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MEREDITH FROM 1899 UNTIL 1913

(This letter appeared in *The Acorn* March, 1913. Miss Rosa C. Paschal, who wrote it, was then Dean of Women at Meredith.)

DEAR FELLOW ALUMNAE:

Recently a visitor was making a talk in chapel, just as visitors used to do. Things haven't changed in that respect. I've forgotten the name of the speaker and have also forgotten his subject, but one phrase caught my attention; viz: "... the alumnae, some of them are growing old." At first I smiled and my train of thought was somewhat as follows: "Evidently he knows as little about us as the gentlemen did who came down to make an address at Meredith with the idea that he was going to speak to negro students. Our college is too young for anything connected with it to be old." Then the corners of my mouth began to take a downward route. I was probably the oldest of the alumnae whom he had seen. Had I suggested the thought to him? And were the alumnae of even youthful Meredith getting old? And with that I began to reminisce. Pardon the word, for I'm not writing an English theme.

I remembered the morning I arrived at the Baptist Female University. Oh, yes, you more recent alumnae, it was a university and it was female, and it was Baptist then, and all of us were University girls and not divided into college girls and academy girls as we are now, being segregated in chapel and the dining room. I understand that they have actually wanted the segregation to extend to the classroom since membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Preparatory Schools seems almost within reach. Don't you girls remember how you had to walk around piles of lumber and stumble over squares, adzes, saws and hammers as you passed through the halls that first opening in 1899? We had expected all things to be in readiness for us, but we found no bedsteads in our rooms and no shades to our windows. One couldn't go into the halls to dress, for there were the carpenters, the electricians, the plumbers, the janitors, the visitors and the faculty passing back and forth. We had to find our way down town to buy sash curtains, and there were no old girls to show us the way. I had one of the two-girl rooms on the front of the Main Building, so I pushed my wardrobe out from the wall and dressed behind that. I don't know what the girls did who had no wardrobes. After a few days Mrs. Kesler and Dr. Dixon, perhaps impelled by views from the street, got wrapping paper from down town and pasted it on our windows. No, I didn't mean to say Dr. Dixon-Carroll; she was only Dr. Dixon then.

Speaking of no bedsteads, I wonder if it was any of you who went to sleep one night in a room with two on a mattress on the floor and woke up next morning to find that three other mattresses and six other girls had been put in during the night. You younger alumnae may not believe that these things happened, but they did and even stranger things in those good old times.

ALMA MATER'S APPEAL

I wish it were possible for me to give you an adequate report of the wonderful address of Dr. Vann's on Founders' Day. He told us of the early struggles of friends to put Meredith on its feet.

Colonel L. L. Polk at the 1889 session of the Baptist State Convention in Henderson, offered a resolution looking toward the establishment of a high grade college for young women in North Carolina. It was ten years before Meredith was opened for the reception of students. Those were ten years of struggle and anxiety, but they revealed the fact that there were heroic spirits yet who were willing to suffer and sacrifice for a great cause. A sure foundation was laid in those years, and upon it has grown what we now see. After thirty years of consistent effort we discover an institution with a plant valued at more than \$1,300,000, and a productive endowment of approximately \$475,000. The ideals of those early years have been adhered to, and followed, so that the standards of Meredith are recognized not only by our State Department of Education, but also by the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools of the Southern States, the American Association of University Women, and the Association of American Universities.

It would be most unfortunate, however, for us to get the idea that the day of struggle is over. Past achievements should encourage us to attack with vigor and enthusiasm and optimism the problems before us yet to be solved.

The centennial movement needs immediate attention. The successful issue of the movement is a necessary forerunner of other essential developments. Class rooms, laboratories, auditorium, and gymnasium are all housed in temporary buildings. These are rendering excellent service but cannot last many years. Besides, since they are of wood, they present a constant fire hazard. Fireproof buildings, like our dormitories are needed to take their places. A larger library, and a larger endowment are needed to enable us to maintain the position we have reached, and to take more advanced positions.

Our alumnae are loyal to their Alma Mater. Appeal is made to them to keep Meredith before the people, both for patronage and for funds. Gifts for education through the Coöperative Program will be of service in connection with current expenses. For buildings and endowment money may be given. There are some who provide for annuities by turning over to the Trustees sums of money or other properties to receive five or six per cent on same during the life of the donor. Others still provide for the College a legacy in their wills. Either of these last two methods may be arranged through the Baptist Foundation.

Public sentiment can be turned in these directions by those who read these lines. On behalf of Alma Mater, I present her appeal to each one of you.

CITAS. E. BREWER,
President.

WHAT MEREDITH HAS MEANT TO THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY UNION

To tell in an adequate way what Meredith College has meant to the Woman's Missionary Union would much more than fill a paper the size of *THE TWIG*.

In 1911 when the Union met in the First Church, Wilmington, and the first full-time salaried Corresponding Secretary was to be elected, the choice fell on Blanche Josephine Barrus, a graduate of the class of 1910. Miss Barrus served in this position until 1916, when she resigned to go to Philadelphia to the Woman's Medical College, to prepare herself for work as a medical missionary. On the 23d of November, 1922, she was called to her reward and the Woman's Missionary Union, as a tribute to her memory and in recognition of her faithful service to them, had a large part in building the Blanche Barrus Nurses' Home at our Hospital in Winston-Salem. The consecration and sacrificial spirit of this lovely young woman will remain a blessing and an inspiration to the Woman's Missionary Union.

Dr. Barrus was succeeded as Corresponding Secretary by Miss Bertha Carroll, class of 1913, who gave four years of untiring service to our Union. During her term of office the million Campaign was launched by Southern Baptists and to Miss Carroll we are indebted for much of the progress that was made during this period.

In 1923 Miss Mary Warren (Mrs. H. T. Stevens) was elected Corresponding Secretary. While Miss Warren was a graduate of the Woman's Missionary Training School at Louisville, Ky., she had studied for some years at Meredith College and received there some of the training that brought such a record of faithful and efficient service to the Union.

On our Executive Committee there are four alumnae of Meredith College: Mrs. R. N. Simms, 1904, Vice President of our W. M. Union, Trustee for North Carolina for the Woman's Missionary Union Training School, and the President of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Tabernacle Church, Raleigh; Mrs. J. W. Bunn, 1910, who for the past year has served as president of the Woman's Missionary Society in the Hayes-Barton Church, Raleigh; Mrs. W. D. Briggs, 1903, President of the Woman's Missionary Society, First Church, Raleigh; and Mrs. J. S. Farmer, 1907, former missionary to Japan, and President of the Woman's Missionary Society of Millbrook Church.

Mrs. B. A. Hocutt has rendered the Woman's Missionary Union invaluable service as Superintendent of the W. M. U. of the Johnston County Association. Mrs. H. W. Baucom is doing fine work as leader of the young people's work in the Wilmington Association. It would be impossible to make even a record of the graduates of Meredith who are or have been leaders in the societies throughout our State, to say nothing of the students who have gone from the college and have endeavored to share with the home church and the home community the advantages they received at Mer-

Can you imagine any of our Meredith faculty stopping in the middle of a recitation to describe the details of the scene when her fiancé got on his knees and proposed? That did happen at the Baptist Female University, but don't breathe it to the Southern Association of Colleges, for they might think our fourteen units no good, having sprung from such beginnings. And is your gray matter equal to the strain of imagining our present professor of English going into a girl's room after light bell, getting in bed with her and relating her woes? One of your alumnae will remember her roommate's having had just such an experience with the then professor of English while she herself lay *under* her own bed to escape just such a fate. You Meredith alumnae may bow your heads in shame of your ancestry, while you Baptist Female University alumnae may sigh for the days that are no more. How our faculty are proper; they march and sit in academic order and are divided into a college faculty and an academic faculty.

And do you know that last fall I began to think that there was as big a difference in the senior classes of the Then and the Now as one finds in the faculties? I know that senior classes used to sit on the backs of chairs, or cross-legged on the desk in the science room and probably were dressed in kimonos during class meetings. Our present senior class began to hold their honorable sessions in the parlors, where, of course, they had to be proper-

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Miss Law at Wellesley

I am finding my second year at Wellesley very pleasant and easier now that the strangeness has worn off. I like my work very much, four hours of Latin and nine of Greek. My time is pretty well taken up, in spite of the fact that I have fewer hours of teaching and less committee work than I had at Meredith, for there is a great deal going on in the line of concerts and lectures. We are near enough Boston to go in for plays or anything else that seems worth while. The location of the college is quite ideal, I think, for we have the advantages of the city and yet can enjoy the beautiful country around here. The fall has been particularly lovely. I have been living in very comfortable quarters in one of the dormitories but just now I am looking for an apartment in the village for next year, as my mother is to be with me. It looks as if this summer would be very much like last, most of it spent at Lake George with my interest much absorbed in my four small nephews.

I regret that I'll not be able to repeat this spring the delightful experience I had a year ago when I visited Meredith. I was quite flattered when I was asked to write for the Alumnae issue of *THE TWIG*, for it seems to show that you agree with me in the feeling that I still belong to Meredith and North Carolina. One doesn't tear up easily roots that have

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What is Hattie Herring Doing?

"Sis, what do you do?" one of my former brothers said to me after I had been at Chapel Hill for a while. "People are always asking me what you are doing at the University and I hate to give the impression that you are studying, for they always come back with 'Won't she ever get through going to school?'"

"You tell them what I tell folks whom I think are just asking out of idle curiosity: 'She is doing industrial research in the Institute for Research in Social Science.' And if you will rattle it off quite rapidly they will be so impressed at your assurance that they won't dare show their ignorance by asking further."

This plan has worked in many cases. I fear, however, it is hardly sufficient to answer Mae Grimmer's request for a piece about my work for *THE TWIG*. It doesn't fill up enough space—and there are many alumnae who know me too well to be impressed with a rattled-off formula.

The Institute for Research in Social Science was started at the University of North Carolina through the aid of a grant from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial (recently merged with the Rockefeller Foundation) to be used for research in the social sciences. Dr. Howard W. Odum, through whose efforts the grant was obtained and who has been its guiding spirit, believes that there are more or less

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