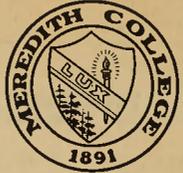




# THE TWIG

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## MEREDITH CELEBRATES SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

### First Founders' Day Ceremony Honored "Keepers of Dream"

A consciousness of her past with due appreciation for her heritage has been through the years a mark of the soundness of the College. It may have seemed a bit presumptuous when at the early age of ten, she first expressed this consciousness in formal ceremonies. However, even a cursory glance at her history reveals that, though on that first Founders' Day, January 28, 1909, the doors of the College had been open to students less than ten years, the actual founding of the institution went much further into the past.

#### "Keepers of the Dream"

It has been significantly noted, too, that she has always celebrated Founders', not Founder's, Day, for her founders included a long line of "keepers of the dream" who never lived to see the actual opening of the College. And, as President Carlyle Campbell has pointed out on recent occasions, she is continually being founded, if the institution is truly alive. Thus there is no one person to whom history points as the founder of the College.

#### Ceremonies

Certain features of that first celebration commemorating the founding of the school survive in the ceremonies with which in 1966 the College takes cognizance of its past. The proposal for such an occasion

was made, according to Dr. Mary Lynch Johnson, historian of the college, by Wade R. Brown, chairman of the music department, in the spring of 1908. The planning committee had suggested that "special chapel exercises, a reception, and a contest in declamation of essays between the literary societies" be included in the observance of the occasion.

The speakers on that day were acquainted with the background of the College. President Richard Tilman Vann sketched the history of the school, and Oliver Larkin Stringfield, whose fierce dedication to the College had enabled it to survive financially, spoke of the future of the school. The main speaker on that first Founders' Day was Henry Louis Smith, then president of the University of Virginia. The *Biblical Recorder* of February 3, 1909, reported as his topic "Higher Education as a Field for Christian Philanthropy."

#### Student Participation

Students participated in the activities of the afternoon, as a reception was given by the Student Government Association. Classrooms were also decorated for the event. Students also took part in the festivities by means of the "contest in declamation of essays between the literary societies."

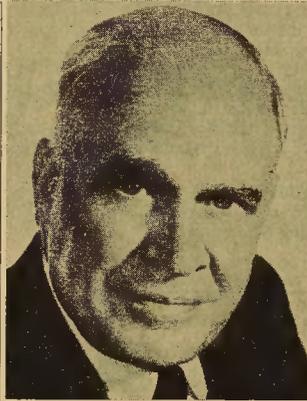
### Guest Speakers Will Participate in Activities Commemorating Both Founders and Charter

On February 27, 1891, the state of North Carolina granted a charter to the Baptist Female University; on February 27, 1966, Meredith College celebrates the seventy-fifth anniversary of that significant event. A three-day program has been planned to feature alumnae, students and faculty, and trustees, respectively.

The annual Alumnae Seminar on Saturday, February 26, sponsored by the department of business and economics has as its theme "Economic Knowledge—A Citizen Responsibility."

Hardly any introduction is needed for the keynote speaker, the Honorable Luther H. Hodges, former governor of North Carolina. He will speak on "The Role of Government in the Economy." Mr. Hodges retired in 1950 from the textile industry. Since then his work has been in public service as lieutenant governor and then governor of North Carolina. He has helped to bring much industry to the state and was involved in the establishing of the Research Triangle. Since his service as U. S. Secretary of Commerce, he has made his home in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Presently he is serving as president of the Research Triangle Foundation.

The next speaker is Mr. J. E. Starnes, a comparatively new citi-



The Honorable Luther M. Hodges



The Reverend Vernon B. Richardson

zen of Raleigh. Mr. Starnes is branch manager of IBM, Data Processing Division. His topic for the Seminar is "The Impact of Automation on the Economy."

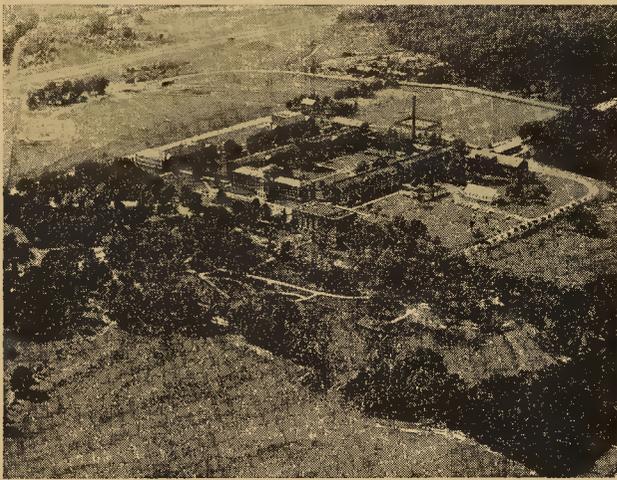
On Saturday afternoon a panel of four will discuss "Economic Responsibility for Making Rational Consumer Decisions": Dr. E. C. Bishop, Dr. Charles E. Ferguson, Miss Theresa Demus, and Mrs. Evelyn P. Simmons. Dr. Bishop, a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor, is head of the department of economics at North Carolina State University, as well as the author of a textbook and numerous articles in his field. Dr. Ferguson is a member of the department of economics at Duke University. He has published many articles and is author and co-author of two books in his field. Miss Demus is a consumer

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Dr. Lois Edinger

### Meredith After Seventy-Five Years



### Trustees Join In Celebration

Meredith College welcomes to the campus for this special occasion in her history one group of her friends to whom she owes a special debt of gratitude. These are the twenty-eight members who make her present Board of Trustees. A slight change in the schedule of their biennial meetings, held usually on the fourth Tuesday in September and February, makes it possible for them to participate in some of these Founders' Day Activities as they convene for a semi-annual meeting.

The Board of Trustees, like the College itself, has a history that ex-

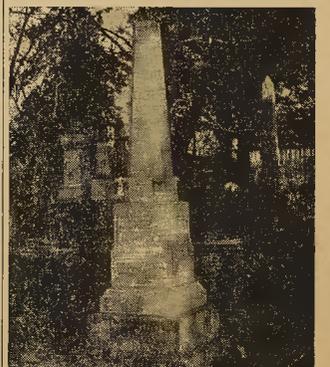
tends farther into the past than does the actual college, for it was the State Baptist Convention of 1889, in session in Henderson, that elected the first board. Their first meeting was held there immediately after election. Thus the group was at work as trustees of an institution that ten years later first opened her doors to students.

The present Board, like the first (Continued on page 8)

### Publications Hail "City of Oaks"

Sheltered as we are on this campus by an abundance of oaks, one can see how our college publications might bear the names *Acorn*, *Twig*, and *Oak Leaves*, but these names have an even more significant history. They were chosen because Meredith was located in Raleigh, long known as the "City of Oaks." The first *Oak Leaves* (1904) opens with this Dedication:

Dedicated to the "City of Oaks" and its Citizens  
Whose interest and hospitality have been so generously extended to the girls of B.F.U.



GRAVE OF THOMAS MEREDITH Scene of Sunday Ceremony

### Leadership of Four Presidents Determines Meredith's Growth

Since its beginning, an experiment in the field of female universities, Meredith has been guided by outstanding and courageous presidents. Through the perseverance and will of Dr. J. C. Blasingame, Dr. Richard Tilman Vann, Dr. Charles E. Brewer, and Dr. Carlyle Campbell, Meredith has grown from a struggling little Baptist Female University in downtown Raleigh to a recognized college for women on the outskirts of the city. Only through great leadership did the dream of Meredith College become a reality.

Dr. J. C. Blasingame, the first president of Meredith, was thirty-

two years old when he was appointed president of the infant institution, in 1899, then called the Baptist Female University. No sooner had he been appointed, reports *A History of Meredith College*, than he set out to tour the northern universities and later the North Carolina churches to deliver such glowing speeches that someone once reported of them that they made a listener feel that the new school would one day "surpass Princeton, Yale and Harvard or even one of the great English universities." Although Blasingame proved a good administrator, the

(Continued on page 10)

#### Founders' Day Program — 75th Charter Year

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1966

9:30 A.M. .... Coffee Hour and Registration for Alumnae Seminar  
10:30 A.M. .... Addresses

The Honorable Luther H. Hodges, A.B., LL.D.  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
J. E. Starnes, B.S.  
Branch Manager, The IBM Corporation

1:00 P.M. .... Luncheon for Alumnae and Guests  
2:00 P.M. .... Panel Discussion

Charles E. Bishop, Ph.D.  
Department of Agricultural Economics, North Carolina State University  
Charles E. Ferguson, Ph.D.  
Department of Economics, Duke University  
Theresa Demus, M.S.  
Consultant, U.S. Food and Drug Administration

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1966

11:00 A.M. .... Founders' Day Sermon  
The Reverend Vernon B. Richardson, B.D., D.D.  
River Road Church, Richmond, Virginia

3:00 P.M. .... Wreath Ceremony at the Grave of Thomas Meredith  
4:00 P.M. .... Annual Founders' Day Reception

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1966

10:30 A.M. .... Founders' Day Address  
Lois Edinger, Ph.D.  
Department of Education, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro

11:30 A.M. .... Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
1:00 P.M. .... Luncheon for Trustees and Guests