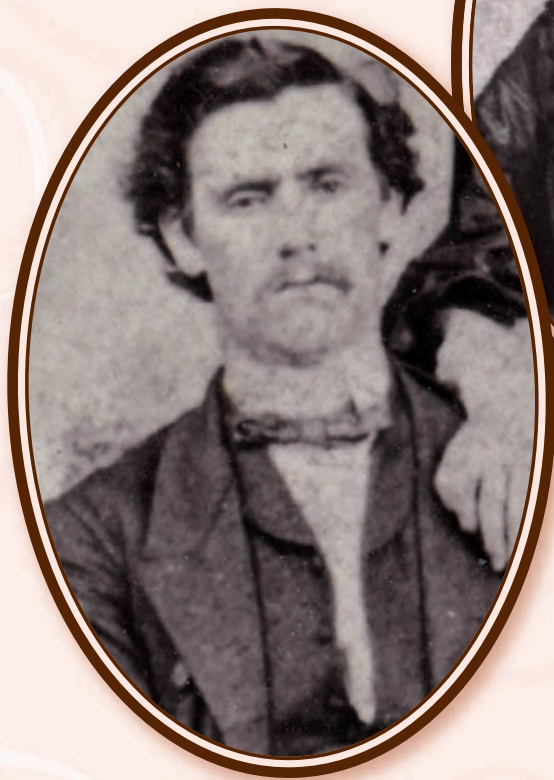


Sarah (Throckmorton) Milligan, Waynesburg College class of 1860, wife of Joseph M. Milligan (class of 1861). Joseph and Sarah met at Waynesburg College and were secretly married after her parents refused to permit the match.

Both Waynesburg University Museum.



The Early Coeducational Institution

As Matchmaker

A Study of Romantic Attachments
at Waynesburg College 1850-1875

By Candice Buchanan

“Oh what indescribable happiness I then enjoyed. The moments there flew too rapidly by. We introduced such subjects and discussed them as the only of her female of Waynesburg would dare to attempt. A more intelligent, interesting, little angel I never before encountered.”

– May 31, 1857, *Journal of Leroy Cleavenger*, former Waynesburg College student, speaking of Margaret Leonice Needham, Waynesburg College senior and bachelor’s degree candidate, class of 1857.¹

Waynesburg College was one of the first in the United States to provide coeducation that resulted in equal bachelor’s degrees for men and women. The administrators and professors in combination with the young men and women who studied there during the college’s first 25 years (1850-1875) challenged accepted social norms and prior traditional methods of higher education. This experience presented a new level of edification and independence for the students who attended at this time as well as a venue for social interaction that had not previously existed.

Logic dictates that when single men and women of marrying age are brought together, couples will form. Opponents of coeducation used courtship as an argument for separate,

and often unequal, education. Supporters of exclusively male education asserted that men would “not be as profound in their studies” or altogether abandon them if put into the presence of female distraction.² Others asked if acceptable engagements could be secured by young people “thus casually thrown together, who know little or nothing of the world at large” and who have not had opportunity to “form a wider circle of acquaintances.”³

As with most debates over coeducation, proponents looked at the same scenario and argued the exact opposite: to bring females into male classrooms would encourage men to work harder so as to look impressive, and to educate women equally would improve marriage prospects for both parties.⁴ The



Downtown Waynesburg, Greene County, Pennsylvania in 1875. Waynesburg College’s Hanna Hall is located in the upper-right section of the photograph.

Jacobs-Kent Series, Helen Mae (Jacobs) Fonner Collection, owned by George and Anna (Fonner) Blystone.

13. Association of the Sexes.

WAYNESBURG COLLEGE is one of the first organized for the admission of both sexes. A great change of sentiment has taken place, and many of the foremost Colleges and Universities have adopted this practice. The ablest educators almost universally advocate it; and it is apparent, after full trial, that it possesses important advantages over the old system. The association of ladies and gentlemen, as students, subjects both to the strongest stimulus to exertion and to right conduct. The school becomes a family, and the order which marks a school of several hundred pupils is a matter of wonder to those accustomed to the working of the old system.

In this Institution, the association of the two sexes, under proper restriction, and at suitable times, is encouraged—not prohibited. Healthful recreation, morality, and social culture demand it.

A note about coeducation in the *Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Waynesburg College for the Scholastic Year, 1871-72*. Waynesburg University Museum.

pool of classmates would provide an excellent selection of candidates for both men and women because “a college man who has known college women is not drawn to women of lower ideals and inferior training.... A college woman is not led by mere propinquity to accept the attentions of inferior men.”⁵

That such associations could become romantic and might ultimately result in marriage was at once an argument for and against coeducation. This exploration of the early coeducational institution as matchmaker is not as much about how frequently such matches were made, as it is that for the first time they *could* be made within this newly integrated environment and how that possibility affected the first generation of students who tested the system and the evolution of coeducation itself.

Waynesburg College classrooms became

coeducational by default in the school’s second year, when in November 1851 male and female students jointly entered Hanna Hall, the school’s newly-completed academic building. The official policy in those early years was one of sexual segregation, but student accounts, both male and female, prove otherwise.⁶ Though exams, commencement ceremonies, and similar public functions were exclusively set apart by sex, classrooms and day-to-day activities were not. Three women composed the first graduating class in 1852, though they received diplomas from the unchartered (and technically, though not entirely, gender separated) Female Seminary. Five years later, the Seminary evolved into the Female Department of the college proper, and in that year three more women made the class of 1857 historic when they received the first male-equivalent bachelor’s degrees issued in

the state of Pennsylvania.⁷

Coeducation at Waynesburg was no longer a secret; these three women openly entered and completed male courses in the 1855/56 school year and finished the four-year program in two years’ time.⁸ Roughly 25 classes of mixed-gender graduates followed, with women choosing whether to pursue the curriculum of the Female Department or that of the men, the latter option leading to equal degrees rather than lesser diplomas. Sometime around 1880, the Female Department disappeared altogether, and women were officially merged into the male system—coeducation public and promoted.

Early graduating classes at Waynesburg College were small (one to 20 students), and the ratio of men to women was generally uneven; thus, romantic attachments often occurred between classmates who did not necessarily graduate together, but were in

courses and activities with each other at some time during their years of study.⁹ The class of 1860 boasts the highest Waynesburg College-related marriage rate of the early classes, with four out of nine graduates wedded to fellow Waynesburg College students; a fifth graduate, Harriet Miller, was engaged to George N. Gray (class of 1861), but died before she could marry him.¹⁰ Only once between 1852 and 1875, did a graduating class not produce at least one alumnus who married a fellow Waynesburg College student. That exception was the class of 1863. The lack of couples that year is partly explained by the drain of men from the college during the Civil War, which led to a graduating class consisting of only three women. Ironically, the class of 1862, which for the same reason graduated only one woman and zero men, still produced an alumni couple by virtue of a belated degree presented in 1923 to Captain Edmund Dunn. Dunn had left school before graduation to join the service and never returned to finish. His delayed graduate status added him to the class of 1862, making it one woman and one man, which was “all the more significant because up to that time the class of ’62 had consisted of but one person, Rhoda Yeagley, who shortly after the war became his wife.”¹¹

Coeducation was still a young, largely untested concept by the latter part of the 19th century, let alone in 1855 when Waynesburg College officially introduced it. Providing female education to an equal degree within a gender-mixed system was an exceptional decision for a small, Cumberland Presbyterian college in rural, southwestern Pennsylvania. In the Greene County courthouse an organized meeting to debate

the subject during the college’s developmental stages “mounted almost to the point of violence.”¹² The Female Department was created as a compromise, and some ladies did choose its curriculum, though all “pupils, male and female, were largely in the same classes, the young ladies reciting to the professors of the college with the young men.”¹³ As late as 1868, coeducation was still sheepishly acknowledged in the annual catalogue beneath the headline, “Character of the Institution.” Stated in a mild manner that towed the official line, the catalogue held that



Waynesburg College tried to diminish parental concerns regarding social behavior by publishing “special rules” in their annual catalogues that limited the conduct of young ladies (notably not of young men)



“Waynesburg College is not a strictly co-educational school” and that “While pursuing their own course of study, young ladies have the privilege of entering college classes in such studies as may not be taught in their department.”¹⁴

During Waynesburg College’s early years, higher education for women at any

institution was considered by many people to be expensive and unnecessary; most girls who desired to attend required family support to do so. In fact, the “desire of parents to educate their daughters” was a “prerequisite” for college-bound females at Waynesburg.¹⁵ Since most women who attended colleges and universities in the 19th century were from middle class families, parental approval was all the more necessary in order for such a monetary commitment to be made.¹⁶ Parents who supported and invested in a daughter’s, or even a son’s, request for education, undoubtedly expected respect of parental authority in return. As a consequence, parents could feel apprehensive about sending their child to a coeducational institution, as opposed to one entirely segregated by sex, for fear of an unsanctioned engagement—marriage being the ultimate loss of parental power. An 1880 editorial asked for statistics of successful marriages coming out of coeducational institutions so that would-be students could “enlighten their papas and mammas ... in time to determine which class of the colleges, the coeducational or the non-coeducational, they should attend.”¹⁷

At Waynesburg College and others like it, the frequency of marriages among graduates and former students was hard to miss, and if such matchmaking was considered undesirable, the romantic component of the coeducation debate had the potential of being one of its real threats, in part, because it challenged the parental consent by which tuitions were generally paid. Waynesburg College, struggling to survive economically by the late 1850s and barely staying in session through the Civil War years, needed parental

endorsement. The ladies, and in many cases the gentlemen as well, who composed Waynesburg's first graduating classes were the children of parents who came of age at a time when college coeducation was rare, which in turn decreased their chances of understanding student-initiated engagements.

An example of how actions by some of the early attendees may have contributed to the anxiety of those unsure about equal coeducation can be found in Waynesburg College graduate Sarah Throckmorton (class of 1860). She was the daughter of Morford Throckmorton (1792-1884) and his second wife, Nancy Simpson (1801-1869). Morford was a blacksmith and farmer who migrated to Greene County from New Jersey as a young man around 1812.¹⁸ Sarah was the only one of Morford's six daughters to graduate college, though Sarah's younger sister Caroline did attend Waynesburg College during the 1860/61 school year. Sarah's situation is outlined in a family history:

[Sarah Throckmorton] was a decidedly attractive girl of much more than ordinary intellectuality. Her laugh lay very near her lips, and to her keen sense of humor she added a gift of putting amusing things in words that made her merry company. Among her many ardent admirers was Joseph M. Milligan, a handsome, witty young student of Irish descent,—courteous in manner, entertaining in conversation, a sweet singer, but poor in purse. They became engaged, but the engagement met with opposition from the young lady's parents. So they hied themselves to the Waynesburg M. E. Parsonage and were secretly married by Rev. M. J. Pierce, 15 Aug., 1861. Several weeks later, during the minister's vacation, two students glancing over his books discovered the

marriage record and noised it abroad. Mrs. Throckmorton, while shopping in Waynesburg, heard the report and was properly scandalized. Hurrying home, the lively Sarah was promptly interviewed, and then and there received such a severe, old-fashioned Puritanic scolding that the memory lingered long, and surreptitious marriages were never popular among her descendants.

It is worthy of note that Sarah's unsanctioned marriage in 1861 coincides with the end of her sister's formal education. Joseph M. Milligan (class of 1861) graduated a year behind Sarah because he "made his way through college by teaching during the winter months and attending school in the summer."

After Joseph's graduation in 1861, the couple moved to Washington County, Pennsylvania, and in 1869 to Afton, Iowa. Whatever the objections to Joseph were, he became a successful school administrator and lawyer. He and Sarah lived in Iowa until their deaths and raised five children.¹⁹

As for Sarah's sister Caroline, it could be argued that her year at college was sufficient, because she was united in marriage with Joseph's Waynesburg College classmate, George Washington Graham Waddell (class of 1861), less than a year later at her father's house, apparently with parental consent.²⁰ One distinction between Joseph and George that may have affected the Throckmorton girls' parents was that while George was a local boy whose family they would have known, Joseph was not. The role of the coeducational institution as matchmaker incorporated a measure of



Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" (Bryan) (Garard) Loller, Waynesburg College class of 1871, wife of classmate James Corbly Garard, and later of Professor Silas Wright Loller. Waynesburg University Museum.

opportunity to find a mate from another part of the county or country, thereby adding additional concern for parents who may not have wanted their children to move away or marry into a family they were unacquainted with.

A similar incident, a decade later, united Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" Bryan (class of 1871) and classmate James Corbly Garard, both Greene County natives, but from opposite ends of the map. The month of her graduation, Lizzie attended the wedding of Minor Raimier and a Miss Black, in the company of Garard. Though Garard was not her father's favorite suitor, he and Lizzie followed Raimier and Black that day, making

secret wedding vows before Reverend Campbell Jobes (class of 1869) and the audience present. News of the ceremony kept quiet, Lizzie returned home, where over the next several months Silas Loller, a music professor at the college, was a frequent caller. Knowing no better and having the approval of her parents, Silas proposed to Lizzie, was accepted, and by April 1872 they were wed.



Right: Margaret Leonice (Needham) Still, Waynesburg College, class of 1857, was the first woman to receive a male-equivalent bachelor's degree in Pennsylvania. *Waynesburg University Museum.*

Left: This tintype photograph is believed to be of Leroy Woods Cleavenger (c.1833-1859). A journal and a series of love letters, also found in the Margaret Leonice (Needham) Still Collection, confirm that Margaret (1838-1912) was Leroy's love interest from at least 1857, the year of his journal, until his death in 1859.

Bonnie (Watts) Cook, 2008. Research and scanning provided by John & Betty Hartman.



About two weeks after their wedding day Silas and Lizzie, while still at her parents' home, were called on by Garard. Lizzie's father would not let the young man in, but after a number of failed tries, Garard demanded his right to speak to his "lawfully wedded wife." Only Lizzie was not shocked. Silas immediately went to Waynesburg to seek legal counsel, but as the second husband he found little relief. Lizzie's "youth and impulsive nature" were blamed for the marriage to Garard, which she alleged was only a joke.²¹ They were ultimately divorced in 1877; some time after which, Lizzie seems to have legally remarried Silas Loller with whom she had one child in 1889 and finally appears listed as his wife in the 1910 census.²² Her exceptional story represents the only known divorce among early Waynesburg College couples.

Whatever part of Greene County or its near neighbors they were from, most Waynesburg College students were of local families, particularly in the case of females. However, with few colleges or universities offering equal degrees to women in the mid-to late 19th century, some girls were sent to Waynesburg College from a distance to board with relatives or be watched over by guardians. Leroy Cleavenger, a Waynesburg College student, met Margaret Leonice Needham (class of 1857) because she was one of three women hand-picked by Waynesburg College President Reverend J. P. Weethee to pursue a male-equivalent bachelor's degree in the first year of that opportunity. Margaret

came to Waynesburg from Providence, Rhode Island, and Weethee himself was her guardian. Leroy was from a respected Greene County family, his father having taught the generation of lawyers now teaching him as he prepared for the bar exam. He was presumably a fair match for Margaret, but that did not mean that courting her came easy. Leroy's journal is a testament to the era's "ritualized courtship testing" wherein he often relays his sincere concern as to Margaret's return of affections or interest in other men.²³ To complicate matters, he took offense to Weethee's supervision. On April 10, 1857, Leroy described Weethee's watchfulness as "the angere eyed surveillance of [a] puritanical guardian." A month later, after a requested visit to Sarah Virginia "Jennie" Morgan (class of 1853), a mutual friend who discreetly facilitated the relationship between Leroy and Margaret, Leroy wrote, "She informs me that Mr. Weathee [sic] suspicions [Margaret] and I of carrying on a clandestine correspondence through her. I fear that man will compell me to become his enemy, in defiance of an inclination upon my part to the contrary."²⁴ Weethee undoubtedly wanted Margaret to succeed and feared the distraction of courtship, or worse, and so tried to avoid any factor that could prevent her from graduating. Leroy and Margaret pursued a respectable courtship with plenty of love letters, parlor visits, and occasional outings in the company of friends. If such deems Leroy successful in his goal, Weethee was no less—on September 23, 1857, Margaret graduated from Waynesburg College, the first woman in the state of Pennsylvania to receive a bachelor's degree.

Not all guardians were so effective, however. Sarah Henderson came to Waynesburg from Lexington, Missouri, for the 1856/57 school year. Like Margaret, a preacher familiar to her family, Reverend T. J. Simpson was appointed guardian while she was away from home. In May 1857, Simpson attended the General Assembly in St. Louis, and Sarah joined him to visit her family. Aboard their ship, “Rev. Simpson and lady” were signed into a single stateroom. Suspicious crew members uncovered the truth and Sarah’s “ruin” soon made national news. In July and August 1857, New York newspapers reprinted Pittsburgh articles that reported the lengthy details of the seduction and its discovery. Simpson was suspended by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and Sarah was expelled.²⁵

Waynesburg College tried to diminish parental concerns regarding social behavior by publishing “special rules” in their annual catalogues that limited the conduct of young ladies (notably not of young men) as to regular bible study, acceptable boarding houses, curfews, and a once-a-week limit on “calls from gentlemen.”²⁶ However, with the rate of marriages among graduates substantial at Waynesburg, clearly the “fear that coeducation would be conducive to mating was better grounded than most” arguments against combining the sexes;²⁷ thus, it became necessary for coeducation champions to promote such matches as positive ones, rather than to try to limit their occurrence. Consequently, when Andrew D. White presented his report supporting coeducation to the trustees of Cornell University on February 13, 1872, he was compelled to distinctly address the issue of engagements



Top: Margaret Kerr (Bell) Miller (1826-1874), leader of female education at Waynesburg College 1850-1874, and wife of Alfred Brashear Miller.

S. G. Rogers, photographer, Waynesburg; Waynesburg University Museum.

Right: Alfred Brashear Miller (1829-1902), Waynesburg College class of 1853, professor 1853-1902, and president 1859-1899.

Waynesburg University Museum.



among students three separate times.

White began his defense with the opinion of Reverend Dr. Fairchild, then president of the renowned Oberlin College, which boasted a long-standing and respected tradition of equal coeducation. Fairchild was asked “whether young people will, under such a system, form such acquaintances as will

result, during their course of study or after they leave college, in matrimonial engagements?" His response was an obvious rebuff against those who would use such an extraneous argument to deny women equal education. He declared:

Undoubtedly they will, and if this is a fatal objection, the system must be pronounced a failure. The majority of young people form such acquaintances between the ages of 16 and 24, and these are the years devoted to a course of study. It would be a most unnatural state of things if such acquaintances

should not be made.... The reasonable inquiry in the case is whether such acquaintances and engagements can be made under circumstances more favorable to a wise and considerable adjustment or more promising of a happy result.

As a comfort to trustees who may have been more alarmed than consoled by Fairchild's strong words, White mellowed the issue by reporting that at the University of Michigan "there has been less social intercourse between the young women and young men, than between the latter and the daughters of citizens in the town, not in college; the young ladies seem to be quietly on their guard against receiving too much attention from students of the other sex." White concluded the issue following Fairchild's advice; he contrasted conventional methods for selecting a mate with the academic environment:

Choice is determined by mere casual meeting, by an acquaintance of a few weeks, by winning manners at a ball, by a pleasing costume in the street, and at the best by a very imperfect revelation of those mental and moral qualities which are to make or mar the happiness of all concerned. Should such engagements be formed in a University where both sexes are educated together, they would be based upon a far more thorough and extended knowledge, upon an admiration of a much higher range of qualities, and upon a similarity in taste and temper, which could not be gained elsewhere.

White defended romance as a motivation to do well in school rather than a cause for failure, and insisted that there was no place better to enable a young person to look beyond superficial qualities for true virtues.²⁸

Coeducation was approved at Cornell, and White's report became a bolster to institutions desiring or already administering coeducation. Waynesburg College, for one, saluted White's achievement and explicitly acknowledged his results in their *Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Waynesburg College for the Scholastic Year, 1871-72*. Exhibiting newfound confidence and hailing White's success, the new headline over the explanation of coeducational policy read, without reserve, "Association of the Sexes." Concurrently proud and defensive, the headline served to reiterate the decision, made more than two decades previous. Waynesburg College spent 20 years quietly defying coeducation biases, while discreetly implementing an equal education program. Finally confident, Waynesburg declared itself "one of the first organized for the admission of both sexes."²⁹

Such a claim to coeducational success could not have been made were it not for Alfred Brashear Miller (class of 1853) and his wife, Margaret Kerr (Bell) Miller, names synonymous with Waynesburg College for over 50 years—from the college's inception to the turn of the century. Responsible for leading Waynesburg College as professors and administrators, they also set an example of marital partnership that undoubtedly altered their students' concept of marriage.

Credited as the "real founder of [the Female Department, and the chief promoter of the system of co-education,"³⁰ Miss Margaret Kerr Bell, an 1846 graduate of the Washington Female Seminary,³¹ was hired to lead female education at Waynesburg College—one of the original three professorships required by the school's 1850



Lida (Miller) Simpson, Waynesburg College class of 1876, and daughter of Alfred Brashear Miller and Margaret Kerr Bell. Lida was the first of Waynesburg College's second-generation graduates.

Waynesburg University Museum.



Hanna Hall was the first building on the Waynesburg College campus. Classes for both men and women were held here after the building's completion in November 1851.

Candice Buchanan.

which many of Washington's teachers also came.³⁴

Margaret Bell's personal life was as much a part of Waynesburg College as was her professional life. Margaret's marriage to Alfred Brashear Miller in March 1855 created a partnership that would ensure the survival and growth of the institution. Alfred had been present at the college from the first day of classes as a student in 1850, to his graduation as the valedictorian of the first male class in 1853, to his appointment as professor of mathematics that fall. In 1859, when he became president of the financially struggling school, the request to lead was not made to him alone; the trustees said, "we see nothing that can be done with the college but for you and Mrs. Miller to take it, run it if you can."³⁵

The example set by the Millers was followed by many of Waynesburg College's early graduate couples. Dual alumni, the couples often remained supportive and involved with their alma mater. Among them were Walter Guy Scott (class of 1857) and

charter.³² From the beginning, she must have showed great promise, for in the summer of 1850, even as so many other pieces were falling into place for the birthing of the institution, Joshua Loughran, the first president of Waynesburg College, ended a speech to his future students and the community, by promising, "Wait till Miss Bell comes, and then we will do

great things."³³ Margaret's education was exceptional for southwestern Pennsylvania at the time and must have made her an exciting candidate. During her terms at the Washington Female Seminary, located in Washington County, the school was administered by Sarah (Foster) Hanna, a graduate of Emma (Hart) Willard's Troy Female Seminary in New York, from

Mary (Sutton) Scott (class of 1861), who continued their work at Waynesburg College as professors following the Millers' example, and saw two of their three daughters graduate from the school.³⁶ Brothers Alexander Durham Hail (class of 1866) and Dr. John Baxter Hail (class of 1870) pursued the college's Cumberland Presbyterian mission in Asia with their wives. Alexander married former Waynesburg College student Rachel (Lindsey) Hail. John married Mary Elizabeth (Rohrer) Hail (class of 1870). The latter couple sent their two sons back to Waynesburg, where one graduated and the other married a graduate.³⁷ Robinson Franklin Downey (class of 1867) and Ella Jean (Wilson) (Lindsey) Downey (class of 1879) supported the college throughout their lives and upon Mrs. Downey's death left the bulk of the family estate to their alma mater. The estate included their home, Ivyhurst, where guests, such as United States President William Howard Taft, were entertained.³⁸ The Downeys also sent their only child, Claire (Lindsey) Reisinger, to Waynesburg College, but her death in a car accident prevented her graduation with the class of 1916.³⁹

Margaret Kerr (Bell) Miller lived to see her eldest daughter, Lida, enter Waynesburg College, but only Alfred could attend her graduation in 1876 due to Margaret's untimely death at age 47. The rewarding outcome of her parents' hard work, Lida also marked the beginning of a second-generation surge among Waynesburg College graduates, as first-generation alumni sent their children to their alma mater.⁴⁰ By the turn of the century, many of the children of early Waynesburg College graduates would don caps and gowns at their parents' school. Like their parents' generation,

marriages among graduates were common. Lida herself was wed to former Waynesburg College student Dr. Theodore P. Simpson on October 4, 1877.⁴¹

The first generation of college students who tested the coeducational system encountered unique challenges, and they reaped the rewards of the social change they initiated. Their children benefited from an increased likelihood of advanced education because they had parents who understood its advantages. At the same time, as the numbers of college graduates from coeducational institutions grew, acceptance increased even among families without previous experience. Parents came to understand that college was a place for their children not only to seek education, but also self-awareness, independence, and romance. Colleges too, learned to present these traits positively, promising a wholesome environment, while at the same time assuring students the freedom to develop personally and socially.



Candice Buchanan is a certified genealogist for Memory Medallion, Inc. in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, and is pursuing her master's degree in Public History at Duquesne University. She operates a Greene County history website, www.GreeneConnections.com, where more information on early Waynesburg College alumni can be found.

¹ Journal of Leroy W. Cleavenger (Manuscript, 1857; Waynesburg, Greene County, Pennsylvania); discovered in 2003 by Bonnie (Watts) Cook in the papers of her great-grandmother Margaret Leonice (Needham) Still, Leroy's love interest, spoken of frequently in his journal entries. A transcription was made from the original diary in 2003 by John F. Hartman and Betty V. Hartman of Parkville, Maryland. Diary owned in 2007 by Candice Buchanan, as part of the Waynesburg College alumni research project. Leroy is listed as a student in the *Annual Catalogue of Waynesburg College and Female Seminary for the Academic Year*

Ending September, 1853 (photocopy reproduction only; cover and title page missing) and the *Annual Catalogue of Waynesburg College and Female Seminary for the Academic Year Ending September, 1855* (Pittsburgh: W. S. Haven, 1855). Both catalogues are archived at the Waynesburg University Museum (Miller Hall, 51 W. College St., Waynesburg, Pennsylvania 15370). For more about Margaret Leonice (Needham) Still, see endnote 7.

² "Coeducation and Matrimony" article, *Daily Inter Ocean*, Chicago, Illinois, 15 April 1880, page 7, column 1. Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers, Thomson Gale Databases (http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itw/infomark/1/1/1/purl=rc6_NCNP : accessed 26 September 2007).

³ "The Breakfast Table" article, *Boston Daily Advertiser*, Boston, Massachusetts, 19 June 1890, page 4, column 5. Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers, Thomson Gale Databases (http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itw/infomark/1/1/1/purl=rc6_NCNP : accessed 29 September 2007).

⁴ Charlotte Williams Conable, *Women at Cornell: The Myth of Equal Education* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1977) 71; Tyack, David and Elisabeth Hansot, *Learning Together: A History of Coeducation in American Public Schools* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1992) 40.

⁵ "The Education of Girls, Views of the President of Leland Stanford University" article, *Daily Picayune*, New Orleans, Louisiana, 24 November 1895, page 26, column 6. Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers, Thomson Gale Databases (http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itw/infomark/1/1/1/purl=rc6_NCNP : accessed 29 September 2007).

⁶ Personal accounts of students such as Martha (Bayard) Howard (Female Seminary class of 1852) and Alfred Brashear Miller (class of 1853, professor 1853-1902, Waynesburg College President 1859-1899) indicate that though separate titles such as Female Seminary, and later Female Department, were used, the students actually shared classrooms and teachers. For Howard's account see "Mrs. Margaret Kerr Bell Miller" article, *Women's Centennial Paper 1796-1896*, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, page 3, column 1-3. For Miller's account see L. K. Evans, *Pioneer History of Greene County, Pennsylvania* (Waynesburg, *Waynesburg Republican*, 1941), pages 156-164 contain a reprinted article written by Miller and published by the *Waynesburg Republican*, 29 June 1899.

⁷ Margaret Leonice Needham, Laura Weethee, and Lydia Weethee were the first three women to receive male-equivalent bachelor's degrees from Waynesburg College, graduating 23 September 1857, as identified in: *Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Waynesburg College for the Academic Year Ending September 1857* (Waynesburg: Pauley and Jennings, 1857), 6, 17. Only one school, the renowned Oberlin College in Ohio, is proven to have graduated women with male-equivalent bachelor's

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES.

SENIORS.

GENTLEMEN.

John P. Morgan.....	Waynesburg, Pa.
J. C. Momyer*.....	Carmichaels, Pa.
W. G. Scott*.....	Pursley, Pa.
D. G. Purman.....	Waynesburg, Pa.

LADIES.

Margaret L. Needham*.....	Providence, R. I.
Laura E. Weethee*.....	Chauncey, Ohio.
Lydia A. Weethee*.....	" "

JUNIORS.

A. J. McGlumphy.....	Waynesburg, Pa.
J. E. Johnson*.....	Edgington, Illinois.
J. L. Parkinson.....	Rock Lick, Va.
A. C. Bradbury.....	Sparta, Ohio.
Samuel Montgomery.....	Neosho City, Kan.
N. P. Tansey.....	Morgantown Va.
Jesse S. Walton.....	Rices' Landing, Pa.
Lewis L. Lorimor*.....	Dallas, Va.
G. W. Riggle.....	Washington, Pa.
Jacob J. Huffman.....	Waynesburg, Pa.
D. G. C. Baker.....	Meadville, Pa.

SOPHOMORES.

James B. Inghram.....	Waynesburg, Pa.
B. K. Higinbotham.....	Masontown, Pa.
J. S. Stoughton.....	Grasshop. Falls, Kan.

Page six of the *Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Waynesburg College for the Academic Year Ending September 1857*. Waynesburg University Museum.

degrees prior to 1857, Oberlin having graduated its first degreed females in 1841. Excepting Oberlin, numerous schools in the nation graduated females prior to 1857, Waynesburg included, but diplomas or degrees of a lesser value were awarded; they were not male-equivalent bachelor's degrees. In a letter from Dr. Paul R. Stewart (Waynesburg, Pa.), President of Waynesburg College 1921-1963, to Mrs. C. Tubbs, 11 January 1929; held in 2003 by Bonnie (Watts) Cook, great-granddaughter of Margaret Leonice (Needham) Still, Stewart says, "it has developed that [Margaret] was the first woman to graduate from this institution from the same course as the men and with the same degree. This is all the more important since this college was the second college in the world to

grant degrees to women on the same basis as men." Additional information on early Waynesburg College female graduates: William Howard Dusenberry, *Waynesburg College Story, 1849-1974* (1975: Kent State University Press, Kent, Ohio), 41-42, 419n. Additional information on early Oberlin College female graduates: Robert S. Fletcher and Ernest H. Wilkins, "The Beginning of College Education for Women and of Coeducation on the College Level," *Bulletin of Oberlin College*, New Series 343 (20 March 1937).

⁸ Letter from H. V. Needham (Tonganoxie, Kansas) to Paul R. Stewart (President of Waynesburg College 1921-1963), 22 December 1928; filed with Margaret (Needham) Still Matriculation Card, Waynesburg College class of 1857, at the Waynesburg University Office of Institutional Advancement. Hawley Varnum Needham was a brother of Margaret Leonice (Needham) Still (class of 1857).

⁹ Since the total student population was much higher per year than the number of graduates, matches between graduates and students who never finished were also common. Relationships between couples composed of two students who both failed to graduate are the most difficult to calculate due to minimal student body records, as opposed to detailed matriculation cards and alumni directories maintained for graduates. For this reason, only those couples that included at least one graduate have been examined. Similarly,

couples who courted, but did not marry often left few, if any, records of their association. Rare evidence of these couples, when located, has been included to add context; though they are not counted among the number of students who were ultimately matched-up as a result of the early coeducational experience at Waynesburg College.

¹⁰ Haddie C. Miller and George N. Gray Matriculation Cards, Waynesburg College class of 1860 and 1861 respectively, on file at the Waynesburg University Office of Institutional Advancement.

¹¹ Edmund Dunn and Rhoda (Yeagley) Dunn Matriculation Cards, Waynesburg College class of 1862, on file at the Waynesburg University Office of Institutional Advancement. Capt. Edmund Dunn obituary, *Waynesburg College Bulletin*, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, January-February 1929, page 4, column 1-2.

¹² William Howard Dusenberry, *Waynesburg College Story, 1849-1974* (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 1975), 42.

¹³ "Mrs. Margaret Kerr Bell Miller" article, *Women's Centennial Paper 1796-1896*, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, page 3, column 1-3.

¹⁴ *Annual Catalogue of Waynesburg College at Waynesburg, Pa. for the Year Ending September, 1868* (Pittsburgh: J. McMillin, 1868) 15. Archived at the Waynesburg University Museum.

¹⁵ Tyack, David and Elisabeth Hansot, *Learning Together: A History of Coeducation in American Public Schools* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1992) 31-32.

¹⁶ Barbara Miller Solomon, *In the Company of Educated Women: A History of Women and Higher Education in America* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1986) 63.

¹⁷ "Coeducation and Matrimony" article, *Daily Inter Ocean*, Chicago, Illinois, 15 April 1880, page 7, column 1. Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers, Thomson Gale Databases (http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itw/infomark/1/1/1/purl=rc6_NCNP : accessed 26 September 2007).

¹⁸ Mofford Throckmorton obituary, *Waynesburg Republican*, Waynesburg, Pa., 22 January 1884, page 3, column 5.

¹⁹ Frances Grimes Sitherwood, *Throckmorton Family History: Being the Record of the Throckmortons in the United States of America with Cognate Branches* (Bloomington, Illinois: Pantagraph Printing & Stationary Co., 1929) 178-179. Sarah Throckmorton Milligan and Joseph M. Milligan Matriculation Cards, Waynesburg College classes of 1860 and 1861 respectively, on file at the Waynesburg University Office of Institutional Advancement.

²⁰ Waddell-Throckmorton marriage announcement, *Waynesburg Messenger*, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, 16 July 1862.

²¹ "Twice at the Altar" article, *Waynesburg Republican*, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, 10 April 1872, page 3, column 1.

²² Greene County Appearance Docket Book 33: 580 (continues on 33: 590), item no. 458, October 1876 term, Prothonotary's Office, Courthouse, Waynesburg, Pa. Initial proceeding 21 August 1876. Divorce final 8 January 1877. Plaintiff - J. C. Garard. Defendant - Elizabeth Garard. Cecelia K. Bryan household, 1910 U.S. census, population schedule, Richhill Township, Greene County, Pennsylvania, ED 117, SD 22, page 56A (stamped)/3 (written), dwelling 55, family 57; National Archives microfilm publication T624, roll 1349.

²³ Karen Lystra, *Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America* (New York & Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989) 158; concept reinforced throughout Chapter 6, "Testing Romantic Love: Victorian Courtship Rituals and the Dramas of Private Life."

²⁴ Journal of Leroy W. Cleavenger (Manuscript, 1857; Waynesburg, Greene County, Pennsylvania); discov-

ered in 2003 by Bonnie (Watts) Cook in the papers of her great-grandmother Margaret Leonice (Needham) Still, Leroy's love interest, spoken of frequently in his journal entries. A transcription was made from the original diary in 2003 by John F. Hartman and Betty V. Hartman of Parkville, Maryland. Diary owned in 2007 by Candice Buchanan, as part of the Waynesburg College alumni research project.

²⁵ "A Pastor Arraigned for Seduction" article, *New York Herald*, New York, New York, 11 July 1857, page 2, column 2. "Rev. T. Simpson Suspended from the Ministry—His Gallantry among Ladies" article, *Weekly Herald*, New York, New York, 15 August 1857, page 261, column 5-6. Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers, Thomson Gale Databases (http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itw/infomark/1/1/1/purl=rc6_NCNP : accessed 26 September 2007).

²⁶ *Annual Catalogue of Waynesburg College at Waynesburg, Pa. for the Year Ending September, 1868* (Pittsburgh: J. McMillin, 1868) 16-17. Archived at the Waynesburg University Museum.

²⁷ Thomas Woody, *A History of Women's Education in the United States*, 2 volumes (New York: Octagon Books, Inc., 1966) 2: 301.

²⁸ Andrew Dickson White, *Report Submitted to the Trustees of Cornell University, in Behalf of a Majority of the Committee on Mr. Sage's Proposal to Endow a College for Women* (Ithaca, New York: University Press, 1872), 15, 17, 26-28. Google Books (<http://books.google.com/> : accessed September 23, 2007). Additional discussion in Charlotte Williams Conable, *Women at Cornell: The Myth of Equal Education* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1977) Chapter 3, "Sage College: Woman's Place at Cornell."

²⁹ *Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students of Waynesburg College for the Scholastic Year, 1871-72* (Pittsburgh: Barr and Myers, 1872) 26-27. Archived at the Waynesburg University Museum.

³⁰ "Mrs. Margaret Kerr Bell Miller" article, *Women's Centennial Paper 1796-1896*, Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, page 3, column 1-3.

³¹ *Catalogue of the Officers and Pupils in Washington Female Seminary, for the Academic Year, Commencing November 1845, and Ending September, 1846* (Washington, Pennsylvania: John Bausman, 1846) 11. An original catalogue is included in the collection of the Genealogical Society of Southwestern Pennsylvania located at Citizens Library (55 S. College Street; Washington, Pa., 15301).

³² L. K. Evans, *Pioneer History of Greene County, Pennsylvania* (Waynesburg, Pennsylvania: *Waynesburg Republican*, 1941) 160, pages 156-164 contain a reprinted article written by Miller and published by the *Waynesburg Republican*, 29 June 1899. Also see Rev. William Hanna, *History of Greene County, PA* (1882; reprint, Apollo, Pa.: Closson Press, 1996) 181.

³³ "Mrs. Margaret Kerr Bell Miller" article, *Women's Centennial Paper 1796-1896*, Waynesburg, Pa., page 3, column 1-3.

³⁴ Letter from Florence (Sturgis) McIlvaine (Mrs. W. A. H. McIlvaine, 47 N. Wade Avenue, Washington, Pa.) to Dr. Paul R. Stewart, President of Waynesburg College 1921-1963, 25 November 1935; filed with Alfred Brashear Miller Matriculation Card, Waynesburg College class of 1853, at the Waynesburg University Office of Institutional Advancement.

³⁵ L. K. Evans, *Pioneer History of Greene County, Pennsylvania* (Waynesburg: *Waynesburg Republican*, 1941) 161, pages 156-164 contain a reprinted article written by Miller and published by the *Waynesburg Republican*, 29 June 1899.

³⁶ Walter Guy Scott and Mary (Sutton) Scott Matriculation Cards, Waynesburg College classes of 1857 and 1861 respectively, on file at the Waynesburg University Office of Institutional Advancement.

³⁷ "Dr. J. B. Hail - Dr. A. D. Hail" article, *Waynesburg College Bulletin*, alumni newsletter of Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, Pa., March 1927, page 1, columns 1-2; page 2, column 1-2.

³⁸ Jean Wilson Downey article, *Waynesburg College Bulletin*, alumni newsletter of Waynesburg College, Waynesburg, Greene County, Pa., January 1937 issue, page 1, column 1-2; page 2, column 1.

³⁹ Mrs. Emory W. Reisinger obituary, *Waynesburg Republican*, Waynesburg, Pa., 8 June 1916, page 1, column 2.

⁴⁰ Barbara Miller Solomon, *In the Company of Educated Women: A History of Women and Higher Education in America* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1986) 66.

⁴¹ Lida (Miller) Simpson Matriculation Card, Waynesburg College class of 1876. Card on file at the Waynesburg University Office of Institutional Advancement.



John Reese Brown, Waynesburg College class of 1856, husband of Sarah Virginia "Jennie" (Morgan) Brown, Waynesburg College class of 1853. Jennie helped her friends Leroy Cleavenger and Margaret Leonice Needham pass messages in the early stages of their courtship. Waynesburg University Museum.