Prof. W. T. Russell – Newman College (1882-1889)

Born: February 22, 1848 McMinn County, TN
Died: March 15, 1919
Faculty Mossy Creek Baptist College: 1869-1882
Ran college during Jesse Baker’s fund raising campaign: 1869
Married Amanda Josephine “Josie” Harris (parents of two children): 1871
Alumni Association established: 1871
Classes moved to newly purchased Mountcastle Estate: 1876
(Preparatory school utilizes original buildings)
College took over running of Mossy Creek Masonic Female Institute, the forerunner of Newman College for women: 1879
Institution changed its name to Carson College: 1880
Mossy Creek Masonic Female College moved to old Mossy Creek Baptist College campus. Name changed to The Seminary for Young Ladies: 1882
Smallpox epidemic: 1882
Only President of Newman College: 1882-1889
Carson College and The Seminary entered agreement with Commission of Indian Affairs to educate Cherokee Indian children: 1884
Seminary chartered as Mossy Creek Female Academy. Trustees changed name to Newman Female Seminary but commonly referred to as Newman College: 1885
Newman College awarded first degrees: 1886
Mock wedding held to commemorate merger of Carson and Newman Colleges: 1889
Married Nannie Lillard (parents of two children): 1889
Served as mayor when Mossy Creek was incorporated as Jefferson City: 1901-1903

During his presidency Russell taught metaphysics and pure and applied mathematics while also serving as secretary and treasurer of Carson College’s ministerial fund. In addition he served as a trustee of both colleges. He also served Jefferson City on the Board of Alderman, as president of Mossy Creek Bank and as Sunday school superintendent and chair of the deacon board at First Baptist Church.