



"STUDENT VOLUNTEER BAND"



"DINING ROOM"



"TENNIS CLUB"

The Story of Chowan College: Continued

Austerity Was Necessary in Days After War; Stock Company Formed

(Continued from Page 1)

\$45 in provisions, at these prices: Corn per barrel, \$3; wheat per bushel, \$1.25; bacon per pound, 12¢; pork per pound, 8¢; in cash, board was to be \$225 for five months, Confederate money. Tuition was fixed at \$50 for the collegiate department, \$40 for academic, and \$30 for music.

A blow to the treasury was the fact that a \$1,000 bond, held by the State of North Carolina, was called and had to be paid in 1864. Tuition for the 1864-5 college session jumped alarmingly, to \$150 collegiate, \$112.50 academic, and \$90 music. Board was decreased to \$9 monthly, but was to be paid in provisions, valued at the same price as the previous year, except for a one-cent rise in the value of bacon and pork.

"Each young lady is to furnish three boxes of candles to be deposited with the Steward," the ruling read. "Those who cannot furnish provisions as they live at too great distance to deliver them, will be allowed to pay their equivalent in money by special contract with the steward."

Food was more important than money, in that last year of the war.

The following Civil War story was printed in the "Columns," the college magazine published in January, 1917.

"Chowan in Olden Times" Ruth Linchberry, '23

The following is a true story related to the writer by a Murfreesboro citizen.

One cold, windy afternoon in March, 1864, Mrs. B. A. Spiers, who was housekeeper at Chowan College, sent her little son, Julian, and a little Negro, to carry some nourishment to the sick Confederate soldiers in the Methodist college, which had been turned into a hospital. As the little boys were closing the large gate, on their way to the college, they were suddenly attracted by a crowd of people coming up the street, which proved to be the Yankee cavalry from Boykins, Va.

"They shore is Yankees dis time," cried the little Negro, "an' dere's millions of 'em."

The children did not hesitate, but ran swiftly down the walk and in a few minutes dashed into the college. "They're coming! They're coming! Quick, brother," exclaimed little Julian excitedly to his brother Genie and cousin Douglas who had that afternoon left their camp on the other side of Meherrin Church, and come home to see all the family and get a good supper.

"Who?" asked Douglas Spiers. "The Yankees," was the quick response, which the soldiers so dreaded to hear.

The supper had just been spread before them, but they left it untouched and were soon hidden among the bushes on the hill west of the college.

The news of the Yankees' arrival quickly spread, and in a few minutes all was confusion. The Negroes were as happy as the white people were sad, and they gave vent to their feelings by throwing their hats into the air and singing at the top of their voices.

fired by the Yankees from the gunboat down on the Meherrin River. They thought that they were firing into Confederates marching to the college. The shell exploded over the arch just in front of the Yankees, who were so badly frightened that they dashed header skelter to the building. They tied their horses on the hill where the Confederate boys were hiding, and had hardly recovered from their fright when Captain Flusher arrived with his men from the gunboat.

"President, I have orders to search this college," said the captain as he stepped onto the porch.

"You have certainly come to a queer place to search for soldiers — at a female institute — but as I cannot prevent you, go ahead," answered Dr. McDowell, in a cool manner.

At this moment little Willie McDowell appeared.

"This," said the president's wife, putting her hand on her son's head, "is the oldest soldier we have here and I only wish he were old enough to fight you."

As he said this, Tyrone Spiers, a lad of fifteen years, came forward and the captain cried, "He's the one we want to capture."

The little girl could stand it no longer. She sprang up and with two leaps was standing among the soldiers, crying bitterly.

"Don't cry, sissy, I didn't mean it. We're not going to take your brother," began Captain Flusher, trying to make amends for causing such a scene.

"I'm no sister of yours," cried the enraged child, and with this she put her head against the back porch, and covering her face with her hands, continued to cry. The captain followed and kissed her on the forehead. Then the child turned and looked at the man with a face pale with anger.

"How dare you kiss me!" she cried.

"My child, my child," said her father in a surprised, sorrowful voice.

"Jim, bring me some water and sand — a rag, too," she told a little colored boy standing near, who replied with a grin, "Lawsey, I thought all dem Yankees had horns."

When the boy returned she scrubbed until she took the skin from her forehead and today a white spot denoted the place where she was kissed by the Yankee captain.

"I've a little girl about your size at home," began the captain again, trying to make peace.

"You ought to be there with her now!" exclaimed Norma.

"Can you play, sissy?"

"Yes."

"Play some for me then."

"I don't play anything but Southern songs," she answered.

"You sure are a Southerner," said the captain.

"Yes, I'm a Southerner from the crown of my head to the sole of my foot," she rejoined.

"Well, play anything you want to," said Captain Flusher.

The little girl did as she was told, and in a few minutes the Yankees stopped talking to listen to "Dixie," "The South," "Bonnie Blue Flag," and many other beautiful Southern songs.

While this was going on in the college, the two Confederate soldiers, Genie and Douglas Spiers, had stolen two Federal horses which were tied on the hill. They had hardly done this before the Yankees who had eaten their supper in the college dining room, started to stroll down the hill, and seeing the Confederate guards started after them.

Mrs. Spiers, who was standing on the veranda, saw a black cap fall. Her first thought was, "suppose it's my boy." Mother-like, she did not wait, but with her husband she ran down the hill, then up the other side, and at Wise's graveyard they caught up with the Yankee regiment.

They followed them as they went around the town, continually begging that they might see the

prisoners. When their camp was reached, which was situated where the Boyette Hotel now stands, the Boyette Hotel now stands, the Yankees agreed that Mrs. Spiers might see the prisoners, and her heart leaped for joy when she found that her boy was not among them.

After Captain Flusher left the college, he sent a little book and a box of candy to Norma, but she would not touch them, and wrathfully exclaimed, "I don't want any of your Yankee trash!"

Late in the afternoon as Captain Flusher was returning to the boat, he was mistaken for a private soldier and told to give the password. He hesitated, and his own men, thinking that he was a Confederate, fired and killed him.

The news quickly spread through the town, and when little Ruth McDowell heard it, she ran to her mother saying, "Mama, our doodest Yankee's dead."

It was probably on this occasion that the Hon. W. N. H. Smith, a Confederate Congressman and afterwards Chief Justice of North Carolina, hid undiscovered under a small bridge on the west side of the college, while Federal officers seeking him passed overhead.

Dr. McDowell

Dr. William Hooper's resignation as president, offered three years before, was accepted with regret in July, 1865, when the Rev. Archibald McDowell succeeded to the presidency.

In the first postwar year, 1865-66, the Chowan faculty included A. McDowell, President, at a salary of \$1,250; Mrs. McDowell, \$650; Prof. James A. Delk, \$1,000; a music professor, \$800; and Miss Annie B. Taylor, \$450. They were to be paid these sums under a complicated agreement which guaranteed the trustees 12% per cent of gross receipts. From anything over the set salaries and the 12% per cent for the trustees, the faculty was to get another 12% per cent.

The steward refused to furnish board for \$9 per month, but B. A. Spiers accepted the proposition made by W. W. Mitchell, Dr. John Mitchell, and Dr. McDowell. Under this, he agreed to furnish board for \$9 per month, paid in coin or currency; to pay trustees 4 per cent rent, on gross income for 30 boarders or less (8 per cent for from 30-40 boarders); to furnish a manservant to make fires, attend to the public part of the buildings, and cultivate the grounds.

In return, the trustees agreed to furnish lights for hall and public rooms, and give free tuition to Mr. Spiers' daughters.

At the annual board meeting in July, 1866, Dr. McDowell suggested that trustees might wish to appoint another man as president, but he was reelected, and formally accepted.

Dr. McDowell, with the Rev. R. Overy and Dr. John Mitchell, was appointed to resolve the acute question of what to do about Negro members of churches in the Chowan Association at the meeting at Ballard's Bridge in 1868.

The following sensible and Christian resolution was recommended

Stock Company Signals New Day . . .

Period of the Joint-Stock Company, 1868-1879

The Civil War was over, but the Period of Reconstruction was on in full force. The operation of the Institute was about as difficult as during the war.

For the next ten years, stockholders managed the Collegiate Institute.

At the first meeting on January 8, 1868, W. W. Mitchell was elected chairman, Elder John Mitchell, treasurer and A. McDowell was elected secretary.

Elder John Mitchell, known as "the beloved disciple," offered prayer asking for the direction and blessings of God in conducting the Institute for the object for which the company was formed.

A new charter had been secured, dated December 8, 1867. The company proceeded to fix terms of board and tuition for the next session. The total cost ran about \$250 for the session with extra cost for music, art, etc.

Salaries ranged from \$400 to \$1,000; the principal and his wife received \$2,000.

At the meeting of stockholders in June, 1868, they again passed a resolution pledging themselves to reconvey this property to the representatives of the Chowan and Portsmouth Associations whenever the money advanced in the purchase and improvement by them shall be refunded.

An Executive Committee was appointed as follows: W. W. Mitchell, William Dunning and L. T. Spiers. L. T. Spiers and Principal McDowell were asked to prepare certificate of stock and the secretary, Elder John Mitchell, was authorized to issue the certificates to the stockholders, W. W. Mitchell, Dr. John Mitchell, James L. Mitchell, Edwin Ferebee, William L. Taylor, Louis T. Spiers, William Riddick, Dr. A. Jack Askew and M. R. Gregory.

and adopted, giving a clear view of relations of white and Negro Baptists in this area. The Convention, and whom was referred the relation of the colored members of our churches, recommend that those who choose to retain their membership in our churches be permitted to do so with the same status as heretofore; and those who wish to join us be received on the same terms. To those who wish to withdraw in order to form churches of their own, we advise our churches to grant letters of dismission and to give them sympathy and assistance so far as practical in organizing regular churches for themselves."

After the war, tuition fees were lowered to prewar equals estimated in gold. But the going was rough, for R. E. Jones reported to the Association in May, 1867, at Ahoskie, that the Institute was \$25,000 in debt.

Stock Co.

A new day had begun to dawn, however, at the board meeting in February, 1867. William Riddick of Gates County, holder of the largest claim against the Institute, agreed to cut it in half, if other creditors would do the same. It was agreed to form a stock company, which would own the Institute and its debts. Although the school would be privately owned, it was agreed that the Baptist denomination would continue to have control of policies, and ownership would return to the Association when the stockholders could be repaid in the future.

By the May meeting, the Committee on Compromise reported that John O. Askew, Willie Riddle, Miss Mary White, Landley Taylor and the executors of Jesse Barnes' estate had agreed to half-payment on their claims.

The stock-raising committee also reported the following subscribers: Hertford County—W. W. Mitchell, \$6,000; William L. Taylor, \$1,000; Lewis T. Spiers, \$500; Candian County—Edwin Ferebee, \$1,000; M. H. Gregory, \$1,000; Bertie County—John Mitchell, \$500; Dr. A. J. Askew, \$500; Gates County—William Riddick, \$3,500 (later reduced to \$500).

This brought the total stock subscribed to \$14,500. Dr. McDowell, William Dunning and L. T. Spiers were appointed to complete organization of the Joint-Stock Company under the direction of W. N. H. Smith, attorney.

The Columns with one acre of land was advertised for sale, and W. W. Mitchell bought it for \$3,000 for the Stock Company, and then remaining land in the campus was deeded to the company. With the transfer of the Chowan Female Collegiate Institute to the Joint-Stock Company complete, a n indebtedness again reduced, operation went on more smoothly.

Despite the vicissitudes of the war years, the college managed to graduate 49 girls between 1860-61 and 1867-68, out of a total enrollment for the seven years of 187. Dropping down to only 20 in school in 1862-3, the number climbed back to 102 enrolled in 1866-7 and 1867-8.

Dedicated Men Come to Rescue . . .

These few men came to the rescue of Chowan Baptist Female Collegiate Institute when the future was dark with burdensome debts. The friends of the Institute and now Chowan College and the Baptist denomination will ever be indebted to them for their heroic efforts in saving the institution.

The year 1868-69 was a hard year financially for the steward, who boarded the young ladies and he was relieved of part of the obligation for that year and the next.

At the meeting of the stockholders in May, 1870, it was voted, and this resolution was to be put in the catalog, that beginning the next school year the stock company would take over the Boarding Department and employ the steward and pay him a salary.

Then at the meeting in July this resolution was adopted: "Resolved, that this company will never declare a dividend of more than 8 per cent on stock, and that the excess shall be devoted to the Institute."

The record shows that they never received any interest and all earnings were devoted to the school.

At this annual meeting the resignation of Prof. James A. Delk was reported. He had served the Institute for many years, and was an able and valuable instructor. Resolutions of appreciation were then passed and recorded in the minutes:

"1. That we sincerely regret the loss to the Institute of the valuable services of Prof. Delk.

"2. That our thanks are due and hereby tendered to him for his faithful and efficient services.

"3. That we regret that we have not been able to pay his salary promptly, and especially that we are not now able to pay him all that is due him.

"4. That the disbursing agent be instructed to settle with him at the earliest practicable period."

Prof. James A. Delk was the son of the Rev. James A. Delk, who moved from Surry County, Virginia, and settled in Murfreesboro in 1824; his mother was Mrs. Susan Batts Kerr, nee Holowell. He was never married.

He attended Wake Forest Institute in the years 1834-35 and graduated at the University of North Carolina. He "devoted his life to teaching and became a great educator in Murfreesboro in this state and in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Leaving Tennessee he returned to his native town and for over twenty years was professor in the CBF Institute. He was a ripe scholar and a most excellent man."

When Reynolds Academy was opened in 1855 he was the first principal and remained with the school for three years. It was soon after this that he became again a member of the faculty of CBF Institute where he taught "Mathematics, Natural Sciences and Belles Letters."

This was the story of Prof. Delk as told by B. B. Winborne on his history of Hertford County.

College Duties Put in the Record . . .

The Executive Committee met in July, 1870, and outlined the duties of all connected with the Institute.—President, Teachers, Steward and Matron.

It said:

"1. It shall be the duty of the president of the Institute, in addition to giving instruction in his own department, to exercise such general supervision over all the other departments as to assure himself that each department is filled by a competent teacher and that all perform their duties faithfully and efficiently; and should the interest of the Institution, in his judgment at any time, demand a change or an improvement in any department, it shall be his duty in consultation and concert with the officer in that department to effect such change or improvement.

"2. It shall be the duty of the teachers to labor faithfully to promote the efficiency of their respective departments, and to share in all miscellaneous duties of the school.

"3. It shall be the duty of the steward to have charge of the entire premises; to employ the necessary servants and to see that they perform their respective duties faithfully; to superintend the cultivation of the farm and garden; to keep fences in repair; to superintend the heating, lighting, cleaning and repairing the buildings; all repairs involving expense to be made with the advice of the president. It shall be the duty of the steward also to procure all necessary supplies and with the assistance of the stewardess to superintend the cooking and serving of food; also aided by the stewardess and matron to see that the dormitories (rooms) are kept in good order and that their washing is properly done and their clothing preserved.

"4. It shall be the duty of the steward also to keep the books and collect the accounts of the Institute, to return the money received for board to be used in supplying the boarding department and to pay over all other moneys to the president and to render an exact and specific account of all receipts and disbursements to the stockholders at each annual meeting or oftener if called upon to do so.

"5. It shall be the duty of the matron to nurse the sick, administer medicine, see that they are provided with suitable nourishment, to see their rooms and the halls adjacent are kept clean and neat and that their beds are furnished with sufficient clothing and that the bed clothing is regularly changed, to examine the list of each young ladies' clothing before it goes to the wash and again when returned and promptly inform the steward when any articles are missing. To attend the young ladies to the stores when necessary and assist them in shopping and when not employed in other duties to assist in the sewing belonging to her department."

B. A. Spiers and Lady (wife) were appointed stewards at a salary of \$400 and board for them and their children.

Financial Record Shows Struggle . . .

At the meeting of the Executive Committee in July, 1871, this was found to be the financial record for the past year:

Receipts for the year	\$12,377.76
Paid out	11,980.56
Charged to B. A. Spiers	297.20
Left in hands of B. A. Spiers	100.00
TOTAL	\$12,377.76

They also found debts due:

A. McDowell salary on former years	\$ 1,865.40
J. A. Delk salary on former years	1,110.29
Mrs. L. J. Myrick salary on former years	367.71
To sundry persons by Stewards Dept.	348.15
To sundry literary	94.89
Amount received in advance on next year	71.35
TOTAL	\$ 3,857.79

Amount due on reliable accounts \$ 4,086.15
Amount due on doubtful accounts 555.56

These uncollected accounts were sufficient to pay what was due the faculty members. This item makes the operation at any college more difficult.

Report for the next year, 1871-72, was much better, except the accounts due the school. Compare the totals:

Received for the year	\$15,413.38
Paid out	14,877.27
Cash in hands of B. A. Spiers	536.11
TOTAL	\$15,413.38

During the year the amount, \$3,857.79, due the faculty members was reduced to \$1,982.99, or more than 50 per cent had been paid.

This was a very encouraging record for the year; however, the amounts due the Institute from students was still too large, \$5,581.58, or one-fourth of the total amount for the year.

At the stockholders' meeting in July, 1870, Dr. John Mitchell was given permission to erect an office on the campus at his own expense and the board was to take it at the valuation at that time whenever he wished to resign the use of it to the Institute.

This two-room cottage was known as "Hope Cottage" because one of the faculty spinsters hoped to reside in that building as the wife of Dr. Mitchell, who was a bachelor and never married. This building was razed in 1937 making room for another and better building.

J. W. Deans was elected to succeed B. A. Spiers as steward. The salary was to be \$500, board for himself, wife and three children, the same as the year before.

In February, 1875, Dr. A. McDowell informed the stockholders that he had admitted into the Institute Miss Anne Caswell, an orphan from the Oxford Asylum (Orphanage), promising to give her free tuition and hoping that the benevolence will give enough to pay her board. His action was endorsed by the stockholders and he was authorized to retain her to the end of the session on the same terms."

One year later the stockholders voted to receive an orphan girl from the Asylum at Oxford each year on the same terms as the last one, and it was left with the superintendent to make the selection.

Dr. John Mitchell was authorized to keep one young lady at a time in the Institute until the expenses charged to him shall equal the amount expended by him in building his office, which he then occupied.

Dr. G. C. Moore communicated with the Collegiate Institute about his granddaughter, Julia W. Moore, daughter of Maj. John W. Moore, to know if she might be admitted in consideration of money advanced to the Chowan Female Collegiate Institute more than fifteen years before.

The Stockholders declined to accept her on that basis, but the following resolution was adopted:

"In view of the many and valuable services rendered by Dr. G. C. Moore to the Baptist denomination, and especially in connection with Chowan Female Collegiate Institute; Resolved, that we offer to his granddaughter, Julia W. Moore, daughter of Maj. J. W. Moore, tuition and board in the CBF Institute, free of charge, for three years, provided the charges for books, stationery and materials furnished her, be paid when due."

At the next meeting, July, 1875, "a letter was read from Dr. Moore, thanking the board for the courtesy extended to his granddaughter on his account."

Money Troubles Begin to Mount . . .

At the Executive Committee meeting in July, 1876, when the books were examined for the past year, it was found that unpaid bills were mounting, now \$10,371.47. This amount included past years unpaid bills; but the amount for the past year was \$4,325.32. From year to year the bills not collected at commencement ran from 20 per cent to 25 per cent of the total amount of student income.

At this meeting the president was instructed to secure real estate mortgages where possible for amounts due the Collegiate Institute; and a few accounts were placed in the hands of attorneys.

At a called meeting on February 15, 1878, the president was instructed to withdraw all claims in the hands of attorneys, not now in process of collection, and place them in the hands of some other collectors.

The president reported the names of several students, upon whose accounts nothing had been paid during the current year. "Whereupon he was instructed to insist on satisfactory settlement, or the withdrawal of such pupils from the school. He was further instructed to reduce the expenses of the Institute as far as consistent with efficiency."

"The chairman (W. W. Mitchell), called the attention of the board to the propriety of tendering their stock to the Association (Chowan) and of urging the Association to redeem it as soon as practicable. Whereupon, A. McDowell was requested to prepare a statement to submit to the Association, to report to a called meeting of the stockholders, to be held sometime previous to the next meeting of the Chowan Association."

The called meeting was held two months later on April 20, 1878, and two items were passed before the main business was conducted:

"1. No young lady shall be entitled to receive a diploma from the Institution until her bills are paid or satisfactorily arranged.

"2. That calisthenics be introduced in the school as regular exercise. That a fee of \$5 per annum be charged for it and that all boarding pupils, not excused for a sufficient reason, be required to engage in the exercise, and that a part of the charge go to the teacher and the other to the Institute."

The main item of business before this meeting was the statement prepared by Dr. A. McDowell at the request of the stockholders, the original founders and the proper owners and guardians of the Institute, submitting a proposition to the Chowan and Portsmouth Associations about returning the Chowan Female Collegiate Institute back to them. Here is the statement as read by Dr. McDowell:

"The trustees of Chowan Female Collegiate Institute, at their semi-annual meeting, February 15, 1867, finding themselves embarrassed by a large debt, created in the founding of the Institution, and increased by interest to an amount which precluded the hope of being able at that time to pay it by voluntary contributions, and being pressed by some of the creditors for immediate payment, resolved to transfer the Institute, with all its appurtenances, to a Joint-Stock Company, if such a company could be formed, upon condition for their assuming the debts, and binding themselves to restore the Institute to the two Associations, whenever the money expended by them in paying debts and adding improvements should be refunded to them."

"Mr. Willie Riddick, the largest creditor being present, generously proposed, if the money could be raised in short time, to compromise his claims at a discount of 50 per cent, provided the other creditors would do the same. Whereupon a committee was appointed to ascertain if the other creditors would consent to the same terms of compromise.

"Both committees were successful and the company was organized on the 8th day of January, 1868, under charter bearing date of 28th of December, 1867. The property was transferred to the company, and they paid, in accordance with the terms of the proposed compromise, all the debts acknowledged to be valid, amounting in stock to \$10,500. Cash advance by W. W. Mitchell, for which he holds the note of the company, \$1,000.

"The company has received nothing in the form of dividends or interest on their stock, but have devoted the entire income of the Institute to repairs and improvements. From this source they have made large additions to the appliances of instruction, thoroughly repaired the entire premises, which had greatly depreciated during the war, conducted ten years for the benefit of the denomination, with more than the former efficiency, and adding buildings and other permanent improvements to the value of \$4,900.

"They think the denomination should share this benevolent work with them, and especially that the denomination ought to own and control the Institution. They, therefore propose that an earnest effort be made as soon as practicable, to raise the sum necessary to redeem it, and to restore it to its original and appropriate owners. All they ask is the money expended by them in the payment of debts, with simple interest thereon and to raise this sum they promise to contribute liberally themselves.

Their reasons for submitting this proposition are:

1. The Institute needs all its income to keep the premises in

Authors of Chowan Story

(This definitive history of Chowan College was written by the Rev. Oscar Creech, associate to the president of the college, and a distinguished historian. He is the author of the history of First Baptist Church in Ahoskie and an authority on Baptist history in the Roanoke-Chowan. Revision and condensation work was done by Mary Ellen Albares of the Milestone Edition staff.)

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