

**BEREA COLLEGE,
KY.: AN INTERESTING
HISTORY**

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Berea College, Ky.: An Interesting History by The Prudential Committee

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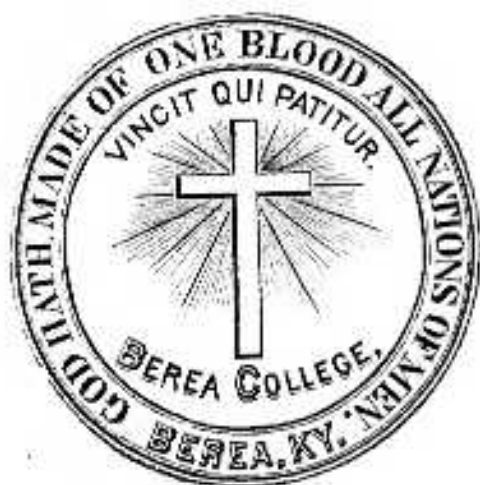
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THE PRUDENTIAL COMMITTEE

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Berea College, Ky.

AN INTERESTING HISTORY.

APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE.

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BEREA COLLEGE.

ITS LOCATION.

MANY persons have examined the maps for the location of Berea, but have failed to find it. Berea is a small village of about five hundred inhabitants, considerably scattered, and of somewhat recent growth; and the inhabitants are none of them wealthy, and many of them poor. There are not more than a dozen good houses in the village. If these reasons do not sufficiently account for the absence of Berea from recent maps of Kentucky, the same reason which has hitherto excluded the College from the State School Superintendent's Annual Report may be added.

Berea College is near the center of the State, in the southern part of Madison County, one of the most populous counties of the State. From Cincinnati it is reached by the Kentucky Central Railroad to Lexington one hundred miles, thence

by stage to Richmond twenty-six miles, thence by hack to Berea fourteen miles. From Louisville it is about one hundred and fifty miles by the Richmond Branch of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. Our nearest depot is Paint Lick, eight miles distant. We leave here at five o'clock A. M., and reach Cleveland, Chicago or Pittsburg, *via* Louisville and Cincinnati, the next morning. A macadamized road connects Berea with Richmond, and thence with all the large towns of the State. Kentucky excels most, if not all, other States in macadamized roads. Its common roads are generally very poor. It is not an uncommon thing for county roads to be obstructed by farm gates as often as once in a mile or two. But the gates are so constructed that a horseback rider can open them without alighting.

IS IT WELL LOCATED?

Berea ridge is about two miles long, of irregular shape, sometimes narrow and sometimes wide, and sometimes branching, and elevated about fifty feet above the surrounding country. The College grounds are about the center of the ridge, and on its widest part. Toward the south and east we look out upon a mountainous region, broken into more than a dozen distinct knobs from four hundred to eight hun-

dred feet high, and from one mile to six miles distant. Each has its distinct name, and all are favorite resorts of companies seeking exercise and pleasure. To the north and west lie the rich, undulating blue grass lands, famous everywhere for their hemp, pastures, cattle, horses and magnificently formed men. These lands come within a mile of Berea, and spread out from sixty to eighty miles to the north and west.

The autumn scenery viewed from the observatory of the Ladies' Hall is exquisitely beautiful. It is hardly surpassed by any scenery on the Hudson River. The air is perfectly pure, every lot is easily drained, the water is soft and generally good, and is obtained by digging about fifteen feet. The climate is delightful, especially from April to December. There are, of course, stormy, windy days, and long, hot days in the summer; but I have never experienced a day more oppressively hot here than in Chicago. The nights are always comfortable when the days are hottest.

The soil is not rich, but with proper culture is very good for gardens and fruit. This season, for the first time in forty years or more, nearly all fruit is destroyed by freezing blasts in April, from the ice and snow of the North.

But the location is well chosen for a more important reason. It is on the line of separation between two classes of people, as unlike each other in their physical development, their habits of life, and their views of society, as if they belonged to distinct races. And when we see them, on the morning of our Annual Commencement, pouring in by hundreds, the rich in their carriages from the plains, and the poor from the mountains on horses and mules, and, meeting on this common ground, we feel that the place was selected by Him who is "the Maker of them all." And when we look upon the crowd of two thousand people, white and colored, rich and poor, learned and ignorant, mingling without distinction and with perfect order, listening to speakers and singers of all shades of complexion, the words on the College seal seem wonderfully appropriate: "God hath made of one blood all nations of men." Twenty miles from this line, on either side, such a company could not be gathered.

ORIGIN OF THE COLLEGE—MR. FEE.

Rev. John G. Fee was born in Bracken County, Kentucky, in 1816. His father, a farmer, was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and the owner of thirteen slaves. John early embraced