

A Meredith Herald

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1891-1902

edited by Julia Haskett

THE BFU MOVEMENT

For many years there has been a feeling among the Baptists of North Carolina that the denomination of the State in an organized way should provide enlarged facilities for the higher education of our young women. This feeling grew and deepened until it found definite expression at the session of the Baptist State Convention in 1889. At this Convention a resolution was adopted which declared, "That the time had come when the Baptists of this State should establish a school for young women of high grade for the advancement of the higher education of the women of our land."

CHARTER OBTAINED

At the session of the Legislature of North Carolina in 1891 a liberal charter was obtained for the University, and the work of collecting funds for the enterprise was commenced in earnest. The Rev. O. L. Stringfield became Financial Agent in 1893, the two men who served before in this position having had to retire due to ill health or being called away to the pastorate. His unflagging zeal and energy has brought success to the project and had made the name of Brother Stringfield a precious memory to our people now and in the years to come.

UNIVERSITY BUILDING BEGINS

In April of 1895, the site being paid for at a cost of about \$12,000, a contract was entered into between the Trustees of the University and the North Carolina Car Company to erect the main building at a cost of \$37,000. Even though there was but little money in the treasury, the Trustees believed that God would put in the hearts of His people the determination to carry the building to completion. In this they have not been disappointed. The building has gone slowly but steadily forward to completion and will be ready for occupancy by the 15th of July, 1899. It is said to be the most handsome building in the State. Certainly it is the admiration of all those who have seen it.

(from the First and Second Annual Announcements of the Baptist Female University of North Carolina, 1899, 1901. World events from Chronicle of the Twentieth Century)

ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY

Applicants for admission must be of good moral character and will be examined in the following subjects: English, Latin, Greek, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, History.

ELECTIVES: 1899-1902

Students may select optional courses in the following subjects:

French, German, Greek, Latin, Spanish, Business (shorthand, bookkeeping, typewriting), natural sciences, painting, elocution, music.

THE MUSEUM

It is desirable that the College should have a Museum containing a variety of minerals, fossils, animals, plants, and such curiosities as aid in teaching. It is desired that friends of the College shall aid in making such collections. All such will be gratefully received and acknowledged. The College wishes to thank Prof. W. L. Poteat for making the first contributions to its Museum.

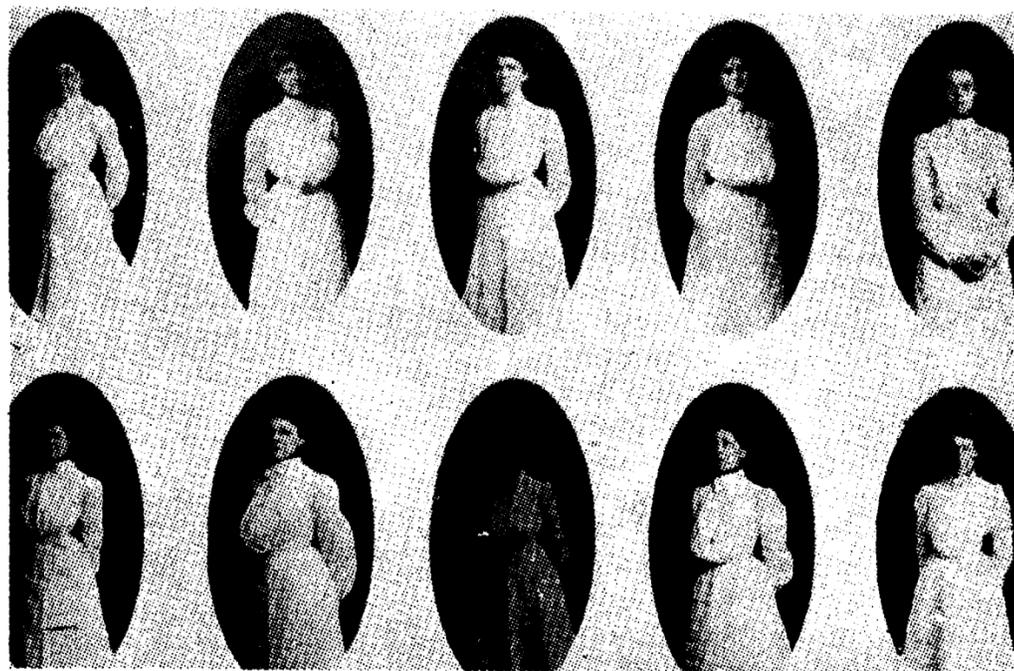
LITERARY SOCIETIES

The Philaretian and Astrotecton Literary Societies meet every Saturday night for literary work, interspersed with music and elocution. They aid materially in cultivating a taste for reading, in learning something of practical affairs, in forming correct habits of thought and expression, in becoming familiar with parliamentary usage, and in gaining confidence and becoming able to act independently.

It is believed that fraternities would detract from the interest and value of the literary societies. The organization of fraternities is, therefore, prohibited.

BUILDINGS

There are two buildings. The Main Building contains Class-rooms, Music-rooms, Art Studio, Laboratory, Library and Reading-room, Literary Society Halls, Living-rooms, etc. It is lighted by electricity, heated by steam and has two handsome bath and toilet rooms, with hot and cold water, on each floor. The well-furnished rooms, home-like, attractive, with plenty of light and fresh air, spacious halls, dining-rooms inviting with excellent and healthful fare, and beautiful withal, make it evident that every provision has been made which experience has shown to be essential to comfort, convenience and healthfulness.



First Graduating Class, 1902

Top row, left to right: Elizabeth Parker, Eliza Wooten, Minnie Sutton, Elizabeth Tull, Estelle Johnson.
Bottom row: Rosa Paschal, Margaret Shidds, Mary Perry, Sophie Lanneau, Margery Kaler

"We ought to do in higher education for our young women what we have done in Wake Forest College for our young men."

The East Building is used mainly for residence, being occupied by the club [students who traded dining room service for reduced boarding fees]. It must not be thought that this is inferior in any respect to the Main Building. It is well-furnished, as well adapted to its purpose, differing only in that it is not lighted by electricity or heated by steam.

FOOD PACKAGES FROM HOME

Good and sufficient food, carefully selected, wholesome, well cooked and well served, is furnished by the College. Boxes of provisions from home are, therefore, unnecessary. Besides, they are the frequent cause of sickness or impaired digestion from the consequent irregular eating at unseasonable hours.

THE WORK OF TEACHERS

The teachers of BFU seek to direct rather than repress; to lead, not to drive; to awaken an interest in the work and to cultivate a taste for what is best; to inspire a spirit of sincerity, enthusiasm, spontaneity, research, and intellectual independence, and, especially, to reach the mental energies through the discovery of the interests of the student, so that regular systematic application will become a pleasure, not a burden.

COLLEGE EXPENSES PER YEAR

Board, room, light, fuel, baths	\$108.00
Room in East Building	16.00
Elocution, private lessons	45.00
Use of piano one hour daily	10.00
Chemical Fee	5.00
Biological Fee	2.00
Library Fee	2.00

THE CLUB

A limited number of young ladies, students in the University, will be selected to wait on the tables and do other light work that will not interfere with their studies. For this work they will be given a reduction of \$8.00 per month on their board.

WHILE THE PLANS WERE SET AND MEREDITH BEGAN HER FIRST DAYS:

Gold is discovered at Bonanza Creek in the Klondike Region of Canada, Hawaii becomes an official territory of the US, the ground is broken for New York City's subway, the Zeppelin airship makes its first flight, the first modern Olympics are held after a 1,500 year hiatus, McKinley and Roosevelt serve as US President and Vice-President, Edison invents the moving picture, Carrie Nation is on the warpath.

On a cross-country race, members of the Automobile Club of America are fined \$10 for exceeding the speed limit of 8-mph. (It is estimated they were travelling in excess of 30-mph.)