CAPE FEAR ACADEMY 1868-1916

FANNY deROSSET

The Cape Fear Academy began its first session on October 12, 1868 with 76 students in a "building, lately the residence of Dr. F. J. Hill at the corner of 4th and Mulberry," Brigade General Raleigh Edward Colston was the principal. (1) Mr. Frank H. Alfriend became his assistant for the second session, and was still in that position in 1871, when the school moved "to a more commodious building in the rear of City Hall," hitherto occupied by Mr. L. McGinnis', "Wilmington Institute." (2) In 1871-1872 session. (2) In 1877 General Colston left, and Major B. J. Burgess became principal, assisted by Captain Washington Catlett. (4) In 1879 Catlett was appointed principal and remained in that position until the school closed in 1916. (5) In 1885, Mr. P. B. Manning was his assistant. (6) The Wilmington City Directory of 1900 lists the Cape Fear Academy at 10 N. 3rd St., south of City Hall, the 1910 Directory at 105 N. 3rd St., and the 1915 Directory at 117 Orange St. About 30 students attended in 1910. (5)

1. Wilmington Daily Journal, Oct. 6, 13, 1868
2. Bulletin of the Cape Fear Academy, 1871-1872
3. Wilmington City Directory 1872
6. Bulletin of the Cape Fear Academy 1885-1886

The following items about the early Cape Fear Academy are taken from a collection made by Miss Fanny deRosset.


Principal—Gen'l R. E. Colston

CADETS

Agostini, Frank M.  
Ackerson, Thos.  
Bear, Sam'l.  
Bellamy, Jno. D.  
Bowles, Jno. W.  
Bunting, R. H.  
Cantwell, Ed.  
Cantwell, F.  
Cantwell, R.  
Carr, I. N.  
Cazaux, Jno.  
Cowan, S. G.  
Cowan, S. P.  
Cronly, J. M.  
Cronly, W. N.  
Cushing, Ed.  
Daniel, J. H.  
Davis, L. P.  
DeRosset, F. A.  
Dix, E.  
Dix, R.  
Empie, B.  
Empie, S.  
Engelhard, Ed.  
Gregg, David  
Harlow, W. L.  
Harriss, Jno. H.  
Harriss, G. N.  
Harriss, T. B.  
Heyer, M.  
Holmes, F. D.  
Huggins, L.  
Jenkins, Jno. H.  
Jones, P.  
King, O.  
Love, Jno.  
Low, (Clarence)  
McIlhenny, T. C.  
McKoy, R.  
McKoy, W. B.  
McRee, J. I.  
Meares, A.  
Meares, R.  
Meares, W.  
Metts, Chas.  
Mitchell, D.  
Munds, J. D.  
Munds, W.  
Murchison, J. W.  
Parsley, G. D.  
Parsley, W. H.  
Price, W. P.  
Price, W. K.  
Ragland, (Emmett)  
Ragland, J. D.  
Ragland, R.  
Rothwell, Jno.  
Russell, C.  
Russell, H.  
Russell, J.  
Ryan, J.  
Schonwald, Jno. T.  
Singletry, Ed.  
Smith, A.  
Smith, Jos.  
Smith, W. L.  
Sprunt, Alex  
Stephens, N. B.  
Strange, Robt.  
Thomas, (Jordan)  
VanOrsdell, C.  
Walker, C.  
Walker, W.  
Willard, M. S.  
Williams, D. M.  
Wood, A. V.

Total, 76

The sons of Henry and Lucretia Russell, Charles, John and Henry, in the uniforms of the Cape Fear Academy.

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MEETING

Mr. L. David Horner III will speak to Lower Cape Fear Historical Society on October 24, 1968, 8:00 p.m., at St. Andrews-Covenant Presbyterian Church. Subject: “Diving Into Cape Fear’s Past.” The meeting is open to the public.

L. David Horner III, is a native of Lynnhurst, Virginia. He attended public schools in Lynchburg graduating from E. C. Glass High School in June, 1952. In June, 1956, he received a B.A. degree in economics from the University of Virginia. He has completed specialized banking courses through the American Institute of Banking and the Carolinas Bankers School and recently received his degree from the 1967 Class of the Stonier Graduate School of Banking at Rutgers University.

From 1956-1958 Mr. Horner served at sea with the U. S. Navy. His association with the sea over a period of many years, including six summers as a lifeguard at Virginia Beach (where he holds the unofficial record for rescues in the surf), have extended to underwater photography, shipwreck research and exploration, the practice and instruction of skin and scuba diving and water safety. He was one of the first Nationally Certified Scuba Instructors in the country and has taught several thousand persons safe diving techniques. He has conducted classes for Virginia State Police and other groups.

Mr. Horner is the author of Shipwrecks, Sunken Gold, published by Dodd, Mead and Company in 1965, Better Scuba Diving for Boys, published in September, 1966, and has written a new book, The Blockade Runners, which was released in March, 1968. His 15-minute color, underwater motion picture, “Diver Below,” has won numerous national awards in Film Festivals. His chart of shipwrecks along Atlantic coastal waters has been widely distributed, and he has been in much demand as a speaker on this subject.

Mr. Horner began his business career with United States Steel Corporation in Pittsburgh in 1956, just prior to his service with the Navy. He entered banking on February 16, 1959 as a trainee with The Bank of Virginia in Norfolk. After completion of the management training program, he advanced through a number of assignments with the bank in Norfolk. In November, 1960 he was transferred to the Correspondent Bank Department in Richmond. He was elected Assistant Cashier in June, 1962 and promoted to Assistant Vice President in July, 1963. On April 1, 1966 he was elected President of the newly organized Bank of Central Virginia in Lynchburg.

Mr. Horner is a consultant to Maritime Explorations, Ltd., a professional diving equipment company he founded, and past president of Virginia State Skin Divers Association. He has been active in YMCA and Boys Club of America activities. He is currently a director of the Industrial Development Authority for the City of Lynnhurst, director of Downtown Lynnhurst, Inc., past chairman of the Lynnhurst area Cystic Fibrosis campaign, and a director of The Foundation for Independent Junior Colleges of Virginia.

He is a Methodist, married, and the couple has three daughters.
The course of instruction will have for its aim:
First: To give instruction in the Preparatory Department, to those whose youth or want of preparation unfit them to begin the regular course of the first year.
Second: To prepare for the advanced classes of the Universities and Colleges of North Carolina and Virginia, or the Military and Naval Schools, such youths as expect to enter those institutions.
Third: To offer a finishing course to those who do not expect to enter College.

The complete course of instruction will necessarily require several years. The wants of parents with regard to the education of their sons being various, they will be at liberty to select those studies which they prefer; and they are requested, on entering their sons, to indicate in the following synopsis the studies which they wish them to pursue.

The pupil will be examined immediately after admission, and will be assigned to the highest class in each study for which he is sufficiently prepared. But no pupil shall be allowed to enter a class whose studies he cannot pursue profitably to himself; and no one shall be transferred from one class to a higher one, without having mastered satisfactorily the studies of the former. According to the degree of his preparation, a pupil may pursue in Latin or Greek the course indicated for the third year, and in Mathematics or French, that of the first, or vice versa.

The following is the outline of the course of instruction:

SYNOPSIS OF THE COURSE OF STUDIES IN THE CAPE FEAR ACADEMY.

PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT.

Elementary Arithmetic, Mental and Written, Elementary Geography, English Grammar and History, Reading, (McGuffey's Reader,) Townes' Speller and Definer, Scholar's Companion, Elementary Composition, Penmanship.

ACADEMIC COURSE.

First Year.
Mathematics—Mental and Written—(Davies,)
Elementary Algebra—(Davies,)
Latin—Harkness' 1st and 2d books.
Bingham's Grammar.
Caesar commenced.
Greek—McClintock's 1st and 2d books.
English—Bullion's Grammar.
McGuffey's Readers.
Mitchell's Geography.
Townes' Speller and Definer. Composition and Elocution.
Modern Languages—French, Pinney & Badois' Practical Grammar.
Pinney's or Schele de Vere's 1st Reader.
Charles XII, Schelde Vere's Grammar.

Second Year.
Robinson's Algebra.
Geometry—(Davies Legendre.)
Caesar, Sallust and Cicero's Orations.
Bingham's Grammar.
Andrew's Latin Lexicon.
Greek Testament.
Xenophon's Anabasis and Kuhner and Hadley's Grammar.
McClintock's 2d book.
Bullins' Analytical and practical Grammar.
Parker's Aids to English Composition.
Physical Geography.
Taylor's Ancient History.
Piccolia, De Fivas' French Reader.
Ollendorf's or Fasquell's Course, Schelde's Grammar.

Third Year.
Trigonometry.
Surveying and Navigation.
Analytical Geometry—(Smith's Biot.)
Math. Drawing.
Virgil—Livy.
Tacitus.
Gildersleeve's and Harrison's Grammars.

Mitchell's Ancient Geography.
Xenophon's Anabasis and Memorabilia.
Arnold's Greek Composition.
Grecian Antiquities and Mythology.
Blair's Rhetoric.
The Student's Gibson; Selections from Shakespeare, Milton and other English Classics.
Original Essays and Criticisms.
Coffin's Dramatic Reader.
Poitevin's Grammar and Exercises.
Translations from English books into French.
Selections from Hugo's Dramas and Modern French literature.

FINISHING COURSE.

Fourth Year.
Descriptive Geometry—(Davies,)
Shades, Shadows and Perspective—(Davies,)
Differential and Integral Calculus—(Church,)
Drawing.
Topography.
Horace.
Terence.
Roman Antiquities.
Liddell's Rome.
Herodotus.
Homer.
Smith's Greece.
Whatley's Logic.
Spaulding's English Literature.
The Student's Humor.
History of the U. S.
Original Orations.
Spanish, Italian or German.

Fifth Year.
Mechanics—(Peck's,)
Optics, Acoustics,
Astronomy—(Bartlett,)
Chemistry, Geology, Mineralogy, Engineering and Drawing.
Juvenal.
The drills never interfere with the studies, and are never prolonged beyond what is proper for healthy exercise. No extra fee is charged for military instruction, except one dollar per annum, to cover the expense of renting and repairing the muskets.

The advantages of military discipline are too evident to be doubted. It produces an "Esprit de Corps," a subordination and a habit of order, the value of which is inestimable. Many a youth is deterred from improper conduct by the fear of casting discredit upon his corps and his uniform.

**PUNISHMENTS.**

Corporal punishments are not used in the Cape Fear Academy. Discipline is enforced by reproof, demerit marks proportioned to the degree of offences, privation of recreation and extra tasks. But the chief means relied upon to control the Cadets are their own esprit de corps and feelings of propriety. They are treated as young gentlemen, and they are expected to act as such. The regulations are neither numerous nor burdensome, but strictly enforced. The demerits incurred are recorded in the Demerit Book and on the monthly report. Cadets who exhibit systematic or habitual disregard of the regulations, or neglect of their studies, will be expelled, if no other measure of correction prove effective. Cadets once entering the Military Class shall not withdraw from it until the end of the session, unless on account of ill health, or unless they are expelled from it for insubordination or neglect.

Parents are most earnestly requested to support the school discipline with the home discipline. When Cadets are ordered back on Saturdays for punishment, it is of the utmost importance that the parents make them come back rigidly. The parents are requested also to see that the monthly reports are delivered to them each month, by their sons.

**TERMS.**

Tuition for the entire session, from October to the last Saturday in June:

- In the Preparatory Department, $70.00
- In the Academic Department, $100.00

To be paid strictly as follows: one-half on entering, and one-half on the 15th of February.

No deduction for Cadets withdrawn or expelled, and no extras. Special arrangements with boarders, of whom a limited number can be accommodated.