

University of Kentucky Alumni Association

KENTUCKY

Alumni

SESQUICENTENNIAL EDITION



KENTUCKY

Sesquicentennial Edition

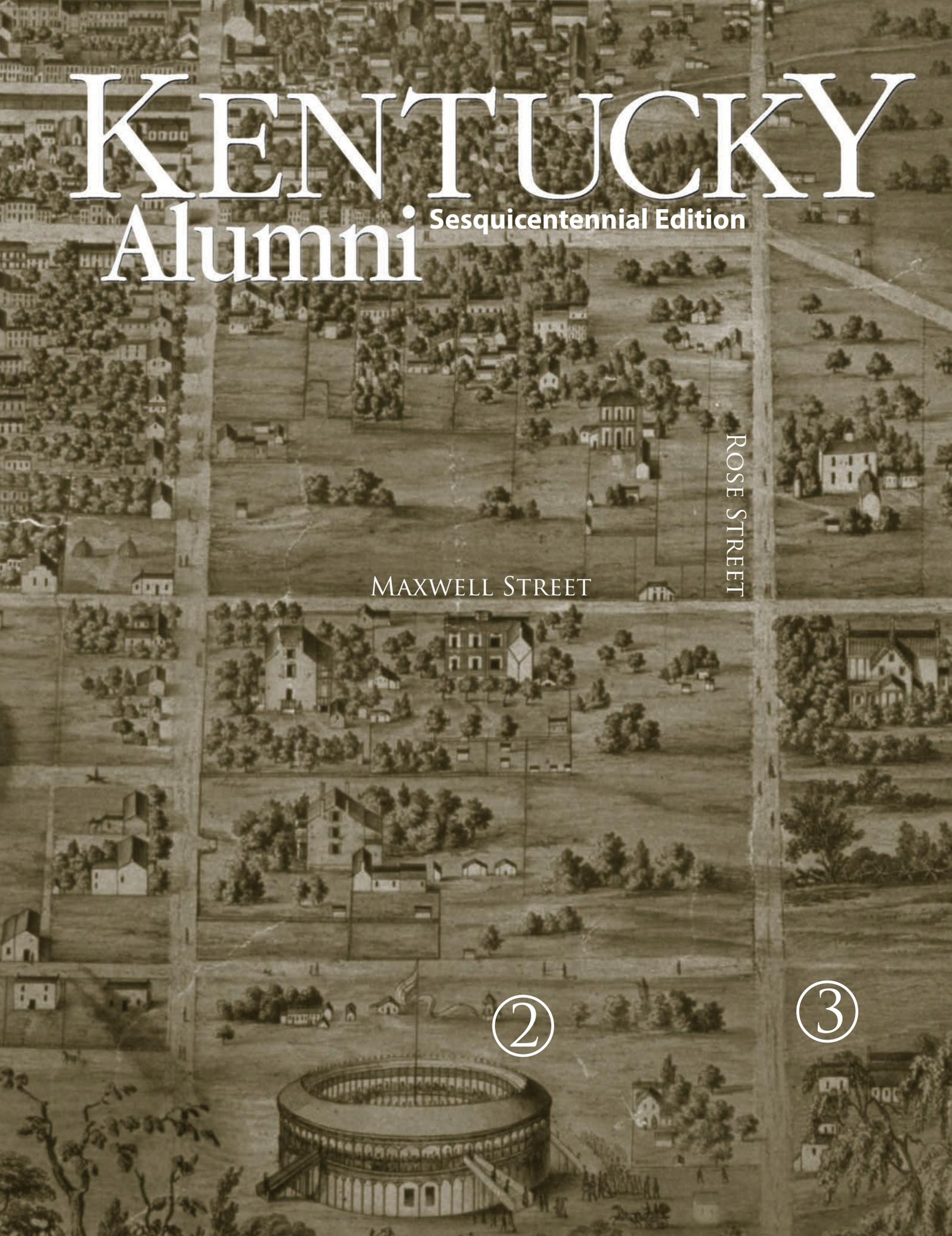
Alumni

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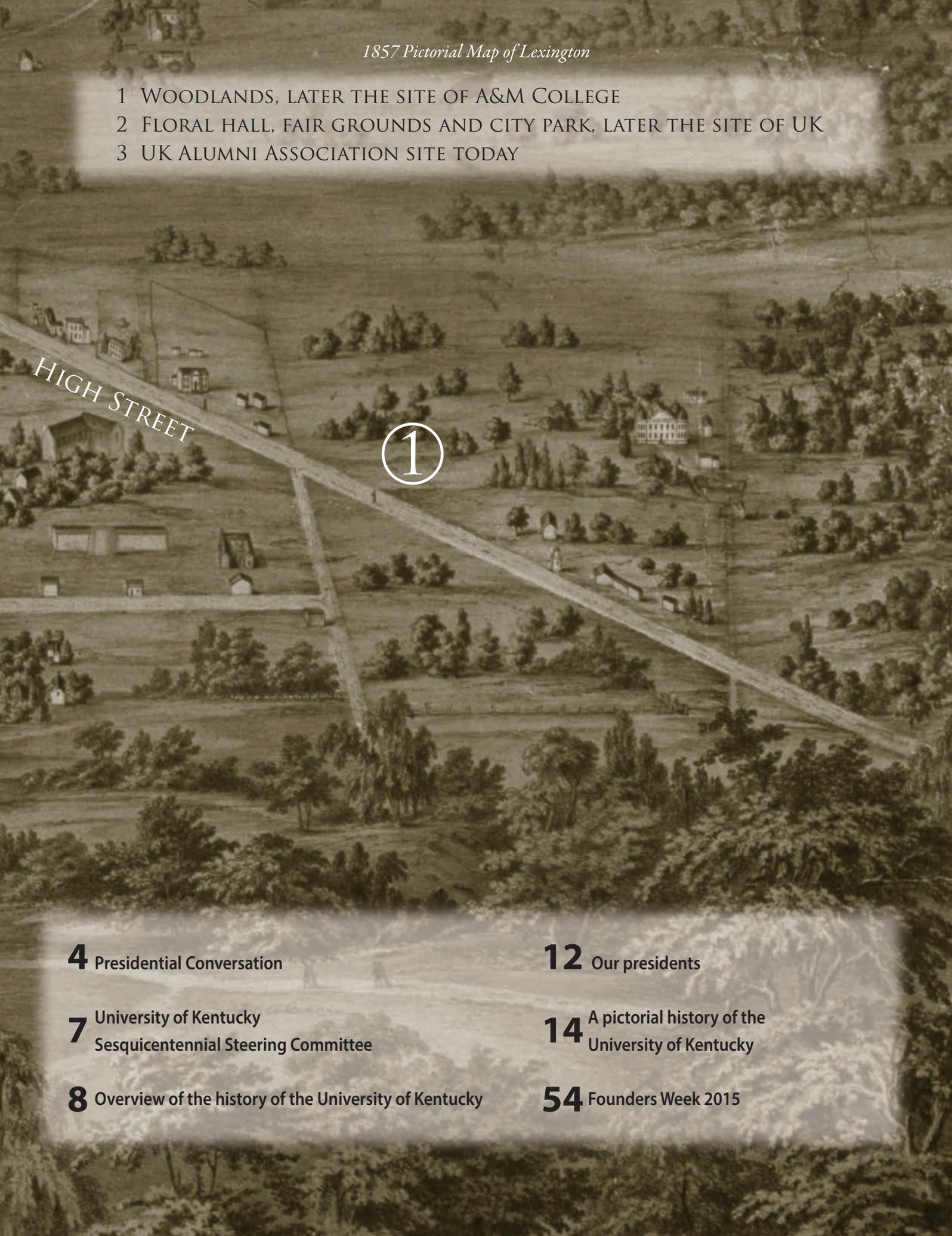
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1857 Pictorial Map of Lexington

- 1 WOODLANDS, LATER THE SITE OF A&M COLLEGE
- 2 FLORAL HALL, FAIR GROUNDS AND CITY PARK, LATER THE SITE OF UK
- 3 UK ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SITE TODAY



4 Presidential Conversation

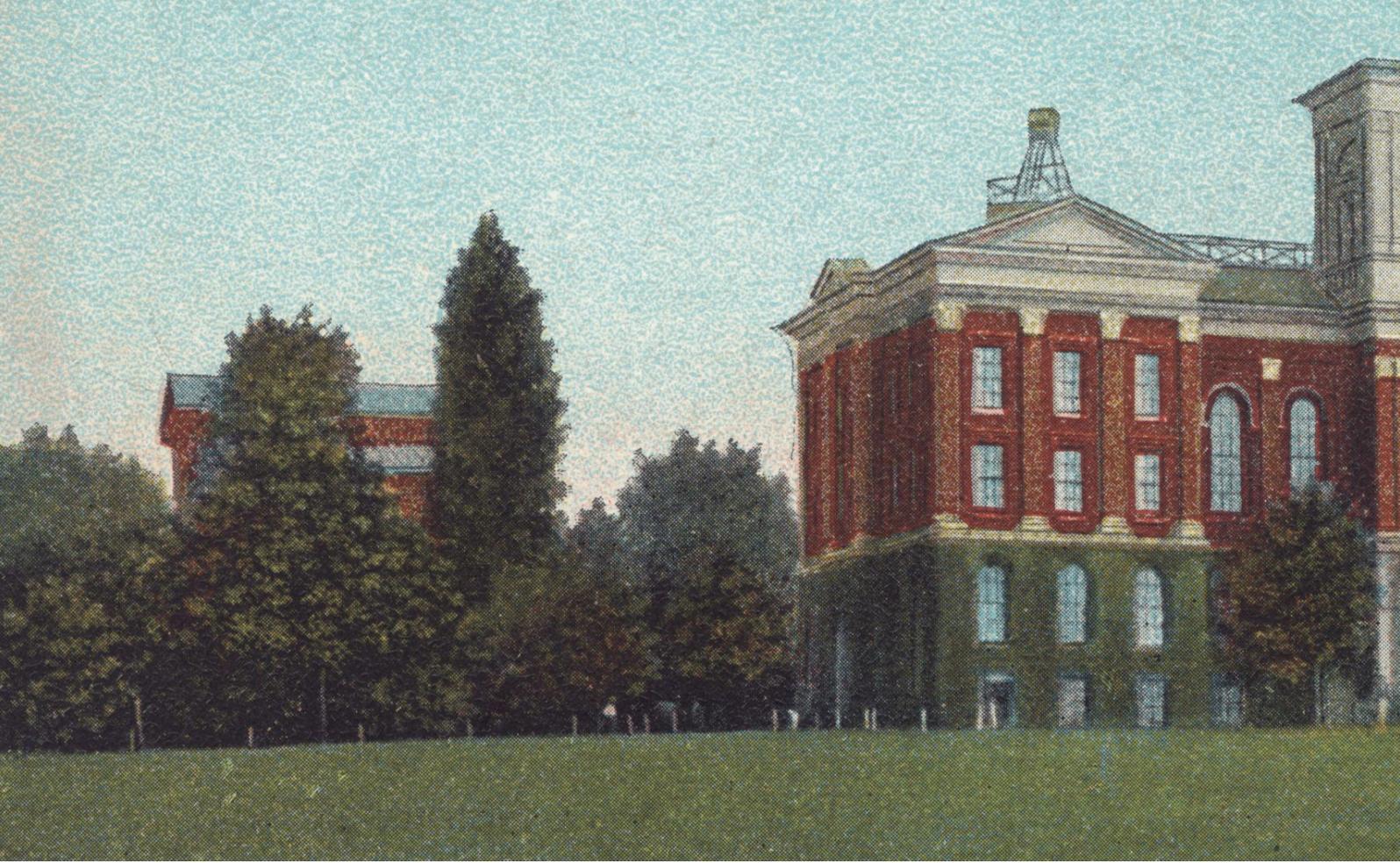
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150 years of service to Kentucky and beyond:

The formative years

With the Civil War winding down, General Robert E. Lee had been general-in-chief of the Confederate Army for one month and President Abraham Lincoln was still alive. The New York Stock Exchange had just opened its first permanent headquarters near Wall Street, the cost of farmland nationwide averaged about \$12 an acre and wages averaged \$320 per worker a year. That was the backdrop for Feb. 22, 1865, considered to be the founding day of what would grow to be the University of Kentucky.

Leading the monumental effort was John Bryan Bowman, who used an act of legislation to organize the Agricultural and Mechanical (A&M) College of Kentucky University, a center of higher learning for Central Kentucky. Bowman, named as a regent by the Kentucky state legislature, combined Kentucky University, a school he had founded in Harrodsburg around 1857, with Transylvania University, which was operating as a high

school and whose name would cease to exist for the next 43 years.

Some of the initial investment for this undertaking came via the U.S. government through the Morrill Act of 1862, which created the land-grant colleges. Sustaining and growing the new college was an uphill battle, fought against lack of sufficient funds while emerging from the ending of a Civil War, and people's general lack of urgency toward obtaining a higher education.

One of the conditions mandated by the legislation that created the institution required that an experimental farm be part of the package. When money became an issue to establish this center of learning, Bowman — truly one of Kentucky's greatest visionaries — raised money and purchased Henry Clay's estate, Ashland, and an adjoining property, Woodlands (now Woodland Park), owned by J.B. Tilford. He was able to amass donations, including gifts of \$1,000 each from 65 people. These thoughtful individuals were the very be-

ginning of the spirit of giving that has helped to sustain students in a quest for a valuable Kentucky education.

The rich farmland — 433 acres — that Bowman purchased at a cost of \$143,000 became the A&M campus and John Augustus Williams, Bowman's brother-in-law, was named A&M's presiding officer.

The school opened Oct. 1, 1866, and by December there were 80 men enrolled. At the end of the academic year, there were 190 students, each charged annual fees of \$10. The home at Woodlands, with 14 rooms, served as a classroom building, and several smaller buildings on the property were used to house the students or used as shops. The institution consisted of the College of Science, Literature and Arts; the College of the Bible; the College of Law; the Academy; and the A&M College.

In June 1869, William B. Munson of Astoria, Illinois, became the first student to graduate, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree. He went on to become a railroad president and financier in Texas.



Kentucky State College Main Building, center, Gillis Building, right.
University of Kentucky postcards, circa 1900-1960s

Celebrating the past, focusing on today, looking to the future

The university began with support from a combination of private, church and state funds, with the A&M College strictly using state funds. An undercurrent of sectarian issues would eventually develop, leading to A&M College separating from Kentucky University 12 years later in 1878.

Williams had a short time at the helm and departed in 1868. Joseph Desha Pickett's service as presiding officer of A&M was even briefer, ending after one year.

In 1869, James K. Patterson, a native of Scotland whose family had settled in Indiana when he was young, assumed the duties of president, ushering in 41 years devoted to establishing the Kentucky school as the flagship institution. While John Bowman is credited with the vision of higher education for Kentucky, it was Patterson's tenaciousness that allowed the university to achieve a stronghold and develop its early roots that would bear fruit in later years. In 1955, UK President Herman Lee Donovan said of

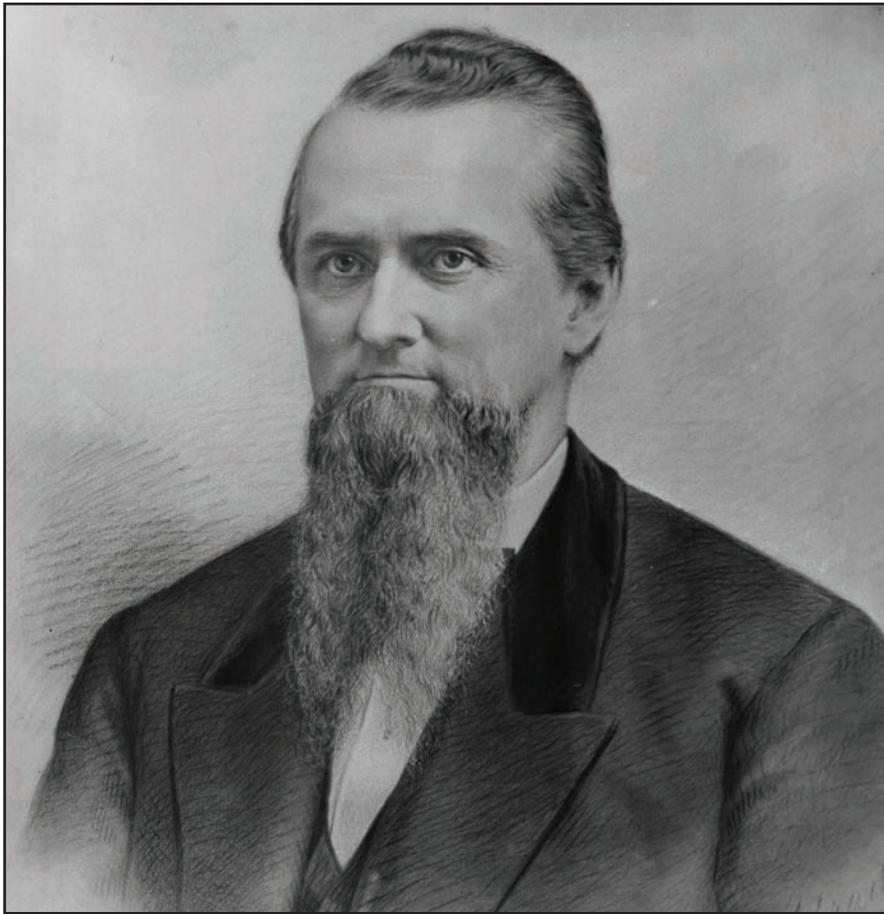
Patterson, "Over the 40 years, there were achievements registered, but Patterson's goals were never fully realized. It might be said of him, as of Moses, that he got in sight of the Promised Land but was never permitted to enter."

Patterson's administration was often in battle with others' attempts to derail the university and halt improvements to its programs. For example, in 1880 the General Assembly levied a tax of one half of one cent on each \$100 of taxable property for the support of A&M College. Rival denominational colleges joined forces to fight the tax, which they saw as injurious to their own schools. The issue turned into a long-term battle, ultimately decided by the Court of Appeals in 1890 — 10 years later — with a victory for state-supported higher public education.

In 1878 when A&M became a completely state-run institution, the city of Lexington donated a city park near Mulberry Street (South Limestone) to be its new campus, with A&M making the

move to these 50 acres in 1882. Lexington and Fayette County also provided \$50,000 to construct three buildings: a college building (Main Building), dormitory (White Hall) and a president's home. The original contractor unexpectedly quit and a new contractor had to be hired, which led to insufficient funds. After unsuccessfully seeking loans, Patterson was so committed to the future of the college that he went to a bank and used his own savings of \$35,000 as security for a loan to finish the projects. Historian James F. Hopkins has said, "It is no great exaggeration to state that the University of Kentucky owes its very existence to Patterson."

The institution saw many improvements and milestones under Patterson's watch, including admission of female students in 1880, the first football game in 1881, establishment of the first Agricultural Experiment Station in 1885, organization of the Association of State College Alumni (UK Alumni Association) in 1889, adoption of blue and



John B. Bowman, a Mercer County farmer, was the founder of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Kentucky University, which later transformed into the University of Kentucky.

white as official colors of the university in 1892, creation of a women's basketball program in 1902 and a men's basketball program in 1903, the opening of Patterson Hall as the first women's dormitory in 1904 and adoption of the name Wildcats for athletics teams in 1909.

By 1908 the legislature conferred the title State University to the institution, and the faculty had grown to 82 members. Additional colleges were created, including the College of Agriculture, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Law and three engineering colleges.

Of course, campus life under Patterson's early years was quite different from what one would expect today. Only men were allowed at the beginning and each student was expected to engage in military training. A strict set of rules was established and students had a regimented routine, beginning at 5:30 a.m. with reveille and chapel services three hours later. The rest of the day was for classes

until 4 p.m. when military exercises were held. By 10 p.m., it was lights out — or at least, that's what was expected.

The fact is, cadets had a mind of their own and students' complete compliance with regulations was almost impossible to enforce. The president, commandant, and local police were often on the wrong end of outlandish schoolboy pranks, some requiring much forethought and organization, particularly those carried out by the "Midnight Artillery" during Patterson's era. A classic example: some select students sneaked Patterson's horse into the chapel on the second floor of the Main Building during the night. This was no easy task. The boys "borrowed" 200 crossties to make steps that the horse could navigate to the second floor. Once the horse was up there, the crossties were dismantled. When chapel services began the next morning, the student body was surprised, but Patterson and the horse acted nonchalant and the services continued as planned.

Beyond Patterson & into the future

After Patterson's retirement in 1910, each of the succeeding presidents left his own mark on the university, even when their length in office was brief. As the university moved into more contemporary times, it is impossible to do justice on these few pages to the significant accomplishments made by each administration. However, it's fair to say that each president advanced the university after dealing with his own share of campus challenges. What follows is not a complete list of endeavors, but a brief overview of some of the highlights of each administration.

Henry Stites Barker, a distinguished judge, was president from 1911 through 1917, and the Graduate School was founded during his administration. He lived in the shadows of President Emeritus Patterson, who was reluctant to give up total control, but under Barker's advisement, the institution's name was changed in 1916 to the University of Kentucky.

Frank L. McVey became president in 1917, leaving a presidency at the University of North Dakota. His administration lasted 24 years until 1940, and it created somewhat of an academic renaissance on campus. Under his purview, a new library was built, and acquisition of books increased from 36,000 to more than 302,000. Enrollment increased from 998 students in 1917 to 5,936 students in 1940. New buildings included iconic Memorial Hall, Alumni Gymnasium, McVey Hall, Engineering Quadrangle, Margaret I. King Library, Lafferty Hall, Funkhouser Biological Sciences, Student Union, men's dorms Breckinridge, Kinkead and Bradley and the women's dorm, Jewell Hall, among others. The College of Education, Graduate School, and College of Commerce were founded, with consolidation of engineering colleges into one College of Engineering.

Herman L. Donovan was selected as the president in 1941 and led until 1956. During that time the College of Pharmacy was founded in 1947. But what overshadowed much of the early 1940s was the war effort on campus, which included the establishment of a Signal Corps ROTC in 1942, as well as the uni-

versity signing a contract to provide instruction for 870 soldiers in the College of Engineering. Research on campus escalated with the formation of the UK Research Foundation, and the University of Kentucky Press was established. In 1949, Lyman T. Johnson and 29 other African Americans were admitted to graduate and professional programs.

Frank G. Dickey was president from 1956 to 1963 and oversaw some of the biggest changes on campus with the founding of the College of Medicine, College of Nursing, and Medical Center in 1960, as well as the College of Dentistry in 1962. The Community College System was also established during his era.

In 1963, John W. Oswald was selected president and his administration saw the founding of the College of Architecture (now Design) in 1964 and the College of Allied Health (now Health Sciences) in 1966.

Albert D. Kirwan presided for a short term from 1968 to 1969, during which time the College of Social Work began.

In 1969, Otis A. Singletary began 18 years as president, ending in 1987. He was instrumental in the opening of Commonwealth Stadium in 1973 and the Margaret I. King Library (North) in 1974. In 1976, the College of Communication and Information Studies was founded, as well as the College of Fine Arts.

David P. Roselle served a short stint as president, from 1987 to 1990, when a supercomputer was installed on campus and a master plan for the campus was announced. But his administration was also challenged with an NCAA investigation into the basketball program.

Charles T. Wethington Jr. was president from 1990 to 2001. During his administration, state legislation mandated “Bucks for Brains,” a program that provided funds to support research and graduate student education. The Community College System was reorganized and UK no longer had jurisdiction over the colleges. After the UK Alumni Association helped with other financial arrangements, the William T. Young Library was built and opened in 1998 upon a \$5 million gift from Young.

Lee T. Todd Jr. was at the helm from 2001 to 2011, crafting a business plan to



Beginning in 1866, the former J.B. Tilford home was used as the first classroom building for A&M College at Woodlands.

become a Top 20 public research institution by 2020. Many changes took place on campus, including the opening of the College of Public Health, Gill Heart Institute, Ralph G. Anderson Building, Charles T. Wethington Building, and Biomedical Biological Science Research Building, among others. Four new residence halls were also completed.

Dr. Eli Capilouto was selected as president in 2011 and has swiftly overseen the use of partnerships with the

private sector to advance the betterment of campus services for students, construction of 10 new residence halls and a renovation and expansion of the Student Center and Commonwealth Stadium. In fall 2014, his administration had the honor of welcoming the largest, most academically prepared, and most diverse class in the University of Kentucky’s history — a testament to the hard work of previous administrations, as well as his own. ■



A Pennsylvanian by the name of G.W.N. Yost asked A&M College to test the mowing machine he invented. The \$25,000 received from this service allowed a building for mechanical engineering to be constructed near Henry Clay’s former home at Ashland in 1868.