CC4421 9.24.26 Thursday

Samuel Lewis, first Superintendent of Common Schools in Ohio (1837-1840), prior to his state service, as a lawyer in Cincinnati was associated with William Woodward who founded the Woodward Free Grammar School in 1832. Woodward High School is still in operation.

In 1826 William Woodward endowed a fund to create one of the first free schools in America. Lewis was an attorney for Woodward in this matter. The author of McGuffey Readers, William McGuffey, was associated with this school. (Lewis was one of the organizers of an annual teachers' institute that met in Cincinnati for several years.)

Woodward Career Technical School is currently in operation in Ohio. Woodward School is the oldest public school west of the Allegheny Mountains that is still in operation.

Woodward, of course, became a part of the common school system required by the 1851 Ohio Constitution.

Notwithstanding the trials and adversities of the public common school system, the system has endured throughout the 195 years since Woodward public school was established in 1831. Such notable people as President William Howard Taft attended Woodward.

Instead of celebrating the success and efficacy of the public school system, unfortunately some powerful, profit seekers are obsessed with the elimination of the public common school system.

The next few posts will address the history, development and efficacy of the public common school system.