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A HISTORY OF LOUISBURG COLLEGE
1787-1958

A Thesis
Presented to
The Faculty of the School of Education
Appalachian State Teachers College

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirement for the Degree
Master of Arts in Education

by
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PREFACE

For many years there has been a need for a compiled record of the facts about Louisburg College history. The collection has been difficult to compile and is not complete because of the lack of records covering certain periods.

The writer wishes to acknowledge with appreciation the encouragement and advice given by Dr. J. R. Melton of the Appalachian State Teachers College Graduate Faculty and the helpful suggestions made by Dr. G. P. Eggers and Mr. Cratis Williams of the same faculty.

She also wishes to thank those who have lent early records and documents and have provided other useful information.

Finally she wishes to thank the Louisburg College administration, faculty, staff, and students for their interest in this work. She particularly thanks Mrs. Elsa Yarborough, the librarian, for her assistance in gathering materials.

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CHAPTER I

THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY, A PREVIEW OF THE HISTORY, AND FACTS ABOUT FRANKLIN COUNTY

Louisburg College is the oldest school in the United States which functions today as a junior college. It is the oldest college in the United States connected with the Methodist denomination. It is the only junior college belonging to the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church.

I. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

It was the purpose of this study to put together the story of Louisburg College as it developed from an early North Carolina academy to a modern junior college.

The story is long and has many parts. The parts tell of a beginning closely associated with the founding of the town of Louisburg, of zealous founders, of struggles during wars and periods of depression, of colorful periods of prosperity, and of the efforts of devoted teachers and friends.

II. A PREVIEW OF THE COLLEGE HISTORY

Louisburg College is a fully accredited, co-educational junior college owned and operated by the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church and is located in the town of Louisburg, North Carolina, in Franklin County, about thirty miles northeast of Raleigh and forty miles east of Durham.

The college is located today where it began--in the center of town in an area containing a large oak grove. The present twelve-acre campus is a part of the twenty-four acres set aside in 1779 as a Town Common. The town commissioners immediately decided to use the Common for educational purposes, and it has never been used for anything else.

The school was founded in 1787 as Franklin Academy, a proprietary school for boys, chartered by the State Legislature. The writer has found no record of the operation of the school after 1787 until a second charter was granted by the State Legislature in 1802. The academy opened in 1805, offering a wide range of subjects, with Matthew Dickinson, a Yale graduate of Somer, Connecticut, as the first teacher. The Academy building was placed on the east side of the Common where it stands today back of the Mills High School building. Franklin Academy remained open until it was absorbed by Mills school, the public school, in 1905.

In 1813 a Female Department was added to Franklin Academy and was called the Louisburg Female Academy. A legislative act named as trustees some of the same men who were trustees of Franklin Male Academy, and the two academies for some time were thought of and treated as one school. The Female Academy building was erected in 1814 in the west grove of the Common, the present college campus.

The two academies remained open but became a part of a larger operation when the Louisburg Female College was organized in 1855 as a joint-stock company to establish a college of high standing for young women. Instruction in the college began in 1857. The Female Academy

became the preparatory department of the college, a department which was conducted continuously until 1930. Franklin Male Academy continued to operate until 1905.

Since the Franklin Academy and the Female Academy never closed until the turn of the twentieth century except for a few days during the occupancy of Louisburg by the Union Army, it is often stated that Louisburg College has never closed. On the contrary, the college actually was closed in 1865 but was reopened in 1866. In 1878 Louisburg College closed again, that time for a period of eleven years. A new interest in the college brought about its reopening in 1889 by Mr. S. D. Bagley. It has remained open since then.

Although the school has been influenced by Methodist leaders since its beginning, its relationship to the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church began in 1866 when Greensboro Female College, a Methodist school, was moved to Louisburg and operated under the name of Louisburg Female College. Since then Louisburg College has been operated under the auspices of the North Carolina Methodist Conference, although the Conference gave nothing to its support until 1910. Mr. B. N. Duke, who inherited the college property from his father, Mr. Washington Duke, gave the property in fee simple to the Conference in 1907.

Louisburg College has been a junior college since 1915. The college became a co-educational junior college in 1931.

For the 1957-58 term Louisburg College had an enrollment of four hundred students, and a faculty and staff of thirty-four. The college

property is valued at \$1,600,000.00 and has an endowment of \$188,000.00. Because resources have been given during the years, and because some of the teachers during the years have given faithful service, the college has kept expenses to the minimum. For the 1958-59 term the total expenses for a boarding student are \$705.00. For those who cannot pay the full amount, there are three forms of aid: free scholarships, service or labor scholarships, and loans.

During the present administration the work at Louisburg College is built around three major curricula: General Liberal Arts, Pre-Professional, and Terminal. The college awards an Associate in Arts Degree to those completing the requirements for the course pursued.

III. LOUISBURG AND FRANKLIN COUNTY

The community in which Louisburg College is located has many interesting features.

The County Franklin, formed from Bute County in 1779, is located in the northeastern piedmont section of the state and covers an area of 468 square miles. The population in 1850 was 11,713; today the population is approximately 31,300.¹ Franklin County is bordered by Nash County on the east, Warren County on the northeast, Vance County on the north, Cranville County on the west, and Wake County on the south.

The chief crops of the county are corn, cotton, and tobacco; the chief industrial products are metal molding, cotton goods, lumber, and

¹Interview with Alex T. Wood, Register of Deeds, Franklin County, North Carolina.

pulpwood. Franklinton, where Sterling Mills and a branch of Burlington Mills are located, is the industrial center of the county.

Louisburg, the county seat, is a little town known for its culture and charm. The reputation for beauty and culture is due largely to the oak groves surrounding large old homes and to the town's long association with education. The town, built at the fords of the Tar River on the old stage road between Richmond and Raleigh, has a population of approximately twenty-six hundred. The town was settled in 1758, named in 1764, and incorporated in 1799.

There are many distinctions honoring Louisburg and Franklin County.

The author of the First Article opposing the tax measures of the British Government was George Sims of Louisburg. The incident that led to the passage of the North Carolina Lynching Law occurred about two miles north of Louisburg. There a group of Franklin County citizens hanged Major Lynch, a tax collector working under Governor Tryon.

One of Louisburg's citizens, Orren Randolph Smith, designed the first of the Confederacy's four flags, the Stars and Bars, which was first unfurled in front of the Franklin County Courthouse.

Edwin W. Fuller, author of Angel in the Cloud and other Poems and Sea Gift, was born in Louisburg. His novel Sea Gift (1873) was so popular with the students at the University of North Carolina that it was called the Freshman's Bible.

Five miles from Louisburg, Fenton Foster perfected his invention of the linotype machine. Foster applied for the patent just after it had

been granted to Mergenthaler. It is said that pieces of type have been found on the grounds of the Fenton Foster home.

"Spelling John" was the name given to John Allen of near Louisburg because of his unusual memory. His family has a goblet that he won as the best speller in North Carolina and a letter signed by Robert E. Lee commending John Allen's outstanding record as a scholar at Washington (Washington and Lee) College.

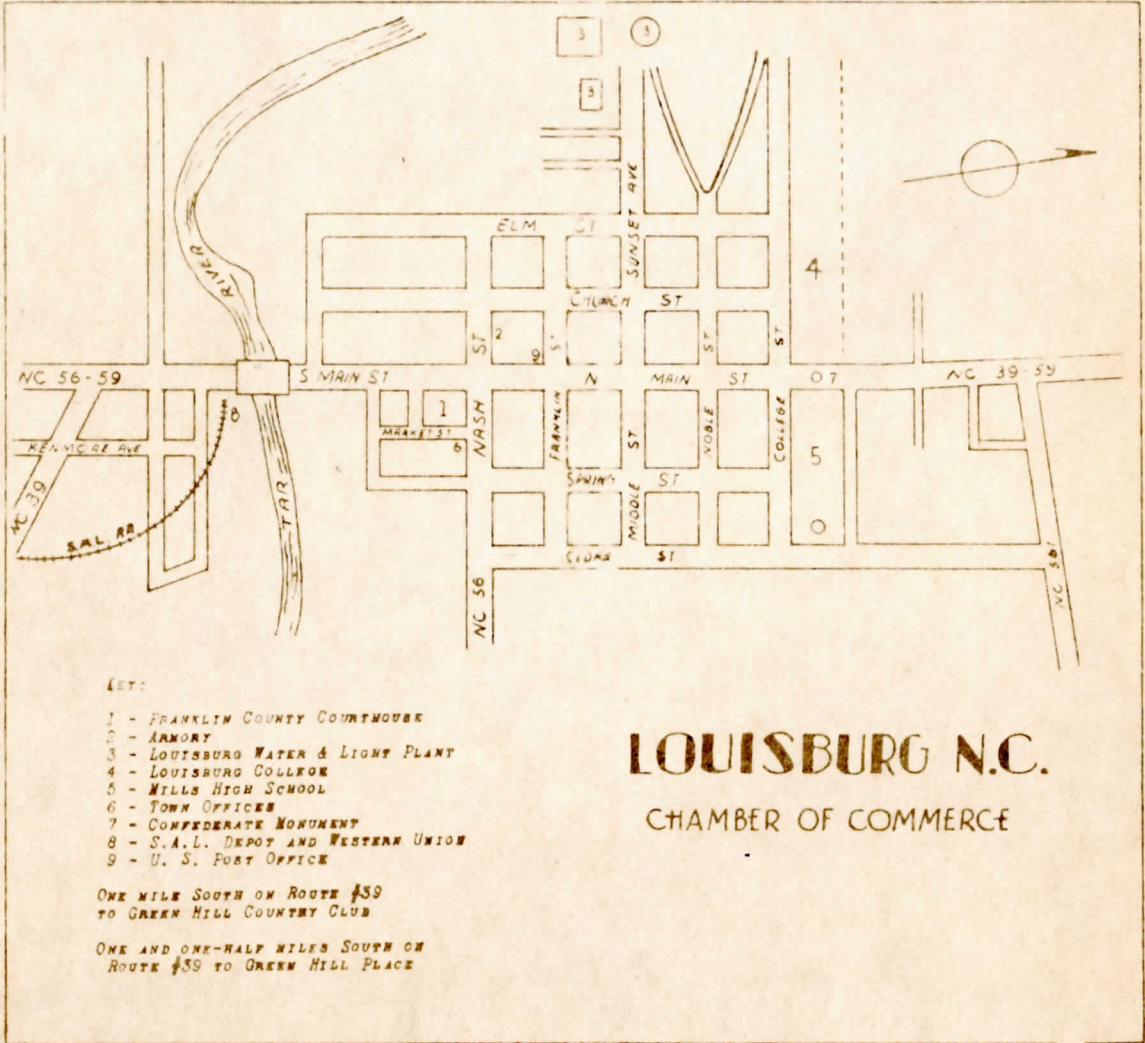


FIGURE 1

Map of Louisburg showing College property.

No. 4 and No. 5 combined are the same as the original town common.

CHAPTER II

THE BEGINNING (1779-1802)

Louisburg College had its beginning in the period that witnessed America's struggle for independence, the coming of Methodism to North Carolina, and the establishment of the town of Louisburg and the county of Franklin in North Carolina. Its founders included patriots of the Revolution, pioneers of North Carolina Methodism, and the first commissioners of Louisburg and Franklin County. Its beginning is so closely associated with the founding of Louisburg that often the beginning dates of the town and of the school have been confused.

In 1778 the General Assembly of North Carolina enacted legislation creating Warren and Franklin Counties in the territory that had been Bute County. The Assembly also appointed John Norwood, Matthew Thomas, and Joseph Norris as commissioners for Franklin County and empowered the commission to purchase one hundred acres of land for a place for erecting a court house and for other purposes necessary in establishing a town.¹

On April 17, 1779, the same commissioners purchased from Pateville Milner and his wife, Jacobina, one hundred acres of land on the north side of the Tar River to establish the town of Louisburg.² The commissioners were directed to

¹Walter Clark, Laws of 1777-78 (Vol. XXIV of The State Records of North Carolina. 26 vols.; Goldsboro: Nash Brothers, 1905), pp. 227-230.

²Franklin County Register of Deeds, Book I, p. 1.

...set apart a lot of ground convenient and sufficient for the Court House, prison and stocks and also to lay out 100 other lots, each lot to contain one half acre with convenient squares and the overplus of land (if any) to remain as a common for the use of said town until by law it shall be appropriated to other uses.³

The town commissioners must have had in mind using the Common for educational purposes, for the property has never been used for other than school purposes. The earliest known map showing the town of Louisburg marks as a Common twenty-two and one fourth acres of the one hundred acres purchased for the town—that "overplus of land," the land since known as the school groves.⁴ The present arrangement of Main Street, which divides the school property into two groves, is the same as shown on the map; and the oldest streets, running parallel to Main Street, still end at the school property.

The Common, which is the present school property, was located on the highest point in the town, near which there were "at least two bold springs of constantly running water."⁵ The school at first bore the name of the county, Franklin, in honor of Benjamin Franklin. It now bears the name of the town of Louisburg, which, according to Edward Hooker, was named after Louis XVI. An entry in Hooker's diary, dated November 30, 1808, states:

³Walter Clark, op. cit., p. 303.

⁴Franklin, op. cit., Book 32, p. 213.

⁵Edward Hill Davis, Historical Sketches of Franklin County (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Co., 1948), p. 11.

...The County was named after Dr. F. and the village after Louis XVI at the time Dr. F. as our agent in the revolution went to F. and obtained supplies from the French.⁶

I. CHARTERS

On January 6, 1787, the North Carolina General Assembly passed an act authorizing the establishment of an academy in the county of Franklin in the town of Louisburg.⁷ The charter stated that the establishing of an academy would be an advantage to North Carolina in general and to Franklin County in particular. Constituted and appointed as trustees of the academy were Doctor John King, William Lancaster, Josiah Love, Benjamin Seawell, Robert Goodlow, Robert Bell, Jordan Hill, Francis Taylor, Hugh Hays, William Green, Thomas Stokes, and Doctor Varell, Esquires. The trustees were given full power and authority to receive all money and other property which had been and would be subscribed for the purpose of erecting the academy, to pay for the house already contracted for, to employ a tutor or tutors, and to perform every act that a majority of the trustees would find necessary for the good of the academy. The trustees were also given the power to make such rules, not opposed to the laws of North Carolina, that would be necessary for the well being of the students who proved their literary merit before leaving the school; however, the trustees were not to confer any degrees.

⁶Charles L. Coon, North Carolina Schools and Academies 1790-1840 (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1915), p. 89.

⁷Clark, op. cit., pp. 876-878. (See Appendix B, p. 164.)

No record has been found to reveal what happened concerning the academy between 1787 and 1802, when another charter was granted by the North Carolina General Assembly.⁸ The second charter stated that the establishing of the Academy was "essential to the happiness and prosperity of the community." It named John Hunt, Francis Taylor, Epps Moody, John Haywood, Joshua Perry, Archibald Davis, William Lancaster, Jeremiah Perry, Junior, Richard Fenner, George Tunstall, Green Hill, William Green, Alexander Falcon [Falconer], and William Williams, Junior, Esquires, and Major Jeremiah Perry to be known as the trustees of the Franklin Academy.

II. TRUSTEES

Whatever may have happened during the fifteen years between charters, the trustees, being leaders of their community and state, would indicate that they could not have been unconcerned with the idea of establishing a school.

It is significant that the names of William Green and John Hunt appear on the school charters as trustees and on the deed of 1779 as commissioners to direct the building of the town of Louisburg. The names of William Lancaster, Francis Taylor, and William Green appear on both the school charter of 1787 and the charter of 1802.

On the first two Boards of Trustees were two ministers, two doctors, three members of the Legislature, one renowned judge, two noted patriots of the Revolution, and two founders of Methodism in North Carolina.

⁸Coon, op. cit., p. 84. (See Appendix C, p. 166.)

Dr. John King, one of the first trustees of Franklin Academy, came to America from England in 1769 as a pioneer of Methodism two years before Bishop Asbury came. Dr. King had been educated at Oxford, was a graduate in medicine, and had been disinherited by his family when he became identified with the Wesleyan movement. He preached for ten years in New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland before receiving his appointment to the North Carolina Circuit in 1777.

In Bute County (now Franklin and Warren) he married a sister of Colonel Benjamin Seawell. He soon retired from the active ministry to practice medicine in Franklin County, where he had acquired large holdings of land. John King is said to have been "the leading spirit in organizing the Louisburg Academy" and a "sensible, zealous, and very useful" man.⁹

Another one of the first trustees, Colonel Benjamin Seawell, was one of the distinguished patriots of the Revolution. At the Provincial Congress at Halifax, May 2, 1776, he was appointed as a member of the committee to secure arms for the state's defense. He represented Bute County at the Halifax Assembly, November 12, 1776, when a Constitution and a Bill of Rights were adopted. It was he who introduced the bill in the Senate for the division of Bute County into Franklin and Warren counties. The act establishing the county of Franklin authorized that the first court be held at Seawell's house.

⁹News item in The Raleigh Times, [n. d.].

After more than twenty years as an honored citizen of Bute and Franklin counties, Seawell moved to the part of North Carolina that is now Tennessee, where he and others were granted lands because of outstanding service in the Revolution. There he continued his interest in civic affairs through his practice as a lawyer and as a prosecuting attorney.¹⁰

On his death in 1821, The Whig, of Nashville, Tennessee, said of Seawell:

...He was not only a great defender of the people's rights but a real Christian as was demonstrated in his last moments. So died a great patriot and a good citizen.¹¹

Reverend Major Green Hill, trustee of Franklin Academy by the Act of 1802, stood up for America's independence from England at New Bern and at Halifax.¹² He served as a member of each session of the Provincial Congress in North Carolina; he served one time as State Treasurer; he served as major and chaplain in the Revolutionary War. He is most often remembered as the pioneer preacher in whose home the first Methodist Conference in North Carolina was held on April 20, 1785. At that Conference there were present twenty preachers, among whom were Bishop Asbury, Bishop Coke, and Dr. John King.¹³ Other Methodist Conferences

¹⁰Davis, op. cit., pp. 59-60.

¹¹Ibid., p. 61.

¹²News item in Malone Scrapbook, [n. d.] (from Speech by Hon. Josephus Daniels).

¹³News item in Malone Scrapbook, [n. d.].

were held in the same house in 1790, 1791, and 1794. That same house, possibly built by Green Hill himself, is still in use by his descendants and is well known as "Green Hill House." When he was nearly sixty years old, Green Hill and his family moved to Tennessee and built a home he called "Liberty Hill," similar in many ways to the home in Franklin County. Liberty Hill also became a meeting place for the Methodists. This trustee, known as preacher, patriot, and host, married a sister of Col. Benjamin Seawell.¹⁴

The three patriot, planter, and preacher trustees named above were not the only eminent trustees of Franklin Academy in its beginning. Judge John Haywood was elected Solicitor General of North Carolina, Attorney General, and Judge of Superior Court. While in North Carolina, he published two works, Haywood's Manual and Haywood's Justice. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina. In 1807 he moved to Tennessee, where he continued to be recognized as judge, teacher, and author.¹⁵ Colonel W. L. Saunders wrote of Judge Haywood:

...Judge Haywood was one of the ablest lawyers and greatest Judges that ever adorned the bar or graced the bench in this or any other state.¹⁶

¹⁴Davis, op. cit., pp. 63-64.

¹⁵Ibid., p. 138.

¹⁶William L. Saunders, "Prefatory Notes" (Vol. VII of The Colonial Records of North Carolina. 10 vols.; Raleigh: Josephus Daniels, Printer to the State, 1890), p. XXXL.

Others have regarded him as the greatest lawyer that North Carolina has ever produced.¹⁷

Archibald Davis, Jordan Hill, William Green, and William Williams, other trustees, all served as members of the General Assembly from Franklin County sometime between 1780-1836.¹⁸ Alexander Falconer was a practicing attorney.¹⁹ Joshua Perry, Jeremiah Perry, Jr., and Major Jeremiah Perry were prominent land owners and were members of a family that ardently supported the Louisburg school for many years.²⁰

The early citizens of Franklin County and the town of Louisburg by their patriotism, religious zeal, civic responsibility, and hunger for knowledge created a school born to give Franklin County youth the education essential to freedom. They gave a beginning to an institution that has provided educational opportunities to the youth of eastern North Carolina since its opening.

In its earliest years Franklin Academy, like many other private schools in the state, helped meet the educational needs during the long delay until North Carolina began to provide public schools. Although the first step toward public education was made when the North Carolina Constitution of 1776 made provision for schools,²¹ the next step was not

¹⁷Davis, op. cit., p. 139.

¹⁸Ibid., pp. 23-24.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 87.

²⁰Ibid., p. 110.

²¹Edgar W. Knight, Public School Education in North Carolina (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1916), p. 64.

made until 1825, when a former Franklin Academy teacher, Charles Applewhite Hill, introduced the law which created a fund for the establishment of common schools.²² The public schools were established in 1839, when the first state public school law was passed.²³

In its beginning Franklin Academy, so far as is known, was not unlike other academies chartered by authority of the North Carolina General Assembly and placed under the control of leaders of the local communities. Like numerous other academies, Franklin Academy first served as a forerunner of a public school.

²²Ibid., pp. 79-80.

²³Ibid., pp. 140-145.



FIGURE 2

Louisburg Female Academy Building
Erected 1814 - Burned 1927

CHAPTER III

THE ACADEMIES (1802-1855)

After the first charter in 1787, in spite of the hardships of the independence movement in America, the first trustees of Franklin Academy kept alive the determination to establish a school in their community.

Two years after the Charter of 1802 the trustees saw their dream become a reality. In the Raleigh Register of December 17, 1804, the public was informed that Franklin Academy would open its doors less than one month later, January 1, 1805.¹

First chartered in 1787, and again in 1802, Franklin Academy did open on January 1, 1805, with Matthew Dickinson, a Yale graduate, as the first preceptor. The academy, by 1828 known as the Louisburg Male Academy, operated as a boys' academy until 1905, when it became a part of the Louisburg public school.² So far as is known the academy was open without a break except for a short time in 1865, when the Union Army occupied the building and the academy grove.³ Mr. Dickinson during his three years with the school sometimes had as many as ninety students. He had as his assistant Mr. Davis Mayhew, a graduate of Williams College.⁴

¹Charles L. Coon, North Carolina Schools and Academies 1790-1840 (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1915), p. 84.

²Mrs. Ben Holden & Mrs. Ormond M. Collins, "Franklin County and Franklinton," North Carolina Education, XIV (May, 1948), p. 485.

³Edward Hill Davis, Historical Sketches of Franklin County (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Co., 1948), p. 293.

⁴Coon, op. cit., p. 90.

In 1813 a Female Department was added.⁵ A legislative act of 1814 named a board of trustees for a Louisburg Female Academy comprised of John D. Hawkins, Green Hill, Jr., Jesse Person, Robert A. Taylor, William Murphey, Benjamin F. Hawkins, Jordan Hill, Nathan Patterson, Richard Ferner, Richard Inge, Joel King, and Alexander Falconer.⁶ These men were among forty-three signers of a paper, dated April 5, 1814, stating:

We the subscribers impressed with the necessity and advantages of Female education, and being desirous to establish a seminary for that purpose at or near the town of Louisburg do agree and bind ourselves severally, to pay to the Commissioners hereafter to be appointed for the purpose of letting and superintending the building thereof, the sum set against our several names--the site as also the plan & model of the building to be agreed upon by Commissioners to be elected or appointed by the body of Subscribers hereto--who shall be authorized to contract with a Workman to perform the Work.⁷

The total amount of the money "set against our several names" was \$795.00.⁸

When the new building was completed, Miss Harriet Partridge, from Massachusetts, became the first preceptress. The Female Academy was in operation until 1855, when it was converted into the Louisburg Female College.⁹

So great was the emphasis on education in Franklin County between 1805 and 1855 that the period was referred to as "The Educational

⁵Coon, op. cit., p. 94.

⁶"Historical Sketch of Louisburg College," Bulletin of Louisburg College, Catalogue Issue, 1958-59, p. 14.

⁷Manuscript in the Hawkins Papers in the Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina.

⁸Ibid.

⁹Louisburg College Catalogue, op. cit., p. 15.

Awakening" in a pageant written as a part of the sesqui-centennial celebration in 1929.¹⁰

Mrs. Susan Bennett Wester, a former teacher at the Academy and a native of Louisburg, in 1902 wrote that "Louisburg has always been a great and grand educational center. I wager it has given to the world more cultured, perfect Christian men and women than any other place of its size in the whole world."¹¹

As early as 1847 the town was referred to as an educational center: "Does it not appear that Louisburg is the very nursery of education, when we think of the number of teachers that has gone out from here."¹²

I. PUBLIC SUPPORT, PROBLEMS, PHYSICAL EQUIPMENT, AND ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The history of the two academies unfolds many colorful items of educational interest in eastern North Carolina during the early part of the nineteenth century. The schools enjoyed the strong support and approval of the community. Louisburg, during the time of the Male Academy, was described as a place where "literature is much respected... and literary men revered."¹³

¹⁰"Fourth Period" in Pageant for Sesqui-Centennial Celebration, in scrapbook belonging to Mr. J. E. Malone, Louisburg, North Carolina.

¹¹News item in The Franklin Times, Nov. 14, 1902.

¹²Manuscript letter from Louisa Thomas to her sister Mrs. Jones Fuller, Feb. 9, 1847, in Jones & Edwin Wiley Fuller Collection, Manuscript Room, Duke University.

¹³Coon, op. cit., p. 90.

It is related that when the first teacher arrived "...he had no property and nothing to recommend him but his books and education, [yet] he received flattering testimonials of respect and was treated with equal civility."¹⁴

In one of the documents from the Thomas Henderson Letter Book (1810-1811) there is recorded an opinion that

Altho Franklin [County] cannot at present boast of any first rate Characters yet it is boldly asserted that she possesses as respectable a yeomanry as any County in the State—her citizens in general are men of industry, of handsome information and eager after knowledge—and the desire which all classes manifest of properly educating their children does them the highest honor.¹⁵

School announcements and advertisements frequently included words such as "The Trustees flatter themselves" in announcing the employment of a teacher, or in references to the healthy climate, or low cost at the school. Frequently the trustees used "happy to announce," "have much pleasure in announcing," or "with much satisfaction announce."¹⁶

In the Halifax Journal, January 6, 1806, there appeared this announcement signed by eight trustees:

The Trustees of the Franklin Academy are happy in being able to announce to the Public the present flourishing situation of this institution, and the fair prospect of its rising to a much higher degree of eminence.¹⁷

As part of an announcement signed by eight trustees in the Raleigh Minerva on December 17, 1807, is the statement:

¹⁴Ibid.

¹⁵Davis, op. cit., p. 67.

¹⁶Coon, op. cit., pp. 84-90.

¹⁷Ibid., p. 86.

The Trustees have the further pleasure of adding, that during the three years that the Institution has been in operation, although attended by not less than seventy students annually, the greatest order and decorum have prevailed.¹⁸

This announcement for the Female Academy appeared in the Raleigh Register, December 24, 1824, and was signed by the Secretary of the Board:

The Trustees believe that taking into view the high qualifications of the preceptress, the healthiness of the situation, the low rate of board, and the advantages of regularly attending divine worship, this institution presents to the public claims not surpassed by any in the State.¹⁹

The following announcement appeared in the Raleigh Register, December 30, 1825:

The Trustees tender their warmest acknowledgements to a generous public, for the support heretofore given to this Institution, and can but indulge the pleasing hope, that...this Academy will continue to receive a liberal share of public patronage.²⁰

Twelve years later, in the Raleigh Register, the trustees reported that

The very liberal share of patronage extended to these Institutions, for the last several years, induces the Trustees to look for a continuance of the same.²¹

The Trustees not only sponsored school advertisements and upheld the teachers they employed, but by all evidences they also attended all school-closings "to review the Merit and Scholarship of each student."²² The school-closings took place semi-annually and usually lasted two days.

¹⁸Ibid., p. 88.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 100.

²⁰Ibid., p. 101.

²¹Ibid., p. 106.

²²Ibid., p. 85.

A typical Examination announcement was printed in the June 17, 1805, Raleigh Register:

The semi-annual Examination of the Students of the Franklin Academy, will commence on Tuesday the 2d of July next, when the Trustees will attend to review the Merit and Scholarship of each Student.

On Wednesday, the succeeding day, the Young Gentlemen will deliver Orations selected for the occasion.

The whole to conclude by the Exhibition of a Comedy and Farce, for the benefit of the Academy. The Performance will begin at half after 7 o'clock P.M.

By Order
Lewisburg, June 12

G. Hill, Sec of Board²³

On reporting the results of that Examination, the Trustees gave this statement to the Raleigh Register, July, 1805:

...On the 2d inst. in the presence of a most numerous assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, the Students were examined in the English Grammar, Geography, and in the Latin and French Languages. On the 3d, they delivered select Orations and Dialogues: and in the evening acted a Play, in which they were assisted by some young Gentlemen in the neighborhood, for the benefit of the Academy. The whole was conducted with the utmost decorum and regularity, and the performances of the students very far exceeded the expectations of the Trustees. They cannot refrain from saying, that the highest eulogium is due to the exertions as well as to the abilities of Mr. Dickinson, the President. And the Trustees, from this experience of the progress made by the Students, can predict with much confidence, that the Franklin Academy will be among the most useful of our public institutions.²⁴

At times a member of the Board of Trustees would address the students to express the feelings of the trustees. Such was the case in December, 1806, when the students had "in all their performances exceeded the sanguine expectations of the Trustees":

²³Ibid.

²⁴Ibid., pp. 85-86.

YOUNG GENTLEMEN,

...Some of you have particularly distinguished yourselves; all of you have performed your parts exceedingly well, and are entitled to your approbation. Your examination yesterday, and your exhibition today, have evinced on your great assiduity, and on the part of your Principal, unwearied attention.²⁵

On school-closing days, usually the announcements were made.

From the June, 1820, Examination at the Female Academy, a full account as printed in The Star on June 16 has been preserved. The report divided the pupils into nineteen classes, the oldest pupils in Class I. An extra paragraph reported on Drawing and Painting.²⁶

In 1832 when Mr. and Mrs. Bebbitt had charge of the Academies, during a three-day program the trustees "critically examined" the pupils with the assistance of a well known linguist and mathematician, the Reverend J. McCutchen, of Washington College, Virginia.²⁷

In the years of the academies "Commencement" was a word used to announce the beginning of school. For example, under the heading "Franklin Academy Commencement for 1807" is the sentence: "The Franklin Academy will be opened on the first Monday in January next for the reception of Students."²⁸ Another example comes from an 1826 announcement: "The next session of the Franklin Academy will commence on Monday the 26th of June."²⁹

²⁵Ibid., pp. 86-87.

²⁶Ibid., pp. 96-98. Also see copy under Curriculum p. 30 in this chapter.

²⁷Ibid., p. 103.

²⁸Ibid., p. 87.

²⁹Ibid., p. 101.

Mr. E. H. Davis, in his Historical Sketches of Franklin County, suggests that the trustees of the Academies paid for more than commencement announcements. He supports his suggestion with this statement of account:

Board of Trustees,
To Matthew Dickinson, Dr.
To keeping Satterwhite's horse 36 days, shillings V.C. per day,
10.67.
To eight days work clearing avenue and the Spring and attending at
the Academy during examinations and exhibitions at 4 V.C. per
day, 5.33 1/3.
To 20 lbs. of candles at 2.3 V.C. per pound, 7.50.
To the following articles used at Examinations and Exhibitions:
To one gallon of Cognac, 2.00.
To one gallon of whiskey, 1.00.
To one gallon of Rum, 2.00.
To two gallons of Apple brandy, 2.00.
To 100 Segars, 50.

Also:

June 10, 1808, To the Board of Trustees. I saw Mr. Dickinson
pay Sancho for fiddling, three dollars for music at Exhibition.

Chas. A. Hill.³⁰

Even though most of the available information presents an attitude of optimism and encouragement, the school supporters were not without school problems—financial, social, and academic.

A letter from Miss Mary Ramsey, teacher, to the Trustees dated April 4, 1824, indicates financial and social problems confronted then. In the letter Miss Ramsey asked "an amendment of terms" to allow her \$300.00 more salary.

"You are a body. I am an individual," she stated. She referred to the financial situation as if the school were in jeopardy at the time;

³⁰Davis, op. cit., pp. 38-39.

and she reminded the Trustees that they were at liberty to advertise for another teacher if they could not meet her terms.

It would appear that some social problem at school had come to the attention of the trustees, for Miss Ramsey said in the letter:

"I am glad you so fully avow your disapprobation of my letting [*sic*] those persons be married at the Academy. Far be it from me to want anyone involved in consequence of my imprudence. I confess, it was an impropriety. But I have nothing to advance in self-defence."³¹

The board obviously settled the problems with satisfaction since the school announcement of the Female Academy Commencement for 1826 gave notice of Miss Ramsey's return and praised her for her "ability, zeal, and industry."³²

A similar announcement concerning Miss Ramsey was published for the 1831 session.³³

Joel King, trustee and town postmaster, received a letter dated April 18, 182- [date in original not legible] asking aid for a boy in school at Louisburg at that time. A portion of the letter reads:

I do not know whether or not my mother will consent for Blount to leave her. Should you see her I would thank you to advise her to do so, as I could provide for the finishing of his education at this place with a great deal less expense than at Louisburg...But should Blount not come out and remain at school in Louisburg I must beg the favor of you to pay some little attention to him, and from time to

³¹Manuscript letter from Miss Mary Ramsey to Board of Trustees, 1824, Louisburg Female Academy. In Hawkins Collection, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina.

³²Coon, *op. cit.*, pp. 100-101.

³³*Ibid.*, p. 103.

time give him such advise as you may think proper. Your little town of Louisburg is a dangerous place to raise boys...³⁴

The Male Academy was "a pleasant building on the hill about 1/4 m. from the Village of Louisburg."³⁵ The same "pleasant building," its doors first opened to pupils in 1805, still stands on the same hill.

The building is a two-story frame building with foundations of solid rock. The Male Academy grove, the east portion of the Common referred to in Chapter II, is now used as the Mills High School campus. The Academy building is a part of the Mills High School facilities.

The Female Academy building was erected in 1814 in the west grove, now the Louisburg College campus, and was in constant use until it burned in 1927.

When the Trustees asked for bids for the erection of the building to be used as the Female Academy, this description was published in the Raleigh Register, June 24, 1814:

A House for A Female Academy,

At Louisburg, 30 by 20 feet, two stories--11 and 9 feet pitch--two rooms above, 18 by 20, and 12 by 20, feet--three six-paneled doors--four 18 and four 8 light windows below, and six 15 and four 8 light windows above--to be built of good hard timber--with two chimneys of brick or hewn stone, and underpinned with the same--to be ceiled within, and painted without, entire...³⁶

According to interviews with some who attended school in that building, the description is accurate.

³⁴Manuscript letter from Ross _____, April 18, 182-, in Joel King Collection, Manuscript Room, Duke University Library.

³⁵Coon, op. cit., p. 89.

³⁶Ibid., p. 94.

Until about 1827, "fuel and contingencies" apparently were furnished. In that year Mr. Eliah Brewer, teacher, announced that a small tax would be charged each pupil for such expenses.³⁷

Board, the terms usually advertised as moderate, was provided by a teacher or near-by residents of the community. In 1828 C. A. Hill, teacher, announced that he would take ten or twelve students to board with him.³⁸ In 1834 the trustees reported that Mrs. Bobbitt, teacher, was prepared "to take under her immediate charge, as boarders, many of the young ladies. In genteel families, convenient to the Academy, board also may be obtained on moderate terms."³⁹

Another example comes from an 1837 announcement: "Board may be obtained, with the Preceptress, at \$40 per Session, without any extra charge. Other families in the village and vicinity will also take males and females as boarders."⁴⁰

In 1809 the trustees planned a library of the most useful books.⁴¹ By 1810 the library was spoken of as "a respectable library."⁴² By 1811 "the handsome library recently established" was spoken of as one of the advantages at the Academy.⁴³

³⁷Ibid., p. 102.

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Ibid., p. 104.

⁴⁰Ibid., p. 106.

⁴¹Ibid., p. 91.

⁴²Ibid., p. 92.

⁴³Ibid., p. 93.

Musical instruments were included in the equipment of the college, particularly in the Female Academy. A circular of 1851 lists extra charges for use of the piano and the guitar.⁴⁴

The announcements, circulars, and advertisements examined by the writer reveal nothing more concerning equipment except the implication that the offering of drawing, painting, and chemistry in the course of study meant that there were some materials for the courses.

Anyone studying the curriculum of the Academies will be impressed with the large number of subjects offered and with the emphasis on English grammar, geography, Latin, Greek, French, and arithmetic.

In 1805 Matthew Dickinson advertised to teach:

Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Geography, Belle Lettres and Rhetoric; and...Ethics and Metaphysics, the Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French and Italian Languages, and the higher Branches of Metaphysics and Philosophy, viz. Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Conic Sections, Altimetry, Longimetry, Mensuration of Superficies and Solids, Surveying, Navigation, Natural Philosophy and Astronomy.⁴⁵

At one time during Mr. Dickinson's years at the Academy (1805-1808), twenty young men from the University of North Carolina left Chapel Hill, "having conceived disgust at the Monitorial law, imposing an oath on all by turns to act the part of spies on each other's conduct," and entered the Academy. Mr. Dickinson is said to have taught all branches offered in the college except conic sections.⁴⁶

⁴⁴Circular, Louisburg Female Seminary, 1851, p. 3, in Hawkins Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina.

⁴⁵Coon, *op. cit.*, p. 84.

⁴⁶*Ibid.*, p. 90.

Coon spoke of a "traditional" impression that Mr. Dickinson intended to have his Academy become superior to the University; but in his study of the early documents of academies in North Carolina, Coon found no evidence to prove this belief.⁴⁷

When the Female Department was added to Franklin Academy, the first notice advertised instruction in "Reading, Writing, English Grammar, Arithmetic, Geography, Astronomy, Painting and Music; also useful and Ornamental Needle-Work, of almost every description."⁴⁸

In 1820 the Male Academy announced that "the plan of education is calculated to prepare young gentlemen for the University."⁴⁹

The most complete record found by the writer is one made in 1820.⁵⁰ It shows the classification of pupils, the subjects on which they were examined, and the results of the examination.

It may be noted that M. G. Somerville, the student ranking highest, was examined on the following subjects: natural philosophy, chemistry, history (Greek and American), rhetoric, geography (world), reading, spelling, parsing, needle-work, and penmanship. Her name is also mentioned in the 10th Class, but the names of the subjects for the class are not given.

⁴⁷Ibid., Introduction, p. xvii.

⁴⁸Ibid., p. 94.

⁴⁹Ibid., p. 99.

⁵⁰Ibid., pp. 96-98. (See Appendix E, p. 169 of this thesis.)

In 1826 the curriculum was organized for pupils of elementary school age and for older groups. Its purpose was to prepare pupils for "American Colleges," particularly the University of North Carolina.⁵¹

The curriculum for the boys of the Academy and the curriculum of the girls reveal that languages, particularly Latin and Greek, were considered important for boys. No language other than English is mentioned for the girls' course of study in the documents found for 1814 through 1851. Arithmetic and science are common to all the lists of subjects for boys; for girls, arithmetic is listed. Astronomy is found on the lists of subjects for girls. Chemistry was offered at times for girls. One person in the Female Academy was examined for chemistry in 1820. There is no mention of health study in any course nor is there any mention of a course in religion prior to 1851.

The Circular used in 1851, and copied in the appendices of this study, summarizes the courses offered, the text books used, the method of reporting, the expenses, and miscellaneous items. The copy found is from the Female Seminary.

II. TEACHERS

During the years between 1805 and 1855, the Louisburg Academies were usually directed by good teachers. From all records, the teachers were well qualified, attentive to their pupils, and faithful to their duties.

⁵¹Ibid., p. 101.

As in other schools, many of the teachers in Louisburg then taught only a part of the time.⁵² Some of them were also preachers, lawyers, or planters. It is known that four teachers of the Male Academy were Yale graduates, one was a Williams College graduate, and three were graduates of the University of North Carolina. Many of the teachers in the Female Academy came from the North, according to the little information that has been found about the teachers.

Miss Partridge (Mrs. Bobbitt), first preceptress, was with the Louisburg Female Academy longer than any other teacher. She taught there nineteen years. Mr. John Bobbitt remained at the Franklin Male Academy for fifteen years, longer than any other teacher remained between 1805-1855.

In the following paragraphs, the teachers of the Franklin Academies during the period 1805-55 are named in order of their coming to the schools, and a brief biographical sketch is given of those about whom the writer found information.

Born in Somers, Connecticut, and graduated at Yale College about 1804, Matthew Dickinson came to Louisburg in 1805 to be the first preceptor of Franklin Academy. He was the maternal uncle of Cyrus West Field, the promoter of the first Atlantic Cable; David Dudley Field, II, lawyer; Henry M. Field, minister; and Stephen J. Field, lawyer.

Mr. Dickinson was at Yale College during the presidency of Timothy Dwight, known to have been a great teacher who inspired the interest of the students. In 1809 Dickinson received a letter from

⁵²Coon, op. cit.

a former pupil at Louisburg indicating that he in turn inspired his pupils at Franklin Academy.

A portion of the letter reads: "...twas you, sir, who not only informed me how essential a good education is but taught me by... perserverence and peculiar [sic] application to my study I might after no lengthy space of time reap the Golden Harvest, and who gave me so many valuable precepts whereby I might attain the Goal of Decency and Decorum...."⁵³

In letters and other records reference to Mr. Dickinson's books is common. One Franklin County historian gives the information that Dickinson's library included "many volumes in the Latin, Greek, Italian and Hebrew languages and...titles as variant as Robinson's Charles the Fifth, Addison's Miscellanies, Curran's Speeches, and the Kentucky Revival, Watts' Hymns and the Holy Bible."⁵⁴ Dickinson sent long book orders to William Boylan of Raleigh.⁵⁵

Mr. Dickinson's career as a teacher was most successful. He was referred to as a teacher of abilities and many talents, and as one who gave full attention to his pupils. The notice of his death in the Raleigh Register, Sept. 21, 1809, said that "Mr. Dickinson was very highly and very deservedly respected by all who had the pleasure of his

⁵³Manuscript letter from J. Wills, Petersburg, Virginia, Feb. 24, 1809. In Matthew Dickinson Collection, Manuscript Room, Duke University Library.

⁵⁴Davis, op. cit., p. 59.

⁵⁵Manuscript - Dickinson to Boylan, Dickinson Collection, loc. cit.

acquaintance."⁵⁶ At one time, Governor Turner invited Dickinson to dinner with the British Consul, the Federal Court Judge, and other eminent people, all of whom treated the teacher with respect.⁵⁷

The first master of the school was not compelled, as were many early schoolmasters, to lead a life of "genteel poverty"; but he found it necessary to exercise some ingenuity to supplement the income from his professional labors. In 1808 a friend wrote in his diary:

Mr. Dickinson has acquired a very decent little estate since he first came here 4 years ago. He thinks himself between six and seven thousand dollars. The first year he had about seven hundred dollars—the next, the avails of his school 1000 Dlls—the next they amounted to 1500 and the last year 1200. Besides this too he pays an Usher (Mayhew from Wms College) 300 Dlls. But he has improved opportunities to speculate by lending say 600 Dlls. cash to a young Sportsman and taking a Bond for 1000. Till lately he owned a house and farm of more than three hundred acres, six slaves, and a quantity of stock, as horses, sheep and cattle. Lately he sold his land for 4000 Dlls. which was one thousand more than it cost him. He now keeps a Gig, two horses and a seryant or two and designs in the spring to visit Conn. in this style.⁵⁸

Mr. Dickinson stopped teaching in 1808 to practice law in Franklin County. In 1809 he died after a short illness called "bilious fever," which he had developed on a trip to "the low country."⁵⁹

Following are the words on the stone that marks his grave, which is located between Warrenton and Louisburg near Corinth Church:

⁵⁶Coon, op. cit., p. 91.

⁵⁷Ibid., p. 90.

⁵⁸Ibid., p. 89.

⁵⁹Ibid., p. 91.

Sacred to the memory of Matthew Dickinson a native of Somers, Conn. a graduate of Yale College and first Preceptor of Franklin Academy, a man of talent, learning, and virtue
 Obt. Sept. 17, 1809 Aged 29 years

Davis H. Mayhew was first Mr. Dickinson's assistant. When Mr. Dickinson resigned, Mr. Mayhew became principal. He received a "classical education at Williams College in Massachusetts," and the Franklin trustees announced him as a gentleman of "approved abilities, acquirements and moral character." When he assisted Mr. Dickinson, his salary was \$300.00.⁶⁰

William Hillman was assistant to Mr. Mayhew in 1811. Probably a Harvard graduate, he was said to be "a young gentleman of talents and well qualified to teach the first branches of learning."⁶¹

James Bogle, Principal in 1810, was described as "a man of genius, an excellent Classical Scholar, and to a very happy talent for instructing unites an uncommon zeal in the cause to which he is devoted." During Mr. Bogle's time at the Academy, the library was established.⁶²

Josiah Crudup was assistant to Mr. Bogle in 1810 before he became a Baptist preacher and politician.⁶³

When the Franklin trustees engaged John B. Bobbitt as principal in 1816, he had already superintended several literary institutions very successfully. He was a graduate of the University of North Carolina, and

⁶⁰Ibid., pp. 88-90.

⁶¹Ibid., p. 92.

⁶²Ibid.

⁶³Ibid., Introduction, pp. xvii-xviii.

was recommended as being well qualified to teach the English, Latin, Greek, and French languages and also other branches usually taught at the Academy. Mr. Bobbitt married Miss Harriet Partridge, the first teacher in the Female Academy.⁶⁴

Fitch Wheeler, principal from 1820 until 1822, was a graduate of Yale College and came to Louisburg highly recommended.

Addison White, principal 1824-1825, was a graduate of Yale College and was recommended for his "good moral character and high literary acquirements."⁶⁵

A graduate of Yale College in 1824, Elisha Brewer came to Franklin Academy in 1826 recommended by the President of Yale "as a man of scientific and literary attainments, a good moral and christian character, and well qualified in every respect for the various departments of academical instruction."⁶⁶

Charles Applewhite Hill, a descendant of Green Hill, was born in 1784 in Franklin County. In 1804, he was a student at the University of North Carolina, which he left before graduating. His leaving came at the same time the twenty students left the University to attend Mr. Dickinson's school, but it is not known whether he left for the same reason. He moved to Georgia, where he taught a number of years. He returned to the University of North Carolina in 1815 and graduated with the class of 1816. Dr. Battle in his history of the University names Mr. Hill,

⁶⁴Ibid., pp. 94-95.

⁶⁵Ibid., pp. 99-100.

⁶⁶Ibid., p. 101.

principal, preacher, and State Senator, as one of the most notable of the class of 1816.⁶⁷ After leaving Franklin Academy, Mr. Hill taught in Warrenton and Midway Academy, between Warrenton and Louisburg. Perhaps his method of discipline at Louisburg was the same as that which he advertised from Midway Academy in the Raleigh Register, 1828: "The Principal will pursue that course which he would with his own children. He will advise and admonish; where these fail, the rod will be resorted to, but with parental prudence."⁶⁸

Coon, the historian, said of Mr. Hill:

Hill...was a Methodist preacher and a good teacher. He also found time enough...while living and teaching in Franklin County to be elected to the State Senate, where he was the author of the law which created the Literary Fund of 1825. He was also the leader of the opposition to lotteries in the Senate of 1826 and was no small factor in creating enough sentiment to do away with those gambling devices in aid of schools and churches.⁶⁹

Asher Ray was principal from 1843 until 1856, when Matthew Davis became principal for the next twenty-five years.

Miss Harriet Partridge was the first Louisburg Female Academy preceptress. She was first written of in Franklin County as "a lady from Massachusetts, eminently qualified for the important trust."⁷⁰ From 1814 until 1821 she first taught at the Academy; and when she returned to

⁶⁷K. P. Battle, History of the University of North Carolina Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1907-1912, I, 248.

⁶⁸Coon, op. cit., p. 111.

⁶⁹Ibid., Introduction, p. xvi. Also see Coon, Beginning of Public Education in North Carolina (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Co., 1908) pp. 219-220; 231.

⁷⁰Coon, North Carolina Schools and Academies, op. cit., p. 95.

the Academy in 1831 (as Mrs. Bobbitt), the trustees were pleased because her success as a great teacher assured them of a good school. She was an aunt of Miss Sophia Partridge, a well known teacher in Raleigh, 1846-1864. She assisted her niece in the Raleigh school at one time.⁷¹

Assistant to Miss Partridge and Miss Benedict in the Music Department, John La Taste was referred to as a teacher with "known and universally acknowledged qualifications in teaching music upon the Forte Piano," and with a "graceful and elegant manner of teaching dancing...."⁷²

Miss Ann Benedict taught in Connecticut and New York City before coming to Louisburg in 1821 highly recommended as a lady of "genius and acquirements." The trustees assured the parents that "under the able governance of this lady their daughters will make great progress, not only in those desirous studies which contribute to the dignity and usefulness of life, but in those polite and elegant acquirements which constitute its ornament and grace."⁷³

A receipt signed by Miss Benedict on July 1, 1824, shows that she received from Joel King, Treasurer of the Board of Trustees, \$500.00 for "being full of my salary [sic] as principal instructor."⁷⁴

⁷¹Delta Kappa Gamma Society. Some Pioneer Women Teachers of North Carolina, 1955. pp. 149-150.

⁷²Coon, op. cit., p. 99.

⁷³Ibid.

⁷⁴Manuscript receipt, by Ann Benedict to Joel King, July 1, 1824. In Louisburg Female Academy Collection, Manuscript Room, Duke University Library.

A letter from Miss Benedict to Joel King written in 1826 from Raleigh, where she was teaching at the time, indicates a cordial relationship with the King family. In the letter she addressed each of the King children--Helen, John, and William--urging each one to study diligently and to be ambitious.⁷⁵

Miss Mary Ramsey, from New York, was previously mentioned in this chapter in connection with a letter addressed to the Board of Trustees in 1824 requesting more salary.

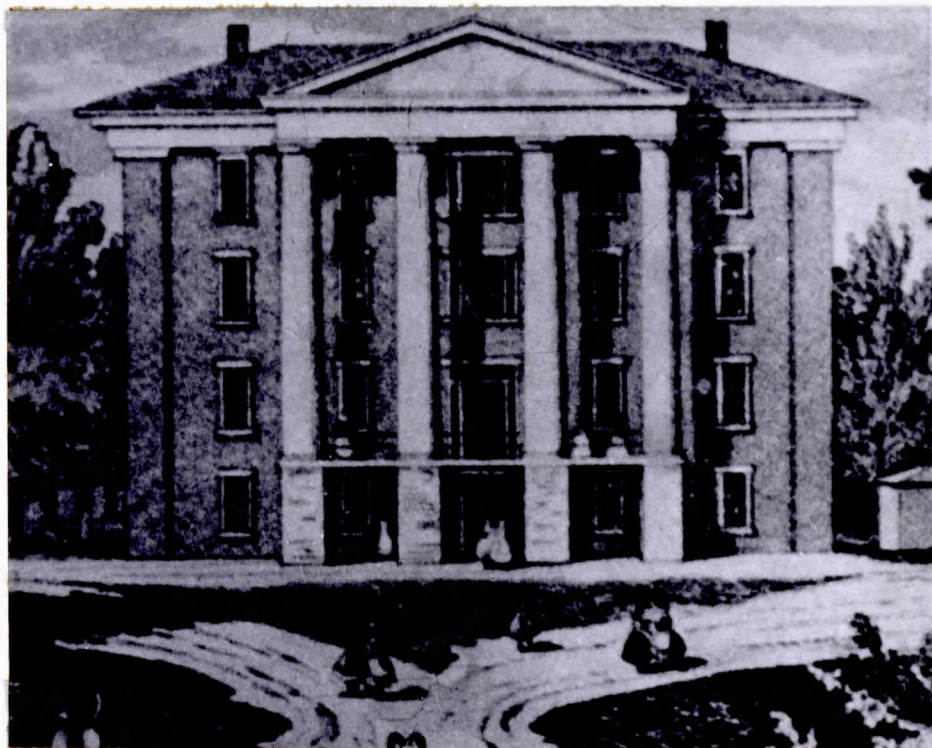
The trustees considered her highly qualified and felt that the examinations of December, 1824, reflected her proficient skill and management. Miss Mary Earl, her niece, assisted Miss Ramsey in the department of music and painting in 1831.⁷⁶

Mrs. Jane A. Ray was principal of the Female Academy from 1843 until 1856.

During the academy movement in North Carolina, the Louisburg academies were faithfully supported, and they offered a wide range of subjects with well trained men and women as teachers.

⁷⁵Manuscript letter, Ann Benedict to Joel King, January 21, 1826, from Raleigh. In Joel King Collection, Manuscript Room, Duke University Library.

⁷⁶Coon, op. cit., pp. 100-103.



Main Building, 1855

FIGURE 3

CHAPTER IV

LOUISBURG FEMALE COLLEGE (1855-1915)

The Franklin Academies grew and developed their usefulness to the young people of eastern North Carolina. As they grew there came to light the realization that Louisburg Female Academy was not "a school of as high grade as the necessities of the times demanded."¹ As a response to the realization the citizens of Louisburg and the area formed in 1855 a joint stock company for the purpose of establishing "a college of high grade, for the education of young ladies."² The Legislature chartered the company under the name "Louisburg Female College Company."³

The first step in changing the Female Academy into a college was that of moving the Female Academy building to make room for a new building that would be equal to its purpose. The wooden Seminary building was moved to the south side of the campus, where it was used as an annex to the college until 1927. "They are getting on bravely with the College—upwards of \$18,000.00 have been taken,"⁴ wrote Mrs. Anna Fuller to her husband on March 18, 1857.

In 1857 a spacious and elegant four-story building in the style of Greek Revival was erected at a cost of \$16,000.00. The building,

¹Louisburg College Catalogue 1913-14, p. 8.

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Manuscript letter from Anna Fuller to her husband March 18, 1857. In Jones and Edwin Wiley Fuller Collection, Manuscript Room, Duke University.

containing more than fifty rooms, was furnished and equipped at the additional cost of \$4,000.00.⁵

The new building is thought to have been constructed by Mr. Albert Jones, a contractor living at Embro, in Warren County, who mortgaged everything he and his wife had to insure a good building for the college.⁶

The well-constructed building continues to stand in the middle of the thirteen acres shaded by a grove of large oaks and hickories. It serves as Main Building of Louisburg College. It has been remodeled twice and it still gives the stately appearance it gave in the beginning.

At a meeting of stockholders of Louisburg Female College held in the Franklin County Court House on June 4, 1857, the following were elected directors for the next year:

D. C. Stone, Esq., D. S. Hill, Esq., Major J. H. Yarboro, Dr. W. R. King, W. F. Green, Esq., T. K. Thomas, Esq., Rev. Jas. Reid, P. J. Brown, Esq., J. J. Davis, Esq., J. B. Littlejohn, T. T. Clifton, Esq.⁷

I. THE WAR YEARS

The College opened for instruction in the fall of 1857. Although the school opened with enthusiasm, full support, a large enrollment, the brightest hopes, and the highest purposes, it opened under the shadow of

⁵Louisburg College Catalogue, 1909-10, p. 8.

⁶Letter from Mrs. Blanche Egerton Baker to Miss Zelta Coor, April 20, 1958. In President's office, Louisburg College.

⁷News item in American Eagle, June 6, 1857. In Franklin Times office, Louisburg.

the War between the States and the Reconstruction Period. For the next fifty years it was to experience periods of depression and readjustment. The school always operated through the academies except for the brief time of Union Army occupation in 1865. Instruction in the college began under the direction of James P. Nelson, of Maryland. Mr. J. J. Avirett followed Mr. Nelson.⁸ Two years later Mr. Columbus Andrews became President and had as his assistant Mr. L. W. Andrews, his son.⁹

Students' letters and a school girl's diary provide a picture of some of the college life during and after the war. Ella Montgomery, a student at Louisburg Female College during the sixties, wrote a letter to Rosa Biddle expressing her devotion to her college. (Miss Biddle must have been at Chowan College, for the letters to her are addressed to Murfreesboro and there are references to her being in college.) The letter tells of the high esteem in which the president was held.

Our school is progressing finely. We have a number of scholars superintended by a most excellent President, whose high character as a gentleman and fine scholar has secured for him, not only the position he now occupies, but an inestimable regard in hearts of our community. I know you would like the school.¹⁰

In another letter of the same year she wrote to Rosa that she enjoyed her Latin and that "Young Andrews" (Mr. L. W. Andrews) was very good to his students, for he never thought of giving a fault mark.¹¹

⁸"List of Presidents of Louisburg College from 1851 to 1904," The Collegian, April, 1904, p. 94.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Manuscript letter from Ella Montgomery to Rosa Biddle, March 15, 1860. In Samuel Biddle Collection, Manuscript Room, Duke University.

¹¹Ibid., July 31, 1860.

In her diary for February 24, 1861, Pauline Hill wrote of the school and Mr. Andrews in particular:

We have a full school. I like Mr. Andrew's lectures on Rhetoric. The big girls as well as the younger ones, all play out doors during recess, jumping the rope, etc. Sometime Mr. Louis Andrews and Mr. Copeland, our painting teacher, jump the rope with us.¹²

Annie S. Brodie's letter to Rosa Biddle in April, 1861, gives the first hint of the War's influence on the Louisburg Female College and the coming financial depression. According to her letter, Louisburg had become an unusually dull place with all the talk concerning the War. "As for our College, it is not very flourishing this term. It was sold last March Court. Messers Richard and John Yarborough and General Littlejohn bought it."¹³

A deed recorded in Franklin County Courthouse shows the sale of "all buildings, fixtures, furniture, land and premises with its improvements" to R. F. Yarborough, J. B. Littlejohn, and J. B. Yarborough of Franklin County.

...know all men by these presents that the undersigned Sheriff of the County of Franklin and State above written by virtue of executions issued from the Court of Pleas and quarter sessions of said county in the cases following to wit Joel K. Thomas against the Louisburg Female College Company and several executions against the same and in favor of Divers parties as of Record does appear having levied said executions on the lands and tenements of the said Louisburg Female College Company hereinafter described on the 1st day of Jany 1861 and having made advertisement according to law and sold said lands and tenements at Public Sale for cash on the 1st day of March 1861 at the Court House Door in said County, when and where

¹²"Extracts from a School Girl's Journal," The Collegian, July, 1903, p. 59.

¹³Manuscript letter from Annie S. Brodie to Rosa Biddle, April 14, 1861. In Samuel Biddle Papers, op. cit.

R. F. Yarborough, J. B. Littlejohn, J. B. Yarborough of the County of Franklin and the State of North Carolina became the last and highest bidder at the sum of five thousand dollars which said sum has been paid to the undersigned in accordance with the terms of said sale, In consideration of the premises and in further consideration of the purchase money paid as aforesaid...¹⁴

A part of the college building was used as a residence during some of the time between 1861 and 1889, but the school was carried on in other rooms and in the Annex, the Old Female Academy building.¹⁵

Pauline Hill's diary, dated April 20, 1861, mentions the War:

...Mr. Andrews gave us for a debate this question, 'Has the South the right to secede?' I am on the negative side, and Pa gave me for a quotation, 'It is better to bear the ills we have than to fly to others we know not of.'¹⁶

The college girls learned to knit socks for the soldiers, had "beautiful tableaux" for the soldiers, and learned to wear homespun dresses with pride.¹⁷

They watched the troops passing the campus. One day in April, 1861, they joined the town ladies as they gathered on the campus to present the Franklin Rifles (on the campus for drill) with the flag they made. By request from the soldiers, the ladies sang "Dixie." The girls gave three cheers for the "Volentiers [*sic*] of Franklin."¹⁸

¹⁴Franklin County Register of Deeds, Book 63, p. 127.

¹⁵Notes of interview with Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Davis, Louisburg, North Carolina.

¹⁶"Extracts from a School Girl's Journal," *op. cit.*, pp. 58-59.

¹⁷*Ibid.*, p. 62.

¹⁸Manuscript letter from Annie Brodie to Rosa Biddle, April 26, 1861. In Biddle Collection, *op. cit.*

The girls in the college, in spite of war talk and activities, prepared for a beautiful May Day celebration in 1861. Pauline Hill was chosen Queen of May.¹⁹ But the students decided in the last week of April to give up their May-Day celebration because of their respect for the Franklin men who were leaving for war.²⁰

All the letters and journals examined by the writer depict a gloom and uneasiness among the college people and town people during the war. However, there are references to a few parties, programs, and study. Ella Montgomery wrote to Rosa Biddle in 1860 that she had been to four dancing parties.²¹ In her next letter to Rosa she said that there was nothing but hard study with the girls. "I think about my Latin more than I do somebody's heart."²²

¹⁹"Extracts from a School Girl's Journal," *op. cit.*, p. 59. Also see Julia L. Barrow, "Louisburg Female College, Half a Century Ago," The Collegian. (Mrs. Barrow says that "May Day was looked forward to for months, and was greeted with inexpressible joy." The students dressed in white Swiss muslins with pink and blue ribbons. Each girl took a basket and went out on the campus or to a neighbor's garden, especially to the garden of "Aunt Thomas," to gather flowers for decorating the throne. The throne was erected on the campus and trimmed with flowers and greenery. Several decorated arches, each held by two girls, formed a pathway for the Queen and her attendants. The Queen was elected by ballot. There were always two candidates. After the Coronation Ceremony, the flower girls presented their flowers to the Queen, and songs and recitations followed. The entire group then marched in procession to the chapel.)

²⁰Manuscript letter, Annie Brodie to Rosa Biddle, April 26, 1861. Biddle Papers, op. cit.

²¹Manuscript letter from Ella Montgomery to Rosa Biddle, July 31, 1860, op. cit.

²²Ibid., August 13, 1860.

Another college girl, Maggie McLeod, mentioned in a letter that she had never been so tired of winter and never so anxious to see vacation.²³

In the spring of 1862, Professor Knerringer, music professor at Louisburg Female College, gave a very successful concert for the "gun-boat" mission.²⁴

By 1862 Mr. James Southgate had been discharged from the service to accept the presidency of the college. He was then thirty years of age. In 1858 he had married Miss Delia Haywood Wynne, an English teacher in his mother's school in Norfolk. Before the war, Mr. Southgate had taught Latin and Greek in his mother's school until he and a brother opened a day school for boys in Norfolk. Mr. Southgate remained as President until 1865, when he went to Olin College near Statesville, where he remained until 1872. That year he moved to Hillsboro, where he engaged in the insurance business. In 1876 he moved to Durham.²⁵

²³Manuscript letter from Annie S. Brodie to Rosa Biddle, April 26, 1861, op. cit.

²⁴"Extracts from a School Girl's Journal," op. cit., pp. 60-61.

²⁵"The Presentation of A Portrait of James Southgate to Durham Lodge Number 352 Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons," April 3, 1944, middle page. Brochure in Louisburg College Library.

Brochure dates Mr. Southgate's term from 1862 to 1867. The Louisburg College Catalogues give Mr. Southgate's term ending 1865. Dr. Samuel B. Turrentine in his book A Romance of Education on p. 95 and the Louisburg College Catalogues give the year 1866 as the year Dr. T. M. Jones reopened the college. Dr. Jones followed Mr. Southgate. A report card belonging to Annie R. Fuller, in the Jones and Edwin Wiley Fuller Collection in the Duke Library, is dated March 23, 1866, and is signed by T. M. Jones, President.

Mr. and Mrs. Southgate were considered good teachers. After fifty years one of their students wrote: "If I have ever written anything that served to interest or help others, I owe it all to [my] father and my faithful teacher, Mrs. James Southgate, whose wonderful art of imparting knowledge made study a delight."²⁶

An editorial in the college paper dealt with the typical curriculum of Mr. and Mrs. Southgate's time at the college.

After a most thorough drilling in the three 'R's,' Peter Parley's or Goodrich's Histories, Morse's Geography, and a continuous study of Smith's Grammar, with its varied and often puzzling parsing and numerous rules..., she (the student) was advanced to the more pleasing study of Botany, Philosophy, Rhetoric, Geography of the Heavens, Astronomy, Kames's Elements of Criticism, etc. Many of the older students will remember the set of globes used in the astronomy class, representing the sun, moon, earth, Saturn and her rings, and we delighted in the study of the constellations.

To this we added Music, Drawing, Painting, and various forms of embroidery. Calisthenics was a pleasing addition, and a more beautiful sight one may rarely see than these lovely maidens gracefully forming the intricate figures of 'stars' and other pretty designs.

And then the closing days of school life, with the Examination (not Commencement) Exercises, when every class was examined orally before a large audience, composed of parents and other relatives, and friends, together with the dignitaries of the town.²⁷

From the above discussion the curriculum in 1863 appears to be similar to that discussed in Chapter II. There is no mention of Latin; but because of so many references to it in journals and letters (some already quoted), it must have been a part of the course of study.

²⁶"Louisburg Female College of Half Century Ago," in The Collegian, April, 1904, p. 79.

²⁷Pauline Hill Brooks, "Editorial," The Collegian, 1904, p. 4. (Mrs. Brooks was a member of the Class of 1863.)

A copy (in the Appendices) of an 1864 report card of a ten-year-old girl in the preparatory department shows the course of study there similar to that of the earlier academy.²⁸

While the Female College was being operated under Mr. Southgate's administration, the Male Academy was being conducted by Mr. M. S. Davis. The Academy continued to operate full time. A record shows that in 1864 Edwin Wiley Fuller attended 286 recitations and was absent two and one half days.²⁹

Speech notes scribbled on the back of a Report Card for the Spring of 1864 indicate that school was to continue as usual even though financial support was becoming a burden in Louisburg. The speech, evidently a school-closing speech, was outlined as follows:

Explanation of plan. Pleasant and harmonious session - some scholarship improven [sic]. Beginning of next term. Thanks.³⁰

Another note on the back of a Fall Report, 1864, indicates the coming financial depression:

4th year of Lincoln's War - tuition \$30 and \$50 per session. During this year I paid \$100 per bushel for corn, \$40 for a pair of cotton cards, \$75 for 3 lbs. of indifferent sole leathers, \$8 for one ball of shoe threads, \$80 for 8 yds. of calico, \$50 for a bunch of cotton yarn.

²⁸Manuscript report card of Miss Anna Richmond Fuller, May 27, 1864. In possession of J. E. Malone, Louisburg.

²⁹Manuscript letter to J. Fuller, Esquire, from M. S. Davis, June 25, 1864. In Jones and Edwin Wiley Fuller Collection, op. cit.

³⁰Manuscript note on back of Spring Report, 1864. In Louisburg Female Academy Collection, Manuscript Room, Duke University.

The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth so help me God.

M. S. Davis³¹

In the spring of 1865 Federal troops came to Louisburg under the command of General John A. Logan and General Judson Kilpatrick and used the college and academy groves for headquarters. The schools had been closed upon the warning of the army's approach. The college building (now Main Building) served as the general's headquarters and hospital, and the Male Academy building was used as a granary for the storage of corn. Corn was piled so deep that the floor gave way and the building was on the verge of wrecking.³²

J. R. Keyes, a member of the regiment occupying the groves, became ill and was confined to the hospital (Main Building). In 1903, when he had become a Methodist minister in Ohio, he wrote Mr. M. S. Davis, president of Louisburg Female College, and enclosed a ten-dollar gold piece to be given to the member of the graduating class who excelled in mathematics. He wrote:

I am glad to make this recognition of the Institution over which you preside, not only in the interests of fraternity, but also because that within one of the rooms of the college building I found a place of rest and retirement during a part of a long and serious illness. I have always felt something akin to veneration for that building which sheltered me during that trying ordeal. It is true that I was not invited by the college authorities to enter its precincts, but was there by the fortunes of war, yet I have never ceased to be thankful that such a place was open to me in time of

³¹Manuscript note on back of Fall Report, 1864. In Louisburg Female College Collection, Manuscript Room, Duke University.

³²Edward Hill Davis, Historical Sketches of Franklin County (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Co., 1948), p. 197.

need, and if it received any harm by my occupancy, I trust that the small contribution enclosed may be at least some compensation.³³

II. THE RECONSTRUCTION YEARS

The occupation of Louisburg lasted only a few days. The army moved on, leaving no violent disorder, and the academy re-opened for the next session.

In January, 1866, the Reverend T. M. Jones came as President from Greensboro Female College after that school burned in 1863. Dr. Jones was born in Franklin County, June 4, 1819, not many years after the Franklin Academies began. His parents, Amos Jones and Mary Anne Myrick Jones, were both natives of Franklin County. He attended the "old field school" and a boarding school near his father's home before going to Randolph-Macon College. He left college because of failing health. While at home, he taught in the family of Mr. Edward Alston of Warren County and at the end of the year was elected principal of Ridgeway Academy in the same county. In 1845 he received his A. B. degree. Of the ten and one half years he spent teaching in academies and in private families, seven and a half years were spent in Franklin County and two and a half in Warren County. During three of the years he was Principal of Louisburg Male Academy. He was considered a very efficient and popular teacher. In 1853 he was elected to the Professorship of Mathematics and Ancient Languages in Greensboro Female College. After one year he became president of that college.

³³"A Letter from a Union Soldier," The Collegian, July, 1903, p. 90.

In 1869 Dr. Jones left Louisburg to open a school at Kittrell. Five months later he leased Warrenton Female College, moved his school there, and remained until the end of the 1873 school session. Then he returned to the presidency of Greensboro Female College where he worked until his death in 1890. Wherever he taught, his school was spoken of as prosperous, and Dr. Jones was spoken of as a scholarly, cultured, patient, and firm gentleman. A devout Methodist, he was licensed to preach while he was teaching at the Louisburg Male Academy. He chose to remain a local preacher, and the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred upon him by Trinity College.³⁴ Louisburg Female College under the guidance of Dr. Jones was a highly organized and prosperous school. One of his teachers described her association with Dr. Jones and the college:

There comes vividly to my mind the rather depressing circumstances under which we entered upon the New Year and its new duties. On account of a deep snow, there were very few pupils present on the first day, and indeed for several days after...But in a short while the weather became more pleasant, the girls began to come in, and all were kept too busy to give way to despondent feelings. Dr. and Mrs. Jones, in their usually lovely way, diffused a home feeling throughout the building, inspiring the feeling that it was just one large family of which they were the thoughtful and efficient heads. This was always characteristic of their administration and was perhaps the secret of their great popularity and almost magic influence over the pupils intrusted to their care. The faculty, as I remember it, was composed of the following: Dr. Jones, Prof. and Mrs. Alderman, Prof. Hoke, Miss Mollie Mitchell, Miss Mittie Bethel, Miss Maria Duty, Miss Fannie Ogburn, Miss Willie Lea, Miss Lizzie Mayhew, and Miss Lou Van Fleck...

One pleasant recollection is that of the girls' prayer-meeting, held every Tuesday evening in one of the recitation rooms in the

³⁴Samuel Bryant Turrentine, A Romance of Education, (Greensboro: The Piedmont Press, 1946), pp. 93-98. Also see Edward H. Davis, Historical Sketches of Franklin County, op. cit., pp. 134-135.

basement. This quiet hour was always a season of spiritual enjoyment, where Divine strength was obtained for the duties and trials of college life.

...The two years spent there were among the most pleasant of my life.³⁵

A letter from another teacher, Miss Willie Lea, to her sister, tells of the food and equipment at the college in 1866. She thought that the college kept an "extravagant table." There were usually two meats and a great variety of vegetables. The usual menu for breakfast included two kinds of bread, butter, and one or two kinds of meat; for supper, there were two kinds of bread, plenty of butter, and molasses. Dessert was served on Sunday and frequently on Wednesday.³⁶

Miss Lea's room, "not an unpleasant chamber," was furnished with a cottage bedstead, "tolerably neat bureau," a small circular table, a washing stand, and chairs.³⁷

Miss Lea wrote that she was satisfied at the college, where the situation was pleasant. But she observed the "evil effects of college life upon Mr. Jones' children." She sympathized with Garland Jones, 18, as he wandered about "scarcely knowing where to go, for fear of encountering some of the girls." The President's son never went to prayer because of the girls, and he always had to eat at a second table. Miss Lea did not regard such a public place suitable for the training of children.³⁸

³⁵Lizzie Mayhew Hendren, "A Letter," The Collegian, 1904, pp. 45-47.

³⁶Manuscript letter from Miss Willie Lea to Lillie, Aug. 23, 1866. In Lea Collection, Southern Collection, University of North Carolina.

³⁷Ibid.

³⁸Ibid., to Edward, September 4, 1866.

The letters from Miss Lea to members of her family frequently mention the large enrollment at the college. "I am in the bustle of a large boarding school," she said once.³⁹

Later she mentioned that a number of applicants had to be refused, for there was room for only seventy-five boarders in the college. "A large school is a heavy responsibility," she wrote her father.⁴⁰

Religion was a strong force among the students during the early Reconstruction period. Revival meetings were considered important and were well-attended by the students from the college.

I recall with distinctness and pleasure a gracious revival of religion, conducted by Dr. J. A. Cunnigim, the 'Uncle Jesse' of blessed memory, who was the pastor of the church. All of the students came under the blessed influence, and quite a number were among the converts. The interest was so great that frequently prayer-meetings were held in the afternoon in the different rooms.⁴¹

One of Miss Lea's letters, April 23, 1867, tells of a revival in the Methodist church at which "a good many girls made profession of religion." One student began to act strangely after the revival and grew worse, finally becoming "raving distracted." Those caring for her at the school gave up hope for her improvement, but she grew better in a few days. It was thought that her illness was caused by nervous excitement.⁴²

³⁹Ibid.

⁴⁰Ibid., to Father, January 16, 1867.

⁴¹Lizzie Mayhew Hendren, op. cit., p. 46.

⁴²Manuscript letter from Miss Willie Lea to Eugenia, April 23, 1867, op. cit.

Not all of the incentive for church attendance was purely spiritual. On one occasion, at least, a young man of Louisburg was pre-occupied with the college girls. "...When service was over as I left the door I gave another peep into the gallery (which is given up to the college and has become in reality a 'Gal'ery.) and got a most angelic smile."⁴³

It is assumed from the satisfaction expressed by the teachers and pupils and from the popularity of the school that the course of study during Dr. Jones' administration was as suitable for the times as that he had offered at Greensboro Female College.

A report from the Preparatory Class showing the progress of Miss Annie R. Fuller gives some information as to the preparatory department curriculum. Three grades of scholarship were recognized - First, scholarship very good; Second, good; Third, respectable. Those falling below the third grade were required to review their work before going to a higher class. The position in each grade was denoted by the numbers 1, 2, and 3. First Grade, number 1, was highest. Annie Fuller was highest in First Grade in all her subjects except composition, in which she ranked Grade 1, 2. Her subjects were arithmetic, grammar, geography, spelling, reading, Bible, composition, and penmanship. She was graded "Exemplary" in deportment. A space was left on the report for marking absences (excused or not excused) from church, prayers, and recitations.⁴⁴

⁴³Manuscript letter from Edwin Wiley Fuller to George Thomas, August, 1868. Edwin Wiley Fuller Collection, Manuscript Room, Duke University.

⁴⁴Manuscript report card of Miss Annie R. Fuller, March 23, 1866. In Jones and Edwin Wiley Fuller Collection, Manuscript Room, Duke Library.

Dr. Jones had a disciplinary system similar to the honor system of today. "No system of espionage [sic] is practiced or countenanced. Each pupil reports the number of times she may have violated each rule, and the violations for each quarter are denoted by the number prefixed."⁴⁵

The list of college rules was printed on the report card as follows:

1. The pupils will rise at the first bell. Three-quarters of an hour before prayers will be allowed for the toilette. Half an hour after prayers for morning walk.
2. The rooms are to be ready for inspection at 8 o'clock.
3. The pupils are not to converse in a loud tone on their way to and from the dining-room or during the meals.
4. No boisterous talking, laughing or romping is allowed at any time, in any part of the building.
5. During study hours each pupil is to remain in her own room unless when summoned to recitation, or called out by some officer of the Institution.
6. The pupils are not to converse during study hours in their rooms, on their way to and from recitation, nor are they to write letters, nor engage in any reading, except such as pertains to their assigned studies.
7. The pupils are not to visit each other's rooms between the bells at night.
8. The pupils are not allowed to make communication by word or sign in the chapel or recitation room, without special permission of the teacher.
9. The pupils are not allowed to visit the parlors, except when called to see company, nor in the music room, except in discharge of College duties, nor the dining-room except at meals, nor the kitchen at ANY time.

⁴⁵Manuscript "Private Regulations" 1866, Louisburg Female College Collection, Manuscript Room, Duke University.

10. No package, letter or message is to be delivered to the pupils of the Institution by those residing in the town. All communications with the town must be had through some officer of the College.

11. The pupils are not to go beyond College bounds, unless accompanied by some officer of the Institution.

12. No pupil will be allowed to spend a night in town without the special permission of her parents or guardian.

13. All defacing of the walls or other College property is strictly forbidden.

14. Dancing is forbidden. The wearing of jewelry is restricted to ONE breastpin.

15. At the last bell at night, all lights must be extinguished and all conversation cease.

16. Perfect propriety at divine service is specially required.

17. The pupils are to throw nothing from the windows, and to have no communication therefrom.

18. No pupil is to purchase anything on credit, under any circumstances whatever.

19. At prayers, recitation and church, the pupils will sit in alphabetical order.⁴⁶

At Louisburg Dr. Jones served well as a teacher and an administrator in a time when it was not easy to keep a school going. His college was not endowed and there were no conference appropriations from the Methodist church. His school was supported entirely by income from the students. That income had to be used efficiently in a time of depression in the South.⁴⁷

⁴⁶Tbid.

⁴⁷Edwin Hill Davis, op. cit., p. 135-136.

When Dr. Jones moved his school to Kittrell, the college at Louisburg was closed for eight years. The Louisburg Female Seminary and the Franklin Male Academy carried on, however, to fill the interim in the school life.

Miss Cornelia Crenshaw, "a cultured maiden lady," conducted the Louisburg Seminary in her home on Elm Street near Nash Street. The Crenshaw home was large enough to accommodate boarding students, and Miss Crenshaw used a frame house next door as her school building. Miss Crenshaw's special interest was music. Her love and talent for teaching music made the Seminary commencements famous.⁴⁸

Dr. F. L. Reid became president of the Louisburg Female College in 1877, and with Dr. W. B. Royal and Professor W. C. Doub tried to revive the school. After a year, they gave up the task.

For the next eleven years the college building was used as a private residence and as a high school. At one time B. W. Raye, E.N.B.C.N.Y., opened a school called Louisburg Practical High School. (The initials which Mr. Raye always used after his name meant Eastman National Business College in New York.)⁴⁹

During the time between Dr. Jones's school and the reopening of Louisburg Female College in 1889, the Franklin Male Academy remained open.

⁴⁸Ibid., p. 245. Also from an interview with Mrs. C. M. Howard, Elm Street, Louisburg, North Carolina.

⁴⁹Interview with Mr. Stuart Davis, Louisburg, North Carolina.

III. THE REOPENING AND CONTINUOUS OPERATION

After the college had been closed for several years, a new interest caused its reopening in 1889. Although the new impetus came in a time of poverty and struggle, it brought about an era of subsequent continuous operation. The college has since then operated without interruption. In 1889 the college property was put up for sale and bought by Mr. C. M. Cooke and others.⁵⁰ In March, 1889, the Louisburg Town Commissioners, by authority of the North Carolina General Assembly, bought the property for \$5400.00.⁵¹ By March, 1891, Washington Duke, Esq., of Durham, had become owner of the same property for which he paid \$5450.00. The purchase was made subject to the limitation that the school should be used only for the education of persons of the white race.

...The Board of Commissioners of the Town of Louisburg were authorized by an act of the General Assembly of N. C. at the session in 1891 and empowered to sell convey and make title to the property hereinafter described to such person or persons as they may think best to be held and used by such person or persons in trust for the purpose of a school for the white race under the restriction and provisions that the consideration for which a sale was authorized under said act should not be for less than a sum sufficient to acquire the interest and rights of certain parties claiming the said property...

...to take and hold the property above described and every part of the same exclusively for the purpose of a school or schools for the white race...⁵²

⁵⁰Franklin County Register of Deeds. Book 88, p. 172.

⁵¹Ibid.

⁵²Ibid., Book 88, p. 175. (The Louisburg Female College Catalogue for 1890-91, p. 5, carries the announcement that the college property was purchased "last March" by Mr. Duke.)



Main Building, 1890

FIGURE 4

In September of 1889, Mr. Bagley, bringing with him his faculty and a few of his students, came from Littleton College to Louisburg College. He had leased the college property for five years. The number of his students never reached one hundred, nor were there ever more than thirty boarding students at one time. At the termination of his lease, Mr. Bagley resigned.⁵³

Mr. Bagley organized his school well and sought to run a college second to none. During his administration, the collegiate year was divided into two sessions, fall and spring. Four years of work were offered in the Collegiate Department. There was also a Preparatory Department.⁵⁴

Diplomas were given to those who took the full English Course and one language. The following is the Course of Study for the Collegiate Department:

FIRST YEAR CLASS.

Test Words—Westlake.	History of United States.
Lessons in English—Reid & Kellogg.	Botany—Wood or Gray.
Arithmetic—Wentworth.	Algebra (commenced)—Sanford.
Physical Geography—Inman.	Physiology—Hutchinson.
	Composition and Reading.

SOPHOMORE CLASS.

Algebra (completed)—Wentworth.	History of England—Montgomery.
Physics—Steele.	Moral Philosophy—Peabody.
Geology—Steele.	Manual of Etymology—Webb.
Mythology—Berens.	Composition and Reading.

⁵³Interview with Mrs. Ivey Allen, former president of Louisburg Female College, and teacher during Mr. Bagley's administration, in Warrenton, North Carolina.

⁵⁴Louisburg Female College Catalogue, 1890-91, pp. 7-8.

JUNIOR CLASS.

Plane Geometry (five months)-- Wentworth.	English Literature (five months)-- Trimble.
Solid Geometry (five months)-- Wentworth.	Civil Government--Young. Composition and Reading.
Chemistry (five months)--Steele.	Test Words.
Zoology (five months)--Steele.	Ancient History--Myers.
Rhetoric (five months)--Quackenbos. ⁵⁵	

Music was also a part of the curriculum, and diplomas were given to pupils who successfully completed a three-year course in the music school. Public recitals were given every month. At the close of school a concert was given.⁵⁶

By this time "Type-Writing and Short-hand writing" had become a part of the school curriculum since "the age demands that our girls shall have a practical knowledge of some business whereby they may earn a livelihood."⁵⁷

In the Art Department, the following branches were taught: Drawing--Charcoal, Crayon, Photocrayon, Pastel, and Pencil; Painting in oil and water-colors; Decorative Painting on china, satin, terraline; all branches of ornamental work. Certificates were given to art pupils doing satisfactory work in two years of study.⁵⁸

Calisthenics was required of the boarding students, unless they were physically unable to participate. Outdoor exercise was required every morning and evening when the weather was favorable.⁵⁹

⁵⁵Ibid., pp. 11-12.

⁵⁶Ibid., p. 13.

⁵⁷Ibid.

⁵⁸Ibid., p. 14

⁵⁹Ibid.

A student could earn an A. B. degree by completing a year of post-graduate study.

Regular graduates of the college are granted the privilege of reviewing their studies, or of extending them, free of tuition, except in the Special Departments. But they MUST board in the College, subject to its rules, with such modification of the rules as the President may grant at his discretion. The degree of A. B. will be conferred upon all Post-graduates, who complete a year's Post-graduate Course, and stand a satisfactory examination.⁶⁰

Examinations took place at the close of each half session, and at the completion of any course. The examinations, always in writing, were considered as important as the daily recitations. A pupil's class rank was determined by the average of daily scholarship and department grades and the examination grades.⁶¹

Two literary societies were organized on the campus during Mr. Bagley's administration and were regarded "as valuable auxiliaries in helping the pupils to acquire trained habits of thought, and a love for higher literary culture."⁶²

The Sea Gift Literary Society was a voluntary organization named in honor of Edwin Wiley Fuller, the distinguished author of a novel of the Civil War entitled Sea Gift. Fuller was a resident of Louisburg and attended the Franklin Academy. The Neithean Literary Society was both a literary and historical society. As long as the societies existed, they published a literary magazine, The Collegian, four times each year.

⁶⁰Ibid., p. 17.

⁶¹Ibid.

⁶²Ibid., p. 20.

It was in The Collegian that the writer first noted the use of the present college motto, "Wisdom Is Better than Rubies." With this observation and no knowledge of an earlier use of the motto, it is assumed that Mr. Bagley composed the Louisburg College motto.

Religion was an important part of life on the college campus at that time. Each day's schedule began with a period of scripture study and prayer. Each day closed with a Thanksgiving and Prayer Service. Every pupil was required to attend regular church services of some denomination.⁶³

Mr. Bagley and his family lived in the college building and supervised the life in the dormitory. The president expected each of his teachers to assist him in the supervision, and he required all of his faculty members to exert a good influence "both by precept and example." The Lady Principal, Mrs. Bagley, gave a "mother's tender care" when there was sickness.⁶⁴

Some of the rules of government reveal the sense of rigorous moral responsibility felt by Mr. Bagley.

We earnestly strive to give our pupils every advantage of home influence and individual attention, that they may feel they are withdrawn from society for the purpose of strengthening their natural powers and enabling them to develop complete characters.

To this end, they will not be allowed privileges which are found to impede their progress, even with the permission from home.

Correspondence should be restricted to the immediate family of the pupil; but a few friends may be included by direction to the President from home.

⁶³Ibid., p. 21.

⁶⁴Ibid.

Pupils taking extra studies only will be required to observe school hours and the regulations in regard to general exercises.

Study hours close at 9 P.M., and at ten all are required to be in bed, when lights are extinguished. In the morning all are required to obey the "rising-bell," and hold themselves ready for punctual and neat presentation in the dining-room.

Pupils are required to cover their own beds at an early hour, and to keep their rooms at all times in a neat and tasteful condition. Servants will carry wood and water, and perform all other needful service in the rooms.

The young ladies will not be permitted to make visits, or to receive attention from gentlemen. When leaving the Campus, they will in all cases be attended by one of the teachers, and UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES will they be permitted to spend the night out of the College. This is absolutely necessary in order to guard the pupils from objectionable influences, and to prevent the formation of unworthy acquaintances.

Request from parent or guardian relating to the young ladies must be made DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT, and not through letter to the pupil, or it will receive no attention.

Visitors will not be received during the school hours, and the College IS ALWAYS CLOSED TO VISITORS ON SUNDAY.

Visitors from the young ladies' homes must bring letters of introduction to the President, WITH WRITTEN PERMISSION TO CALL.

Pupils will be permitted to go shopping once a month in charge of the teachers. At other times the teachers will make their purchases for them.

DAY PUPILS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER THE ROOMS OF BOARDERS, AND BOARDERS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO RECEIVE VISITORS IN THEIR ROOMS.

To promote economy and to avoid rivalry in dress, pupils are required to wear a uniform on all public occasions.

The uniform for the winter is BLACK CASHMERE: for the summer any white goods THAT CAN BE WASHED.⁶⁵

⁶⁵Ibid., p. 19, pp. 21-22.

Total expenses for a session of twenty weeks in the English Course were \$71.00; the English Course with Music and one language, \$91.00. Optional studies had fees of \$5.00 to \$20.00.

In the Preparatory Department, the Academic fee was \$12.50, Primary, \$10.00; incidental, \$1.00.⁶⁶

The influence of the organization Mr. Bagley formed would appear to have persisted for many years after his departure.

The Reverend J. A. Green dreamed one night that he took over the leadership of the college, which was struggling for existence, and operated it successfully. Mr. Green actually became president in 1894 and remained until 1896, but the school was not a success. Mr. Duke, owner of the property, asked the president to "shut the college and bring me the key."⁶⁷

The town again looked for a way to keep the school alive, and one of its ministers made a suggestion that solved the problem. The Reverend C. F. Smith suggested to Mrs. Ivey Allen, teacher at the college, that she and her father, Mr. Matthew Davis, open the school for the next session. They did so, and the family moved from Green Hill Place, their home, to the college building, which they had leased for \$300.00 a year.⁶⁸

Mr. Davis had been principal of the Male Academy for twenty-five years (1856-1881), serving longer than any other teacher. During those

⁶⁶Ibid., p. 18.

⁶⁷Interview with Mrs. Ivey Allen, Warrenton, North Carolina.

⁶⁸Ibid.

years he taught almost all of the young men in Louisburg and many from other sections. He received his schooling from Mr. A. H. Ray and Dr. T. M. Jones at the Franklin Academy, and at the University of North Carolina. He graduated from the University in the Class of 1855. After his tenure at the Academy he spent several years farming at Green Hill and served three terms as Treasurer of Franklin County.

Mr. Davis's children have described him as a man "tall, erect, active, strong of arm, broad browed," as a scholarly and Christian man, and as a useful citizen and a man devoted to his home.⁶⁹ The devotion to his home was carried over into the college home-life. Some will remember how Mr. Davis enjoyed taking long walks with the students.

Mrs. Davis, who was the former Miss Sarah Louise Hill, descendant of the Reverend Major Green Hill, was known by the college family as the "great lady." She tenderly cared for the college household and personally supervised the dining room, particularly the washing of the silver. The servants remembered "Miss Lou" as a kind and generous lady.⁷⁰

Mr. Davis's daughter, Mrs. Ivey Allen, was a teacher and business manager of the college.

In September the college opened with twenty boarding students and a sizable town patronage. College expenses were low; board for the first year was only eight dollars a month since the college had its own vegetable garden. At the end of the year Mr. Davis was able to pay rent

⁶⁹Edwin Hill Davis, op. cit., p. 297.

⁷⁰Interview with Debbie Bullock, servant for Mrs. Davis, in Louisburg, North Carolina.



Matthew Davis



Mrs. Ivey Allen

FIGURE 5

for the buildings, and all bills for salaries and groceries were paid. When the last quarter's rent was handed to Mr. Duke, he gave the money back to Mrs. Allen, telling her that she could have the college free of rent as long as she wanted it.⁷¹

The curriculum was similar to the program of studies Mr. Bagley had offered. Enrollment increased from year to year until more room was needed.

Mr. Davis died in 1906, leaving the presidency to Mrs. Allen.

The talents, enthusiasm, and unselfish spirit of Mary Davis Allen gave Louisburg College one of its most colorful periods and a school spirit that still influences the life of the college.

Mrs. Allen, now ninety-six years old and living in Warrenton, North Carolina, continues her interest in the school with the wisdom and energy of her earlier years. A niece recently described her as the "smartest, cutest, brightest person I ever knew."⁷²

She is the daughter of Matthew Davis and Louise Hill Davis. Her ancestry includes Green Hill, a first trustee of Franklin Academy and a pioneer in Methodism; John King, the first trustee of Franklin Academy and a pioneer in Methodism; and Charles A. Hill, Franklin Academy teacher and author of the North Carolina Literary Fund Law of 1825.

She attended school in Louisburg and received instruction from her father. For nine years she taught in a school on the plantation of

⁷¹Interview with Mrs. Ivey Allen in Warrenton, North Carolina.

⁷²Manuscript letter from Blanche Egerton Baker, Goldsboro, North Carolina to Miss Coor, April 20, 1958. In the president's office, Louisburg College.



Summer Uniform, 1909



Winter Uniform, 1909

FIGURE 6

a cousin at Arcola, in Warren County. For one year she taught at Littleton College before going to Louisburg College as a member of Mr. Bagley's faculty. While her father was president of the college, she served as Lady Manager and served so well that the school prospered financially for the first time in many years. During her presidency, her husband, Ivey Allen, served as secretary and treasurer with similar success.

In 1911 the Davis Memorial Building was erected as a memorial to the Davis family. In the same year the college's first central heating plant was installed.

In 1917 Mr. and Mrs. Allen decided to give their place of leadership to one with special training for the tasks they saw coming with expansion. For two years after the new president, Dr. F. S. Love, took over his duties, Mrs. Allen remained at the college as dean. In 1919 she joined her husband at the Oxford Orphanage, where she was teacher and he was treasurer.

They retired from their work at the orphanage in 1946 and went to Warrenton to live. Mr. Allen died after a few years.

Mrs. Allen recalls with pleasure the loyalty and happiness of the servants, students, faculty, and town people during her thirty years as teacher, manager, president, and dean of the college.

None of Mrs. Allen's faculty received over \$30.00 or \$35.00 a month for their services to the school, but the administration tried to make up the difference between faculty salaries and the salaries of public school teachers by making the college work and social life a happy, satisfying experience. She thinks the success of a school depends upon the loyalty of its faculty.

The most tragic experience that Mrs. Allen remembers from her years on the campus was one that happened one day in 1900-01, during a flu epidemic. Two sisters who were students developed pneumonia, and both died in their college room the same night. The mother of the girls, who had come to visit her daughters, also developed pneumonia and died soon after returning home. The brother of the two sisters soon entered his niece at Louisburg College as a student, thus expressing his family's continued confidence in the school. Mrs. Allen feels that no higher compliment could have been given the college.

By 1896 an Alumnae Association had been formed, and during Mrs. Allen's presidency the alumnae banquets became one of the notable features of commencement week. Sometimes the banquet required a caterer from Raleigh because the college could not provide enough silverware.⁷³

Something of the cultural aims of the college is indicated in a booklet issued in 1909-10:

The design of the President is to surround the pupils, while under her care, with such influences as tend to cultivate taste, refine and polish manners, develop and strengthen the moral sense, and fit them to occupy with ease and grace every department of social and domestic life.

School life should be made pleasant and happy: discontent, worry and homesickness, are alike opposed to successful progress in educational training and the development of amiable and cheerful dispositions. A love for the good, the noble, and true is inculcated. The teachers are the companions and advisors of the pupils, and seek to guide them to the highest ideals of Christian womanhood. The

⁷³Interview with Mrs. Ivey Allen, Warrenton, North Carolina.

Christian graces give to ladies a charm and power which no adornment of person or culture of intellect, in their absence, can produce.⁷⁴

In 1909-10 the college had the usual collegiate and preparatory departments, but also offered Normal Courses. The Normal Course included the County Certificate Course which was intended to prepare students for the County Certificate Examination in any state. The course could be completed in one school year. The Normal Course also included the Teachers' Course, which could be completed in three years, and the Didactic Course, which could be completed in four years.⁷⁵

In 1909-10 elocution, stenography, and bookkeeping were added to the curriculum.⁷⁶

In 1912-13 elocution was given the title Expression and Dramatic Art. The objectives of the course were to stimulate mental activity, lead through literature to universal knowledge and an understanding of all the arts, teach a method of developing the natural languages of voice and body, and stimulate a knowledge of the suggestive characteristics of language.⁷⁷

In 1912-13 diplomas were given only to those who took the full English Course and one ancient and modern language. The reasons for this, stated in the college catalogue, were as follows:

⁷⁴Louisburg College booklet, 1909-10, p. 6. In Louisburg College Library.

⁷⁵Ibid., p. 15.

⁷⁶Ibid.

⁷⁷Louisburg College Catalogue, 1912-13, p. 35.

The day has come when English is taken as a test and measure of cultivation. Realizing this, we give more time to the study of it than heretofore. Grammar and Rhetoric are taught throughout the entire College course. Special attention is given to Composition, and in the Freshman and Sophomore classes much of this work is required to be done under the eye of the teacher in the classroom. In Mathematics thoroughness, accuracy and a complete mastery of the subject are taught. Pupils are required to do their own thinking and to explain fully their own work.⁷⁸

By 1912 "a bright, sunny room" had been set apart for an infirmary. A nurse supervised the infirmary, and it was her duty "to prevent the development of slight indisposition into serious illness; to correct by careful treatment any tendency toward chronic disease; to win the pupils to good bodily habits, and to instruct them in the laws of health."⁷⁹

In 1915 the school reorganized its curriculum so that it could be ranked as a junior college. The preparatory department continued with its course of study including "Reading, Spelling, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, History, English, and Nature Study...instruction is given in Drawing, Sewing, etc."⁸⁰

The collegiate department in the junior college offered two courses, Literary and Classical. The Literary Course included English, mathematics, Latin, science, history, French or German, Bible, psychology and education as required courses. Domestic science, music, art, and expression were electives.

⁷⁸Ibid., pp. 16-17.

⁷⁹Louisburg College Catalogue, 1912-13, p. 10.

⁸⁰Louisburg College Catalogue, 1914-15, p. 18.

The Classical Course included the same required subjects, without electives.

A Certificate of Proficiency was given every student who completed successfully either one of the courses.⁸¹

As early as 1897 Louisburg College was, in effect, under the management of the Methodist Church. President Davis and his family operated the college at that time with the interests of the church in mind and were largely responsible for the church's receiving the property as a gift.

The 1897 Journal of the North Carolina Annual Conference contains the following statement, part of the Board of Education Report on Louisburg Female College:

This College is managed in the interest of the Methodist church and is on an economical basis, so as to place it within the reach of all who desire a good education. Special advantages are offered the daughters of ministers of our Church.

The President, Mr. M. S. Davis, only asks a trial to test its merits. It is worthy of a large patronage.⁸²

The 1900 Conference Journal reported: "The President of this institution desires it to be strictly understood that 'Louisburg Female College is owned and controlled by Methodists, and is run in the interests of the Methodist Church.'"⁸³

⁸¹Louisburg College Catalogue, 1915-16, pp. 25-26.

⁸²Journal of the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1897, pp. 44-45.

⁸³Ibid., 1900, pp. 43-44.

In 1907 Mr. and Mrs. Allen "prevailed upon Mr. Benjamin Duke" to give the school to the North Carolina Methodist Conference.⁸⁴

A deed dated January 15, 1909, records the transfer of the Louisburg College property to the Louisburg College trustees from Mr. Benjamin N. Duke for one dollar "in order to encourage and promote the educational interests of the Methodist Episcopal Church South." The trustees were L. S. Massey, D. B. Zollicoffer, J. T. Flythe, J. H. Shore, B. W. Ballard, Z. W. Lyon, A. J. Parker, F. B. McKinne, and G. F. Smith.⁸⁵

In 1909 the Board of Education of the Methodist Church reported that the management of the college had been turned over to the Board of Trustees.⁸⁶

When the property was signed over to the North Carolina Methodist Conference, the school was free of debt. When the Allens left Louisburg College in 1917 after thirty years of service, the Methodist Conference had spent no money on the school except for \$9,000.00 on the Davis Building.⁸⁷

⁸⁴Interview with Mrs. Ivey Allen.

⁸⁵Franklin County Register of Deeds, Book 162, p. 164.

⁸⁶Journal, op. cit., 1909, p. 50.

⁸⁷Interview with Mrs. Ivey Allen.



Franklin, Main, Davis, and Wright Buildings

FIGURE 7

CHAPTER V

LOUISBURG COLLEGE (1915-1938)

The spirit of determination and loyalty that Louisburg College inherited from its academy and young college years came to its rescue many times during later years of expansion, depression, and re-growth. The determination of its leaders and the loyalty of its faculty, students, and friends carried the college forward and fixed it so firmly that it mounted every crisis that occurred during the period between 1915 and 1938.

I. THE JUNIOR COLLEGE

At a meeting in 1913, the presidents of women's colleges of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, requested the General Board of Education of the Church to urge the General Conference to make provisions for creating a new division known as Junior Colleges.¹

The report of the Committee of Junior College Courses of Study was adopted by the presidents and was printed in the Louisburg College Catalogue announcements for 1914-1915. The report consisted of the following parts: (1) That the same entrance requirements be accepted as for the college; (2) that thirty semester hours of college work be required for a diploma; (3) that senior colleges grant full credit for the two years work offered by the junior colleges.²

¹Louisburg College Catalogue, 1914-15, p. 20.

²Ibid.

The North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, joined the president and trustees of the college in 1914 in a request to the General Board of Education for classification as a junior college.³ In 1915 the college "wisely reorganized with the status of a junior college."⁴

After the re-organization, a diploma from Louisburg College was conferred upon the student who had completed fourteen units for entrance to the Junior Class and thirty hours of approved college work.⁵

The school as a junior college offered work in three departments: preparatory, sub-collegiate, and collegiate. Courses were arranged to offer the first two years of higher college work, and the courses were designed in terms of semester hours.

The preparatory department—grades one through six—prepared students for the sub-collegiate classes. The course of study was the same that had been offered in the years just prior to 1915.

The requirements for admission to the college freshman class were: mathematics; arithmetic completed and algebra to quadratics; science; geography, Tarr and McMurray's, Frey's or Maury's completed; physiology completed; English: English grammar completed, elements of rhetoric and ten English classics completed, composition; Latin: beginner's Latin completed, two books of Caesar.⁶

³Journal of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1914, p. 41.

⁴Reynolds and Seaton, Report of Survey, 1948.

⁵Catalogue, 1916-17, p. 23.

⁶Ibid, p. 24.

In the collegiate department, the curriculum included

- English - with the emphasis on literature and language, by texts and collateral reading
- History - designed to give a comprehensive survey of general, European, English, and American history by texts-books and collateral reading
- Mathematics - taught mainly for the purpose of mental development rather than for practical uses
- Science - to give thorough understanding in chemistry, physics, and astronomy
- Education - intended to give preparation for the work of organizing, governing, and teaching in public or private schools
- Bible - designed to give a comprehensive knowledge of the Old and New Testament
- Latin - with the aim of leading to accurate knowledge of Latin grammar and ability to translate fluently
- Modern Languages - French and German, with constant practice in sight reading, study of grammar, and parallel reading
- Music - piano, organ, and voice, theory, harmony, and musical history
- Art - with thorough instruction in drawing and painting
- Expression and Dramatic Art
- Domestic Art - sewing required of all students
- Home Economics - theoretical and practical
- Business - including stenography, typewriting, and bookkeeping.⁷

Expenses in the junior college at Louisburg were still held to a minimum, with the basic expenses for the student amounting to \$88.50 per term in 1915.⁸ Expenses were higher in 1917, with the basic expenses

⁷Ibid., pp. 29-50.

⁸Catalogue, 1914-15, p. 47.

amounting to \$98.50 per term, or \$101.00 if the student lived in the Davis Memorial Building.⁹ In 1918 the amount of expenses was \$112.00 per term, or \$114.50 for the student living in Davis Building.¹⁰

Educated at Trinity College, Columbia University, and Union Theological Seminary, the Reverend Love in 1917 accepted the leadership of Louisburg College in expanding the newly organized junior college to meet its needs. He not only served as president of the college, but he served as treasurer, as professor of education, and as professor of history.¹¹

...I have done the full work of a college teacher, having all the college history, have assumed every administrative responsibility that I could possibly meet, have traveled more than...five thousand miles, preached some fifty times and presented the college in practically every part of the Conference...¹²

As a result of his acquainting himself with the departments of his school, one of the first accomplishments was the reorganization of the education department. The newly organized department offered six courses in education: Education I, (a) Science of Human Nature (b) How to Study; Education II, (a) Fundamentals of Child Study (b) Special Method in the Recitation; Education III, Method and Educational Psychology; Education IV, first term, Bagley's School Management and Bulletins from the State Department of Education, second term, The

⁹Catalogue, 1917-18, p. 51.

¹⁰Catalogue, 1918-19, p. 55.

¹¹Catalogue, 1917-18, pp. 4-5; p. 38.

¹²Report of the President of Louisburg College to the Board of Trustees, December, 1917.

Country Life and Country School; Education V, History of Education; Education VI, which was the same as Bible IV.¹³

During Mr. Love's administration, the preparatory department remained for the primary and intermediate ages but came under the direction of the Department of Education. The course of study included reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, geography, English, history, nature study, and drawing.¹⁴

The sub-collegiate department continued to offer a complete high school course with the same faculty that served the collegiate department. Every advantage of the college was at the disposal of the sub-collegiate students.¹⁵

In all departments attention was given to the individual student. Individual attention and the pleasant home life of the college had received emphasis in every catalogue since Mr. Bagley's reopening the school in 1889.

The Student Government came into being in the 1918-19 term, "in order that the student of Louisburg College may have an opportunity for a larger development in learning the social qualities of self-control and individual responsibility to the community."¹⁶ The president, the dean, and two members of the faculty made up an advisory board to assist

¹³Catalogue, 1917-18, pp. 38-40.

¹⁴Ibid., p. 53.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶Catalogue, 1918-19, p. 59.

the students in unusually difficult adjustments. The dean regulated all off-campus permissions.¹⁷

At the end of his first year, President Love presented a program of expansion for the college. The program called for the construction of a residence on the campus for the faculty, a wing on the south side of Main Building corresponding to the Davis Building but larger in order to give more classroom and dormitory space, an extension of the dining room and kitchen area, a two-story science building, and a gymnasium.¹⁸

From the Educational Drive planned for the entire Southern Methodist Church, the amount of money apportioned to Louisburg College was \$245,000.00, a sum which provided for the outlined building program, established an endowment of \$100,000.00, and liquidated the college indebtedness.¹⁹

In 1918, the college purchased two tracts of land adjoining the back campus on the south side and erected the president's home on one part.²⁰ The other tract was later prepared for tennis courts, and is still used for that purpose.

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸"Report of the President," May 21, 1918.

¹⁹Roland W. Rainwater, Jr., "The Contribution of Louisburg College to Christian Education With Special Reference to the Half-Century, 1889-1939" (unpublished Master's Thesis, Duke University, 1943), p. 23. (Also see Journal of North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 1911, pp. 62-63. The Conference in 1910 had voted to borrow \$10,000.00 on the college property. Mrs. Allen, the president of Louisburg Female College, was to pay annually the interest on the amount.)

²⁰Franklin County Register of Deeds, Book 217, p. 522.

In June, 1920, Mr. Love retired from his college work to return to active ministry. "We record our highest appreciation of the fine work and constructive leadership of Rev. F. S. Love, who since June, 1917, has been president of this institution," were the words of the Conference Board of Education in its annual report.²¹

The Reverend L. S. Massey, who joined the North Carolina Methodist Conference in 1891, succeeded Mr. Love as president of Louisburg College.²² He had been chairman of the college Board of Trustees since 1908, the year in which the management of the college was turned over to the trustees by the North Carolina Methodist Conference.²³ He was one of the three persons appointed to effect the transfer of the property from Mr. B. N. Duke to the Conference.²⁴

During Mr. Massey's first year as president there were nineteen members of the faculty. Essential expenses for a student were \$140.00 per term.²⁵ The year was reported at the meeting of the North Carolina Methodist Conference to have been a good one but with a slightly decreased enrollment. "This institution is in great need of more equipment and more room," the Board of Education reported.²⁶

²¹Journal, 1920, p. 68.

²²Ibid.

²³Catalogue, 1909-10, p. 4.

²⁴Franklin County Register of Deeds, Book 162, p. 164.

²⁵Catalogue, 1920-21, pp. 2-3; p. 164.

²⁶Journal, 1921, p. 73.

At the 1922 Conference of the Methodist Church, the report of the Board of Education repeated the statement concerning the college's need for more equipment and more room, but added that Mr. R. H. Wright of Durham had made during the year 1921-22 a gift of \$20,000.00 to the college, the income from which was to be used to aid worthy girls. The Conference considered the gift notable in the history of the college and recommended that Mr. Wright be elected as a trustee of the college.²⁷ He was elected and remained a trustee until his death in 1929.

Mr. Massey resigned as president of the college in June, 1922, to return to the ministry.

II. THE EXPANSION YEARS

The need for expansion of the college had been recognized by Mrs. Ivey Allen, former president, before 1907. Her successors, Mr. Love and Mr. Massey, kept before the Conference the need of more buildings and equipment. The years 1922 through 1929 brought the actual expansion.

Professor Arthur Wyandt Mohn succeeded Mr. Massey as president of the college in June, 1922. Educated at Ohio Northern University, Ohio Wesleyan University, and the University of Chicago, this president came to Louisburg College at a time when a decision had to be made whether to build or close the school. Mr. Mohn was described as the "right leader at the right time," for it was his attitude that "122 years of service to

²⁷Journal, 1922, p. 52.

the girls of Franklin County constitutes a trust too sacred and valuable to give up without a struggle to the death."²⁸

Mr. Mohn convinced the Board of Trustees and the Conference Board of Education of the importance of Louisburg College and outlined a program of development. Shortly, in September, 1923, the Executive Committee of the trustees adopted the following resolutions:

Whereas, it is the conviction of all forward looking educators that the Junior College is an absolutely necessary and most important unit in the educational systems of both Church and State, and

Whereas, the history, traditions and surroundings of Louisburg College prepare it to be the nucleus for a Junior College which to say the least can not be excelled,

Therefore, be it resolved, that steps be taken at once to expand the buildings and equipment of the college to the capacity (200 to 250) where efficiency and economy in administration can be secured.²⁹

Since the college dormitories were filled to overflowing, making it impossible to wait for completion of a financial campaign, the committee recommended that the Conference Board of Education be requested to authorize the Board of Trustees to bond the institution and to borrow \$75,000.00³⁰ Permission to borrow the amount for improvements to existing buildings and for the construction of new buildings, and to execute a deed of trust upon any or all property of the college was given by the North Carolina Conference in annual session in November, 1923. In giving its consent, the Conference stipulated that it assumed no moral or legal responsibility for the obligations assumed by the

²⁸News item in The Franklin Times, July 15, 1924.

²⁹Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, Louisburg College, September 8, 1923.

³⁰Ibid.

trustees of the college.³¹ At the same session the Conference Board of Education endorsed the forward movement on the part of the trustees of the college by which they proposed to raise additional funds for the enlargement of facilities and for an endowment.³²

The college trustees resolved to issue 180 Negotiable Coupon Bonds, aggregating \$75,000.00 and maturing serially 1929 to 1943, and to secure the loan by a deed of trust on the college property.³³ The bonds were issued by the Board of Trustees on March 1, 1924, and on the same day a deed of trust was executed.³⁴

The citizens of Franklin County had agreed to raise \$150,000.00 as a part of the expansion program, but for months Mr. Mohn could find no one who believed that the county could carry out its part of the forward movement. Gradually he persuaded the leaders of the county to organize for the purpose of raising the \$150,000.00. He inspired them individually until seventy-five workers in the campaign worked day and night to make the campaign in Franklin County a success. On July 12, 1924, the county had subscribed \$120,000.00.³⁵

A twenty-five percent increase in the student body was noted in the 1925 report of the Conference Board of Education. Also reported was

³¹Journal, 1923, pp. 69-70.

³²Ibid., p. 71.

³³Wm. H. & Thos. Ruffin, "Opinion Upon the Bonds Offered by the Louisburg Female College," in President's office.

³⁴Franklin County Register of Deeds, Book 261, p. 139.

³⁵News item in The Franklin Times, July 15, 1924.

a gift of \$100,000.00 from Mr. B. N. Duke of Durham. The Conference was asked to endorse a movement to raise a fund of a half million dollars outside of the churches proper for building and endowment. The report was adopted.³⁶

In March, 1926, blueprints and plans for the present Franklin County Building were presented to the Executive Committee of the college Board of Trustees and approved. The committee ordered the architect to proceed at once with the building plans and specifications and ordered work to begin as soon as the Franklin County people had \$60,000.00 on hand. Mr. Mohn reported \$34,812.61 on hand and \$49,200.61 definitely promised on the Franklin County Building.³⁷ On March 30, 1926, the total Franklin County Fund assets were \$57,750.28.³⁸ In November it was announced that the Franklin Building was closed in at a cost of \$150,000.00.³⁹

A gift of \$80,000.00 from Mr. Richard H. Wright, trustee, to the college made possible the erection of a girls' dormitory named in memory of Mr. Wright's sister, Pattie Julia Wright. The building was dedicated on November 23, 1926.⁴⁰ The three-story, red brick, stone-trimmed

³⁶Journal, 1925, pp. 62-63.

³⁷Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, March 2, 1926.

³⁸Ibid., March 30, 1926.

³⁹News item in The News and Observer, November 23, 1926.

⁴⁰"Gifts on the Hearthstone of Christian Womanhood in North Carolina," a leaflet in the Louistburg College Library.

building, corresponding in style with Main Building, could accommodate one hundred and four girls. The basement rooms of the new building were a well-equipped domestic science department.⁴¹

Mr. Wright was born in 1851 within eight miles of Louisburg College. He left Franklin County at an early age and returned fifty years later to give his gifts in memory of his sister, Pattie Julia, who had died soon after her graduation from Louisburg Female College in 1868.

Dedication ceremonies for Wright Dormitory were held in the Louisburg Methodist Church, since the college had no auditorium to seat the student body and visitors. At the conclusion of a brief speech during the program, Mr. Wright surprised the college trustees with another gift of \$50,000.00. "I want this to be used to help poor girls attend this college," he said simply.⁴²

President Mohn was optimistic about the college development program when he presented a summary report to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees in the spring of 1927. The student body more than doubled in the three years after 1923. For 1925-26 the enrollment was 240, with 73 graduates. There were twenty-one faculty members, the value of the property was \$469,000.00, and the school had an endowment fund of \$100,000.00 given by Mr. B. N. Duke.⁴³ The objective of the program was to provide for 500 students by raising \$1,000,000.00.

⁴¹News item in The News and Observer, November 23, 1926.

⁴²Ibid.

⁴³Journal, 1926, p. 54.

The Methodist Conference in session in 1923 had approved a goal of \$500,000.00. Of that amount \$250,000.00 was to be used for endowment, and \$250,000.00 for buildings. In 1927, Mr. Mohn reported \$30,000.00 as secured on the endowment fund from North Carolina Methodist subscriptions, \$80,000.00 from Mr. R. H. Wright, and \$100,000.00 from Mr. B. N. Duke. For buildings, he reported \$80,000.00 given by Mr. Wright for the erection of the Pattie Julia Wright Building, and the \$150,000.00 raised for the Franklin County Building. The totals amounted to \$210,000.00 secured on endowment and \$230,000.00 secured for buildings, making the grand total secured by 1927, \$440,000.00.⁴⁴

The second part of the development program approved in 1925 was to provide for additional endowment and building fund. Items not provided for in the original program were a dormitory, dining hall, teacherage, president's home, teachers' cottages, library, dairy and farm, infirmary, campus tennis courts, funding of bonds, repair debts, all estimated to cost \$330,000.00.⁴⁵

In the fall of the same year, 1927, Mr. W. E. White, trustee from Franklin County, reported to the Executive Committee that "business conditions in the county are fine, but the people feel that if they could raise \$100,000.00, the Methodist Conference should raise \$350,000.00." At the same meeting, the Committee appointed a special committee to

⁴⁴Minutes of the Executive Committee, May 24, 1927.

⁴⁵Ibid.

investigate the property title of the college in order to ascertain whether the Conference owned the college in fee simple.⁴⁶

At the session of the Methodist Conference held in November, 1927, the Trustees of the Conference were empowered to convey to the college, a body corporate, or to the duly elected and qualified Louisburg College Trustees, all the property and title vested in the Conference by virtue of Section 7 of the original charter of Louisburg Female College. However, nothing in the conveyance was in any way to impair or diminish any right, power or privilege of the Conference in the control and management of the real property of the college as otherwise provided in the original charter. The action was taken for the purpose of eliminating any possible necessity for the Conference Trustees to join in the execution of any deed of trust which might obligate the Conference for the payment of any debts so incurred.⁴⁷

The special committee appointed by the college trustees to investigate the title of the college property made a report concerning the removal of restrictions covering the ownership of the college, and the report was accepted in May, 1928. The town Board of Commissioners was given an expression of thanks from the college trustees for the interest of the town in the growth of Louisburg College.⁴⁸

⁴⁶Ibid., October 6, 1927.

⁴⁷Journal, 1927, pp. 53-54.

⁴⁸Minutes of the Board of Trustees, May 22, 1928.

Although the administration was optimistic about the expansion program, a setback occurred in April, 1927. The old wooden building, built for the Female Academy in 1814, and later moved to the south side of the campus to be used as an annex to the college, burned, entailing a loss of approximately \$5,000.00, not covered by insurance. The loss of the building and the crowded conditions made it necessary to commandeer some of the unfinished classrooms of the Franklin County Building to accommodate the art and the music departments which had been housed in the annex.⁴⁹

The loss prompted the Executive Committee at the next meeting in June, 1927, to instruct the building committee to make necessary provisions for new classrooms, science rooms, and a library in the Franklin Building.⁵⁰

In 1927, Mr. Mohn was granted a six months' leave of absence on part-time service to the college, with traveling expenses and salary for the time of service fixed on the basis of his annual salary.⁵¹ Mr. E. L. Best, superintendent of Franklin County schools, was elected to serve as chairman of the faculty during Mr. Mohn's absence. Mr. Best agreed to act without salary, but because of his regular work he could not assume any responsibility for collection of subscriptions to the building fund.⁵²

⁴⁹ News item in The Franklin Times, April 1, 1927.

⁵⁰ Minutes of the Executive Committee, June 9, 1927.

⁵¹ Minutes of the Board of Trustees, August 27, 1927.

⁵² Minutes of the Executive Committee, September 8, 1927.

At the annual session of the Methodist Conference in the fall of 1927, the Conference Board of Education recommended "that the Trustees of Louisburg College be given permission to issue \$125,000.00 in bonds for the purpose of funding the existing bonded indebtedness; to pay outstanding building obligations and complete the central heating system." The Board also approved plans for the enlargement and equipment of the college. The number of students for 1926-27 was nearly three hundred. The value of equipment and loan funds was \$485,137.74.⁵³

A committee from the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools inspected the college in November, 1926, and approved the college in practically all lines, but the committee recommended that the size of classes be reduced, that all teachers meet the minimum scholastic requirement of graduation from a standard college and one year in graduate school, and that the income from the church appropriation be increased from \$1,000.00 to \$10,000.00 a year. Dr. J. H. Highsmith, State Supervisor of High Schools, stated before the Association committee that the two years of college work offered at Louisburg College was as highly regarded as that offered by any college in North Carolina. The committee could not place the college on the accredited list because the academy maintained by the college did not meet all of the requirements for accreditation.⁵⁴

During the Mohn administration the college was opened to the Epworth League Conference (now called the Methodist Youth Fellowship)

⁵³Journal, 1927, p. 56.

⁵⁴Report of President Mohn to the Trustees for 1927-28.

of the North Carolina Methodist Conference for summer assemblies, a courtesy which has been extended since that time.

Mr. Mohn felt that 1927 was the most satisfactory of his six years at Louisburg College. For the Franklin County Building, \$67,914.43 had been collected, and the first floor had been completed and furnished for use. That year he reported that the Franklin County people had paid \$67,914.43, with \$82,085.57 in unpaid pledges; Mr. R. H. Wright had given a total of \$160,000.00; Mr. B. N. Duke had given \$100,000.00; and the North Carolina Methodist Conference had given \$6,955.36 with the amount of \$23,044.64 in unpaid pledges.⁵⁵

The report for 1928-29 was not optimistic, for on December 5, 1928, the two top stories of Main Building and the west wing were partially destroyed by fire with a loss of approximately \$200,000.00. The Davis Building was damaged by water, but the Wright Building and the Franklin Building suffered no damage.⁵⁶ The fire, believed to have started from the heating system, was first discovered in the chapel, which was on the fourth floor. Two sisters named Knox, whose home was at Liberty, North Carolina, discovered the fire and hurried to the first floor to give the alarm by ringing the school bell. By doing so they lost all of their personal belongings, but they were credited with saving the lives and belongings of the other students. School was dismissed until after the Christmas holidays.⁵⁷

⁵⁵Ibid.

⁵⁶News item in The Franklin Times, December 14, 1928.

⁵⁷News item in The Raleigh Times, December 5, 1928.

At a meeting the day after the fire, the trustees of the college considered the emergency and decided that the wisest course was to start a drive at once for the funds to complete the Franklin Building in order that school could open on schedule after the holidays. It was estimated that it would cost \$40,000.00 to complete the building to the point where the room facilities would be available. Contractors promised that the work could be done within thirty days by working day and night. The fifth and final payment on the building, which was due in December, in addition to the lapsed payments, would amount to about \$60,000.00.⁵⁸ The Executive Committee voted on the same day to carry an emergency appeal to the Bishop, Presiding Elders, and churches of the Methodist Conference. President Mohn was authorized to send telegrams to special prospective donors.⁵⁹

It was the consensus among the trustees that the Franklin County people were willing to pay and intended to pay pledges, but because of the financial conditions they were not able to pay. The Board voted to lend the insurance money, collected from the loss of the buildings by fire, to finish the Franklin Building.⁶⁰ The amount of insurance collected was \$83,000.00. Of that amount \$34,000.00 was borrowed to complete the Franklin Building.⁶¹

⁵⁸News item in The Franklin Times, December 14, 1928.

⁵⁹Minutes of the Executive Committee, December 6, 1928.

⁶⁰Minutes of the Board of Trustees, December 14, 1928.

⁶¹President Mohn's Annual Report to the Board of Trustees, 1928-29.

"The most unsatisfactory condition this year has been brought about by failure of the North Carolina Conference to meet our expectations in regard to the raising of \$350,000.00, the objective as determined by the Conference at its session in Raleigh in 1927," Mr. Mohn stated in his annual report for 1928-29. Again the college could not be accredited by the Southern Association, this time because the stable income from the Church appropriation did not reach \$10,000.00. The only income for 1928-29 was \$4,791.58 from the Duke Endowment, and \$4,020.00 from the church, making a total of \$8,811.58 for the year's income. The college was accredited by the State Department of Public Instruction, which granted teachers' certificates without examination to all Louisburg College students who had completed the college education course.⁶²

At commencement on May 23, 1928, Mr. Mohn announced that Mr. Richard Wright had just made two additional gifts to the college—one of \$150,000.00 for a new building to be known as the R. H. Wright Auditorium to complement the Pattie Julia Wright Building, and the other of \$100,000.00 for the college endowment fund, conditional on the subscription of \$500,000.00 by friends of the college. Mr. Wright, with this gift, had given a total of \$430,000.00 to the college.⁶³

Since the \$500,000.00 had not been subscribed by friends of the college when Mr. Wright died on March 4, 1929, the money he had offered for an auditorium and endowment was not received. However, Mr. Wright

⁶²Ibid.

⁶³"Gifts on the Hearthstone of Christian Womanhood in North Carolina," a leaflet in the Louisburg College Library.

had given the college a lot valued at \$150,000.00 on Chapel Hill and Roney streets in Durham. It was the plan of the trustees to erect a mercantile building on the lot and use the proceeds to build a Wright Memorial Auditorium.⁶⁴ A committee negotiated with R. G. Quinn Furniture Company in Durham, and the company entered into a written agreement to lease the building for five years at \$10,800.00 a year.⁶⁵

Much can be said of Mr. Mohn's accomplishments in building up the physical plant at Louisburg College and of his accomplishments in developing the inner life of the college.

With better equipment and more space, each department had a better opportunity to grow. The home economics department offered two courses, Teacher's Course and Home Maker's Course. A student taking the Teacher's Course was required to take English, history, science, a foreign language, textiles, clothing, costume design, foods and cookery, dressmaking and millinery, and home management. A student taking the Home Maker's Course was required to take the same program in addition to nutrition and food preparation, food preservation and canning, and home nursing and child care. No foreign language was required in the Home Maker's Course.⁶⁶

The Department of Fine Arts grew until there were twenty pages in the catalogue giving course descriptions. The School of Music designed

⁶⁴Minutes of the Executive Committee, June 29, 1929.

⁶⁵Manuscript letter from R. H. Wright, Jr., to Rev. J. H. Shore, filed with the Minutes of the Board of Trustees, July 30, 1929.

⁶⁶Catalogue, 1927-28, pp. 44-47.

its courses for the preparatory, academy, and college ages. The school taught lessons in piano, voice, pipe organ, violin, viola, violincello, and contrabass. Instruction in wood-winds, brasses, and percussions was offered orchestrally. History of music, harmony, and theory were courses required for the students graduating in piano, voice, or violin. Monthly student recitals were held.⁶⁷

Expression courses gave particular attention to tracing faults of speech to their causes and the elimination of faults by proper training. Lessons were given on preparatory, sub-collegiate, and collegiate levels. For a college diploma in expression, the following requirements had to be met:

1. The completion of the full four years' course as outlined and the giving of a satisfactory public recital.
2. The completion of the academic work outlined for college entrance.
3. The completion of twenty-four semester hours of college work, as follows: English, twelve hours; Modern Languages, six hours; Electives, six hours.⁶⁸

A regular course in the School of Art covered four years, but a student was not held back until the end of the year if her work warranted promotion before that time. The Teacher's Course in Industrial Art included problems in illustration, interior decoration, household arts and crafts, designing, advertising, modeling and casting, history, and

⁶⁷Ibid., pp. 48-62.

⁶⁸Ibid., pp. 63-65.

research. A diploma was given for the completion of four years' work, and a certificate was given for the completion of three years' work.⁶⁹

In the School of Business, the Secretarial Course included Gregg shorthand, touch typewriting, business English, business penmanship, rapid calculation, office training, and business letter writing; the Bookkeeping Course included bookkeeping, English, penmanship, spelling, arithmetic, rapid calculation, commercial law, and business letter writing.⁷⁰

A quality point system was introduced by Mr. Mohn's administration. Grades were based on letters A, B, C, D, E, F, with "E" being a conditional failure that could be removed by repeating and passing the failed course. To each of the grades, values in points were assigned—three points for each semester hour of A; two points for each hour of B; one point for each hour of C; no points for each hour of D, E, and F. The grade A meant 96 to 100; B, 90-95; C, 80-89; D, 70-79; E, 60-69; F, 60-. For college graduation, a student was required to have sixty semester hours and sixty points in addition to the required work in physical education. For high school graduation, the student was required to have fifteen units and fifteen points in addition to the required work in physical education.⁷¹

The same student organizations as in previous years existed during Mr. Mohn's administration, with the addition of the Dramatics Club,

⁶⁹Ibid., pp. 65-67.

⁷⁰Ibid., pp. 68-72.

⁷¹Ibid., p. 25.

which was open to all students. The club was responsible for several plays during the year. The student publication was The Oak, the college annual, which is still published. The library was increased from one thousand to three thousand volumes while Mr. Mohn was president.⁷²

Expenses also increased, bringing the basic expenses for each student to \$356.00 each year. Payments were to be made at the beginning of each term.⁷³

Very few rules of behavior were printed in the catalogue between 1923 and 1929. The following gives the attitude of the administration towards rules and regulations:

School life should be made pleasant and happy...The Teachers are the companions and advisers of the pupils; they seek to guide them to the highest ideals of Christian womanhood...The regulations of the School require that each student shall be lady-like and honorable in her conduct as long as she remains within its walls. Due respect at all times and under all circumstances must be paid to officers and teachers.

All college authorities have learned by experience that it is both necessary and prudent to have some well-defined rules for the protection and benefit of the students, and parents are requested not to give permission which conflicts with these regulations. Pupils come to college for work and improvement, and nothing should be permitted to interfere with their duties.

Their interest is the ruling consideration, and the minutest detail of every regulation is planned with reference to them...⁷⁴

Commencements were climactic events during the years when Mr. Mohn was president. One particular commencement, that of May, 1929,

⁷²Ibid., pp. 14-18.

⁷³Ibid., pp. 75-76.

⁷⁴Ibid., pp. 73-74.

"set a precedent in the history of college graduations in the United States...when a combination of aeroplanes, radio broadcast, moving pictures and Billy Sunday played a conspicuous part."⁷⁵ The college bell was lifted from the belfry and carried by the president of the graduating class and the officers of the student council who headed the procession of seniors in caps and gowns. As the procession moved across the campus to the high school auditorium, two airplanes circled overhead to drop roses, gifts from the alumnae and 753 churches of the North Carolina Conference. When the students had gathered in the auditorium, Mr. Mohn stepped up to the bell placed in front of the microphone and broadcast to the alumnae 149 taps from the bell that had called students to classes for 149 years. The broadcast was made from station WPTF through a specially leased telephone wire from Louisburg to Raleigh. Reverend A. W. Sunday, D.D., addressing an audience that overflowed onto the campus where amplifiers were placed, advised the graduating class to have a set purpose in life. In addition to the regular diplomas, the president presented forty-two Blue Seal diplomas to graduates who had completed the courses in Religious Education outlined by the Board of Education of the Methodist Church, and five state teachers' certificates.⁷⁶

Mr. Mohn resigned as president in the summer of 1929 to work with Martz and Lundy, Inc.⁷⁷

⁷⁵News item in The News and Observer, May 13, 1929.

⁷⁶Ibid.

⁷⁷Minutes of the Board of Trustees, August 2, 1929.

III. THE CRISIS

Following the years of physical expansion the college was heavily indebted. Since the burden came during the time of depression, the school again faced the possibility of having to close. The loyalty of friends, however, brought the college through another crisis to another period of growth.

Upon Mr. Mohn's resignation in the summer of 1929, the Reverend C. C. Alexander of Birmingham, Alabama, was elected president of Louisburg College. Mr. Alexander was educated at Duke University, Princeton University, and Princeton Theological Seminary.⁷⁸

It was the opinion of the Conference Board of Education at the time when Mr. Alexander assumed his duties as president that the college was "facing one of the greatest crises in its history," and the board recommended "sympathetic and full co-operation with the present administration in its efforts to maintain this splendid college, which is devoted to the task of education as a Junior College."⁷⁹

Mr. Alexander faced an indebtedness of \$158,138.52; the total value of the property was \$464,890.47.⁸⁰ The appropriation made by the Conference for 1929-30 was \$5,000.00; for the year ending in the fall of 1929, the Conference had paid \$3,599.63 of the \$5,000.00 appropriated.⁸¹

⁷⁸Catalogue, 1929-30, p. 4.

⁷⁹Journal, 1929, p. 51.

⁸⁰Roland W. Rainwater, Jr., op. cit., p. 30.

⁸¹Journal, 1929, p. 52.

To assist the college trustees in working out a financial plan for meeting the problems of the college, the Conference appointed in 1929 a commission of five men; J. F. Bruton, of Wilson; R. L. Flowers, of Durham; Willis Smith, of Raleigh; W. A. Stanbury, of Durham; and C. E. Proctor, of Oxford.⁸²

In its November, 1929, meeting, the Board of Trustees authorized a committee to use money given to the college by Mr. B. N. Duke and deposited in various banks to apply to the payment of notes held by those banks against the college, and to apply the surplus to the payment of most urgent bills against the college.⁸³ The trustees also authorized the chairman of the trustees to write to R. E. Quinn and Company of Durham notifying the company of the "failure of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to pass the necessary resolution for securing a loan and developing the Chapel Hill and Roney Street lots in Durham...." The trustees authorized a member of its board to get the consent of the Wright estate to sell the lots. The income from the proceeds was to be allowed to accumulate and augment its principal until there were sufficient funds to build the Wright Memorial Auditorium.⁸⁴

When the college was offered \$65,000.00 for the lots in Durham, various trustees felt that it was unwise to accept the offer.⁸⁵ In

⁸²Ibid., p. 51.

⁸³Minutes of the Board of Trustees, November 11, 1929.

⁸⁴Ibid.

⁸⁵Minutes of the Board of Trustees, February 14, 1930.

October, 1930, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees ordered that the trustees reconvey to the estate of R. H. Wright the Durham lots, but the records show that the property remained as a part of Louisburg College property.⁸⁶

In September, 1930, the college trustees submitted the following questions to the commission appointed by the Methodist Conference in 1929 to work with the trustees in solving the financial problems of the college:

1. In the opinion of the Commission, is there any possibility of the Conference's arranging sufficient financial assistance to enable Louisburg College to continue as a Conference institution?
2. If not, would the Commission recommend an attempt to interest the Duke Endowment Trustees to take over and continue the operation upon such terms and conditions as may be worked out?
3. What other advice does the Commission offer?⁸⁷

The Commission submitted through its secretary, Dr. R. L. Flowers, the following answers to the trustees:

1. The Commission believes that the Church needs a junior college, such as Louisburg College, and we believe that it would be a great disappointment to the Church for Louisburg College to be discontinued. We believe the Trustees should exhaust every possible means to raise funds for its continuance. However, the Commission does not feel authorized or willing to advise that the Conference would be justified in assuming as an obligation the financing of Louisburg College, or any other educational institution.
2. ...according to terms of Indenture of J. B. Duke, Trustees of the Duke Endowment could not take under its direction any educational institution not mentioned in the indenture.

⁸⁶Minutes of the Executive Committee, October 14, 1930.

⁸⁷Minutes of the Board of Trustees, September 3, 1930.

3. The Commission does not feel empowered to advise but pledges its personal cooperation.⁸⁸

The trustees moved that President Alexander open college on schedule on September 10, 1930, and endeavor to continue operation. He was authorized to borrow \$2,000.00 with the annual appropriation from the Conference as security. He was instructed to pay only the obligations that were absolutely necessary.⁸⁹

In his annual report for 1929-30, President Alexander reported to have found "disturbing conditions." During his first year, the Conference Board of Education promised the college \$1,000.00 or \$1,500.00 if the money were available. The trustees had withdrawn \$40,000.00 from the endowment and had paid off notes to the amount of \$32,000.00. At the advice of Mr. Willis Smith, the college accepted a \$50,000.00 loan from Simmons & Harris, Inc., in Rocky Mount and gave as security five hundred shares of Tomlinson Chair Manufacturers and the Wright property in Durham. He reported a good year academically, but the prospects for enrollment for the next year were not encouraging. He estimated the 1930-31 income from students and other sources as \$41,500.00 and the operating expenses as \$68,800.00.

I veritably believe Louisburg College has the possibility of a great mission to young women of North Carolina Conference, especially to those of limited means. I confess, however, that I do not see the solution to the present crisis unless there should be forthcoming some financial aid.⁹⁰

⁸⁸Ibid.

⁸⁹Ibid.

⁹⁰President Alexander's annual report to the Board of Trustees, 1929-30, filed with the Minutes of the Board of Trustees for 1929-30.

Mr. Alexander doubted that the Conference would operate the college after 1930, for at the fall meeting of the trustees in 1930 he made a statement regarding his personal situation and asked permission to announce to the Bishop and his Cabinet his availability for a pastoral appointment conditional upon the action taken by the Conference in regard to Louisburg College. After a brief discussion of the possibility of the continuation of the college, Mr. Alexander withdrew his request.⁹¹

At the same meeting the Reverend A. D. Wilcox, pastor of Louisburg Methodist Church, made a forceful talk in conveying the desire of the Franklin County people to cooperate in an effort to save Louisburg College.⁹²

The North Carolina Annual Conference session at Henderson in November, 1930, was a memorable one to those interested in Louisburg College. The Board of Christian Education, in Report No. 4, declined to ask the Conference to assume, at the request of the College Board of Trustees, the indebtedness of the college. The Board offered as its best suggestion that the trustees of the college "direct and handle the affairs of Louisburg College to the best interests of all concerned."⁹³ A substitute report for Report No. 4, was presented, signed by F. S. Love and A. D. Wilcox, which authorized the Board of Education of the Conference to borrow a maximum of \$12,000.00 to be used in the current

⁹¹Minutes of the Board of Trustees, November 21, 1930.

⁹²Ibid.

⁹³Journal, 1930, p. 50.

operating expenses of Louisburg College. The report also authorized an emergency appropriation "sufficient to pay the interest and retire twenty-five per cent of the principal of said loan or loans each year to be included in the budget of this conference, beginning with this conference and continuing through this quadrennium, and until said loan or loans are fully liquidated." The substitute report urged the pastors and people to cooperate and help in every way the "agents, trustees, and management of Louisburg College to provide for the continued operation of said college on and after January 20, 1931."⁹⁴

The substitute Report No. 4 was adopted, and the adoption gave hope and encouragement to the citizens of Louisburg who attended the Conference to pledge their support and cooperation.⁹⁵

In February, 1931, the trustees discussed the matter of transferring the Louisburg College property to Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, North Carolina.⁹⁶ In March, 1931, while the Atlantic Christian College Board of Trustees was in session on the Louisburg College campus, Mr. Alexander offered his resignation to the Louisburg College Board of Trustees, also in session in another building on the campus, stating that it did not seem to him that the college could be kept open even though "every effort humanly possible had been put forth."⁹⁷ After Mr.

⁹⁴Ibid., p. 51.

⁹⁵Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Davis, Louisburg, North Carolina.

⁹⁶Minutes of the Board of Trustees, February 17, 1931.

⁹⁷Ibid.

Alexander's statement, a Louisburg citizens committee was heard as it presented a petition urging continuation of the college under the auspices of the Methodist Conference. A member of the Board of Trustees suggested a plan whereby the town of Louisburg might lend its credit and that the Reverend A. D. Wilcox, pastor of the Louisburg Methodist Church, be offered a free hand in the management of details. Mr. Wilcox assured the trustees that financial relief could be had from the town.⁹⁸

President H. S. Hilley of Atlantic Christian College, Mr. N. J. Rouse of Kinston, and Mr. Braxton of Kinston, the visiting committee from Atlantic Christian College, went before the Louisburg College Board of Trustees, after Mr. Wilcox's speech, with the proposition that the Louisburg property be transferred to Atlantic Christian in consideration of Atlantic Christian's assuming all the indebtedness of Louisburg College.⁹⁹

The Louisburg Board of Trustees then accepted Mr. Alexander's resignation and decided that the proposition offered by the citizens of Louisburg be considered rather than that of Atlantic Christian College. The citizens were given until April 30 to offer a concrete proposition for the continuance of the college. The Reverend A. D. Wilcox was appointed financial agent of the college.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁸Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Louisburg College, March 31, 1931.

⁹⁹Ibid.

¹⁰⁰Ibid.

On the date set, April 30, 1931, the town offered its definite support to the college. The trustees accepted the proposition and elected Rev. Wilcox president of Louisburg College with authority to reorganize the faculty and to take steps to open the college in September.¹⁰¹

A tribute to Mr. Wilcox by a later president of Louisburg College, Dr. Walter Patten, was as follows:

It is a rare soul that will not accept defeat when odds are seemingly insurmountable...He accepted with a will hard tasks that others shunned, and spent his all for their attainment...He had the courage of a reformer, the vision of a builder, and the power of a commanding personality.¹⁰²

The Wilcox administration at Louisburg College is known for the faith and enthusiasm that kept a school alive during one of the most difficult periods of its history.

Armour David Wilcox was born in Ohio in 1868 and received his education at Emporia (Kansas) Teachers College and at Ottawa University. For a while after graduation he was superintendent of schools at Onaga and at Ottawa, Kansas. He was making a lecture in eastern North Carolina for the Anti-Saloon League of America when he decided to enter the ministry. He joined the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church in 1906 on trial and was ordained Elder in 1910. He served some of the largest pastorates in the North Carolina and the Western North Carolina Conference. It was while he served the Louisburg Church the second time, 1930 to 1931, he made the appeal to the Conference that

¹⁰¹Minutes of the Board of Trustees, April 30, 1931.

¹⁰²Journal, 1937, pp. 84-85.

caused Louisburg College to remain open. "From that hour he became its champion, and was so recognized by the people of Louisburg and the officials of the college that he was persuaded to accept the presidency of the financially distressed college."¹⁰³

The Wilcox administration set five objectives: (1) the restoration of confidence in the college; (2) an increase in the enrollment of the student body; (3) the operation of the college without deficit; (4) the establishment of a strong faculty; and (5) the liquidation of the indebtedness.¹⁰⁴ Except for the fifth one the aims were largely achieved by the time of Mr. Wilcox's death in 1937.¹⁰⁵

Mr. Wilcox's faith in the school was expressed in a part of his first annual report to the trustees after he became president: "There are no major difficulties except those occasioned by the defaulted bonds and interest for the past year. The school is running smoothly. Students and teachers are working together in fine spirit. There is no thought, not even the shadow of a fear, concerning the closing or the loss of the school."¹⁰⁶

In the spring of 1931, the president presented the matter of making the college co-educational, and the trustees approved on condition of approval by the Bishop and his Cabinet.¹⁰⁷ The Bishop and the Cabinet

¹⁰³Ibid.

¹⁰⁴Report of President Wilcox to the Board of Trustees, May 10, 1932.

¹⁰⁵North Carolina Christian Advocate, LXXXII, March 11, 1937, p. 11.

¹⁰⁶Ibid.

¹⁰⁷Minutes of the Board of Trustees, May 25, 1931.

approved the change in June, 1931.¹⁰⁸ The new system resulted in a 62.7 per cent increase in enrollment at the beginning of the second week of the 1931-32 school session.¹⁰⁹ On November 17, 1931, the Board of Trustees adopted a resolution authorizing the necessary changes in the charter so that it provided for the education of "young ladies and young gentlemen."¹¹⁰

In the spring of 1931, Director Gilmore Ward Bryant of the Southern Conservatory of Music in Durham presented to the Louisburg Board of Trustees the proposition of a working arrangement whereby the Conservatory would take over the operation of the music department of the college. The plan was approved, and the two schools entered into a written agreement for the 1931-32 school session.¹¹¹

In the written contract, the two schools agreed to the following: (1) that neither school should surrender its separate existence nor be responsible for any debt or liability of the other; (2) that Louisburg College should have control of the discipline and management of the student bodies of both schools except where discipline by the Conservatory was necessary to the teaching of the music students; (3) that the Conservatory would furnish the faculty for the Music School and require the

¹⁰⁸Minutes of the Board of Trustees, June 30, 1931.

¹⁰⁹President Wilcox's report to the Board of Trustees, October 27, 1931.

¹¹⁰Minutes of the Board of Trustees, November 17, 1931.

¹¹¹Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, June 4, 1931.

faculty to give loyal support to Louisburg College; (4) that all fees and charges received by the School of Music in excess of an amount two-thirds of which would be sufficient to pay each member of the music faculty the sum of \$1,000.00 in addition to board, room, etc., should be divided equally between the two schools; (5) that Louisburg College would furnish sufficient and suitable housing facilities for the Music School; (6) that the college would provide the use of all musical instruments already owned by the college, and that the Conservatory would furnish all other instruments; (7) that the college would furnish the staff and faculty of the Conservatory without charge, board, and room, and other incidentals furnished members of the college faculty; (8) that all diplomas, certificates, and degrees should be awarded by the Conservatory according to its rules and regulations; (9) that Louisburg College would not conduct a school of music during the existence of the contract.¹¹²

For economic reasons catalogues of the two schools were combined under one cover for the 1931-32 session. Both school names were printed on the front cover, and each school had a separate section in the catalogue.¹¹³

The Conservatory occupied the entire first floor of Wright Dormitory with an office, teaching studios, practice rooms, and twenty pianos.¹¹⁴ A full four-year music course was offered. The course met

¹¹²"Louisburg College and the Southern Conservatory of Music," a contract, in the president's office, Louisburg College.

¹¹³Catalogue, 1931-32, p. 93.

¹¹⁴Ibid., p. 96.

the requirements of the State Board of Education, which recognized the Conservatory as a Class A institution.¹¹⁵

In January, 1932, the withdrawal of the Conservatory was discussed at an executive meeting of the trustees. Dr. Bryant had served notice of intent to withdraw from the agreement between the Conservatory and Louisburg College. Mr. Wilcox was directed to adjust all matters with the Conservatory in accordance with the original agreement, and the Southern Conservatory of Music withdrew after one year at Louisburg College.¹¹⁶

In a report of the trustees to the Conference Board of Education in 1933, statistics showed a gain in enrollment of fifteen per cent over 1931-32.¹¹⁷ A letter accompanying the auditor's report showed that "if the support from the Conference which was given in prior years had been continued during the past two years, the operating results would have shown a surplus rather than a deficit, and also the teachers would have been paid in full."¹¹⁸ Some of the faculty members had been teaching for several years without full salary.¹¹⁹

Through a self-help plan, inaugurated in 1935, students who would otherwise be denied an education were enabled to attend Louisburg College.

¹¹⁵Ibid., p. 99.

¹¹⁶Minutes of the Executive Committee, January 25, 1932.

¹¹⁷Report of the trustees to the Conference Board of Education, November 22, 1933, filed with the Minutes of the Board of Trustees.

¹¹⁸Ibid.

¹¹⁹Louisburg College Report on Audit, 1931-33, p. 34.

The plan cut a Louisburg College student's annual expenses to a minimum of \$210.00. Each student accepted for aid was appointed to some work for which he was suited, and each job of work was supervised by a faculty member or a student. The supervisor certified to the bookkeeper how much work each student did under his direction each day. The work was arranged so as not to interfere with classwork and study hours.¹²⁰

Each student was required to do one hour of work for each of the 235 days of the school year; however, the school year was divided into three parts of seventy-eight days each. The student could work three hours each day for the seventy eight days if he chose to have duty work only one third of the year.¹²¹

Under the self-help plan, the college gave the student a reduction of \$90.00 from the regular \$300.00, the \$90.00 being the student's total earnings at thirty-eight and one third cents an hour.¹²²

The curriculum offered during Mr. Wilcox's administration remained approximately the same as it had been previously, except for the courses added specifically for men students.

A student could pursue the following courses in 1935-36: Liberal Arts, Science, Home Economics, Pre-Teaching, Agriculture, Spoken English, and Music.¹²³ A student taking the Science Course could receive his

¹²⁰Catalogue, 1935-36, pp. 22-26.

¹²¹Ibid.

¹²²Ibid.

¹²³Ibid., pp. 47-49.

B. S. degree in any branch of engineering from North Carolina State College by taking two years and one summer term of twelve weeks after graduation from Louisburg College.¹²⁴ Students taking the Agriculture Course could receive a degree in Bachelor of Agriculture or Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in two years after graduation from Louisburg College.¹²⁵ Engineering courses were dropped at Louisburg in 1935 because too few students were taking the course, but they were resumed in 1939.¹²⁶

The Associate in Arts diploma was given for a completion of sixty-four semester hours in one of the above courses with an average grade of not less than "C" and sixty-four quality points.¹²⁷

The "E" had been dropped from the system of grading in 1935. The letter "D" indicated "below average" with no quality points; "F" was "failure." One quality point was subtracted from the total points for every "F" reported.¹²⁸

It was found necessary to change rules of conduct after the college became co-educational. Three of the added rules were as follows:

1. Students of opposite sex must so deport themselves in such a way that there can be no suspicion or criticism of their modesty or morality.

2. Liquor drinking and drunkenness are so destructive to good work in college that they are absolutely prohibited. Courtesy and

¹²⁴Ibid., p. 47.

¹²⁵Ibid., p. 48.

¹²⁶Report of the President to the Trustees, May 15, 1935.

¹²⁷Ibid., p. 47.

¹²⁸Ibid., p. 39.

kindness are expected of all students in their relations with each other and with the faculty and officers of the college.

3. Stealing the property of the college or of any individual students or teachers is considered ground for expulsion.¹²⁹

An athletic association was organized and supported enthusiastically after the college accepted men students. A program of sports including interclass and interscholastic contests was carried on under the direction of the association, with the help of the directors of physical education. The college provided both interscholastic and intramural teams in football, basketball, soccer, volley ball, baseball, and tennis.¹³⁰

The enrollment of students increased by about two hundred per cent during Mr. Wilcox's six years as president of Louisburg College. In 1930-31 the total registration was one hundred. In 1936, the enrollment reached three hundred.¹³¹

Teachers' salaries were being paid in full by 1935. Also, by 1935, \$1,068.50 had been paid to teachers formerly employed but who had not been paid in full.¹³²

At a meeting in 1936, it was the sense of the Capital Debt Committee that the entire college indebtedness should be taken into

¹²⁹Ibid., pp. 43-44.

¹³⁰Catalogue, 1936, p. 74.

¹³¹"Louisburg College," a leaflet published by the college, November 10, 1936.

¹³²Minutes of the Board of Trustees, November 5, 1935.

consideration. The committee felt that the total indebtedness of \$65,000.00 should be paid off.¹³³

At the Annual Conference one month later, the Board of Education recommended to the Conference that Louisburg College be permitted to put on a campaign during 1937 to raise \$65,000.00 to pay the total indebtedness of the college, provided the plan be approved by the Bishop and his Cabinet.¹³⁴ Bishop Paul B. Kern urged the raising of sufficient funds for the retirement of all indebtedness and the redemption of the Durham property given by Mr. R. H. Wright.¹³⁵

On March 8, 1937, Mr. Wilcox died after a short illness. "His body was growing weary of the unrelenting demands made upon it by a strong will and an alert mind," wrote Dr. Patten, later president of Louisburg College.¹³⁶

Mr. V. R. Kilby of the college faculty was appointed acting chairman of the faculty until a new president could be elected.¹³⁷

The Nominating Committee of the Board of Trustees presented the name of Reverend D. E. Earnhardt for the presidency of Louisburg College at the meeting of the trustees on March 19, 1937. Mr. Earnhardt was unanimously elected to take over his duties on April 1, 1937.¹³⁸

¹³³Ibid.

¹³⁴Journal, 1936, p. 45.

¹³⁵Minutes of the Board of Trustees, March 19, 1937.

¹³⁶Journal, 1937, p. 85.

¹³⁷Minutes, op. cit., March 10, 1937.

¹³⁸Minutes, op. cit., March 19, 1937.

Mr. Earnhardt, the son of a Methodist minister, joined the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church in 1916, and was Presiding Elder of the Fayetteville District when he was elected to the presidency of Louisburg College. He attended Rutherford College, Trinity College, and Duke University.¹³⁹

The first plans made by the Earnhardt administration included the promotion of a campaign to raise \$100,000.00, working through Presiding Elders and pastors of the churches in the North Carolina Conference.¹⁴⁰ By October, 1937, only \$30,000.00 had been raised by subscription and donations. The trustees felt that "the failure of the campaign to produce the desired results was the indifference on the part of numerous members [members of the Conference asked to take the lead] to properly present the cause of the college."¹⁴¹ The college faculty members gave a total of \$1,000.00, and the town of Louisburg underwrote \$10,000.00 of the total amount raised in the campaign.¹⁴² It was the sentiment of the Board of Trustees that "vigorous representation should be made to the Conference for some immediate and decisive action relative to college indebtedness."¹⁴³

At the Annual Conference in November, 1937, the Louisburg College Trustees were authorized and empowered to negotiate new loans from any

¹³⁹Catalogue, 1938, p. 8.

¹⁴⁰Minutes of the Board of Trustees, June 10, 1937.

¹⁴¹Minutes, op. cit., October 15, 1937.

¹⁴²Ibid.

¹⁴³Ibid.

source available, proceeds of which were to be used in the liquidation of the college indebtedness; to execute all notes, bonds, and evidence of indebtedness that might be necessary, to sell or mortgage the Durham property; and to mortgage the Louisburg property.¹⁴⁴

The Conference Board of Education presented at the same session a report recommending (1) that the Conference assume moral responsibility for the liquidation of the debt of the college in the amount of \$65,000.00, upon the understanding that the creditors would extend the time for payment under the original plan until December 31, 1938; (2) that the Conference approve continuation of the present campaign; (3) that the Conference approve selection of a member of the Conference to devote full time to the movement and assist in the field of public relations; (4) that the Conference add \$3,000.00 to its budget for the salary of the selected person; (5) that the Conference authorize the college trustees to mortgage or sell the Durham property, and mortgage the Louisburg property, the proceeds to be applied to payments of the debts, and that the regular appropriation for the college be applied as far as is necessary to the payment of interest on any new loan.¹⁴⁵ The report was adopted.¹⁴⁶

Dr. Walter Patten, minister in the Conference, was appointed by the Conference in the fall of 1937 as Public Relations Secretary for the college to aid in the raising of funds for the college.¹⁴⁷

¹⁴⁴Journal, 1937, p. 78.

¹⁴⁵Ibid., pp. 53-54.

¹⁴⁶Ibid., p. 31.

¹⁴⁷Journal, 1937, p. 44.

Bishop Paul B. Kern gave his approval and opinion in a letter to Dr. Earnhardt:

We feel that Louisburg College has demonstrated its right and its ability to continue to live and to serve. The Conference regards it as an indispensable link in its educational work and has every intention of standing solidly behind it until its financial difficulties are completely resolved.¹⁴⁸

The Bishop reminded Dr. Earnhardt that the Conference had taken two steps: (1) it had set aside a sum to take care of the interest on indebtedness, and (2) had appointed Dr. Patten to devote full time to the financial stabilization of the college. "The outlook for Louisburg College is brighter and more secure than at any time within the past two decades," Bishop Kern wrote.¹⁴⁹

In April, 1938, the property in Durham, given to the college by Mr. R. H. Wright, was sold for \$50,000.00 cash to adjust the S. S. Toler and Son debt of \$64,091.56. The Toler Company accepted as settlement the \$50,000.00 plus \$5,000.00. The company canceled the lien on the college property and surrendered the Tomlinson Chair Company stock.¹⁵⁰

During the summer months of 1938, Wright Building and Franklin Building were renovated and work was begun on a new auditorium at the rear of the social hall on the second floor of the Main Building.¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁸Letter from Bishop Paul B. Kern to President Earnhardt not dated, filed with the Minutes of the Board of Trustees for 1938.

¹⁴⁹Ibid.

¹⁵⁰Minutes of the Board of Trustees, April 14, 1938.

¹⁵¹Roland W. Rainwater, Jr., op. cit., p. 35.

In order to cut food expenses and to furnish training for the agricultural students, the Earnhardt administration bought a farm for the college in 1938 at a cost of \$4,500.00. To pay for the property the college sold a Johnston County farm which had been donated to the college under the will of Miss Amy J. Stevens.¹⁵² With \$1,000.00 donated by Mr. T. B. Upchurch in 1937, the college purchased cattle and farm equipment.¹⁵³ Known as the Macon Place, the property consisted of one hundred and eighty acres, and was located about three miles north of Louisburg on the Henderson road.¹⁵⁴ Because farm expenses became a burden, the farm was sold in 1951 for \$19,200.00. The money received from the sale was used to pay the farm operating fund deficit accumulated over the years of ownership and to set up endowment funds—\$12,071.15 to operations; \$4,000.00, the original investment plus the accrued interest \$1,703.08 as the Sally K. and Amy J. Stevens Memorial Service Scholarship; and \$1,000.00, the original investment, plus the accrued interest \$425.77 as the T. B. Upchurch, Sr., and Mollie Johnson Upchurch Memorial.¹⁵⁵

The college enrollment reached its highest mark during Mr. Earnhardt's presidency. The report of the treasurer and registrar for 1938-39 showed an enrollment of 430 students. Officers and teachers for

¹⁵²Report on Audit, June 30, 1938, p. 4.

¹⁵³Report, ibid., p. 18.

¹⁵⁴Catalogue, 1938-39, p. 18.

¹⁵⁵Report on Examination, May 31, 1951, p. 4.

that year numbered twenty-two. The value of the property was \$348,325.00; the endowment was \$58,875.00; the indebtedness was \$54,000.00; and the total capital assets were \$417,620.00.¹⁵⁶

On April 14, 1939, Mr. Earnhardt resigned from the presidency to return to the ministry. The trustees accepted the resignation with regret and unanimously elected Dr. Walter Patten as president. Mr. Earnhardt accepted the work as Public Relations Agent until the Conference met in November.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁶Report of the Treasurer and Registrar to the Annual Conference, November 8, 1939.

¹⁵⁷Minutes of the Board of Trustees, April 14, 1939.

CHAPTER VI

THE NEW LOUISBURG COLLEGE (1939-1958)

In his first report to the trustees after he became president of the college in 1931, Mr. Wilcox stated: "Feeling seems to be widespread and deep seated that we are in the beginning of an era which may well be called the New Louisburg College."¹

In 1939, with the largest enrollment in its history, with the indebtedness reduced to less than half and no longer a great problem, and with facilities to make it capable of offering a greater service than ever, Louisburg College at last appeared to have entered the new era envisioned by former President Wilcox.

I. THE PATTEN ADMINISTRATION, 1939-1947

Dr. Walter Patten, who became President of the college in 1939, is remembered as the president who gave Louisburg College a freedom that it had not known before, who joined with the students to beautify the buildings and campus, and who helped meet the needs of returning veterans.

Born in Bridgeville, Delaware, in 1880, Dr. Patten spent his college student years at Wesleyan University. His alma mater conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity in 1928, and he earned his Master of Arts degree later at the University of North Carolina. He joined the North Carolina Conference in 1913. During his second time

¹Minutes of the Board of Trustees, October 17, 1931.

as pastor at Chapel Hill, the University Church was built. Including funds raised to build that church and the money raised to cancel the debt at Louisburg College, Dr. Patten directed the securing of nearly half a million dollars for the benefit of college students. He also helped establish the Pitt County Hospital while he was pastor in Greenville, North Carolina.²

When he became president of Louisburg College, Dr. Patten planned five objectives for his administration:

- (1) The development of a permanent faculty of high caliber;
- (2) The building of qualities of scholarship and Christian character in student life;
- (3) The improvement and expansion of the physical plant;
- (4) The gradual retirement of the college's indebtedness and the accumulation of an endowment;
- (5) The development of an effective publicity department.³

The first of these objectives the Patten administration hoped to accomplish by increasing the teachers' salaries as rapidly as possible until a respectable standard was reached. To help promote the second objective, the college gave a number of awards to students achieving high standards in scholarship. Financial assistance was assured capable students who were without financial support otherwise. In August, 1939, the trustees approved a resolution to offer a fifty-dollar scholarship to each of the top seven Franklin County high school students attending

²Journal, 1947, pp. 170-171.

³Roland W. Rainwater, Jr., op. cit., p. 36.

Louisburg College as a boarding student, and a similar twenty-five dollar scholarship for day students.⁴

In his 1940 annual report to the trustees, the president stated that there was a higher grade of academic work being done, but the administration realized the need of counsellors. He emphasized the plan of having faculty members as counsellors in vocational, personal, and scholastic problems. Dr. Patten took part in the counseling. It was customary for Dr. Patten to have groups of students in his home on Sunday evenings, and he was often seen on the campus working with the students who were helping beautify the campus.⁵

Even though the enrollment had dropped in 1940, the administration considered the decrease in favor of finer student morale and a higher scholastic grade of work because it avoided overcrowding.

Social fraternities were not permitted on the campus, but scholastic honorary fraternities were established to recognize and encourage a high quality of work. The Phi Theta Kappa, for students in the Liberal Arts Department, and the Alpha Pi Epsilon, for secretarial students, were honorary scholarship fraternities with chapters organized at Louisburg College in 1938 and well established by 1940. Beta Phi Gamma, recognizing individual ability in journalism, was organized at Louisburg College in 1940.⁶

⁴President Patten's annual report to the Board of Trustees, August 2, 1939.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Catalogue, 1940-41, p. 50.

In 1942 President Patten reported that there had been a special emphasis on the physical improvement of the college. The improvement of the fourth floor in Main Building and the installing of new furniture on that floor, the building of two new tennis courts, the erection of a flag pole on the front campus, lining the front walk with red brick, bordering the walk with mimosa and lilies, the planting of many shrubs and bulbs over the campus, and the employing of a housekeeper and a campus worker went far toward making the third objective of the Patten administration become a reality.⁷

By 1942 the college had emerged from the burden of debt "to a state of creative living."⁸ However, the school was in need of a larger endowment that would provide an annual income of \$10,000.00 in excess of the income from the student fees. To have the endowment which would enable the college to conserve and strengthen the educational, financial, and spiritual values, the administration planned the "Living Endowment," whereby individuals and organizations were invited to make a gift of four per cent interest on such principal as the financial conditions of the individual or organization would permit.⁹

By the time of the Annual Conference session in November, 1943, only \$20,000.00 of the \$200,000.00 debt of 1937 remained. The Conference cooperated fully with the college trustees and authorized the

⁷President Patten's report to the Board of Trustees, May 13, 1942.

⁸Louisburg College Bulletin, Vol. III, No. 2, December, 1942.

⁹Ibid.

trustees to secure the balance from churches and individuals.¹⁰ Creditors were cooperative, and bondholders agreed to accept a fifty per cent payment in settlement of their bonds.¹¹

The Methodist College Advance was the effort of the North Carolina Methodist Conference and the Western North Carolina Methodist Conference to meet the financial needs of the Methodist Colleges of the state in December, 1945. An endowment fund of \$900,000.00 was asked for the Methodist colleges in North Carolina. Since five per cent interest on that amount would yield \$45,000.00 per year, the churches were asked to subscribe and pay annually the interest amount instead of paying the principal. Louisburg College was allotted an endowment of \$150,000.00 or \$7,500.00 interest annually.¹² "Never before have the two Conferences so set themselves to strengthen their colleges. In this terrible age the colleges need the Church, but it is equally true that the Church needs strong colleges."¹³ For the College Advance program, Louisburg College needs were outlined as follows:

Remodeling Plant	\$80,000	
New Equipment	10,000	
Gymnasium, Laundry, Social Hall, Music Practicing Rooms Building.	100,000	
Improvement of Grounds.	10,000	
Endowment	<u>150,000</u>	
Total		\$350,000 ¹⁴

¹⁰Louisburg College Bulletin, Vol. IV, No. 2, December, 1943.

¹¹Ibid.

¹²Bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 2, December, 1945.

¹³Bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 6, June, 1946.

¹⁴Ibid.

Churches responded to the request that they pay annually \$7,500.00 interest on the endowment principal. In 1947, scholarship funds amounted to \$13,464.00. The "Living Endowment" decreased over the years; however, other endowments have been added.¹⁵

Thirty veterans of World War II enrolled in the college in 1945 to study under the G. I. Bill of Rights. Twenty of the veterans took refresher courses, and ten did undergraduate work for credit. They were good students. The administration stated, "The majority of them might be characterized by a desire to learn and to make up for the years of separation from school. They have set a fine example of courage, integrity, and enthusiasm to the regular student group."¹⁶

Since larger groups were expected during the following years, special housing provisions were planned to accommodate them. In the fall of 1946 two units were provided by the federal government for the housing of ex-service men and their families: one unit of eight apartments was located at the west of the tennis courts; the other unit of twelve rooms, arranged in suites of two bedrooms and a study, was set up west of the Old Well.¹⁷

For some years the idea of conducting a summer school at Louisburg College had been discussed by the president and some members of the faculty. Until 1947 it had been decided that conditions were not favorable to the project. A summer school was opened on July 14, 1947,

¹⁵Interview with Mrs. Genevieve Perry, Louisburg College Treasurer.

¹⁶Bulletin, Vol. VI, No. 5, April, 1946.

¹⁷Bulletin, Vol. VII, No. 1, October, 1946.

offering liberal arts subjects and commercial subjects. The school was conducted on a plan by which each student could concentrate on one subject of study and do a full year's work in the subject.¹⁸ The faculty was drawn from the college faculty, and the regulations were the same as those of the regular sessions of school. The summer school session was not opened again since the 1947 session did not prove financially profitable.

President Walter Patten had many plans for the improvement of Louisburg College, but they were interrupted by his sudden death on March 8, 1947. Less than two hours after he had returned home from Raleigh, where he had taken part in a ceremony awarding a posthumous medal of heroism to an alumnus of the college, Dr. Patten died of a heart attack.

Of the partially executed plans, Dr. Patten's most recent was the one to bring the college into the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. Through Dr. Patten's efforts a building for science with a cafeteria combined had already been promised by the federal government. Other plans included the enlargement of library facilities, constructing a hard-surface circle drive on the front campus, and a graded athletic field. He had announced that \$100,000.00 of the Methodist College Advance fund would be used to provide a physical education building with gymnasium, laundry, music practice rooms, and social hall.¹⁹

¹⁸Bulletin, Vol. VII, No. 6, June, 1947.

¹⁹Bulletin, Vol. VII, No. 5, April, 1947.

An "esteemed and zealous president"²⁰ had seen the college grow free of debt and become ready to move forward.

II. THE HOLTON ADMINISTRATION, 1947-1955

The president chosen to lead the college forward was Mr. Samuel M. Holton, who received an enthusiastic welcome from the faculty and staff on July 24, 1947, when he was elected unanimously by the trustees.²¹

Mr. Holton received his A. B. and M. A. degrees and further graduate credits from Duke University, where he was a member of the honorary fraternities Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Delta Kappa, Tau Kappa Alpha, and Pi Kappa Delta. Prior to coming to Louisburg, he had spent eighteen years in administrative and teaching capacities at the Virginia State Teachers College at Farmville, Virginia.²²

In response to the welcome given him by the trustees, faculty, and staff, Mr. Holton outlined what he considered to be the functions of a junior college: "First, successfully to bridge the gap between high school and a larger college; and, second, as a correlated function, to serve as a character-building agency." He stated that he would adopt a policy of gradual development rather than one of sudden change, and pledged himself to a careful consideration of the college's past and to the intention of helping to widen its area of service.²³

²⁰Letter from Rev. W. A. Cade to Board of Trustees, filed with Minutes of Trustees, 1947.

²¹Minutes of the Board of Trustees, July 24, 1947.

²²Bulletin, Vol. VII, No. 6, July, 1947.

²³Ibid.

The new administration, always emphasizing Louisburg College as a junior college and as a church related college, offered work built around three major curricula: Liberal Arts, Pre-Engineering, and Commercial Science. Students could take two-year courses leading to degrees in agriculture, dentistry, medicine, nursing, religion, or social work.²⁴ The home economics curriculum was dropped in 1948, but the basic courses in home economics were still offered.²⁵

The annual expenses in 1948-49 amounted to \$575.00 for a boarding student and \$300.00 for the day student. Free scholarships were granted "upon evidence of need by the student's parent or guardian," but a labor scholarship of \$60.00 was required of each person receiving a free scholarship.²⁶

The government-donated building to be used for the cafeteria was set up west of Franklin Building in time for the 1948-49 school session. The old cafeteria space in Main Building was remodeled for the library, and the old library quarters in Franklin Building were made into three classrooms. The science rooms remained in Franklin Building instead of being moved to the new cafeteria building as was earlier planned.²⁷

Another physical improvement was begun in May, 1949, when representatives of the college trustees signed the contracts for the construction of a gymnasium. The building, finished in 1950, is a cinder

²⁴Catalogue, 1948-49, pp. 35-48.

²⁵Minutes of the Board of Trustees, April 14, 1948.

²⁶Catalogue, 1948-49, pp. 49-50.

²⁷Bulletin, Vol. IX, No. 1, October, 1948.

block, brick veneer construction located on the south side of the athletic field, facing east, and contains a regulation basketball court, a large stage, dressing rooms for the stage, locker rooms and shower rooms for men and women, lounges, a lecture room, offices, and storage space. The gymnasium was a welcomed addition, for it was considered useful to the college and to the community.²⁸

Mr. Holton's first annual report to the Board of Trustees in March, 1949, showed a decrease in the number of veterans enrolled. Mr. Holton stated that in order to break even financially the college needed an enrollment of three hundred. In 1948 the enrollment was 359 (270 men and 89 women). The enrollment in October, 1949, was slightly lower than that of the 1948-49 term. The G. I. enrollment was forty-three as compared with seventy-two in 1948-49 and 273 for the 1947-48 session. However, the number of women students had increased to one-third more than the number enrolled in 1948-49. Wright Dormitory, which had been used as a men's dormitory since 1945, was again prepared for use as a women's dormitory.²⁹

The president's report showed his concern about the number of ministers who thought of Louisburg College only as a place for students who needed major financial assistance or students who had scholastic difficulty entering any other college. The North Carolina Methodist Conference was providing only \$5,000.00 annual support, an amount which

²⁸Minutes of the Board of Trustees, May 30, 1949.

²⁹Bulletin, Vol. X, No. 1, October, 1949.



Holton Gymnasium, 1950

FIGURE 8

was not enough in view of decreasing enrollment and the increasing number of students requiring maximum financial assistance.³⁰

A feeling of unrest and uncertainty came to focus in a meeting of the Conference Board of Education with the college Board of Trustees on October 5, 1951, when a long discussion resulted in the suggestion that the North Carolina Conference should decide once and for all whether or not the Conference wanted Louisburg College. It was the final consensus among the two groups that Louisburg College filled a definite place in the Conference and had a distinct contribution to offer.³¹

"We are building up a reputation for good scholastic work," was the emphasis in Mr. Holton's 1951 report. To support his statement, the president reported that two Louisburg College graduates in the 1950 class at the University of North Carolina were Phi Beta Kappa members; one Louisburg College graduate in the class of 1949 at State College in Raleigh was an honor student in Pharmacy; another in the 1949 class at Duke University was an honor student in Engineering. A 1950 graduate of Louisburg College wrote that the University of Florida had accepted all of his credits from Louisburg, and that he had been complimented by officials and advisors because of courses taken at Louisburg. "If I had to start my college career over, I would prefer that start be made at Louisburg," he wrote.³²

³⁰President Holton's annual report to the Board of Trustees, March 22, 1949.

³¹Minutes of the Board of Trustees, October 5, 1951.

³²President Holton's Report to the Board of Trustees, April 10, 1951.

It was in 1950 that the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church added a Sustaining Fund to its usual annual appropriation. From 1945 until 1950, the appropriation was \$5,000.00 annually. In 1950 a Sustaining Fund of \$15,947.00 was given in addition to the appropriation of \$5,000.00. In 1951, the amount of the Sustaining Fund was \$21,221.00 in addition to the appropriation of \$5,000.00.³³

The Reverend W. A. Cade, President of the Board of Trustees and former Executive Secretary of the Methodist College Advance, reported in 1951 that the financial campaign had netted approximately two million dollars, with the larger amount of money coming from the Western North Carolina Conference. Set up to succeed the Advance was the Methodist College Foundation, or the United College Appeal. Mr. Cade suggested that any amount raised for the college should be through the Appeal. The trustees voted to support heartily the United College Appeal in order to gain \$500,000.00, the minimum amount estimated necessary to bring the college to a physical condition that would warrant acceptance by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.³⁴

Louisburg College was admitted to the Southern Association at the annual meeting of the Association held in Memphis, Tennessee, November 29, 1952. Recognition given by Duke University, The University of North Carolina, East Carolina College, and other leading senior colleges of the state was influential in the new recognition.³⁵

³³Interview with Mrs. Genevieve Perry, Louisburg College Treasurer.

³⁴Minutes, op. cit., October 24, 1951.

³⁵Bulletin, Vol. XIII, No. 2, December, 1952.

The Conference appointed Board of Visitors made its first visit to Louisburg College in February, 1953, and recommended that the College Trustees, the Conference Board of Education, and the Board of Visitors undertake to lead the Conference in coming to a definite decision on the question, "What kind of college do we want Louisburg to be and what purpose do we want it to serve?"³⁶

At the joint meeting of the Conference Board of Visitors and the College Board of Trustees a special committee agreed upon the following answers to the question posed by the Board of Visitors: (1) that the college should continue at its present location as a two-year liberal arts school, not precluding the possibility of a four-year college in the future; (2) that there should be provided from the United College Appeal an improvement of the physical plant to make the college livable and attractive; (3) that the trustees appoint a committee to formulate plans for changes in the faculty and curriculum to enable the college to serve more specifically the needs of the town and country churches.³⁷

In October, the special committee recommended that the college, in order to serve the town and country churches more specifically, add a person to its faculty to teach in the field of Town and Country Church, if possible for the 1954-55 session. The committee recommended that the time of the new faculty member be divided between teaching and field work, that the new course be treated as a separate department, that the

³⁶Minutes of a joint meeting of the Conference Board of Visitors, and the college Board of Trustees, May 25, 1953.

³⁷Ibid.

Board of Education and the college Board of Trustees be jointly responsible for raising the necessary funds for the department. The Reverend Wade Goldston was employed for the 1954-55 school session to work with pastors of small town and country churches and to teach courses for supply pastors of the Conference.³⁸

In adding the new department the Board of Trustees was very careful not to add any course to endanger accreditation of the college.³⁹ Accreditation by the University Senate of the Methodist Church in 1954, in addition to the accreditation by the Southern Association, gave Louisburg College full recognition among junior colleges in the South.⁴⁰

The physical appearance of the college underwent many changes in the summer of 1954. With money received from the Methodist College Foundation, Wright Dormitory was remodeled completely to become "one of the nicest dormitories in the state"; Franklin Building was renovated; the president's office, the faculty parlor, the social hall, and the auditorium in Main Building were painted, and a new boiler to give sufficient heat and hot water was installed under temporary shelter. The front circle drive was changed to a more convenient drive and was paved.⁴¹

The campus was more drastically changed by Hurricane Hazel, which struck Louisburg on October 15, 1954, and destroyed eighteen of the great

³⁸Ibid.

³⁹Minutes of the Board of Trustees, October 12, 1953.

⁴⁰Bulletin, Vol. XIII, No. 2, December, 1952.

⁴¹Bulletin, Vol. XIV, No. 1, October, 1954.

oaks on the college grounds, including one 178 years old. Damage to the buildings amounted to about five hundred dollars.⁴²

President Holton submitted his resignation on October 21, 1954, effective July 1, 1955, but the Board of Trustees declined to accept the resignation at the time. A special committee was authorized to study the matter and make recommendations. In February, 1955, the committee interviewed college people individually and in groups and found "evidence of the best year at the college in some time... ." It was said that "there is hardly anything wrong with the college that could not be remedied through more students and more money."⁴³

On February 25 the committee reluctantly recommended the acceptance of the president's resignation and listed the following observations which grew out of its study: (1) a need for someone to devote more time to student recruitment; (2) a need for more second-year students; (3) a need for more good publicity; (4) a need for a full-time maintenance man; (5) a need for a student center; (6) a need for more attention from trustee committees to the college; (7) a need for dedication and re-dedication of the trustees to the interests and welfare of the college.⁴⁴

President Holton in his last report requested the trustees to take some action to erect a new heating plant, to renovate Main Building and Davis Building, to employ a full-time secretary to the president who

⁴²President's Report to the Board of Trustees, October 21, 1954.

⁴³Report of the special committee to study the resignation of Mr. Holton, February 25, 1955.

⁴⁴Ibid.

could also take care of alumni work, to employ a full-time maintenance man and two assistants, and to repair the president's home. The recommendations were accepted.⁴⁵

President Holton set up a faculty retirement plan and a plan of insurance coverage for all students. Upon his recommendation the college employees were placed under Social Security benefits, all of the non-professional personnel on the campus were placed under Workmen's Compensation, and all students were covered by an accident policy.⁴⁶

At their last meeting during Mr. Holton's administration, members of the faculty voted unanimously to petition the trustees to name the gymnasium the Holton Gymnasium. The trustees unanimously approved the recommendation. Faculty members requested the name because they were "deeply conscious of the unselfish service rendered to Louisburg College by Samuel M. Holton as its president from 1947 to 1955 and keenly aware of the progress made by the college during this period..."⁴⁷

III. THE ROBBINS ADMINISTRATION

Unanimously elected president of the college on May 4, 1955, Dr. Cecil Wayne Robbins assumed his duties on July 1 of that year.

Dr. Robbins was born in Shannon, Mississippi, and received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Birmingham-Southern College, his Bachelor

⁴⁵President Holton's Annual Report to the Board of Trustees, April 14, 1955.

⁴⁶Bulletin, Vol. XIV, No. 5, April, 1955.

⁴⁷Minutes of the Faculty Meeting, April 5, 1955.

of Divinity degree from Duke University. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Literature from High Point College and the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from Birmingham-Southern College.⁴⁸

He was admitted to the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church in 1932 and served as a pastor in the Conference for sixteen years before being elected editor and manager of the North Carolina Christian Advocate, a position he held until elected president of the college.⁴⁹

Speaking to the trustees of his faith in the school and the importance of Louisburg College, Dr. Robbins said after his first month as president, "I have no doubt in my mind that the work here at Louisburg College is the biggest opportunity of North Carolina Methodism. I have no hesitation at all about throwing myself into the college and its program. I feel that I am simply riding the tide, because I think the tide had turned before I had taken over."⁵⁰

The first action taken by the Board of Trustees for the Robbins administration was to commission plans for a central heating plant, the letting of a contract for the remodeling of Main Building at a cost of \$43,263.00, and approving an annual increase in faculty salaries.⁵¹

For the building of the heating plant, the president and officers of the Board were authorized to borrow \$25,000.00 at an annual interest

⁴⁸Bulletin, Vol. XV, No. 5, July, 1956.

⁴⁹Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Louisburg College, May 4, 1955.

⁵⁰Minutes of the Board of Trustees, August 2, 1955.

⁵¹Minutes, op. cit., April 14, 1955.

rate of four per cent for five years and to execute a deed of trust on the college real estate as security.⁵²

The Board of Trustees also passed a resolution for the organization of a College Long Range Planning Committee to redefine Louisburg College's mission and to make recommendations as to means by which the college could achieve its mission during the years ahead. Eighteen members from the trustees, the college administration, faculty, student body, and alumni association were appointed by the chairman of the Board of Trustees. The members met for the first time on December 5, 1955, at the college. Matters studied at the meeting included Louisburg College's part in taking care of the enrollment, which was expected to double during the next twenty years.⁵³ At a second meeting on February 20, 1956, reports from the following committees were heard: Physical Plant, Facilities, and Personnel Needs; Curriculum; Admission Requirements and Policies; Faculty Salaries, Qualifications, and Tenure.⁵⁴

The Conference Long Range Planning Committee held a special meeting during the spring of 1956 and passed a special resolution that "struck like an atomic bomb" when the news of the meeting reached Louisburg.⁵⁵ The committee, in a study of the church's higher education needs in North Carolina, recommended to the Bishop of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church the establishment of a four-year

⁵²Minutes, op. cit., August 2, 1955.

⁵³Bulletin, Vol. XV, No. 2, December, 1955.

⁵⁴Bulletin, Vol. XV, No. 3, January, 1955.

⁵⁵Minutes of the Board of Trustees, April 6, 1956.

coeducational college at Fayetteville, North Carolina, and the moving of Louisburg College to Rocky Mount, North Carolina, with the view of consolidating it into a four-year college as soon as practicable. The committee recommended that Louisburg College be continued at Louisburg as a junior college until such time as a college in Rocky Mount could be established, and that the property at Louisburg be retained by the Conference for educational and other church related activities.⁵⁶

After hearing of the possible move to Rocky Mount, the Board of Trustees expressed the feeling that "it is better to establish a strong junior college than to operate a mediocre senior college."⁵⁷ Since the Board of Trustees felt that the moving of the college was a matter for a Conference vote, a special session of the Annual Conference was called for May 14, 1956.

From early April until May 14, feeling against moving the college was strongly expressed in work, in writing, and in speech. Citizens of Louisburg organized a "Keep Louisburg at Home" committee which called mass meetings and led the people of Franklin County in working day and night to raise \$50,000.00 for the renovation of Davis Building. The people raised \$31,000.00 by April 6, and they promised the remainder by July.⁵⁸

The Louisburg Public School District Committee assured the college trustees of its desire to cooperate in every way possible to acquire

⁵⁶"Special Resolution of the Conference Long Range Planning Committee," Minutes of the College Board of Trustees, April 6, 1956, p. 4.

⁵⁷Ibid.

⁵⁸Minutes of the Board of Trustees, April 17, 1956.

additional land for the college. The Franklin County Board of Education was requested by the committee to do whatever was necessary to make available to the college the campus of Mills High School, the original Male Academy campus, at a price and upon terms to be agreed upon whenever the college should need more land.⁵⁹

Dr. James E. Hillman, president of the Board of Trustees, wrote and spoke when possible for the cause of the junior college. As to making Louisburg College an academy, he wrote: "Any program of higher education that would have the support of a major church denomination is not adequate or complete unless it includes a junior college. The establishment of an academy would be a step in the wrong direction."⁶⁰

An editorial entitled "The Lord's Will or the High Dollar?" spoke the feelings of many people. The editorial stated: "There is an unmistakable suggestion of a sellout in the plan to move Louisburg College. And what is wrong with a small college in a small town? Why the frenzied effort on the part of the Church people to make big colleges out of little colleges, as though size in itself were a virtue?"⁶¹

At the special session of the Conference at St. Paul Church in Goldsboro, May 14, 1956, it was decided that Louisburg College would be retained at Louisburg as a junior college of accredited standing and that the enrollment would be raised to four hundred or six hundred as the need warranted. It was also decided that a four-year college would

⁵⁹Minutes, op. cit., April 14, 1956.

⁶⁰Article in The News and Observer, April, 1956.

⁶¹Editorial in The Nashville Graphic, April 5, 1956.

be established at Rocky Mount without the proviso that Louisburg College be moved, and that a four-year college would be established at Fayetteville, North Carolina.⁶²

Judge Hamilton Hobgood of Louisburg was a leader in the appeal for the college to remain in Louisburg. Judge Hobgood pointed out that of the six buildings on the campus, four were built by the Franklin County citizens. The Methodist Conference, he pointed out, did not erect a building before 1950, when the gymnasium was built. Judge Marshall T. Spears of Durham, Mrs. B. B. Everette of Palmyra, Superintendent Suey Chandler of Currituck County Schools, and Dr. James E. Hillman of Raleigh, all spoke in favor of keeping the college in Louisburg. The Reverend D. E. Earnhardt led the movement to transfer the college. Mr. W. I. Smith of Bethel, Mrs. D. L. Fouts of Mt. Olive, and Mr. C. S. Bunn of Nashville also spoke in favor of moving the college.⁶³ The Reverend C. D. Barclift moved the adoption of the report of the Long Range Planning Committee. The Reverend C. P. Morris offered an amendment moving that the Rocky Mount college be established without the proviso that Louisburg College be moved. The Reverend W. A. Gade composed the amendment that was adopted, deciding that Louisburg College remain in Louisburg and that the enrollment would be raised as the need warranted.⁶⁴

⁶²Journal, 1956, p. 53.

⁶³Ibid.

⁶⁴Ibid., p. 54.

A Franklin Times editorial warned its readers that Louisburg College had won a victory only if the college remained what the people of Franklin County thought it was. "Perhaps this has sharpened our awareness of the importance of a junior college, not to a community alone, but to the young men and women it serves. We must not let this clarity of vision become dim...We have here at Louisburg College the necessary leadership—truly capable and devoted men and women. Let us now join with them for a greater Louisburg College."⁶⁵

The News and Observer of Raleigh supported the decision not to move the college. "The Methodists are right in desiring to expand their educational program. There is a definite need for more colleges. But abandonment of an established college would seem to be a poor basis for expansion."⁶⁶

The Board of Education at the regularly scheduled Annual Conference in June, 1956, reported that Louisburg College enrollment during the 1955-56 session was 343, showing an increase of more than fifty per cent over 1954-55. Renovation of Main Building opened new dormitory space for men. A central heating plant had been completed at a cost of \$125,000.00; indebtedness on the plant was \$85,000.00, which sum was covered by the anticipated United College Appeal funds. The school year was closed with a surplus in its operations. The property was valued at \$1,260,000.00; endowment was \$160,000.00.⁶⁷

⁶⁵Editorial in The Franklin Times, May 18, 1956.

⁶⁶Editorial in The News and Observer, May 18, 1956.

⁶⁷Journal, June, 1956, pp. 130-131.

Davis Building was remodeled in the summer of 1957 at a cost of about \$60,000.00, the amount including the \$50,000.00 donated by the people of Franklin County. The remodeled building provided for four classrooms, eight offices for faculty members, infirmary facilities, an apartment for the housekeeper, six apartments for faculty members, restrooms, and a darkroom for developing pictures.

Mr. E. H. Bartholomew of Louisburg, a member of the College Board of Trustees, added to the athletic and recreation facilities through his contribution of cement and lighting fixtures to complete the gymnasium basement rooms. He also donated the backstop for the college ball park.

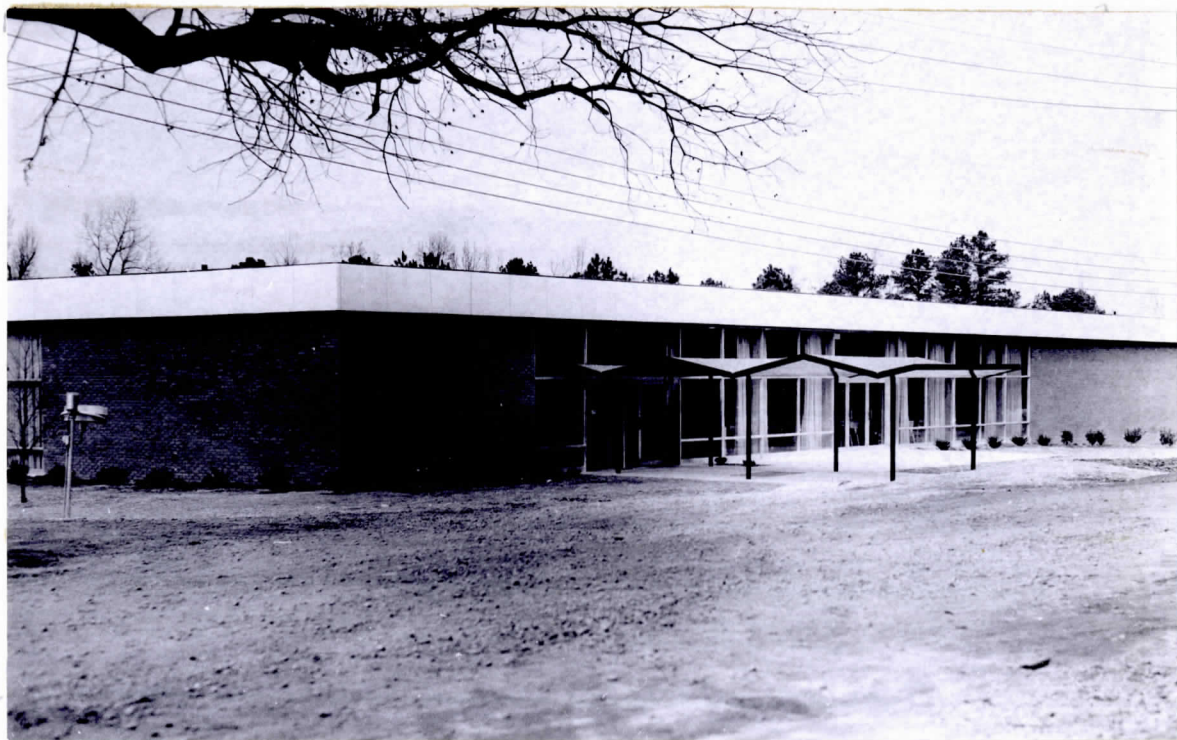
Statistics for 1956-57 showed an enrollment of 366 and a faculty and staff of thirty-two persons. The property was valued at \$1,500,000.00 and the college had an endowment of \$188,000.00. The indebtedness of the college was \$80,000.00.⁶⁸

Construction of a \$200,000.00 student union-cafeteria building was begun in the spring of 1958. The building, completed in December, 1958, is located between Wright Dormitory and the ball field. The building includes a dining room seating 240, two additional dining rooms seating around one hundred, a modern kitchen, a soda shop and book store, and a lounge and restrooms. The federal government approved a loan of \$180,000.00 at an interest rate of 2.87 per cent to be paid back over a period of forty years. The college advanced \$20,000.00 of the \$200,000.00 as its assurance in the investment, plus \$12,500.00 for movable equipment.⁶⁹

⁶⁸Journal, 1956, p. 159.

⁶⁹Interview with Mrs. Genevieve Perry, Louisburg College Treasurer.

With every difficulty it has overcome, Louisburg College has grown stronger. Throughout its history, as plans for development were made leaders came to carry them out, usually after a period of struggle. Present plans call for a new library building and a classroom-auditorium building, both of which will cost approximately \$400,000.00. A needed endowment of \$500,000.00 to increase faculty salaries and to provide scholarship aid is one of the chief goals of the present administration.



Benjamin N. Duke College Union, 1958

FIGURE 9

CHAPTER VII

THE FUTURE OF LOUISBURG COLLEGE

Louisburg College has endured from the past because of certain strong characteristics. Because of the faith, loyalty, and determination of its supporters, these characteristics have been manifested in every phase of the school history. As a result, the college today is prepared to offer more to its students and to its community than ever in its history. The school deserves the right to a successful future.

The Reverend William A. Cade, a member of the Louisburg College Board of Trustees for twenty-six years and president of the Board for thirteen of those years, recently made this statement concerning the future of the college:

Through the 178 years of its honorable record of service as an educational institution Louisburg College has earned its right to a continuing and larger service to the Church and state for the years ahead. Louisburg has demonstrated its quality of immortality in surviving many adversities.

Today the college is stronger and better equipped in its physical plant and its capacity to serve the Methodist Church and the youth of eastern North Carolina than it has ever been.

The Conference has recently pledged to Louisburg a larger and continuing support as a junior college, and an enlargement of its student capacity as the need may justify.¹

President C. W. Robbins has expressed the opinion that Louisburg College in 1958-59 is in its grandest year because of the sacrifices of the past; that the present administration and faculty are challenged by

¹William A. Cade, letter to Miss Miriam Russell, July 4, 1958, in Louisburg College Library.

the achievements of the past; and that the college has more friends than ever in the North Carolina Methodist Conference and in the community, more alumni proud to be identified with the college, and more support from the senior colleges.²

Predictions concerning the future of Louisburg College stem from the evidences that it is making rapid progress as a small Christian junior college. Although its life depends largely upon action taken by its owner, the North Carolina Methodist Conference, it is expected that the school will continue as a small junior college.

The 1958 fall semester enrollment was 402. When the Conference decided to retain the college at Louisburg, it was also decided that the enrollment would be raised to four hundred or six hundred as the need warranted. If the enrollment reaches six hundred, the college will still be considered a small school.

If it remains a small college, Louisburg College will continue to offer the student the opportunity to make a good start in his academic life, his social life, and his life's work before he enters a larger school or the world outside of school. The family-like atmosphere and and close faculty-student relationships which have always been characteristic of Louisburg College help bridge the gap between the student's home life and his independent adult life.

One of the faculty members, after teaching at the college for seventeen years, has predicted, as to the social and cultural aspects of the college, that:

²Cecil W. Robbins in an address to the Louisburg College Faculty, September 6, 1958.

...A more broadening and maturing phase would seem probable, yet with never the loss of the characteristic family-and-close friendship aspect of Louisburg life, which students, alumni, and faculty have cherished. Such a prospect would seem additionally dependable in view of the many years during which by some miracle of perpetuation, in spite of student generations of only two years, the so-called Louisburg spirit has been preserved and shared.³

"It is inconceivable that we should think of a program of higher education that does not include the junior college," Dr. James E. Hillman, chairman of the Louisburg College Board of Trustees and Director of the Division of Professional Service for the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, said two years ago in introducing his plea for keeping Louisburg College a junior college.⁴ In his statement Dr. Hillman quoted freely from Dr. James B. Conant, former President of Harvard University, and Dr. Jesse P. Bogue, Executive Secretary of the American Association of Junior Colleges.

Dr. Conant said that "one-half of all college students should attend two-year colleges."⁵ Dr. Bogue said:

Because one-half of all students who enroll in senior colleges drop out by the end of the second year, would it not be much better if they would enroll in good two-year colleges and complete some well-organized curriculum? ...if the church related junior colleges leave this field for senior status, public junior colleges will be organized to take their places."⁶

Since leaders in education find the junior college of such great importance, and in view of the current plan for two new four-year

³Ruth W. Merritt, letter to the thesis writer, August, 1958.

⁴James E. Hillman, "The Junior College Is Indispensable in Any Program of Higher Education," a statement prepared for use in 1957.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Ibid.

Methodist schools in the state, it now seems logical that Louisburg will center its plans upon the goal of becoming an increasingly stronger junior college. It will be open particularly to the deserving student who cannot financially afford to attend four years of college; to the capable one who has not decided what his objectives are; to the intelligent one with the poor social background.

According to Dr. Hillman, the enrollment in junior colleges in general is on the increase.⁷ At Louisburg the enrollment for 1955-56 showed an increase of 69 percent over the previous year; 1956-57 enrollment was an increase of 6.7 percent; 1957-58 enrollment showed an increase of 8.5 percent.⁸

The increase in enrollment will make possible a closer screening of students, thereby giving opportunities to the more deserving and capable students. Higher selectivity also points toward continuing and increasingly high academic and social standards.

Louisburg College as a junior college is useful to the senior colleges of North Carolina. The reputation Louisburg holds among North Carolina senior colleges indicates an even greater usefulness in the future. Approximately seventy-five Louisburg College seniors were accepted in 1958 at senior colleges. Most of those students are now enrolled at East Carolina College, the University of North Carolina, North Carolina State College, Duke University, and Atlantic Christian College.⁹

⁷Ibid.

⁸Interview with John B. York, Registrar, Louisburg College.

⁹Ibid.

The college is also increasing its usefulness in academic rehabilitation. For the fall semester of the 1958-59 session Louisburg College accepted nine Duke University students who expect to return to Duke. There are thirty other transfer students at Louisburg at the present time; the majority are students who expect to return to North Carolina State College or the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.¹⁰

To meet the needs of a stronger curriculum and an increased enrollment, Louisburg College needs an increase in annual support and \$1,070,000.00 for building purposes.¹¹

The North Carolina Methodist Conference now appropriates \$61,900.00 annually. An increase to \$100,000.00 would bring the average faculty salary from \$4,078.00 to \$4,800.00 and enable a teacher pension plan to be started. The increase in salary and the pension plan would help secure faculty personnel.

The present campus is valued at \$1,750,000.00. Since 1950 a gymnasium costing \$150,000.00, a central heating plant costing \$135,000.00, and a cafeteria-student union building costing \$200,000.00 have been built. In addition, the following buildings are needed so that the school can operate more effectively:¹²

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Louisburg College Board of Trustees, "What You Should Know About Louisburg College," a leaflet, 1958.

¹²Ibid.

(1) Library building, books and furnishings	\$ 200,000
(2) Auditorium and furnishings	275,000
(3) Dormitory and furnishings	360,000
(4) Infirmary	30,000
(5) Athletic field and development of grounds	120,000
(6) Funds for Cafeteria	30,000
(7) Davis Building (Franklin County has contributed \$50,000)	15,000
(8) President's Home.	40,000

\$1,070,000

To expand to five hundred boarding students, \$350,000.00 would be needed for a dormitory and \$100,000.00 for a classroom addition.¹³

Most valuable in the future of the college are its ideals and the success with which it holds to those ideals.

The present statement of ideals is as follows:

- (1) Christian Character
- (2) Sound Scholarship
- (3) Broad Culture
- (4) Social Efficiency

Toward these objectives the educational program of the college attempts to:

- (1) Encourage the search for truth and beauty.
- (2) Build for physical and mental health through clean sport, wholesome recreation, and the wise use of leisure time.
- (3) Offer an opportunity to study toward a liberal education in arts and sciences, and toward proficiency in a career.
- (4) Lead toward the individual student's establishment of a set of Christian Values for his own enrichment and the awareness of social responsibilities.¹⁴

Since its beginning, Louisburg College has had its strength in being a small Christian college. Its future lies in the same strength, and a determination to maintain high academic and social standards.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Louisburg College Catalogue, 1958-59, p. 2.

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- Notes of Interview with Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Davis, family of President M. S. Davis. Louisburg, North Carolina.
- Notes of Interview with Mrs. C. M. Howard. Louisburg, North Carolina.
- Notes of Interview with Mrs. Genevieve Perry, College Treasurer and Business Manager. Louisburg, North Carolina.
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APPENDIXES

FOR FOLLOWING ORDER
OF DEBEYERD BOND

APPENDIX A

SIGNIFICANT DATES

- 1778 Bute County divided into Franklin County and Warren County.
- 1779 Land purchased for establishing the town of Louisburg, including the Town Common later used as school property.
- 1785 The first meeting of the Methodist Conference of North Carolina at Green Hill Place, Louisburg.
- 1787 First Charter granted for establishing Franklin Academy.
- 1802 Second Charter granted for establishing Franklin Academy.
- 1805 Franklin Male Academy opened, January 1.
- 1805-1808 Matthew Dickinson, first preceptor of the Academy.
- 1809-1816 (with exception of 1810) Davis H. Mayhew, principal of Male Academy.
- 1810 James Bogle, principal of Male Academy.
Library established.
- 1813 Franklin Female Academy added.
- 1814 Franklin Female Academy building erected in west grove of Town Common.
- 1814-1821 Miss Harriet Partridge, first preceptress of Franklin Academy.
- 1816-1820 John B. Bobbitt, principal of Male Academy.
- 1820-1822 Fitch Wheeler, principal of Male Academy.
- 1821-1824 Miss Ann Benedict, principal instructor of Female Academy.
- 1823 George Perry, principal of Male Academy.
- 1824-1831 Miss Mary Ramsey, principal instructor of Female Academy.
- 1824-1825 Addison White, principal of Male Academy.
- 1826-1827 Eliah Brewer, principal of Male Academy.
- 1828-1830 Charles Applewhite Hill, principal of Male Academy.

- 1831-1843 Mrs. John B. Bobbitt (Miss Florence Partridge), principal of Female Academy.
- 1832-1843 John B. Bobbitt, principal of Male Academy.
- 1843-1855 Asher Ray, principal of Male Academy.
- 1843-1856 Mrs. Jane A. Ray, principal of Female Academy.
- 1855 Louisburg Female College Company chartered.
- 1856 Matthew Davis, principal of Male Academy.
- 1857 New building (present Main Building) erected as college building.
- 1857-1858 James P. Nelson, first college president.
- 1858-1859 J. J. Avirett, President.
- 1859-1861 Columbus Andrews, President.
- 1861 College property sold to clear indebtedness.
- 1862-1865 James Southgate, President.
- 1865 College and Academy closed for few days during spring while buildings and grounds were occupied by Union Army.
- 1866 College re-opened in January.
- 1866-1869 T. M. Jones, President. Greensboro Female College moved to Louisburg.
- 1869 College closed, while Academies continued to operate.
- 1877 College re-opened, with F. L. Reid, President.
- 1878 College closed, Franklin Academy continued.
- 1889 College property sold to Louisburg Town Commissioners. College re-opened by S. D. Bagley, President. The Sea-gift and Neithean Literary Societies organized.
- 1891 College property bought by Washington Duke of Durham.
- 1894-1896 J. A. Green, President.
- 1897-1906 Matthew Davis, President, and his daughter, Mrs. Ivey Allen, business manager.

- 1903 First issue of The Collegian, a magazine published quarterly by the two literary societies.
- 1906-1917 Mrs. Ivey Allen, President.
- 1907 College given to the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Church by Mr. B. N. Duke.
- 1911 Davis Building erected.
- 1915 College reorganized as a junior college.
- 1917-1920 Franklin Swindell Love, President.
- 1917 President's home erected.
- 1918 College Student Government organized.
- 1920-1922 L. S. Massey, President.
- 1922-1929 Arthur W. Mohn, President.
- 1923 First issue of the college annual, The Oak, published.
- 1924 West Wing added to Main Building.
- 1926 Pattie Julia Wright Memorial Building (given by R. H. Wright) dedicated on November 23.
Franklin Building erected.
- 1927 Female Academy building burned.
- 1928 Main Building partially destroyed by fire on December 5.
College accredited by State Department of Public Instruction.
- 1929-1931 Clark Conrad Alexander, President.
- 1930 N. C. Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in Henderson voted continued operation of the college.
- 1931 Trustees decided against transferring Louisburg College property to Atlantic Christian College in consideration of Atlantic Christian's assuming all indebtedness of Louisburg College.
- 1931-1937 Armour David Wilcox, President.
- 1931 College made co-educational.
- 1931-1932 Southern Conservatory of Music operated at Louisburg College.

- 1935 Self-help plan inaugurated.
- 1937-1939 D. E. Earnhardt, President.
- 1938 Auditorium built at back of Main Building.
- 1939-1947 Dr. Walter Patten, President.
- 1941 First issue of the school paper, The Columns.
- 1947 Summer School.
- 1947-1955 Samuel M. Holton, President.
- 1948 Government-donated building set up as Cafeteria west of Main Building.
Main dining room remodeled for the library.
- 1950 Gymnasium erected.
- 1954 Wright Dormitory remodeled completely.
Franklin Building renovated.
- 1955 Cecil W. Robbins, President.
- 1956 The North Carolina Methodist Conference at a special session decided to retain Louisburg College at Louisburg as a junior college instead of moving the college to Rocky Mount as a nucleus for a new four-year college.
Louisburg College Hurricanes won annual North Carolina Junior College Tournament for first time.
Main Building renovated.
Central heating plant completed.
- 1957 Davis Building remodeled.
- 1958 Student Union-Cafeteria building erected.

APPENDIX B

CHARTER 1787

An Act to Erect and Establish an Academy in the County of Franklin.

Whereas the establishing an Academy in the said county for the education of youth will be attended with great advantages to the State in general, and the county of Franklin in particular:

I. Be it therefore enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That Doctor John King, William Lancaster, Josiah Love, Benjamin Seawell, Robert Goodlow, Robert Bell, Jordan Hill, Francis Taylor, Hugh Hays, William Green, Thomas Stokes and Doctor William Varell, Esquires, be and they are hereby constituted and appointed Trustees, with full power and authority to receive into their hands and possession, all monies and other property which have been or hereafter may be subscribed for the purpose of erecting an academy in the town of Lewisburg in the county aforesaid by the name of Franklin academy, and the said Trustees and their successors shall be able and capable in law to ask for and demand, receive and possess of the several subscribers all sums by them respectively subscribed, and in case of refusal of any of them to pay the same, to sue for and recover by action of debt or otherwise, in the name of the Trustees, the sum which such person so refusing shall have subscribed, in any jurisdiction having cognizance thereof, and the monies when collected and received to be applied by the said Trustees or a majority of them towards paying for the house already contracted for to be erected in the said town, to contract with and employ a Tutor or Tutors, and to perform every act or thing that they or a majority of them shall think necessary and expedient for the advancement of the said academy, and the promotion of learning therein.

II. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Trustees herein mentioned, shall previous to their entering on the execution of the trust reposed by this Act, give bond to the court of the county, payable to the Chairman and his successor, in the sum of one thousand pounds specie, with condition that they shall well and faithfully account for and apply all gifts, donations, bequests and monies which they may receive of and by virtue of this Act for the purposes aforesaid.

III. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That if any of the Trustees by this Act appointed shall die refuse to act or remove away, that he cannot attend the duties of his appointment, the remaining Trustees may appoint another or others in his or their stead, who shall exercise the same powers as Trustees appointed by this Act, and when met together in said town shall have power and authority to elect and constitute one or more Tutor or Tutors and a Treasurer, and

also to make and ordain such rules and regulations not repugnant to the laws of this State for the well ordering of the students, their morals, studies and academical exercises as to them shall seem meet, and to give certificates to such students as shall leave said academy certifying their literary merit: Provided, They shall not on any account confer any degree such as Bachelor or Master of Arts, or Doctor in any faculty; in general they shall and may do all such things as are usually done by bodies corporate and politic, or such as may be necessary for the promotion of learning and virtue; and the said Trustees or a majority of them are hereby impowered and shall have lawful authority to remove the Tutor or Tutors, Treasurer or any of them if they shall find it necessary, and on the death, resignation or refusal to act of any of them, to appoint and elect others in the stead of those displaced, dead or refusing to act.

IV. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Trustees by this act appointed or a majority of them and their successors, shall meet annually on the second Monday in December in each and every year, or at any other time they may find more convenient, and elect a proper person out of their own body to preside for the term of one year, who may convene the Trustees at any time he may find it necessary. Provided always, That he shall give ten days previous notice of such meetings; and that the President and Treasurer shall be chosen on the said second Monday in December unless in cases of unavoidable accident.

V. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the Treasurer of the said board of Trustees shall enter into bond with sufficient security to the Trustees, conditioned for the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in him by this Act; and that all monies and chattels that shall be in his hands at the expiration of his office, shall be immediately paid into the hands of the succeeding Treasurer; and every Treasurer shall receive all monies, donations, gifts, bequests and charities that may belong or accrue to said academy during his office, and at the expiration thereof shall account with the Trustees or a majority of them for the same, and on refusal or neglect to pay and deliver as aforesaid, the same mode of recovery may be had against him as is or may be provided for the recover of money from Sheriffs or other public officers. (Passed Jan. 6, 1787.)

APPENDIX C

CHAPTER 1802

An Act to establish an Academy in the county of Franklin.

Whereas, The establishing of Seminaries of Learning, for the purpose of educating youth is essential to the happiness and prosperity of the community, and therefore worthy of legislative attention:

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of North Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That John Hunt, Francis Taylor, Epps Moody, John Haywood, Joshua Perry, Archibald Davis, William Lancaster, Jeremiah Perry, junior, Richard Fenner, George Tunstall, Green Hill, William Green, Alexander Falcon¹ and William Williams, junior, Esquires, and Major Jeremiah Perry, shall be and they are hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate, to be known and distinguished by the name of "The Trustees of the Franklin Academy," and by that name shall have perpetual succession; and they and their successors, by the name aforesaid, or a majority of them, shall be able and capable in law, to take demand, receive and possess all monies, goods and chattels that shall be given for the use of said Academy, and the same apply according to the will of the donor; and by gift, purchase or devise, to take, have, receive, possess, enjoy and retain, to them and their successors forever, any lands, rents, tenements of what kind or nature soever, in special trust and confidence, that the same or the profits thereof, be applied to and for the purpose of establishing and endowing the said Academy.

¹Alexander Falconer

[4-5-1814]

We the subscribers impressed with the necessity and advantages of Female education, and being desirous to establish a seminary for that purpose at or near the town of Louisburg - do agree and bind ourselves severally, to pay to the Commissioners hereafter to be appointed for the purpose of getting & superintending the building thereof, the sum set against our several names - The Site as also the Plan & model of the building, to be agreed upon by Commissioners to be elected or appointed by the body of Subscribers hereto - who shall also be authorized to contract with a Workman to perform the Work - April 5th 1814

Subscribers names	sum to be paid	Subscribers names	sum subscribed
Green Hill	\$ 50	Stephen Catterbury	25
Richard Inge Senr	50	William P. Taylor	5
William Warshrey	50	Ric & Fenner Senr	50
Isrl King	25	Simon Green	2
Robt. H. Taylor	50	Wm. T. Jeffreys	10
Nathan Patterson	50	Geo Glenn	5
James Harrison	10	Jordan Penson	5
William Connolly	25	James W. Hunt	5
Richard Fox	10	William T. Williams	50
James Yarbrough jr	5	Richard Inge jr	30
Robt. Hill	5		

Lucretia W. Davis	20
John D. Hawkins	50
Jesse Persen	10
Daniel Thine	5
Jacob Hiner	3
Saml. Johnson	10
Robert Th. Wynne	10
James H. Goodloe	5
David H. Mayhew	15
Nathan Perry	10
Robert Hunt	20
Benj. F. Hawkins	30
Willm. Harrison	20
Isid. Hedge	10
John Hayward	20
John Jansel	5
Benj. Mayfield	5
William Thomas	2
Alexan. F. Toliver	15
Thomas Lancer	5
Benj. F. Hester	5
Geraldus Toole	25

APPENDIX E

ACCOUNT OF EXAMINATION OF FEMALE ACADEMY, 1820.*

LOUISBURG FEMALE ACADEMY.

The examination of the students of this institution closed on Thursday the 1st day of June inst. The Trustees attending this examination beg leave to submit the following Report.

1st Class—Composed of M. G. Somerville, R. A. Perceval, E. T. Howze and A. S. Jones, were examined on Natural Philosophy. M G Somerville was deemed best, E T Howze was considered next, the other two performed very well and were preferred in the order of their names.

2nd Class—Composed of M. G. Somerville, was examined on Chymistry. /sic/ It would be doing injustice to Miss Somerville to withhold the highest meed of praise for the handsome manner in which she acquitted herself on this science.

3d Class—R A Perceval, E T Howze, examined on the History of Europe. These young ladies acquitted themselves very handsomely, and were deemed equal.

4th Class—M G Somerville, M B Hill, J E Fox, were examined on the History of Greece. This Class were very perfect and were deemed equal.

5th Class—M G Somerville, examined on Rhetoric and acquitted herself very honorably.

6th Class—M G Somerville, R A Perceval, E T Howze, S L Jones, J E Fox, and M B Hill—examined on the history of America. M G Somerville, deemed best, the rest very good and equal.

7th Class—S L Jones, H M E Hunter, M E Long, M E A Taylor, A S Jones, H S King, A G Rawlings, and O Perry—examined on the Geography of Europe. M E Long, M E A Taylor, and H S King were deemed best and equal, the others performed well.

8th Class—M G Somerville, R A Perceval, J E Fox and M B Hill—examined on the Geography of the World—Misses Somerville and Perceval were deemed best—the others very good and equal.

*Charles L. Coon, North Carolina Schools and Academies 1790-1840 (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton, 1915), pp. 96-98.

9th Class—H M E Hunter, S L Jones, E M Long, S H Jones, A S Jones, M E A Taylor, A Rawling and C T Somerville—examined on the Geography of South America—Misses S Jones, Long, Taylor and Rawlings, were considered best—the rest good and equal.

10th Class—M G Somerville, S L Jones, J A S Cutterbridge, J E Fox and A S Jones—This class performed very well and were distinguished in the order of their names.

11th Class—M E Long, H M E Hunter, and C Perry—examined on the Geography of Asia, and were distinguished in the order of their names.

12th Class—M E Long, M E A Taylor, S H King, and S Sills—examined on Arithmetic, and were considered best in the order of their names.

13th Class—J A S Cutterbridge, M E A Taylor, S H King, C T Somervell—The three first best and equal.

14th Class—M G Somerville, E T Howze, R A Perceval, S L Jones, M B Hill, and J E Fox—examined on reading, spelling, parsing, &c. The two first considered best in the order of their names—the others very good.

15th Class—A G Rawlings, J A S Cutterbridge, H M E Hunter, A S Jones—examined on Grammar, Parsing, &c. The two first considered best an /sic/ equal—the others very good.

16th Class—J A S Cutterbridge, M E A Taylor, S H King, E M A Fox, E Yarbrough, and C T Somervell—examined on the introduction to Geography, and of British America—The three first excelled in the order of their names, the others did well.

17th Class—M E Long, M E A Taylor, S H King, E M Fox, M Perry, C Perry, E Yarbrough, and E T Somervell—examined on Reading, Spelling, Grammar, and Parsing—First named considered best. M E A Taylor, S H King, second best and equal—The others very good.

18th Class—M S Massenburg, M R Thomas, E W Longgun—examined on Parsing, Spelling, Grammar, and Abbreviations—M R Thomas best—the others very good.

19th Class—L D S Thomas, M S Fox, M A Fox, M C Taylor and E F Wynne. This class of small children was examined on Reading, Spelling, and Abbreviations. They all did very well, but L D S Thomas was particularly distinguished.

On Drawing & Painting.

E T Howze, R A Percevall, M B Hill, and Jane E Fox, exhibited the best specimens. M G Somervell, H M E Hunter, M E A Taylor, excelled in Needle Work. R A Percevall, M G Somervell gave the handsomest evidences of penmanship.

It would be doing a great injustice to Mr. Lataste, who has had charge of the music department, to withhold that approbation, which his professional talents so justly merit. The young ladies under his care gave the most satisfactory evidences of their progress in this elegant branch of polished learning. The trustees feel it a duty which they owe to the friends and patrons of this Institution, and a tribute due from themselves, to remark that this examination throughout, gave the most unequivocal evidences of the qualifications, assiduity and attention of Mrs. Bobbett, the principal under whose auspices, the good morals and regular discipline of the students have been no less objects of attention than their literary advancement.

The exercises of this institution will again commence on Monday the 19th inst. under the care of Mrs. Bobbett as principal. The music will be superintended by Mr. Lataste.

By Order,
5th June, 1820
—The Star, June 16, 1820

Rob't A. Taylor, Sec'y

APPENDIX F

COPY OF THE LOUISBURG FEMALE SEMINARY CIRCULAR USED IN 1851*

LOUISBURG FEMALE SEMINARY,
Franklin County, North Carolina.

REPORT OF

Miss _____ for the _____ Session of _____

She has been in attendance at School _____ Days

Early " " " " " "

Late " " " " " "

Absent, Excused _____

Absent, not excused _____

Faults in Deportment _____

Faults in Manners _____

Faults in Dress _____

SCHOLARSHIP.

Perfect. Good. Bad. Failure

Recitations _____

The Studies which she has pursued this Term are those which belong to _____

*Circular, Louisburg Female Seminary, 1851, p. 1, in Hawkins Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina.

C I R C U L A R .

L O U I S B U R G F E M A L E S E M I N A R Y ,

Franklin County, North Carolina.

THE SPRING TERM OF THIS INSTITUTION will commence on the 1st Monday in January of each year, and close on the 4th Friday in May.

THE FALL TERM will commence on the 1st Monday in July, and close on the 4th Friday in November.

T E A C H E R S :

A. H. RAY,
Principals.
J. A. RAY,

Miss Emma W. Curtis, Instructress on Piano, and in Vocal Music.
Miss R. S. Fairall, Instructress on Guitar, and in Vocal Music,
Drawing, Painting and Calisthenics, &c.
Other Assistance as it may be needed.

P R E P A R A T O R Y C O U R S E .

This course includes Spelling, Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar, Geography and History; and Pupils must be at least 12 years of age, and well grounded in the elements of these studies, before they will be permitted to enter on the regular Course.

BOOKS USED:—Angell's Series, Nos. 1, 2 and 3; Town's Speller and Definer; Smith's Primary Geography, Morse's School Geography; Emerson's 1st and 2nd Parts in Arithmetic; Parley's U. S. History, and Common School History; and Smith's English Grammar.

R E G U L A R C O U R S E .

First Year.

English Grammar,
Arithmetic,
Geography,
History,
Nat. Philosophy,
Botany,

Smith's or Bullion's
Emerson's
Morse's
Worcester's
Phelps's
Phelps's

Second Year.

Arithmetic Completed,	Emerson's
Algebra Commenced,	Davies'
Rhetoric,	Newman's
Astronomy,	Blake's
Physiology,	Cutter's
Chemistry,	Phelps's

Third Year.

Moral Philosophy,	Wayland's
Algebra Completed,	Davies'
Geometry Commenced,	Davies'
Logic,	Hedge's
Elements Criticism,	Kames'
Geography of the Heavens,	Burritt's

Fourth Year.

Geometry Completed,	Davies'
Astronomy Completed,	Burritt's
Geology,	Hitchcock's
Mental Philosophy,	Abercrombie's
Evidences of Christianity	Paley's or Alexander's

Orthography, Reading, Penmanship, Composition, and Practical Exercises in Arithmetic and Grammar, will be pursued throughout the course.

The Classes will be formed and the recitations arranged with reference to this course, but pupils will be admitted to any partial course that may not conflict with the regular classes.

EXPENSES.

Board, Washing and lights, per Session,	\$40.00
Tuition in Preparatory Course,	10.00
Do " Regular " "	15.00

Extra Charges.

Music on Piano,	17.50
Do " Guitar,	17.50
Use of Instrument,	3.00
Sol-Feggio lessons,	8.00
Drawing and Painting,	7.50
French,	7.50
Latin or Greek,	7.50
Fuel for School Room	.50

Interest will be charged in all cases where payment is not punctually made at the end of the Session.

The necessary expenses of a Young Lady pursuing the regular course of studies, including the text books, need not exceed \$115 per annum.

Diplomas will be awarded to Young Ladies who have passed satisfactorily through the full course of studies. Certificates to those who have completed only a partial course.

EXAMINATION.

No Pupils will be received except with the understanding that they are to remain through the term, and attend the examination at its close, unless called away by sickness or other imperative necessity. The Examinations are thorough and strictly impartial, and are conducted in such a manner that neither Teachers nor pupils can know beforehand what part of each study will be the subject of examination. A Report will be sent to Parents and guardians after the close of the Term.

BOARDING HOUSE.

The regulations of the boarding house are designed to promote order and energy. Young ladies boarding in the family of the Teachers receive those offices of maternal care and kindness which are needed for their health and comfort; though under such restraints with regard to manners, company, and the employment of time, as judicious parents know to be necessary in a well conducted boarding school.

LIBRARY.

There is a small but interesting and well-selected Library connected with the Institution, which is designed soon to enlarge; and the Library of the Principals, comprising a valuable selection of Literary and Scientific works, will be accessible to students of the higher classes, without extra charge.

DRESS.

No uniform dress is required; but plainness is considered very desirable and is strongly recommended. All articles of clothing should be marked distinctly with the owner's name in full.

LOCATION.

The buildings of the Institution are situated in a beautiful grove in the most elevated and delightful portion of the Village. The residence of the Principal is not more than 150 yards distant, but lying without the limits of the corporation, and entirely remote from the noise and bustle of the Town, combining all the real advantages both of the town and country.

INSTRUCTIONS FROM PARENTS AND GUARDIANS.

Parents and Guardians are requested to leave with the Principal, written answers to the following questions, viz:

- 1st. What course of study do you wish your daughter or ward to pursue?
- 2nd. What (if any) of the Ornamental Branches do you wish her to take?
- 3d. Do you leave money at her disposal?
- 4th. With whom, for what, and to what extent are you willing that she should contract debts?
- 5th. At what Post Office may you be addressed?

APPENDIX G

REPORT CARD, MAY 27, 1864.

Copy of the manuscript report card in the possession of J. E. Malone, Louisburg, North Carolina.

Louisburg Female College
May 27th, 1864

Miss Anna Richmond Fuller

Has received during this session, the following grades on her studies, viz:

Bible	5	Composition	5
Definer	5	Demerits	None
English Grammar	5	Deportment	5
Natural History	5	History	5
Geography	5	Music	5
Arithmetic	5	Distinctions	Eight

At her final examination, she has received a distinction on English Grammar.

Explanation.

5 denotes Perfect - 4 very good - 3 medium - 2 indifferent - 1 very bad.

A Distinction at an Examination is equal to ten on Recitation.

Taking into consideration Miss Fuller's age (being only 10) the above report is unparalleled. For such assiduity to study and elegant deportment, she merits and receives the esteem, confidence and commendation of her Teachers.

James Southgate,

President L. F. College.

APPENDIX H

LOUISBURG COLLEGE STATISTICAL REPORT, 1934-1958

Year Date	Enrollment		Total Charge	Free Schrs	Work Schrs	Total Schrs	Surplus	Deficit
	Total	Vets Others						
1934-35	194							7,284
1935-36	276		275		65		2,106	
1936-37	291		350		90		3,907	
1937-38	378		350		90		11,456	
1938-39	436		317		90		3,519	
1939-40	328		317		90		9,921	
1940-41	296		290		50	14,906	2,214	
1941-42	295		300		60	15,060	6,566	
1942-43	255		315		60	10,207	4,369	
1943-44	168*		325		60	5,382	2,300	
1944-45	254		325		60	5,916	10,481	
1945-46	321*	29	320		60	5,715	9,399	
1946-47	411	225	186	525	120	60	16,425	47,828
1947-48	359	145	214	575	125	60	9,492	18,460
1948-49	273	83	190	575	115	70	6,845	2,570
1949-50	227	42	185	575	115	70	9,713	11,573
1950-51	232	15	217	550	100	60	9,472	12,897
1951-52	190	15	185	550	60	60	4,867	2,422
1952-53	185	9	176	550	60	60	4,932	12,973
1953-54	175	12	163	550	60	60	4,758	21,891
1954-55	202	18	184	550	60	60	6,583	13,000
1955-56	343	45	298	550	75	75	13,523**	22,444
1956-57	366	54	312	595	75	75	13,583	31,226
1957-58	400	54	346	690	100	100	17,883**	20,330

168* Only 29 men students in this number

321* Only 80 men students in this number

** Largely due to increase in Athletic Scholarships

APPENDIX I

NORTH CAROLINA METHODIST CONFERENCE APPROPRIATIONS, 1940-1957

1940	\$ 1,588
1941	2,006
1942	2,586
1943	3,098
1944	3,591
1945	5,000
1946	5,000
1947	5,000
1948	5,000
1949	5,000
1950	5,000
	(Sustaining Fund) 15,947
1951	5,000
	(Sustaining Fund) 21,221
1952	22,736*
1953	23,000
1954	29,130
1955	36,115
1956	83,960**
1957	56,960

* The Appropriation and Sustaining Fund became one fund in 1952 and continued to be called the Sustaining Fund.

** Part of the amount was in payment of the 1955 Fund.

APPENDIX J

FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL, 1958-59

Name	Office	Subjects Taught	Years of Service
Robbins, Cecil	President	English	4
Perry, Genevieve	Treasurer		24
York, John	Dean and Registrar	Mathematics	8
Ariall, William S.	Coach	Physical Education and Health	4
Blumenfeld, Ann		Foreign Language	13
Cooke, Ruth		Physical Education and Health	10
Coor, Zelda	Secretary to President		3
de Hart, S. Allen		History	2
de Hart, Flora		English and Foreign Language	2
Finch, Mary		English and Religion	1
Foster, Sarah		Music	14
Goldston, Wade		Religion	5
Gretter, W. C.		Social Sciences	10
Johnson, Adelaide		Business	6
Johnson, Elizabeth		Mathematics	14
Kornegay, Julia		Art	3
McDonald, Walter	Dean of Men	Religion	3
Merritt, Ruth		English	18
Mitchell, Bessie	House Counselor		1
Modlin, Rachael	Secretary to Dean and Registrar	Business	2
Moon, Isaac		Psychology and Music	23
Moon, Nellie		Business	23
Nease, Felton		Biology	2
Nease, Pauline		Biology	1
Patterson, Thomas	Director of Public Relations		2
Pearce, Lila	Dietitian		8
Pruette, C. Ray		Chemistry and Physics	10
Russell, Miriam	Dean of Women	English	5
Snyder, Grady		Mathematics	3
Snyder, Mary E.	Nurse		3
Stanley, Robert		Business	5
Stevenson, Helen	House Counselor		1
Vause, Edward		English	5
Wicks, N. J.	Superintendent of Buildings		8
Winberry, Herman	Chaplain		2
Yarborough, Elsa	Librarian		18

ADVANCED STANDING CERTIFICATE

out in quadruplicate. Send the original and one copy, together with the transcript, to the Office of Registration.)

Turner, James Charles

is admitted to North Carolina State College in the

Ag. and Biol. Chemistry

curriculum, with the following college credits from

Louisburg College

(Name and Address of Institution)

he attended for 6 semesters (or equivalent).

Years **1955-58**

SCRIPT		STATE COLLEGE CREDITS			Remarks	Roanoke Rapids	
Catalog Number	Allowed Credits	Subject	Catalog Number	High School		Roanoke Rapids, N.C.	
6AB	6	Composition	ENG 111, 112		Graduated		
6AC	6	General Zoology	ZO 101, 102		Date		
6AA	5	Math. for Engr.	MA 101				
2A	2	Phys. Ed.	PE 102, 102				
3A	3	Amer. Govt. Syst.	PS 201				
3A	3	Economics	EC 201				
6AA (	5	Gen. Inorg. Chem	CH 201		Subjects	Units
6A (	5	Gen. Inorg. & Qual	CH 205		English	4
1A	1	Phys. Ed.	PE 201		Algebra	3	
6AA	3	Klen. German	ML 101		Plane Geom.	1	
	3	Comm. W. & Fr. Read	ML 104		Solid Geom.		
6AA	6	General Botany	BO 101, 102		Am. Hist.	1	
6A	4	Quant. Analysis	CH 211		Science	2	
3A	-	Removes h.s. deficiencies			Physics	1	
6A	4	Math for Engr.	MA 102		French	2	
6AA	6	English Elective			Sped	1	
6AB	6	Humanities Elective			P.E.	1	
6AA (					Comm.	10
3A	22	Free Electives			Driver Ed.	2	
3A					Total	18	
	2	Chemistry Elective			Entrance Deficiencies:		
	4	Agricultural Elective			Solid Geometry	0	
(300.) 3A	3	Not applicable to degree					
Total	99	Credits			Approved at Louisbu		
	198	Points					

redits allowed toward advanced standing are conditional on the student's doing
ory work in this institution.

MMENDATIONS REGARDING FUTURE WORK:

Summary of
College Credits

Required for
graduation _____

Total
credits
allowed _____

Minimum
number of
credits to
be earned for
graduation _____

Date

6-23-58