



Family of Alma Mater Composer Honored by College

Relatives of the late Miss Annie E. Abernethy, former Henderson resident, who wrote the words to Chowan College's alma mater in 1890, were recently honored by the college with officials including President Bruce E. Whitaker, back row, second from right, attending. Relatives present at a dinner included, front row, from left, Mrs. W. T. Bobbitt, Rich Square; Mrs. A. C. Broughton, Raleigh; Miss Katherine Cain, Raleigh; Mrs. Thomas H. Cain, Jr. of Knightdale. Back row, from left, W. T. Bobbitt; Mrs. Birdie L. Flynn, Phoenix, Ariz.; Sidney R. Abernethy, Raleigh; Dr. A. C. Broughton; Dr. Whitaker; Thomas H. Cain, Jr. Sidney Abernethy, 90, later was presented a framed color picture of McDowell Columns, Chowan's administration building erected in 1851, with the words of the alma mater imprinted on it during a ceremony as part of orientation for new students in the stadium. He received a standing ovation from the students and Chowan personnel.

Chowan Founder's Descendant Loves Antiques

By RAMONA SCOTT

Difficult to believe that Hertford County could have anything in common with the Smithsonian Institute? Ask young Jimmy Moore, they have—a pre-Steinway piano.

The instrument, along with many other pieces of furniture and books that would plunge any antique dealer into complete rapture, are in the home of Mrs. Raynor Moore, Jimmy's grandmother.

Jimmy, a student at Chowan College, says there is only one other instrument in the United States like that in his home—it is in the Smithsonian, Washington, D.C.

The piano, strung vertically from the back, still has some operable keys. The rare instrument was acquired by Jimmy's great-great grandfather, Maj. John W. Moore, who "horse-traded" for it a real live horse.

The swap was made in 1870 with Augustus Stein, a close friend, who later formed the Steinway Piano Company.

Directly across the living room from the Steinway is another piano, which the Major bought in 1896 at the Chicago Exposition. Although slightly out of tune, the piano can still be played. It was produced by William Knabe and Company of Baltimore.

Atop a small table fronting a couch that dates back 150 years, there rests the huge 1,460 page family Bible printed in 1851 in Philadelphia. The pages, yellowed and loose, are occasionally referred to by Jimmy when there is a question over dates and facts regarding his ancestors who have occupied that particular portion of the county for eight generations.

490 Volumes

In the library of "Maple Lawn" are 490 volumes of antebellum books. Perhaps the oldest is one just acquired from a cousin entitled English Pilot written by J. Gordy. It contains charts of the Mediterranean Sea with notations "made from latest charts" dated in the 1750's.

Much of the library was assembled by Major Moore, an attorney, historian, poet, novelist and composer. He lived in

Murfreesboro just prior to the War Between the States and at that time his collection was the largest library in eastern North Carolina. His home, "Anniesdale," located where Parker Hall of Chowan College now stands, was burned in 1866 and a large number of the books were lost. Those that remained comprise the library at "Maple Lawn."

The oldest volume in the collection, before receiving the book of sea charts (the work of nine generations), is dated 1768. It is a "Complete List of All the Common and Statute Law Books of this Realm," written by John Worrall.

Second in longevity is a three-volume set of Adam Smith's *The Wealth of Nations* and published in 1786 in London. There is also a bound copy of the *Hibernian Magazine* published in Edinburgh Scotland in 1790. The collection varies from works on law, medicine, chemistry, mathematics and religion but the overwhelming majority of the books deal with English history and literature—with classics by such authors as Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, Swift, Tennyson and Byron.

Johnson Dictionary

One of the most interesting volumes is a Dictionary by the famed Samuel Johnson, the first written in the English language, dating back to 1802. Another of special interest is the *Manual of Instruction for the Volunteers and Militia of the Confederate States*, published in Richmond in 1861 by William Gilham.

Keen Knowledge

Jimmy's keen knowledge of his ancestral home, the events surrounding it and his ancestors is phenomenal. And the manner

in which he describes the details of what occurred long before his time is a revealing delineation of his fondness for his home and the priceless possessions therein.

According to Jimmy's research and knowledge handed down from generation to generation, the land, a grant of 1,000 acres, was made to Col. James Jones, a native of Wales, by King George II. The exact year of the grant was lost when all records in Hertford County were burned in 1830.

Originally, the house, which contained one room and a hall downstairs and two small rooms and a hall upstairs, was occupied by the overseer and later enlarged by Jimmy's great-great grandmother, Elizabeth Jones Ward Delke.

Unusual—"James"

An unusual thing about her, Jimmy notes, was that she was born a Jones and married three times. The first was Jones, the second Ward and the third was Delke and she obtained property with each marriage. "Her husbands all had the given name of James, her father and grandfather were James, who had a brother named James, the same name she gave to one of her sons," Jimmy remarked.

Her last husband was present at the 1848 meeting at the home of Major Moore's father, Dr. Godwin Cotten Moore, known as "Mulberry Grove" near St. Johns that led to the establishment of Chowan College.

Mrs. Delke had a daughter, Anne, during her marriage to Ward and she was the first individual to receive a diploma, which Jimmy had preserved, from Chowan College in 1853. "Anne was extremely wealthy-

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Book Traces History From 1848 to Present

From its founding in 1848 to the present administration of President Bruce E. Whitaker, Chowan's interesting and exciting history is detailed in *A HISTORY OF CHOWAN COLLEGE*, by Edgar V. McKnight and Oscar Creech.

Originally released in 1964, the book takes on new meaning during the current celebration of Chowan's 125th anniversary.

Chapters of Chowan's history come to life through its 330 pages. The book emphasizes the important roles that various individuals have played in the founding and development of Chowan. Challenges, obstacles and victories are all recorded to give a picture in depth of Chowan's involvement in Christian higher education.

Fresh insights into the heart and spirit of Chowan, as well as amusing anecdotes, await the reader. The chapter devoted to the rules that the young women of decades ago lived under is especially rewarding and has a ring of "it's true but hard to believe." It's all in *A HISTORY OF CHOWAN COLLEGE*, available by mail from Chowan for as long as they last. This treasure of history is \$4.00 a copy. Use the accompanying order form, mail it to Chowan College, and your copy will soon be on its way to you.