

# Faculty and Honorary Degrees at the University of Kentucky

## How the Past Reverberates to the Present: the Case of A. R. Crandall

### Dr. A. R. Crandall

-Born 1840

-Ph.D. - Milton College

-*Prospective* Educational Philosophy:  
“the need of education became a leading thought ... from a growing desire to know about things, and the issues of life so real ... [on] the question of profession .. agriculture would be most in mind”

### Professional Start:

-1868 Harvard University Agassiz Museum of Comparative Zoology

-1873 KY Natural History Survey

-1876 Professor, KY A&M College (then a part of Kentucky University)

### 1880 - One of the Original Members

of the “Faculty”

of the 1880 Newly Independent “Kentucky A&M College” (today, our University of KY)



Earliest Known Picture of “**the Faculty**” c.a.1880

(**A.R. Crandall** on the right end of the front row)

# Crandall: A Key Member of Those First “Faculty”



## Professor of Natural History

Responsible for the instruction in this course of study

## Instructor in Field Geology

in the first regularly organized Summer School  
in America (Cumberland Gap, KY)

## The Mechanical Department

In 1881 is asked to also lend his name to it “to put  
it on its feet”

## Crandall Engages President Patterson, Board on Resource Needs

Despite Crandall's frequent entreaties to President Patterson to be provided staff and physical resources to build up the Mechanical Dept. and the Department of Natural Sciences, these are not provided.

Crandall even appeared directly before the Board of Trustees (June 1884) to plead for sufficient resources, but to no avail.

By 1885, Crandall's frustration is mounting terribly. Notice in the 1885 "Faculty" picture at right, he is the only Faculty member not directly facing the camera (arrow)



## Crandall's View of Status of A&M College Provokes Controversy

By 1889, Crandall in exasperation has prepared a letter of resignation.

But he first speaks (privately he assumes) with a reporter for a city of Winchester, KY newspaper that had praised President Patterson.

However, the newspaper publishes [and the Lexington Leader reprinted] Crandall's severe criticisms that such a view of the status of the college had no "*common sense*" because "*the college was badly managed ... and that the president was incapable of properly managing the **scientific department**, and moreover was in the habit of exhibiting partiality toward some of the professors ... I expect he will put me out, but it won't make any difference, because I am going to resign.*"

At its next meeting, in the absence of any urging by President Patterson not to do so, the Board officially acts to accept Crandall's resignation.

# “The Faculty” Reacts to Crandall’s Resignation With A Resolution

stating its *“regret and hearty good wishes for Professor Crandall’s future”*

Crandall writes the Faculty, thanking it and also alerting it as to his intent for a next course of action that will continue the public debate about the college:

“Gentlemen of the Faculty of the A&M College of Kentucky

I have to acknowledge the receipt of the resolution of the Faculty deprecating the feeling towards the President, which led to my resignation &c.

Permit me to say that I am not insensible to the kindly spirit in which it is conceived; but I cannot do less than to assure the Faculty that I have in this matter been guided by an intelligent sense of duty, and further that any resentments which I may have expressed, can, as some of you know, but fully justified without going outside of the experience of the faculty. It will be to me, therefore, the occasion of sincere regret if I shall sacrifice the good opinion of my former associates by a course of action which every dictate of interest in, and care for the building up of a genuine Agricultural and Mechanical College requires me to pursue.

Very Sincerely

A. R. Crandall

Lexington, Ky Mar 21-[18]89”

## Crandall Directly Criticizes President to the Board

**Crandall next** submits to the June 1889 meeting of the Board a correspondence which commented

*“in terms of great severity upon the President of the College.”*

**The Board’s reaction** is to resolve

*“that the Administration of President Patterson has been obedient to the Board ... and that he is entitled to and receives the full confidence of the Board.”*

However, by this time sufficient public controversy over the status of the A&M College had developed that the **Ky General Assembly** established a committee to conduct a full investigation and submit a report.

Crandall thus has one final opportunity to have the President made accountable for what Crandall views as the plain and simple truth that Patterson, by developing the college along Patterson’s own classicist background, had failed to develop instead agricultural and mechanical courses as required by the federal law establishing the A&M colleges.



## Crandall Testifies Before the Legislative Committee

### **On the “Agricultural Department,” Crandall testifies:**

*“We have never had any class of students...in the Agricultural Department”*

### **On the “Mechanical Department,” Crandall testifies:**

*“...in the fall of 1881. A beginning was made ...until I saw that it was only to be a name only, and I went to the Board of Trustees and told them I could not allow my name further connected with it under those circumstances... that it was only a nominal department.”* The cause of this failure was *“that the management is not in sympathy with that sort of instruction”*

### **On the Preparatory School, Crandall testifies:**

*“The preparatory school also burdens the College by demands on time... which should be given to College classes and to practical investigation... In other words as astutely remarked by one of the professors, the grade of the college work has been lowered to relieve the stress in the nursery.”*

## **On the Management by President Patterson, Crandall testifies:**

*“... though various heads of departments [at KY A&M College] have from time to time made strenuous efforts to build up in the direction indicated by the proper aim of the [agricultural and mechanical colleges], they have not been able to do much more than put themselves out of sympathy with the executive management of the College ...*

*“... there has never been a time when it could be said that the faculty of the college has been united under the president for any definite purpose, to say nothing of the purpose of building up an Agricultural and Mechanical College...*

*“the faculty has been made subservient by admonitory dismissals or by well known freezing out processes, to which the board has reluctantly consented, always apparently in the interest of harmony.”*

*“..the effect has been to prevent the continuance in the departments or the college of men of experience and training, and especially of teachers who have a definite knowledge of what their department ought to be and do.”*

## **Crandall Concludes:**

*“I have endeavored to state the case mildly from an inside point of view. It should not appear strange if the form of expression should be colored somewhat by the injustice to which I myself have been subjected.”*



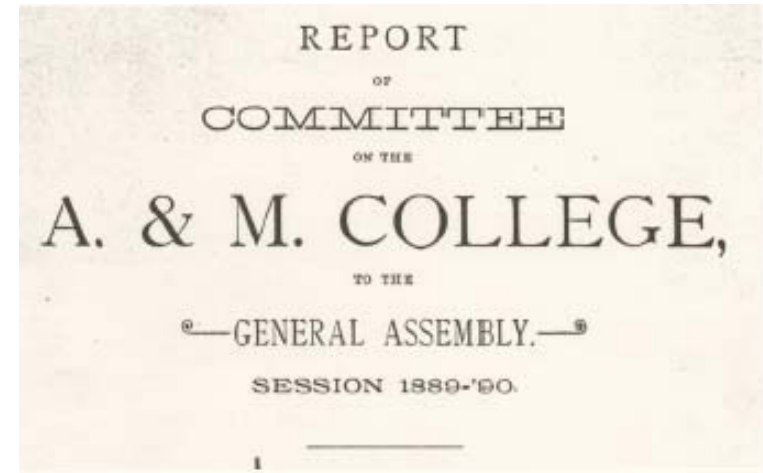
# The Investigating Committee's Majority and Minority Reports

## Majority Report:

*“We bear cheerful testimony to the honest and faithful management ... of the institution ... we find the institution is well conducted.”*

## Minority Report:

[endorsing Crandall's criticisms] *“it affords ... great pleasure to say the majority ... was never guilty of any wrong other than white-washing the A. and M. College by its majority report.”*



## Crandall Departs Lexington and the A&M College

After “leaving” the A&M College,

Crandall becomes in 1897 a Professor of Natural History at Alfred University (N.Y.)

Crandall then in 1903 accepts a similar position at Milton College (Wisc.) where he continues teaching for another 15 years

## Crandall's Contributions Recognized by the Faculty

In 1916, on the occasion of the University's "Golden Jubilee" (50th anniversary) the Faculty acts pursuant to its authority in state law (KRS 164.240) to approve and recommend to the Board of Trustees that an Honorary Degree be awarded to former President Patterson, who had retired as President in 1909. The Board approves this recommendation.

The following year, the Faculty, remembering also the sacrifice made by their former colleague A. R. Crandall in betterment of the institution, uses that same statutory authority *to originate from itself* on the floor of its April meeting the following recommendation for Board action:

"The Faculty voted to confer the [Honorary] degree of Doctor of Science to Professor **A. R. Crandall**, formerly of the State College of Kentucky." (from the Faculty minutes)

However, while the Board (of which Patterson was a member!) approved the degree for Patterson the previous year, it did not approve the Honorary Degree for Crandall, making Crandall the *first Faculty member in the history of the institution not to be approved for an Honorary Degree even though recommended by the Faculty*.

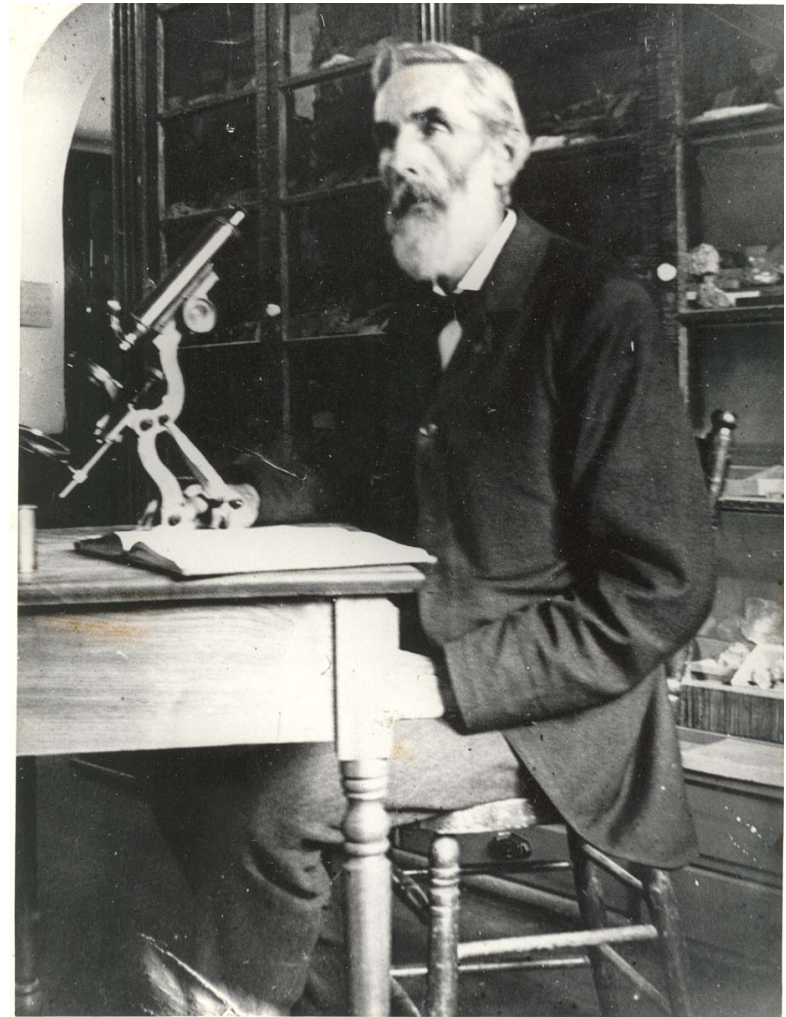
## Crandall retires in 1919 at the age of 79

**In his autobiography written several years earlier, we might detect a *reflective* educational philosophy**

"the drift of any young man whose ideals have survived the shock of the common indifferences to ideas in general, and to ideals of young people in particular."

"truth that may be obscured by clashing opinions may be too real ... for the egoisms of modern science."

[on the above]: "perhaps no good fortune could have better served to lay the foundation for consistent views of the purpose and the ways and means of education."



# Albert Rogers Crandall

outlives all other original members of the founding 1880

“Faculty” body

(including President Patterson)

**Albert Rogers Crandall, the last surviving original Faculty member,  
dies in 1926 at 86**

## *Milton College Bulletin*

Volume 1. January 1926 NO. 2

### PROF. A. R. CRANDALL

Prof. A. R. Crandall, ... beloved member of the Milton faculty, died at his home in Milton, Tuesday night. Possessing a wonderful understanding of science ... in his teaching we have found the very soul of truth... May we and our work be more and more worthy of all that he gave in such generous measure, and of all that he embodied so nobly.

From the Milton College Bulletin



## KENTUCKY KERNEL

**Former U. K. Professor  
Dies in Milton, Wis.**

**Prof. A. R. Crandall, Instru-  
mental in Establishing of Un-  
iversity, Dies at His Home**

Word of the death of Prof. A. R. Crandall, one of the associates of the

KY Kernal Feb. 5, 1926

# EPILOGUE

The decision of the Board of Trustees 90 years ago to deny an Honorary Degree to A. R. Crandall was in fact not just the first case, but the *only* case in UK history of the Board not approving the Faculty's recommendation of an Honorary Degree for one of its former members. Some years after Crandall's death, a steady process began of loss of the Faculty's control over which persons were available to be recommended to the Board of Trustees for an Honorary Degree ....





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.... However, during this 2005-2006 year, changes to the Board's Governing Regulations restored final control of recommendations on Honorary Degrees back to the University Faculty. Through the vote of its elected Faculty Senator representatives, the Faculty promptly exercised its regained authority and voted to supercede the prior limit of 3 such degrees per year, by approving a fourth Honorary Degree for **Abby Marlatt** (to which the modern UK Board concurred). Dr. Marlatt, also an outspoken former faculty member whom another UK President tried to have dismissed from her own tenured faculty position, had likewise been subsequently denied an Honorary Degree for many years. Her own age of near 90 upon finally receiving the award (to a standing ovation) in May 2006 was, in fitting tribute, in coincidence with the 90th anniversary of the Faculty's previous effort to secure the same honor for **Albert Rogers Crandall**...

*“...and now you know the rest of the story”*

