

NAVAL HERO THREATENED TO TOSS UNIVERSITY HEAD FROM WINDOW

By WALTER SPEARMAN

A boyish threat to throw the president of the University of North Carolina out a dormitory window marked Johnston Blakeley, naval hero of the War of 1812, as a bold and adventurous individual even in college.

That spirit of independence for which he was noted in later years as daring commander of the Wasp made him impatient of the strict discipline enforced by the University faculty of the seventeen-nineties. One day Dr. Caldwell, then Presiding Professor, entered Blakeley's room and quizzed the boy closely in regard to his participation in certain recent college disturbances. When Blakeley denied all knowledge of the affair, Caldwell questioned his truthfulness and threatened to throw him out the window because of his disrespect. Blakeley's answer has come down in the annals of the University as "I beg, sir, you will not attempt it, as it will necessitate my putting you out."

When greater tests than this were thrust before young Blakeley in his subsequent career as officer in the American navy, he met them with that same spirit of courage with which he faced the president of the University. Dangers indeed came thick and heavy about him, for he was one of the bravest and boldest of that group of hardy American seamen who, in the second war with Great Britain, demonstrated the growing strength and indomitable courage of the newly-born United States.

Man of Daring Exploits

He it was who, by his daring exploits in the brig Wasp, roused North Carolina from its state of indifference toward the War of 1812 and wakened in the bosom of his native state an enthusiasm and pride over the triumphs of her son not evoked by eloquent speeches in the state assembly or called forth by natural patriotism.

As a North Carolinian Blakeley entered the University in 1797, registering from Wilmington, which had been his home from childhood although he was born in Ireland. An interesting coincidence—or perhaps a prophecy—might be noted in that the name of his birthplace was Seaford, an indication of his future naval fame. Soon after his birth (1781) he was brought to America by his father, his mother dying on the voyage over. The two Irish immigrants, father and son, found welcome in Wilmington, North Carolina, where they were cordially greeted by their fellow countryman, Edward Jones, afterwards Solicitor General of the state.

In Wilmington the elder Blakeley became a successful merchant and sent young Johnston to a school at Flatbush, on Long Island, New York, which was popular at that time with many Southern families of wealth. Here he received the necessary elementary education which prepared him to enter the University in 1797. Although his father died, there was sufficient property left in Wilmington under the guardianship of Edward Jones to provide for the boy's education.

Campus Leader at University

Blakeley did well in his studies at the University, showing a particular aptitude for mathematics, navigation and surveying. He was active in all the affairs of the campus, holding every possible office in the Philanthropic Literary Society despite the fact that an irrepressible sense of humor caused frequent fines to be levied upon him for laughing out in meeting. And in those days when the dignified Societies were mighty forces molding standards of conduct upon the campus, an unexpressed laugh was no matter of light concern.

The incident of Blakeley's conflict with President Caldwell and his purposeful threat to throw the venerable president headlong out the dormitory window is perhaps the most interesting story of his college career handed down to us today, but there are other stories of his stay which indicated that he participated in all the customary activities of his period. Like many another college youth, he often rambled out through the woods surrounding Chapel Hill and one day cut his initials deep into

the great beech tree which stands at the fork of two small streams, a spot immortalized in the history of the University as "The Meeting of the Waters." That beech still stands; and somewhere among the hundreds of names engraved upon its trunk is that of Johnston Blakeley, now almost indistinguishable after a century and a quarter of growth and added names for the old tree.

Rose Rapidly in Navy
In 1799 property from which Blakeley received rents in Wilmington was burned, and this disaster cut short his career at the University. He refused financial aid from his guardian and joined the American navy, as midshipman. During the next twelve years he sailed the seas, acquiring under such able seamen as Commodore Decatur and Captain John Rodgers that skilled naval training which was to stand him in good stead in the coming war. By 1811 he had received his lieutenant's commission and was placed in command of the *Enterprise*, a fourteen-gun brig.

Soon after he assumed this command, he reported the capture of a British privateer, the *Fly*. As a result of this achievement he was promoted to command of the *Wasp*, a new American brig then under construction at Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Setting sail in this new vessel May 11, 1814, with a crew of well-trained New Englanders, Lieutenant Johnston Blakeley embarked upon the most colorful trip of his entire naval career. On July 28, he encountered the British brig-sloop, *Reindeer*, near the entrance to the English Channel and after a fierce struggle captured the ship and its crew.

What Became of Him?

Having repaired his vessel after this victorious encounter, he again set out and in a series of brilliant attacks on British commerce captured or disabled one enemy ship after another. The last prize of the *Wasp* was the *Atlanta*, taken some thirty miles east of the Madeira Islands. This captured ship was sent in to Savannah and the captor departed southward on the lookout for more enemy spoils. On October 19 the *Wasp* was sighted the Swedish ship *Adonis*—and was never seen again. Nor has word ever been heard from that sturdy brig or her intrepid commander, Johnston Blakeley.

The fate of the gallant ship is surrounded in mystery. Whether she was sunk in subsequent action with some larger English vessel, lost in a terrific gale at sea, or overwhelmed by another of the many accidents always threatening upon the ocean has never been ascertained. There were some who claimed to have witnessed a stubborn battle off the South Carolina coast near Charleston between the *Wasp* and a powerful British Man-of-war, in which both vessels fought to the finish and at last sank together, each the victim of her drowning enemy. Another story tells of a wreck along the African coast and the capture of the *Wasp's* crew by a band of Arabs.

His Memory Honored

But whether his body rests at the depths of the ocean or in some foreign grave, the name of North Carolina's hero of the seas has been given a just meed of praise. In October, 1814, the United States Congress passed a joint resolution of thanks for his services and awarded him a Congressional Medal for bravery. In December of the same year his native state followed suit, commending her patriotic son for his splendid achievements and voting him a beautifully jeweled sword.

After Blakeley's death the legislature of North Carolina adopted his infant daughter, Maria Udney Blakeley, and provided for her education. Six hundred dollars was paid out of the state treasury annually for this purpose until 1829. The girl married a member of the Danish nobility and, within a year after her wedding, died, leaving no heir to carry on the line of Johnston Blakeley.

The war of 1812 is long since past and now well-nigh forgotten; but North Carolina is still reminded of the fame of Johnston Blakeley by his name carved upon a beech tree at the University and his portrait hanging upon the walls of the Philanthropic Society Hall.

Doctor of Stupidity Is Elected at Emory

Plans for the election of student body superlatives at Emory University have been narrowed down to one main election, the winner to receive the title of Doctor of Stupidity.

This will be a highly honorary position and not a joke. Each man will vote for the student who, in his opinion, is the most popular and most representative man in the University.

The student who receives the title of Doctor of Stupidity is to be given great publicity. The election, moreover, is to become an annual affair.

This election will be comparable to those held each year at Vanderbilt and other colleges. Last year Billy Spears, all-American quarterback, received the title of Ugliness at Vanderbilt in recognition of his achievements.

The student body of Mercer University elects a "Master Mercierian" each year on the same principles.

The General



The Robert E. Lee Hall which serves as conference headquarters and where offices are located and delegates registered. The spacious lobby with its reading racks and ample seating capacity provides an excellent auditorium for group gatherings. The extensive veranda is especially useful for vesper services.

CHAIN COLLEGES NOW UNDERTAKEN

Numbers No Longer the Boast Of The Great Institutions; Is New Experiment

A decade ago it was the proud boast of many an American university that its enrollment was 5,000 or 10,000 or 25,000—the largest in its state, or region, or, possibly, in America.

Today that same situation, mass enrollment, huge classes, impersonal, machine-like instruction, has come to be regarded by college authorities as the greatest evil besetting education. It is "a tragi-comedy," in the opinion of Prof. Carl Holliday, of the University of Toledo, who, in the current issue of *The North American Review*, surveys the efforts of colleges and educators throughout the country to solve the problem created by the hordes of new students who have rushed into the college since the war.

The answer, universally agreed upon, is to keep—or even make—the colleges small. Prof. Holliday points out: "Many of the better known schools already have placed a strict limit upon the number of students they will receive, pending reorganization plans which will enable them to give more attention to the problems of the student as an individual."

"Chain Colleges" on Coast.

Harvard with its 8,000 students, is entering upon the most ambitious project so far attempted. The great university will be divided into a number of small colleges, each enrolling approximately 200 students, and each a unit in itself so far as the liberal phase of education is concerned, with a dean, instructors, library and physical equipment. The purpose is to bring students and teachers into more intimate and informal contact, enabling the latter to give attention to the personal problem of the individual youth.

In California a similar project is under way known as Claremont Colleges. "Recently there was added to Pomona College of this system a sister school, Scripps College, and it is proposed that when this new institution reaches an enrollment approximating 300 a third one shall be established," explains the *North American Review* writer. "Thus a chain of small colleges, each with its own faculty, will give to students that individual instruction resulting in genuine higher education."

At the University of Washington, Princeton and Harvard the tutorial system has been adopted. In addition to attending their regular classes the students are assigned in small intimate groups to an instructor with whom they can meet informally for discussion of particular problems and whose aim it is to make such meetings take the form of interesting social discussions, rather than the cut-and-dried work of the old-fashioned class room. At Rollins College, Florida; Swarthmore, Cornell and several other institutions plans with the same general aim are being worked out.

To Give Selections From "Mum's The Word" Over Radio

Arrangements have been completed for the University radio hour over Station WPTF for the month of April. On April 8 the Wigwag and Masque will give selections from "Mum's the Word," the musical play presented several weeks ago in Memorial hall. On April 15 the University Band will give a concert with the University Orchestra taking the air on the following Monday, April 22. The second bill of the Carolina Playmakers new folkplays will be broadcast April 29.

MUCH INTEREST IN HI SCHOOL DEBATE

Timeliness of Subject Causing Much Heated Argument In State High Schools

The seventeenth annual North Carolina high school Debating Contest to be held this Spring promises to be the biggest and most hotly contested affair of this type ever sponsored by the University.

According to E. R. Rankin, Secretary of the committee in charge of arrangements for the contest, the immense interest which is being manifested in the matter can be explained in terms of the timeliness of the query—The United States' entrance into the World Court of international justice under the Hughes-Harding reservations, a subject which has been the center of interest for several years. The pertinence of this subject is, perhaps, even greater now than ever before.

Triangular schedules for the purpose of eliminating some of the schools were completed several weeks ago. Schools having both affirmative and negative teams victorious in these triangles will send teams to Chapel Hill to compete in the finals here at the University April 18 and 19 for the coveted Aycock Memorial Cup. Last year this award was won by the Washington Collegiate Institute.

This contest is sponsored annually by the Dialectic Senate and the Philanthropic Assembly in co-operation with the University Extension Division.

Finals of the contest come each year during High School Week, which is a period of great interest to the high schools of the entire state. In addition to the seventeenth annual debating contest the seventeenth annual high school track meet and the fourteenth annual tennis tournament will be held.

Norwood Installed As Di President

The meeting of the Dialectic Senate Tuesday night was given over to business transactions and the inauguration of new officers. The following men were installed: John Norwood, president; E. C. Hunter, president-pro-tem; Bill Chandler, clerk; T. M. Church, sergeant-at-arms; and Carter Studdert, critic.

President Norwood delivered an address in which he commented at length on the record which the Dialectic Senate has maintained on this campus. He firmly declared that his purpose was to maintain that record in so far as possible with the co-operation of every member of the senate. The speaker called attention to the fact that the Dialectic Senate has for many years been an instrument for moulding sentiment on this campus and exercised a hope that that function might be developed to its fullest extent during his administration. In concluding his address president Norwood called upon every member of the senate to assist him in all of his official undertakings.

A church at Ponta Delgada, Azores, is named after Theodore Roosevelt. Nature controls the increase of crows by disease attacks.

In cold countries water has nearly been displaced for auto radiators in

DR. FREEMAN TO DELIVER COMMENCEMENT SERMON

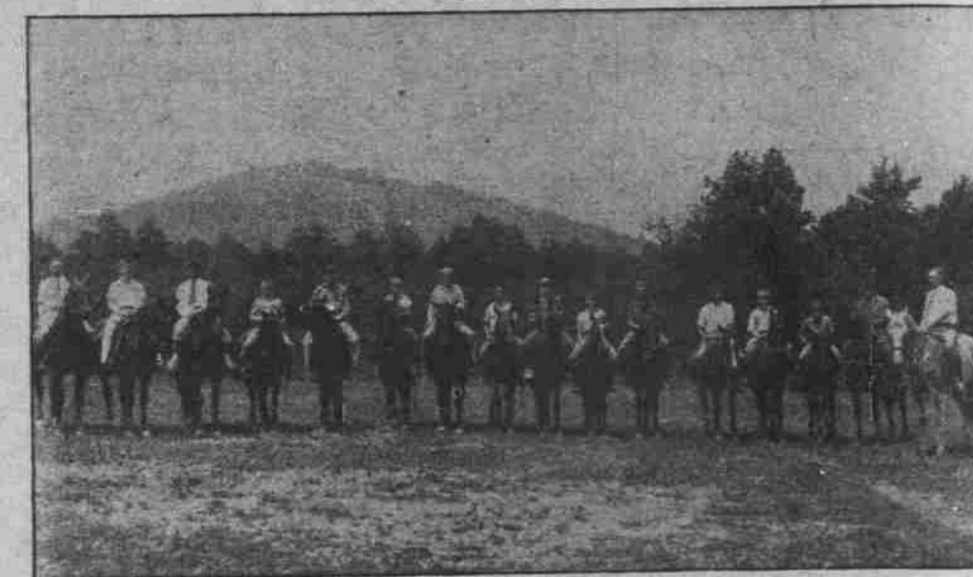
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under church officers and entered the Episcopal clergy, the D. D. degree being conferred on him in 1913 by the Seabury Divinity School. Both Kenyon College and Brown University have since honored him

Up In the Air, Boys



Scenic view of the Balsam Mountains as observed from the Robert E. Lee Hall. These lofty ranges are in hiking distance from Blue Ridge and are frequently visited by conference parties. This is only a glimpse of the wide expanse of beautiful scenery in this section of Western North Carolina.

O'er Hill and Dale



Horseback riding in the mountains is one of the most popular means of recreation. Both men and women take advantage of this excellent opportunity to visit more distant places of interest. There is an abundant supply of mounts and all are well trained for riding purposes.

with the LL. D. degree. Dr. Freeman was consecrated Bishop of Washington in 1923. He is the author of numerous books and pamphlets.

Sir Esme Howard is a veteran diplomat, having spent two thirds of his life in the service of his country. He has represented his nation in Ireland, Italy, Germany, South Africa, Crete, Hungary, Switzerland, Sweden, and Spain. Since 1924 he has been ambassador to the United States. He was a member in 1919 of the British delegation to the Paris Peace Conference.

OUTLINES NEW ACTIVITIES FOR PHI ASSEMBLY

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fairly warm for the remainder of the evening, until the efforts of Representative Harrell were realized, and the Assembly was asked to table the bill indefinitely.

Final plans were made for the joint session of the Di and Phi next Tuesday night, at which time Speaker Graham of the North Carolina House of Representatives will preside over a discussion of the Booker plan of student government.

SPECIAL WORK IS GIVEN "Y" OFFICERS AT CONFERENCE

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on the campus.

3. He must take all of the three regular courses offered.

Cost
The total cost per student for the six weeks, including board, room, registration, tuition and library fees, \$147.25.

Several colleges and universities are paying all or part of the cost of sending their Student Association President. Where could \$100-\$150 be invested to greater advantage? Where else could a like amount produce such large returns in Christian leadership—and so directly related to the campus?

Free Scholarships

Scholarships paying tuition are available for Presidents of Student Associations who complete the entire required work. These scholarships pay \$40 toward the total expenses of the term—and are provided by the Y.M.C.A. Graduate School. They will be awarded on the basis of need and merit. Application should be made to C. B. Loomis, 412 Palmer Building, Atlanta, Ga., or to Dr. W. D. Weatherford, Y.M.C.A. Graduate School, Nashville, Tenn.

The regular ten-day Student Conference, June 14-24, will be held during the period of the Presidents' Training School. The program of the Conference will be integrated with the school in such a way as to make for a continuous experience. This makes it possible for the President to share in the Conference with the delegation, avoiding the extra cost and time incident upon having the school at another period as has been the case formerly.

Fellowship

Who can estimate the meaning of the fellowship involved in the six weeks of search, study, or recreation, of sharing, by fifty men from the colleges of the South, East and Middle West, each man chosen because of his leadership capacity and his interest in developing a more effective creative Christian group of his own campus. Though the school is an integral part of the Y.M.C.A. Graduate School, the Presidents' Section is organized as a distinct unit. This is conducive to the utmost of fellowship.

Credit for Courses

The work of the Presidents' Training School is given by the Y.M.C.A. Graduate School, Dr. W. D. Weatherford, President, which conducts three quarters in its \$500,000 home in Nashville, Tenn. and its Summer Quarter in its own building at Blue Ridge, N. C. The work given is advanced college grade. Most colleges and universities give credit for courses satisfactorily completed.

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