

A. L. BULWINKLE  
57th Street, North Carolina  
JOHN K. BLEAR  
SECRETARY

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

March 1, 1939

Dear Haywood:

Please permit me to extend my most sincere congratulations to the "Kings Mountain Herald" upon its fiftieth birthday; and, while doing this, I want also to congratulate it upon having you as its editor and publisher. In addition I think my felicitations should also be extended to the people of Kings Mountain for having such a progressive newspaper.

In my opinion "The Herald" is one of the best weekly papers that I know, and I am more than pleased, as a subscriber, to assist in this small way in its publication.

I trust that each succeeding year may increase the influence of "The Herald" in the city and county. With my very best wishes for the continued success of "The Herald" and for the happiness and prosperity of its staff, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A. L. Bulwinkle

Mr. Haywood E. Lynch, Editor-Publisher  
Kings Mountain Herald  
Kings Mountain, North Carolina

**HISTORY OF LINCOLN ACADEMY**

1888-1939

(By The Faculty)

Lincoln Academy was founded in the fall of 1888 by Miss Emily C. Prudden, a New England woman of exalted spirit and indomitable purpose. Having already established two institutions for needy white girls in this part of the state, she bought a few acres of land at the foot of Crowders Mountain. Additional land was given to her and soon a building was constructed, which was used for all purposes—chapel, school room,

dining room and etc.

In 1890 Miss Prudden deeded the property over to the American Missionary Association of New York, an assistant teacher, Miss Peck, was added; and Miss Lillian S. Cathcart came in as Principal, to serve until 1910. The school now opened its doors to boys, having prior to now enrolled only girls. More land was secured and more buildings were constructed. At this time the cost of room, board, and laundry for students was but \$4.50 per month.

The period 1910-1922 is one of which very little is known. There were several Principals: Messrs. I. C. Strange, C. L. Stevens, L. S. Bush and I. A. Hart. During Mr. Hart's administration electric lights were

installed.

In 1922 Mr. Edward Ricks and his wife came to Lincoln Academy, where Mr. Ricks remained as Principal for thirteen years. The personnel of the school now became all Negro for the first time. During Mr. Ricks' administration, the Mildred Wellmon Elementary school was erected. Later there were added three brick buildings, Reed Hall and Cummings Hall, at a cost of \$42,000.00 each, and a Laundry at the cost of \$3,000.00. By this time the plant had a value of about \$400,000.00. Buildings were also constructed for practical instruction in Manual Arts and Vocational Agriculture.

Lincoln Academy was not satisfied in being just another High school

Though rural and though supported very largely through church donations, it was still possible for the school to become standardized. Teachers were secured with the bachelor degrees and from outstanding colleges, the Library was enlarged, salaries were increased and general equipment was secured. North Carolina, through Gaston and Cleveland counties came to the aid of the American Missionary Association, and soon the school was granted "A" Rating by the State. By 1934 the same rating was granted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

In September of 1935, Mr. John Dillingham became Director of the school, and many additional improvements were made. At the close of this year, Mr. Samuel L. Parham, Jr., (now the Academic Principal, who had been Associate Director for two years prior, became Acting Director. His great emphasis was on improved instruction as well as material development.

On September the first of 1937 there came to Lincoln Academy as Director, Dr. Henry C. McDowell. Having spent about eighteen years in the mission field of Angola, Africa, his experience was rich. Already he has made excellent contacts for the school. With the view of making the Academy the center of schools in the section, the enrollment has increased considerably.

through a program of consolidation. Much has been gained in a material way, but Dr. McDowell is best known for his spirit of friendliness and his promotion of an atmosphere of general helpfulness throughout the community.

With increased emphasis on Community growth, the school is fortunate in having an excellent tradition and capable graduates who try to carry on. During the fifty years of the school's existence, her graduates have done well toward the development of Public Schools through the counties of Cleveland and Gaston. The Academy can easily be called the mother of schools in the vicinity. The present record shows that there are nineteen Lincoln Academy graduates serving as teachers in Gaston County and sixteen are employed in Cleveland County.

Aside from what the school tries to do as a local institution, the community is fortunate to have the school serve as a center for conferences. During these years the Y. M. and Y. W. C. A., the Congregational Churches and other groups have made the foot of Crowders Mountain a place of learning, a place of culture, a place of service, a place—

yes, holy ground.

The present faculty and student body of Lincoln Academy comprise 18 teachers and two N. Y. A. supervisors, 279 students and 47 N. Y. A. enrollees. The real school constituency embraces many more. Through home projects of Vocational Agriculture and Home Economic departments many parents become cooperators in the educational process, not only to the advantage of the young people, but also to their own advantage. Through a chapter of the N. F. A., a national organization of Negro Youth dedicated to farm life, and Home Economics Clubs, the influence of these departments is quite widespread.

The community emphasis is increasingly stressed. The farmers of the area are organized and are already constructively and cooperatively facing their problems. There are 4 HomeMakers Clubs among the women of the community. The annual community fair is an outstanding feature of the regular program. The teachers of Vocational Agriculture and Home Economics give half of their time to promotion of home projects and an Adult Education Program.

More recently there has been very definite effort to reach every adult illiterate of the community. Twenty six volunteers have been actually going into the homes of 52 adult illiterates in an effort to do at least two things—teach them to read their names, and to so convince and inspire them that they will become active in a real Adult Education Movement.

The Resident Training Center operated under the N. Y. A., is meeting an urgent need. Youths, between 18-25, who have at least completed elementary school and are unable to continue their education or find work in private industry are brought together for a six months course of intensive training, with the expectation that as they complete the course they will be better equipped and thus more likely to secure and hold jobs in private industry. The boys have courses in construction, farm, shop, and cooking; the girls have comprehensive courses in home making with special emphasis upon sewing, cooking, laundry, (house work in general), child care, etc. The Training Center is to serve the Western area of North Carolina, and after six months training effort will be made to find jobs for the youths, and others will take their places at the Center.

The continuing function of Lincoln Academy is, of course, to serve the area as a first-class school for

Negro Youth. An extremely satisfactory relationship has developed through the years between a church missionary organization, the public school system, and the local community, both white and colored. Great capacity for adjustment has been evidenced in these 51 years which augurs well for ability, based upon experience, to meet the changing needs of the young folks and the community in general.

To meet the growing need and enlarged opportunity certain physical improvements are necessary. A more adequate building for Vocational Agriculture and Industrial Arts departments is already being planned. It is hoped that within two years the present out-moded and unsafe High School Building will be replaced, also the dormitory for girls must be replaced.

On the threshold of a second half century of service, the institution has no particular blue-print, it simply re-dedicates itself to greater effort to awaken and inspire folks generally, cultivate an intelligent awareness of problems and developments and a quickened capacity to relate resources, individual and communal, to actual needs and situations. All this in the hope that an A-1 elementary and rural high school can be maintained in an intelligent growing community with pronounced emphasis upon wholesome democratic, cooperative, christian living—adv.

**How They Grow!**

Mr. W. C. Caveny believes big trees from little acorns will grow. He started growing his in an animated form last year about this time of the year. 600 had taken the form of baby chicks! Them broilers! The last stage to hen-hood. The clock of twelve months finds a veritable acre of growing life. His chicks now number 5,000.

Mr. Caveny has adopted a most unique plan of raising chicks. He has built wire batteries with side feeders, each battery accommodates 200 chicks. As these grow and become crowded they are changed to others with fewer in the same amount of space.

Mr. Caveny is especially interested in the best stock possible for his patronage, some of the little fellow's coming from Indiana to mingle with the hatchers from the Carolinas and Virginia. A man is kept busy feeding and watering during the nights as well as the days. As the broilers are marketed more chicks are coming along.



DINING HALL

**FACULTY**

Lincoln Academy has one of the strongest faculties in any secondary institution for Negroes south of Washington. The teachers have received degrees from outstanding colleges and universities of America. Several have the Master's degree. They have not only dedicated themselves to the teaching routine, but a program of Christian guidance for adolescent youth.



FACULTY

**FOUNDED 1888  
Dedicated To Negro Youth**

OFFERING OPPORTUNITY, ENCOURAGEMENT, GUIDANCE TO COLLEGIATE AND NON-COLLEGIATE TYPES.

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

The institution offers extra-curricular activities with the provision that students must maintain a certain academic standing before entering competitive sports:

- (1) Religious — Church and Sunday School, Y. M. C. A.
- (2) Other Organizations — Student Council, Dramatic Club, Choir, Octette, Literary Society, Debating Society.
- (3) Athletics — Football, Basketball, Volley Ball, Tennis, Baseball and Swimming.

For additional information write the Director.

**AIMS OF THE ACADEMY**

Lincoln Academy aims to help its students adjust themselves to their local environment, emphasizing the religious and social phases of living, as well as the academic. Thorough preparatory courses are offered and graduates meet without difficulty college entrance requirements. Opportunity, encouragement, and guidance are offered to non-collegiate types who are of serious purpose. Folks must live whether they obtain a higher education or not. Lincoln Academy would have its students live more effectively. Through a coordinated program of study and practical living, and especially through courses in Agriculture, Home Economics, and Industrial Arts the Academy seeks to minister effectively to the whole life of its students and community.

**Strong Faculty, Religious Atmosphere  
Healthful Climate**

Four Miles From Historic Kings Mountain Battleground

**Scholarships For Worthy Students**

**STUDENT SELF HELP**

**Agricultural and Sciences**

**Co-Educational**

N. Y. A.

N. F. A.

**Moderate Tuition**

**THE LINCOLN ACADEMY**

KINGS MOUNTAIN, N. C.

Under the Auspices of the

AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION

New York, N. Y.

and

Gaston County Public Schools