural Association of Madison County. Incorporators: Cassius M. Clay, James B. Walker, William Harris, Thomas H. Embry, Clifton R. Estill, Wm. L. Biggerstaff, Wm. L. Neall, Peter T. Gentry, Richard Hockaday, Durrett White, Wm. L. Miller, Milo Baxter, John Larrimore, D. Walker Chenault, Coleman Covington, Thos. W. Miller, John Newby, Wm. N. Irvine, Wm. T. Fox, Jas. M. Shackelford, Curran C. Smith et al. Spiritous liquors prohibited upon and within a half mile of fairgrounds.

February 20, 1860-- A. & M. Association of Breckinridge, Grayson, Hancock, and Perry (Indiana) counties. Organized by "divers persons." Life memberships provided for. Debt limit of association, $1,000. Purpose: "to improve the condition of agriculture, including not only the great staples of industry and trade, but also fruits, vegetables, and ornamental gardening, the promotion of the mechanic arts in all their branches, the improvement of the races of domestic and useful animals, the general advancement of rural economy and household manufactures, and the dissemination of knowledge upon these subjects." Fairs held near Cloverport.

February 22, 1860-- A. & M. Association of Shelby County. Staged a fair, August 30-September 1, 1859, prior to incorporation. Attendance, 10,000 on second day; special interest in trotting. Elias Dorsey, Logan Railey, and Craig Middleton competed. Miss Molly Harriett, of Spencer County, in spite of sermons directed at the event, rode in the ladies' equestrian ring and won the premium and jewelry valued at $50. Stephen Myles, C. & W. Jesse, J. D. Harlinson, W.O. McMakin, James Nuckets, G. G. Duval, S. W. Swedd, Daniel Polk, and James P. Boyd were among winning exhibitors.

February 22, 1860-- A. & M. Association of Hickman and Ballard County. Incorporators: George Moss, William Samuels. John Gross, Dr. J. S. Ringo, M. H. Wright, Robert Moore, Turner M. Horne, J. Spilman, C. C. Bowman, Edward Crosland, E. I. Bullock, James Quigley, M. Cummings, and B. W. Sharp. Above group constituted the first board of directors.

February 22, 1860-- Northeastern Kentucky A. & M. Association of Carter, Greenup, and Lawrence counties. Organized by "divers persons" in the counties of Greenup, Carter, and Lawrence. Purpose: "Improvement in all the various departments of agriculture, mechanics, and horticulture."

February 22, 1860-- A. & M. Association of Green County. Organized by "divers persons." Held fairs near Greensburg. Capital limits, $3,000 to $10,000.

February 23, 1860-- A. & M. Association of Hardin County. Incorporators: Richard R. English, Jacob B. Haydon, Thomas D. and A. D. Geoghegan, H. L. Fife, George K. Ghiseland, Elijah Hansborough, William Johnson, William Sprigg, Edward Patterson, George W. Smith, E. S. Monin, A. M. Brown, Alfred Kenady, V. P. Armstrong, and Robert Kenady.

February 25, 1860-- Butler County A. & M. Association. Incorporators: Samuel Hill, J. T. Carson, J. B. Helm, J. W. and E. C. Phelps, D. M. Beard, H. N. Morehead, J. W. Taylor, J. B. Lee, M. W. and H. K. Kuzkendall, J. M. Cook, J. D. Carson, Elisha White, L. M. Morehead, E. P. Lee, B. F. Phelps, W. P. Beard, and W. J. Watkins.

February 25, 1860-- Central West Kentucky A. & M. Association of Graves County. Incorporators: R. L. Mayes, A. R. Boon, L. F. Anderson, Adam Cox, T. J. Puryear, A. A. Boswell, Thomas Carman, Jr., Charles McDonald, and J. N. Beadles. Chartered for forty years. Acreage permitted, ten to fifty. Spiritous liquors prohibited.

February 25, 1860-- Owen County Union A. & M. Association. Officers and directors: G. W. Sampson, H. H. Turpin, S. B. Brown, James P. Orr, Jr., H. C. Castleman, Robert Ellis, Smith Lindsay, James Kinsler, J. E. Darnaby, James Gayle, Archie McNeal, W. H. Garnett, R. H. Gale, Whitson Early, John P. Sanford, and W. G. Beck.

February 28, 1860-- Covington A. & M. Association. Incorporators: Jacob Scales, B. H. Elliston, A. Talbot, Smith Wilson, J. P. Winston, R. H. Gale, James Taylor, William Buckner, T. L. Jones, and William Piner. Stock, $50,000; land not to exceed 100 acres and situated within three miles of Covington.

Trends of the Time

By the close of the decade fifty-two associations had been formed. Of these, after deducting several reorganizations and not counting the State-wide Horticultural and State Agricultural Societies, more than forty remained alive at the outbreak of the War between the States. Concerning these, two definite trends are to be recognized: (a) the grouping together of small or weak agricultural counties into strong federations such as the Central Kentucky A. & M. Association and the A. & M. Association of Warren and other counties, and the like, or (b) the development of strong and sturdily independent county organizations such as were found in Madison, Shelby, and similarly situated counties, which massed their resources and took no quarter and gave none in the great battles fought out in their own rings or those of their competitors. Both plans offered stability and security, alike to exhibitor and to stockholder. In sum, from the Big Sandy to the Purchase, and from the Tennessee line to the Ohio, the entire State was alive with a new and progressive agricultural movement that carried its educational story, in visible form, to within reach of every farmer.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE OF LOUISVILLE

During the 1850's the rapidly developing manufacturing interests of Louisville took organized form as the Mechanics' Institute, begun in 1853 with the election of Thomas C. Coleman as president; W. D. Gallagher, vice-president; F. W. Hodges, corresponding secretary; A. P. Cochran, recording secretary; and George Ainslie as treasurer. Shortly after the initial meeting, W. D. Gallagher became president. His connection with the Kentucky Horticultural Society and also with the third State Agricultural Society is noted. He was at that time an associate editor of the Louisville Courier, and his various connections proved a material aid in the development of cordial relations between the State's agricultural and industrial interests. The first exhibition of the institute, held during October, 1853, continued for nineteen days and attracted 25,000 visitors. These exhibitions became annual events, and premiums were awarded for, among other things, the best types of chewing and smoking tobacco. This was the initial movement toward that practical alliance now shown by the presence of the varied industrial exhibits seen in the Merchants and Manufacturers Building at the State Fair

GENERAL INTEREST IN TROTTING

Closely associated with the agricultural societies in interest was the formation, in 1860, of three horse-breeding associations-- the Kentucky Trotting Association at Lexington, the Louisville Association for the Improvement of the Breed of Horses, and the Glenville, Washington County, Stock Association. These incorporations mark the fact that, as the decade closed, trotting had entered fully upon the long career that lay before it. Even before the War between the States, and still more notably afterwards, the tracks of the local A. & M. fairgrounds were training courses for the more promising colts of the county, and on these tracks was developed a skill in handling that added much to the interest displayed throughout the State in both trotting and running, still manifested by the crowds that throng the stands during the speed events at Kentucky State Fair.

The local fairs varied in merit according to the various abilities of their managers and with the extent of local diversification of the agricultural industry. In human interest, they, like Kentucky itself during the 1850's, presented every phase of material development, from the earliest in pioneer conditions to the latest in culture and in agriculture. Kentucky was then, as it now is, a State of sharp contrasts.

A TYPICAL BLUEGRASS FAIR

James Lane Allen, a keen-eyed son of Kentucky, wrote a vivid description of a fair that might have been any one of the forty and more in existence during the late 1850's:

> "... For days the people have been pouring into the town, hotels overflowing with strangers, open houses of the citizens are overflowing with guests. The easy going tradespeople have trimmed their shops, and imported from the north their richest merchandise.
>
> "From an early hour of the morning, along every road, pour the hurrying throng of people to get good seats, and thousands will not be seated at all.

"Streaming in ... are pedestrians, their coats thrown over the shoulder or arm, buggies containing often a pair of lovers; family carriages with the children, hacks, omnibuses, Negro drivers shouting and cracking the whip. Sometimes may be seen whole wagon loads of provisions moving slowly in, guarded by portly negresses.

"Neat stalls for stock, gay booths for refreshments, spacious cottages for women and children, floral halls, the pagoda-like structure for the musicians and the judges; private dining rooms, high swings and turnabouts; the gaudy awnings for the lemonade venders; huge brown hogsheads for iced water, with bright tin cups dangling from the rims; the circus, all those tented spectacles of the marvelous, the mysterious.

"From the date of ... the appearance of women on the grounds, the tide of favor set in towards the fair.

"For, as (a) consequence, seats must be provided. Here one happens upon a curious bit of history - the evolution of the amphitheatre among the Kentuckians.

"The first form of the amphitheatre was a rope stretched from tree to tree, spectators stood around, sat on the grass or in their vehicles.

"The immediate result was the necessity for providing comfortable seats for the growing crowd, to select as a place for holding the fair such a site as the ancient Greeks might have selected for a theatre.

"Sometimes this might be at the head of a deep ravine, around the sides of which seats were constructed, while the bottom served as an arena for the exhibition of stock, led in and out through the mouth of the hollow.

"But the sun played havoc with the complexions of the ladies; a drenching shower was an uncomfortable dispensation of Providence. Therefore, a roofed wooden structure made its appearance, and finally came the closed circular amphitheatre, modelled on the plan of the coliseum.

"The most desirable spot for building the old circular amphitheatre was some beautiful tract of level ground, from five to twenty acres, near a flourishing town and turnpikes. Enclosed by a high, wooden paling, entrance gates for stock, pedestrians and vehicles, guarded by gate keepers.

"And with the enclosure appeared in quick succession all the accessories that went to make up a typical Kentucky fair near the close of the old social regime; that is before the Civil War.

. . . . . .

"Here ... are strangers from every northern State. And do not overlook the Negroes - a solid acre of them. They play a great part in the essential history of this scene and festival. Everywhere happy, well-dressed, sleek, running on errands, showering a tumult of blows upon the newly arrived "boss" with their nimble, ubiquitous brush

brooms. The fateful background of all this stage of social history. But the amphitheatre. Ah! The women in all their silken bravery, black and white lace mantles, white kid gloves, boots to match the color of their petticoats. One stands up to allow a lemonade seller to pass; she wears a hoop-skirt twelve feet in circumference. Here and there costumes suitable for a ball. Jewels, flowers, fans and parasols, and some of the complexions! Paint on the cheeks, powder on the neck, stick-pomatum plastering the beautiful hair down over the temples. The great Kentucky show of life-size wax works.

. . . . . .

"Late in the afternoon the little boys will ride for premiums on their ponies, and far more exciting, young men will contest the prize of horsemanship. Such racking, pacing, loping and walking - racing round and round to see who can go fastest, and be the most graceful and turn quickest. Such pirouetting, curveting, prancing, cavorting, and riding with arms folded across the breast while the reins lie on the horse's neck and suddenly bowing over to the horse's mane, as some queen of beauty high up in the amphitheatre throws her flowers and handkerchief into the arena.

"In another part of the amphitheatre nothing but men, red-faced, excited, shouting as the rival horses rush around the ring.

"The money streams through their fingers. Did you hear the crack of that pistol? The crowd swarms angrily. Stand back! A man has been shot. He called him a liar. He insulted a gentleman. Be careful; there are a great many pistols on the fair grounds.

"In all the United States where else is there such holiday assemblage? These are the descendants of the sad pioneers - of those early cavalcades in the primeval forests. These have subdued the land and are reclining on its tranquil autumn fulness. They have established their great fair on the very spot where their forefathers were massacred.

. . . . . .

"Mixed in with the Kentuckians are people with a different build and complexion.

"Nay, is not the state the place for the reunion of families that have southern members? Back to the old home from the rice, sugar and cotton plantations of the swamps come young Kentucky wives with southern husbands, young Kentucky husbands with southern wives.

. . . . . .

"At high noon, thousands break away and move toward a green woodland in another part of the grounds. Here are private dinner tables, covered with snowy linen, glittering with glass and silver. Not a stranger (who) has not been hunted up and provided for. Here is true Kentucky hospitality...."

Notes on the Fairs of the 1850's

The fairs of Boone and Kenton counties were famous for their fruit exhibits. Pippins weighing a pound and a quarter were not uncommon. Prizes were offered for many things including manufactures of cotton, wool and silk; for cabinet and carpenter work; products made of hemp, leather, and flax; hats; agricultural implements and useful contrivances and machines; products of the field and dairy. The rule was applied that all manufactured articles must have been made within the preceding two years.

At the Southwestern A. & M. fair held in Louisville, 1858, a gleeful reporter caught the following:

> "During exhibition of harness stallions, Mr. Dorsey's horse made an abrupt turn, upsetting sulky and negro driver, and freeing the horse from the shaft. The door of the secretary's office opened. Frightened horse went through. Astonished, the dignitaries lost all dignity. The president of the society made a lofty spring and in a second was flying toward the arena. Colonel Hodges, veteran proprietor of the Frankfort Commonwealth, was seen in a tumble act, minus hat and wig."

A specimen of embroidery, said to contain 97,500 stitches, was shown at the Louisville Fair of 1859. Flowers were a feature. "Colored photographs, oil miniatures, ivory-types, imperial photographs, plain photographs and daguerreotypes" were exhibited. Oil paintings were shown by T. S. Kennedy. In the machinery exhibit were seen a "corn sheller, a corn planter and a two-horse thresher and cleaner." Steinway and Chickering pianos received premiums. Among the distinguished guests were Governor Magoffin, United States Postmaster-General Holt, and Vice-President John Cabell Breckinridge, of Fayette County.

The Louisville fairs closed each year with a grand cavalcade and a ball at the Galt House, noted for its Southern cooking, and one of the few spots in America praised by Charles Dickens in his account of his American tour.

Kentucky Abroad

At the New York Crystal Palace Exhibition of 1854, the highest premiums were awarded the following articles from Kentucky: Silver medal to Newport Silk Manufacturing Company, for perfection of silk from cocoons of Kentucky growth; bronze medal to Miss Ellen Anderson, of Louisville, for patchwork quilt; to John J. Hunter, of Lexington, for Kentucky-dressed hemp; Robert Usher, of Louisville, for beef, hams, and spiced meat; to Hayes, Craig & Company, of Louisville, for hats and caps. Kentucky also won the highest award in tobacco.

A member of the Horticultural Society, name not given, sent a sample of Kentucky's peaches to the World's Fair held in London, England, in 1854, and was awarded the first premium.

These gleanings from the scattered surviving records of the 1850's are sufficient to show the character of the fairs of that time and of the people who made them. One more picture remains before the story of the State Agricultural Society is told. In 1857 Kentucky played host to the United States Agricultural Society, which held its fair of that year on the Louisville grounds of the Southwestern A. & M. Association. This Federal Society originated in the following manner:

THE SMITHSON BEQUEST

The United States Agricultural Society of the early 1800's, mentioned by Thomas Jefferson, had vanished a half-century before the events here recorded, but remained as an idea in the minds of men, awaiting only a favorable opportunity to re-awaken into life and action.

That opportunity had apparently come in the 1830's. James Smithson, of England, dying at Genoa, Italy, in 1829, had left his considerable fortune "to the United States of America, to found at Washington under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." Smithson, illegitimate son of Hugh Smithson, first Duke of Northumberland, and Elizabeth, heiress of the Hungerfords, of Studley, niece of the Duke of Somerset, had been educated at Oxford and was among the leading men of his time in the fields of chemistry and mineralogy. He spent much of his time on the Continent, where he seems to have absorbed the republican ideas of the day and, with them, an aversion to the aristocracy from which he had come. From a half-brother on his father's side, and from a half-sister of his mother's, he had inherited properties that, added to his own earnings in the field of science, approximated in value a half-million dollars. In 1835 the United States was advised that this estate was held in chancery, awaiting a claimant. Former President John Quincy Adams and Richard Rush went to Great Britain and entered suit in the name of the President of the United States (Andrew Jackson) as claimant of the properties. Two years later 104,960 pounds sterling were delivered by Great Britain at the mint in Philadelphia.

UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY FORMED

This settlement occurred at the height of the agricultural societies' development of that decade. Solon Robinson, agricultural writer and friend of Chilton Allen, president of the second State Agricultural Society, conceived the idea of creating a National Agricultural Society along lines that should qualify it to become the trustee of the fund. Meetings were held, and in 1841 a tentative organization was set up. Kentucky was active in this movement, and Chilton Allen, of Kentucky, was, by virtue of his office, one of the thirty vice-presidents of the Agricultural Society of the United States.

The effort to obtain possession of the fund was fruitless. Financial conditions of the time and strenuous opposition on the part of politicians, chief among whom was John C. Calhoun, of South Carolina, Clay's bitter political enemy, caused the idea to be abandoned, and in 1846 an act of Congress set up the framework of the Smithsonian Institution and outlined in general the far-reaching scientific research that it has since conducted. The National Agricultural Society organized in 1841 passed out of the picture.

In 1852 the idea of a national society was revived, this time with success. Affiliated with this society were twenty-three States, including Kentucky. This National Society, incorporated in 1860, held meetings and fairs until the middle 1860's. Its purpose, stated in the preamble to its constitution, was "to improve the agriculture of the country by attracting the attention, eliciting the views, and confirming the efforts of that great class composing the agricultural community, and to secure the advantages of a better organization and more extended usefulness among all state, county, and other agricultural societies." This was along the federated lines advocated by Washington and opposed by Jefferson. It was intended to be a central clearing house of agricultural information. Its fairs were held in various States and in each instance on the grounds of some well-equipped local society.

UNITED STATES FAIR OF 1857

In September of 1857 the National Society chose Kentucky for that year, and Louisville as the site of its fair. No better picture of that event can be given than that of its president, Marshall J. Wilder, who gave an eyewitness account to a friend, the editor of Harper's Weekly, then a vigorous young magazine of national circulation. This friendly, discriminating, sometimes amusing letter was featured in the issue of September 26:

"Mr. Editor:

"I promised you some account of the Exhibition, or Fair, which has been going on here the past week. Had I known before hand that on my arrival here I should find the hotels overflowing, private boarding-houses crammed, steamboat cabins pre-hired, restaurant floors pre-empted, spare lofts made uncomfortably full, and the goodly city of Louisville in a condition of which the word crowded will give you but a kind of homeopathic, infinitesimally-sub-divided idea - had I known all this, I say, I should not have promised.

"But I am a man of my word, and so, allons. I arrived here on the evening of the 1st inst. Proceeded immediately to the Galt House, where I did not secure rooms; drifted about town loose for two hours; and finally brought up for the night, by the kind interposition of a friend, in the empty fifth story of a tobacco warehouse, where I thankfully shared the floor with eleven other male bipeds, taking my carpet-sack for pillow, and, in sailor style, picking out the softest plank of the two-and-a-half devoted to my use to rest my bones upon. So much for myself and the city; now for the Fair.

"This is held upon the grounds owned by the Southwestern Agricultural and Horticultural Society. These grounds lie about four miles east of the city, immediately fronting upon the track of the Louisville and Lexington Railroad. Trains run at intervals of twenty minutes from early morning till six o'clock p.m. between the grounds and the city and each train of sixteen roughly-fitted cattle-crates is crowded to its utmost capacity, within, on top, at the sides and ends, and everywhere else where eager mortality can by any means cling. The charge is fifteen cents each way, and I fancy the Railroad Company must be making a good thing of it.

"To facilitate the landing of so many car-loads of hurrying bipeds a platform four hundred feet long has been constructed, which is sufficient to accomodate at once the entire cargo.

"The extensive grounds I found not only tastefully but comfortably fitted up. Passing through the entrance (which is flanked on either side by waiting-rooms for ladies and gentlemen), the visitor sees on the left a vast shed, fitted conveniently as an amphitheater, where ten thousand people can sit (and stand) in plain view of the arena upon which are displayed the animals competing for prizes. The track is in the form of an ellipse, about a mile in extent. Beyond the amphitheater building, at the extreme left, is a noble group of ancient forest trees, beneath whose shade are pitched the tents of President Wilder, the Marshalls, and the Press (who figure largely here). At the rear of the grounds are extensive accomodations for horses,

cattle, sheep, and hogs. To the right of the entrance the eye rests upon the beautiful octagonal building devoted to the exhibition of fruits and flowers (a more charming prospect than its inside my eyes never saw); then a long hall for the exhibition of the heavier machinery; and, lastly, a monster tent, beneath whose voluminous folds are gathered together specimens - so it seemed to me - of every minor agricultural or household implement that ever was or will be known, used, or wanted. This much concerning the general arrangement of the grounds.

"Standing at the entrance, your eye takes in the whole scene at once, and the spectator is forced to admit that a finer 60-acre lot for the purpose could not have been found. The general arrangement is admirable. Hogsheads full of pure cold water to drink are found at various convenient places about the grounds. By the aid of a hydraulic ram a cast-iron fountain throws up cooling jets of spray not far from the machine building. The ardent (including everything known here as liquor) is strictly excluded from the premises, and visitors enjoy themselves in the most orderly and quiet way. Yet there is no lack of the low vagabonds who are unfailingly present at every public gathering. These congregate outside, where the marshals cannot control them, and, under the shade of some veterans of the forest, amuse themselves and fleece the verdant ones at chuck-a-luck, twenty-deck, sweat-board, and other games beloved by minor rascality. Day before yesterday the marshals caught two of these chuck-a-luck gentry systematically robbing a company of fair Kentuckians, and for this piece of ungallantry transferred them incontinently to the Louisville jail.

"The weather has been unexceptional. What with charming weather, fine music, beautiful ladies, and generous hosts among the resident and visiting Kentuckians, Fair-time was made a regular holiday, and dinner-time (that most serious of hours at a great public gathering, when the timid or quiet man looks dispairingly and hungrily at the general rush) was an hour whose memories are graced in my mind, at least, by the fairest of faces, the most umbrageous of trees, the most savory of corn-cake and its adjuncts, and the kindest of welcome. In short - as Micawber would say - each day of the Fair I was a fortunate sharer in the dinner and the post-prandial jollity of some hospitable part of fair and chivalrous Kentuckians, whose picnic tents, scattered among the trees, made a very pretty scene.

"The first day's proceedings comprised the introductory ceremonies, a short and pertinent speech from President Wilder (who has charmed every-one here), and a trial of trotting horses in the ring. The number of visitors was computed at over 20,000. This, at fifty cents each, the fee charged for entrance, made a very pretty sum toward covering the expenses.

"The record day was devoted to special shows of cattle, upon which premiums were awarded, in the presence of the thousands of spectators. It was a thrilling sight. In the afternoon there was a turn-out of draft-stallions, mares, and saddle geldings. The horses seemed throughout the Fair to attract much more attention than the cattle, owing, I suppose, to the fact that the greater number of the visitors were denizens of the city, who were more capable of appreciating the excellent points of a fine horse than those of a Durham bull or an

Alderney cow, being more used to discuss the merits of the beeves when these are served up to them as roast and steak.

"Also, the Floral Hall was opened to the public on this day, and excited the well-merited enthusiasm of the numerous fair ones present. Meantime the Machine Hall and Implement Tent were the scenes of busy competition and noisy clatter; and attracted crowds of curious citizens and knowledge-seeking farmers.

"The Machine Hall is a building 40 by 100 feet, strongly framed, so as to withstand the jar of the engine and shafting, and filled with machinery of all kinds. It is furnished with a 60-horse-power engine, and sufficient shafting to run the multifarious implements and machinery. This is the place for your practical man. Here is an assemblage of whirring, hissing, buzzing, humming, rolling, revolving, and stationary facts, asserting themselves with all the potency of deafening clangor, and never stopping to consider on the protests of old fogeydom. Here are corn and cob mills for stock feeders; sorgho crushers and boilers, for sugar raisers; corn-planters which promise to plant corn in furrows from 6 feet to 24 inches apart, and sowing machines which scatter grain over half an acre at a time, or lay the wheat grains down at regular intervals of six inches. There was a rotating harrow, warranted to pulverize the stiffest clay, next to a washing machine which promises to do away, in some new way, with all the labor and loss of temper (and bad dinners) of washing-day. And yonder a husking machine, which disrobes the corn, cuts up the husk, and (I believe) stuffs a mattress with it, all in one motion.

"There was a hoop machine which turned out six (whisky barrel) hoops per minute, and promises to make the prevailing hoop epidemic among the ladies a much less expensive thing to their leige lords. A hand-loom, which performs all the operations necessary in weaving cloth, by the simple movement of a treadle - and will possibly make the loom again a favorite household instrument for our farmers. A machine for boring pump logs - rather behind times for these days of iron piping, a "shoeing harness," with which to "come the gum game over wicked mules," as a corn-cracker friend explained to me. And an infinite variety of other farm household utensils, all of more or less interest to your country cousins.

"The corn-planters, cultivators, plows, and harrows were tried today. In each case the dynamometer was attached, an instrument - it may be well to add for the benefit of your city readers - whereby the judges are enabled to ascertain the amount of power needed for the performance of a certain amount of labor. It is a very useful little machine, and ought to have an easier name.

"The long tent used to store implements not requiring steam-power for their proper exhibition is 250 feet long by almost 55 feet wide. Here various farm and household implements are arranged in long rows, with intermediate passages for visitors. The arrangement of all is excellent.

"The show of stock was, on the whole, a failure. The animals exhibited were first class, but the number exhibited were unusually small. A Mr. R. A. Alexander, who is reputed to have altogether the

finest stock in the United States, seems to have bluffed off most of those who might have been reasonably expected to show up their cattle. The fact is, it don't pay to have a proze bull or cow beaten, and probably those who had fine cattle not fine enough, thought discretion the better part of valor.

"The show of horses, however, was fine; and also it created more of a sensation than any other part of the Exhibition. On the 3rd (yesterday) there was a grand show of mules, jacks and jennets, saddle geldings, teams, working oxen, and Thoroughbred stallions, as well as of all the cattle that had taken premiums. Among the horses were five Bedouin Arabs, splendid fellows, imported during the present year by Mr. Keene Richards, a wealthy Kentuckian of Scott County. One of these horses, it was stated, once ran 257 miles in 24 hours. It seems like a tough yarn.

"I must close my already long letter. There is a State (Fair) at Lexington next week, and some Kentucky friends, to whom I complained the lack of fine cattle here, have agreed to "tote" me up there "to feast my eyes on the finest stock I ever saw." Tomorrow there is a "grand cavalcade" - that is to say, a grand breaking up; and then a grand blow-out at the Galt House; and the Good-bye."

* * * *

And now we turn the clock backward a full year and more, as the third Kentucky Agricultural Society appears on the scene.

CHAPTER 6

THIRD KENTUCKY STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

FORMATION, PURPOSE AND MEMBERSHIP

Midway of the period just recorded (Chapter V) arose the third Kentucky Agricultural Society. The reason for and manner of this development is stated in its records of that society:

"The benefits of the deceased State Agricultural Society were too numerous and impressive to be forgotten by the Farmers and Mechanics of Kentucky. The facts and arguments in its behalf, which had been thrown before the public mind, were all the time working like leaven in its favor. Similar institutions were in prosperous progress in all the States around us, and a laudable State pride could not brook our backwardness and inferiority in this respect. The experience of several years clearly demonstrated that many of the proper objects of a State organization could not be successfully accomplished by local Societies, though they were numerous, and several were large and powerful. The want of a more extended and comprehensive organization, supported and countenanced by the State, was felt by the friends of Agricultural improvement as a pressing necessity, notwithstanding almost all measures which such institution had formerly recommended were now being carried out.

"The Agricultural statistics of the State were collected and published, and a Geological Survey was in prosperous progress. Governor L. W. Powell had made, in his message to the Legislature, in 1853, the first direct recommendation to appropriate money from the Treasury of the State and of her Agricultural and Mechanical interests, and a similar recommendation had been warmly received by Governor C. S. Morehead, in his message in 1855, and the public sentiment was impressed that the governmental arm and purse should be extended in promotion of these greatest interests of the Commonwealth; but the Legislature of Kentucky had not yet responded, by efficient action, to that improved and enlightened sentiment.

"Thus impressed with the importance of organizing a large and useful institution, whose salutary influence should embrace the whole State, a few gentlemen met by concert, at the office of Mr. Benjamin Gratz, in Lexington, about the first of January, 1856. The venerable Dr. Elisha Warfield presided over the meeting, which was composed of Mr. Benj. Gratz, of Fayette, Mr. R. A. Alexander, of Woodford, Mr. J. G. Kinnaird, of Fayette, Mr. Robert W. Scott, of Franklin, and Mr. William Warfield, of Fayette."

Benjamin Gratz, then rated one of Kentucky's leading lawyers, was also president of the Kentucky Agricultural and Mechanical Association of Fayette County, possibly at that time the strongest local organization of its kind within the State; Dr. Elisha Warfield was a noted stockman, breeder of the great Thoroughbred, Lexington; the prestige of Robert Aitcheson Alexander was great and still growing; Robert W. Scott was at that time the leading livestock breeder of Franklin County; J. C. Kinnaird and William Warfield were prominent among the great livestock men of Fayette.

By common consent, Dr. Warfield acted as chairman, stating that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the revival of the State Agricultural Society of 1838 or the formation of a new one to carry on the objectives of that organization. There were legal and possibly financial entanglements to be considered and avoided. It was decided to organize a new society embodying the spirit and purposes of the old.

Before the conference adjourned, a committee was named of men more generally representative of the different sections of the State than those present. The committee so appointed prepared a circular letter to the farmers and breeders of Kentucky, asking them to meet and organize a new State agricultural society. This history-making letter follows:

Lexington, Kentucky, January 5, 1856

"Dear Sir:

"The suffering condition of our great and common cause must be our apology for addressing you on this present occasion. We are brother agriculturists, and rely upon our profession for personal respectability and for pecuniary profit. We have a common country, whose propserity or decline is but the measure of our own. Our contemporaries of this enlightened age are making giant strides in every department of agricultural improvement, and we too must bring to our assistance every aid of industry, intelligence, & enterprize, or sink ignobly in the rear.

"The agriculture of other States has experienced, for many years, the most genial impulses and most effective aid from the action of enlarged and powerful State organizations, the funds of which are supplied, chiefly or in part, from the public treasuries of these states. But in Ky., the oldest Western State, the Farmer and Mechanic have been left to their own individual exertions, aided in cases, by small & local organizations only. To relieve ourselves from this disadvantage, and to place us on equal ground in the field of improvement, is at present our aim.

"For this object, replete with personal advantages and with comprehensive patriotism, we invoke your aid. We ask your co-operation by your pen and your tongue, and by your high character and extensive popularity. Especially we invite and desire you to meet with us, in Frankfort, on 3rd Wed. of this month - being the 16th - when, by our united counsels, we will present to the Legislature the form of a charter for a State Society, which shall dispense the bounty of the State with blessings to all, and without partiality to any.

"We trust that nothing but the most imperious necessity will prevent your assembling with a very large number of our agricultural brethren of Ky., on the occasion proposed.

Committee: R. W. SCOTT, of Franklin WM. R. DUNCAN, Clark
J. G. KINNAIRD, Fayette R. A. ALEXANDER, Woodford
GARRETT DAVIS, Bourbon"

In answer to this call, a large number of the most prominent agriculturists of the State met on the morning of January 16. Lazarus W. Powell, former governor of the Commonwealth, a farmer as well as an able attorney, called the meeting to order. Governor Joseph A. Wright, of Indiana, president of the State Board of Agriculture of that state, was present and active in counsel with the leaders of the day's proceedings. Colonel James F. Buckner, of Christian County, was made permanent chairman: Robert Scott and Philip Swigert, both of Franklin County, were named secretaries of the meeting. A draft of the proposed bill for a charter was read, amended in some minor details, and adopted.

At the afternoon session of that busy day, in the House of Representatives' chamber of the present-day Old Capitol, the action of the morning was reconsidered, and immediate organization was voted. Action by the State was demanded. A resolution asking legislation to reduce the number of dogs in the State was debated and adopted "as pre-eminently wise and salutary," and the meeting adjourned until 7:00 p.m.

The evening session took up the matter of establishing an agricultural paper. The idea was approved, and a committee of six, two from each of the three proposed agricultural districts of the State-- R. W. Scott, O. P. Hagan, G. Mallory, W. Thomson, J. A. Anderson, and Isaac Lewis-- was appointed to make all arrangements, necessary to the carrying out of the plan. The meeting adjourned to reconvene on the twenty-first of February.

The Western Farm Journal Is Born

The committee appointed to set up a paper as the mouthpiece of the society started work immediately. A drive for subscriptions was organized. William D. Gallagher, experienced newspaperman of Louisville, whose wide activities in behalf of horticulture and manufacturing, as well as in agriculture in its broadest sense, have already been mentioned, was made editor of The Western Farm Journal, and for five years, until the events of 1861 disorganized both agriculture and industry, it ably and fairly represented both interests within the State.

The Legislature Acts

On the sixteenth of January, the adjourned meeting of the third of the State agricultural societies of Kentucky reviewed the work of the committee of seven-- R. Mallory, R. W. Scott, J. B. Heston, J. Preston, Jr., W. D. Gallagher, R. A. Alexander, and William R. Duncan-- appointed to draft a bill for an act to incorporate the society. The work of the committee was approved, and a legislative committee made up of S. D. Martin, R. W. Scott, A. G. Hodges, R. J. Spurr, J. Preston, Jr., John Cunningham, Benjamin Gratz, and E. F. Nuttall immediately swung into action.

The charter asked for, containing the much desired appropriation of $5,000 a year, was passed by the legislature on March 5, 1856, and was approved with the hearty endorsement of Governor Charles S. Morehead on the tenth of that month.

Principal Features of the Charter

The act gave the society wide latitude, both as to purposes and plans, merely specifying (Section 3) that:

> "... the State is hereby divided into the three following agricultural districts: The first to include all the counties lying north of the Kentucky River and its north fork, and in addition thereto the counties of Estill, Owsley, Breathitt, and Perry; the second to include the counties lying between the Kentucky River and the Green River, up to the mouth of Big Barren, and between the latter and Kentucky River; the third to include the counties of Henderson, McLean, Butler, Warren, and all the counties lying to the south and southwest of Green and Big Barren Rivers. And said society shall hold its annual meetings for the exhibition of stock, agricultural implements, etc., and for the awarding of premiums, in each of the said districts in rotation."

And also, in Section 13, that it:

> "... shall be the duty of the president and directors to make a report of the proceedings and condition of the society at each annual meeting of its members held as above stated, and also a report to the legislature, at its biennial session, setting forth in full the manner in which its means have been employed and the state of its finances."

Membership was State-wide and on an individual basis, though, in a manner not clearly explained, local associations later held membership privileges. The annual membership fee was $3; a life membership, $20. It was provided that the family of each member should have:

> "... free admission to the fairgrounds of the society; and each member shall also have the right to exhibit any stock, produce, implement, or other articles for which premiums may be offered, and shall be entitled to a copy of the published proceedings, lists of premiums, prize essays, etc., which shall be printed by the society, free of charge."

Another section of the act made the governor, lieutenant-governor, secretary of state, also the presidents of local agricultural societies, ex officio members, and the president and directors of the new society had the power to expel, for cause, any member who in their opinion should forfeit that privilege.

The society was able to accomplish its aims through the $5,000 annual appropriation made by the State. The original appropriation was to run two years. This was renewed in 1858 and again in 1860. The appropriation (see below) was not asked for in 1862. In 1864 the legislature refused to restore the grant.

Elsewhere in the act mention is made of "awarding premiums for produce, agricultural implements, prize essays, etc." All these somewhat indefinite powers were placed in the hands of a president and three vice-presidents (one from each of the three districts above mentioned), and nine directors, three from each of the three districts.

Robert W. Scott, of Franklin; Robert Mallory, of Oldham; Robert Aitcheson Alexander, of Woodford; L. J. Bradford, of Bracken; Dr. S. D. Martin, of Clark; A. J. Anderson, of Henderson; G. E. H. Gray, of Jefferson; J. L. O'Neill, of

Shelby; Wm. Bell, of Daviess; Dr. Joshua H. Thomas, of Breckinridge; and the presidents of local societies were named in the act as commissioners to receive subscriptions and enroll members. A minimum membership of 200 was fixed in the act; when May 21, the day set for final organization and the election of officers arrived, more than 500 were already enrolled as entitled to vote. The presence in Frankfort of the legislature helps to explain, but does not fully account for, this speedy and strong endorsement of the idea of a State society. Drawn from every agricultural county, this large initial membership tells of efficient leadership and also of a deep urge throughout the State for the renewal of that effort which had made the State Agricultural Society of the 1830's remembered. This roll, obtained while awaiting the "go-ahead" of the legislature, is the most complete listing now extant of the great and near great in Kentucky agriculture of the mid-nineteenth century. It embraces stockmen and planters who, at the same time, ranked high in the business, political, and social life of the Blue-grass State. Because of that fact, and that they may be remembered, a complete list of the members, with addresses, is given below:

Charter Members of Kentucky State Agricultural Society

A. J. Alexander, Spring Station; R. A. Alexander, Spring Station; James Arnold, Carlisle; Albert Allen, Lexington; T. J. Adams, Georgetown; Laf. Ardory, Huston, Clark County; Jeff. Allen, Paris; H. S. Avery, Spring Station; J. T. Bradford, Augusta; Ben C. Bedford, Paris; J. A. Burton, G. W. Prand, J. F. Buckner, Hopkinsville; H. M. Bedford, Forks of Elkhorn; T. P. A. Bibb, Frankfort; E. P. Bramlette, Flat Rock; George A. Bean, Mount Sterling; T. E. C. Brendley, Simpsonville; Ben. A. Batterton, Jacksonville; James Batterton, Millersburg; Joseph L. Berry, North Middletown; G. M. Bedford, Paris; J. T. Bate, H. T. & J.C. Brent, Paris; Edwin G. Bedford, Paris; R. A. Bacon, Paducah; L. J. Bradford, Augusta; A. Baker, Robert Browder, Volney; G. B. Bate, A. C. Buford, Versailles.

Nobel Butler, Louisville; C. D. Bright, Versailles; J. W. Bradley, Jr., Georgetown; E. M. Blackburn, Spring Station; H. H. Bowman, J. R. Butler, Frankfort; W. T. Barret, Henderson; Joseph Brown, Stephen C. Browne, Springfield; Homer Benton, North Middletown; Charles S. Brent, Paris; J.W. Burton, Perryville; Dr. J. C. Bascom, Richard J. Browne, Springfield; Elias B. Brown, Robert C. Boggs, Athens; R. J. Breckinridge, Danville; John Barnhill, LaGrange; W. A. Bacon, Paris; Eli Bean, Winchester; H. Blanton, Frankfort; A. Blackwell, Winchester; P. B. Barbour, Louisville; John S. Brannen, Louisville; Thos. Y. Brent, Louisville; William Bell, Owensboro; A. V. Bedford, Paris; B. F. Bedford, Jr., Paris; P. S. Barbour, Louisville; John Bruce, New Castle.

John P. Bush, Winchester; M. L. Brodwell, Cynthiana; Jas. C. Bradburn, Flat Rock; Scott Brown, Frankfort; R. B. Bowman, Nicholasville; M'Cormack & Bedenger, Maysville; S. D. Bruce, Lexington; Mrs. E. Barlow, Cynthiana; Philip Bush, Covington; O. H. Burbridge, Paris; S. D. Blood, Lexington; R. S. Bullock, Lexington; J. T. Burfort, Danville; Thos. L. Coons, Lexington; Thos. W. Curreat, Paris; Isaac S. Crouch, Flat Rock; John R. Campbell, Carlisle; H.F. Cromwell, Cynthiana; S. W. & L. A. Collens, John Cure, Paris; Collins, Millersburg; John Current, Ruddell's Mills; Lewis Cunningham, Paris; George L. Chiles, Chilesburg; J. H. Crutcher, Jr., Frankfort; John W. Cromwell, Lexington; Alfred Coben, Danville.

R. Chanslor, Mayslick; Newton Craig, Georgetown; John H. Cooper, Lexington; Henry J. Chiles, Lexington; J. C. Cloud, Lexington; Peter Craig, Louisville; James B. Clay, Lexington; James A. Case, Hutchinsons; John M. Clay, Lexington; Parker Craig, Lexington; Milton Cooper, Glendale; R. S. Cluke, North Middletown; Lucius Desha, Cynthiana; J. H. Drane, Eminence; Jeremiah Duncan, Paris; Peter

Dudley, Frankfort; Garret Davis, Paris; A. W. Dudley, Frankfort; W. R. Duncan, Winchester; W. S. Davison, Springfield; E. L. Davison, Springfield; R. M. Davis, Harrodsburg; William Duke, Danville; John C. Dougherty, Owingsville; Traverse Daniel, Owingsville; R. T. Dillard, Lexington; B. H. Dale, New Castle; Dawson, Jefferson; F. S. Darnaby, Lexington; J. L. Downing, Lexington.

George K. Dillis, Cynthiana; Joseph Desha, Cynthiana; Patrick Dolan, Lexington; John R. Desha, Lexington; James E. Darnaby, Lexington; W. S. Elam, Henderson; W. R. Estill, Lexington; R. B. English, Yeagersville; Emery Bros., New York City; Saml. Ewalt, Sr., Paris; Geo. W. Edwards, Paris; Isaac Everitt, Louisville; John H. Edwards, Paris; Jo. H. Ewalt, Paris; J. C. Elrod, Lexington; H. Etherington, Morelands; E. D. Foree, Williamson P.O.; Geo. W. Forman, Wm. H. Fisher, Noah S. Ferguson, Lexington; I. P. Fisher, Danville; Albert Ford, Eminence; Peter Funk, Jeffersontown; E. & F. Fairbanks, St. Johnsburg, N. Y.; A. Frankenberg, Columbus, Ohio; Samuel Forman, Mayslick; Miss Carrie Fall, Frankfort.

Thompson D. Field, Pekin; Thomas Fall, James Foley, Lexington; J. Faulkner, S. C. Frazier, H. C. Gratz, Spring Station; Saml. Y. Garrison, M. B. Gratz, Spring Station; J. W. Goslie, Campbellsburg; W. M. Gibson, LaGrange; Henry Giltner, Frankfort; J. P. Gray, Versailles; W. D. Gallagher, Louisville; Garrett & Spears, Paris; T. J. Gaines, J. S. Grimes, Clintonville; John Giltner, Morelands; Samuel R. Grundy, Springfield; Thomas S. Grundy, Fredericksburg; Richard Givens, Danville; John Griffith, Millersburg; Joseph Graves, Lexington; Robert Garrett, Versailles; F. J. Gray, Cynthiana; F. H. Goodrick, Smithfield; Thos. J. Garnett, Paris; Ben. Galbreath, Broadwell; James Gray, Broadwell; M. M. Gass, Paris; Jonas N. Gaines, Centreville; W. R. Grigsby, Danville; John L. Gill, Columbus, Ohio.

S. F. Gano, Georgetown; N. P. Green, Frankfort; W. W. Goddard, Covington; W. N. Haldeman, Louisville; Richard Hawes, Paris; A. G. Hodges, Frankfort; E. D. Hobbs, Williamson; E. O. Hawkins, Russellville; E. W. Hancock, Louisville; J. W. Hughes, Springfield; J. A. Hoomly, W. P. Hart, Versailles; Frank Harper, Midway; J. S. Harvie, Frankfort; Jas. Hall, Paris; John Hill, Centerville; Willis W. Hefges, Paris; R. Hutchcraft, Paris; John Hill, L. E. Harvie, Frankfort; John A. Holton, Frankfort; W. T. Hughes, Lexington; David Howell, Mount Sterling; Jos. A. Humphreys, Versailles; Jacob Hughes, Pine Grove; S. P. Humphreys, Midway; James Hutchcraft, Paris; O. P. Hogan, Williamstown; Peter Hedges, Paris; J. S. Hoskins, Bryantsville; Holtzclaw & Dickerson, Clintonville; Joseph Hall, Paris.

S. M. Hibler, Paris; B. F. Hibler, Paris; Mrs. Ben. Howe, Paris; Silas Hedges, Paris; Wm. G. Hedges, Cynthiana; Joseph H. Hite, Louisville; W.F. Horton, Flat Rock; David Harp, Sr., Morelands; John K. Hildreth, Paris; Martin Hutcheson, Hutchison's P.O.; G. D. Hunt, Lexington; Horace Hildreth, Paris; Jos.A. Hildreth, Paris; J. A. Howerton, Paris; Thos. A. Hutchcraft, Newtown; Mrs. Mary Hughes, Morelands; James Henderson, Morelands; David M. Heath, Danville; Hubler & Young, Cincinnati, Ohio; W. R. Hynes, Bardstown; M. R. Henry, Versailles; Luke Hopkins, Eminence; J. B. Harbison, Shelbyville; Harry Hudson, Louisville; Henry Hedges, Paris; Hand, Innes & Whitemore, Lexington; Robert Innes, Lexington; W. S. Irwin, Mount Gilead; Alexander Julian, Frankfort; D. W. Jones, Danville.

John T. Johnson, Carlisle; Richard Jamison, Cynthiana; J. B. Johnson, Lexington; David B. Judy, Shelbyville; James K. Jameson, Paris; F. T. Jones, Owingsville; J. A. Jackson, Winchester; J. O. Joyce, T. S. Kennedy, W. H. Keene, Frankfort; James Kinslear, Dry Ridge; Anthony Kilgore, Germantown; W. M. Kennedy, Huston; J. & G. Kirkpatrick, Paris; J. W. Kimbrough, Cynthiana; E. M. Kennedy, Paris; A. C. Keenon, Frankfort; J. Smith Kennedy, Hutchison's P.O.; R.P. Kennedy, Lexington; Mary Klazer, John B. Kennedy, Paris; H. Kerr, North Middletown.

Kelly & Forman, Paris; Isaac Kellar, Ruddle's Mills; H. Kellogg, David King, Simeon Kirtley, M. Kimbrough, Cynthiana; J. G. Kinnaird, Lexington; Buy. Kykus, Dayton, Ohio; J. A. Kirkpatrick, Cynthiana; Cad. Lewis, Frankfort; George W. Lewis, Frankfort; W. R. Link, Frankfort; C. C. LeCompte, N. T. Lindsay, John Lewis, Frankfort; Wm. Lewis, Sol. Low, Morelands; J. C. Lemon, Georgetown; T. C. Laughlin, Owingsville; Thos. Lillard, Danville; R. H. Lindsay, Paris; C. H. Low, North Middletown; Henry Lear, Paris; W.K. Laudphus, Cincinnati; A. Lee & Company, Paris; Rev. J. K. Lyle, Paris; Lewis & Wilson, Cincinnati; T. W. Lewis, Winchester; H. C. Lewis, Winchester; H. K. Lindsey, Covington; Joseph Liter, Flemingsburg; John K. Lincoln, James McKee, Mount Sterling; McClintock, Millersburg.

J. F. McMillen, Carlisle; Robt. McMillan, North Middletown; N.S. McClelland, Lexington; L. McGill, Paris; Alex. McClintock, Cynthiana; J. McKim & Company, Portland; J. T. McClelland, Lexington; Dr. Sam D. Martin, Fishback's P.O.; Robert Mallory, LaGrange; A. K. Marshall, Nicholasville; J. H. Moore, Winchester; P. B. Mason, J. C. Mason, J. A. Moore, Louisville; F. G. Murphy, E. L. Miles, C. A. Marshall, Washington; Thos. K. Marsh, Paris; B. B. Marsh, Paris; J. S. Matson, Paris; L. W. Macey, Frankfort; Robt. N. Miller, Louisville; Miller, Wingate & Company, Louisville; B. E. Montgomery, Springfield; G. C. Miller & Co., Cincinnati; John Moms, Millersburg; William Metcalfe, Carlisle; W. H. Morgan, Carlisle.

Washington Miller, Winchester; James M. Miller, Millersburg; Mayo & Hopkins, Covington; P. & L. Melendy, Mount Heathy, Ohio; Mrs. Abrm. Moore, Millersburg; Robt. S. Miller, Millersburg; David Martin, W. W. Massie, Paris; Isaac W. Martin, Cynthiana; James Miller, Stanford; James Miller, Cynthiana; Samuel Males, Cincinnati, Ohio; James Montague, Lexington; Alex. Morgan, Lexington; John A. Miller, Millersburg; T. F. Marr, Georgetown; Saml. T. Martain, Kiddville; C. C. Nutter, Lexington; Wm. Nunn, Millersburg; M. Nicholas, Lexington; Henry Nichols, Cynthiana; Michael Neff, Clintonville; W. H. Nelson, Mount Sterling; William Nichols, Millersburg; Robt. Nutter, Lexington; J. B. O'Bannon, O'Bannon's P.O.; H. Offutt, A. D. Offutt, Georgetown; L. Oxley, Cynthiana; W. M. A. Ostom, Paris.

John O'Brian, Louisville; Owen, Lane & Dyer, Hamilton, Ohio D. D. Owen, New Harmony, Indiana; Ed. Oldham, Lexington; Jno. Osman, Arthur Peter, Louisville; C. A. Preston, Winchester; D. C. Proctor, Frankfort; A. D. Pinnington, Louisville; C. K. Powell, Henderson; Cuthbert Powell, Henderson; Preston Parker, Morelands; M. Pruden, Lexington; David Penn, Paris; F. E. Peck, Paris; Jonathan Parish, Carlisle; James W. Pritchett, Morelands; Alex Paten, Ruddle's Mills; W.R. Phipps, Lexington; Saml. Pryor, Paris; Dr. A. H. Pollock, Germantown; Wm. Piper, Millersburg; Jos. M. Patterson, Lain's Station; G. H. Perrin, John A. Petts, Springfield, Ohio; Goodloe Pendry, Cincinnati; A. C. Porter, Paris.

James Pence, Winchester; Mrs. W. A. Pullum, Lexington, M. H. Parker, Lexington; G. M. Proctor, Danville; Abram Rennick, Clintonville; James Rennick, Clintonville; J. T. Roberts, Frankfort; W. B. Rogers, Paris; C. C. Rogers, Paris; R. E. Ritchart, Flat Rock; John M. Rice, North Middletown; H. W. Rice, North Middletown; J. P. Reed, Danville; Geo. Ranson, Walton; Hugh Roseberry, Flat Rock; John Rankin, Blue Licks; Joseph Rodgers, Great Crossings; James Richardson, Lancaster; Geo. Rymal, Jacksonville; Hope Redmon, Cynthiana; John T. Redmon, Ruddle's Mills; W. T. Redmon, Paris; Solomon Redmon, Paris; Waller Rodes, Lexington; L. G. Reed, G. L. Redmon, Paris; W. S. Rogers, Paris; M. H. Rogers, Springfield.

L. G. Ray, Paris; James Rowe, State of Florida; A. K. Richards, Georgetown; Jacob Raker, Winchester; Wash. Redmon, Paris; Rawson & Bedenger, G. L. Reese & Company, Augusta; Boone Railey, Versailles; John R. Radford, Consolation; Raymond, Robinson & Company, Cincinnati; Jacob Reneker, Cynthiana; C. J. Skillman,

Bryantsville; S. B. Scofield, Frankfort; Philip Swigert, Frankfort; John M. Sharp, Bowling Green; R. C. Steele, Frankfort; Isaac Smith, Jr., T. G. Sudduth, R. J. Spurr, Lexington; Thomas Steele, Frankfort; Theophilus Steele, Versailles; Samuel Scarce, Versailles; H. Smart, Wm. Short, J. N. Sutcliffe, W. J. Steele, Dorsey; Daniel Shawhan, Ruddle's Mills; Scott & Hedges, Cincinnati; Joseph Spalding, Sol. L. Sharp, Fredericksburg; J. H. Skillman, Flat Rock; W. & G. M. Skinner, Morelands; Enoch R. Smith, Centreville; Geo. W. Smith, Lexington; P. J. Seamands, North Middletown; John W. Sparks, Paris; Daniel Smith, Winchester; S. G. Sudduth, Winchester; Mrs. E. L. Sharrard, Louisville; James Stipp, Clintonville; J. C. Shackelford & Co., Cincinnati; T. Sweeney & Son, Pittsburgh; T. O. Shackelford, Shelbyville; Thaddeus Smith, Midway; Noah Spears, Georgetown; Isaac Smith, Winchester; A. G. Syarr, Richmond, Ind.; Mrs. Mary Strode, Winchester.

John Sphon, Emily Spears, Paris; Thomas Shelby, Lexington; W. M. Taylor, Frankfort; H. Thompson, Winchester; Joseph Terry, Wm. M. Todd, Frankfort; Morris Thomas, Shelbyville; J. H. Terrell, Paducah; C. P. Talbott, Paris; S. D. Talbott, Paris; B. J. Thurston, Paris; W. G. Talbott, Paris; L. P. Tarlton, Lexington; J. J. Towles, Henderson; O. V. Talbott, Paris; Daniel Talbott, North Middletown; Wm. Tanner, Morelands; Taylor & Embry, Colerain, Ohio; Jos. D. Taylor, Clintonville; H. H. Talbott, Millersburg; Jesse Tavebaugh, Clintonville; W. L. Tarkington, Danville; P. M. Talbott, Danville; Robert S. Taylor, Fishback's P.O.,Lunsford Talbott, North Middletown; John Thompson, Millersburg; Jas. W. Talbott, Paris; Gustavus Talbott, Stedmansville; Charles Talbott, Paris.

Turtory & Evelett, Cynthiana; Jas. K. Thompson, Lexington; Jas. M. Todd, Eminence; H. O. Thompson, North Middletown; James S. Thomas, North Middletown; Daniel S. Talbott, Ruddle's Mills; John Troutman, Morelands; C. D. & S.H. Talbott, North Middletown; S. D. Talbott, Paris; E. W. Taylor, Midway; John Thome, Lexington; P. E. Todhunter, Lexington; Jno. L. Todhunter, Lexington; F. Taylor, Jos. A. Thompson, J. C. VanMeter, Lexington; B. F. VanMeter, Lexington; Morgan Vance, Harrodsburg; Dora Veal, Athens; P. B. Winn, A. H. Weaver, Wm. Warfield, Lexington; Ben Warfield, Jr., Lexington; Geo. W. Williams, Paris; J. H. Wood, Zeb War, Frankfort; W. H. Walker, Louisville; Wash. Wheat, Paris.

John Westbrook, Paris; James T. Ware, Centreville; John H. Wakefield, Isaac Wright, Paris; John Williams, Cynthiana; W. H. Wilmot, Morelands; J. R. Wornall, Winchester; Lee Whaley, Millersburg; Wm. Wright, Paris; Dr. E. Warfield, Lexington; John H. Werts, Lexington; Wyant Webster, Lexington; D. R. Williams, Covington; Wm. Wheat, Paris; Lucy M. Walton, Maysville; Warden, Brokaw & Child, Springfield, Ohio; C. W. Waley, Lexington; Lawrence Young, Louisville; Dr. E.H. Watson, Frankfort; David Watson, Cincinnati, Ohio; Geo. White, Paris; Madame S. Zwick, Cincinnati.

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION IS SET UP

The officers of the permanent organization so created were: president, Brutus J. Clay, farmer and breeder, of Bourbon County; vice-presidents (one for each of the three districts within the organization), First District, Robert A. Alexander; Second District, J. A. Tomlinson; Third District, Robert Browder.

The board of directors consisted of three from each district, as follows: First District, Lucius Desha, L. J. Bradford, and Harrison Thomson; Second District, Gibson Marrory, W. A. Cooke, and Stephen D. Drane; Third District, John M. Sharp, James S. Jackson, and G. M. Priest.

James W. Tate, of Franklin County, was chosen treasurer, and William D. Gallagher, already selected as editor, was made recording and corresponding secretary. In 1859 this set-up was changed but slightly: Lucius Desha was succeeded by William Warfield, of Fayette, and the duties of recording secretary were given over to William H. Winn, of Clark County.

A Glimpse at the Future

The society was in continuous action from date of organization until after the fair held in Henderson in October, 1870. The list of its fairs, assembled from scattered and fragmentary sources, is complete:

1 - 1856 Held at Paris
2 - 1857 Held at Henderson
3 - 1858 Held at Louisville
4 - 1859 Held at Lexington
5 - 1860 Held at Bowling Green
1861 No fair held
6 - 1863 Held at Louisville
1864 No fair held
7 - 1865 Held at Louisville
8 - 1866 Held at Paris
9 - 1867 Held at Louisville
10 - 1868 Held at Louisville
11 - 1869 Held at Louisville
12 - 1870 Held at Henderson

FIRST OF THE GREAT SOCIETY FAIRS

Paris was chosen as site of the first fair of the Agricultural Society. The $5,000 appropriated by the State was fully expended in caring for the varied and extensive premium list, which totaled more than that amount (see below). The Bourbon Agricultural Society spent $5,000 on grounds and buildings. Though crowded, the little city provided accomodations for all who came. Governor Morehead opened the fair. A notable list of judges placed the awards. Among them, and for the last time, is noted the name of the aging Lewis Sanders, placed at the head of the list of judges of the herd and sweepstakes classes of cattle, thus officially connecting the initial fair of the third Agricultural Society with the much smaller but not less important Lexington "Cattle Shew" he had promoted in 1816. Other important personages among the judges were: Rufus Bryant, of Mercer County; Dr. A. Watts, of Chillicothe, Ohio; Lewis F. Allen, of Buffalo, New York; Alex Waddle, of Clark County, Ohio; Isaac VanMeter, of Fayette, William Thomson, of Mercer; Dr. Samuel D. Martin, of Clark; Chas. S. Brent, of Bourbon; and Harrison Blanton, of Franklin.

The judging of Thoroughbreds was conducted by James K. Duke, of Scott County; John A. Tomlinson, of Mercer; Ralph Tarleton, of Oldham; Felix C. Murphy, of Nelson; and V. Stevenson, of Nashville, Tennessee.

Drafters, harness and saddle classes, mules, cattle-- each and every division and class had, as judges, men who, each in his line, was making breed history.

An Extensive Premium List

The announcement in The Western Farm Journal of premiums offered give a preview of the fair that opened on September 30. Says Editor William Gallagher:

> "This list at once attests both the liberality and the intelligence of the Board of Directors of the State Society. It is very comprehensive as to the articles and animals which are invited to be present in competition for premiums and show that, as an inducement to presenting them, the Directory offers more in the shape of prizes than the entire sum appropriated by the State Legislature, in aid of the useful and patriotic objects of the Association.

"The aggregate amount of the premiums is $5,164, distributed as follows, viz: Live-stock, $533; embracing bulls, cows and heifers, fat cattle, work oxen, milch cows, long wool sheep, fat sheep, middle wool sheep, Saxon or Merino sheep, boars, sows, fat hogs, thorough-bred horses, draft horses, fine horses for all work, harness horses, saddle horses, mules, jacks and jennets. Specimens of mechanical skill, $600; embracing agricultural implements, carriages, buggies, harness, trunks, cabinet work, carpentry, cooper's work, silver and other ware, stone and marble work, printing and binding, iron and iron casting, guns, hats and caps, leather, boots and shoes. Domestic manufactures, $405, embracing fabrics of wool, of cotton, of silk, of hemp, flax and of tobacco, salt, tallow, lard, etc., with specimens of needle-work, quilts, clothes, etc. Poultry, $28; embracing turkeys, ducks, geese and chickens. Family products, $59; embracing the works and the contents of the dairy and the pantry generally. Fine arts, $191; embracing various descriptions of drawings and paintings with designs in rural architecture, and musical instruments. Products of the soil, $251; embracing grains and seeds, hemp and flax, tobacco, potatoes, beans and other articles of the garden, productions of the orchard, and displays of flowers. Agricultural literature, $300; embracing essays on all subjects of interest to the farmer, the gardner, the orchardist, and the stock raiser. Such awards as the Board of Directors may deem best, will also be made, on the recommendation of the judges, for specimens of natural materials, embracing fossils, minerals of this State generally, useful woods and plants of Kentucky, and (examples of) the animal kingdom, including insects and animals injurious to the farm. These premiums, with the exception of such as are offered for products of the farm and garden, are, as they ought to be, "open to the world...."

An account of the times describes the scene in detail:

"We have attended no previous agricultural fair, the arrangements of which were so complete as they were at this; nor have we ever been present at any similar occasion, when the arrangements were more perfectly carried out. Everything within the amphitheatre moved on with the regularity and precision of the agricultural machinery at work.... at any previous fair. And all this, notwithstanding the great extent of the exhibition, and the unusual number of animals and articles brought before the public and the judges....

(Floral Hall and Its Exhibits)

"A word by way of tribute to the taste and judgment that decorated and arranged the Floral Hall in which at times more than divided interest with the exhibition within the amphitheatre, attractive as they almost uniformly were. The imposing shaft that upholds the center of the circular roof, with the supports branching to the rafters from its superior part, were all finely decorated with twining evergreens. At the base of this shaft, which formed its centre, was the large pyramid for flowers which was well filled for the season. Within the broad area around this were two large temples of moss, finely constructed. Dividing this area from the main ground promenade was the circular counter for show cases, geological specimens, statuary, &c., and on the outer side of the promenade, skirting the entire circle of the hall, were the tables for vegetables, fruits, dairy products, pantry articles, samples of grain, and so-forth and so-forth.

"Immediately above these tables, at short distances apart, encircling the entire Hall as a historical necklace, hung portraits of the early pioneers, heroes, benefactors of Kentucky - forming one of the most appropriate and interesting features of the whole exhibition. And on the right of the entrance to this charmed circle stood Hart's fine marble bust of Mr. John J. Crittenden (the property of Joseph A. Humphreys, Esq., of Woodford county), a link uniting the past and the present.

"By several easy flights of stairs, ascent was had to the second story of the Hall, where was deposited the richest and most varied array of articles of domestic manufactures that we have ever beheld together - articles attesting the taste, the skill, the judgment, and the industry of that most beautiful of all institutions, the Family Circle. Mingled here and there with the works of to-day and yesterday, were productions of the mothers of Kentucky forty years ago - the matrons of 1816 manifesting, it is but justice to say, equal skill and greater solidarity than those of '56. In this department were some superb specimens of needle work, one of which, at least, we think, has never been surpassed. Here were also several most admirable oil paintings of cattle, the property of R. A. Alexander, Esq., of Woodford County, with some creditable specimens of cattle portraiture in water colors. And not far from these stood a very superior Louis Fourteenth Piano, from the establishment of Peters, Cragg & Co., of Louisville, to which the lady judges would have awarded a half dozen premiums had it been proper to do so....

"We should find the space which we usually allot to editorial matter all filled up were we to attempt anything like a distinct mention of even the best specimens of quilts, counterpanes, blankets, hose, shawls, linseys, hats, caps, bonnets, cloaks, whole garments, &c., of home manufacturing, which, in the Floral Hall, bore witness to the good taste and good sense of the ladies of Kentucky....

(The Agricultural Machinery Display)

"The large shed erected for the display of farm implements, agricultural machinery, and wheeled vehicles, etc., was not sufficient to cover one-quarter of the articles on exhibition in this department. New York and Ohio competed with Kentucky here, the latter state very strongly, but a very fair share of the awards was in favor of the skill and workmanship of our own mechanics and manufactures. Among reapers and mowers, of which quite a number were on the ground, we were grateful to see the Kentucky Harvester bear off the ribbon. Our neighbors, Miller, Wingate & Co. (Louisville) also took premiums on their corn-sheller, on a folding harrow, and on the best display of agricultural implements of their own manufacture. A steam power for farm purposes, which Joseph A. Humphreys, of Woodford, has been using the past season or two, took the premium against a very good article of the same description from Ohio. Sinclair's stalk and straw-cutter (operated on the ground by Mr. Humphrey's steam power), cut so well as to cut Sanford's straw-cutter out of a premium offered for an article of this description: and better praise than this could hardly be awarded to any instrument for cutting stock-feed. Emery's combined thresher and separator, from Albany, N. Y., took the premium from several of the old and long-tried threshers and separators, much to

the surprise of a good many lookers-on. T. E. C. Brinley, of Shelby county, and H. F. Cromwell, of Cynthiana, took premiums for plows. In this article there was a fine show, and strong competition. A combination plow, patented to Mr. John L. Gill, of Columbus, O., for either sod or stubble, struck us as favorably as any plow we have ever examined...."

Of the quality of the livestock exhibits, it is needless to say more than that the importations of 1853 and the following years competed against the best of the older Kentucky stock, and that a notable group of stockmen from other States entered the lists. All the way from New York came Allen, Sherwood, Chapman, Wadsworth, and Thorne; from Ohio, Watts, Milliken, Dodge, and Fullington; from Virginia came Steinberger, Renick, Bell, and Walker. Kentucky entered its best livestock, concerning which the editor of The Ohio Farmer remarked:

"Nearly all who read The Farmer are aware that the fairs of the Kentucky people are confined mainly to exhibition of fine stock - Shorthorn cattle, "Kentucky" horses, long-wooled sheep, enormous hogs, gigantic Jacks and mules; while the mechanical implements, and all the little things that make up fairs in Ohio and the Yankee States, are missing. But for Durham (Shorthorn) cattle we will risk Kentucky against all the world. In aged cows and the younger stock, in both sexes, we have no doubt, the show surpassed the recent Royal Show or any that England can make. In short, Kentucky beats England in Shorthorn cattle. In horses and mules Kentucky is justly distinguished. We will add there are two features of Kentucky Fairs that ought to be adopted in all state and county fairs - the amphitheater and those delicious Kentucky dinners."

The box office broke even. The fair, financially and otherwise, was voted a success. The third State Agricultural Society was on its way.

HENDERSON FAIR OF 1857

The year following, the society agreed with the Henderson, Hopkins, and Union A. & M. to stage the fair on that society's grounds, outside the city limits of Henderson, in the Third Agricultural District. This bold venture, moving the fair far from the center of the livestock interests of the State into a less-developed area along the Ohio and adjacent to the Purchase, was taken at large risks. An unusually low stage of water on the river, combined with the absence of rail facilities, delayed the arrival of much of the machinery exhibit, but in spite of all handicaps, the Henderson Fair of October 13-17,1857,was one of the more successful of the first five fairs held by the society. In preparation for the fair, the local association had matched dollar for dollar with the State society. The rich agricultural and horticultural resources of the immediate region were drawn upon for exhibits. The result was a well-balanced showing of a section of the State devoted mainly to mixed farming, rather than to livestock and the mechanical industries.

Says Robert W. Scott, of Franklin County, reporting the event:

"The amphitheatre is about the size of that near Louisville, and will seat about fifteen thousand persons. A tasteful cottage for ladies; a large open hall for machinery and implements; a large and tasteful hall for the display of finer fabrics, flowers, fruits, &c., together with all appropriate offices, at once commodious and roomy, had been

prepared by the local Society and placed under the control and use of the State Society, without charge or expense....

"The attendance of people from day to day was variously estimated at from ten to twenty-five thousand... The most open hearted hospitality prevailed, both in the town and adjoining country. The most bountiful and sumptuous dinners for all in attendance were hospitably spread on the grounds each day, and the best order and decorum prevailed at all times. No disagreeable occurrence took place during the fair, and the utmost cordiality and good feeling prevailed among all in attendance. Religious sectarianism and political partisanship were alike forgotten, and all was hospitable, harmonious, pleasant, and profitable.

"The exhibition of cattle, horses, and other stock was highly creditable, both as to number and quality.... The cavalcades of premium animals filled the large area of the amphitheatre to its full capacity on two several occasions.... Over $20,000 worth of fine stock was brought (into) and left in the county as one of the fruits of the exhibition.

("The Machinery Exhibit")

"The Mechanics' Hall was well filled with a great variety of implements and machinery, much of which had never been in use or on exhibition in this part of the State before. Two portable steam engines were on exhibition and in operation, giving life and motion to the scene. The careful inspection which was given from day to day by the farmers of this department was a sure indication of its salutary effects; and the use of new and improved implements and machinery received an impulse which will never be lost or forgotten.

("Fine Arts and Home Industries")

"In the hall for exhibition of finer fabrics, fruits, flowers, &c., a large exhibition was not to be expected, remote from a large city, and in the midst of a rural population. But still there were not wanting many beautiful and creditable specimens of skill and industry, of the needle, the pencil, and the brush; while the wheel and the loom also made their contributions in the ladies department.

("Grains and Minerals")

"This is a farming region, and tobacco and corn are their great productions, and these were represented by numerous specimens of magnificent growth, and of the finest varieties. Other products of the farm also were there, and among them a fine lot of spring barley, from seed distributed from the Patent Office through the State Agricultural Society. Numerous geological specimens were also on exhibition, among which were the rich specimens of coal and iron from the mines in the adjacent country, some of which are of marvelous richness and value.

"The garden, the orchard, the dairy, and the pantry, all had very respectable representatives on exhibition at this hall; but it was chiefly at the sumptuous and hospitable dinner tables that these articles appeared to the best advantage. There, presided over by the hospitable host, and served under the superintendence of his elegant

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The Tobacco Expositions

Beginning in May, 1858, and continuing into the spring of 1861, two annual expositions were held for the purpose of aiding the tobacco industry. Losses due to poor seed, wrong cultural methods, and improper curing were to be avoided. Prizes of $100 were offered for the best samples of leaf and hogshead tobacco shown. At the 1858 Louisville Tobacco Exposition, 129 entries were made, 81 of hogshead samples. Exhibitors were given opportunity to compare the market samples and to learn of the various methods employed in growing and curing the crop. A State Agricultural Society committee consisting of five members attended the exposition and took part in the educational work, which strongly resembled a farmer's institute of the early 1900's. A second tobacco exposition was held the same year in Frankfort, and, thereafter, two a year were held by the society, conducted in a manner similar to the one first held in Louisville.

These expositions created increasing interest, and increasing numbers took part. The hogshead samples shown at Louisville, for instance, increased from 81 in 1858 to 115 in 1859, to 243 in 1860, and to a record of 266, from practically every tobacco-growing county of the State, at the final showing in 1861.

Field Tests of Farm Machinery

Even more widely popular than the tobacco expositions were the practical field tests of agricultural machinery held annually at some place convenient for the general public. In 1858 a trial of reapers and mowers was held on the farms of Stephen Ormsby and L. L. Dorsey, nine miles east of Louisville. Three reapers were entered, together with two mowers and two combined reaper-mowers. Here the award went to two New York State entries-- for the New York reaper and the Allen mower. In 1859 seventeen contestants entered trials held on William Warfield's farm near Lexington. All three premiums, offered for superiority as a reaper, as a mower, and as a combined machine, in value $30 each, were awarded the Kentucky Harvester, manufactured by Miller, Wingate & Company, of Louisville.

The results of these exhibitions and field trials of machinery were given to the public through the pages of the Western Farmer, and they did much to stimulate interest in better farming methods and in the use of the best machinery then available.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN STATE AND LOCAL SOCIETIES

While not all of the local A. & M. associations held memberships in the State Agricultural Society, enough of them did to confer upon it the undoubted character of a State-wide organization in fact as well as in name. If further proof were asked, the widely scattered individual membership list filled the gaps and supplied the complete answer.

In 1858 the subjoined local associations responded to the roll, and others affiliated during the years that followed:

"Bourbon Agricultural Society
Central Kentucky A. & M.
Christian A. & M.
Clark Stock Improving Society
Crab Orchard Stock, A. & M.
Campbell Agricultural Society
Daviess A. & M.
Kenton A. & M.
Kentucky A. & M., Fayette
Kentucky Mechanics Institute (Louisville)
Kentucky Horticultural Society
Logan A. & M.
Nelson A. & M.
North Kentucky Agricultural Society

Fulton Agricultural Society
Glenville Stock Fair
Green River A. & M.
Henderson, Hopkins, and Union A., Hort, & M.
Harrison Agricultural Society
North Kentucky A. & M.
Ohio Agricultural Society
Springfield Union A. & M.
Southwestern A. & M.
Union A. & M. of Mason and Bracken
Warren A. & M."

This was representative of the State-wide support given prior to the war. The financial condition of the society was good. Its drafts on the State treasury were honored to and including 1860. Prior to the Bowling Green Fair, there was a balance of $2,900 in its treasury. This left the society a comfortable margin to go into the "lean years," during which the State failed to make further appropriations. At the election held December 5, 1860, there was a new line-up of officers. President Clay retired and was succeeded by Colonel L. J. Bradford, of Bracken County, who held that office during the critical years of the seventh decade. Philip Swigert, of Franklin County, succeeded R. A. Alexander as vice-president. The First District directors were Harrison Thomas, of Clark; O. H. Burbridge, of Bourbon; William Warfield, of Fayette; Joseph Shawhon, of Harrison; and George L. Forman, of Mason.

John A. Tomlinson, of Mercer, was named vice-president of the Second District; the directors of that district were: W. A. Cook, of Mercer; W. C. Whitaker, of Shelby; T. S. Grundy, of Washington; and George Dinny, of Garrard.

Anthony Birdwell, of Livingston, was named vice-president of the Third District, and as directors were chosen: Q. Q. Quigley, of Ballard; G. M. Priest, of Henderson; R. C. Harrold, of Union; David King, of Logan; and William B. Machen, of Lyon County.

FAIRS OF THE 1858-1860 PERIOD

The third of the society's fairs was held in Louisville, September 28 to October 2, 1858. The weather was good, the attendance large, the number and variety of exhibits beyond expectation. The showing of Saddle Horses was particularly good. Sixty-two were in the rings. E. P. Gaines, of Fayette, won two first honors in the aged stallion ring; H. C. Pindell, of Jefferson, first in aged mares; and George Graves, of Fayette, first for aged geldings. The cattle entries represented the greatest breeders and herds within the State. In needle and loom work the fair led any yet seen. There was a creditable showing of seeds and grains. One hundred sixty entries in the machinery section showed the growing interest in that field, and Louisville manufacturers, including Barbarou & Snowden; Miller, Wingate & Company; Munn & Company, and Peter & Buchanan were among the prize winners.

Again the society operated at a profit.

Lexington was chosen as the site of the fair of 1859, and the host was the Kentucky Agricultural and Mechanical Association of Lexington. Between the stockmen, the battle-royal of the preceding year was resumed. It was breeder against breeder, and county against county. In the cattle classes the bulk of the winnings were from Clark, Henry, Madison, Scott, Franklin, Fayette, Bourbon, Woodford, and Boyle counties. In Saddle Horses, Woodford won most of the honors; Fayette was top in the roadster division. "Fine," said the reporter, "Even for this horse country." Present in the Saddle Horse ring were Denmark, founding sire of the Saddle Horse breed, and Drennan, blood kin of Justin Morgan; also Blackhawk and Messenger. "Those horses seen in the roadster class would,"

averred an unnamed spectator, "if crossed with our thoroughbred mares, produce the best roadsters in the Union."

The 1859 exhibit of machinery topped all previous fairs. Threshers, mowers, separators, rakes, improved harrows, plows, feedmills were shown "in profusion." A Louisville-made threshing machine received first premium. Cereals and vegetables were displayed.

In 1860, with rumblings of the war (which Kentucky hoped to escape) sounding in every chance meeting of men, the society moved its fair into the Pennyrile. Politics dominated the atmosphere of the fair. W. C. P. Breckinridge, of Lexington, voiced the views of the South; John Young Brown, Sr., then a newcomer in the political field, the opposite. Governor Magoffin made a speech and reviewed the local Light Infantry Company, "giants in magnificent scarlet uniforms." Fourteen "gallant and brave knights of Bowling Green" staged a tournament in which William LeRoy Dulaney, in the guise of a fox hunter, took the honors.

A drought, remembered for its severity, had burned the crops of the Pennyrile. There is little in the meager reports that reached the general public to indicate the quality of the exhibits or the extent of local public interest.

It is told that the Floral Hall exhibit of J. B. Aitkin "bid with anything Tiffany or Jahn Kitts might produce." Aitkin was a silversmith whose specialty was the making of coin-silver cups for presentation as prizes at local and State fairs, and in many a Kentucky home of today these cups are treasured as heirlooms handed down by men and women whose livestock or other exhibits won premiums at Kentucky's fairs.

The machinery exhibited included exhibits from the Louisville firms of Miller, Wingate & Company, G. W. Bashaw & Pitkin, and Wiard & Company. William Warfield, of Lexington, took five firsts with his cattle in as many rings. "Mr. V. Smith's pigs commanded admiration."

The total entries in all departments numbered but 622, of which 288 were livestock, 101 machinery and mechanical equipment, while only 233 were entered in Floral Hall, which housed farm products, horticultural exhibits, flowers, and the usually extensive exhibits of the home.

The fair was a failure, and the State society, which had advanced the money to the local association for the erection of buildings (to be repaid), was left holding the bag.

The next year the War between the States was on, and Kentucky, most unwillingly, had become one of the first theaters in that long struggle.

CRUCIAL EVENTS OF THE WAR YEARS

The 1861 financial condition of the society, despite the set-back suffered by the drought-induced failure of the Bowling Green Fair, was most encouraging. There still remained a comfortable balance in the treasury; the May tobacco expositions had been successfully held at Louisville and Paducah; and plans were fully matured for the annual fair set for late September in Louisville.

In midsummer The Western Farmer suspended publication.

Then, in mid-September, on a week's notice, the fair was postponed until the autumn of 1862, "in consequence of the dangers which threaten the public, and of the great stringency in monetary affairs."

Thus the War between the States occurred "at a time when our country was prepared to reap a rich return for its cereal crops to supply the short harvests of Europe." And it led to a decision by the board to waive the claim of the society upon the $5,000 appropriated to its use for the year 1861; so attested President Laban J. Bradford and Secretary James S. Wallace.

The following year, 1862, the war had spread all over the State, from the Purchase to the mountains. The holding of any fair that year was out of the question.

In 1863 a feeble attempt was made at holding a fair in Louisville, but in name only could it be considered a State-wide fair.

THE SOCIETY ARRIVES AT TWO GREAT DECISIONS

When, in 1853, the United States Agricultural Society had again come to life, one of the demands of the State societies of that day had been for the better recognition of agriculture by the Federal Government. It was felt that the great and growing interests of the soil deserved more consideration than could be given by a subordinate bureau within the United States Patent Office. Continued organized demand, in which Kentucky gained, resulted, in 1862, in lifting matters pertaining to agriculture out of the obscurity of a bureau and into a separate department headed by a commissioner. In 1889 the head of the agricultural department so created was elevated to a secretaryship in the Cabinet.

The immediate achievement of the 1860's was to enlarge the scope of the Federal work, especially in the way of furnishing Agricultural statistics desired by the farmer, a service which was instituted in 1865. This action filled one of the demands the State Agricultural Society, insufficiently equipped for the task, had been struggling to meet.

To the extent that the farmer and breeder turned for information from his society to the new department in Washington, his interest in the local State organization was weakened, and its hold upon the purse strings of the State was correspondingly lessened.

The second major agricultural event of that time was the passage by Congress of the Morrill Act, perhaps better known as the Federal Land Grant Act. This legislation, fathered by United States Representative Justin H. Morrill, of Vermont, set aside a portion of the public lands of the Nation as a backlog for the creation of a fund out of which to establish agricultural and mechanical colleges in each of the States and Territories of the Union. The terms and objectives of the Morrill measure had already been thoroughly discussed and considered. Once it had passed Congress and had been vetoed by President Buchanan. On its second passage, in 1862, it was welcomed and approved by President Lincoln.

The Morrill Act placed at the disposal of Kentucky 330,000 acres of the Federal domain, having a value of $1.25 an acre or a total book value of slightly better than $400,000. This was the initial endowment of the Kentucky State Agricultural College. Its acceptance came at a time, and almost at an hour, when the State Agricultural Society was asking the legislature to consider giving that organization means with which to continue and enlarge its work along lines

directly comparable to those later developed by the Agricultural College and State Experiment Station.

One thing only remained to bring the life work of the greatest of the three great State agricultural societies to a fitting and honorable conclusion. The Kentucky Legislature of 1863, by an act approved March 2 of that year, called upon the president and directors of the society "to examine and report to the next General Assembly upon the advantages of various localities, and inducements offered by each, for the location of a State Agricultural College."

The board of the society, acting as commissioners, appointed by the legislature, met in Louisville in May, 1863, and called for proposals. But one, that of Transylvania University, was submitted. After further waiting, on the eighteenth of September following, the board advised the legislature that in its opinion it had "no hesitation in recommending to the General Assembly the acceptance of the proposal of the Trustees of Transylvania University..." This advisory report was signed by L. J. Bradford, president of the society, also by Philip Swigert and Zebulum Ward, members of its board of directors. The record of this action, which resulted in the establishment of an Agricultural and Mechanical College within the structure of what then became known as "Kentucky University," is to be found in the archives of the State.

The legislature acted favorably upon the report. The provisions of the Morrill Act, accepted by Kentucky on January 27, 1863, were thus provided for. Henry Clay's estate, "Ashland," was chosen as the site of the State farm.

Transylvania engaged to provide classrooms and certain academic instruction. Preparation went on during 1865; instruction in agriculture was begun in 1866. The merger appeared complete, but after more than a decade the union was dissolved. In 1878 Transylvania resumed its former name and functions, and the Kentucky Agricultural and Mechanical College, with James Kennedy Patterson as president, was established. The city of Lexington provided its present site. The present Administration Building, first on the campus, was occupied in 1882. An experimental farm was begun and through the provisions of the Hatch Act, was extended in 1865 to cover a 600-acre tract adjacent to the city.

In 1891 courses in engineering were added, and the institution at last fulfilled the promise implied in the "Mechanical" part of its name. In 1906 additional funds were made available through the passage of the Adams Act, and in 1914 the Smith-Lever Act still further widened the activities of the institution by making provision for work in the field of college extension, now so intimately associated with the State Fair through the work done in connection with young people. Not until 1918, the year after Frank L. McVey (president 1917-40) came to head the institution, did it assume its present name, University of Kentucky.

LATER YEARS OF THE THIRD SOCIETY

In 1864 the society asked the legislature for a resumption of the $5,000 a year appropriation, which that body had made, and which it had waived in 1861. The request was granted by a practically unanimous vote in the senate, but refused by the house. No further allotment ever was made the society out of State funds for the work it continued to do, with varying degrees of success, for the major part of a decade after it had terminated its own existence as an instrument of the State and, by the same action, had brought to fruition the major dreams of the great leaders of Kentucky agriculture, including those who, in 1787, had associated themselves as The Kentucky Society for Promoting Useful

Knowledge, together with all who followed them, down to and including the builders of the third State Agricultural Society.

In 1864 no fair was held, but legislation was enacted permitting the State society to waive the provision of the charter that required rotation of fairs from district to district.

The Society Still Goes Forward

At its annual meeting early in 1865, the soceity again re-elected as its president, Colonel L. J. Bradford, and named as vice-presidents: Philip Swigert, of Frankfort; John B. O'Bannon, of Louisville; and John P. Campbell, of Hopkinsville. Directors named for the First District were: Harrison Taylor, O. H. Burbridge, J. C. Sayers, L. P. Tarleton, and James F. Robinson; for the Second District; R. J. Browne, S. T. Drane, Lawrence Young, Alfred Allen, and J. S. Bell; for the Third District; David King, R. B. Ratliff, J. S. McFarland, Edward R. Wier, and George M. Priest. James W. Tate, of Frankfort, was chosen treasurer, and James J. Miller, also of Frankfort, recording and corresponding secretary. The executive committee was made up of Messrs. Bradford, Swigert, O'Bannon, Young, and Drane.

Conditions throughout the State were not yet normal when, in 1865, another fair of the State Society was held in Louisville. This fair, as described somewhat at length in the press of the time, was essentially a horse show and, locally, a good one. Emphasis was laid on the trots, on saddle horses; and on mechanical exhibits. A portable steam engine, adapted to farm uses, was on the grounds, and the Louisville farm implement manufacturers staged a creditable showing of their products. Home equipment was also featured. The fair ended with a grand tournament in which there were thirteen entries. Some of the acknowledged best riders of the State, in the role of Sir Knights, entered the competition. The winner, W. F. Ballard, of Shelby, crowned with a wreath of flowers Miss Jennie L. Smith, of Louisville, as Queen of Beauty. Gate receipts were $4,934.65; others $2,500. The fair was "a complete success."

The fair held at Paris in 1866, eighth in the series, was largely a stock show, along lines already familiar. The noteworthy feature was the manner in which the breeders of Kentucky were rebuilding their war-scattered and depleted herds.

The fairs of 1867-69, the ninth, tenth, and eleventh of those held by the society, were all held on the grounds of the Southwestern A. & M. Association, east of Louisville. That of 1867 was remarkable for its fine showing of horses. Woodford, Clark, Nelson, and Henry counties took front rank. Sixty-five agricultural implements were displayed. A clothes washer with wringer attached was shown. Accounts of the time mentioned the excellence of the 1868 stock exhibit; that the attendance was State-wide; that "the occasion merits first rank in the history of our State Society"; and that "All the customary side-shows are dispersed over the grounds."

The 1870 fair of the State society, held at Henderson, October 4-8, under the direction of President Robert Mallory, Secretary James J. Miller, and George M. Priest, executive committee chairman, was the twelfth and last, as well as possibly the most successful of the fairs held subsequent to the War between the States. The attendance was large. The exhibits, more than one thousand in number, were unusually varied, and the races of the last day brought out "an enormous crowd."

* * * *

For 1871, and for all the years that follow, the record is silent.

In the absence of positive knowledge the only conclusion that can be drawn is that, having carried the banners of the agricultural and mechanical associations through five years of high prosperity, and then through a full decade of battle-storm and recovery, during which time they had seen the vast educational program they had visioned, outlined, and worked for, well upon the road to fulfillment, those who had conducted the society's affairs could now give consideration each to his own private business, and forget for a time problems connected with the finances of the State organization. All obligations had been met. The books balanced. They could disband with honor.

Sunday morning, October 9, 1870, if one may judge by their previous record, officers and directors of the society met, congratulated each other on what had been accomplished, shook hands, and went home.

CHAPTER 7

MODERN KENTUCKY ARRIVES

A GLANCE AT A CHANGING WORLD

The events already recorded overlap events that reshaped the world and, in that reshaping, changed the future of America. Suddenly, as measured in terms of agricultural and industrial life, old frontiers vanished, old trade associations were disrupted, broken, realigned; new factors, forces, producing areas entered upon the world scene. Due to the general adoption of steam as a motive power by sea as well as by land, the industrial revolution that for a hundred years had slowly been gathering momentum in western Europe and in the eastern United States broke its bounds and became world-wide. The perfection of the plow and the reaper made the rich unoccupied soils of the American prairies and those of Russia and Argentina vast areas of grain production. The bitter need of Continental Europe for bread during the early 1860's, and the high grain prices that ruled throughout that decade, threw American wheat production into high gear.

The opening of the Suez Canal, in 1869, made competitive wheat surpluses from Australia and the plains of northern India commercially accessible to the markets of southern and western Europe. During the early 1870's, frozen beef from South America, Australia, and Texas was offered for sale in European butcher stalls, and the factories of Europe, stimulated by these expansions of world markets, took on new activity. Despite the wars that troubled the Continent--the Crimean War of the late 1850's, and the Prussian wars with Austria, with Denmark, and the war of 1870-71 with France, not to mention serious troubles in Italy and in the Balkans-- Europe was fast industrializing and was sweeping forward toward domination of world trade, at the expense of the British farmer, the French and German peasant.

America, concerned with her own internal problems for a half-decade, saw the rich prize of the carrying trade of the world being taken over by Britain. After the War between the States, the Nation centered its domestic policy upon the settlement of its rich Western lands, upon the absorption of the flood of migration from Europe, and upon the development of a balance between rural and urban production, not unlike that known in the days of Henry Clay and the Whig party as the "American System." Behind the wall of a high protective tariff, the Nation sought to increase factories and to employ city workers at wages sufficient to absorb the rapidly increasing production of the farms. This was a thinly disguised attempt at economic isolation from the rest of the world. It sacrificed most of the carrying trade that remained after the Confederate privateers of the sixties, and the British steam-propelled iron cargo ships of later years, had worked havoc with the American sailing fleet of the forties and fifties. American ships that, in 1860, carried 70 per cent of all American exports, in 1880 carried but 13 per cent. The new economy failed utterly to balance rural,

as against urban, prices and incomes. Exportable balances of production, chiefly in the form of wheat and livestock products, were left over. These balances were thrown upon the European markets, and set prices in the home market, not in agreement with those set by American factory production, but in accord with prevailing prices in London, Rotterdam, and Marseilles. During the last three decades of the nineteenth century, American prices for wheat, cattle, and hogs were such that, although production increased while land values rose, the income of the individual farmer, and the value of his livestock, grain, and other liquid assets, remained at a level well below the economic costs of production. This led, inevitably, to types of farming that involved "soil robbery." This difference between the bases of urban and rural incomes gave rise to the various agrarian movements, both economic and political, that have since stirred rural America.

The Granger movement of the seventies, the allied Greenback party, "Free Silver," Populism, and the various forms of farmers' co-operatives that arose during and after the seventies, all were expressions of the unbalanced economic conditions. Other grievances of the farmer-- notably the feeling that the railroads, built with farmer assistance in financing, had taken advantage of their rate-making power to charge unduly high rates against low-priced farm products-- constituted common agrarian ground for interstate and even national political alliances against "big business." Widespread results of such action were the various state railroad and warehouse commissions set up in the late 1870's and subsequent years, in the effort to curb prices charged for transportation or for warehousing goods subject to storage. Out of these efforts at massed political action arose the later attempts to regulate the banks, and to apply similar regulatory measures to fertilizers, to feeds, and to food entering the channels of trade.

The far-reaching effects of falling agricultural prices during the 1870's and after will best be appreciated by considering the following figures relation to American agriculture as a whole. According to the Statistical Abstract of the United States Census Bureau, published in the year 1895, the entire number of horses in the Nation increased from 8,248,000 in the year 1870 to 15,893,318 at the latest date prior to publication. Conversely, the market value for the earlier date amounts to $671,000,000; for the latter, $576,730,580. Two peaks of value appear-- that of 1873, when the horse population was valued at $684,000,000, and the peak of 1892 when the billion-dollar mark was barely passed. The low of total values was reached in 1879, when the entire United States horse population was rated as worth but $573,000,000.

Values for mules show a like trend. Numbers grew from 1,179,500 in 1870 to 2,333,108 in 1895; total valuation dropped from $128,000,000 in the former year to $110,000,000 in the latter. This was an average drop from $108 per head to $54.

Milch cows, coming more and more into favor during the period as a sure means of family income, grew in numbers, for the Nation at large, from 10,095,600 in 1870 to 16,504,629 in 1895; but their total valuation dropped from $394,940,745 to $362,601,729. This was a lowering in value per head from $39 to $22. The low for the period occurred in 1879, with a total value of but $256,000,000; prices then rose until, in 1884, a peak of $423,000,000 was reached.

"Oxen and other cattle" tell the same story of increasing volume and decreasing values. The numbers given for 1870 amount to 15,389,500; for 1895 to 34,364,216. Values total $346,900,000 in the former years as against $483,000,000 in the latter. The value per head dropped from $22 in 1870 to $14 in 1895, an effect, in good measure, of the flood of stock from the Western ranges, with its inevitably depressing effect upon all market classes in all markets. The low was reached in 1875; the peak of prices, a decade later.

With sheep, the case is similar. There were in 1870 a total of 40,853,000 stock sheep in the United States, having a value of $93,000,000. In 1895 the number stood at 42,294,000, having total value of $66,685,000-- a drop in average value from $2.26 to $1.57 per head. Two lows and two highs mark the quarter-century period. In 1879 and again in the closing year, the combined figures touched bottom; in 1883 and again in 1893, peaks were reached with values for each year approximately double that given for 1895. One of the factors here is the effect of Australian competition on the British and Continental markets.

Swine offers the sole exception-- as to gross values-- in this array of Government statistics showing increased numbers of livestock and decreased total values. Yet the same trend is evident. In 1870, hogs numbered 26,751,400, having a value of $187,191,502; in 1895, that number had increased to 43,892,708, with a value of $217,857,071, or a gross gain of better than $30,000,000. These figures, when analyzed, show that the value per head had dropped from $6.90 in 1870 to $4.96 in 1895. Low was touched in 1879-- a disastrous year in all lines of stock raising-- and high for the period was reached in 1893, just prior to the panic of that year.

Cotton and wheat crops with large exportable surpluses, their basic prices set by the markets of Europe, responded sharply to the stimulus or lethargy of overseas demand. During the period, two-thirds of the cotton crop moved into export trade at prices that maintained the total gross income of the South, from sales for that crop alone, at between two and three hundred million dollars during the 1870's, and at somewhat higher figures for the first half of the 1890's. When it is recalled that this crop represented the chief source of cash income, and that income was spread over a wide area, the post-war weakness of the South as a buyer of Kentucky livestock, agricultural products, and agricultural machinery becomes apparent. The buoyancy, the aggressive vigor of the Southern market prior to the war never was fully recovered.

Wheat reached its price peak in the 1860's and for more than a decade-- 1871 to 1883-- maintained prices that yielded an average per acre income for the nation of between $10 and $15. Then for eleven years, 1884-94, lower prices ruled, dropping the income per acre to as little as $6.16 in 1893 and reaching a high of $12.86 in 1891. During seven of the remaining nine years, the acre-income was under $9; in the remaining two it was in the $9 bracket. The effect of this period of low prices, together with the ravages of the Hessian fly and chinch bug, and the competition of the fast-expanding wheat fields west of the Mississippi, was to slow down the expansion of wheat-growing in States east of that river and to turn the attention of farmers, particularly in the Great Lakes region, to dairy farming. The introduction of the silo and cream separator toward the end of the period, and the rise of private and co-operative creameries, still further influenced this shift.

Rise of the Western Range

Meanwhile, events of profound importance to the Kentucky cattle and sheep industries were shaping in the American Southwest. The early Spanish settlers in Mexico, like the English who colonized the Atlantic coast, brought horses and cattle with them from their native Spain to the New World. Some of the horses escaped and gave rise to the wild herds known as the mustangs or broncos. Derived from excellent foundation stock, these semiwild horses still possess many of the characteristics of the Barb or Arabian blood of their ancestors. In the hands of the Indians of the Plains, they served as sure-footed and untiring mounts, and later, in the hands of the cattlemen, made excellent "cow ponies," which gives them a place in the story of the Western range.

The cattle, long-horned native stock of the Spanish peninsula, ran wild and deteriorated. As seen on the Kansas City market as recently as 1912, they were long-legged and rangy. When matured they were of light weight and lacking in the conformation and qualities essential to the production of prime beef. Among the good characteristics they possessed were a rugged constitution and the ability to mate, when top-crossed with prepotent males of the beef breeds, in each manner as to produce profitable stockers or feeders and passably good market-quality beef.

During the period of American colonization of Texas, its independence and its early Statehood (1821-60), the Texas herd grew in number until at the opening of the seventh decade it was estimated at approximately 3,500,000. During 1840-60 Texas cattle driven overland appeared in Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and California. St. Louis, a stock market before the War between the States, was familiar with them. During that war the northward movement was cut off. In December, 1865, the Union Stockyards at Chicago were opened, and in 1866 a herd was driven from the Texas Panhandle to St. Joseph, Missouri, thence by rail to Chicago, in an attempt to break into that market. The year following, Abilene, Kansas, became a railroad shipping point, and shipments by rail from that point to Chicago and New York showed losses to the shippers. In 1868 the first of the "big drives," numbering more than 75,000 head, arrived in Abilene.

Illinois graziers bought one-fourth of this entire number. During this period there is mention of Texas cattle reaching Kentucky pastures en route to the markets for beef cattle. The profits made by both ranchman and grazier were satisfactory. The next year the Texas drive was valued at more than $3,000,000. In 1870, with a strong market demand, more than 300,000 head moved northward. The following year, with 600,000 driven north, losses approximated one-half of the entire herd. The year 1872 saw good demand from graziers for stockers and feeders. Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and part of adjoining States were in the stocker-feeder market. Abilene yielded place as a primary shipping point to Caldwell and Ellsworth; then to Dodge City. At these points, especially Dodge City, and at Kansas City and St. Joseph, the herds were sold and broken up. New owners took over and drove the smaller herds on into the grazing country that fanned out from these centers into western Kansas and Nebraska, into the Dakotas, into eastern Colorado, and into Wyoming and Montana, as well as into the region already mentioned. Between 1867 and 1890 some 10,000,000 head of Texas cattle were thus sold, and the range overspread a belt three hundred or more miles wide extending from the Rio Grande to the Manitoba border. Great ranches that bred stock appeared throughout the region. By 1891 Montana alone was contributing a mass movement of stock to market that, for the next twenty years, averaged more than 200,000 head annually.

Under the weight of such a vast extension of the cattle industry, prices for packer cattle remained low for a generation; did not recover tone until the twentieth century was well on its way. This, in spite of the fact that cold storage, the use of which commenced in the middle seventies, did much to equalize the seasonal pressure upon the markets and to foster more generally by the daily consumption of beef.

Closely related to this epoch-making shift in the character and locale of the national cattle industry was the corresponding shift in primary market centers. The older markets along the Atlantic coast, outstanding among which were Baltimore, New York, and Boston, still retained their regional importance, but Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, South St. Paul, and other considerable but lesser markets arose and by sheer bigness dominated the livestock industry. Specifically, without purposeful intent, their preferences dominated the breed-

ing that, beginning with the planting of the great ranches in the middle and northern cattle belt, was followed on the part of the ranchers with ever-increasing attention to market demand. Outward appearances, such as uniformity of color, size, and conformation, brought the extra dime or nickel on the market.

By a combination of circumstances, in which the preference of the individual largely figured, particular attention was paid during the 1870's and 1880's by ranchers in Texas and by breeders in Illinois and Indiana to the Hereford breed. Its unquestioned prepotency and its adaptability to range conditions, coupled with its uniformity of color markings, made it a favorite on the range. Hereford breeders had the advantage of position near the great new markets, and the full impact of this competition was felt in Kentucky Shorthorn breeding circles during the middle 1880's.

While this national realignment of the cattle industry was taking place, the Cincinnati and Louisville packers, long associated with the South and East, held stoutly for a considerable period of time to their old preferences; in other words, to the Shorthorn as the animal best fitting the consumer market demand. In this they followed the lead of Baltimore and other Eastern markets, which in turn were strongly influenced by the dominance of Shorthorn blood in their cattle-production areas.

The sum of all this is that the Kentucky cattle-breeding industry, based upon acceptance of the Shorthorn as the premier market breed, over-stayed its market and, in a time when fashions in breeds were rapidly changing, clung to the belief that such preferences were temporary. The truth of the matter, which may at last be told, is that there was not any material advantage possessed by the one breed over the other. Either one had the qualities necessary to meet both range conditions and top-of-the-market requirements. With the unlooked-for coming of the range, Hereford breeders seized an opportunity, presented alike to the Shorthorn men but not fully appreciated by them. In the words of a recent European statesman, "they missed the bus."

The low prices of the last twenty years of the century completed the route which drove Kentucky from its commanding position as the "stamping ground of the Shorthorns." Great breeders and great herds survived; but the national and international fame as livestock-breeding center that belonged to Kentucky in the days of the Alexanders and their great rivals was gone. By the dawn of the twentieth century only the memory of it remained.

The Passing of Yoke Oxen

Another factor of Nation-wide sweep that profoundly affected the Kentucky livestock future was the coming of power machinery, notably that of the reaper. Between the census of 1860 and that of 1870 there was a decrease in the number of work oxen in all the well-developed agricultural States, North as well as South, accompanied by a corresponding increase in the number of horses. This is most strikingly shown by the figures for Indiana, where the decade saw four out of five oxen discarded; by Illinois, where the loss was seven out of nine; by Iowa, where three out of five were retired; and by Wisconsin, where five out of nine were replaced. For Kentucky, embroiled in war for four years out of the decade, the loss was 49,000 work oxen out of total of 109,000 at the beginning of the period. Similar losses are noted for Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi--States invaded and battled over by contending armies. But the figures given above point to the inescapable conclusion that it was the advent of the reaper, with its requirement of faster-moving motive power, rather than the effects of

wars that chiefly brought about reduction in the number of oxen employed. The result of this decrease in ox power was to diminish public interest in breeding for size and power, qualities in which the Shorthorn of that day excelled.

Sheep Raising Moves Westward

In the story of the range and its effects upon the cattle industry, brief mention is due Western sheep grazing and its effect upon the Kentucky scene. Coincident in point of time with the expansion of the Western cattle range was that of the development of sheep ranching in the same region. Moving forward in a broad front that extended from Kansas to the Canadian frontier, this industry forewarned the cattleman of the coming of the farmer, whose fields were perpetually encroaching upon the native pastures of the sheep herder. In turn the sheep herder moved his flocks deeper into the cattle range, and the story of the long conflict of interests between cattle and sheepmen makes one of the most dramatic, one of the least profitable, pages of our history.

The westward expansion of sheep raising occurred during the 1880's and 1890's, due to economic forces set in motion by the demand for wool created by the War between the States,to the relatively low cost of production on free lands of the West, and to a steadily mounting consumer demand for low-cost woolens.

Under the stimulus of war needs, American wool production, which in 1850 had stood at 52,000,000 pounds and in 1860 at 60,000,000, expanded rapidly during the 1860's to high of 180,000,000 pounds in 1869, declined to a low of 150,000,000 pounds in 1873, and then climbed steadily year after year until, in 1885, it stood at 308,000,000-- an increase of 600 per cent in a third of a century. Accompanying this production were importations of foreign wool that averaged 50,-000,000 pounds per year during the 1870's, that rose to over 100,000,000 pounds in the 1880's, and that reached 172,000,000 pounds in 1893. The national effect of this expansion of the sheep industry, plus the importations, was, as in the case of cattle, to overload the market and bring on a long-continued depression in wool and mutton prices. This depression was accentuated by the fact that from Australia and New Zealand wool superior in market quality was laid down in the wool port of Boston at prices with which the American grower on desirable agricultural lands could not compete. American sheep raising, as a consequence, was generally left to the range and to the more rugged or inferior pasture lands in the region east of the Mississippi. Kentucky, notable for early-day flocks, maintained their numbers at approximately 1,000,000 head from 1867 to 1886, when a sharp drop to three-quarters of a million occurred, which became the normal average for the 1888-1900 period. A slight rise in numbers brought a maximum of 852,000 in 1910, followed by a decline and recovery that left the number of sheep in the State for the year 1935 at 1,080,000-- an even 100,000 less than in 1867.

KENTUCKY FACES THE FUTURE

Against such broad backgrounds of international and national changes may be set, with better understanding, Kentucky of the seventh decade.

The losses of the war years in manpower, in personal property, and in irreplaceable values that inhere in community leadership are not easily measured. A careful study of all branches of the military services, North and South, shows that there were approximately 82,000 Union enlistments, as against 35,000 Confederate. The known Union dead or missing are recorded as 10,744-- approximately one-eighth of the enlistments. If the Confederate losses were as severe-- and there is reason to believe that they were heavier, since the Union figures in-

clude 12,000 State troops who saw little actual campaigning or fighting-- then the total figure for Kentucky dead in service stands at no less than 15,000.

In this estimate no account is taken of those permanently disabled by wounds or illness. No account is taken of those who left the State, either during or subsequent to the war, never to return. Many of these were boys growing into manhood, and their loss to the Commonwealth cannot be computed. Thousands of those who returned to find their places filled went into newer sections of this or other States. Nebraska, Kansas, and other States of the then growing Midwest are today richer because of Kentucky's involuntary contribution. These losses to Kentucky may not be forgotten.

An Estimate of Stock Losses

The extent to which the horse industry was called upon to supply mounts and motive power may be guessed by the fact that the Union Volunteer Cavalry entered Kentucky, rode away to war 24,000 of the finest saddle horses, chiefly from the Bluegrass and southern and western parts of the State. Thirty-five thousand Kentucky Confederate soldiers, many of them mounted, equipped themselves with all necessary transport from Kentucky pastures. In the early phase of the conflict, buyers from the Confederate armies bought liberally of horses and mules. All this was a drain upon the breeding stock that left the State weakened in horse and mule power, in spite of the fact that many excellent mounts were ridden home after the war was over.

The filling of empty paddocks and rebuilding of depleted herds took time or an outlay of money seldom available. The average Kentucky breeder and stockman of 1865 was rich in lands but desperately short of cash. With the livestock markets destroyed or curtailed, and the future uncertain, many turned to crop farming, plowed up their pastures, sowed wheat, rye, corn, and for a few brief years cashed in on the post-war prices that had been caused, even more than by the American war, by crop failures in western Europe and bitter want in that part of the world for food. By 1869 conditions in Europe had improved. An ever-increasing surplus of American wheat glutted markets no longer in desperate need. Grain prices fell to a level that offered little or no net return-- a condition that continued, with a few exceptional years, into the twentieth century.

This misadventure into "get-rich-quick" farming lost Kentucky much of the agricultural progress it had made between the years 1830 and 1850. After the War between the States there began, in grim earnest and in a wholesale way, the soil-wasting practices that gave rise to the State's current soil erosion and flash-flood problems.

Another effect of the war upon Kentucky was the serious disruption of its Southern outlets for mules, horses, cattle, hogs, and sheep. That market, built up over the eight decades prior to the war, was the dependable objective of breeders, particularly of mules, as the chief market for their stock. When this outlet was scattered under the marching armies of Sherman, the mule-breeding industry sought and found new outlets to the north and west. The light horses, not desired north of the Ohio, nor in the Kansas-Nebraska area which at that time was coming under the plow, found a restricted future as plow horses on the home market and in the very special-purpose field of the race track and the saddle. The resulting sharp competition for this restricted market explains, though not wholly, the intense interest displayed, subsequent to the war, in the racecourse and show ring. An amusement that always had appealed strongly to the average Kentuckian now held promise for him that, if his pastures produced a horse that

showed speed or form, sales from his stud would take him "out of the red." Racing, formerly a sport, became more and more a business. The track and show ring became essential features of the fair.

Meeting a Labor Problem

A still more crucial problem-- that of the general adoption of a new system of farm labor-- came into the picture with the passage, in 1865, of the amendment to the United States Constitution which liberated all slaves not affected by the emancipation proclamation of 1863. That amendment set free more than a quarter-million Kentucky Negroes, a large proportion of whom were living on farms of the Bluegrass, the Pennyrile, and the Purchase. Numbers of these made their way to the cities, but for the most part the former master and servant established a new relationship, unless prevented from so doing by agents of the Freedmen's Bureau, that differed in principle rather than in actual operation from the old. The former slave continued to live in his former cabin. He went about his accustomed tasks.He was paid for these services,and the former master was freed from the responsibilities that attach to ownership-- the provision of food and clothing,care in case of sickness, and continuous employment regardless of its economic value.

In many cases the former slave rented, on shares or for cash, land for tobacco or other cultivated crops, and under this varied program of agricultural employment, either for hire or on a self-employment basis, the Negro began making consistent if slow progress toward full economic independence. But the problems arising during this period of readjustment were trying.

For two years the State had been the theater of military operations that extended from the Mississippi to the Big Sandy. For the remainder of the war, partisan bands had held the State, particularly its well-developed agricultural Pennyrile and Bluegrass, in constant peril. In the course of these events, military and guerrilla, railroads had been destroyed, bridges burned, the normal course of business and trade interrupted. Crops and livestock had been impressed for military purposes or often, in the later period, looted outright.

The uncertainties attendant upon these conditions had caused many of the older breeders to retire. Some found safety for their herds across the Ohio. Others grimly held on and, at the end of the conflict, found their herds depleted, their pastures grown up to grass and weeds, and themselves facing financial ruin. When at last the war was over, when high prices disappeared, when economic ruin stared them in the face, many of the farmers sought relief from the problem of falling prices along co-operative and political lines. The rise, work, and decline of the Grange, successor in close descent to the militant agricultural and mechanical societies of the pre-war period, have a notable place in the State's history.

AN ADVENTURE INTO POLITICS

The Grange, officially the Patrons of Husbandry, an organization co-operative in principle and planned exclusively for farmers, was a national agricultural society that made its appearance during the early seventies, flourished for a few years, and then largely disappeared. In later years, it emerged as a non-secret farm organization of wide social and political influence, especially strong in New England,in certain of the Great Lakes States,and in the Pacific Northwest.

The Nation-wide solutions offered by the Grange of the seventies for the problems then facing agriculture were simple and drastic: (1) get rid of the "middleman," the local merchant, by establishing co-operative stores owned by and

operated for the farmers; (2) do away with the exactions of the "trusts" by setting up and operating factories for the manufacture of clothing and other goods, especially farm machinery; (3) hold the railroads in check by establishing State railroad and warehouse commissions, whose business should be the regulation of rail rates and the control of public grain elevators; (4) and, especially, lower interest rates.

There were other points to this national program-- opposition to liquor; the enfranchisement of women; betterment of the common schools-- but the four mentioned above were issues that, in one way or another, have lived on into the present. Itself professing no political ambitions, the National Grange found in the Greenback party of that era an agent necessary to a successful legislative attack upon the railroads and warehouses. This political battle merged into that waged by the Populist party of later years. Legislation was passed in many States, placing all rate-making and the bonding of warehouses under State control. The setting up of plants for the manufacture of farm machinery proved a costly failure, as also did that for the establishment of stores to "get rid of the middleman." The failure of the manufacturing plants was inevitable, inasmuch as they had neither the money, the equipment, nor the patents necessary to the design and manufacture of up-to-date farm equipment. The stores, many of them, succeeded, but only as they adapted themselves to the giving of credit and other ordinary business accommodations to which the farmers had been accustomed; and this adaptation, by lowering the net earnings, left the member short of his anticipated profits. This class struggle while it lasted was intense and bitter.

In Kentucky where, during 1873-78, more than 1,600 local Granges were established, the weakness of the Greenback party led the Grangers to work within the major parties, rather than to invite their opposition.

Grangers elected as Democrats-- the major party within the State-- held balance of power in the legislative session of 1876. It is but justice to credit to them a controlling part in the steps taken by the State to counteract the wasteful trends followed by agriculture in its effort to cash in on the high grain prices of the later sixties. In 1866 the State Agricultural College, promoted and fostered by the third State Agricultural Society, had set up its initial courses in the science of agriculture. Through Granger influence upon legislation, Kentucky, in the middle seventies, set up a State bureau of agriculture, labor, and statistics, and the geological survey was resumed, all of these for purposes clearly outlined by the third State Agricultural Society. The scope of the bureau was widened in 1878, and the third geological survey, in progress at that time, gave added information as to the soils and mineral resources of the State. With the establishment of the State experiment station in the eighties began that series of experiments which had been the dream of each of the earlier State agricultural societies. These experiments led directly to the practical results in animal husbandry, crop production,and soil conservation, that are today apparent.

The agitation of the Grange against the railroads, against the local merchants, and against the banks continued with less immediate beneficial results, though in time most if not all of the practices complained of were discontinued. Ultimately the States assumed supervision of warehouse and rail rates, of banks and, in general, of business practices that had given cause for complaint. But for the time being the railroads, and more especially the banks and the local merchants, fought back, marking the end of that alliance between town and country, and between agriculturist and mechanic, that had existed in Kentucky from pioneer days down to that time. This break came at a time when the plow, the reaper, the mower, the grain drill, the harrow, the hay rake, the threshing ma-

chine, the fanning-mill, and other equipment necessary to modern farming had already arrived. The era of experimentation, when any mechanic with skillful hands and an original idea might win a fortune, as indeed many Kentuckians had done, was nearing its close. With the appearance on the local fairgrounds of the binder of the late seventies and the swinging stacker of the early eighties, the long era of farmer and mechanic co-operative experimentation, which had begun with the plowing matches at the early fairs, reluctantly died.

CHANGES IN THE CATTLE INDUSTRY

The Kentucky stockman and farmer, of the decade after the War between the States, were finding their way as best they could through difficult years. During the seventies the long-used cattle trails were abandoned. "Court Day" markets brought the buyer close to the producer. Shipment in stock cars, mentioned in 1857 in connection with the United States Fair of that year, shortened the long trip to the stockyards at Cincinnati, Louisville, St. Louis, Chicago, or in the East. One effect of this change was that the stockman lost the sense of market fitness which comes from direct contact with the ultimate market. This loss resulted in less purposeful attention to breeding and in the introduction and crossing of the blood of various breeds with little regard to the result on market uniformity and acceptability.

Importations of cattle, horses, and other stock followed the ending of the war. In 1868 William Warfield, of Fayette County, and A. J. Alexander bought two imported Shorthorn bulls. In 1870 A. VanMeter, of Clark County, purchased Imp. Royal Richard. In 1871 Lewis Hampton and W. C. VanMeter scattered twenty-three head of imported Shorthorns throughout Clark County. Four years later the North Elkhorn Importing Company brought to the Bluegrass forty head of English registered Shorthorns. In 1882 A. J. Alexander and Leslie Combs brought to America two bulls and twenty cows, the cows largely of the blood of the bull, Renick, and that of the dam, Rose of Sharon, exported through their get, to England. And in 1883 the Kentucky Importing Company imported a shipment consisting of two bulls and thirty-four cows of Scotch breeding, which completes the available record of Shorthorn importations for the period.

The middle seventies witnessed the peak of the craze for fancy blood lines. Shorthorns of Bates blood sold at fantastic prices. At the E. G. Bedford sale, held in the autumn of 1874, seven head of the Loudoun Dutchess breed sold for $24,650. At this sale Bedford himself bought Loudoun Dutchess IX at $6,000 even money. At the same sale the Duke of Airdrie XXI brought $7,000. England, home of the Shorthorns, though swept by the craze, could not match such prices at its great sales. The Kentucky Shorthorn, judged by returns from the sales block, topped the world.

Private sales, as well as public, feature the entire eighth decade and the early years of the ninth. Breeders, as in Clark County, formed "circuits," arranging for a week or more of sales. Guests from other States, even from Europe, were invited, welcomed, entertained with the full measure of Kentucky hospitality, and sped on their way in the baronial fashion set by Alexander, VanMeter, the Warfields, and others.

One effect, not intended or foreseen, of these many sales was that breeders, tempted by the heights to which bidding rose, sold themselves short on the foundation stock to which they owed their prestige and prosperity. The chief beneficiaries of such short-sightedness were breeders in the States of Indiana and Illinois, where, from the most preferred of Kentucky's stock, arose herds that later challenged and surpassed Kentucky itself in popularity with the buying public.

The 124 individual Shorthorn importations mentioned above are referred to in some detail, not so much because of their influence upon the herds of Kentucky, which is unquestioned, but because they indicate that a level of Shorthorn excellence had been reached where even so great an addition of excellent blood did not materially check the trend away from the Shorthorn and toward other breeds. Over-refinement in nonessentials is one of the charges brought against the great Shorthorn breeders of the 1870's. The allegation is made that they sacrificed to pedigree and show-ring points of excellence those basic essentials of weight, fleshing, and attractive sales-floor appearance that had won for the Shorthorn its former leading position on the markets. With the coming of the Herefords of Indiana and Illinois to the Shelbyville and other Bluegrass fairs of 1886 there followed years of indecision, during which the leadership of the Shorthorns of Kentucky was lost. Other breeds, particularly the Hereford, as well as dairy cattle, entered the Bluegrass. The Angus did not arrive until the turn of the century. About that time Walnut Hall Farm, near Lexington, introduced the Hampshire breed of sheep, and boasted the leading flock in America. Together with the Southdown, the Hampshire has since led the Kentucky exhibits at the local fairs and in the rings at Kentucky State Fair. The attention of the farmer was turned more and more toward diversification of stock as a means of securing a dependable average yearly income. Shorthorn blood dominated the pastures and feed lots, even as it does today; but it was no longer alone. Sheep, hogs, and poultry were given increasing consideration in the farm economy. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the broad breed and class foundations of the Kentucky State Fair of the present time were being laid in the breeding paddocks and pens of the Commonwealth.

A SHIFT IN CASH CROPS

Two signal changes in crop production affecting the agricultural economy of the State took place during the period of the war. Hemp, grown chiefly in the Bluegrass, and "hard on the land," a crop highly conducive to erosion, declined in acreage and farm income. Tobacco, with like unfavorable cultural features and results, expanded its acreage and as a commercial crop overspread the State.

Kentucky hemp production that in 1860 was reported as 39,400 out of a United States total of 74,493 tons, dropped in 1870 to 7,777 out of a United States production of but 12,746 tons. In 1880 the Kentucky reported tonnage was 4,583; the tonnage for the entire country was 5,025. Ten years later the Kentucky tonnage had increased to 10,794; that for the entire Nation to 11,511. At the close of the century Kentucky was producing in excess of 5,000 tons and ten years later, with the industry practically destroyed by the invasion of manila and sisal, production had dropped to 3,210 tons. Present-day hemp fields, at the vanishing point, strictly controlled by Federal license, are confined to the lowlands along the Kentucky River.

The decline in tonnage mirrors a like decline in hemp manufacturing. The great ropewalks fell into disuse. The site of General John Hunt Morgan's ropewalk in Lexington, where more than 400 slaves were employed prior to the War between the States, is today unmarked and almost unknown. The decline was coincident with the almost complete disappearance of American sailing ships from the high seas, and the replacement, by giant steam freighters, of the numerous and active ships of the schooner fleet on the Great Lakes.

Considering the small acreage required for Kentucky's hemp at its maximum of 40,000 tons, the influence of that production was remarkable. The acreage, small as it was, was portioned out in little fields extending widely over the rich

lands of central Kentucky. The growing, breaking, and setting of the crop required skilled hand labor; its sale brought in cash, its manufacture into cordage brought industrial prosperity to the towns, and the American war and merchant fleets were rigged with cordage that, by its excellence, brought reputation to Kentucky. Nor is it to be forgotten that to a Kentuckian, Lewis Sanders, father of the agricultural fairs of the Commonwealth, is due the credit for Kentucky's pre-eminence in one of the smaller but most essential industries of the nineteenth century.

Tobacco production, coeval with the history of the State, had reached, in 1860, an annual production of 108,000,000 pounds. This was twice its tonnage recorded by the preceding census. During the War between the States, production, which was chiefly in western Kentucky, dipped and rose again by 1870 to slightly less than the 1860 figure. In the eighth decade production rose from 105,000,000 to 171,000,000 pounds, and by the end of the century to well in excess of 220,000,000 pounds.

Both the recovery toward the end of the seventh decade and the rapid increase between 1870 and 1880 must be attributed, in good part, to the appearance of white burley, a tobacco originating in Kentucky and confined almost wholly, prior to recent years, to the State of its origin. The appearance of this variety is thus described by K. D. Ellis, a Cincinnati tobacco merchant who, writing in the Western Tobacco Journal, in 1875, says that:

> "In the spring of 1864 farmers in Brown County, Ohio, procured from G. W. Barkley, of Bracken County, Ky., a quantity of seed then known as "little burley." When George Webb, one of these farmers, came to transplant his seed bed, he found plants that had a peculiar yellowish color. Supposing them diseased, he pulled them up and threw them away.
>
> "The next year, being short of seed, he sowed the remainder of this old seed and again found the kind of plants that he had thrown away the year before. This excited the curiosity of Webb and others whose attention had been called to these plants. As a result they were induced to transplant them. In all about 1,000 plants were raised, which proved to be healthy and thrifty. When fully ripe they were almost a cream color, making a great contrast with other varieties.
>
> "The result of this experiment created a sensation throughout the neighborhood. Many growers came from the surrounding country to see what they considered a freak of nature. The tobacco cured a bright yellow or cream color, but was adjudged bitter to the taste. Although a considerable amount of seed had been saved, and the tobacco produced many pounds, some growers did not plant due to the bitter taste. The plant beds that were sown with burley seed in 1866 were found to contain a much larger portion of white plants than green ones. A sufficient quantity was transplanted to produce some 20,000 pounds of cured tobacco. Two hogsheads of this production were shipped to the Cincinnati market and were sold at a high price. The purchaser shipped the same variety of tobacco to the St. Louis Fair of 1867 and, after being awarded the first and second premiums for cutting leaf, sold it for $58 per hundred pounds.
>
> "The record made at these fairs prompted the planters of Brown County, Ohio, and Bracken County, Ky., to plant largely of this kind of tobacco. Its culture has since progressed to the point where, in the present day, it is literally impossible to find a grower raising any type of tobacco other than burley in these vicinities."

This fortunate incident, an outstanding example of mutation in the history of plant breeding, has brought wealth and progress, poverty and warfare, agricultural co-operation and soil depletion, industrial development, social, and political problems to the Bluegrass State. "Little Burley" early dropped the "white," "little," or "light" and appropriated to itself the name of its ancestor. It extended the area of tobacco growing into regions of the State not theretofore devoted commercially to tobacco and made Kentucky one of the major States both in tobacco culture and in cigarette manufacturing. It has made of tobacco growing the dominant agricultural industry of Kentucky, but one that, like its predecessor, hemp, is confined to a relatively small but widely distributed acreage. With a total approximate production of 296,000,000 pounds in 1940, the acreage of that year devoted to tobacco culture was only 343,200, a mere 6.3 per cent of the cultivated lands of the State.

TRENDS OF KENTUCKY FARMING AND INDUSTRY

The war's dislocation of the cattle industry mentioned above was not so serious or far-reaching as might be inferred from studying the comparative census figures for 1860 and 1870, which read (all cattle) 834,000 and 698,000 respectively. The unsettled conditions under which the count of 1870 was taken make its records open to question. More reliable are the figures of the United States Department of Agriculture, continuous from and after the year 1867. These show that the 1867 figure of 779,000 was only 7 per cent under that for 1860; but the count did not rise to the 1860 level until 1878, when it stood at 862,000, after which it moved steadily toward the million mark, passed in 1886. Thenceforward that figure may be taken as normal, save for two depressions in the industry; one in the late nineties, the other from 1910-15.

A more illuminating fact is that according to Department of Agriculture sources the numbers of milch cows in Kentucky rose from 180,000 in 1867 to 250,000 in 1870, to 290,000 in 1880, to 321,000 in 1890, and to 340,000 (one third of the total),in 1900. This reveals the growing influence of the Bates Shorthorn and of the distinctively dairy breeds upon which the present-day dairying in the State is based.

Kentucky sheep were at an all-time high of 1,180,000 head in 1867, exceeding the census count of 1860 by 242,000. Hogs, 2,330,000 in 1860, as compared to 1,884,000 in 1867, show a falling off of more than a million head since the count of 1850. The later trend for sheep (see above) was downward; hogs showed an increase in the early seventies, reaching a maximum for the decade of 2,190,000 in 1872, a figure not since attained. The low of 1,588,000 for the period was touched in 1877, with numbers fluctuating around 2,000,000 for the eighties and nineties.

The tobacco acreage for the State (see above) leaped from 72,463 in 1867 to 232,911 in 1881, and reached 323,000 acres (with a production of 283,000,000 pounds) in 1888, with a farm value of $21,247,971.

Wheat, already assuming importance as a cash crop in 1867, occupied in that year 34[illegible],195 acres; by 1882,all-time Kentucky peak of acreage and production, the acreage was 1,287,000; the yield 17,250,000 bushels; the farm value $15,525,000.

These figures reveal significant trends of the period, but the expanding agricultural plant of the State as a whole must be taken into consideration. This is shown in the following table compiled from Federal census figures:

Year	Total Farms	Per Cent Improved Land	Total Improved Acreage	Value of Livestock	Spent for Commercial Fertilizers
1850	74,777	64.8	5,900,000	$ 29,000,000	No record
1860	90,814	60.1	7,644,000	61,800,000	No record
1870	118,422	56.6	8,100,000	66,280,000	No record
1880	166,453	50.1	10,700,000	49,600,000	$ 145,674
1890	179,264	44.8	11,800,000	70,924,000	317,231
1900	234,667	62.5	13,741,968	73,739,106	908,250
1910	259,185	64.7	14,354,471	112,605,412	1,350,720

The effect of the depression of the 1870's is plainly visible in the decreased value of livestock given in the 1880 column. The noteworthy increase in farms during the 1860's was due, in part, to the breaking up of large estates. The increase shown in the 1880's records a continuation of that process, plus the extension of farming in the more rugged sections of the State. This latter movement went on markedly during the closing decade of the century.

The final column in the table records the awakening to the results of depletion of the fertility of the soils of the State. Good farmers had long followed the practice of manuring their fields. They adhered to a plan of crop rotation worked out to suit the individual farm. They had discovered the practical values of clover and other soiling crops, which checked erosion. Their farms responded to this care. Others followed the too-familiar practice of one-cropping fields, year after year, and then abandoning them to gullies and briar when erosion set in. Wheat growing, the increase of tobacco acreage, and the cultivation of hemp and corn all tended to result in loss of fertility, which manifested itself in reduced yields. Farmers growing the higher value crops, following the advice of the Agricultural College and the Department of Agriculture, began treatment of their weakening soils during the 1870's by applying lime and phosphates. The practice, as shown by the expenditures for commercial fertilizers, grew steadily from small beginnings until, in 1910, such outlay had passed well beyond the million-dollar mark.

Poultry and egg production was another line of farming that assumed large importance by the end of the century. Originally, merely a sideline to more important phases of farming, during the ninth decade egg production rose from a recorded 15,812,000 to 24,000,000 dozen. Two decades later this had doubled, and the estimated value of the egg crop for 1909 was $7,600,000.

A listing of the value of agricultural production of the 130,074 farms in Kentucky for the year 1909 presents a broad picture of the position of agricultural industries of the State as the automotive age began.

The total value of all crops amounted to $138,973,000. Tobacco led with $39,868,000. Corn was a close second at $50,449,000. Other crops were: vegetables, $11,850,000; hay and forage, 10,306,000. Wheat production was valued at $8,812,000, fruit at $5,019,000, oats at $1,216,000, cotton at $223,000, and unclassified crops at $11,000,000.

The value of livestock was $23,308,000; of poultry and eggs (note above), $13,279,000; of dairy products, $9,055,000; of wool, $770,000; and of honey, $232,000. Butter for that year reached a total of 38,680,000 pounds, only 550,000 of which was creamery-made. Cheese manufactured amounted to 56,000 pounds with a value of $4,842.

As a counterpoise to this weight of evidence of the substantial agricultural progress made between 1860 and the close of the first decade of the twentieth century are the figures showing the closely related industrial progress of the Commonwealth between the years 1880 and 1900:

Year	No.Factories	Invested Capital	No.Employees	Wages	Value of Product
1880	5,238	$45,000,000	37,000	$11,000,000	$ 75,000,000
1900	3,648	87,000,000	52,000	18,500,000	126,000,000

A study of these figures reveals the ending for Kentucky of the long era of the small establishments and the coming of great industries employing large capital and increased labor at increased wages, producing correspondingly increased total values.

REVIVAL OF THE LOCAL SOCIETY FAIRS

The War between the States dealt harshly with the agricultural and mechanical societies. Of the twenty-seven active in the late fifties, many ceased to function. But in 1866, when something like normal agricultural and industrial life was resumed, there is current newspaper record of at least twelve fairs held in the following counties: Barren, Bourbon, Breckinridge, Daviess, Fayette, Henderson, Mercer, Nelson, Owen, Scott, Shelby, and Washington. Interest in these fairs lies, not in the strength of their exhibits, but in the fact that they had the strength to exhibit at all.

In spite of the disturbed economic and social conditions subsequent to the war, it is recorded of the Bourbon County Fair that "the receipts were near $5,000, being more than ever before received." Barren County reported "People proud that they can meet again without interruption from any source, either military or political." The Glasgow Cornet Band entertained the crowds. Lady judges awarded prizes on quilts and needlework. Improvement in local stock was noted. W. W. Cabbel's stallion, Lexington, took highest award for sire with four colts. There was a "hop" described as a"brilliant affair." The Breckinridge Fair featured tobacco. The riding exhibition was "most interesting and exciting." Clark County made local history with its women's exhibit. The cattle show was "said by old herdsmen to be the best they had ever seen-- the VanMeters, Hughes', and the Warfields-- never looked happier than when brought into battle array against each other for the same premiums." The saddle and harness horse class made the reporter say: "Kentucky has the finest horses in the world-- and Clark County has done much toward giving our state her peerless reputation." The Central Kentucky Fair at Danville took in over $4,000 in gate money. Green County featured tobacco, field crops, stock, horsemanship, and its fair was rated a "decided success."

Lexington revived its fair, which was well attended. The Bardstown Fair in Nelson County was a "reunion of those who had formerly been hostile"; the estimated first day's attendance brought gate receipts amounting to $2,500. The report says that there was shown "more fine stock than was ever brought together before in Nelson." There were trots followed by a grand ball at the hotel. Shelby County rivaled the fair held that year at Paris with a total of more than 20,000 attendance. The exhibition rings showed, by their depletion, the effects of the war, but the quality had never been excelled. The Owensboro Fairgrounds, "finest in the state," were the scene of an excellent general exhibit. The account speaks of a ring 240 feet in diameter and of the city's admirable treatment of its guests.

In such fashion the local agricultural and mechanical associations, in 1866 and the remaining years of the seventh decade, reopened their fairs and moved forward. During this and the following decade many of the old associations passed out of the picture. Others reorganized and new associations were formed.

Beginning with the period immediately after the War between the States and ending with the century, more than eighty agricultural and mechanical associations were chartered by the State. These were additional to any organized prior to that war and then still functioning. (For fuller data, see below.)

Many of these fairs of the seventies were organized by men returned from the war, and there was, in such organizations especially, less of the educational fervor of the earlier fairs and more of a holiday spirit. This trend showed itself in the staging of the "trots" and a companion feature, the "tournaments," parent of the Horse Show of the present time.

The "Trots" Are Popular

Practically every society organized subsequent to the War between the States had its own grounds, on which ample provision was made for a track, usually a half-mile oval, where the speed events were held, as well as the livestock parade and other features. Opposite the judge's stand was the grandstand or other provision for the comfort of the crowd, for women and children now formed a large percentage of the total attendance. The crowning feature of the fair, the "trots," usually occurring on the last day, took up the full afternoon. Between these events the crowd visited, stretched, jostled, drank lemonade, ate popcorn and peanuts, even as it does today. During the heats it came to attention, tensed, and gave itself over, en masse, to the excitement of the moment-- only a few long breaths-- between the start and the finish of the heat. Only the rigidly pious or the hopelessly old-fashioned saw anything sinister in the "trots," though many drew the line at the "races," as the running events were termed. The latter, associated in the popular mind with betting, was deemed sinful; the former, an innocent diversion.

The Saddle Horse Wins Popularity

While the trotter and pacer were achieving more than local fame on the track, the Kentucky Saddle Horse, later known as the American Saddle Horse, was winning a name on the tanbark.

Tournaments that brought the Saddle Horse into public notice appear to have been initiated during the State Fair of 1865, held in Louisville. They were an attempt to reduce to some order and system the "prancings and curvettings" of saddle horses ridden at fairs prior to the war, in order to demonstrate the skill of the rider and the intelligence of his mount. A description of the Louisville tournament of 1865 explains, for the benefit of the initiated, that:

> "The men ride around the ring on horseback with spears in their hands. At equal intervals around the amphitheater rings are placed, and the person who succeeds in taking down the most rings with his spear is deemed the victor. The gentleman who shall accomplish this feat will have the privilege and pleasure of crowning the lady he may elect (as Queen of Beauty) with a beautiful wreath, valued at $50, to be furnished by the association."

The winner, styled as Sir Knight, received in addition an award of $25. Rules governed the contest. One rule was that the trial had to be completed within twenty-five seconds. Another rule was that the best two out of three was the winner. Still another rule was to the effect that the contestant must sit his saddle during the event. A Sir Knight of the 1865 tournament was disqualified because he climbed over the front of his saddle and rode his mount's neck!

Other Features of the Fair

The excitement attending these contests equaled, if it did not surpass, that attending the trots. One or the other, often both, were the outstanding attraction of the local fairs. Other attractions marked a further departure from the spirit of the earlier fairs. Women's exhibits increased in variety and importance, but decreased in industrial values. Weaving became reminiscent of an art that was passing. The sewing machine displayed in Floral Hall drew more attention than the best work of the loom. The gaudily-painted threshing machine or self-binder drew general attention, while the offering of the skilled local mechanic was passed by as "neighbor Smith's contraption." Cattle and horses still dominated the livestock rings,and vegetables and grains drew more than a passing glance only if they possessed the quality of bigness or of unusual variety. Prizes for essays and awards for acre-production were no longer a part of the fairs.

Little by little the scene took on a carnival atmosphere. As a rule, liquor was prohibited, both on the grounds and within the surrounding area, but games of chance, where not expressly outlawed, flourished. The shell game and other "tests of skill" were common. Swings and the "flying horses" gave young couples their chance for love making. Puppet shows were popular. Devotees of the violin and the hurdy-gurdy enjoyed the strains of "Pop-Goes-the-Weasel" and "Money Musk" as the one musical spree of the year. Singers, often blind, told at doleful length the sad stories of "Fair Charlotte" and like proud females who didn't mind their mothers. Medicine men cried the merits of the latest "rock oil" or other remedy for man or beast. Bar soap was one of the latest "inventions" of the time and sold well. Fortune tellers plied their trade. Clowns tumbled, and tightrope walkers walked ropes above popeyed youngsters who had heard of Blondin and his crossing of the Niagara Gorge. Now and then a circus timed its travels to coincide with the fair date and offered a rival attraction, usually at some vacant lot point where it could catch the crowd coming and going. Balloons, known for three-quarters of a century, were new to the Commonwealth, and a huge attraction to any fair fortunate enough to secure it was "Professor Aerial's death-defying act."

A dance frequently accompanied the fair. Belles and beaux, arrayed in their finest, climaxed the doings at the fairgrounds with a night of revelry after the best traditions of the Golden Years.

The County Fair Becomes a Community Gathering

For the older and more sedate, fairtime became an annual event, something on the order of a picnic, to be enjoyed rather than to be labored at. Many of the ordinary domestic burdens were still carried by the "help." Picnic lunches were prepared, and at noontime families and their friends sat down together to forget, if but for the day, the bitterness engendered by "the war." Owners of herds and showmen alike pitched their tents in the shade of trees, and kept open house. The hospitality dispensed at their tables was famous as far away as the Canadian pastures and the hills of New England. What the societies and their fairs had lost in educational values, they made up for-- all that and much more-- as meeting places of human feeling and emotion, where the social wounds of the war were

healed, and where the bitterness of its aftermath were softened and forgiven. Considering the events of 1861-65, the fairs of the following twenty years brought with them little to regret and much of healing. War-weary men and women there met as enemies and parted as reunited old-time friends. The younger generation met as strangers and parted as lovers. The fairs of an earlier time had struggled to exist. The fairs of 1865 and after became a social institution that still lives on, from the Big Sandy to the Purchase, in the local fairs of today.

AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL ASSOCIATIONS OF 1861-90

The following table of agricultural and mechanical associations organized subsequent to 1860 is taken from the various acts of the Kentucky Legislature and from other available and pertinent sources. Associations of the 1850-60 period, for example, Bourbon County Agricultural and Mechanical Society, which extended over into the 1861-1904 period, (see chapter V) are not listed. Where possible, succession of an association here listed to a previous association is mentioned in the text. The abbreviated forms "A. & M. Association" or "A. & M." are used, here and elsewhere, interchangeably with the full form, "Agricultural and Mechanical Association" or "Society."

Area - Name of Organization - Other Data

Nov. 11, 1862-- Hemp Ridge Farmers' Association, of Shelby County. Incorporators: William L. Waddy, George Smith, Thomas B. Posey, James Hackworth, Warner Jesse (and others). This was a split-off from the already existing A. & M. Association of Shelby County.

May 3, 1865-- Breckinridge County (and others), A. & M. Society. Formed by "divers persons." Provided for life membership. Fairgrounds at Cloverport.

Jan. 18, 1867-- Fulton County Agricultural Association. Incorporators: John R. McGehee, Wm. Herron, Wm. L. Alexander, N. N. Cowgill, B. F. Carr, Henry Campbell, Joshua Naylor, and others. A. P. Thompson, John Beard, Wm. H. Rosser, J.W. Mayers, J. H. Dodds, M. Adams, C. S. Harper, Owen W. Miles, J. H. Davis, C. L. Randle, Saml. Landrum, E. M. Wilburn, and others.

Jan. 29, 1867-- Henderson County Fair Company. Officers and directors: John Frenk, president, and E. W. Worsham, vice president; Geo. M. Priest, N. C. Howard, Wm. M. Lockett, John S. McCormick, John Rudy, John N. Lyle, and H. F. Turner, directors. Capital, $100,000; shares $25. One share, one vote.

Jan. 29, 1867-- Joint Stock Agricultural and Mechanical Association of Madison County. Officers and directors: D. A. Chenault, president; R. G. Martin, James A. Moran, and John D. Harris, vice presidents; Charles S. Turner, J. P. Estill, E. J. Shackelford, Basil Hackett, T. S. Ellis, Clifton Bergin, Joel W. Embry, Wm. K. Denny, and Wm. T. Barnes, directors. Drinking, swearing, and all misconduct prohibited on or within one-quarter mile of grounds.

March 6, 1867-- Clark County Agricultural Association. Incorporators: James Gay, president; A. C. Barrow, R. J. White, George M. Bedford, Isaac C. VanMeter, and Nelson Prewett, vice presidents; John H. Goff, John W. Prewett, James D. Gay, Thomas McDaniel, Dr. Thomas H. Robinson, A. L. Haggard, Robert S. Taylor, Allen Bush, and Nicholas Winn, directors. This is, doubtless, the first incorporation, although Clark had an active association in the late 1850's. Name changed by amendment in 1872 to Clark County Stock Society.

Jan. 9, 1868-- Adair County A. & M. Association. Incorporators: Timoleon Bradshaw, Hector Owens, S. K. Rhorer, Henderson Wilson, Sydney Dunbar, Joseph Hunter, T. C. Winfrey, Alfred Gilmer, Jos. Coffee, William E. Baker, Jas. R. Hindman, T. T. Alexander, and others. Stock, $30,000; shares, $25.

Jan. 11, 1868-- Breckinridge A. & M. Association of Hardinsburg. Incorporators: "The president and directors already elected."

Jan. 12,1868-- Hart County Agricultural and Mechanical Association. Officers and directors: Robert Sterret, president; John E. Rowlett and R. A. Dawson, vice presidents. James H. Compton, recording secretary; J. M. Brents, corresponding secretary; James T. Brown, treasurer; James L. Garvin, W. D. Lester, J. W. Fitzpatrick, Robert Armstrong, Tom Crutcher, George W. Thompson, and Z. G. Green, directors. Land limited to 25 acres.

Jan. 16, 1868-- Marion County A. & M. and Stock Association. Officers and directors: Joseph Spalding, president; R. R. Harris, Jas. Miller, and D. S. Maxwell, vice presidents, H. D. Gilmore, G. H. Spears, L. A. Spalding, E. A. Graves, John Spalding, J. H. Keill, R. A. Burton, D. L. Graves, David Cleaver, W. P. McElroy, John McElroy, and C. B. Harrison, directors. Shares $50. Limited to 50 acres.

Jan. 19, 1868-- Simpson County A. & M. Association. Officers and directors: W. C. Montague, president; Samuel K. Bland, vice president; Robert D. Salmons, treasurer; and William K. Duncan, secretary; W. C. Montague, R. D. Salmons, Thomas Stringer, Z. H. T. Dodz, J. W. Whitesides, John A. Crowdus and K. D. Nichols, directors. Trotting or running races authorized by 1878 amendment to charter.

Jan. 22, 1868-- Warren County A. & M. Association. "Divers persons." No personal liability. Fairs at or near Bowling Green. Capital, $20,000; shares, $100.

Feb. 6, 1868-- Cumberland County A. & M. Society. Incorporators: Hilvy M. Alexander, Wm. F. Owsley, M. O. Allen, Mathew Lynn, J. H. C. Sandridge, Robert K. Young, James A. Gilmer, James H. Ritcy, James Hereford, and Warren Tobin. Capital, $10,000; shares, $25. Land limit 100 acres. Burkesville or Cumberland County police given jurisdiction.

Feb. 7, 1868-- McLean County A. & M. Association. Incorporators: "Divers persons." Amended in 1869 to empower officers to appoint police.

Feb. 8, 1868-- Breckinridge A. & M. Society. Officers and directors: John C. Babbage, president; William H. Webb, John W. Raitt, William H. Bowmer, T. F. Satterfield, Benjamin Bates, Barnett Fisher, and John Lightfoot, directors. Society given control over grounds and surrounding one-half mile zone as to vending of goods, wares, merchandise, confections, edibles, etc.

Feb. 28, 1868-- Ballard, Blandville, and Ballard County A. & M. Association. Commissioners: B. H. Stovall, William J. Harkless, J. M. Unsell, George Utterback. A. S. Taylor, C. P. Ray, and Z. W. Bugg.

March 5, 1868--Bluegrass A. & M. and Horticultural Association of Fayette County. Incorporators: Dr. Sam. H. Chew, Charles Tarleton, John R. Viley, William Hughes, James Ware, Thomas H. Shelby, Jr., Henry Bowman, Hamilton Headley, Dr. E. Herr and Thomas McDaniel. Shares, $25. Land limited to 200 acres.

Jan. 29, 1869-- Henry A. & M. Association. Incorporators: J. N. Webb, Joseph Brinker, A. B. Smith, Dr. L. E. Brown, Chilton Scott, S. P. Smith, Frank Troutman, Joseph Pryor, R. L. Ricketts, L. H. Corbin, Richard Webb, Dr. ----- Wilson, James P. Ellis, and others.

Feb. 3, 1869-- Mercer County A. & M. Association. Land limited to 50 acres. Police court of Harrodsburg given jurisdiction. Police powers repealed in 1874.

March 6, 1869-- Green County A. & M. Association. Incorporators: "Divers persons." Capital, $2,000; shares, $50. Land limit, 50 acres. Half-mile wide police zone extending about grounds.

Feb. 28, 1870-- Pulaski A. & M. Society. Officers and directors: Robert Chesney, Joseph B. Newell, Allen Jones, Henry Farris, James Divlin, Dr. J. W. F. Parker, and C. W. Richardson.

March 4, 1870-- Fayette (and others). Agricultural and Mechanical Association of Colored People, at Lexington. Land limit 25 acres.

March 22, 1871-- Wayne County A. & M. Society. Officers and directors: John Ingram, N. J. Bustin, A.S. Jones, John L. Salle, Loyd A. Lanear, Martin P. Salle, B. W. Huffaker, Thomas J. Oatts, and H. H. Gibson. Capital, $7,000; shares, $25.

March 22, 1871-- Henry, Eminence A. & M. Association. Incorporators: "Divers persons." Land limited to 50 acres. Stock certificates issued to purchasers of shares.

Feb. 12, 1872-- Clark County Stock Society, successor, by amendment of name, to Clark County Agricultural Association of 1867 (see chapter V).

March 2, 1872-- Boone, Walton A. & M. Association. Incorporators: John G. Snow, James L. Lampton, Reuben Conner, John Arnold, Harvey Hicks, Volney Dickerson, Ben Q. Roberts, John Case, Jas. B. Finnell, A. Q. Baker, Joseph Jenkins, O. P. Hagan, J. Crockett Sayrs, Jr., W. Tucker, Daniel McCarty, Frank Mansfield, A. Stansifer, and others. Shares, $25. Land limited to 100 acres.

March 27, 1872-- Fleming, Mason and Lewis counties; A.,H., and M. Association. Incorporators: Charles Marshall, Gilbert Adams, William R. Darnell, H. B. Dobyns, Isaac Kelly, Charles Nutt, G. A. Henderson, and F. A. Henderson, of Fleming County; L. B. Goggin, William Lightner, and John Alexander, of Mason County; A. D. Tolle, James Thomas, John Bradley, and H. M. Rash, of Lewis County, and others. Capital, $20,000; shares, $25. Gambling prohibited.

March 28, 1872-- Madison, Joint Stock A. & M. Association of Colored People. Officers and directors: Richard Breck, president; Henry McClanahan and Geo. Denny, vice presidents; Anderson Rogers, treasurer; Jesse Ballard, secretary; Henry Letcher, Martin Jarman, Henry Duncan, Madison Tevis, James Fields, Alex Stone, and Wilson Shearer, directors; and others. Shares, $50. Land limit 50 acres.

March 28, 1872-- McCracken, Graves, and Marshall counties. Southwestern Kentucky Agricultural and Stock Raising Association. Incorporators: Wm. M. Gardner, Joseph Starr, Dr. S. F. Singleton, E. P. Jacobs, Mat Ross, Dr. Jo. Roof, J. W. Caldwell, Thos. Jones, J. D. Morgan, Dr. J. W. Singleton, R. H. Floriss, John Steager, Jas. Bell, Dr. A. White, and Dr. W. R. Robinson, of McCracken County; Joshua Boaz, Dr. A. J. Smith, Bins Derrington, Houston McClure, Geo. J. Bolinger, C. C. Coulter, J. N. Boaz, W. C. Clark, Dr. Reed, Thos. Albritton,

Arthur Gardner, D. Sullivan, Dr. J. L. Dismukes, Thos. Boaz, W. W. Adams, Erwin Anderson, W. W. Robertson, Lucien Anderson, and W. Rich, of Graves County; Isaac Worsham, Peter Baker, and Major Wells, of Marshall County; and others. Land limited to 25 acres.

March 28, 1872-- Woodford, Colored A. & M. Association. Incorporators: "divers colored citizens." The selling of liquor, wares, and goods prohibited on or within half mile of fairgrounds.

March 28, 1872-- Kentucky A. & M. Society, at Lexington, Fayette County. Incorporators: Benjamin Gratz, William T. Hughes, Dr. R. J. Spurr, John R. Viley, F. K. Hunt, Hamilton A. Headley, William Warfield, and others. Capital, $100,000; shares, $100. Land limit 100 acres. This society succeeded organizations of 1850 and 1868.

March 28, 1872-- Anderson, Franklin, and others. Stock, A. & M. Association of Anderson, Franklin, and Salvisa (known as the "Salvisa Fair"). Incorporators: "Divers persons in Anderson, Mercer, Franklin, Woodford, Shelby counties, and others." Capital stock, $10,000, shares, $25. Land limit of 50 acres.

March 29, 1872-- Shelby A. & M. Association of Colored People. Officers and directors: H. Marrs, president; J. Flint, vice president; L. Lawson, secretary; C. Tevis, assistant secretary; Samuel Malk, treasurer; B. Tyler, D. Baker, J. Weaver, J. Jefferson, J. Maclasky, R. Davis, T. Ballard, S. Bullitt, C. Jones, H. Bivens, and D. Riggs, directors. Shares, $25. Land limit, 40 acres.

Feb. 19, 1873-- Woodford, and others. World's Fair Association of Woodford County. Incorporators: Chas. Wheller, G. H. Buford, Chas. Tarlton, Jas. Porter, A. S. Drake, and Pat Dolan, of Fayette County; and Jas. Nutter, J. Purtis, Sr., W. Payne, of Scott County; J. Utterback, Andrew Steele, John Curtis, Jr., B. M'Armet, J. W. Withrow, Lester Witherspoon, and Lewis Martin, of Woodford County, and others, near the border of Fayette and Scott counties. Capital, $10,000, shares, $25. Land limit, 100 acres.

March 25, 1873-- A. & M. Association of the Colored People of Bourbon County, at Paris. Incorporators: Wm. Stubans, Thomas Kelly, A. H. Smurt, Jacob Porter, and others. Land limited to 25 acres. Penalty $20 for sale of liquor upon or near grounds.

April 4, 1873-- Ballard, Union Agricultural, and Mechanical Association, near Fort Jefferson. Commissioners: Joseph C. Depoyster, Andy Bodkin, Thomas H. Richardson, Samuel H. Jenkins, and A. S. Taylor. Capital, $25,000, shares, $25. Land limited to 100 acres.

Feb. 23, 1874-- Fleming, Mason, Robertson, Nicholas, Bath, A. & M. Association. Incorporators: Thomas Clark, James Given, Robert Ewing, John Sherwood, A. W. Ishmael, and others. Capital, $20,000, shares $50. Land limited to 10 to 25 acres.

Feb. 23, 1874-- Fayette, Lexington Agricultural and Industrial Exposition Company. Incorporators: James T. Robinson, John A. Prall, James H. Muligan, James A. Farra, W. T. Hughes, and others. Land limited to 150 acres. Provides that city of Lexington may take $5,000 worth of stock. Shares, $50.

March 11, 1876-- Bath, A. & M. Association.

March 18, 1876-- Kenton, South Covington (Latonia) Fair and Trotting Park Association, was organized as an agricultural society. Since known as "Latonia," it has had an interesting track history. Incorporators: E. F. Abbott, A. D. Bullock, James B. Casey, B. R. Morton, W. O. Ford, John B. Foster, W. L. Grant, W. E. Ashbrook, J. L. Sanford, and others. Capital, $100,000; shares, $50.

March 20, 1876-- Calloway, A. & M. Association of Calloway County.

Jan. 17, 1878-- Boyd Fair Association.

March 8, 1878-- McCracken and Paducah Fair Association.

March 16, 1878-- Pendleton A. & M. Association.

March 21, 1878-- Fayette,Woodford;New World's Fair of the State of Kentucky.

April 5, 1878-- Jefferson, State Agricultural, Mechanical,Zoological and Botanical Association. Incorporators: Chas. D. Jacob, Edward Wilder, E. H. Chase, John Watts Kearney, John Barbee, Bennett H. Young, Chas. Godshaw, and Arthur Peter. Capital, $500,000; shares, $100. Each stockholder entitled to one vote only.

April, 1878-- Stock and Agricultural Society, of Washington County, near Springfield. Incorporators: Saml. R. Grundy, Jas. W. Montgomery, William J. Robertson, J. T. Suttles, F. S. Hill, Thos. S. Grundy, and Richard J. Browne, and others. Capital, $5,000 to $10,000; shares, $50.

April 19, 1878-- Marion, Lebanon, and Marion County Fair Company.

April 19, 1878-- Washington, Stock and Agricultural Society.

Feb. 7, 1880-- Fayette, Kentucky A. & M. Association.

March 27, 1880-- Christian, A. & M. Association.

Feb. 27, 1882-- Madison Fair Association.

March 4, 1884-- Mercer County Fair Association.

March 6, 1884-- Jefferson, Southern Exposition Company. By amendment of April 9, 1884, city of Louisville authorized to purchase $20,000 of the company's capital stock.

April 28, 1884-- Laurel County Fair Company. Incorporators and officers: D. W. Lovell, Dr. N. M. Scales, Evan Jones, Jr., G. H. Brown, Fred Lincks, Elisha Bowling, John F. Young, Evan Jones, Sr., David Williams, Sr., J. V. Elliott, J. M. Faris, and Jonathan McNull, and others. Land limited to 50 acres.

April 28, 1884-- Adair Agricultural Association, near Columbia. Incorporators: W. H. Hudson, James P. Dehoney, G. W. Atkins, G. A. Thomas, H. C. Baker, W. T. Moore, W. B. Rowe, and others. Capital, $3,000 to $10,000; shares, $50. Corporation to lease, purchase, or acquire land and hold in fee simple.

May 12, 1884-- Daviess County Fair Association, near Owensboro. Officers and directors: Chas. H. Todd, president; Geo. W. Leet, vice president; P. T. Watkins, treasurer; John W. Carter, sevretary; Jo. Lee, E. R. Taylor, Henry Herr, Eldred Crabtree, J. B. Burton, Miles Mattingly, and James J. Sweeney, directors. Capital, $7,650; shares, $150. Provision for capital may be increased to $30,000.

March 16, 1886-- Hopkins Stock and Agricultural Fair Company of Hopkins County. Officers and directors: J. H. Prewitt, president; W. M. Rhea, vice president; J. H. Prewitt, W. M. Rhea, F. B. Porter, A. D. Morton, and J. F. Dempsey, directors. Land limited to 100 acres.

April 14, 1886-- Laurel County Fair Company. Incorporators and officers: J. B. Fans, R. G. Mobley, Elisha Bowling, Samuel Black, Albert Nantz, D. W. Lovill, Granville H. Brown, Jesse V. Elliott, Evan Jones, Eb. Jones, E. C. Anderson, and Fred Luicks, or any seven of them, and others. Land limited to 50 acres, and personal estate not exceeding $10,000; shares, $50.

Feb. 18, 1888-- Eminence Livestock Fair Association, of Henry County. Incorporators: Dr. E. T. Long, Dr. O. D. Todd, Wm. H. Curtice, John A. Crabb, Henry A. Brewer, Thos. C. VanMeter, Jack Harding, W. H. Riclue, W. L. Crabb, Geo. Smith, Pryor Berry, Jas. T. Williams, E. D. Crabb, Dr. Samuel P. Oldham, and others. Stockholders to purchase or lease any quantity of land necessary for their needs. Capital, $25,000; shares, $50.

March 23, 1888-- Maysville Fair Company, of Mason County. Incorporators: John N. Thomas, J. L. Browning, Robt. Kirk, J. C. Everett, D. Heshinger, Jas. W. Fitzgerald, P. P. Parker, and others. Land limited to 200 acres. Capital, $150,-000; shares, $100.

April 5, 1888-- Butler County Fair Company, near Morgantown. Incorporators: W. H. Tuck, B. F. Smith, G. W. Leach, G. W. Quinn, H. B. Morehead, J. T. Moore, Len Morris, N. T. Howard and W. S. Taylor. Shares, $25.

April 6, 1888-- Hardin County Fair Association, near Elizabethtown. Incorporators: F. M. Joplin, president; E. N. Bland, vice president; J. A. Kinkeade, secretary and treasurer; F. M. Joplin, E. N. Bland, J. A. Kinkeade, T. B. Carter, S. G. McDougal, R. S. Duvall, H. C. Hays, R. B. Park, and W. H. Gardiner, directors. Capital, $8,000 to $30,000; shares, $25. Company to have the rights and privileges of the Latonia Agricultural Association of Kenton County and the Louisville Jockey Club.

April 25, 1888-- Boyd County Fair Association, near Ashland. Incorporators: W. L. Geiger, Jr., S. S. Savage, Dr. J. H. Wade, M. H. Houston, John Russell, Jr., Paul Kubacker, P. Marion, Jr., A. J. Wittig, and others. Capital, $40,000; shares, $10.

May 3, 1888-- Jessamine County Fair Association. Incorporators: E. R. Sparks, G. W. Sandusky, W. A. Logan, J. A. Logan, J. W. Hayden, J.W. Carroll, Leslie Cleveland, S. C. Lyne, John Steele, J. D. Hughes, John Turner, Wm. H. McCarty, and others. Land limited to 50 acres. Capital, $10,000; shares, $10.

Feb. 25, 1890-- Mount Sterling Fair Association of Montgomery County. Incorporators: Dennis King, Jake Stoner, Riley Foley, George Williams, Russell Beatty, William Fisher, Al Stevenson, and others. Land limited to 100 acres. Capital, $25,000; shares, $25.

Feb. 27, 1890-- Clark County Agricultural Association, near Winchester. Incorporators, "Selected." Capital, $25,000; shares, $25. Land limited to 40 acres (see association chartered March 6, 1867; see also under Feb. 12, 1872).

March 6, 1890-- Calloway, Graves, Marshall, Agricultural Association. Incorporators: T. J. Inix, J. H. Keys, W. M. Valentine, J. B. Kelson, P. A. Wells,

Frank Mallory, J. R. Tucker, and Wm. H. Curd, of Calloway County; W. B. Howard, of Graves County; R. M. Neal and General Harrison, of Marshall County, and others. Capital, $50,000; shares, $10.

March 18, 1890-- Breckinridge County Fair Company. Directors: Eli H. Dean, John B. Hensley, W. J. Piggott, W. W. Williams, R. M. Jolly, A. J. Gross, D. R. Murray, John D. Babbage, Carl Richardson, Felix Monroe, C. N. Mosley, William R. Moreman, R. G. Robertson, Eli Storms, Ben T. Miller, W. J. Dean, Jr., M. Meyer, A. Cart, John Alexander, Mat Payne, C. Blanford, J. D. Beeler, and others. Capital, $10,000; shares, $10. Land limited to 100 acres.

April 17, 1890-- Muhlenberg County Fair Association, near Greenville. Incorporators: T. J. Slaton, president; John G. Barkley, vice president; Charles Mendell, treasurer; P. L. Townes, secretary; D. B. Roll, W. M. Lovell, Sr., Eugene Lovell, M. T. Roark, T. B. Pannell, C. W. Short, W. J. Jenkins, and W. A. Wickliffe. Capital, $2,300; shares, $100.

April 18, 1890-- Jefferson Louisville Fair. Incorporators: M. Cary Peter, S. J. Look, T. C. H. Vance, W. Garnett Munn, John S. Morris, George L. Danforth, Samuel L. Avery, John E. Green, James P. Curd, Levi Bloom, Herman Beckwits, Fred N. Lewis, Paul Jones, L. L. Dorsey, E. R. Palmer, J. B. Nall, J. D. O'Leary, R. H. Hoskins, Stanley B. Huber, R. S. Veech, John L. Dunlap, Charles F. Huhlein, Henry Glover, Joseph Fischer, Norvin T. Harris, and others. Capital, $250,000; shares, $50.

May 6, 1890-- Burkesville Fairground Association, of Madison County. Incorporators: B. F. Tevis, S. P. Ross, T. J. Curtis, J. B. Walker, C. S. Wilmore, D. J. Summons, J. P. Embry, J. B. Parkes, W. S. Hume, T. S. Burman, Walter Bennett, and others. Capital, $1,000 to $3,000; shares, $25.

May 8, 1890-- Sacramento Fair Association of McLean County. Incorporators: James Dorsett, M. L. Stout, Henry Ballatine, Nathaniel Scott, Elvis Bell, and others. Capital, $5,000; shares, $25. Land limited to 75 acres.

May 14, 1890-- Grayson County Fair Company. Incorporators: J. C. Grasm, T. B. Wilson, J. T. Gosnell, N. B. Hill, R. C. Hardwick, M. J. Cunningham, J. S. Coppage, G. A. Coppage, Daniel Heyback, William Dinwiddie, J. W. Crawford, and others. Company to obtain any quantity of land necessary for its use. Capital, $10,000; shares, $50. Company may increase capital stock to $20,000.

May 20, 1890-- Greenup County Fair Association. Directors: J. J. Calvin, A. G. Lillords, J. D. Biggs, W. J. Worthington, J. E. Pollock, William Lillards, and others. Capital, $10,000; shares, $10. Land limited to 50 acres.

May 20, 1890-- Meade County Fair Association. Incorporators: J. S. Moreman, B. S. Clarkson, G. A. Meador, J. F. Woolfork, A. J. Thompson, R. C. Craycroft, S. R. Fryuine, D. S. Roberts, Sr., Jesse Ashcraft, John Frakes, S. P. Woolford, J. D. Roberts, W. B. Lancaster, John Nevitt, J. H. Shaklett, John L. Henry, G. D. Richardson, O. D. Richardson, W. L. Archer, Blant Shacklett, J. D. Jones, Thomas H. Ditto, G. F. Hendrick, W. H. Gough, R. H. Nevitt, H. B. Livers, Gus Richardson, and others. Shares, $25. Land limited to 100 acres.

May 22, 1890-- Henderson Fair Association. Incorporators: Paul J. Marrs, R. C. Soaper, L. White, James S. Alves, S. A. Young, R. E. Cook, B. Hill, George W. White, J. W. Allen, James E. Rankin, E. G. Sebree, Jr., and others. Capital, $10,000; shares, $50.

May 24, 1890-- Campbell, Rosedale Agricultural Association. Incorporators; H. M. Healy, M. J. Costigan, John C. Dradly, John Vastine, and others. Capital, $100,00; shares, $100.

FAIRS OF THE 1880's

The widespread interest in the fairs of the late 1870's is seen in the 1878 Report of the State Commissioner of Agriculture. Among current fairs of the period reported to the commissioner's office were those held in the following counties: Barren, Boone, Bourbon, Breckinridge, Carroll, Christian (2), Daviess, Fayette, Franklin, Harrison (2), Hart, Henderson, Henry, Knox, Lincoln (2), Logan, McCracken, Mason, Mercer, Nelson, Ohio, Owen, Pulaski, Scott, Shelby, Simpson, Todd, Warren (2), Washington, and Woodford.

The fairs of the 1880's were similar in scope and purpose to those of the preceding decade. Lexington continued to stage exhibitions in which speed rings vied with cattle and other stock shows. The Purchase entered the lists with the Paducah Fair and Jockey Club exhibition of 1880. In 1881 intense rivalry between the Louisville Fair Association and the Louisville Jockey Club (Churchill Downs) developed. In addition to its cattle show, Shelby County exhibited excellent hogs in that year. The Nelson County Fair was largely a grain exhibit stressing amber wheat, said to yield thirty bushels to the acre.

The Jefferson County (Fern Creek) Fair of 1884 included liberal premiums for fruits, flowers, garden and field products, for dairy products, also for poultry and for domestic manufactures. A baby show was a feature of the fair. There was a friendly meeting of Louisville and Lexington livestock men in Lexington for the purpose of advertising Kentucky livestock.

A notable event of the decade was the Hereford "invasion" of 1886. The Shorthorns of Kentucky were challenged at the Shelby County Fair by Herefords from Indiana and Illinois. Upholding the Shorthorns were T. S. Grundy, T. S. Moberly, A. Renick, A. J. Alexander, of Kentucky; and G. J. Robins and Sons, of Indiana. For the Herefords were Adams Earl, of Indiana, and G. W. Henry, of Illinois. One hundred fifty animals were entered in the contest. Kentucky's Shorthorns won in the open breed classes all but one of the first prizes offered. Other stock shown made this one of the most famous fairs ever held in Kentucky. While the laurels rested with the Kentucky breeders, this event gave warning of the end of the long ascendancy of the Kentucky Shorthorns-- an ascendancy described by William Warfield, writing of current conditions for the State Agricultural Report of 1892:

> "...From 1852 to 1878 the breeding of Shorthorn cattle in Kentucky was one of the great industries employing a large amount of capital and inviting the energy and intellect of the best men in the community....
>
> "While as yet the great number of breeders of other stock were blindly following tradition, Short Horn breeders, both in England and in America, were earnestly engaged in inquiries into the nature and operation of the principles of breeding, the influence of heredity and kindred natural laws, and the solution of the great problems of the transmission of life. It is not too much to say that both in England and in America the Short Horn has been chosen as the test of scientific theories of heredity.
>
> "The association of the breed with such high views has been to its advantage, and until it fell into the hands of speculators in the eighth

decade of the century its history has been peculiarly fortunate. The highest prices which have ever been obtained were realized in the period between 1873-1878. New importations had been pouring in from Europe. The great conflict between Booth and Bates dominated the heavens.

"It is impossible to speak with enthusiasm for the future condition of the breeding interest in Kentucky. Since 1878 all except the most devoted have been driven out of the business on account of the prevailing low prices. This condition of affairs has been accentuated by the enormous growth of the western states and the greater profits to be derived from breeding horses. A few conspicuous herds still remain, notably those of Messrs. Renick, Moberly, and Alexander, while the Grasmere herd (Warfield's own) has been bred on the same principles from its foundation, in 1824, to the present time. Since it is now the oldest herd in the world of continuous history, I may be pardoned the pride with which I regard the work begun by my father so long ago...."

Warfield's allusion to the "boom" prices of the seventies is better understood by mention of sales and prices typical of the middle of that decade.

SHORTHORN BOOM

Among the notable public auction stock sales of 1873, a typical year of the decade, was that of B. F. VanMeter, held in July on his farm near Winchester. This herd of cattle had been built up over a period of more than twenty years, and by this sale was reduced to less than forty head. Those retained were cattle belonging to two Shorthorn families, the "Rose of Sharon" and the "Red Roses." These were descendants of the imported Young Mary's get, bred to the best of the Bates sires. The quality of this stock is revealed by the prices paid for thirty-three head, which sold for a total of $55,830. Cows were in unprecedented demand, twenty-five having sold for a total of $52,175, or an average of $2,087 per head. Other individuals and groups brought correspondingly high prices.

In the same week the Ashwood Farm herd of J. G. Kinnaird and the Edgewood Farm stock of Dr. W. H. Cunningham, both located near Athens in Fayette County, were sold. Notable prices paid were $4,150 for the Shorthorn cow, "Dutchess of Sharon," and $1,175 for a yearling heifer, "Ashwood Lauan." One group of twenty cows brought $26,945; another herd of fifty-seven cows sold for a total of $43,148; and fifteen young bulls commanded a price sufficiently high to yield an aggregate of $3,060.

Several other notable cattle auctions were held in the Bluegrass during the summer of 1875. The herds at Clifton and Glen Echo Farms, a total of eighty-two head, brought $35,950. The stock sold by C. W. Innes and J. W. Burgess, of Fayette, forty-seven head, brought $11,585. A Minnesota purchaser took twenty-seven head of these cattle. The Minglewood and Elmwood dispersal sale of forty-two head produced a price total of $19,280.

In 1880, when Kentucky stood second to Missouri among the five leading Shorthorn States, the others being Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio, in the order named, Kentucky's 738 offerings brought an average of $173.47 per head compared with $144.06 per head for the 500 Shorthorns sold by Illinois, next highest in price. The best Kentucky sales of the year 1880 were those of the B. A. & T. J. Tracy herd consisting of forty-eight head, averaging $366.04; the Isaac VanMeter sale of nineteen head at $313.42 per animal; and the W. T. Hearne sale of fifty-two head at an average price of $287.57. Compared with the above figures the Clark

County Democrat for June 1, 1881, quotes Country Gentleman's figures for the eleven years embracing 1870-80 as showing 26,151 purebred Shorthorns sold for a total of $7,608,394, or an average over the years of $294 per head.

Analyzing still further, these Nation-wide sales at the peak of Shorthorn popularity shows that the cattle sales peak was reached in 1875 when 4,347 head went under the hammer. The peak of individual prices had been reached two years earlier when an average of $532 was obtained. The maximum amount was grossed in 1875 when 4,347 head sold that year brought $422 per individual, for a total of $1,832,383. Comparing these figures with the VanMeter sale above mentioned, or with that held on Dr. Cunningham's farm, the high relative standing of Kentucky Shorthorns in the decade of its full-blown popularity, whether in the show ring or under the hammer, is revealed.

The general interest developed by such herd sales greatly stimulated public attendance at the fairs, and similar trends in prices for quality stock could be observed in mules, sheep, hogs, and cattle other than the Shorthorn. It may be repeated that the temptation of high prices offered to part with essential foundation stock, upon which future success both in the show ring and in the breeding paddock depended, became too strong to be resisted. This, coupled with the long years of prevailing low prices in the livestock industry, a period extending well into the first decade of the twentieth century, brought to its close the long dominance of the Kentucky Shorthorn.

Kentucky in the Census of 1890

The census of 1890 revealed 1,066,091 head of cattle in the State. Of these, 58,926 were work oxen. Milch cows numbered 364,516; other cattle, 642,689. Some idea of the results of long-continued attention to breeding on the part of owners of Shorthorns and other breeds (the census makes no distinction as to breeds) is given by the fact that, of this total, 16,172 held breed registry papers, while 157,503 additional head were better than half-blood. This item included many full-blooded animals that had not been registered, and therefore were incapable of inclusion in the registered division. The remainder of the cattle herd of Kentucky-- 892,416 head-- were grades of less than half-blood. Nevertheless, it is to be remembered that, in this major classification of cattle largely Shorthorn, ran the foundation strains of that breed-- the blood of cattle that had dominated the rings of the first fairs ever held in Kentucky, the Powell, Patton, Carey, and early Shorthorn stock-- all blood far above that which may properly be termed "scrub."

Among the counties leading in purebreds at that time (1890) the following, dominated by Shorthorn blood, may be mentioned: Madison, with 1,139; Bourbon, with 1,285; Fayette, with 923; Jefferson, with 747; and Shelby, with 771.

Other counties reporting more than 200 and under 700 head of purebreds in 1890 show the wide extent to which the Shorthorn of that time was distributed over the State. The counties include Christian, 569; Clark,530; Logan, 512; Washington, 494; Montgomery, 450; Mercer, 447; Boyle, 439; Warren, 423; Mason, 420; Jessamine,412; Harrison,318; Scott,294; Union,274; Henry, 250; and Woodford, 225.

Counties reporting no purebreds were Lee, Martin, Metcalfe, and Russell. Harlan, Knox, and Owsley had one each. The counties of Jackson, Johnson, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Menifee, Perry, Pike, Powell, and Wolfe each had from two to ten. The remaining counties of the State were reported as having from 11 to 210 purebreds each.

Other figures gleaned from the 1890 census amply support the livestock showing of that time. The number of Kentucky farms at this peak of Shorthorn greatness stood at 179,264, having an average size of 119 acres. The number of large farms-- farms of over 1,000 acres-- was only 938. Farms of 500 to 1,000 acres numbered 3,330; average size farms-- those from 50 to 500 acres-- numbered 121,144. Improved farm lands stood at 11,818,882 acres. The value of all farm lands and buildings amounted to more than $346,000,000. Implements and machinery to equip this acreage was valued at slightly under $11,000,000. The total value of live-stock, inclusive of all breeds and kinds, was $70,924,400. The farm production for the year was nearly $66,000,000. Three-quarters of the farmers owned their own homes.

FAIRS OF THE TENTH DECADE

The opening years of the last decade of the century were full of promise. Industry had become mechanized. The livestock breeding industry was in good condition. Tobacco farming was displacing hemp as a cash crop. Market outlets for beef cattle, hogs and sheep were provided by near-by packing centers including Louisville and Cincinnati. The expanding demand of the prairies provided a market for Kentucky's mules. The State was recovering from the aftermath of the speculative boom of the seventies when the panic of 1893 swept across the Nation. Recovery from that set-back was slow. A full decade elapsed before agriculture and industry were again moving forward with confidence. In the meantime, America had fought the Spanish-American War and had found itself a world power with colonial problems on its hands. The building of the Panama Canal had become a national necessity. The automobile had already arrived. Great steam-powered tractors, forerunners of today's mobile gas-power farm units, were, by the end of the depression, already in use on the Pacific coast. The tenth decade and its successor, the first decade of the twentieth century, was the long twilight of the horse as the major motive power in the field and on the highway-- the dawn of the era of the automobile, of the tractor, of hard-surfaced roads, of consolidated schools, of the extensive and intensive agricultural education programs of the present time.

All through that twilight and on down to the present moved the sleek, beautiful forms of the Thoroughbred, the Standard-bred, and the American saddle horse, climaxing, in speed and performance, all the two hundred or more years of their development, out of the Godolphin Barb and other great sires in direct line of ancestry.

While the seventies and eighties were transitional in the industrial field, and were especially marked by great progress in the field of communications, the horse that had only recently replaced oxen in the field, and at the heavier tasks such as lumbering, was still supreme on the road; and increasingly important, as the mower, the binder and other equipment replaced hand labor on the farm.

THE TROTTER DOMINATES THE SCENE

For three-quarters of a century, while Kentucky was filling up, while roads were being developed, the Thoroughbred had held the center of interest in horse breeding. In the 1840's, with the improvement of roads and the development of the modern buggy, the desire for a well-gaited harness team grew more and more general, so that prior to the War between the States the trots, as a means of testing road performance, had already become popular. Subsequent to that decade the demand arose for a good all-purpose horse suitable to greatly improved farm and road conditions; and the fairground track was the proving place where prospective buyers or breeders of colts could see the prospective sire or his get in action. During the last quarter of the nineteenth century the half-mile track

was to the farmer what the cattle ring had been to his father and grandfather. It was the laboratory where theories were tested and proved or disproved. Leaning over the rail, he formed in his own mind a picture of the horse or span of horses he wanted. It was a horse that had plenty of weight to handle the plow or reaper of the day, a free walker, and of good action when trotting. For such horses, especially if well-bred, there always was a demand, chiefly local. The standard-bred fitted closely into this need. The trots increased in popularity, and the get of standard-bred sires grew in number. As the century drew to its close, the stables of Kentucky, those of the ordinary doctor, lawyer, banker, and reasonably well-to-do farmer, boasted roadsters that in style, action, and all but the ultimate fraction of speed called for by the track, were equal to anything the track itself had to offer.

To the same period belongs the development of the three- and five-gaited American saddle horse. Known prior to 1891 as the Kentucky saddle horse, it had appeared before the War between the States in the tournaments of that time. Canadian stallions, among them Copper Bottom and Tom Hal, Canadian mares, Kentucky and Virginia stock, above all the blood of the Thoroughbred stallion Denmark, all these entered into the making of a breed in which performance was the main factor, though appearance was by no means forgotten. While the Standard-bred or Trotter was a departure from the Thoroughbred in the direction of general road utility, that of the saddle horse was a departure in the direction of adaptation to use as a mount of attractive bearing and action rather than speed. The long, arched neck of the saddle horse, his high withers, his low hips, and his graceful appearance are all secondary to his intelligence, his tractability, and the smoothness with which he goes through his list of gaits. During and since the closing years of the nineteenth century the saddle horse has found a limited but profitable market among the residents of suburban areas adjacent to our large American cities.

Typical Fairs of the Time

All this is mirrored in the fairs of the nineties. In the opening year of that decade, Nancy Hanks was the drawing card at the great Lexington Fair, where, in front of the old-fashioned high-wheeled sulky, she set a track record of 2:-14½. Two years later, at Danville where, in 1890, Nancy Hanks had set a record of 2:24½ for the half-mile track, that record was easily broken by the three-year-old Connor, owned by C. F. Clay. At Versailles, the old home of Mambrino Chief, the season's yearling trot was a notable one, with six starters, and Allan King a close winner in 2:56½.

The Lexington Fair of 1892 introduces the social note that:

> "... quite a delegation of beauties from Harrodsburg were in the grandstand.... Among them were Misses Hardin, Sullivan, Williams, Davis, Poynter (Shelbyville), and Thomson.... From Versailles were Misses Williams, Macey, Berryman, Arnold, Fishback, Railey, McCaw, Price, Sellers, Bullock, Nelson, Scott, and several gentlemen."

This social aspect of the fairs was in no way new, but it climaxed more and more, the activities of the closing decade of the century. Harrodsburg Fair, with the local Daughters College to heighten the social aspect, was known throughout the South for its charming women and gallant men. Other fairs, among them those held in Danville, Bowling Green, and Louisville, bid for like favorable mention. The Saddle Horse show fitted in well with this social activity. The Danville fair of 1893 offered a $300 stake in the saddle horse division. Twenty-two horses were entered, and mention is made of the fact that "The Kentucky Saddle Horse, famous

for beauty and gaits, is not only sought by buyers from all states of the Union, but also (by buyers from) foreign nations." Other fairs of 1893 mark that year as climaxing the fairs of that decade, both in ring offerings and in public interest. Bicycle races were a feature attraction at the Lexington Fair.

In 1894 the Lexington or Bluegrass Fair not only increased its bicycle entries but offered, in connection with students of the State University, an athletic "field day." A phonograph man was on hand with "Edison's little talking machine." The "flying Dutchman" was well patronized. A pony race, a sack race, a mule race, a pie-eating contest, a potato race, a tug of war, a congressional race voting match, and an exhibition drill were among the featured events that attracted the crowd and vied with the stock rings. Saddle horse events, and the "dancing that was continued until midnight" also were on the program.

The depression that followed the panic of 1893 was already two years old when, in 1895, the Lexington Fair again opened its gates. The stock rings were excellent but the main effort, symptomatic not alone of the Lexington Fair nor yet of Kentucky but of the entire national economic situation, was to provide attractions that would swell the gate receipts to a profit-taking volume. The trots were missing. The saddle horse show was good. Bicycle racing replaced the speed events. Mule races furnished amusement. "Field Day" was greater and more popular than ever.

The Fairs Take a "Resting Spell"

In such manner, with local variations, the fairs of the middle nineties battled for their lives against the crushing weight of the ante-panic depression. One by one the societies closed their gates or had them closed by the sheriff. By 1897 a mere "corporal's guard" out of all the societies that had come into being subsequent to 1850 were still alive. The Shelby organization survived; the equally famed and still older association of Bourbon County lapsed for a decade. The fairs of Fayette, Harrison, Scott, and other counties passed into the hands of fraternal societies or of private promotors. In general, those that survived the ordeal through which the State was passing were the simply organized, old-fashioned livestock, grain,and household exhibits staged with little thought for pecuniary success, but intended rather to afford education and enjoyment to the county and its immediate neighbors. Many of the great breeders retired. Those who continued in business, shortened sail. In such an atmosphere of doubt and hesitancy the century closed.

THE THOROUGHBRED AGAIN

The part played in Kentucky history by the Thoroughbred has not been forgotten. It figures largely in the opening chapter of this story. It is later stressed where the story of the development of the Trotter is told. But with the fifties, when the standard-bred or Trotter emerged, and still more with the development subsequent to the War between the States of the American (Kentucky) saddle horse, the Thoroughbred, his breeding, and his achievements became less and less a matter of general interest, and more and more a matter of concern to that company of men associated with racing as a business. One after another the early racecourses were abandoned, the trotting track succeeded to their place in popular regard, and of all the nineteenth-century courses but three survive--those at Lexington, at Covington, and at Louisville. The Lexington course is a revival of that known a century ago. The one at Covington owes its existence to its inclusion within the Cincinnati urban area. Churchill Downs in Louisville, home of the Kentucky Derby, is alone among the racecourses of the State in attaining and holding a position among America's great courses.

It is with Churchill Downs, Kentucky track home of the Thoroughbred, home of the great three-year-old classic, the Kentucky Derby, that the story is chiefly concerned, for it was the horsemen who, after a century of friendly rivalry with the cattlemen of the State, threw open the gates of Churchill Downs for the 1902 meeting of the Kentucky State Fair.

INDUSTRIAL EXPOSITIONS

In the long story of the fairs of Kentucky during the nineteenth century, mention must be made, though not in the detail that befits their importance, of the great industrial expositions originating in Louisville that paved the way for the well-rounded State Fairs of the present time.

In the 1830's and 1840's Louisville forged ahead of other industrial centers in the Commonwealth, both as a commercial and manufacturing center. Well located as a distribution point, the city attached to itself many manufacturing industries closely associated with agriculture. Prominent among these were flour milling, meat packing, and the manufacture of necessities required in farming, such as plows and other tillage tools, grain drills and harvesting machinery, also barn and household equipment. Food processing was early added. Textiles and clothing, lumber and woodworking assumed an important place in the broadening manufacturing and marketing scene. At an early day the city became a leading tobacco market; later it became a great center of tobacco products manufacturing. For all this varied output the inner marketing area was Kentucky, Indiana, Tennessee, and the States of the Deep South. Louisville's great competitors were Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and New Orleans.

During the seventies, upon completion of the network of railways spreading out fanwise into its hinterland, Louisville staged a series of expositions, repeated during the 1880's, that greatly extended in sales importance its marketing area. The experience gained by public spirited businessmen convinced then that a State-wide agricultural fair would work to the well-being of both city and State.

A NEW CENTURY DAWNS

When, in 1901, the livestock breeders of the State surveyed the improving economic situation, they took counsel with the businessmen of Louisville and it was agreed that, if the breeders went forward with their plans for the holding of a State fair, they would receive the backing, both in the legislature and thereafter, of the State's leaders in manufacturing, wholesaling, and retailing. As a result of this assurance, Abram Renick, noted Shorthorn breeder of Clark County, introduced a bill in the Kentucky Legislature, during the session of 1901, providing for the creation of the Kentucky Livestock Breeders' Association, to be composed of men from every part of the State interested in the maintenance and further development of the livestock industry. The measure became law, and the charter membership of this organization, comprised of men whose fortunes were tied in with various breeding enterprises, indissolubly links the historic past of Kentucky's livestock industry and of its agricultural and mechanical societies with the Kentucky State Fair of the present time.

The immediate purpose of this organization was to create a quasi-public body, similar to the State-chartered third Kentucky Agricultural Society, with especial powers and privileges, including financial assistance given by the State, which would enable it to carry on continuously over the years a series of fairs adequately representative of the State's agricultural and industrial development.

The story of these fairs belongs to the present. There remains only to record the fact that in this new departure there was continued the united effort of the State College of Agriculture and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture as driving forces seeking and securing for the State Fair the united support of all interested in the progress of the State. Out of the seeming defeat of the nineties, the stockmen, the farmers, and the businessmen of Kentucky emerged more strongly united than ever before, and the pledge of that union was, and is, the Kentucky State Fair.

IN CONCLUSION

At the dawn of the twentieth century the broad objectives visioned by the early-day promotors of the agricultural and mechanical societies of Kentucky had been attained. The United States Department of Agriculture, created by the insistent demand of organized agriculture throughout the Union, and efficiently manned, was now doing far more than to distribute seeds. It was now leading the experiment stations of the Nation in research work calculated to place agriculture, especially in its livestock and field crop phases, upon a scientific footing. It was now co-ordinating the work of the various State experiment stations, so that results secured by one might become the property of all. Federal daily weather reports had now become available to the farmer. Rural free delivery of mails had begun in 1896. Telephones were already spreading throughout the rural Midwest. An efficient agricultural press was bringing the farmer the latest findings of private, Federal, and State research. The extensive survey of Kentucky's natural resources, made in the fifties, had been expanded, twenty years later, by a more exhaustive study of its latent mineral wealth. The State's river development and road building programs had slowly improved transportation. Even the most distant markets were now available to the farmer by river or by rail, and while the Mountains and much of the more rugged terrain of the State remained sadly deficient in roads, the Bluegrass and other long-settled sections boasted one of the best systems of turnpikes in the Union. Railroad building, interrupted by the War between the States and resumed at the conclusion of that conflict, was opening to industry the rich mineral districts of eastern and western Kentucky.

In the field of mechanical improvement, the years of the nineteenth century had brought to agriculture greater advancement than had been made in the preceding five thousand. The plow had been perfected. The grain drill had replaced the scattering of seed by hand. The harrow had replaced the brush drag. The mower, the hay rake, and the binder had taken the place of the scythe and sickle, of the hand rake, and of the work of binding the sheaves by hand. The threshing machine had replaced the flail. The fanning-mill now winnowed the grain. In the dairying industry the silo, the cream separator, the barrel churn, and the creamery were now all available, and the Babcock test now removed from the realm of uncertainty the question of the individual cow's butterfat production. Cold storage for meats, dairy products, and other perishable foods had recently come into practical use and had greatly widened the market outlets of the farm.

In the home the change was correspondingly great. Spinning and weaving, common household tasks in 1800, had, a century later, become forgotten arts in the average Kentucky home and remained alive and valuable to the household economy only in the Mountains or other agricultural frontiers where the Jeffersonian theory of farm and home self-sufficiency still survived. Factory-made clothing had largely replaced the home made; this in spite of the fact that use of the sewing machine had become practically universal. The oil lamp had taken the place of the candle. Canned and prepared foods on the shelves of the local grocer now competed with the skill of the kitchen. The lessening of household labor had the

effect of lengthening the years of schooling, especially that of the girls in the family, and prepared the way for expansion of the high schools with their coming courses in domestic science, agriculture, athletics, and other activities of the modern day.

In all this story of progress the men and women of Kentucky, acting through the instrument of their agricultural and mechanical associations, had played no insignificant part. The farms of the Bluegrass, the Purchase, and the Pennyrile had been their experiment stations in a day when the agricultural college and experiment station were alike unknown. The early judges of their craftsmanship had been the cattle markets of Baltimore, New York, and Boston; the horse buyers of New England. Here they had nurtured and refined the Thoroughbred; shared in the development of the Trotter; founded the great breed of the American saddle horse. Here they had made for the Shorthorn a second home, as famed throughout the world as its ancestral home beside the Teeswater. Here they had brought mule breeding to a perfection never dreamed of in Spain. Here great droves of hogs, great flocks of sheep, bore witness to their skill as breeders; and broad fields of corn, hemp, wheat, and tobacco to their skill as husbandmen.

The men and women of Kentucky, those who preceded and those who had founded the agricultural and mechanical associations, had tamed the native canebrake and peavine pastures and given the bluegrass, that had migrated from the shores of the Baltic, room to run. They had early staged acre-yield corn contests; hemp and tobacco shows; garden, field, and orchard exhibits. In connection with their fairs, they had instituted baby shows, the predecessors of today's children's health clinics. Blacksmiths and skilled farmers exhibited at their local fairs the latest in plows, harrows, wagons, carriages, and other farm appliances. At their society meetings, papers were read giving to all the results of the most recent experiments of their greatest horsemen, cattlemen, fruit and grain experts. For a generation and more, they had hammered at the doors of the legislature, until at last a common school system for the education of the children of the State was adopted. They demanded and secured, a survey of the State's mineral resources. They labored long to obtain the State's College of Agriculture. They insisted upon the creation of the State Department of Agriculture, upon the State Experiment Station-- upon the entire broad educational foundations of today's adventure in living.

For themselves they asked only that they be permitted to live graciously. They built not only for their time but for the future. In turnpike and graying wall, pillared gate,and ample home, they left, in visible form, the impress of their tenure.

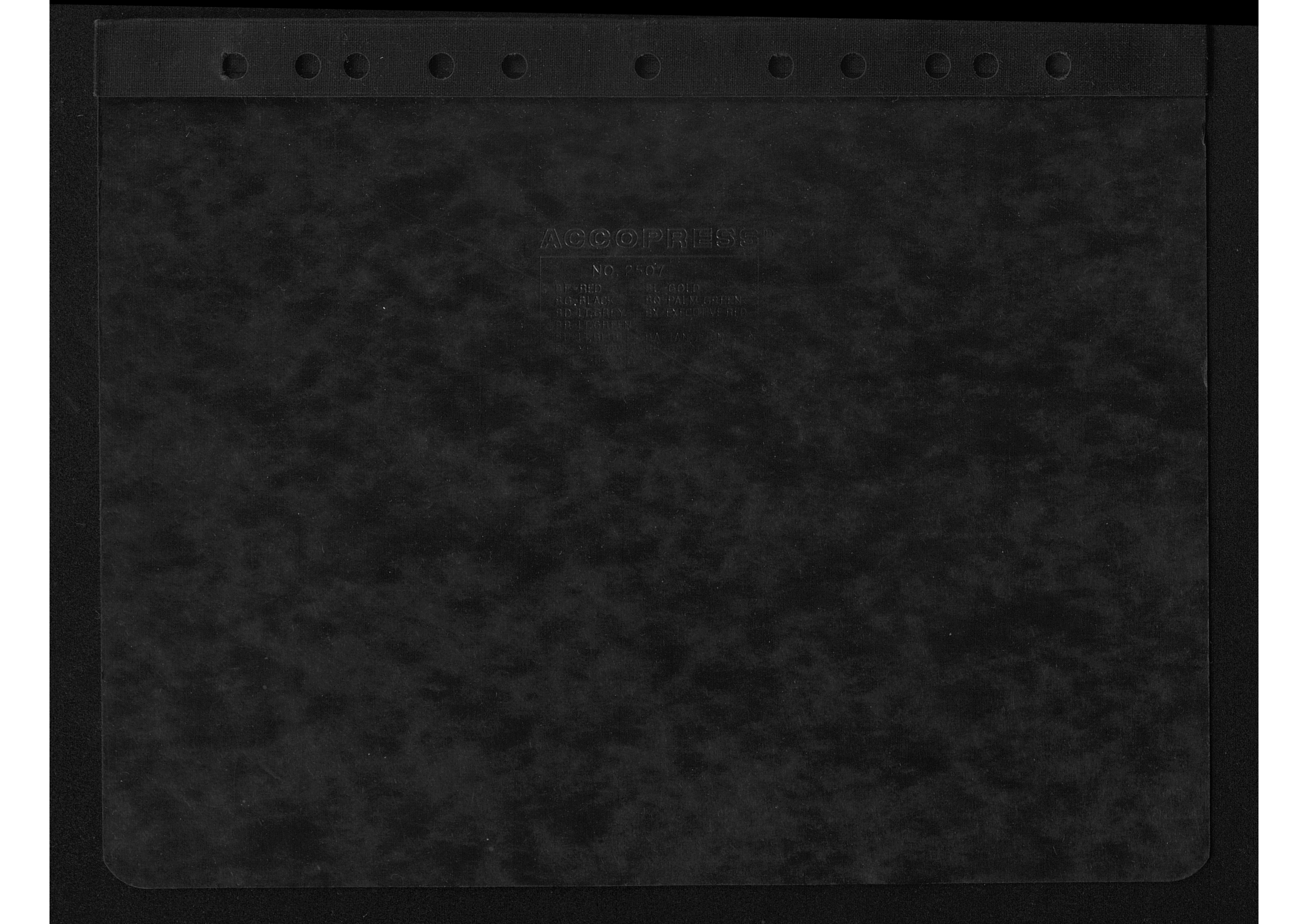
The record of their times, gathered from fast-perishing sources, is here offered in the hope that what these men and women of Kentucky did while living here, and especially what they envisioned for that future which is our day, may be remembered.

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End of Part I

The bibliography and index of Fairs and Fair Makers of Kentucky may be found at the end of part II.

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