

EARLY PEDAGOGUES IN NORTH CAROLINA

Dr. L. A. Williams Reviews Book Written By Prof. Chas. L. Coon

HELD DISTINCT SERVICE

Wilson Teacher Tells of Private Schools of Period 1790 to 1840 and Uncovers Much of Great Interest; Volume Issued By State Historical Commission

By L. A. WILLIAMS, Ph.D., Professor of School Administration, University of North Carolina.

Superintendent Charles L. Coon, of Wilson, has again rendered a distinct service to the study of educational conditions in North Carolina by his North Carolina Schools and Academies, 1790-1840, "A Documentary History," recently published by the North Carolina Historical Commission.

The prefatory note to the volume explains the purpose of the book. It says: "The documents brought together in this volume attempt to portray education as it existed in North Carolina during the fifty years immediately succeeding 1790. In two former volumes covering this same period an attempt was made to trace the development of the sentiment which led to the passage of our first public school law in 1838. In many ways this volume supplements the material brought together in the beginning of Public Education in North Carolina 1790-1840."

The introduction of forty-five pages is a summary statement, in chronological order, of the influence exerted by the State University, the equipment and qualifications of the teachers, physical equipment of the schools, teachers' salaries, school entertainments, subjects of study and method used, the attempted Lanesian schools, the then current ideas about religious education, military schools, early law schools, use of lotteries to raise school funds, beginnings of the colleges, etc.

From this summary it is evident that the University exerted a weighty influence over the academies and schools during these years in two respects. First, a great many of the principals and teachers were graduates of the University. Bartlett Yancey, William C. Love, William J. Brigham, William C. Green, are but a few of the names of those who graduated from our University and made its influence felt in the schools of the State at that period. That they carried this influence is manifested by the fact that so many of the schools in their newspaper advertisements and circulars stated with pride that "no small recommendation of the teacher is that he is a graduate of the University of North Carolina."

Second, it was a proud boast of these schools when they could proclaim that they studied and the course when completed would prepare the students to enter the State University. The trustees of Stony Hill Academy in Nash

county gave expression to this influence when they advertised in the Raleigh Star of December 6, 1837: "Those who intend a course at college, will invariably use such authors as are recommended by the Faculty of our University." This influence is still further shown by the fact that the trustees of the Raleigh Academy in 1819 spent \$500 "for a philosophical apparatus, to be selected by Professor Mitchell, of Chapel Hill."

The larger part of the descriptions of equipment is very meager, dealing largely with the buildings, which ranged from 20 feet to 60 feet long and from 20 feet to 30 feet wide, often of two stories. Statements are found as to the philosophical (physics) apparatus and have been fairly common and in a few instances reference is made to the children working at blackboards.

The training of the teachers, as it appears from the introduction, was mostly of a high order. It was the common condition to find the teachers graduates of college, university or "seminary" and while a large number were local products yet many of them came from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania or New York; one surely, Rev. David Kerr, was a graduate of Trinity College in Dublin. Many of these early teachers were ministers and a very large number also then, as now, used teaching as a cat's paw to pull them out of debt while preparing to practice law or to study for the ministry or, perhaps, to secure funds whereby they might study medicine. It was an occupation not beneath the dignity of a gentleman and gave fair returns for a congenial task.

The summary reveals clearly, too, the fact that this education was not confined to the males alone but schools like the Female Boarding School at Raleigh and the school of William M. Green, at Hillsboro, for girls, though short lived, still had a place in the educational thought of the times.

While the courses of study were often college preparatory in character the English branches were by no means neglected. While Euclid, moral philosophy, navigation, prosody, surveying, etc., found a large place, it is not true that reading, writing, sewing, cotton flow work, alphabetical samplers, embroidery, cyphering, etc., equally found their places in the list of studies. Religion and the Catechism were common subjects of study and great stress appears to have been placed on the teaching of reverence, veneration and piety. Regular attendance at Sunday worship was expected of all and much emphasis was placed upon the ability of the several schools to inculcate the moral virtues and teach the highest type of ethics.

The section dealing with the methods of the recitation, administration and discipline is interesting and amusing. Will a record of the present day practices written a century hence be any

less so? Not even in these good old days were the students sufficiently prepared in spelling, writing, English, and the other subjects preparatory to doing college work. There was too little grammar or too much attention given to syntax, the subjects were too grossly practical, or too highly cultural, the discipline was too severe or it was lax and effeminate. How familiar are the complaints! How much we are like our forebears!

The entire summary, making up the introduction, is most interesting and mirrors clearly the educational struggles of these early pedagogues. They yet they labored, giving of their best and of themselves. The facts as revealed give one a wholesome feeling of awe and respect for these warriors who fought the educational battles in these pioneer days.

No while the summary is acknowledged to be incomplete and sketchy it yet sets forth with vigor and with clarity the spirit of the period. One cannot but read with interest and with a growing sense of the importance attached to these early efforts toward stimulating the intellectual life of the chosen few who might attend the schools. These first forty-five pages alone are a valuable addition to our literature on North Carolina history, revealing as nothing else can the pride and ambition for education even in the days of pioneering and almost of exploration.

The next six hundred and forty pages contain the documents relating to the schools in the several counties of the State, the counties being arranged in alphabetical order. Legislative acts of incorporation, advertisements of the schools in circular letter form and as found in the newspapers, reports of celebrations, entertainments and festivities, lottery advertisements, courses of study, advertisements about equipment, announcements covering a variety of matters, make up the burden of these pages.

Many of the collections are very short and no one collection gives us any connected idea for a reasonable period of time as to any particular institution. It is unfortunate that Superintendent Coon was unable to secure the necessary papers and records to give us such a consecutive record. One wishes that at least one school might have made its records and bulletins available in order that a type might be found giving a fairly accurate idea of the growth and development through a period of years. Wake county leads with the largest number of schools and academies, 45; Orange is a close second, 31, while Granville, Halifax, New Hanover, Warren, all have ten or more different school or academies.

One of the most interesting sets of papers is that dealing with the Lincoln Female Academy in Lincoln county during the years 1824 to 1841. It is a thrilling story these records tell of the planning for the building, hiring of teachers, fixing of salaries, examining of students, paying of bills, and of the seriousness and stalwart integrity with which the trustees performed their duties. So far as the records show there were no strifes and no bickerings, matters of vital import were discussed informally and when all was said a majority vote carried the day and there was never a minority report.

No record of schools during this period would be complete without a record of the Bingham Military School. From the Star of August 4, 1826, is taken a notice of the contemplated locating of a Military and Scientific Academy at Williamsborough. Thus did the Bingham Military School make

its debut. There follows a considerable body of material relating to the school and its courses, methods, movements, teachers, examinations, recreations, etc.

Nor was the school without its critics. Gacon, in the Star for February 17, 1831, takes offense at the Military, Literary and Scientific Institution for several reasons. He considers it an affront to the State University, declares it ill-equipped in funds, buildings, books, apparatus, and even instructors. Zealous for the welfare of the State he urges eloquently upon the reasonable demands which any educational institution must meet and especially one having to deal with the young citizens. His special venom is directed to the allowing of any part of the public funds to be given over to the support of an institution so lacking and so inefficient. While disclaiming any intention to be disrespectful or to have any malicious motive he still stuns his ground like a man and refuses to sanction the diversion of public funds for private purposes.

Still another interesting section is the one dealing with the raising of funds by lottery for the Salisbury Academy. While there seems to have been a sufficient number of forms for the lottery it would be interesting to know exactly how glibly the people of those days were and how profitable such a scheme proved to persons other than the managers.

No review of the book can, however, do justice to the many points of interest and information which these documents contain. It might be wished that some further means were at hand to know which schools were for private gain, which strictly military and which denominational or sectarian. But, as before, the records doubtless are so incomplete and uncertain that no man would risk his reputation in putting a denominational, military or cost tag on any of them.

Eighty pages more are taken up with documents relative to the Western College and Davidson, Wake Forest and Trinity Colleges. Twenty-five pages are devoted to newspaper articles on the defects of the schools in which William Hooper and one who signs himself "I" take occasion to find faults with the established educational order. Documents appear also as to the Labor Systems of Education, the Plan of Education by Philomatheas, and the Raleigh Reading Room, Library and Theater.

Of peculiar interest is the document on pages 763 and 764, relating to the rules of a school taught in Stokes county. The only form of punishment was a "lashing" and its severity ran from one and two for such offenses as, "not making a bow when going out to go home," "not saying grace," and "not saying grace in your Hart Lesson without Good Exercise."—(1), to ten for, "Playing at Cards at School," "Misbehaving to Girls," and, "For Playing Bandy." Two lashes were allowed "For waring Long Finger Nails" and eight lashes was the allowance "For Drinking Spirituous Liquors at School." "Fighting Each Other in time of Books" brought two lashes. To all intents and purposes there was no rhyme or reason in the grading of the punishments and yet, perhaps, are judging at a too long range to be just and fair.

Space forbids more than a mention of the remaining sections dealing with the advertisements for text-books and the requests for teachers. A glimpse of these two sections reveals much of the pedagogical attitude of the day. Teacher and trustees alike, even as today, were out for "a job" and a job holder, not were the teachers as all resented in setting forth through the public press the value of their wares as well as their excellence.

To the lover of North Carolina educational history, to the student of educational movements in our State, to the believer in human progress and betterment, the book has a distinct appeal. It is better than a reference book, for it is full of human interest. It is not a first-class reference book because of the confused incompleteness. It is a mine of information and a source for

Flower Gifts
For Christmas

Flowers Have a Claim All Their Own for Gift Consideration Everything in Christmas Flowers

LET US SUGGEST
AMERICAN BEAUTIES AND OTHER
ROSES; LILIES OF THE VALLEY, CAR-
NATIONS, VIOLETS, POINSETTIAS,
ORCHIDS, SWEET PEAS—EVERY KIND
OF CUT FLOWER.

For the Plant Lover—A Cyclamen, a Nar-
cissus, or a Hyacinth.

ORDER EARLY

H. STEINMETZ

Florist

Phone 113 - - - - - Raleigh, N. C.

Give Flowers
Give Flowers



FRESH WATER FISH

Big double bunches Neuse River Chub, Trout, Pike and Perch, 40c, 50c, and 60c per bunch. Oysters 25c, 30c, 35c and 40c per quart.

BRITTON PEARCE
Phone 271. Quick Delivery.

inspiration. The crudities of the educational thought and of the curriculum making are at times amusing but they are pregnant with condemnation that the present day has so often done no better.

The North Carolina Historical Commission has done much that has been stimulating and invigorating in its preservation of many historical relics. It has contributed greatly in the preservation of the papers of Jonathan Worth and Hon. Archibald D. Murphey, but it has never done a greater service to the educational workers in the State than in the publication of the three volumes of the Documentary History of Education in North Carolina down to 1849 by Superintendent Charles L. Coon.

To Enlarge City Plant.
Columbus Dispatch.
An ordinance to be introduced in council will authorize the expenditure of \$2,000 for additional equipment for the alum plant operated by the city under the direction of C. P. Hoover, chemist in charge of the filtration plant. With this additional equipment, it is said, the plant can produce alum for sale on the open market.

Eastern buyers have urged the administration to do this and, it is said, they have agreed to take all of the plant's output above what is needed at the filtration plant, at \$15 a ton. It is estimated that the city will be able to sell 3,000 tons a year and this will bring a profit of from \$30,000 to \$50,000.

Testing a New Horse.
A Welsh tourist tells of an experience which befell him during a visit to a country house in Ireland. His friend, the host, sent a car to the railway station to bring him home. He had not gone far, when the horse became restive and finally upset the car into a ditch. The visitor asked the driver how long the animal had been used in harness. "Half an hour, sir," "I mean how long is it since he was first put in harness?" "Sure, I've told you—half an hour, sir," answered the driver, "and the master said if he carried ye safe he'd buy him."—Cardiff Western Mail.

What people don't know about religion causes the fool arguments.

Tell Us What You Want for Christmas

A visit to our store will solve the "What to Give" puzzle that presents itself to you every Christmas. Tell us who you want it for and we'll show you something useful and something that will surely please them.

SUGGESTIONS

FOR HIM	FOR HER
Postage Sealers	Cameras
Cameras	Unusually attractive Toilet Cases and
Purses	Manicure Sets
Letter and Bill Books	Dainty Desk Clocks
Pass Cases	Desk Sets
Card Cases	Picture Frames
Collar and Cuff Sets	The most complete and convenient Lap
Handsome Toilet Cases and Manicure Sets	Tables
Desk Clocks	Stationery Cases in many colors and styles
Ink Stands, single and double	Ink Stands for the desk.
Photo Developing and Printing Outfits	Photo Albums
Dressing Cases	Dressing Cases
Ash Trays and Cigar Holders	Fine Stationery in white and all the deli-
Cigar and Cigarette Cases	cate shades so much in vogue
Waterman's Fountain Pens	(This stationery is put up in cases suit-
Lap Tables for the traveling men	able for handkerchiefs, gloves or veil cases)
Paper Knives	Photo Developing and Printing Outfits
Glass Desk Sets	Correspondence Cards
Shaving Sets	Glass Desk Pads
Gentlemen's Stationery	Christmas Letters and Cards
Visiting Cards	Fountain Pens—Waterman's
Desk Calendars	Erases
Clothes Letters and Cards	Desk Pads
Do-It Reminders	\$1.00 Fountain Pens
Neck Tie Holders	Paper Knives
\$1.00 Fountain Pens	
Memorandums	
Scrap Books	
Handy Box	
Telephone Brackets	

We Have a Most Exquisite Christmas Card Assortment.


JAMES E. THIEM,

THE OFFICE STATIONERY COMPANY

12 East Hargett Street

Anaco Cameras
The Gift Supreme

THE IDEAL GIFT



From a quaint little Electric Candlestick for the dressing table or desk to an exquisite table lamp.



Portable Lamps
Electric Curlers
Water Boilers
Flash Lights


Electric Irons
Toaster Stoves
Heating Plates
Bath Room Warmers
Bed Warmers

Complete Line of Chandeliers and Fixtures

Let Your Remembrance Be Electrical

FOR THE CHILDREN

Electric Toy Engines, Trains, etc. See our Window.



Special Electric Christmas Tree Decorations.
Be Sure to See Our Christmas Novelties

THOMPSON ELECTRICAL COMPANY

110 West Martin Street Phone 370 Raleigh, North Carolina