Professor Robert Reedy Bryan (1851-1853, 1866-1868)

Born: April 11, 1822 Jefferson County, TN
Died: June 26, 1878
Accepted Christ and baptized at Dumplin Valley Church: 1837
Attended Holston Seminary for two years and high school in Strawberry Plains for one year: 1845
Taught in public and private schools: 1845
Southern Baptist Convention established: 1845
Baptist Education Society of East Tennessee met to discuss establishment of an educational institution: 1849
Married Rebecca A. Lankford (parents of eleven children): 1850
Educational Society’s twenty-one trustees applied for charter for Mossy Creek Missionary Baptist Seminary and acquired two acres of land: 1850
Mossy Creek Missionary Baptist Seminary offered first classes in the Mossy Creek Baptist Church. Bryan designed curriculum and was primary professor: 1851
Became President when William Rogers unexpectedly died of typhoid: Nov. 1851-1853
Classes held in first college owned building: 1852
Returned to teaching, specializing in natural sciences: 1853-1866
Institution’s name changed to Mossy Creek Baptist College: 1855
First dormitory constructed: 1857
Columbian and Philomathean Literary Societies chartered: 1857
Tennessee seceded from the Union: 1861
College closed due to Civil War: 1862-1868
Resumed presidential duties: 1866-1868
College reopened with large debt: 1868