

# Moses Edward Ligon

Born Owen County, Ky. April 15, 1877

Died March 27, 1956

Married Ernestine Alms August 5, 1909

Retired July 1947

## Education

1896 - Private Academy of H. Clay Smith, Owenton, Ky.

1896-1902 - attended National Normal University,  
Lebanon, Ohio

1902-1905 - Georgetown College

A. B. Degree June 1905

1921 - M. A. Degree from University of Chicago

1935 Honorary L. L. D. Degree - Georgetown College

## Positions:

1905-1908 - Taught School Philippine Islands

1908-1910 Elementary School Principal Paducah, Ky.

1910-1913 Taught Owensboro High School

1913-1919 - Principal Lexington High School

1919-1921 Superintendent Henderson, Ky.

1921-1924 - Principal Ashland High School

1924-1954 - Professor Secondary Education at  
University of Ky. & Director of Teach Placement

1926 - President of Ky Education Association

1938-1954 Member Board of Trustees - Georgetown College

1931-1937 Served on Athletics Board N. of Ky.

1943-1955 " " " " " " " "

1938-1939 - President Lexington Ky. Rotary Club

1913 Organized Central Kentucky High School athletic Association.

1913 President of Association

April 1918 Seelbach Hotel, Louisville, Ky  
Assisted in organization of Kentucky High School Athletic Association -

1918-1926 - President of Ky. High School Athletics Association.

1932 - Listed in "Who's Who in Kentucky" and "Leaders in Education"

1930 - Relinquished his University High School post as part of his duties at U.K. to become Chairman of Southern Association of Colleges & Secondary Schools and served as its president in 1942.

Dr. Moses Edward (M.E.) Ligon served the youth of the Commonwealth for over 40 years as a teacher, principal, and superintendent. At various times in his illustrious career he served as the president of the Central Kentucky High School Athletics Association (CKHSAA), Kentucky High School Athletics Association (KHSAA), Kentucky Education Association (KEA), and the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. In 1924, M.E. became a member of the faculty at the University of Kentucky as a professor of Secondary Education. A position he would hold until his death in 1956. While at UK, Ligon served as a member of the athletic board for 16 years and played a part in the hiring of Adolph Rupp.

M.E. Ligon was instrumental in the formation of the KHSAA. While principal at Lexington High School he organized the Central Kentucky High School principals to create the CKHSAA. Rules and regulations were written to serve in the development of honesty, fairness, and character. M.E. Ligon served as president of the association for three years. The CKHSAA was such a success, principals in the western part of the state wanted to create a similar organization. In April of 1916, at the Kentucky Education Association meeting, M.E. Ligon called a meeting of the principals and suggested that a state athletics organization be created. This laid the groundwork for the creation of the KHSAA. Ligon was elected president of KHSAA and served in that capacity from 1916-1926.

Professor Ligon was devoted to his family, church, friends, and community. He played a prominent role in many local Lexington organizations including the Fayette County Board of Education, the Lexington Rotary Club, and the Lexington County Club. His leadership and contributions to the Commonwealth have touched us all.

## Some Observations Of The Workings Of The Kentucky High School Athletic Association

M. E. LIGON, University of Kentucky

In the March number of the Kentucky High School Athlete for 1939, I gave a brief account of the origin and organization of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association. My period of service to the Association from its organization in 1916 to 1926 and my attitude toward high school athletics is well known to the school people of Kentucky and needs no further comment. In this article I will comment briefly on the work of the Association as I have observed it both as a participant and as an observer on the sidelines.

The Association has passed through all the stages of growth of a live, active organization. The first officers were M. E. Ligon, Principal, Lexington High School, President; W. O. Hopper, Superintendent of Schools, Mt. Sterling, Vice President; John Way, Principal, Carrollton High School, Secretary. I was a graduate of Georgetown College and Hopper and Way were graduates of Centre College, and all of us were interested in the development of good, clean sports in the high schools of the state. Mr. Way resigned in 1917, and John L. Foust, Principal of the Owensboro High School, was elected to succeed him. The Association for the first five years was a babe in swaddling clothes and required careful nursing. The life blood of the organization was the support given it by the high schools in the larger center of population. Year by year more schools came into the Association and careful attention was given by the whole membership to the revision of the rules and regulations for the benefit of all.

The infancy of the Association is well illustrated by its participation in the first three basketball tournaments held in the state. Near the first birthday of the Association, Centre College conducted a state tournament and asked the officials to be present. W. O. Hopper and I attended this meeting and rendered such aid as we could. One year later Centre conducted the second tournament. These tournaments were not official tournaments, but the officials were invited to participate. The Association then had a small membership and no money with which to do anything. In 1919 the Association held the first tournament at the University of Kentucky. S. A. Boles, better known to all of us as "Daddy," conducted this tournament. After much urging seven teams reported. In order that we might have eight teams, the officials persuaded the University High School to join on the morning of the first day of the tournament. This was a very good tournament. All expenses of this tournament were paid out of the gate receipts and the deficit was made up out of funds of the University of Kentucky Athletic Association. These were really great times for the officers of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association—nursing the young infant.

The Association is now twenty-five years old. Under the direction of the officers, who have aided in its nurture and growth, it has grown to be one of the strongest and most progressive state associations in our United States. This growth has been due to the wholehearted cooperation of the member schools with the officers. This marvelous growth of the last fifteen years has been due in large measure to W. F. O'Donnell as president and Ralph Hill as secretary. These men gave unstintingly of their time, contributing to the growth and general welfare of the organization.

In more recent years Russell E. Bridges, the newly elected president, Ted Sanford, John A. Dotson, W. B. Owen, J. Matt Sparkman, and Chris Purdom have become responsible for the guidance and direction of a strong, husky organization. The opportunities for directing the Association into ever widening possibilities for service are great. I wish for the Association this year the best in its history. Let's all of us give our present officers our undivided support in their efforts.