

TEACHERS' ASSEMBLY

WAS ORGANIZED AT HAYWOOD WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS IN JUNE, 1884.

TWELVE SUCCESSFUL YEARS.

The Idea Originated With Col. Eugene Harrell, Who Has Been Secretary From the Beginning—Only Building in the Country Owned by a Teachers' Assembly—Prof. J. Y. Joyner, the New President, and Prof. Charles J. Parker, the New Secretary of the Assembly.

The North Carolina Teachers' Assembly was formed at Haywood, White Sulphur Springs, June 16th, 1884. The idea was the conception of Col. Eugene G. Harrell.

To a NEWS AND OBSERVER representative Col. Harrell said: "The idea occurred to me while visiting in the mountains at Haywood White Sulphur Springs. The spot seemed to be so favorable as a resting place for tired teachers. I asked the hotel proprietor if he would be willing to take fifty teachers on a dollar a day board for two weeks. He consented, and I immediately began the publication of the N. C. Teacher in order to arouse an interest in the coming meeting. Instead of fifty teachers there was an attendance of 365, and the N. C. Teachers' Assembly was then an assured success.

"That meeting was known as the North Carolina Chautauqua. The presidency was unanimously offered to me as the originator of the idea, but I declined this honor, preferring to be secretary of this organization, well knowing that a very large amount of work must be done by the secretary in order to complete the organization and insure continued success.

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President Joyner.

"Capt. J. J. Fray, of Raleigh, was elected first president with Dr. R. H. Lewis, of Kinston, as vice-president.

"The place selected for the next meeting of the Assembly was Black Mountain and before this meeting convened President Fray had passed away and Dr. R. H. Lewis, of Kinston, succeeded to the presidency. At this meeting there were present 620 persons. It was decided that the next meeting should be held at the same place, Black Mountain, and the attendance grew to 720, being about 400 more than the strained capacity of the hotel. It then became evident to all that the Assembly had far outgrown the accommodation of any single hotel in the west, and the attention turned toward the seaside and the big Atlantic Hotel, at Morehead City; and that place was unanimously chosen for the fourth annual meeting. Something over a thousand persons attended the sessions, which were held in the ball room, where the incessant noise and confusion of the dining room, and children playing around the balconies, made attention an impossibility. But all were delighted with Morehead City and the sea.

"The necessity for a building of our own became apparent, and the idea was



Secretary Parker.

proposed to the Assembly by the Secretary, he agreeing to assume the responsibility of the erection of an auditorium, not to cost over \$1,750. And he was instructed to go ahead with the work, if he could succeed in raising the money. The Secretary conferred with the owners of the hotel and asked them to give \$1,750, which they very promptly did, well knowing the necessity of the assembly to them.

"Mr. A. G. Baner, the Raleigh architect, very kindly drew the plans of the Assembly building, of much more imposing dimensions than the original idea.

"It was an elegant two story structure with an auditorium to seat 1,200 people on the second floor, and twelve large rooms for committees and educational exhibits on the first floor. He gave the plans and specifications to the Assembly. The lowest bid for the contract was \$5,500, which, with extras as proposed, amounted to about \$6,500. The Secretary solicited donations from various publishing houses in the North, and succeeded in raising \$2,500. Knowing that the building was to be erected for the future, he finally decided to go ahead with the work under the enlarged form, and it was built by J. A. Wilson & Co., of Selma. The secretary advanced

considerable money, but yet lacked \$3,000 of enough to complete the payments, and for this amount he gave his notes, assuming the responsibility of payment. This was in 1888.

"Every session since then has been held at Morehead City in the Teachers' own splendid building, which is the only State educational building owned by teachers in the United States. With the annual fees of membership and advances which the secretary was able to make from time to time, he has paid all the current expenses of every session, and reduced the \$3,000 notes down to a last one of only \$800.

"The sessions have grown in interest from year to year, and the organization has given an impetus to the cause of education in North Carolina, such as no other influence or power in the State. This is freely admitted by all, and it will be hard to realize the vast amount of good which has been accomplished."

The Presidents have been:
1. John J. Fray, of Raleigh.
2. R. H. Lewis, of Kinston.
3 and 4. Edwin A. Alderman, of Goldsboro.
5. H. L. Smith, of Davidson College.
6. Geo. T. Winston, of the State University.
7. John J. Blair, of Winston.
8. Charles D. Melver, of Raleigh.
9. Hugh Morson, of Raleigh.
10. F. P. Hobgood, of Oxford.
11. C. B. Denson, of Raleigh.
12. J. Y. Joyner, of Greensboro.

Eugene Graham Harrell was born in Greenville, Pitt county, January 11, 1852. He came to Raleigh in 1875 as a clerk in the famous old bookstore of Alfred Williams. He showed unusual capacity for business and in 1880 became a member of the firm. In 1885, he became senior member of the firm, when his father-in-law, Maj. J. B. Neathery, purchased the interest of Mr. Alfred Williams.

Col. Harrell married Miss Rosalie Neathery, December 26, 1878, and they lived in happy union until her death, April 28, 1884, at the age of twenty-three. He has one child, a handsome boy, now fifteen years old.

He began the movement which resulted in the organization of the North Carolina Teachers' Assembly in 1884, and has ever since been the moving spirit of the Assembly. He founded the North Carolina Teacher in 1884 and has since edited that successful educational monthly.

He organized the Southern Educational Association, which embraced the teachers of the entire South. He also inaugurated the plan of Teachers' Councils in the State, now in successful operation in many counties.

On his retirement as Secretary of the Teachers' Assembly, only a few days ago, the Assembly thanked him for his large service to education in the most complimentary resolutions.

He is also a leading member of the North Carolina State Guard and holds the place of Quartermaster General, with the rank of Colonel.

Sketch of the President.

James Yarkin Joyner, son of John Joyner and Sallie Joyner (daughter of Council Wooten, of Lenoir county), was born in Davidson county, N. C., August 7, 1862, but was reared in Lenoir county. He graduated at the University of North Carolina in 1881, in the 18th year of his age. In August of the same year, with his classmate, N. J. Rouse, he took charge of LaGrange Academy, afterwards LaGrange Collegiate Institute, and taught here two and a half years, building up a large and flourishing school and enrolling the last year 130 students, representing many sections of the State. He was elected county superintendent of Lenoir county before 21 years old, and served until other school duties led him to resign. He resigned his position in the LaGrange school and began reading law in the office of his uncle, Judge Faircloth, of Goldsboro, but was elected a few months afterward to a position in the Winston graded schools; he taught in these schools one year, the year of their organization, associated with Superintendent J. L. Tomlinson and Dr. Charles D. Melver, their assistant superintendent. He was re-elected at a considerably increased salary the next year, but declined, and resumed the study of law at Dick and Dillard's Law School in Greensboro in the fall of 1885, received license to practice in February '86, and, at once forming a partnership with Faircloth and Allen, under the firm name of Faircloth, Allen, and Joyner, began the practice of his profession in Goldsboro. He practiced successfully three years, serving acceptably in the meantime as chairman of the Board of Education of Wayne county and never ceasing to take active interest in educational affairs of county and State. He was married to Miss Effie E. Rouse, daughter of Noah Rouse, Esq., of La Grange, in December, 1887. He formed a partnership with his brother in law, N. J. Rouse, of Kinston, in 1888, for the practice of the law in Goldsboro and Kinston. He was a member of the Faculty of the first State Normal School held at the Washington, during the summer of 1885, and a member of the Faculty of the State Normal School at Franklin, during the summer of '87.

Upon the resignation of Prof. E. A. Alderman, in the spring of 1889, he was elected Superintendent of the Goldsboro city schools, served as superintendent of these schools four years and resigned to accept a position as Professor of English Literature and Methods of Arithmetic in the State Normal and Industrial School. He spent most of vacations while Superintendent of the Goldsboro Schools in County Institute work, conducting institutes in almost every section of State.

Prof. Joyner has long been regarded as one of the most original and earnest workers in the field of education in North Carolina, and his present position gives him wide opportunity and influence.

He was elected President of the Teachers' Assembly at the session of 1895.

Sketch of the Secretary.

Charles Jackson Parker, of Raleigh, was born June 13, 1866, in Wake county. He was educated in country private schools, Raleigh Male Academy, Wake Forest College and the Peabody Normal College at Nashville, Tenn. He taught two country schools before graduation, after which, in 1888, he accepted a position as grade teacher in the Raleigh schools, which position he held

two years, then going to Tarboro to accept the principalship of the graded school there. The next year he returned to Raleigh to assume the principalship of the Centennial school, in which his first teaching was done. He organized the Shelby graded schools when they were established in 1891, before entering upon his work at Raleigh. He spent the summer of 1891 travelling through the North and studying school questions, and attended the National Summer School of Methods at Glen Falls, N. Y. He realized the value and importance of a reliable teachers' agency in our educational economy and organized one in October of the same year, which has been in successful operation ever since. Not being in full sympathy with methods of instruction and discipline in the Raleigh schools he resigned at the middle of his second year. In October, 1894, he began the publication of the North Carolina edition of the Teachers' Institute, which has a large circulation in North Carolina and other States. He has had a number of flattering calls from other States to enter educational work but prefers to give North Carolina his time and talents. He was elected Secretary and Treasurer of the Teachers' Assembly at the session of 1895, and is just entering upon his duties.

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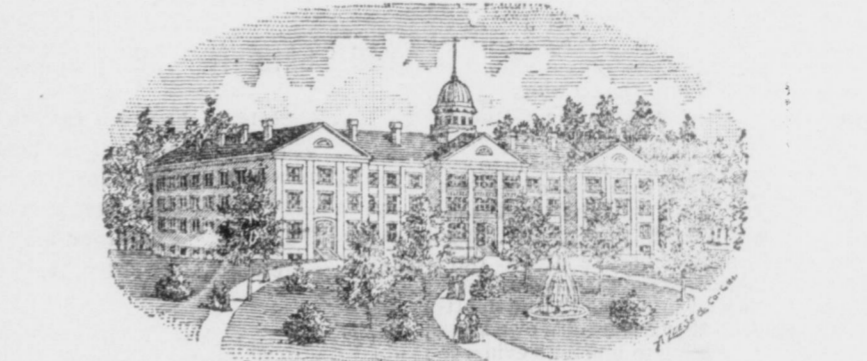
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