

TRUSTEE MINUTES (VOL I)

1. Page 5: student expelled for disorderly conduct—related to an incident involving enslaved people described in the Pinckney letter (Manuscript Collection DC0111s)
2. Page 12: first mention of “servant hire” – Presbyterian’s used the word “Servant” for enslaved people
3. Page 76: committee formed to investigate hiring a college servant
4. Page 122-126: lawsuit for “Flins Negroes”
5. Page 221-222: “tax for servant hire”
6. Page 280: servant hire
7. Page 282: “medical attendance on college servant”
8. Feb 28, 1855 meeting minutes from the Board of Trustees
 - a. This is followed up in the *Annual Faculty Report* of 1860 – 1861 which commented: “During last spring, the students, at the suggestion of the faculty, undertook to set out each a tree for the embellishment of the campus.” By June 22, 1869, reports indicated that such plantings would deliberately attempt to replicate the general forestry and botany of the state and region.

FACULTY MINUTES (VOL I)

Page 37: Student blackface

Page 66-67: student altercation with enslaved people in town

Page 102-103: list of servant duties

Page 107: college faculty created a patrol unit—their duties included dispersing groups of black people near the college

Page 219: may 3, 1861 many left because of “the threatened invasion of the south” closed for the month of June

Page 221: most of the senior class gone because of the war, sept 20 1861

Page 229: president left to attend the general assembly of the presbytery church of the confederate states meeting in alabama, april 25, 1862

Page 230: October 24, 1862, Professor Blake leaves for Mississippi

Page 234-235: Students committed blackface and assault

Page 236-237: Students again committed blackface and assault

Page 239-240: Students assaulted a black woman

Page 251: april 8th 1864 declared as a day of "fasting, humiliation, and prayer" after the appointment of the confederate congress and the proclamation of the President

Page 253: june 29, 1864: tearing up the railroads

Page 256: Bans black people from campus

Page 260: Report of servant negligence

Page 273: candidates for the ministry shall pay "for servants' hires and contingent, and deposit the usual damage fee" sept 26 1867

Page 304: breakdown of the religious affiliations of D.C. students (April 7, 1870)

Page 313: breakdown of religious affiliation (oct 4, 1870)

Page 350: same as above (October 15, 1872)

Page 365: mention of "Lee Davidson (or Patterson)," "a colored man" being banned from campus as a thief (oct 10 1873)

Page 373: just an interesting note, J.R. Faison, a student, and multiple acts of violence on campus, march 6, 1874

Page 381: mention of gun violence, year 1874, june

Page 391: January 8 1875, "a petition of the students was granted wherein they asked that they might keep out of the College campus all colored persons to whom express permission had not been given to enter or labor there. This exclusion was not authorized in any case where attendance on divine worship was intended, and the permissions in all other instances are to be recommended by the Bursar, and given by the faculty"

Page 392: January 22 1875, "the bursar recommended Jim Burton and George Wilson in addition to those employed hitherto as colored persons worthy to be laborers about the college building on campus"

Page 398: annual report for 1875: mention the maintenance of sabbath schools for both "white and colored children" in the village and adjacent country by the students

Page 439: November 29, 1878, "the bursar was directed to notify henry Simonton that his services as College Servant was note needed after the end of the present Term. It was resolved that the bursar be directed to employ the college servants all their time at work on the college grounds and buildings"

Page 441: February 14, 1879, "andy byers was licensed as an additional college servant"

Page 481: March 9, 1883 – servants' hire fee raised to Fall, \$2 and spring, \$3

Page 512: September 11 1885: "the following were licensed as college servants: Washington powell, hiram potts, Andrew" "the superintendent of grounds and building was instructed to employ a servant to carry out students' slops"

Page 534: November 19, 1886: "in the judgement of the faculty, it was thought expedient to dispense with janitor's work on the part of the students, and return to the old method for securing outside help"

Page 579: Declaration of Maxwell Chambers day as April 15th- decided on December 3, 1889

Page 596: January 6, 1891, "moved and carried that professor Vinson be authorized to appoint suitable servants for campus service"

Page 648: September 10 1896, admission of women on campus mentioned, also 657

Fact From Page 23.

baldness, a small toupee, which was seldom straight, so the betting every Sunday morning was brisk as to the color of the wool or the tilt of the toupee to the left or to the right.

Another unusual couple, Mr. and Mrs. Query, lived next to the cemetery of which he was the custodian. He said he liked living there, "such quiet neighbors who never kept chickens." Mrs. Query peddled patent medicines, especially those for women's ills, but when her sales were slow, she always cheerfully remarked: "Well, I'll just go home and start Robert on a bottle. It always makes him feel better."

Living as we did on the edge of the campus, we naturally saw much of the boys. There was no "bumming" in those days and no bus so the only way to get to Charlotte was a daily train and special permission to leave town had to be requested. That meant that the few girls living here were naturally belles and had lots of "dates" or "engagements" as we called them then. They called in groups, sometimes more than there were parlor chairs, so the lower class men sat on the floor. The exciting events were Fresh Reception in the fall, Junior Week in February and Senior Week in the spring. A close friend would ask to make up your engagement book before these occasions.

so, if an undesirable asked for one, you passed him on with a signal and all were saved embarrassment. During Senior Week that class made speeches and the Commencement orators were chosen, as were the Junior orators during Junior Week. The Seniors during their week had one sort of Souvenir Evening at which gifts were made in remembrance of their college years—or augurs of the future. Our house, with the two Martin girls, was naturally called "The Martin Box", and I recall my agonized embarrassment when my current beau was given a birdhouse with the remark, "We give you the house—you catch the bird."

Commencement ran from Fri-

day night through the next Thursday with a very brass band from Statesville and imported speakers. At all exercises the marshals wore their regalias, which they owned and could give away. The student orators wore rosettes on their lapels. Both regalias and rosettes were given away to lucky girls on the closing night and the wearers got the exciting boxes on Thursday afternoon by the hand of a Negro boy, who also brought a note asking you for that night's engagement. You might have another escort, but he promptly retired and left the field to the marshal. The rosettes were no further use to us but the regalias had lots of silk in them. I remember the white shirtwaist I so proudly wore till it fell in holes—made from my chief's.

There were two vicious customs that marred most Commence-

ments: one was the 5 a.m. "buggy ride" and the other a last date at sunset when your special friend took you for a walk and when he turned into the cemetery and headed for an old stile that used to be in the back. You knew then you were in for a tender declaration which called for all your tact and invented excuses to avoid.

We used to have wells, but after an outbreak of typhoid the present water system was installed. Our lighting system for homes, halls, and streets was primitive, but finally the blessing of electricity reached us, so now we have electric lights, stoves, and refrigerators, and partially servantless houses in quite the modern manner; but one thing we lack and hope we'll never need is a Jail!

Dr. Puckett—take it up from there!

This narrative was written for the Thelernite Book Club in October 1955. The article and photograph are courtesy of the Davidson College Archives.

Two Generations Serving Davidson College

Born "befo' de Freedom"

by Marjean Torrence

The people at Davidson College and the citizens of Davidson remember Enoch Donaldson as a friendly, loyal and dedicated person whom everyone shared a mutual respect for.

He lived a long distinctive life and most of it was spent working as a custodian at Davidson College. He was also called the vice president of the college when Dr. John B. Shearer was president because there were no telephones and Dr. Shearer utilized him to carry messages to students and professors.

Donaldson was paid \$1 a month by students who wanted their rooms cleaned and their beds made. While working for the students, Enoch also worked in the old physics building.

In the 1950s some decided he was too old to work, but he refused to hear anything about retiring. To him, it was a privilege to work at the college and he would not be deprived of doing so.

Out of friendship and deep respect, he was kept on the payroll. His new job was to keep the front steps of Chambers clean. When students would return back to campus for homecoming or graduation or other events, Enoch Donaldson would greet them on the steps of Chambers.

Mr. Enoch Donaldson died February 25, 1962. His age was based on when he got married and when he began working at the college. It was estimated that Enoch was 93-years-old. He was a lifelong member of Reeve's Temple A.M.E. Zion Church and served on many committees.



Enoch Donaldson



John Donaldson

"Hujohn"

Everyone in Mecklenburg and other surrounding counties, except the very, very young, knew and adored "Hujohn", as he was so affectionately known.

He and his wife Eugenia were blessed with 12 children and took in three more, who were treated as their own.

Mr. Hujohn was a member of Reeves Temple A.M.E. Zion Church but he always found time to attend all the other churches in and around the community.

He was the son of Mr. Enoch Donaldson, who was a custodian at Davidson College and helped Hujohn to get odd jobs at the college when he was eleven years old. He later became a custodian and

painter. For 60 years he worked at Davidson College as custodian, handyman, painter and as he used to say, "I'm a counselor for the students".

Mr. Hujohn never retired and said he never would. He would not know just what to do with himself if he could not work.

In his 60 years at the college, he would always look forward to attending the homecoming games. He would say he had to go see his old friends and his students.

His most favorite poem was "Let Me Live In the House By the Side of the Road and Be A Friend To Man."

He really was a friend to everyone and he will always be remembered in Davidson.

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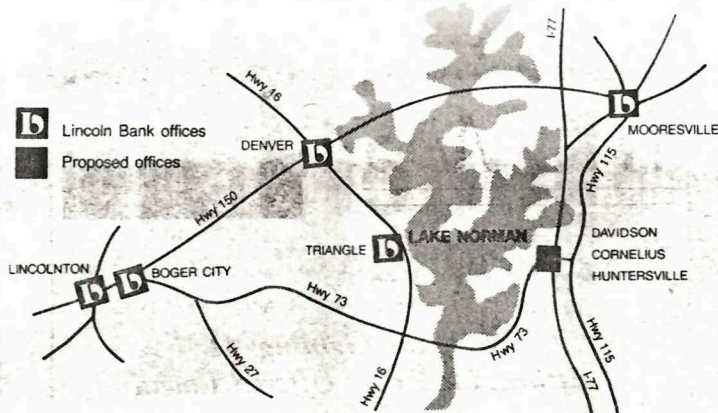
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RANDOM AND INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SERVANTS
AT DAVIDSON COLLEGE

-- William Robinson (class of 1860) paid \$1.00 for servant hire while a student at Davidson

-- appears that Davidson used this \$1.00 fee (that apparently was charged to all students) to hire a "college servant" whose duty, was to make fires each morning in the dormitory rooms, Chapel, and recitation rooms, make beds, bring water to the students' rooms twice a day, and keep the students' books and shoes polished. (Faculty Minutes, March 26, 1855)

-- the money may have also gone to a local townsman, as in 1857-58 when the treasurer paid James P. Henderson (a local businessman) \$141 for "Hire and Board of Servant". (Beaty, History of Davidson College, p. 82)

-- The names of college servants known from the 1870s are:

Henry Simonton

Richard Robertson

Jim Burton

Andy Byers

Joe Brown

George Wilson

(from Beaty, History of Davidson College, p.132)

-- "Every catalogue from the 1890's contains a list of the faculty and, below that, a cluster of positions and names which now would be called staff. The catalogue calls them nothing, in keeping with the amount most of them were paid." (Beaty, History of Davidson College, p.195)

-- "The names of college servants are never given in any formal list, but must be gathered from scattered references." (Beaty, p.195)

-- The names of college servants known from 1885 are:

Hiram Potts

Washington Powell

(Beaty, 195)

-- The names of college servants known from 1895 are: (Beaty, p.196)

Tom ----

Otho Allison

Aaron Burton

Jim Jimmerson

Sidney Houston

Jow Brown

Lewis Allison

Alex Helper

Jack (possibly Baxter Williamson)
S. Holtzclaw
Rich Robinson

-- Between 1915 and 1938, the janitorial staff grew from six to fourteen. (Beaty, p.259)

-- The names of the janitorial staff known from 1915 are:

Walter Johnson
Rich Robison
Alec Helper
Baxter Williamson
Hiram Potts
Enoch Donaldson

" Other sources add the names of Andy Falls, who died in 1926 after twenty years at the college, and of Charlie Wilson, long-time trainer for the athletic association, who died in 1926." (Beaty, p.259)

-- When Hiram Potts died in 1917, the students raised money for a tombstone to mark the grave of "one who held the affection and esteem of all the students" (Davidsonian, March 7, 1917)

-- In 1953, the buildings and grounds staff had consisted of 3 shop men, 15 janitors, 2 laborers, and 2 firemen, and the total payroll was \$357.75 a week. (roughly \$16 a person/per week). (Beaty, p.386)

-- The Davidsonian ran a series of articles about members of the janitorial staff in 1955-56:

Clint Torrance (October 21)
John Heath (October 28)
John Brice (November 4)
Toy Withers (November 11)
L.W. Nelson (November 18)
Talmadge O'Connor (December 2)
Daniel Franks (December 9)
James William Howard (January 3)
Crawford Donaldson (February 10)

-- John Brice, Alonzo Donaldson and James "Hujohn" Donaldson served the college each for more than 60 years as janitors (Beaty, p.386)

-- Enoch Donaldson, served the college some 80 years as janitor (Beaty, p.386)

-- Frank and Gabe Reid (brothers) served the college some 60 years as janitors (Beaty, p.386)

-- Davidson College President Samuel Williamson's (1841-1854) servant Esom, was "generally known as the vice-president of the college" and apparently served as the janitor in charge of cleaning equipment. (Quips and Cranks, 1895)

-- In the 1846-47 College Catalogue:

"The Servants of the College shall be under the exclusive direction of the Faculty; and no student shall ill-treat them, but may inform some member of the Faculty if they have cause of complaint. "

-- Throughout the history of the college, the term "slave" was never used to refer to the college servants (Mary D. Beaty's personal notes for A History of Davidson College)

-- The first reference to hiring a "college servant" occurs in the Board of Trustee minutes from September 2, 1845. (Mary D. Beaty's personal notes for A History of Davidson College)

-- In February, 1855, \$75 was given by the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees "for the temporary purpose of hiring a servant for the use of the college." The previous system of charging \$1 per student per session for servant hire was not adequate enough to cover the expenses.

-- Duties of the "College Servant" as outlined by the faculty on March 26, 1855 included:

1. to make fires in morning in Chapel, recitation rooms, and student rooms
2. to carry water to student's rooms in morning and evening
3. to make beds in student's rooms
4. to black boots and shoes of students

-- According to Bursar's report for 1860-61, Davidson College hired out its servants during holidays; Davidson College paid \$92.16 for board of servants; Students paid \$306 for servants' services; Davidson College paid J.P. Henderson \$265.65 to hire the servants in the first place

-- In 1865-66, the College only had one servant, at a hire cost of \$55. There is a reference in Bursar's report to doing over the room of the "College Servant" for dorm use in July 1869 and building a "small but cheap" house for the servant on campus.

-- "Servants hire" cost Davidson College \$194 in 1869-70. The college also spent an unspecified amount on Servants Houses that year. (Mary D. Beaty's personal notes for A History of Davidson College.)

-- Bursar built "a Cabin on the College land" for \$80.75 "to secure the services of a competent College servant." Rent of \$1.50 per month were deducted from the servant's wages. (Bursar's report, June 23, 1873)

-- W.W. Carson says the Davidson College paid its janitors "somewhat more than laborers received on the adjacent farms" (Reminisces of Davidson, W.W. Carson, July 19, 1918)

-- On October 13, 1880, the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees authorized the hiring of "two more college servants" to employ them to help students in the winter months (Mary D. Beaty's personal notes for A History of Davidson college.)

- The Executive Committee minutes of March 2, 1881, summarized the servant situation:
 - 3 needed full time and a 4th for half the time.
 - Total salaries would be @ \$468.
 - Also, \$150-\$200 more needed to pay for getting wood cut.

- The Executive Committee on June 8, 1882 rescinds resolution to hire College servants "to cut and carry up the wood of the students, and to make their fires."

- According to the Executive Committee minutes of September 25, 1884, "the Servant's house is about to fall down" but will probably be repaired.

- According to the Executive Committee minutes of October 2, 1890, the Executive Committee leaves to the committee on Ground and Building the matter of "building a house to be occupied by Aaron, the college servant."
 - this house was done by March 16, 1891, at a cost of \$130.
 - the house was built on the college premises

- In the Bursar's Report of the Board of Trustees of May 1900, the following servants and their wages were named:
 - 1. Alex \$36.20
 - 2. Holtzclaw \$185
 - 3. Hiram \$27.35
 - 4. Putnam \$237.45 (carpenter)

- Many students attended the marriages of Otho Allison and Victoria Caldwell (he was a servant of Davidson) (see. Davidson Magazine, January 1847, p.163)

- In the Bursar's Report of the Board of Trustees of 1903-04, a total of \$685.35 were paid to 8 servants

- Wages increased from \$22 per month to \$30 in 1917-18, but the work load also increased (Jackson's Report, 1917-1918) (Mary D. Beaty's files)

- Article appeared in March 7, 1917 Davidsonian talking about how students raised money to by a tombstone for Uncle Hiram "one who held the affection and esteem of all the students"
 - Article in October 10, 1917 says stone put up "Long a faithful servant of Davidson College" says tomb

- Board of Trustees on 24 May 1945 authorize College "to recognize Enoch Donaldson in an appropriate way and to present him some sort of medal during the commencement exercises" because of his "long and loyal service"

-- See also the "Awards Day" program at back of President's 21 February 1962 Report
-- this give names and terms of service for dozens of staff members