

Thomas Meredith—A Leader Who Served N. C. Baptists

Meredith College was named in honor of Thomas Meredith in 1909 when the name was changed from the Baptist University for Women.

Meredith died in 1850 at the age of 55, and at his death, Josephus Daniels said that he (Meredith) "gave to his commonwealth the most priceless gift that any man can bestow, the gift of himself."

Thomas Meredith, a native of Pennsylvania, was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1816 as valedictorian of his class. At commencement exercises he delivered an oration on "Christianity." In 1817, Meredith was sent as a missionary to the eastern section of North Carolina. Two years later he became a pastor in New Bern where he shortly became a prominent figure in the affairs of the North Carolina Baptists.

Thomas Meredith drew up the constitution for the Baptist State Convention. He had a great interest in education as he stated as one of the purposes as "the education of young men called of God to the ministry." Because of his concern for education, Meredith was appointed to the committee of the convention "to consider the establishment of a female seminary of high order."

The *North Carolina Interpreter*, a monthly publication edited by Thomas Meredith, had the purpose of imparting "information to the churches and congregations at large." The *North Carolina Interpreter* was the forerunner of the weekly *Biblical Recorder*. He served as editor of this publication until his death in 1850.

The work of Thomas Meredith may best be summarized by J. W. Bailey as he once said:

"In his twenty years as editor, he brought them (Baptists of North Carolina) into unity of faith and work; he set standards, cast their mold of thinking, and fixed the purpose of their lives and of the lives of hundreds of thousands who came after them."

The twentieth century has accounted Thomas Meredith the greatest single influence on Baptist history in North Carolina. His contemporaries called him the leading Baptist of his generation.



Thomas Meredith

Modern Dance

Master Class Here

Al Huang, Modern dancer and member of the UCLA Dance Faculty since 1963 and Fellow in the University of Illinois Center for Advanced Study 1968-70, will perform in concert with NCSU harpist in residence, Joel Andrews, on Sunday, February 28 at 8:00 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. The public is invited.

Mr. Huang will also conduct a master class for dance students from Raleigh and nearby colleges and universities in Weatherspoon Gym, Meredith College on Saturday, February 27 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission for participants and spectators will be \$1.00.

Mr. Huang has been artist in residence at Randolph Macon College, Lynchburg, Virginia. He received his B.A. from UCLA, M.A. from Bennington, and danced a feature role in the film version of "Flower Drum Song."

Performances in Public Schools

On February 19, February 25, March 19, and April 2, six Meredith girls will be traveling to elementary and junior high schools throughout the state giving dance programs. The girls will be under the supervision of Mrs. Frances Stevens, instructor in dance at Meredith.

Mary Jean Burton, Lynn Boone, Sarah Rierson, Martha Thomason, Elizabeth Hall and Shirley Johnston

Five Outstanding Presidents

(Continued from page 4)

Dr. Heilman, a native of Oldham County, Kentucky, came to Meredith College via positions at Belmont College, Kentucky Wesleyan College, Georgetown College, Kentucky Southern College, and George Peabody College for Teachers.

An expert in long-range planning and financial accounting for institu-

are participating in the program.

The program is the result of a letter received by Mrs. Stevens from Mr. Arnold E. Hoffman of the State Department of Public Instruction. He suggested that the program would give college students experience in teaching, as well as exposing the children to live dance performances.

tions of higher learning, Dr. Heilman has been able to keep Meredith on a par with the most successful of the learning institutions in a time of financial crisis. Not only enrollment, which has increased from around 750 students to 1200, but also the financial assets have greatly increased since 1966. Renovation of all major buildings on campus and the erection of five new buildings has made Meredith an outstanding college community among smaller colleges in the nation.

Dr. Heilman cites his aim as, "the study of Meredith's original purpose in its organization in 1891 and the finding of ways to make possible the attainment of these ideals for the young women of North Carolina and the eastern United States."

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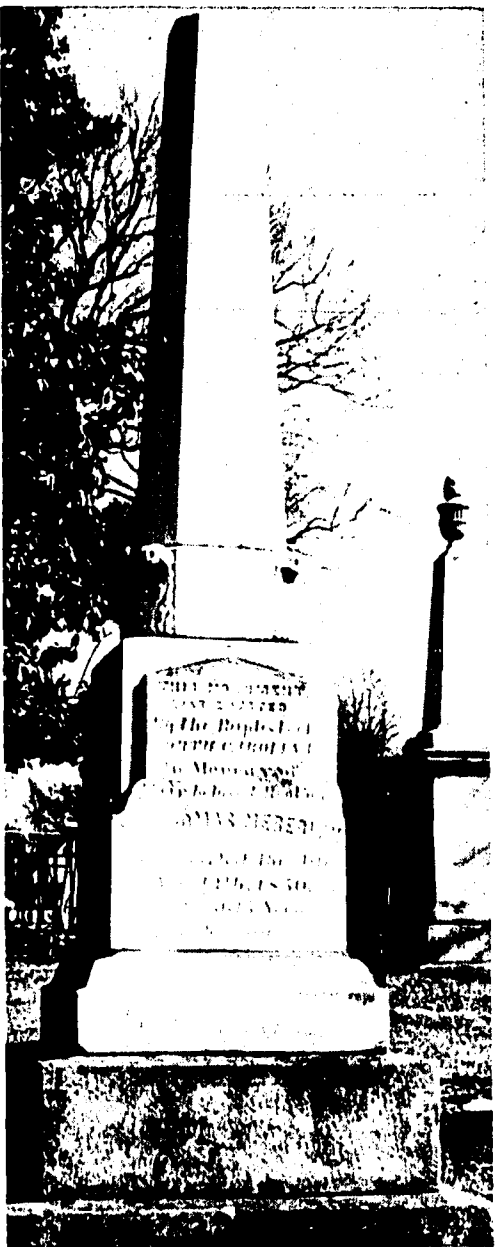
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The grave of Thomas Meredith, "This monument was erected by the Baptists of North Carolina in memory of their beloved brother, Rev. Thomas Meredith, who departed this life November 13th, 1850, in the 56th year of his life."

COME TO THE BOOK AUCTION

The Colton English Club is sponsoring its annual book auction on Thursday, March 25, at 4:00 in the court. While you're home for spring break, see if you can find any books to donate to the auction. Many of you have already contributed to the worthwhile prison drive, but please try to dig a little deeper to find some books for the English Club. Come to the court on Thursday, March 25. The bargains will make your afternoon well worth your time. Entertainment will be provided by the auctioneers!