

land, dated March 6th, 1856, which contained the following general provisions for the establishment of a college of agriculture and a model farm: That as soon as two thousand shares of stock, of the value of \$25 a share, should be subscribed for the purpose, the subscribers should be incorporated into a company to be known as The Maryland Agricultural College. The direction of the corporation was to be placed in the hands of twenty-two trustees, to be selected from the stockholders, which trustees should purchase land and cause the necessary buildings to be erected, should select a president and faculty, and generally control and direct the affairs of the institution. The express purpose of the college was defined to be: "To instruct the youthful student in those arts and sciences indispensable to successful agricultural pursuit."

The corner-stone of the first college building was laid on August 24th, 1857, at its present site in Prince George's county. While the building was still in process of construction, work was begun upon the farm, looking to its preparation for the experimental work required by the charter to be conducted upon it. The building was completed in the following year, and the College was formally opened in October, 1859. Each trustee was empowered to designate students for admission from his own county. Students were to be required to perform practical farm work. The College thus began its career auspiciously.

Three years after its opening—in 1862—the Congress of the United States passed the first act providing for the endowment of agricultural colleges. The fact is worthy of being emphasized here that Maryland did not wait for Federal aid in the establishment of such an institution, but before the passage of the act of 1862, by the generosity and public spirit of her private citizens, and the wisdom and foresight of her Legislature, had established and put into practical operation a college whose primary object was to develop her agricultural interests by training young men in those departments of science "which should fit them for the successful pursuit of agriculture." Thus the Maryland Agricultural College is not, strictly speaking, a "Land-grant College" in its origin, but rather a beneficiary of the land grant of 1862.

In 1865 the hard times and unsettled state of affairs in Maryland,