

Short History of Trinity and Trinity College – Duke University

The community was named after Trinity College, which later became Duke University. The school was organized by a group of Methodists and Quakers. In 1839 the Union Institute Society was established in Randolph County, to the west of Durham, and in 1859 it was reorganized as Trinity College; the college moved to Durham in 1892, attracted by financial support from tobacco entrepreneurs Washington Duke and Julian S. Carr. In 1924, Washington Duke's son, James B. Duke, endowed a university built around Trinity College and named in memory of his father and his family. Trinity Cemetery's most famous person is Braxton Craven who was president of Trinity College, which is now Duke University.

A Chronology of Significant Events in Duke University's History

[Source - http://www.duke.edu/web/Archives/history/duke_chronology.html]

The Randolph County period

1838 -- Brantley York (1805-1891) becomes principal of Brown's Schoolhouse, a private subscription school in Randolph County.

1839 -- Brown's Schoolhouse is formally organized by the Union Institute Society, a group of Methodists and Quakers under the leadership of Reverend York

1841 -- The State of North Carolina issues a charter for Union Institute Academy.

1842 -- Braxton Craven (1822-1882) becomes head of the institution.

1851 -- The school is re-chartered by the Legislature of North Carolina as Normal College, and its graduates are licensed to teach in the public schools of the state.

1858 -- The Alumni Association is organized with 41 alumni of record.

1859 -- Name changed to Trinity College upon affiliation with the Methodist Church. The motto "Eruditio et Religio," meaning "Knowledge and Religion," was adopted.

1871 -- Chi Phi organized with assistance of the Alumni Association as first student social organization. Alpha Tau Omega followed in 1872 with Kappa Sigma in 1873.

1878 -- Mary, Persis, and Theresa Giles became the first women to be awarded degrees.

1881 -- Yao-ju ("Charlie") Soong from Weichau, China enrolled, becoming the school's first international student.

1887 -- John Franklin Crowell (1857-1931), economist and football fan, elected president; Yale blue was adopted as the school color in honor of Crowell's alma mater. The Trinity Archive,

now the oldest collegiate literary magazine in the South, was first issued in November of this year.

1888 -- Thanksgiving Day. Trinity defeated the University of North Carolina 16 to 0 in one of the first modern football games played in the South.

1891 -- A new charter for Trinity College was adopted, requiring that one-third of the members of the Board of Trustees be alumni.

Trinity College in Durham

1892 -- Trinity College relocated to Durham. Washington Duke and Julian S. Carr persuaded the Board of Trustees to move the college to their progressive "New South" city. Duke contributed \$85,000 for buildings and endowment and Carr donated the site, which is now East Campus.

Brantley York (3 Jan. 1805-7 Oct. 1891), Methodist clergyman, educator, lecturer, and author, was born near Bush Creek in Randolph County, the seventh of nine children of Eli and Susannah Harden York. His grandfather, Henry York, immigrated to the United States from Yorkshire, England. Because of Eli's uncertain employment as a distiller and miner, the family fortunes fluctuated considerably, often depending on income from the children working as hired hands. Young Brantley thus attended school only thirteen months in a ten-year period; nevertheless, the excitement of learning and the challenge of obtaining an education captivated him. Obviously largely self-taught, by age nineteen York was reading a thousand pages a week through the auspices of the formally organized Library Society of Ebenezer Church, the place of his conversion at a camp meeting in 1823. Influenced strongly by the organizational structure of Methodist class, band, and camp meetings, York closely associated education and religion throughout his life. He began teaching at Bethlehem Church in Guilford County in 1831 and was licensed to preach in 1833.

In 1838, after ordination as a deacon and an unpleasant administrative mix-up that prevented his joining the newly organized North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, York consented to teach a subscription school in northwestern Randolph County. The school, in an infrequently used building, was called Brown's Schoolhouse after the owner of the land where it was located. Immediate success necessitated replacement of the rough log building with a hewn log building in the summer of 1838 and again with a two-room wooden frame structure in the summer of 1839.

York drew up plans for support of a permanent academy by an Education Association, and when they were implemented, he selected the name Union Institute not for patriotic reasons

but because the school united nearby predominately Methodist and Quaker communities. Incorporated by the legislature in January 1841 as Union Institute Academy, the school later became Normal College, Trinity College, and after its move to Durham in 1892, Duke University in 1924.

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