

'Oldest State University' In The Nation Celebrates Sesquicentennial This Week

Dodds Delivers Main Address At Ceremonies

University Day Has Added Significance

University Day, most impressive and venerable of all Carolina traditions, was doubly significant yesterday when it marked the 150th anniversary of the Old East cornerstone laying ceremonies.

Main speaker of the day, Dr. Harold W. Dodds, president of Princeton University, addressed a convocation of students—civilian and uniformed—faculty members and alumni from all parts of the state. Dr. Frank P. Graham, president of the University, speaking to the assemblage, combined regular student convocation ceremony with the University Day proceedings.

Lieutenant Governor R. L. Harris presided over the celebration from the platform. Dean of Administration Robert Burton House injected a solemn note in the celebration with a brief speech in honor of those former Carolina students who have given their lives on foreign battle-fronts.

Actual proceedings began at 10:30 when the faculty, attired in academic regalia, assembled at South building, beginning the regular "University Day" faculty procession which was led by the University band. Dodd's speech was rebroadcast by station WPTF throughout the South Atlantic region in the afternoon.

Stressing the long and eventful history of Carolina since it opened its doors in 1795, the speakers laid emphasis on the part the University must play in the future. "This institution, which has survived four major wars, has always stood as a beacon of freedom wherever its name is mentioned. The part it must play in the future is even more important than the role which it has executed in the past. The University has now grown to maturity. Now it must fulfill, to the utmost, the ideal of those responsible for its foundation."

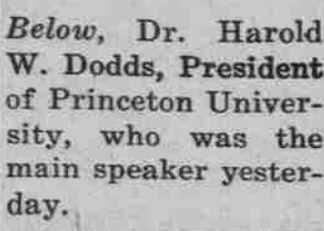
Trustees Present

University Trustees were present at the celebration and Masonic Orders throughout the state were invited.

Several sesquicentennial celebrations have been held during the past four years. In 1939 there was a celebration of the chartering of the University in 1789. This occasion took place in Fayetteville—site of the granting of the charter by the State legislature. Yesterday's ceremonies marked the 150th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone by William R. Davie.



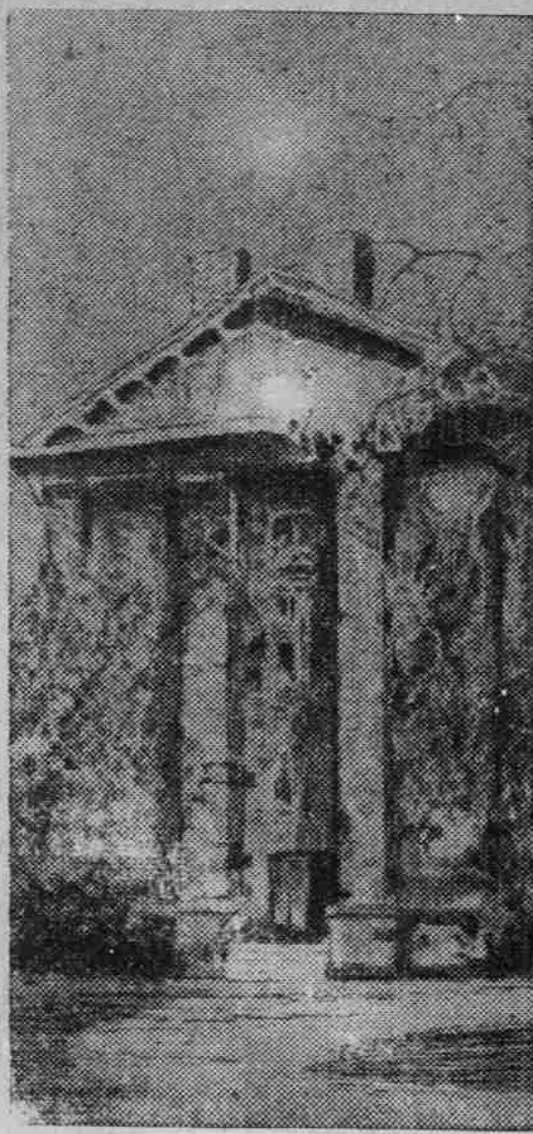
Above, Gen. Davie, "Father of the University," who laid the cornerstone of Old East.



Below, Dr. Harold W. Dodds, President of Princeton University, who was the main speaker yesterday.



Below, Dr. Frank P. Graham, President of Carolina, who spoke at yesterday's celebration.



Present Campus Grew Up About Historic Old East

The annual pilgrimage to Old East has once more been observed. In 1943 there was more pomp and circumstance, for the dean of state university buildings was having its 150th birthday.

Secure in its ivy, Old East has seen Carolina grow from a small institution with one student to a vast, present-day, split plant—turning out civilians skilled in wartime trades and service men.

East built rapidly and was ready for the formal opening of the University on January 15, 1795. Two weeks later, it got its first occupants, when lone student Hinton James of Wilmington joined the teaching staff of two professors. By term's end, the student body had mounted to 41.

In its first years, Carolina's construction grandfather served as a building of all trades. Class rooms, dormitories, library—all were embodied in Old East.

Then, the campus began to spread out and the clear view was cut off by brick and timber. It wasn't until the next century that Old East became what it is today—a dormitory only. Since then it has housed many hundreds of Carolina men, seen hundreds of water fights, hall victory parades, handshakes of countless campus politicians.

Still in use today, Old East goes into its fourth half-century. Although the inside has changed greatly, the shell is still a part of 1790 Carolina. With the ceremonies over for another year, it returns to the business of housing the V-12.

Constructed by the first James Patterson of Chatham county, Old East reflects the prevailing official-building architecture of the times, has true worth as an architect's "museum piece." After the laying of the cornerstone and the first University day, Old

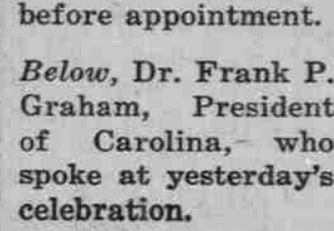
built during his administration. Another Princeton graduate, Robert Hill Chapman, succeeded Caldwell. Because of his inability to manage the undergraduates, his administration was one of frequent administration-student clash. A federalist in politics, he one of frequent administration-student-federalist students. Relations between Chapman and the students deteriorated so sharply that he was forced to resign in favor of Elisha Mitchell, chairman of the faculty.

A graduate of Yale, Mitchell was in charge of the Natural Science department here for 32 years, first taught mathematics. While President Caldwell was in Europe in 1824, Mitchell served as Carolina's head man. Mitchell's interest in the outdoors led to his sudden death while mountain climbing. He was succeeded by David L. Swain, first Carolina alumnus to hold the post.

Swain During Swain's administration the University was at its ante-bellum peak. Approximately 500 students attended classes, New East and New West were built and Carolina became one of the nation's high ranking educational institutions. The end of his administration, however, was destined to find the University at its lowest ebb since the founding. Damage dealt by the Civil War was staggering. The financial condition of the University was poor, the



Above, Dr. Joseph Caldwell, first President of the University. Caldwell had served as acting head before appointment.



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UNC's Rise Closely Parallels Growth of North Carolina

A child of the American Revolution, the University of North Carolina—"oldest state university" in the country—was conceived during a post war period, grew up through an adolescence of three wars and today comes of age as the United States faces the gravest tests in its military history.

The progress of the University through the culmination of its priceless tradition of 150 years of service to the state and nation is the story of the storms it has weathered, the crises it has passed.

Davie Led Small Group At Dedication

It was a brisk autumn day in October, 1793. A group of men trudged up a hill in Orange county, North Carolina where New Hope Chapel was located. This hill formed a promontory overlooking a basin, which geologists estimate was 10,000 feet deep a million years ago. Now it was filled in. Countless centuries of erosion had completed their work. The Hill was only 500 feet above sea level.

The men, led by William R. Davie, Grand Master of Masons, paused at the hilltop and refreshed themselves at a spring. They knew that preliminary work was over; a suitable site for a state university had been found. North-South, East-West roads intersected here, it was the geographical center of the state, and there was an "excellent all-year climate."

On October 12, 1793 a group of men including Reverend Samuel E. McCorkle, a graduate of Princeton, and James Patterson, contractor, "surrounded by a forest of Oaks and Hickory, maples and poplars brilliant with the red and golden hues of Autumn, William R. Davie, Grand Master of the Masons, laid the cornerstone of Old East dormitory, the oldest state university building in the United States."

The dedicatory address was given by Reverend McCorkle on the spot which now bears his name. "Liberty and law," he said, "call for general knowledge in the people and extensive knowledge in matters of the State, and these in turn demand public places of education." With these words he joined democracy and education "in the indissoluble bonds of matrimony."

Yesterday that drama was reenacted. This time, exactly 150 years later, the Carolina Playmakers, University dramatic organization, did the parts as a special feature of the sesquicentennial anniversary. On the same spot, the Playmakers presented a pageant from a platform constructed at the corner of Old East.

University Closes

There was the crisis of 1870 when, after managing to keep open during the Civil War, the University was forced to close for five years because of poverty and politics.

There were the desperate crises of 1917 and 1920 when, due to mounting enrollments, Carolina was faced with the fabulously overcrowded school-rooms and dormitories. Reversing the policy of a generation, the state legislature voted substantial sums for permanent improvements.

1932 Crisis

And there was the depression crisis of 1932 when more than 500 students would have been forced to return home had not President Frank P. Graham and other University officials succeeded in raising \$100,000 to supplement student loan funds.

There were times when teachers and professors at the University voted to continue their work here without salaries rather than see the University close its doors.

Charter Bill

It all began back on November 12, 1789, when William R. Davie introduced the University bill providing for a charter in the state legislature which was meeting in Fayetteville. On November 21, in the Constitutional Convention, he moved the ratification of the Constitution. The same group of men who supported the ratification of the Constitution supported the University bill in the legislature. Of the first 40 trustees of the University, 28 had served in the Constitutional convention, where 21 of them had voted for ratification.

Site Selection

Then followed the task of selecting a site for the University. General Davie was chairman of the committee which examined several locations before arriving at New Hope Chapel in Orange county.

Tradition has it that Davie and other members of the Trustees' Committee met here under the Davie Poplar in November, 1792, and received in Chamber of Commerce fashion from landowners and farmers of the neighborhood offers of land totalling 1380 acres as inducements to locate the University here.

Cornerstone

It was here that on October 12, 1793, the cornerstone of the first state University in the nation, Old East, was laid. George Washington was president of the United States at the time.

One of 13

North Carolina at the time was one of the 13 newly freed American states stretching along the Atlantic Seaboard. In North Carolina the population was 400,000, but 100,000 of these were slaves.

Construction of the University proceeded rapidly. By January, 1795, the University was ready to open. Its doors were opened and for nearly a month there were no students. Then, from Wilmington, came Hinton James to enroll as the first student of the University of North Carolina.

Among the founders of the University, graduates of Princeton stood out. General Davie was a Princeton graduate, as was Dr. McCorkle and Dr. Caldwell, the first president.

The establishment of the University was North Carolina's first step in her program of state building. Davie prepared its plan of study, "designed," he said, "to form useful and respectable members of society." While not neglecting the traditional classics and mathematics, Davie's plan was noteworthy for what he pointed out was its "variation from that of other colleges."

As in past wars, the University of today is making an all-out contribution toward the winning of the war and the peace. It inaugurated a defense program 20 months before Pearl Harbor, and since then it has been engaged in a speed-up program of war training.

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School Has Had Eleven Presidents During 150 Year Span

Caldwell Became First President

Since that December day in 1789, when General William R. Davie presented the charter to the General Assembly, 11 presidents and three acting-presidents have served Carolina.

When the doors first opened in January of 1795, the Rev. Dr. David Ker, a Princeton graduate was acting president. Following him, Charles W. Harris, Joseph Caldwell and James S. Gillaspie were acting presidents. As a result of Caldwell's fine work, the trustees elected him the first president in 1804.

Caldwell

Born in the first part of the eighteenth century, Joseph Caldwell entered Princeton in 1787 and graduated in 1791, one of the best scholars in his class. For a while he served as a tutor at Princeton. He came to Carolina next and served only a short while as acting President, ill health forcing him to resign. However, at the close of the century, the Princeton graduate was recalled and made a trustee of the University. Advising the University for 31 years, he did much to guide it through its years of early growth. He raised enough money to complete South building, saw Gerrard hall and Old West

built during his administration.

Another Princeton graduate, Robert Hill Chapman, succeeded Caldwell. Because of his inability to manage the undergraduates, his administration was one of frequent administration-student clash. A federalist in politics, he one of frequent administration-student-federalist students. Relations between Chapman and the students deteriorated so sharply that he was forced to resign in favor of Elisha Mitchell, chairman of the faculty.

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E. K. Graham



Chase

student body had dwindled to almost nothing. President Swain died in 1868 after leaving office. Solomon Pool followed him, but the dark days of Reconstruction were too much and the University had to close its doors. In 1875, when Carolina reopened, Charles Phillips served as head of the school until a new president could be selected.

Kemp P. Battle, the "father of the new university," assumed office in 1876 and served until 1891. He brought the University through the trying period

after its reopening and rebuilt it to former stature. Battle was succeeded by George T. Winston. A student and a teacher, Winston was keenly interested in languages.

During his administration, the women obtained recognition of their own when Woman's College opened in Greensboro. He resigned to become President of the University of Texas and was succeeded by Edwin A. Alderman in 1896. During Alderman's administration the water works and the

electric light plants were added. The Carr building, at the time one of the most modern University buildings in the country, was built. Radical changes of the period were the admission of coeds, addition of a summer session. In 1900, he resigned, also to take over another Presidency, that of Tulane University.

Francis P. Venable, for whom the Chemistry building was named, was one of Robert E. Lee's aides de camp during the Civil War. He became Professor of Chemistry in 1880, won recognition as one of the foremost chemists in the nation. Interested in athletics, he became a leading member of the athletic committee.

Edward K. Graham, one of this institution's foremost executives, was inaugurated in 1914. During the administration of this educator, Carolina took its place among the country's finest modern universities. Graham Memorial was dedicated to "one of the most popular UNC leaders in history." President Graham helped popularize popular education in the state and nation and was instrumental in the establishment of still-strong extension division.

Harry Woodburn Chase became the University's tenth president in 1921. During his administration the modern Carolina came into being. Twenty million dollars was spent on buildings, improvements, additions. The Student

All Helped Mold Modern Carolina

body swelled to a high of 3,000.

To a University facing "Depression appropriations" from the State Legislature came Frank Graham in 1931. "Vibrant, dynamic, brilliant Doctor Frank" brought Carolina safely through the time of extreme danger, still shapes the policy of Carolina. His knack for remembering names has astounded freshman and senior alike. Many a Tar Heel has been startled by a personal greeting from Dr. Graham, as the President took one of his unheralded tours of inspection.

In the time of national emergency, Dr. Graham went to Washington to serve on the War Labor Relations board. Double duty here and on Capitol Hill gives him little time for the "tours," friendly talks with the students. But the Graham touch in South building policies is "still sure and evident." War has brought an added load to Carolina. For her President it has meant holding down two full-time jobs at once.

The Seaboard's "best customer between Raleigh and Washington" continues to "prove he is one of the outstanding college presidents of our generation."