In November 1888, the New York Mathematical Society held its first meeting. Earlier that year, Benjamin Finkel, an undergraduate at Ohio Normal University, began editing a weekly column devoted to mathematical problems and their solutions in the college’s newspaper. A few years later, in an effort to improve high school teaching in America, Finkel founded and co-edited with John M. Colaw the American Mathematical Monthly, now the official journal of the Mathematical Association of America. We focus on the contributors and their contributions to the mathematical department of the Ohio Normal University Herald and the influence of the London-based Educational Times and Journal of the College of Preceptors on the column. (Received August 31, 2014)