

HISTORY OF CONCORDIA COLLEGE, CONOVER, NORTH CAROLINA

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by

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August 1951

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THE HISTORY OF CONCORDIA COLLEGE OF
CONOVER, NORTH CAROLINA

A Thesis
Presented to
the Faculty of the Graduate School
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In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts

by
Harry Raymond Voigt
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PREFACE

When an institution of learning has served a community for fifty-eight years, showering blessings upon many generations and many far-flung places, and when fifteen years after her death, she still has an active alumni association meeting bi-annually to recall her glories and sing her praises, someone ought to write her history. The undertaking of this work was suggested to the writer by Professor Daniel J. Whitener, Ph. D., who was appointed head of the writer's thesis committee.

The writer might be in a better position than others to assume this task since he has several advantages. First, he is an outlander and therefore should have no prejudices or axes to grind. He came from the mid-west and has lived in Conover five years. Secondly, he lives at the scene where these fifty-eight years of history have been enacted and has access to all the available records and to many people still living who served Concordia College in one capacity or another. Professor C. O. Smith, graduate of Old Concordia, Class of 1897, professor there for twenty-four years, and also at this day custodian of all the available records, has been a great help to the writer. He turned over all the records that he had, including faculty meeting minutes, grade reports of the students, catalogs, reports, etc., for use in this work. He also clarified many points which were not clear in the sources.

The Lenoir-Rhyne College archives were made available

to the writer through the courtesy of the archivist, Professor M. L. Stirewalt, Jr., Dr. R. L. Fritz, one time student professor at Concordia and later president of Lenoir-Rhyne College, also guided the writer in his research. Mrs. Maude Yoder Robinson, daughter of Dr. R. A. Yoder, contributed source material. Mr. Willard E. Wight of Atlanta, Georgia, graciously allowed the use of his biographical master's thesis on the life of Dr. R. A. Yoder. Mr. Robert Hentscher, senior student at Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Illinois, assisted in searching the records of the Missouri Synod in the Teachers College Library.

INTRODUCTION

The Piedmont area of North Carolina in 1871 did not have the fine roads it enjoys today. Location of roads were often determined by the fords in the rivers. The Catawba River had a good ford between Catawba and Alexander counties called Oxford. Here the road leading south from the North Wilkesboro settlements crossed the river. About ten miles south of the river, this road was crossed by the tracks of the Southern Railroad. Here also the railroad built a spur parallel to the road leading to Newton, the county seat of Catawba County. The track here formed a "Y" and trains would back down to Newton before proceeding east or west. This spot became known as the "Y".

The home of Francis Smyre near the "Y" served meals to train passengers who got off at this point to rest while the train went to Newton and back. Soon several small business establishments sprang up at this junction. This was the start of Conover about 1871. It was first called Conova presumably after an Italian sculptor who had attained fame in America at this time, but the railroad conductors in calling out the station found it easier to pronounce it Conover.¹

¹ J. M. Smith, in his diary, spelled Conover Conova in 1875 when he records preaching there the first time on the second Sunday in June, (He used the same spelling for recording the second sermon on the fourth Sunday in July), but in 1876 he spelled the name Conover as it is spelled today.

Conover was in the center of Catawba County. Newton lay three miles to the south, Hickory ten miles to the west, and Statesville twenty miles to the east. Charlotte was forty-five miles to the south-east.

Catawba County was settled by many Germans (Pennsylvania Dutch) of the Lutheran and Reformed Churches. The county was considered to be a prosperous and wealthy community by the Virginia and South Carolina brethren of the Tennessee Synod of the Lutheran Church.

There were several Lutheran Churches near Conover, principally St. Paul's, two miles south-west, St. John's, three miles north, and St. Peter's eight miles north-west. There was also St. James several miles south-east of Newton.

The county of Catawba had been organized in 1842, having before been a part of Lincoln County.

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CHAPTER I

THE FOUNDING

The year 1876 marked the beginning of the institution which several years later became known as Concordia College. Where the egg was first laid that hatched out the idea of this institution is a matter of conjecture. The minutes of the Tennessee Synod of 1852 give an indication that the idea of a synodical institution was in the minds of some of the members at that time. A resolution was passed "That Synod will devise some plan for the establishment of a Literary Institution which will not conflict with our present constitution".¹

This seems to indicate that the idea of having a synodical college was for the purpose of giving a general education to all who would come to it, and thus also benefit the church by providing a group of educated men from whom prospective ministers of the Gospel could be picked. The college, however, was not to become primarily a ministerial training school. The training of ministers in the Tennessee Synod was done by private instruction in a pastor's home, where the student lived for a year or two.

"Beneficiary Education" was carried on in synod by giving financial support to worthy students who were unable to

¹ Minutes of the Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod (New Market, Virginia: Henkel and Company, Printers, 1852), p. 11.

finance themselves. Some of these attended a college for a general education before they studied under a pastor. To become a college trained preacher marked a person as "high fallutin" in those days. Throughout the minutes one reads of the amounts of money appropriated for Beneficiary Education. The amounts ranged from thirty to one-hundred-fifty dollars a year per student. The Rev. A. L. Yount who had received as much as five hundred or six hundred dollars from synod for his Beneficiary Education and who had left the Tennessee Synod to take charge of a congregation in Murphrysboro, Illinois, was asked to refund this amount because he had not kept his agreement to serve the Tennessee Synod for a period of ten years.²

If the synod was to have an institution of higher learning, Catawba County, North Carolina, was a natural place to build it. Catawba County was centrally located in respect to the distribution of the congregations of the synod numbering about seventy. Here was the largest concentration of Lutherans in the synod. Furthermore, this area had a provoking cause which incited its Lutheran population to have a strong desire to have a college of their own.

The provoking cause was Catawba College, "a denominational institution founded by descendents of Reformed People

² Ibid., 1877, p. 19.

from the North".³ This college was founded in 1851. It attracted many Lutherans of the vicinity. The religious doctrines taught in that college were at variance with those taught by the Lutherans, and hence there was agitation among the Lutherans to start a college of their own.

The beginning of this agitation seems to have had its roots in the Smith-May debates of August 7 and 8, 1874. The Lutheran pastor, J. M. Smith of Conover, entered a debate with the Methodist pastor, Daniel May of Newton, on the question of the real presence of Our Lord's Body in the Lord's Supper. The debates were begun in front of the Reformed Church (known as the White Church), but when the crowd became too large, the debators moved to the grove on the court house square.⁴

Smith upheld the Lutheran stand that the real body and blood of Our Lord are present in the Sacrament in a supernatural manner, and May took the Methodist stand that they are not present. May used the argument that if the Body was actually in the Holy Supper "we could see it, we could taste it, we could feel it, and we could smell it."⁵

3 George W. Hahn, The Catawba Soldier of the Civil War (Hickory, North Carolina: Clay Printing Company, 1911), p. 72.

4 The Rev. P. C. Wike, private letter to the writer dated March 2, 1950.

5 Ibid. Letter dated March 2, 1950. Wike as a boy attended these debates.

Dr. Henkel on a visit from Missouri in April, 1875, was called in on these debates also, and so was the Rev. F. A. Schmidt of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod in July, 1875. The Rev. Schmidt was presumably from St. Louis. The Rev. P. C. Wike, who as a boy of fourteen or fifteen years heard these debates, says that May "was physically tops and had the loudest pulpit voice I ever heard."⁶ The debates May had with Schmidt of Missouri "lasted for several days, two hours in the forenoon and two hours in the afternoon."⁷ A large crowd of people attended these debates coming from as far as ten miles or more away.

When May's viewpoints were discussed at home by the Lutherans, they were told by the students of Catawba College that the same viewpoints were held by their professors.⁸ That was too much for the Lutherans. They could easily brush over doctrinal differences with the Reformed because there existed the kinship of the German Language, but now they were shocked to find these brethren in the Methodist camp. Something had to be done.⁹

In 1869 the Rev. Polycarp Cyprian Henkel of Conover,

6 Ibid. Letter to the writer dated March 2, 1950.

7 Loc. cit.

8 William H. T. Dau, et al., Review of Prof. R. A. Yoder's "Situation in North Carolina." (Newton, North Carolina: N. p., about 1894), p. 5.

9 Loc. cit.

North Carolina, aged forty-nine years heeded the call of the Carolinian farmers, who had moved to Missouri to improve their fortunes on the rich black soil, and went there to help them. It is believed that he had become discouraged at the little encouragement he had received in advocating the establishment of a Lutheran College in Catawba County, North Carolina, and that that was the reason for his going to Missouri. But the pleas of Rev. J. R. Moser of Wayne County, Missouri, were probably the main reason for his going, for the need in that section was great. One of Henkel's first ministerial acts in Missouri was to "preach the funerals of J. R. Moser's wives, Barbara and Hanah, and son Filo, and daughter Susan."¹⁰

The Catawba County Lutherans, after the Smith-May Debates, now wished that they had P. C. Henkel back in North Carolina to start their college. They wrote to him to come back. This he did. "I preached my last sermon at Gravelton, Missouri, on the first Sunday of April, 1877, and landed at Conover the 21st day of April 1877."¹¹ So reads his diary. He had a home and a farm in Conover to come back to, and there were plenty of congregations in this vicinity who wanted preaching more than once a month or once every other

¹⁰ P. C. Henkel Diary, p. 81. This torn and mutilated book is more a record of sermons than a diary. A few financial transactions are recorded and reference is made to his slaves, of which Henkel probably owned two for a while. One of his descendants told the writer that he got rid of them because they stole so much.

¹¹ Ibid., p. 82.

month. When he returned, he took over the ministry at St. Peter's and Bethel churches. Even though at this time he was made president of Concordia High School (later "College"), he probably received no remuneration for that position but had to support himself in other ways.

The ground work had already been laid by the time he came. Many meetings had been held by the Lutherans of Catawba County in Newton, Hickory, and Conover. The leading spirit had been Rev. J. M. Smith. He was first urged by Andrew Hollar of Conover.¹²

A philanthropic Episcopalian ex-soldier of the Civil War, Colonel Walter W. Lenoir, was trying to give away some property in Hickory to any protestant church which would put a college on it, because his own church denomination was not numerically strong enough in this section to undertake the task.

This offer was discussed at the meetings the Lutherans held regarding the founding of a college, and a committee was appointed to look at the property offered in Hickory. Yoder says:

That committee, consisting of Moses Huit, Jacob Motteller and Darius Seitz, went to Hickory, viewed the site, were well pleased with it, approved the location, secured a bond for title, and submitted their report to the next meeting. Their report was received and adopted, and the school located at Hickory by a large majority.¹³

12 Dau, op. cit., p. 5.

13 R. A. Yoder: Situation in North Carolina, p. 6.

Yoder goes on to say that the people of Conover at several meetings held in the vicinity of Conover raised such a row over this, that, in order to preserve peace and unity, F. L. Herman of Hickory introduced a resolution, and secured its adoption, to rescind the action taken upon the committee's report to locate the school in Hickory. He also blames Rev. J. M. Smith, the only Lutheran Pastor working in Catawba County, living within one mile of Conover and having several sons ready for school, of having a powerful motive to override the wishes of the people and locate the school at Conover.¹⁴ Professor C. O. Smith thinks his assertions seem far-fetched, and unreasonable.

Professor W. H. T. Dau a year later answers Yoder's accusations and puts a little different complexion on the beginning of Concordia College. He agrees that it was resolved to build the school at Hickory, but he continues:

But resolutions did not build schools in 1875, nor do they do so now. Hickory was asked to see how much money could be raised for the school buildings, and about \$1200 was subscribed. But the buildings were not begun. Other meetings were held, locating the school first at Conover, then at Hickory, and so on. It would be of no benefit to trace the ups and downs of the college through all these meetings. The school question was almost dead, when in the spring of 1877, Dr. Henkel returned to North Carolina.¹⁵

This must have been a sad moment for Dr. Henkel when

14 Ibid., p. 6.

15 W. H. T. Dau, et al., op. cit., p. 14.

he arrived in Conover and found the object of his hopes and prayers almost dashed to pieces by bickering factions. Another meeting was called at Newton, and it was decided to leave the location up to the place raising the most money. Sometime afterward another meeting was called at St. Paul's at which Dr. Henkel read a paper setting forth the principles upon which the curriculum and school should be founded. It was to be a distinctively Lutheran School where the Bible and Luther's Catechism should be taught daily. Marcus Yoder of Hickory and others opposed this kind of school during the discussion of the paper.

On August 18, 1877, another meeting was held and this time at St. John's Church about three miles north east of Conover. This was the second nearest Lutheran Church to Conover (St. Paul's was nearer). The little town of two hundred population did not yet have a church within its limits. At this meeting the school was definitely located at Conover. The Hickory subscribers had apparently not added anything to the \$1200 they had subscribed. Conover had subscribed nearly \$2500 and Newton had subscribed \$800. So the little town of Conover had won over the county seat Newton, three miles away with over five hundred inhabitants, and over the largest town of the county, Hickory, ten miles away with over one thousand inhabitants.

At this meeting at St. John's, according to record, were present:

Revs. P. C. Henkel, H. Goodman, M. L. Little and J. M. Smith; also Messrs. D. W. Moose, A. M. Huit, D. D. Seitz, Andrew Hollar and others. At this meeting Dr. Henkel was chairman, J. M. Smith secretary. Dr. Henkel was here elected President of the Board of Trustees of the School, and J. M. Smith, secretary of said Board.¹⁶

So now the dreams of Dr. P. C. Henkel had come true. When he had visited Conover in 1875 (also the occasion of his debate with Daniel May), he had been urged by the Lutherans of Catawba County to remain here. At this time he had made the assertion that he would not come back to North Carolina unless he could be instrumental in building up a Lutheran school in this section.

In the summer of 1877 a twenty-three year old graduate of North Carolina College, R. A. Yoder, was looking for a job to teach in Hickory. Being unsuccessful there, he consulted with Henkel and Smith of Conover. These men were happy to have him and offered him the job of opening up the new school which they were founding. It was Yoder's wish to become a minister through studying theology while he was making his living by teaching. Henkel and Smith agreed to teach the young man theology while he was conducting the school. And so it was that on March 11, 1878, he opened the first session of Concordia High School at Conover "in a private house with

with nineteen pupils."¹⁶ He and Mrs. Yoder were the only teachers the school had in its first four years.

In those days the public county schools were in session only three months of the year, and many people welcomed the opportunity to send their children to the high school after public school was out. There was also a primary department in this school to take care of the less advanced pupils. One of the pupils attending during those first years told the writer that the course of study in the high school consisted of German, French, History, Philosophy, and Mathematics.

Construction of a new building was in progress. J. P. Cline and Alfred Huffman were the contractors. The original cost is listed in Horst's Record¹⁷ as four thousand dollars. This value was made up by cash gifts, and by donations in kind, such as lumber, shingles, labor, etc. The building was of frame construction in the shape of a square cross. It had two stories plus an attic and a cupola. The first floor had an assembly hall, a library and a classroom. On the second floor were four classrooms, a storeroom and a hall.

¹⁶ Willard Eugene Wight, "Robert Anderson Yoder, 1853-1911, A Social Biography," (unpublished Master's thesis, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, 1949), p. 30.

¹⁷ Henry W. Horst, Important Facts and Records of Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina (Rock Island, Illinois: 1932), p. vii.

Total number of square feet floor space was 4,050. In September, 1878, Yoder moved his school into this new building.

The site on which this new building was erected was a four acre tract, the highest spot in the town of Conover. The tract, some seven acres (including lots across the street from the main tract) was donated by J. P. Spencer and wife to the "Concordia College Association of the Ev. Lutheran church."¹⁸

While this small plot probably seemed adequate at the time, it was short-sighted wisdom not to have acquired more property. Colonel Lenoir's offer in Hickory had been thirty-six acres. That offer remained a threat to the existence of the college at Conover and finally brought about the hegira to Hickory in 1891. From talking with Yoder's relatives, the writer gathered that Yoder loved Conover and was willing to do everything in his power to keep the college there, but in 1890 it was impossible to get more land without the expenditure of a relatively large sum of money.

The town of Conover was well situated and had prospects of growth even though in 1877 there were only about a half dozen houses as an early citizen recalls. In that year it was incorporated.

The name Concordia was brought back from Missouri by

18 Ibid., p. iv.

P. C. Henkel. It was used there by the Saxon Lutherans of Perry County whom Dr. Henkel admired very much. Dr. C. F. W. Walther of that group and Dr. Henkel¹⁹ had been two of the founders of the English Missouri Conference at the Gravelton, Missouri, meeting in August, 1872.

19 Brief biography of Dr. P. C. Henkel. Rev. Polycarp Cyprian Henkel was the son of David Henkel and his wife Catherine. He was born in Lincoln County (out of which Catawba County was formed in 1842), North Carolina, on August 20, 1820. His father and grandfather, Paul Henkel, had both been preachers. His great-grandfather, an exile from Germany, had come to North Carolina in 1717 and settled on the Yadkin River.

Two pamphlets were published by Dr. Henkel, Christ's Descent into Hell and Immortality. How or where he received his Doctor's title is not known. In 1843 he married Rebecca Fox of Randolph County. This marriage was blessed with three children, David, Catherine, and Ambrose (died at age eight).

P. C. Henkel preached for forty-six years, seven of which were spent in Missouri where he said he thought he had preached about five hundred and twenty-two sermons. It appears that he also ran a sawmill in Missouri for the purpose of supporting himself while preaching.

Dr. Henkel died September 26, 1889, in Conover, North Carolina in the steep-roofed house now (1951) occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Rockett and family. This house he had built for himself when he returned from Missouri. Before moving to Missouri, he had lived in the Marion Hunsucker house near Horace Isenhower's new home on the hill. He lies buried in St. Peter's Cemetery eight miles north of Conover. From Henkel's Diary and Henkel Memorials.

CHAPTER II

UNDER THE TENNESSEE SYNOD

Concordia College had been founded and was running rather well, but the intentions of the founders to make it a synodical institution had not yet come to fulfillment. In a way the institution was conceived in the Tennessee Synod of the Lutheran Church, but because it was fathered by a faction, the Conover group, the Synodical conventions treated Concordia coldly. In its first five years it could not under any circumstances be labeled "an institution of the Tennessee Synod." It was only an institution of the board of trustees of which P. C. Henkel was president and J. M. Smith was secretary.

This situation was not satisfactory at all to the board, for tuition money alone could not support the school. A large church body was needed to give moral and financial backing. Synod was not satisfied. She desired a synodical college but was not strong enough to establish one in competition to Concordia.

The task of the board of trustees now was to gain the interest of the Tennessee Synod and get her support. In the president's report to the 1877 session he said: "The school at Conover under church influence is in operation. I commend

it to the favorable recognition of synod."¹ But when the committee on the president's report made their report, they came with this recommendation: "That we regard no further action on the part of this Synod, in reference to Concordia High School, at Conover, N. C., as necessary."²

There were many ministers in the synod who were not in sympathy with the institution at Conover and who would not back it. In the 1878 meeting of synod it was again suggested that the school be made a "Synodical enterprize" by President P. C. Henkel. Nothing came of it. In 1879 and 1880 again approaches were made to get synod to take hold of the college. In 1881 Rev. J. C. Moser, as chairman of

. . . a committee for considering the propriety of receiving the Concordia High School into connection of this Synod, conveys the information that said committee is not prepared to report and requests that the same be continued.³

No mention was made in this September meeting that the State Legislature had chartered Concordia as a college in February.

In 1882 the president reported to synod: "I am informed that Concordia College at Conover, N. C., has a fair

1 Minutes of the Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod (New Market, Virginia: Henkel and Company, Printers, 1877), p. 6.

2 Ibid., p. 14.

3 Minutes of Tennessee Synod, op. cit. 1881, p. 7.

4 Ibid., 1882, p. 4.

patronage and enjoys a reasonable degree of prosperity."⁴

There were no recommendations forthcoming.

Finally in 1883 a connection with synod was established. This year the annual meeting was held in the chapel of Concordia College in October. The committee, which had been appointed in 1880, was now ready to report that an agreement had been drawn up with the Board of Trustees of Concordia College. The agreement contained five points:

1. Synod would "recommend" candidates for filling vacancies on the board of trustees.
2. A synodically appointed Board of Visitors should visit the school each year and report to synod.
3. The President of the school should report to synod each year on the moral and literary condition of the school.
4. The President of the Board of Trustees should make an annual report of the financial condition of the school.
5. The school should definitely be a church institution, teaching nothing contrary to the Book of Concord (the confessions of the Lutheran Church).

4 Ibid., 1882, p. 4.

The following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, that we, as a Synod, accept the propositions made to us by the Board of Trustees of Concordia College, and that in consideration of the rights and privileges therein granted, we will lend to said institution our fostering care, influence, and moral support.⁵

That "fostering care" was all Concordia got and thus she became the stepchild of the first synod she was under. The college never became the property of the Tennessee Synod. The title of the property was still in the hands of the Board of Trustees. It is not clear whether they did not want to give it over or whether the Synod was afraid to adopt too much responsibility. The latter conjecture is probably the correct one. Had the Synod taken it over lock, stock, and barrel, it would certainly have circumvented the work of the Missouri Synod in North Carolina.

Who constituted the Tennessee Synod? The Tennessee Synod was made up of a group of ministers and congregations who left the North Carolina Synod at the May 28, 1820 meeting at Lincolnton, North Carolina. This withdrawing group met again on the 17th of July of the same year at Solomon's Church, Cove Creek, Green County, Tennessee, "to organize a Synod according to the teachings and doctrines of the Church."⁶

5 Minutes of Tennessee Synod, op. cit., 1883.

6 Socrates Henkel, D. D. History of the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod (New Market, Virginia: Henkel and Company, 1890), p. 23.

This first meeting was attended by five ministers and about twenty lay delegates who represented nine churches. In all about a dozen churches were represented. This small group had grown to 109 congregations by 1891 and was served by thirty-four ministers. One minister served as many as seven congregations, and none served less than two. There were 15,000 adherents, of which number 10,000 were communicants. Most of the congregations were located in the Piedmont of North Carolina, the Tennessee brethren having formed the Holston Synod because of their inability to attend the meetings across the mountains.

The 1820 schism of the Carolina Synod came about because of the Doctrine of Original Sin, the Doctrine of the Person and Nature of Christ, on Baptism, and on the Lord's Supper. The withdrawing party that formed the Tennessee Synod was guided by the Book of Concord which contained the Lutheran Confessions. So the Tennessee Synod could be called the most truly Lutheran group in the Carolinas because she stood on the Book of Concord.

What did the Tennessee Synod as a synod do for Concordia College? As has already been shown, up to 1883 the synod didn't want anything to do with it. That was due, Yoder says in his pamphlet, The Situation in North Carolina, to the "high handed" way the college was located at Conover. Others explain it as a lack of the spirit of cooperation;

the spirit which would not admit diverse opinions. After the school was six years old, the synod took it under her fostering care. At best that can be looked upon as a compromise with the opposing party.

Some of the strong men of the synod showed little interest in the college. One of the most able men, the Rev. M. L. Little (1848-1891), who in 1882 was elected principal of Gaston High School at Dallas, North Carolina, some thirty miles from Conover, and who developed it into a fine college, was trying to get synod to take over his institution as a synodical college. In 1883 he had a three-year co-educational college with an enrollment of 194 students from four states, he had good buildings and at least six newspapers spoke of it as a wonderful school.⁷ There was rivalry between his school and Concordia, so in the cause of brotherly love, in 1889, Rev. Little changed his school to Gaston Female College and made a proposal to Synod that Gaston Female College become Synod's school for girls and Concordia College be the school for boys.⁸ This proposal met with no success, and in 1891 Little lost his life in a train wreck on his way to Hickory to attend a board meeting of the newly founded Lenoir College.

⁷ W. H. Little, "A Brief Resume of the Life and Work of the Rev. Professor M. L. Little 1848-1891," 13 pp. (Hickory, North Carolina: Private manuscript of W. H. Little.)

⁸ Loc. cit.

In a letter of January 3, 1885, Little deplores:

"A worldly, secular, anti-Christians spirit is devouring the very vitals of the Church. And what is worst, it is found in the ministers that serve at the altar of our God."⁹

In 1889 the president of Synod appointed a committee of five (three ministers and two laymen) to secure \$10,000 for the purpose of erecting new college buildings in Conover. The spring before, when the college had recessed for the summer vacation, it had an enrollment of 120 students, which was greater than for any previous term so far, and the visiting committee deplored the fact that they did not have enough room for literary societies.¹⁰

When in 1884 the college reported that she had a debt of \$550, synod's Committee on Reports recommended: "We would suggest that the financial agent would make an effort to raise an amount sufficient to liquidate the debt."¹¹ They did not mean synod's financial agent; they meant Concordia's financial agent.

In 1885 synod did take hold financially. She recognized the necessity of electing and sustaining a theological professor at Concordia College for the present, and recommended

9 Ibid., p. 12.

10 Minutes of Tennessee Synod, op. cit., 1888, p. 22.

11 Ibid., 1884, p. 18.

that (1) congregations contribute twelve cents per capita annually for the support of the professor; (2) the salary of the professor should be \$800 per annum; and (3) this professor should be employed by January 1st if possible.¹² In 1886 the Rev. J. S. Koiner was called to fill this position.

The committee elected in 1889 to raise \$10,000 worked for a year and it is thought had subscriptions for \$5500 by October, 1890, of which amount \$2,635 was pledged in the Conover area. Dr. R. A. Yoder himself pledged \$250.¹³ The work of this committee, however, was nullified by the schism which came at the end of the next year.

Maintaining a theological professor at the college for a few years, sustaining some beneficiary students so that they could study at Concordia, suggesting candidates to fill vacancies on the faculty and on the board, making a belated effort to raise money for a building, and giving a little encouragement now and then was the sum and total of what the Tennessee Synod did for Concordia College.

The 1882-1883 Catalog of Concordia College¹⁴ divides

12 Ibid., 1885, pp. 6-7.

13 Wight, op. cit., p. 35.

14 Catalog of Concordia College 1882-1883, p. 7. This catalog could not be located by the writer, but he quotes from the notes taken by Willard E. Wight who had access to it in 1948. The archivist at Lenoir-Rhyne knew nothing of it.

the high school course into two categories: A--Normal, and B--Classical Preparatory. The Normal Course had these offerings: English, geography, U. S. History, arithmetic, algebra, natural philosophy, botany, bookkeeping, methods of teaching. In the Classical Preparatory Course were found these: History, geography, mathematics (as in A), Latin, Greek, German, English.

The Collegiate Course:

Freshman	Sophomore	Junior	Senior
English	English	English	English
History	History	Mathematics	Mathematics
Mathematics	Mathematics	Science	Science
Science	Surveying	Metaphysics	Metaphysics
Physiology	Science	Logic	Logic
Latin	Latin	Latin	Ethics
Greek	Greek	Greek	Greek
German	German	German	Religion

Summary of students for the year is as follows:

Collegiate department	5	
High School department	81	
Primary department	38	
Musical department	12	
		136
Twice counted		11
Actual number enrolled	125	

This enrollment figure must stand for the whole year, since in 1888 Yoder said one hundred twenty students for the term was the greatest in the history of the institution.

The calender for the 1883-1884 school-year read:

Examination May 24
 Closing Exercises May 25
 Summer Term begins July 16
 400th anniversary of Luther's birth November 10
 Summer term closes November 30
 Winter term begins January 7
 Winter term closes May 23

The 1887-1888 catalog listed 142 students distributed as follows:

Senior Class	3	Female Department	High School Department
Junior Class	6		
Sophomore	8	Middle Class	1
Freshman	8	Junior Class	2
			Classical 28
			Normal (A) 22
			Normal (B) 22
		Primary Department	41
		Music Department	22

For five years Concordia College was advertised on the back of the Annual Minutes of the Tennessee Synod. The last advertisement (1890) gave the following information:

Faculty: R. A. Yoder, A. M., President, Professor of Psychology and Natural Sciences. Rev. J. G. Schaid, A. M., Professor of Latin and German. Rev. J. P. Miller, A. B., Professor of Greek and English, Mr. R. L. Fritz, Instructor in Mathematics. Mrs. R. A. Yoder, Teacher of Music, Miss M. Ella Rhodes, Teacher of Primary Department.

The courses of study are so arranged as to provide for the requirements of those who desire to prepare for teaching, business, or professional life.¹⁵

TERMS

Tuition in Primary Department per month \$1.00 to \$1.50
 Tuition in High School Department per month, \$2.00 to \$3.00
 Tuition in Collegiate Department, per month \$4.00
 Music \$2.50

NO REDUCTION TO ANYONE. These terms will be strictly adhered to in all cases.
 Board, including all expenses, at \$7.00 to \$8.00 per month.
 Accessible by two railroads.
 Open to both sexes.
 Education, Christian and Moral, as well as Intellectual and Practical.
 The Bible and Luther's Catechism are taught daily.
 I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not unceasingly occupied with the Word of God, must become corrupt.--Luther¹⁵

Every morning at eight o'clock the whole school including the faculty were required to assemble for "responsive reading of Scriptures, Singing, and Prayer. The remainder of the hour is regularly devoted to the appointed work of Christian instruction."¹⁶

The following prohibitions were laid down regarding conduct of students:

1. Association of ladies and gentlemen during the five days of the week.
2. Card playing or other games of chance, the use of intoxicating drinks and profane or obscene language.
3. The abuse of buildings or furniture of the College.
4. All secret societies.¹⁷

At this time the institution consisted of only two buildings, the administration building, commonly called "The College",

¹⁵ Minutes of Tennessee Synod, op. cit., 1890, back cover.

¹⁶ Catalog of Concordia College 1888-1889, p. 15.

¹⁷ Ibid., p. 17.

which has already been described, and a boys' dormitory built in 1881. Not much is known about the details surrounding the gathering of funds and constructing this building, since the early records of the Board are not in existence any more. Horst lists the date of construction as 1881; it could have been built prior to that. The Board had this to say in 1932:

We doubt whether the cost of this building originally exceeded \$1000.00 including labor donated. We have no record of the cost. The bricks were made near the building of local clay. Whatever money was expended for this building, to the best of our knowledge, came from the subscriptions originally made for the College.¹⁸

It was a two story building 56' x 49' x 30'. The first floor had eight study rooms. By 1932 it had acquired two shower baths, two wash stands and two toilets. The second floor had eight bedrooms. Total floor space was 4,480 square feet.

The Charter of Concordia College: On February 11, 1881, the North Carolina General Assembly ratified "An act to incorporate the Trustees of Concordia College, situated at Conover, in Catawba County, North Carolina."¹⁹

The trustees were given full power to run the school. This included the right to "Elect a President and professors to teach in this institution and remove them for good cause."

¹⁸ Henry W. Horst, Important Facts and Records of Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina (Rock Island, Illinois: 1932), p. vii.

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 1-a.

LIBRARY
Appalachian State Teachers College
Boone, North Carolina

25

They could buy and sell property, but could not go into debt for more than \$1000.

The college was given the power to confer the "degree of Master of Arts and degrees and distinction of less dignity."²⁰ On February 16, 1903, the General Assembly amended the charter empowering the "Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri and Other States" to fill vacancies in the Board of Trustees in place of the Concordia College Association which heretofore had that power.

In 1889 Dr. P. C. Henkel had closed his eyes in peace. He was not to see the struggle which was to take shape in 1890, cause a schism in 1891, and bring much bitterness into the ranks of the church for years to come.

²⁰ The faculty minutes record the granting of several M. A. degrees.

CHAPTER III

THE SCHISM

Ten miles to the west of Conover in the town of Hickory clouds were gathering which were brewing up a storm for Concordia College. The location of Concordia at Conover was accomplished only after much dispute over Colonel Walter W. Lenoir's offer of a college site at Hickory. That offer was still open in 1890, and Concordia's Professor A. L. Crouse knew about it.

The road from Hickory to Conover was ten miles long, and every day Crouse had to travel it on horseback to come to Concordia College to teach theology to those students intending to become ministers. In bad weather especially this must have been very irksome. The time lost in this travel was a considerable item in a busy man's life. Crouse was pastor of two congregations having six hundred souls under his care, and besides that he had a printing press in the basement room of his house where he printed catechisms and other religious material. The little house in which he lived is still standing today (1951) across the street west from Lenoir-Rhyne College.

Crouse lived across the road from the property which Colonel Lenoir was offering to the Lutherans as a college site. In fact he probably had to cross it daily on his ride

to Conover where he taught theology at the college. This seventeen and one half acre campus of Highland College looked very desirable to him as a site for Concordia College. It would certainly make things easier for him if he only had to cross the road to meet his classes rather than to ride ten miles on horseback. So it seems quite natural to find that Crouse urged Synod to accept the Lenoir offer.

Colonel Lenoir had died in July, 1890, and had left his property in trust of his friend Captain J. G. Hall. This trust stipulated that the property should be given to some Protestant denomination which would build a college on it. Why Highland College which had been built there was not satisfactory to Colonel Lenoir is not known. The deed of trust which Hall held stipulated

that a school shall be established and maintained, on said land the course of studies in which shall be sufficient to prepare students for full admission into the Freshman Class of the University of North Carolina, which school may be male or female, or mixed, and may at any time be changed or enlarged by parties having control thereof into a College or University.¹

Crouse was also informed that besides the original offer, Colonel Lenoir had left in his will an additional twenty-five lots (which, when later surveyed, proved to be thirty-six acres) surrounding the property, which were to be sold and proceeds used for the erection of a building for the

¹ Willard Eugene Wight, "Robert Anderson Yoder, 1853-1911, A Social Biography," (unpublished Master's Thesis, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, 1949), p. 36.

principal of the school to live in. R. L. Fritz, Sr., of Hickory told the writer these lots were valued at \$7,250.

Crouse talked it over with the Rev. J. C. Moser also of Hickory, and when they went to synod meeting in Page County, Virginia, October 24-27, 1890, they met with Yoder, president of Concordia, and Rev. W. P. Cline, chairman of the committee planning how to raise \$10,000 for Concordia. Crouse and Moser were members of the Board of Trustees. These four men talked Hall's proposition over till one o'clock in the morning and then decided not to bring it up before the synod.²

Willard Eugene Wight³, who had possession of Yoder's diary says that Yoder was opposed to opening the question of relocating. This is understandable when there was such a good possibility of getting a new building at Conover within a few years. Later Yoder recounted his reasons for not favoring relocating:

Because considerable money gathered from members and congregations of our church had been spent at Conover, the canvass had been made by Rev. W. P. Cline, for funds for a new building, the synod had formally accepted the location at Conover, and chiefly because of the agitation and bitterness that would surely follow such reopening.⁴

But Yoder changed his mind. On November 5th he was in Hickory discussing the proposition with Crouse and Cline.⁵

2 Wight, op. cit., p. 37.

3 Ibid., p. 38.

4 Ibid., p. 39.

5 Loc. cit.

On November 8th the Rev. C. H. Bernheim and another member of the Board of Trustees came to Yoder's house to talk with him "in referencē to the 'Rebellion' in College."⁶ The secret was out. Now the cast was chosen for the drama which was to be enacted the two days after Christmas in Newton.

President Cline of the Tennessee Synod was in favor of moving the college to Hickory. He wrote Yoder a thirteen page letter giving his reasons for his convictions, and Yoder couldn't help but agree with him. Yoder was also disgusted "with the methods employed by leaders of the party favoring Conover to secure defeat of Hall's proposition."⁷ Yoder's daughter, Mrs. Maude Yoder Robinson, told the writer (December, 1949) that her father did not wish to leave Conover, but he changed his mind when he became convinced that it was not possible to enlarge the campus at Conover without the outlay of a great sum of money which was impossible to get. He had been satisfied with Conover because just two years before this he had built himself a fine home there across from the campus at the present site of the Lutheran parsonage.

6 Loc. cit.

7 Ibid., p. 40

Crouse, with the written proposition of Hall, came before his fellow board members on November 17, 1890. They rejected the proposition.

When the North Carolina Conference of the Tennessee Synod ministers met on November 27-30, the relocation question was the main topic of discussion. This conference requested the president of Synod, the Rev. W. P. Cline of Ilex, North Carolina, to call a special session of Synod to consider Hall's offer. This session was called for December 26 and 27, 1890, at St. James Church near Newton.⁸

On December the second Yoder tried in vain to persuade a mass meeting of Conover citizens to agree to accept the proposition to move the college.⁹

An interesting incidence on the side was a letter dated November 30, 1890, by the secretary of the College Board of Trustees, C. H. Bernheim, to the Rev. E. L. S. Tressel of Baltimore, Maryland, evidently an officer of the Ohio Synod, offering to give the college to that synod. In part it said

. . . would you entertain an offer of Concordia College as a donation, made to you so by deed, to run it according to the provisions of its charter . . . If such an arrangement is forced to be made (and it looks so now) and is accepted by you, (it) would give you no inconsiderable following, strength and foothold here(.) We hold you as Christian brethren of the 'same household of faith' marshalled

⁸ Minutes of the Called Session of the Tennessee Synod published in 1891 in the same leaflet with 1891 minutes.

⁹ Wight, op. cit., p. 43.

under the same battle flag with no Shibboleth to divide us.¹⁰

The Called Session or "Split Meeting". The Called Session of the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod met on December 26 and 27 at St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church about five miles south of Newton, North Carolina, and about eight or nine miles from Conover. The president, the Rev. W. P. Cline, preached the opening sermon from Isaiah 2:5: "O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the Lord." As has already been indicated, he was convinced that the way to walk was to move to Hickory.

Seventeen ministers and forty-two lay delegates were registered. Exactly half of the ministers of synod were present; only one of them was from outside of North Carolina. Only three of the ministers of North Carolina were absent. "The total number of lay delegates possible in a meeting of this synod was one hundred nine."¹¹ So slightly half of the lay delegates of synod were present. Newton was the geographical center of synod, but a meeting in mid-winter probably kept many away.

¹⁰ R. A. Yoder, Situation in North Carolina (Newton, North Carolina: Enterprise Job Office Print, 1894), p. 12. Bernheim acknowledges this letter in a quotation on p. 10 of Dau's Review of "Situation in North Carolina".

¹¹ Wight, op. cit., p. 44.

President Cline's opening address came right to the point. Three items were submitted for synod's consideration: (1) Hall's offer of the Lenoir property, (2) the offer of Concordia's Board of Trustees to give Concordia College to the Tennessee Synod, and (3) the feasibility of having the Synod incorporated so that they would be qualified to hold property.¹² Cline made no recommendations or suggestions.

The report of the president was discussed by the whole body of synod. Crouse had a carefully drawn-up resolution which he believed was compromising enough to get a majority of votes. The substance of it was this: The Lenoir property was to be accepted as the site for the college, and the Conover property was to be turned into an orphans' home and named THE P. C. HENKEL ORPHAN HOME AND ACADEMY "as a living and useful memorial to the worth of him whose name it shall thus bear."¹³

The Conover men were very indignant at this resolution. They saw in it a shrewd political move in church matters whereby the moving of the college to Hickory was to be obtained by handing to certain wavering delegates a mere sop which would bring them over to the Lenoir proposition. Bernheim is said to have jumped up and "with face as red as

¹² Minutes of the Called Session of the Tennessee Synod, op. cit., p. 43.

¹³ William H. T. Dau, et. al.: Review of Professor R. A. Yoder's "Situation in North Carolina." Newton, North Carolina: N. p., about 1894), p. 8.

a turkey's" shouted, "If we can't have the table cloth, we'll not take the dish rag."¹⁴ One lay delegate of that meeting, who had never before attended a synod meeting, told the writer that he had had the shock of his life to find that supposedly Christian ministers could hand it out to each other as they did at that meeting.¹⁵

The Hickory faction, perceiving the resentment of the Conover faction, offered a motion to put the whole matter into the hands of a committee of "five disinterested and unbiased men of the Church, to whom all advantages and arguments of a proper character should be submitted."¹⁶

The Conover men then, through the Rev. J. R. Peterson, offered a substitute motion to locate Concordia College permanently at Conover. Through that motion they took the advantage away from the Hickory faction and kept it throughout the rest of the meeting, till they accomplished their aims. Some discussion followed in which Yoder, the president of the college, was asked whether the school could not be made a success at Conover. He replied that "If synod would unite

14 R. L. Fritz, Sr. in private conversation with writer in Hickory, December 30, 1949. Fritz was a lay delegate at this meeting representing his congregation from Holly Grove, North Carolina.

15 R. L. Fritz, loc. cit., p. 9.

16 Wight, op. cit.

on that place it could be made a success."¹⁷ The Conover faction shouted "Question, question." The vote was taken and Conover won by a majority of two votes, counting those not voting as against the substitute motion. No further action was taken on the other matters before the synod. Adjournment took place with the usual service. It was Saturday afternoon and the ministers had to get home to prepare for services on Sunday.

Eleven pastors and two lay delegates had refused to vote for the substitute motion.¹⁸ The next Monday the dissenters drew up an "Explanatory Pastoral Letter" in which they stated that they could not abide by the action taken by synod, nor could they continue to support Concordia. In part it read:

We do not believe that we should lose any time in the important work of training ministers for our Church, and in the Christian education of our youth, by seeking to uphold the future of an institution, whose permanent location has been secured in the unfair manner herein set forth"¹⁹

On December 30 (the week following the meeting) R. A. Yoder handed in his resignation as president of Concordia to the Board of Trustees.²⁰ They accepted it with the stipulation

17 Wight, op. cit.

18 Wight, op. cit., p. 48.

19 R. A. Yoder, op. cit., pp. 9 and 10.

20 Wight, op. cit., p. 49.

that he stay till the end of the term.

On February 3, 1891, those who favored the move to Hickory had a meeting and made plans to raise the \$10,000 required to take over the Lenoir property. This was accomplished by five or six men who put up the money and accepted the property for the Tennessee Synod.

When the announcement was made on May 1, that Highland College would be opened in September, the fires of passion created over the school question were fanned into fiercer flame. The feeling in Conover became especially intense against those of the faculty and of the student body who would go to Hickory. On May 8 feeling had reached such a pitch that part of the student body departed. On May 11 Yoder "rang the bell for school but no one came. Faculty decided to close the school for the term," although it was still several weeks ahead of the date set in the school calendar.²¹

The Newton Enterprise was the only newspaper of that day that had any comment to make. The December 5, 1890, editorial said that in view of the fact that "Conover and Newton are to be married soon if nothing breaks up the match, and converted into the biggest town in Western North Carolina, would it not be a mistake . . . to move the college from its present location?"²²

Yoder and his associates, no doubt, felt that they had put their money on the right horse, for they had good success in their new venture. They opened Highland College

21 Wight, op. cit., p. 52.

22 Ibid., p. 52.

23 Ibid., p. 53.

in Hickory September 1, 1891, with seven teachers and sixty-three students, and by the end of the year they had one hundred and forty-nine students.²³ The next meeting of the Tennessee Synod also strengthened their hand by ordering their beneficiary students to go to Hickory instead of Conover. The Conover men were in no position to influence synod's action, because they either stayed away from this meeting or, more or less, sat on the side lines watching the outcome of moves made both at Conover and at Hickory. In fact they now had their eyes on other fields from whence they might get help to keep Concordia alive and a going concern.

Reorganization. The Board of Trustees of Concordia now found themselves with a college on their hands without a faculty. The resourcefulness they had displayed in keeping the school in Conover showed itself again, and they found two very able men to comprise the faculty, M. H. Yount and Charles L. Coon, both former graduates of Concordia.

M. H. Yount was the son of a well-to-do merchant of Conover. Yount taught one year. In later life he became mayor of Hickory.

Charles L. Coon, who came from south of Newton, was a friend of Yount. He stayed with Concordia till June 1896.

23 Ibid., p. 53.

He later became superintendent of Wilson County Schools and it is claimed by some that he was the "best school man" in the state at that time. A high school is named for him in Wilson.

The Board of Trustees, now realizing that they had been left stranded, looked to their good friends in the West. Since 1848²⁴ the Tennessee Synod had shown interest in the Missouri Synod because of her "promulgation and defense of the primitive doctrines and usages of the Lutheran Church." In 1872 at Gravelton, Wayne County, Missouri, seven delegates of the Tennessee Synod and two delegates of the Missouri Synod, four from the Holston Synod (Western branch of the Tennessee Synod), and one delegate from the Norwegian Synod (the Rev. F. A. Schmidt) met to form the Free English Lutheran Conference, which in 1889 became the English Missouri Synod, and in 1911 a district of the Missouri Synod. Dr. P. C. Henkel, the founder of Concordia College, was one of the founders of this Free English Lutheran Conference. Thus roughly, the reader may see the tying bonds between the Tennesseans and the Missourians. Professor C. O. Smith has done a thorough job of tracing this connection in his booklet entitled: History of the Coming of the Missouri

24 Socrates Henkel, D. D.: History of the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod (New Market, Va.: Henkel and Company, 1890), p. 120.

Synod Into North Carolina.²⁵

In the autumn of 1891 the Board of Trustees wrote to the president of the The English Missouri Synod, The Rev. F. Kuegele, and asked him to supply the college with a president. "President Kuegele wrote to New Market, Virginia, the headquarters of the Tennessee Synod, about the matter.²⁶ It is not known what reply he received, but in December, he and Rev. William Dallmann came to Conover to look the field over. They also went to Hickory and asked the professors at Highland (later Lenoir College) if they could show valid reasons why Missouri should not supply Concordia with teachers. The reply they received didn't discourage them, so they drew up an agreement with the Concordia Board of Trustees which read as follows:

Resolved, That we recommend (1) that a professor be called to Concordia College, Conover, N. C., from the Missourians, to be President of Concordia College, Literary Professor, and pastor of Concordia Congregation, to have full liberty in the pulpit and at the altar according to his conscience bound in God's Word. (2) That young men be enabled to receive a classical education here at Concordia College with a view of graduating in theology at St. Louis, Missouri, or Springfield, Illinois. (3) That men who cannot be required to take the full classical course so that they may enter the ministry after graduating at Concordia College, Conover, N. C. Carried unanimously by the whole board, excepting two not in reach.²⁷

25 C. O. Smith: History of the Coming of the Missouri Synod Into North Carolina (St. Louis, Concordia Publishing House, 1934).

26 R. A. Yoder, op. cit., p. 11.

27 R. A. Yoder, op. cit., p. 14.

This was signed December 31, 1891, by F. Kuegele, William Dallmann, and C. H. Bernheim, Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Concordia College.

Who constituted the Board of Trustees of Concordia College? Yoder²⁸ says that four were not in the meeting which drew up the agreement and neither were they informed of the meeting. They were Silas Smyre, pastors J. A. Rudisill, J. C. Moser and A. L. Crouse. These were men of the Hickory faction. Since there is no record of these men protesting at not being informed of Concordia Board meetings and in no way showing any interest in Concordia, it must be assumed that they withdrew their connections from the institution entirely. The staunch supporters of the school were pastors J. M. Smith and C. H. Bernheim.

In accordance with these resolutions, the Rev. W. H. T. Dau of Memphis was called to be president of Concordia College and was installed May 29, 1892. George A. Romoser, a graduate (1892) of Concordia Seminary of St. Louis was also called and was installed July 31, 1892.

President Dau, evidently trying to feel his way in an unusual situation, made out a report of the work of the college and submitted it to the next convention of the Tennessee Synod which met at Hickory September 30 to October 4, 1892.

28 Ibid., p. 19.

The president of the Board of Trustees also submitted a report to synod. The Committee on Literary Institutions, to whom these reports had been given, reported that they could find no action on the part of the trustees in asking synod to ratify their choice of men chosen to fill vacancies on faculty and board, and therefore they recommended "that synod can now take no action in regard to the further fostering care of this institution."²⁹ Their resolution was sustained. Thus the Tennessee Synod severed all connections with Concordia College.

The next step the Board of Trustees took was on March 9, 1893, when they passed a resolution asking the English Missouri Synod to accept this college as her institution, to appoint six members to the Board of Trustees, and to supplement the salaries of Concordia's professors. If this proposal was not suitable to the English Missouri Synod, then they were willing to negotiate with representatives of that body for the complete transfer of Concordia to the Missouri Synod. At the English Missouri Synod's Third Convention (Chicago 1893) this complete transfer took place; Concordia College became the property of the English Missouri Synod.³⁰

²⁹ Minutes of the Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod (New Market, Virginia: Henkel and Company, Printers 1892), p. 23.

³⁰ H. P. Eckhardt: The English District, A Historical Sketch (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1946), p. 36.

This convention also fixed the salaries of the faculty as follows: President Dau, \$500 a year and free rent, Professor Romoser \$400; professors Coon and Buchheimer, \$250 each.

The Missouri professors were expected to supplement their earnings by supplying some of the neighboring pulpits. Several congregations had divided sympathies, some members desiring Missouri pastors and some Tennessee. Animosity was aroused on both sides that continued for many years. Both sides stated their cases in print in 1894. Dr. Yoder came out first with his Situation in North Carolina, and in a few months he was answered by President Dau of Concordia in a pamphlet entitled Review of Prof. R. A. Yoder's "Situation in North Carolina". Each accused the other of wrong doing.

Reviewing the schism sixty years later, the writer finds it difficult to draw conclusions or to take sides. Both sides felt that they were right and that they were being abused by the other, but that is the way it always is in a fight. The contestants on both sides were highly revered and respected by their followers. This chapter would not be complete without adding that A. L. Crouse, who led the Hickory faction in the split, later quit his Tennessee brethren and joined the Missouri Synod for doctrinal reasons.

CHAPTER IV

UNDER THE MISSOURI SYNOD

In 1893 the English Missouri Synod was made up of twenty-eight congregations, 2,084 communicants and sixteen pastors.¹ When the convention of that year adjourned, synod found itself in possession of two colleges, St. John's College of Winfield, Kansas, and Concordia College of Conover, North Carolina. Both had been given to the synod as gifts. St. John's College was just in the process of being built, and the building was not yet finished when it was given to synod. It was a \$50,000 gift of a Lutheran in Winfield. The Concordia College property valuation at this time was \$5,400.²

We cannot but admire the remarkable faith in God of that numerically small English body in resolving to accept both colleges. In its action, however, it was encouraged by the German Synod's Board for English Missions. Later when the increased financial burden of carrying the two colleges became too heavy for the little English Synod, the German body graciously and generously appropriated "up to \$3,000 per annum" for the maintenance of the institutions.³

1 H. P. Eckhardt: The English District, A Historical Sketch (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1946), p. 76.

2 Henry W. Horst: Important Facts and Records of Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina (Rock Island, Illinois: 1932), p. xvii.

3. H. P. Eckert, op. cit., p. 40.

The English Synod was interested in the idea of having colleges to give a general education to both sexes. The German Synod was maintaining eight or nine colleges at this time alone for the purpose of training ministers of the Gospel and men for the teaching profession in the parochial schools. The great need for ministers and teachers could not be met in those days. Each year many calls of congregations were turned down because the colleges were not producing enough graduates. Therefore the German Synod was luke warm toward any college that did not consider ministerial training her foremost duty.

St. John's College of Winfield was in the very center of the German Missouri Synod's southwestern territory and far removed from the English Synod's nearest congregation, so in 1908 it was offered to and accepted by the German body. Concordia College of Conover, however, still had to remain a ✓ stepchild. She couldn't win too much favor because she was out of step with synod's policy of bending all efforts to the training of ministers. In her early years under Missouri she would graduate at most from one to three ministerial candidates a year. That, coupled with the fact that she was a thousand miles from the center of Missouri Synod territory, and in a section that was not considered to be too orthodox in church practices, gave Conover the status of a stepchild begging for existence.

The first term of Concordia under the Missouri Synod opened August 15, 1892. Five faculty members were listed in the book of reports.⁴ They were the Rev. W. H. T. Dau, President, the Rev. G. A. Romoser, Charles L. Coon, A. B., Mrs. Alice Long, Principal of the Primary Department, Miss Fanny O. Ekard, Principal of the Music Department. Twenty-six students were on the roll, and all but three were from the vicinity of Conover. One was dismissed before the close of the term and two others withdrew. Four of the students were in the college department; the others were in the high school department. The college years represented were Freshman and Sophomore. The youngest student in high school, Annie E. Isenhower, was listed as aged twelve. There is no list of the pupils in the primary department. There must, however, have been more in that division than in the college since a faculty member is listed for that department.

The curriculum for the college department⁵ offered Religion, English, Latin, Greek, German, Mathematics, History and Science. The high school offered Religion, English, Latin, Geography, Mathematics, and History.

⁴ Dau, et al., Reports of the Faculty of Concordia College, 1892-1935.

⁵ Reports of the Faculty, 1908-1928.

The four years of the college department, according to Professor C. O. Smith, really consisted only of the 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th grades as we have them today. The high school department consisted of High School A which was what today is the eighth grade, and High School B was the ninth grade. Concordia was never in any sense a four year college. In 1928 Concordia had a four year high school fully accredited by the state.⁶ The college department was never accredited. The Missouri Synod was not interested in state accreditation in those days and none of the faculty members was a certified college teacher. Professor C. O. Smith told the writer that he was made principal of the High School because he was the only one who could obtain a Grade A Certificate to teach in the High School.

The first minutes of the faculty that are available (Sept. 4, 1893) reveal the problems that were confronting them.

The undersigned was chosen secretary. The following resolutions were adopted: (1) That the first Monday of each month be regular time of convening. (2) That the examination of applicants for High School A and B take place the following day at 3 P. M. in the library. (3) That Professor Romoser conduct devotional exercises in the morning, Prof. Dau in the evening during the entire term.

⁶ The faculty minutes available end with the year 1927 in the middle of the minute book. The fact and date of accreditation was given to the writer by the former Professors C. O. Smith and O. W. H. Lindemeyer. The facts regarding certification of the professors were also obtained from these two men.

A vote of thanks was extended to Prof. Romoser for his generosity in presenting a table to the library, to Prof. Coon and Buchheimer for their willingness to furnish a hanging lamp and Prof. Dau for window shades.

Enquiry after chairs is to be made by Prof. Dau. Prof. Romoser was elected committee on periodicals. Prof. Coon is to secure erasers. Prof. Dau taking charge of the parochial school, the greater number of his lectures were distributed among the rest of the faculty.

Furthermore resolved that the belfry be hermetically closed even at the risk of having the bell removed. Prof. Romoser was delegated to lay the matter before the Board.

The introduction of wood boxes for the classrooms and the ringing of the bell by the janitor were thought much in place. It was also suggested to impress the Board with the advisability of procuring desks sooner or later. A motion to get a clock was tabled.

Adjournment with the Lord's Prayer.

L. Buchheimer, Sec.

PRESIDENTS OF CONCORDIA COLLEGE UNDER THE MISSOURI SYNOD⁷

W. H. T. Dau1892-1899
G. A. Romoser1899-1911
C. A. Weis and Ad. Haentschel (acting presidents)1911-1913
H. B. Hemmeter1913-1917
O. W. Kreinheder1917-1928
C. O. Smith (acting president)1928-1930
H. B. Hemmeter1930-1935

The English Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri and Other States had her hands full trying to support two colleges. She received financial assistance from her big sister, the German Missouri Synod. In 1911 the two synods merged and the

⁷ H. P. Eckhardt, op. cit., p. 33. During the regime of the Tennessee Synod three presidents had served the college, viz., P. C. Henkel 1881-1885, J. C. Moser 1885-1888, and R. A. Yoder 1888-1891.

English Synod became a "district" of the German Missouri Synod.⁸ The name German was soon dropped. This district was the only non-geographic district in the synod since it was made up of congregations from many states ranging from the midwest to the east.

When the amalgamation of the two synods took place, the fortunes of Concordia College were mainly directed by the large synodical convention which was held every three years in one of the midwestern cities where there was a large enough Lutheran population to support such a gathering. To these conventions the representatives of this little college went to compete with a dozen other institutions for the support of synod.

The finances of the college were completely taken over by the large synod, and the local board had a very limited control of money matters. All tuitions collected had to be sent to synod's treasurer, and all money received for salaries and expenses came from checks written in St. Louis, Missouri. The salaries of the professors probably benefited by this arrangement, because throughout synod's colleges the salaries were more or less uniform.

In the 1914 convention⁹ of synod it was reported that receipts from Conover were \$2,248.01, and disbursements were

8 Ibid., p. 54.

9 Proceedings of the Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1914), p. 130.

\$8,320. The triennium 1920 through 1922 gave this financial picture: "Tuition amounting to \$3,177.48 was sent to the treasurer in the past three years. Disbursements: Salaries, \$17,777.60, current expenses \$1,485.50, Library and Laboratory \$100. Total \$19,363.10."¹⁰

In 1914 synod made a very liberal appropriation, namely \$2,300 for a Director's (president's) dwelling and \$2,000 and \$3,000 respectively for two professors' dwellings. Within the next three years the local board could not secure professors residences at acceptable figures, and when synod met in 1917, these two appropriations were withdrawn.¹¹ In 1920 "synod granted a request for a professor's residence and extended a vote of thanks to the laymen who presented site and building."¹²

Mention has already been made of the acquisition of the first two buildings, the administration building and the boys' dormitory. The girls' dormitory and three professor residences were acquired as follows.

The college eventually owned two professor residences across the street on the east side of the campus and the girls' dormitory and a professor's residence along the north

10 Eingaben für die Siebzehnte Delegatensynode (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1923), p. 29.

11 Proceedings, op. cit., 1917, p. 25 ff.

12 Proceedings, op. cit., 1920, p. 27.

side of the campus. These four off-campus buildings and the two buildings on the campus made up the total of all the buildings that belonged to Concordia College. The appraised value of these six buildings in 1932 was \$25,000.¹³ The grand total combined value of real estate, buildings, furniture, and equipment in the same year was \$48,000.00.¹⁴ In the list of synod's seventeen colleges there were only two which had a lower valuation, Portland, Oregon, and Buenos Aires, Argentina.¹⁵

In 1902 the residence was purchased which when the college closed was occupied by Professor O. W. H. Lindemeyer. This nine room house was built originally for President Geo. A. Romoser by a number of gifts made by members of the Board of Trustees, together with local gifts of cash and kind. A debt of a thousand dollars rested on the building for many years. The original cost was \$1,800.¹⁶

In 1904 Professor C. A. Weiss at his own expense built a \$2,800 house across from the campus on the southeast corner. At the same time across the street from him, Professor Hemmeter had built for himself a large house. "In 1914 Pastor Weiss

13 Horst, op. cit., p. xvii.

14 Ibid., p. xx.

15 Ibid., p. xxi.

16 Ibid., p. xi.

sold his house to Synod for \$2,800, the amount which it had cost him in building."¹⁷ This was also a nine room frame dwelling.

In 1920 a dormitory was built to house the girl students, who heretofore had been boarding with people in the town of Conover. The roll of that year shows that there were thirty girls enrolled out of a total enrollment of fifty-eight students. None of the girls came from a greater distance than Claremont which is five miles east. Another reason for desiring another building was to provide a dining hall for the men students. This was placed in the basement of the girls' dormitory. This building was located across the street due north of the campus.¹⁸

The Concordia Alumni Association undertook the erection of this building under the supervision of the Board of Control. The building cost \$10,000, and the association missed reaching the goal by \$2,000. This \$2,000 debt rested on the building for many years. Finally by personal persuasion the local

17 Ibid., p. x.

18 Ibid., p. xi.

Pastor, The Rev. G. E. Mennen, got synod's appropriation committee to assume the debt.¹⁹

The basement of the large frame building (size 37 feet by 48 feet) contained a large dining room, two store rooms, kitchen, pantry, furnace and fuel room. The first floor contained two large living rooms which have been used as a physics and chemical laboratory from time to time; a large music room; and the apartments for the matron and her family with private bath. The second floor contained ten sleeping rooms for boarders and a bathroom. A pipeless furnace was expected to keep this large building warm.

The last building, a professor's residence, was built in 1924 at a cost of \$5,000. It was built across from the northwest corner of the campus. It was also a nine room frame dwelling. It was built by synod.²⁰

The local Board of Control felt that the lack of adequate buildings kept the institution from having a larger enrollment. They, therefore, in 1926, requested synod to give them a \$95,000 administration building, and a \$25,000 small dormitory unit. The action taken at synod was this: "Resolved, that since students cannot be attracted by the present primitive

¹⁹ Information obtained in private conversation with Rev. G. E. Mennen, Dec. 28, 1949.

²⁰ Horst, op. cit., p. xii.

conditions at Conover, we grant the request for an Administration Building up to \$95,000." The request for the dormitory was denied "in view of the present financial conditions existing in synod."²¹

While synod made these grants, they were conditional. The money had to be in the treasury before it was turned over to an institution to start building. The country was nearing the depth of a depression, and therefore the money was never forth coming. The new building for Concordia never got past the blueprint stage.

The cost of an education at Concordia. The yearly tuition for forty weeks in the lower classes amounted to twenty-five dollars, payable in ten monthly installments of two dollars and fifty cents each. In the upper or college classes the tuition was forty dollars a year in 1912. Boys were charged a room rent of twenty-five cents a month in the dormitory, and girls could get room rent in town for about one dollar and fifty cents a month. The college had no boarding establishment at this time, but the catalog states that "board and washing for boys who come from a distance, are furnished practically at cost, at about nine dollars a month."²²

²¹ Eingaben fur die Siebzehnte Delegatensynode zu Fort Wayne (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1926), p. 40.

²² Catalog of Concordia College, circa 1912, p. 12.

The students living in the dormitory had to "furnish the necessary living room and bedroom furniture. A number of desks and beds are on hand and may be used by those who apply first."²³

Books for the year were estimated to cost about ten dollars, and there was also a one dollar incidental fee. A college student, if he lived very conservatively, could get a year's education for a hundred and fifty dollars in 1912.

The curriculum. The 1912 (circa) catalog lists the following courses: Religion, English, Latin, Greek, German, History, Mathematics, Science, Pedagogy, Geography, Penmanship, Drawing, Piano, Bookkeeping. This was the offering for the three year pre-theological course. Greek, Latin, and German were required to meet the demands of the ministerial seminary in St. Louis, where Concordia's ministerial graduates went for three years additional training, before they were admitted to the ministry. Students preparing for the ministry had to take the prescribed course. Others could elect any courses as long as they took enough to have sixteen lessons a week.²⁴

Under the Missouri Synod the curriculum was patterned after that of the synod's other pre-theological colleges,

23 Loc. cit.

24 Ibid., pp. 4-10

namely four years of high school and two years of college. This was an old German system termed the "Gymnasium" which the founders of the synod brought along with them when they came to America in 1839.

The taking over of the college by the Missouri Synod really brought on an unforeseen conflict. The synod was interested only in producing ministers of the Gospel to gather in the straying Lutheran immigrants who came to America in large numbers around the turn of the century. Most of the German immigration was made up of Lutherans, and when the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church thought of evangelizing, they thought first and foremost of gathering in these immigrants who settled mostly in the middle-west. Few of these immigrants came to North Carolina because they did not wish to compete with the cheap labor of the Negro. Concordia College of Conover did not well fit into the plans and purposes of the Missouri Synod. It must have been discouraging to have been a member of the board and have to try to please the local constituency, who desired a popular co-educational school and at the same time please the officials of synod who thought only in terms of ministerial graduates.

By 1919 French, Mental Science, Moral Science, and Pedagogy had been added to the curriculum.²⁵ The expenses

25 Ibid., p. 10.

remained about the same, but board had jumped up to an average of fifteen dollars a month. A fee for fuel in the dormitory had been added. It was five dollars a year. No tuition was charged students who were preparing for the ministry. Where there was more than one student from a family, tuition was reduced. Children of pastors and teachers of the synod were admitted free of tuition.

The order of the day in 1919 was as follows:²⁶

6:30 A. M. Rising Bell
 7:00 A. M. Breakfast
 7:30 A. M. Inspection of Rooms
 8:15 A. M. Devotion
 8:30-10:30 A. M. Recitations
 10:30-10:40 A. M. Recreation
 10:40-12:00 A. M. Recitations
 12:00- 1:00 P. M. Dinner
 1:30- 3:30 P. M. Recitations
 3:30- 7:00 P. M. Recreation
 6:00 P. M. Supper
 7:00 P. M. Devotion
 7:15-10:30 P. M. Study Period
 10:30 P. M. Lights Out

The Faculty of the College, by and with the consent of the Board of Trustees, has the power of conferring the degree of Master of Arts, and the degrees and distinctions of less dignity than Master of Arts which are usually conferred by colleges; but no degree will be conferred except after honest and successful effort on the part of the candidate. The degrees offered are Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Philosophy, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Literature, and Bachelor of Elementary Didactics.²⁷

26 Catalog of Concordia College, 1919.

27 Ibid., p. 6.

In 1905 a certain Pastor Braeuer, who had studied at New York University, requested Concordia to grant him a Master's Degree. He sent the Concordia Faculty his thesis and asked them on the basis of it to give him the degree. The Faculty asked a minister in Washington, D. C. to send them the books from the Congressional Library which were found in Rev. Braeuer's bibliography. This was done. After the footnotes were checked in the books, the faculty recommended to the board to grant the degree of Master of Literature.²⁸

College discipline in the early part of the century was very strict, and it was not till the event of good roads and automobiles in the twenties that this strictness tapered off somewhat.

On March 30, 1905, a special faculty meeting was called to consider the offense of a certain young lady. The offense was the reading of a newspaper in the classroom during recitation. She was brought before the faculty, expressed sorrow for her act and promised not to do it again.²⁹

For male students to visit girls was strictly forbidden in the early part of the century. The minutes contain

28 Faculty Minutes, 1905, p. 36.

29 Ibid., p. 31.

many references to students being reprimanded by the faculty for transgressing this rule.

The faculty minutes of March 27, 1905, report:

F K was brought before the Faculty for having encouraged and abetted W M by entertaining him at her father's house and accompanying him to church on Friday night last week. She stated that she meant no harm by her actions, but that she saw now that she had done wrong and was sorry for it.

She was required to make public apology before the school which she promised to do, and she was put on probation. G. Luecke, Sec.³⁰

Liquor of course was forbidden, but occasionally some was smuggled in. This caused a very thorough investigation by the faculty, and usually the offender was expelled.

In 1913 fifteen demerits in one term made a student liable to a public reprimand, and twenty demerits in one term made him liable to expulsion. If students presented a written permit from their parents, they were allowed to smoke "in the dormitory only, except during study periods in the evening. The smoking of cigarettes is however, forbidden, and no student may smoke on the campus."³¹ Card playing was also forbidden.

In the twenties the faculty minutes are not as much concerned about discipline. By this time the students had become emancipated enough to send petitions to the faculty

30 Ibid., p. 30.

31 Ibid., p. 160.

requesting the dropping of study periods in order to make possible a better sports program.

In this decade also, intercollegiate sports came into the foreground. Only baseball and basketball were entered.

The social life connected with the college was meager. If a student joined the local church choir, he could be excused from study period on the evening in which the choir rehearsed. There was a senior play at the end of the year, and preparation for graduation was a major affair. Each member of the graduating class had to perform on the program in some manner.

For a few years in the latter twenties there was a monthly student publication entitled THE CONCORDIAN. It was a little leaflet of eight pages very nicely printed. A dozen and a half ads supported it. Sports, humor, a literary article by a professor or a student, and some news was the sum and total of its contents.

Yearbooks were also published from time to time by the students. They were the usual type of "Annual" put out by the graduating class. The writer was able to secure copies of four. The one published in 1928 was called the CONCORDIAN, and the 1929, 1930, and 1931 numbers were called THE CARILLON. In the same covers with these yearbooks was published the catalog of the institution.

As has already been stated, the Missouri Synod which owned and regulated the college, was only interested in the number of ministerial candidates that the college could produce and therefore paid little heed to accreditation requirements. It was not until 1928 that the high school was accredited, and the college department never received accreditation by the state department or any accrediting agency.³² That naturally kept the local people from whole-heartedly giving the institution support in sending their children. In the last few years of her life, Concordia turned out from four to six graduates a year, and by this time over half of them were ministerial students.

The last catalog available to the writer (and probably the last one printed) was the 1931 catalog. Three full time professors and three assistant professors are listed. There were eleven students in the two year college department, five of whom might be considered ministerial candidates, although only three of them ever reached the pulpit. There were fifty students in the high school department.

The college course of instruction consisted of Religion, English, Latin, Greek, Hebrew, German, History and Civics, Mathematics, Natural Science, and Psychology.

³² Information obtained in conversation with Professor C. O. Smith formerly of Concordia College.

In Religion the Bible, Luther's Catechism, and the Lutheran Confessions were used as texts. English consisted of American and English Literature and Composition. In Latin Livy was read both years. In Greek the Book of Acts from the Bible was read plus tales from Herodotus. Hebrew consisted of two years of the fundamentals of Hebrew Grammar. German consisted of grammar, reading of the Bible, and memorizing Luther's Catechism. Ancient, Medieval, and Modern History were studied in the History Classes. Plane Trigonometry was taken in the Mathematics Department. Natural Science consisted of Zoology and Botany. An elementary course in Psychology was taught.³³

Of the library little is known except that it boasted five thousand volumes.³⁴

The coming of the end. The depression of the thirties found the Missouri Synod with a debt of over a million dollars. While that did not amount to a dollar per person, it nevertheless worried the officials especially when they were unable to meet the salaries of the missionaries and professors at the institutions. A committee of thirteen men was appointed to make a survey of synod's work and recommend economies.

33 Catalog of Concordia College, 1931.

34 Loc. cit.

Synod had another problem, the problem of what to do with the surplus of ministerial students who were left over each June when the graduating class in St. Louis received their calls. It seemed that more ministerial candidates were produced than there were places in the ministry.

Now when this committee looked at the little institution in Conover which for fifteen to twenty thousand dollars a year was producing two or three ministerial candidates, they recommended that the institution be closed. As has been stated before synod took little note of the good that the institution was doing in the way of providing a thorough Christian education to the people of the community. Synod's aim was to produce ministerial candidates. Other education was to be the responsibility of the local community.

How was this news received by the people of Conover? From all that the writer can find out from living persons and from available records, little was done by the local people to assure the life of the institution. The surrounding congregations which should have shown a vital interest in the school, took the news rather indifferently and did nothing about it.

Several of the other institutions of synod were also recommended to be closed. The question of closing institutions

became the hottest topic on the agenda of the conventions in the early thirties. Pressure groups succeeded in tabling the resolutions of the committee of thirteen and no institution was closed.

The local Board at Conover, who in the latter twenties was desperately pleading for synod to enlarge and improve Concordia so that more students would be attracted, now had to use all its persuasive ability to beg to remain in existence. The following resolution was passed by the board on December 10, 1931, as a reply to the recommendations of the survey committee:

Due to the great educational progress made by the schools of North Carolina, within the last twenty years, Concordia College, Conover, N. C., which for many years stood out in its classical courses within this state, and enjoyed a very high reputation as a college, has now lost its former status and cannot be recognized as a fullfledged college in the present modern sense. Its two upper classes are not recognized either as an Accredited Junior College, largely on account of its small number of students in this department. The four lower classes are duly accredited by the State as a local High School. On account of the lack of accreditation the Junior Department has lost the former local patronage, and the High School Department is now losing its local patronage more and more on account of antiquated facilities and for other reasons. If therefore the Conover College is to serve Synod's purposes in the Southeast in the future, the IMPROVEMENT of the college buildings and the college facilities are unquestionably a prerequisite, and a curtailment of its present courses will be equivalent to a closing of the institution and will spell its ruin.

After a lengthy discussion it was moved that we ask Synod to continue our school as a six year college course. Action on this motion was postponed to a future meeting.³⁵

35 Minutes of the Board of Trustees, Dec. 10, 1931, p. 63.

On March 7, 1935, the Board approved a lengthy report to synod and a plea not to close the institution.³⁶ Before they met again in April, the Administration Building had been destroyed by fire.

There had been a dry spell and the morning of April 16, 1935, was windy. Will, the colored janitor, had come at six o'clock with his little boy to start the fires in the stoves in the various classrooms. At 6:45 Professor Lindemeyer was just going out with his milk bucket to milk his cows when he heard the janitor shouting, "Doray, Doray", the name of his boy. Looking over to the college building, the professor saw some flames burning the sparrow nests in the cupola.³⁷ Evidently sparks from the chimney had blown into them. The Hickory Fire Department was called, and it arrived in twenty minutes, but by that time the whole roof was in flames, and the feeble water pressure could not throw a stream that high anyway. A piano and some chairs were carried out of the building. Everything else, including the library, was burned. Within an hour the building was burned to the ground. This took place two months and three days before the Missouri Synod Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, where the resolutions of the committee of thirteen were adopted, and Concordia was put out of existence.

³⁶ Ibid., March 7, 1935.

³⁷ Information obtained in conversations with former Professors C. O. Smith, O. W. H. Lindemeyer, Rev. G. E. Mennen and others.

President Hemeter was not in Conover at the time of the fire but had an engagement preaching at a series of Holy Week Services in Baltimore, Maryland. The college was to have begun its Easter recess on Thursday, but due to the fire, the students were sent home on Tuesday. By the time the vacation was over, arrangements had been made to hold classes in the classrooms of the former parochial school of Concordia Church. Classes were continued till the school year was finished and graduation for the two college graduates and the five high school graduates was held in the church.

The minutes of the April 21 Board meeting contain the following resolutions:

A motion was passed that the matter be presented to our local conference and that the following be considered: (1) The possibility of obtaining a new site with more acreage for a new college in or around Conover. (2) The possibility of obtaining subscriptions for a new college. (3) That high school and junior college courses be arranged so that they would be accredited by the State.³⁸

Professor Smith was empowered to appoint such committees as were necessary to carry out this program. On May 31, Professor Smith reported to the Board:

The Town Board and the Business Men's Club reacted quite favorably toward assisting in any way possible to obtain another college building in or near Conover. He also reported that he had been given promises of cash from some and promises of labor and material from others. A number of those contacted were reported as favoring

38 Minutes, op. cit., p. 91.

another building at the old location and others favored a change.³⁹

On June 19, 1935 the Triennium Convention of the Missouri Synod began its ten day session. Committee Number One recommended:

(1) That the institution at Conover be closed; (2) That the disposition of the property at Conover be referred to the proposed Southeastern District or, if Synod decides not to organize this new District, to the English District and that the money realized from its sale be placed by the respective district into its church extension fund.⁴⁰

These recommendations were adopted by the synod. They also adopted a resolution that the members of the faculty "be provided for by Synod in keeping with the principles of Christian love."⁴¹

Within six months the four faculty members had accepted calls to other fields of labor. During the interim they had been paid their full salaries.

The girls' dormitory and the three professor residences were soon sold to private individuals. The campus, however, remained in the hands of synod till in 1945 Concordia Congregation bought it for \$5,000 as a future church site.

Thus after a contentious existence of fifty-eight years Concordia High School and College ceased to exist.

39. Ibid., p. 95.

40 Proceedings of the Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1935), p. 71.

41 Loc. cit.

The records of the college remained in the hands of Professor C. O. Smith whose home is near Conover. Later, students who wanted transfers of credit, received them from him.

In 1946 an Alumni Association of Concordia College was formed. This association meets every two years in Conover. The organization is small, but the 1950 banquet had one hundred fifty guests.

What contribution did the Missouri Synod make to Concordia College? For forty-three years the college was under the wing of this synod and received nearly one hundred percent of its financial support from that body. It might be a fair estimate that the Missouri Synod expended a half million dollars during these years for the support of the college.

What did the synod get during this time? The first asset would be the foothold she received in the southeast. Had it not been for Concordia College of Conover, North Carolina, the Missouri Synod apparently would not have come into North Carolina, for as has been shown, it was the Board of Directors of the College who invited the synod to come to Conover and take over.⁴² Furthermore, the Missouri Synod

⁴² C. O. Smith, History of the Coming of the Missouri Synod into North Carolina (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, n. d.), p. 9.

received a strengthened and fairly well indoctrinated laity due to the graduates of Concordia who took their place in the churches of North Carolina. Of graduates who entered the ministry, there were about fifty-two during these forty-three years.

H. P. Eckhardt sums up Concordia's contribution in the following words:

The services Concordia College, Conover, rendered were twofold. She trained young men who were not conversant with the German language used in the German Missouri colleges as the chief medium of instruction for entrance into the Seminary in St. Louis. Then, too, it was the center of missionary activities and expansion in the Southeast.⁴³

43 H. P. Eckhardt, op. cit., p. 37.

CHAPTER V

THE CONTRIBUTION OF CONCORDIA

A school that existed for fifty-eight years in a closely knit community could not help but make its mark permanently on that community. Possibly six hundred or more people, most of them from around Conover, received part or all of their education from Concordia. Without this school a majority of these students would not have received anything but a meager elementary education. The culture that Concordia brought to Conover is of inestimable value. The moral and religious training the college gave to the hearts of the youth of Conover, helping to make the town a more respectable and peaceful place in which to live, is of still greater worth. It is also impossible to estimate the worth in dollars and cents that education received from Concordia gave to the individuals who went into the business world to gain a livelihood. The signs on Conover automobile license plates today boast that Conover has the highest per capita income of any town in the State of North Carolina. When we find that many of the owners and executives of the manufacturing establishments of Conover received part or all of their education from Concordia, it would hardly

be wrong to conclude that the college also contributed to the wealth of the community in a large way.

The Lutheran Church in North Carolina benefited materially from the institution. As was seen in Chapter I, the founder, Dr. P. C. Henkel, intended that this institution should be one primarily for the indoctrination of the youth in The Word of God by means of daily Bible Study and the use of Dr. Martin Luther's Catechism. This principle was adhered to throughout Concordia's existence even though she took upon herself the dual role of giving a theological training to candidates for the ministry and a liberal training to others. The college was the rallying point for the conservative and confessional minded Lutherans. It was the college that brought the confessional minded Missouri Synod into North Carolina.

Lutherans from other states were attracted to Conover because of the college. Among these were the Moehlmanns and Wagners of Wisconsin, the Hugheys of Missouri, and the Coyners of Virginia. The writer is personally acquainted with members of these families and has heard them say that the reason they moved here was because of the college and the Christian Elementary School which was conducted in conjunction with it.

The Christian Elementary School which was conducted in one of the rooms of the college building for a long time, later was taken over by the local Lutheran Congregation, and even though it was closed for a period of thirteen years (1923-1946),

it is today a flourishing school of three classrooms and seventy-five pupils.

The Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church benefited greatly by Concordia College. The 1946 statistics show that there are thirty Missouri Synod congregations in the state of North Carolina. Much credit for this number can be given to Concordia College because it was due to that institution that the Missouri Synod moved in. Even though the synod looked upon Conover as a step-child, nevertheless, she was always reminded of her mission obligations in the southeast through the reports and requests sent in by Concordia College. Today she recognizes these responsibilities and is contributing a large share of the funds required for mission work in the southeast.

What the Missouri Synod wanted primarily, when she took over the management of Concordia, was trained ministerial candidates. In the forty-three years in which the college was under the management of this synod, she turned out fifty-two men to occupy her pulpits. That means that Concordia of Conover contributed about one and a fifth preacher a year to the growing church. Synod was not satisfied with this. Synod was run by staunch mid-western Lutherans who saw only one field of higher education for which synod's money should be spent, namely, the training of ministers for the empty pulpits and classrooms found in the growing population of these states.

When in 1935 the Board of Control sent its plea to synod convened at Cleveland, it felt impelled to state that even though not many ministerial candidates came from Concordia, yet a large number of "public school educators, physicians, lawyers, public officers and influential church members have come from this school."¹

To find out just what the present day status of former pupils and graduates of Concordia College was, Professor C. O. Smith conducted a study in 1946 by means of questionnaire and personal interview. He sent questionnaires to all known former students, graduates, and professors, some 200 in number and received forty-seven written replies plus many oral replies from people interviewed or from their friends or acquaintances. The questionnaires inquired about the present status of the person, his success in life, his family and his hobbies. Besides the information thus gained, Professor Smith, recorded facts obtained in interviews. Altogether he obtained a fairly complete picture of what Concordia produced from 1891 (the time of the coming of the Missouri Synod) to the close of the school in 1935. He completed his study in time for the Alumni Association Meeting which was held that year at Camp Linville, North Carolina, from July 31 to August 7, 1946. His

¹ Proceedings of the Thirty-sixth Regular Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States (St. Louis, Missouri: Concordia Publishing House, 1935), p. 67.

purpose was to stimulate the members in attendance to memorialize synod to re-establish a college in the Southeast.

Professor Smith's study revealed the following information regarding Concordia's graduates of forty-three years:²

52 Ministers of the Gospel

7 Physicians

17 Women graduates married preachers

4 Women graduates married doctors (physicians)

16 Women graduates became nurses

34 Women graduates became teachers (probably seven of these were parochial school teachers, the others public school teachers.

4 Men became attorneys at law

37 Men became industrialists (manufacturers, builders, wholesalers)

11 Railroaders

16 Worked for Government (local and national)

4 Bankers

4 Barbers

23 Merchants

4 Druggists

25 Farmers

74 Known dead

1 College president (Valparaiso University)

3 Mayors (Hickory and Conover)

² C. O. Smith: Manuscripts. Professor Smith, a graduate of Concordia, was professor there from 1911-1935.

Inquires among the citizenry of Conover has revealed the whereabouts and fortunes of some of the former students and graduates of Concordia. The writer does not intend to mention the success of any of the ministers of the Gospel for their success cannot be measured in worldly goods or station in life. Suffice it to say that many of them have gained prominence in the church and have worked in congregations which have become large and flourishing during their ministry. They have served all over the United States from Louisiana to Canada, and North Carolina to California.

The writer received several letters³ from the very first graduate of Concordia, The Rev. P. C. Wike (class of 1886). He was the only one graduating that year. He left Concordia to serve five congregations in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia for thirteen years. Then he was called to Coburn, Indiana, to serve three congregations. Here he organized a parish school calling a graduate of Concordia, G. M. Moser to conduct it. Wike stated that Mr. Moser was soon recognized as "the best teacher in all that section of Indiana." After this Wike served as missionary at large in New York and New Jersey where he served for twenty-two months and organized three congregations. From here he went to Galt, Canada, to serve a small congregation and also to be assistant instructor

3 Letter from P. C. Wike dated February 21, 1950.

at a new Lutheran Seminary, which was begun at Waterloo, fourteen miles from Galt. He remained in this work for four years and was then called to Oak Park, Illinois. At the time of the writing of his letter, he was living in retirement in Chicago, aged ninety-one years.

Among the prominent educators who were graduates of Concordia, Charles Lee Coon (class of 1887) was outstanding. He was superintendent of Wilson, North Carolina, city schools from 1907 to 1913 and superintendent of Wilson County schools from 1913 till his death. It was this Mr. Coon who with M. H. Yount formed the faculty of Concordia College in the critical year of 1891-1892. D. A. Tompkins engaged Coon to write the two volume history of Mecklenburg County for which Tompkins paid Coon \$2,000.⁴ Coon also became president of the North Carolina Education Association.

Dr. R. L. Fritz, Sr. graduated from Concordia in the class of 1891 but took another year at Lenoir Rhyne because he wanted to get his degree there. He was president of Lenoir Rhyne College in Hickory for many years.

Oscar C. Kreinheider (class of 1898) became president of Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana.

⁴ Information obtained in private conversation with Dr. R. L. Fritz, December 30, 1949. Dr. Fritz knew Charles Coon personally and claimed he was "the greatest school man of his time in North Carolina".

Other graduates who became professors are Martin Coyner at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, Merton Coulter (class of 1910 but not a graduate) University of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia, and Marvin Yount (class of 1911) became a principal of a public school at Graham, North Carolina.

Among the graduates who came back to Concordia to teach, special mention should be made of Professor Carroll O. Smith (class of 1897) who was professor at Concordia College for twenty four years (1911-1935). He is the author of The History of the Coming of the Missouri Synod Into North Carolina.

The college produced three mayors, namely M. H. Yount, mayor of Hickory, P. W. Herman, mayor of Conover, and John Pharr, the present mayor of Conover.

Among the graduates who became manufacturers are Preston E. Yount, Sr. and Preston L. Yount, Jr. who own and operate Hickory Handle Manufacturing Company in Conover, Horace J. Isenhower (graduate of Concordia High School) who owns and operates Newton Knitting Mills in Newton. John George is a prominent cotton mill owner in Shelby. George Nolde heads the Nolde Bakery of Richmond, Virginia, one of the biggest bakeries in the South. Carroll Barringer (graduate of Concordia High School) is a prominent wholesale oil dealer in Conover.

Jerome Bolick, manufacturer of the renowned "Conover Steel Wheel Buggy" sent all his seven sons and three daughters

to Concordia. The Bolick establishment today makes bus bodies specializing in bodies for public school busses. After the father died, the three sons, D. Edgar, Roland, and Oscar continued the business. Later Oscar Bolick withdrew and began the Southern Furniture Company which today is one of the leading furniture manufacturing plants in Catawba County. The body plant is now owned and operated by D. Edgar Bolick. Another son, Walther T., operates an automobile body shop in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. P. J., a traveling salesman, is President of Concordia Lutheran Church in Conover.

Among the seven physicians coming out of Concordia College was Dr. F. L. Herman who practiced in Conover for forty-six years. Dr. Charles Hunsucker (class of 1909) is still practicing medicine in Hickory. Dr. Emory Herman is a well known surgeon somewhere in Georgia. Dr. Ernest Moehlmann is practicing in Pennsylvania, and Dr. Howard Little is practicing in Gibsonville, North Carolina.

Some of the professors who served at Concordia later became prominent in the Lutheran Church. Dr. W. H. T. Dau became president of Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, and Dr. Adolph Haentschell is today professor of Philosophy at Valparaiso. G. A. Romoser became president of Concordia Collegiate Institute at Bronxville, New York. L. Bucheimer became president of the English Synod. H. B. Hemmeter became president of Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century it took a struggle to get an education in western North Carolina. While many did not care for an education based on book learning, yet there were many who were willing to sacrifice much to have a chance to go to college or to provide education for others. Of such type were the founders of Concordia College.

The founders were church men motivated by the principle that the highest good man can obtain is to learn to recognize the Triune God as his maker, and Jesus Christ, God's Son, as his Savior. When Dr. P. C. Henkel insisted that the college he was establishing should have daily instruction in Martin Luther's Catechism, he was primarily not stumping to advance the interests of Lutheranism. He was convinced that man could reach his highest good only by attaining the faith that he was a sinner separated from his Maker, and could again gain the love of God through accepting Jesus Christ as his Savior. The college was founded on that principle, and remained true to that teaching all her days.

The college, begun in 1876, prospered materially and grew in favor with the Tennessee Synod of the Lutheran Church, which took her under "fostering care" until 1891. In that

year those ministers, who always had been opposed to locating Concordia in Conover, succeeded in divorcing many adherents from Concordia and winning them for a new institution which they founded at Hickory, North Carolina. It seems that this group, as far as dogmatic religion is concerned, were the liberal group as time has proved. The Board of Control of Concordia then continued without church sponsorship for a year (1891-1892) until it succeeded in making a union with the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church which had not yet come into North Carolina.

The Missouri Synod took over the college hoping to make a ministerial preparatory school out of it. The school, however, did not contribute enough to the aims of this synod. The aims of the synod were to produce ministerial candidates in large numbers to meet the demands of filling the empty pulpits of the new congregations founded by Lutherans immigrating into the mid-west. This church-body had not yet pushed a vigorous missionary program in the southeast. Therefore she felt lukewarm toward Concordia of Conover. When the depression of the thirties hit, and, in addition to the depression, the destruction of the administration building by fire, the end of Concordia College was at hand.

When synod's monetary spigot was turned off at the Cleveland Convention in 1935, there was no coming forth of

the products of the school to support their Alma Mater. The local constituency, not feeling a deep personal responsibility toward Concordia, regretted her demise but did not feel able to do anything about it. All looked to the mid-west and the north from which all blessings had been flowing for forty-three years. Had the school failed in instilling into its products a spirit of loyalty for a cause? The writer had the privilege of attending two of Missouri Synod's institutions and the one thing that both of them impressed upon their students was: "If you don't intend to serve the church as a minister or a teacher of religion, this is not the school for you." Concordia of Conover did not inscribe this principle on the hearts of her students. On the other hand, she tried to perform a dual purpose, namely, produce ministers of the Gospel and educate the boys and girls of the community. In the one function she received little support from the local constituency, and in the other she received little encouragement from synod. So Concordia was not only a step-child of two synods, but was also a step-child of the community in which she resided.

The good that Concordia did, however, continues. Her ministers of the Gospel went to all corners of the United States to proclaim Christ the Savior. The graduates who

settled and worked in North Carolina were a large nucleus who had become friends of the Missouri Synod and helped that church body to gain a foothold in the southeast. Today the graduates of Concordia are proud of their affiliation with the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and are some of the staunchest supporters of her world-wide mission program.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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I. COLLEGE RECORDS

Minutes of the Faculty of Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina, September 1893-1927. These minutes are contained in two black record books 8 x 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in size. The second one, beginning with September 1903, contains a list of graduates of Concordia College, together with titles awarded, seventy-nine in number. These books are in possession of the Reverend Professor C. O. Smith of Conover.

Minutes of the Board of Trustees of Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina, April 22, 1928 to February 22, 1936. These minutes are in the possession of Walter A. Brady of Conover who was the last secretary of the board. He was successor to his father, C. R. Brady. Previous minutes of the board were probably destroyed in the fire. Two other living board members interviewed, P. M. Dellinger and J. K. Smith gave as their opinion that the old minute books had been kept in the library and were consumed when the building burned in 1935.

Reports of the Faculty of Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina, 1892-1935. These records are contained in three books of different sizes. The book containing the 1892-1908 records is size 11 x 16 inches, side opening and entitled "Portage Book." The 1908-1928 reports are in an end opening buff colored book 11 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the 1928-1935 reports are in a 10 x 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch side opening book. These reports contain the roster of students, the list of subjects taught, the grades each student received in each subject, and the names of the faculty members. They are now (1951) in the possession of Professor C. O. Smith.

Record of Student Payments for Tuition and Room Rent, Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina, 1914-1922. This is a leather covered record book 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 13 in possession of Professor C. O. Smith.

Horst, Henry W., Important Facts and Records of Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina. Rock Island, Illinois: 1932. 30 pp. This work, authorized by the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church, contains a copy of the charter, copies of the property deeds, and an itemized dollar evaluation of everything that belonged to Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina. This also is in possession of Professor Smith.

II. OTHER PRIMARY SOURCES

Catalogue of Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina, 1882-1931. Title varies. Some of these catalogs are appended to the students' yearbooks. They are in the possession of the Rev. C. O. Smith and some may be found in the Archives (or vaults) of Lenoir-Rhyne College, Hickory, North Carolina. They were not issued yearly and some have no date.

Dau, William H. T., et al., Review of Prof. R. A. Yoder's "Situation in North Carolina". N. p., about 1894. 47 pp. This pamphlet gives the Missouri Synod's viewpoint on her coming into North Carolina and taking over Concordia College. It is a reply to Yoder's as the title indicates. The doctrine of Election is defended at some length. This is a rare book. Professor Smith has one copy and the Reverend J. L. Summers of Conover also has a copy.

Henkel, P. C., Diary. This torn and mutilated book of about one hundred pages is in the possession of Paul Lail of Conover, North Carolina. It is mainly a record of sermons preached by Henkel. Henkel died in 1889. Carl Hughey of Conover also has some pages of this dairy.

Henkel, Socrates, History of the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod. New Market, Virginia: Henkel and Company, 1890. 275 pp. This book is made up of excerpts of the minutes and contains nothing else. Only valuable if the minutes are not available. A copy is owned by Professor Smith.

Minutes of the Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Tennessee Synod, 1827-1892. New Market, Virginia: Henkel and Company, Printers. The Tennessee Synod was in existence from 1820 branching from the North Carolina Synod till it merged with the United Lutheran Church in 1918. From 1883 till 1892 Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina was under this synod's "fostering care." Lenoir-Rhyne College of Hickory, North Carolina, has a complete set.

Smith, Carroll O., History of the Coming of the Missouri Synod into North Carolina. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, n.d. 24 pp. This is a paper read by Professor C. O. Smith to the Southeastern Conference in 1933. It treats of Concordia College losing her faculty to Hickory and of the coming of the Missouri Synod to take over the college on the invitation of the college's board of directors.

Smith Manuscripts, Conover, North Carolina. These consist of forty-eight questionnaires returned to Professor C. O. Smith in the summer of 1946 from graduates of old Concordia. These questionnaires were sent out in connection with the reunion which the Alumni Association sponsored that summer. They relate the present status of the graduates who returned them. There are also some notes by Rev. Smith giving the occupations of all known living graduates. Among these manuscripts are also some transfer blanks and letters.

Yoder, R. A. The Situation in North Carolina. Newton, North Carolina: Enterprise Job Office Print, 1894. 48 pp. In this booklet Yoder tries to justify his actions in leaving Conover, accuses the Missouri Synod as being "disturbers of the Church", and of taking Concordia College away from the Tennessee Synod. Mrs. Maude Yoder Robinson, daughter of R. A. Yoder, living near Hickory, has a copy.

Few, W. P., et al., Principals for Accrediting Junior Colleges and Principals for Accrediting Standard Colleges. N. p., about 1922. 4 pp. This is a report of the Committee on Junior Colleges to the NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE CONFERENCE. It is valuable for comparing what Concordia had with what she didn't have. Professor Smith has a copy.

The Concordian, 1928-1929. A monthly publication of the student body of Concordia College, Conover, N. C. This publication gives the lighter side of student life.

III. OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS OF THE MISSOURI SYNOD

Catalog of the Educational Institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States, for the School Years 1918-1930. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House. This publication is the synod's authorized record of all her educational institutions. It contains the financial standing of each institution, including Concordia College, Conover, N. C., enrollment, names of the faculty members, etc. Copies are found in all Missouri Synod College Libraries.

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Eingaben für die Siebzehnte Delegatensynode, versammelt zu Ft. Wayne, Indiana, vom 20 bis zum 30 Juni, 1923. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1923.

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Proceedings of the Conventions of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, 1911-1935. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House. These reports are for the triennium meeting of the general synodical body, and the German version (in which they were printed exclusively till about 1920) is termed Synodalbericht. The official action of Synod in respect to Concordia College, Conover, North Carolina, is found in these reports. Copies found in all Missouri Synod Libraries.

IV. HISTORICAL WORKS

Eckhardt, H. P., The English District, A Historical Sketch. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1946. 93 pp. This booklet devotes five pages to Concordia College, Conover, N. C. There are several good pictures and a list of the presidents of the institution from 1893-1935.

Henkel Memorials. These are privately published pamphlets by members of the Henkel family and their descendents. Three of these are in possession of Jesse Hughey of Conover. Only one page is devoted to P. C. Henkel.

Hahn, George W., editor and compiler, The Catawba Soldier in the Civil War, a Sketch of Every Soldier from Catawba County, North Carolina, with the Photograph, Biographical Sketch, and Reminiscence of Many of Them, together with a Sketch of Catawba County from 1860 to 1911. Hickory, North Carolina: Clay Printing Company, 1911. 385 pp. This book devotes ten pages to Concordia College and Conover, an article written by A. L. Barger, a former parochial school teacher and later a store keeper. It also has pictures of Polycarp C. Henkel and R. A. Yoder. Appalachian State Teachers College Library has a copy.

Little, M. H., "A Brief Resume of the Life and Work of The Rev. Professor M. L. Little 1848-1891". Hickory, North Carolina: Private manuscript of W. H. Little. 13 pp.

Wight, Willard Eugene, "Robert Anderson Yoder, 1853-1911, A Social Biography." Unpublished Master's Thesis, Emory University, Atlanta, 1949. 132 pp. Yoder's work at Concordia College and his withdrawing to Hickory to help in founding Lenoir College is set forth in this thesis. Wight also explores the "location controversy" of Concordia College.

APPENDIX

PRESIDENTS OF CONCORDIA COLLEGE, CONOVER, N. C.

Under the Tennessee Synod		Under the Missouri Synod	
Dr. P. C. Henkel	1881-1885	W. H. T. Dau	1892-1899
Rev. J. C. Moser	1885-1888	G. A. Romoser	1899-1911
Dr. R. A. Yoder	1888-1891	C. A. Weis and	
No president	1891-1892	Ad. Haentzschel	
		acting presidents	1911-1913
		H. B. Hemmeter	1913-1917
		O. W. Kreinheder	1917-1928
		C. O. Smith	
		acting president	1928-1930
		H. B. Hemmeter	1930-1935

PROFESSORS AND ASSISTANT INSTRUCTORS

Under the Tennessee Synod	Under the Missouri Synod
P. C. Henkel	W. H. T. Dau
R. A. Yoder	G. A. Romoser
J. S. Koiner	C. L. Coon
J. C. Moser	Mrs. Alice Long
Mrs. R. A. Yoder	Miss Fannie O. Eckard
Mrs. J. S. Koiner	L. Buchheimer
J. F. Moser	C. A. Weiss
J. H. Boyte	George Luecke
A. P. Whisehunt	J. S. Koiner
J. G. Schaid	H. B. Hemmeter
J. P. Miller	Adolph Haentzschel
G. M. Moser	O. W. Kreinheder
R. L. Fritz	C. O. Smith
Miss Maggie A. Fisher	M. H. Coyner
M. H. Yount	C. F. Fredericks
C. L. Coon	Maude V. Abernethy
	W. A. Setzer
	G. E. Mennen
	W. O. Bischoff
	W. B. Hunsucker
	H. A. Burandt
	O. W. H. Lindemeyer
	G. Dolack
	Fred Rockett
	J. L. Summers
	Fred Schoerner
	F. A. Freed
	G. Long

GRADUATES OF CONCORDIA

- | | | | |
|------|---|------|--|
| 1935 | Charles Hollar
Luke Javanovich | 1924 | Roswell Mennen
Fred Rockett |
| 1934 | Edwin Coyner
Willard Pultz
Walter Saeman
Helen Hunsucker
Ruth Smith | | Oliver Smith
Nettie Rice |
| 1933 | George Mennen | 1923 | George Arndt
Sophie Coyner
Nora Holler
Katie Pharr
Willie Mae Smith
Mabel Yount |
| 1932 | Clyde R. Hawn
Paul Koiner
Berman Smith
Elizabeth Carpenter
Pauline Henry
Pearl I. Sigmon | 1922 | Walter Brodera
Vernon Long
Gerhardt Moehlmann
Alma Huitt |
| 1931 | Gordon Coiner
Russel Harnack
Claude Huffman
Vivian Baker | 1921 | William Barker
Lula Brady
Margaret Moehlmann
Elise Rice |
| 1930 | David Casimer
Richard F. Lineberger
John Nau
Gerhardt Wagner
Marie Hemmeter
Mary Mennen | 1920 | Walter Spencer
Annie Yount |
| 1929 | Norval R. Barger
Harvey Brady
Rudolph Freed
Roland Haase
Oswald McRee
William Nehrenz
Hugh Malloy Smith
Josephene Coiner | 1919 | Frank Holler
Alex Setzer
Charles Yount
Lillie Thornburg |
| 1928 | Fred A. Graef
Henry C. Hemmeter
Luther G. Leonard
Cora E. Mennen | 1918 | Fred Freed
Bernard Herman
Everett Long
Ernst Moehlmann
Fredrick Settlemeier
John Westerman
Thelma Cline
Claudia Hunsucker
Ruth Rockett |
| 1927 | Clifford R. Brady | 1917 | Alverta Rockett
Sallie Yount |
| 1926 | Karl Baumgart
George Smith
Harroll Weaver
Robert Winters
Irma Deal
Nancy Lee Holler
Elizabeth Mennen | 1916 | Gertrude Coyner
Myrtle Coyner
Ilah Hunsucker
Mary Hunsucker |
| 1925 | Winfred Long
George McRee
Charlotte Barger | 1915 | Carl Hunsucker
Walter Hunsucker
Herman J. Yount
Hulda Rockett |
| | | 1914 | Emery Herman |
| | | 1913 | Gaynell Herman |
| | | 1912 | -- |
| | | 1911 | Marvin Yount |

1910 M. H. Coyner
William Schulz
1909 Walter Bischoff
Charles Hunsucker
1908 M. Boyd Coyner
1907 J. F. Luley
1906 Emil Schwankovsky
Albert Tong
1905 --
1904 Jean M. Bailey
H. C. Steinhoff
1903 --
1902 Frank Hemmeter
Cora D. Yount
Eula V. Yount
1901 O. W. Kreinheder
G. E. Mennen
Oscar Reisig
Franklin Yount
1900 --
1899 --
1898 O. C. Kreinheder
1897 P. C. Henry
Richard Oehlschlaeger
Walter Wishart
1896 C. O. Smith

Note: This list does not include all of the early graduates. The early records have been lost. It also seems that there were no graduates in some years.

The Administration Building of
Concordia College. This building
burned to the ground in 1935.

The Boys' Dormitory. This building
was torn down after Concordia Congregation
bought the campus. The two buildings shown
here were the only ones on the campus.

