Washington Collegiate Institute

1913 - 1930s

Main building, 1924

Article by Janet Simpson, Jennifer Lupton, and Lisa Hales
On a pleasant, warm spring day of 1984, several Life on the Pamlico students and faculty advisors were privileged to talk to two former students and a former faculty member of the old Washington Collegiate Institute, which last closed its doors some fifty years ago due to the financial strain of the Great Depression.

The interview was held at the home of the ever-gracious Mrs. Emily Padgett, a former student of the school. Mrs. Padgett, ardent friend and benefactor to Life on the Pamlico, had asked two of her close friends to come to her home to share their remembrances of the school: Mr. Sam Moore, former student of WCI and now retired President of the Bank of Washington, and Mrs. Sam Respess, former teacher at the school.

Mrs. Emily Padgett tells of her school days.

Mrs. Sam Respess
On a pleasant, warm spring day of 1984, several Life on the Puritans students and faculty advisors were privileged to talk to him.

Mr. Sam Moore
The basic facts concerning the school are fascinating. Washington Collegiate Institute was founded October 1, 1913, in Washington Park, now a residential section of Washington on the Pamlico River. The Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church founded the school, thereby imbuing the school with its strongly religious spirit; indeed, many of the teachers were future ministers. One reason for the founding of the school was to provide a quality education to young people who did not have such education available locally. Writing in their book Washington and the Pamlico, Ursula Loy and Pauline Worthy point out that Washington Collegiate Institute was "one of the most highly respected private schools in North Carolina."

Nothing can document local history, though, like the actual words of the people who lived it. And Mrs. Padgett, Mrs. Respess, and Mr. Moore, with their oral histories have given us the mystique of the Washington Collegiate Institute.

Before going into the conversation about WCI, we quote below almost the entire school catalog for 1922-1923. The catalog was provided to us by Mrs. Padgett.
WASHINGTON COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
WASHINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

1922-1923

ANNOUNCEMENTS
1923-1924

1923
QUEEN CITY PRINTING COMPANY
CHARLOTTE, N. C.

BUILDING PROGRAM FOR THE FUTURE
WASHINGTON COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE
CALENDAR

September 18 (Tuesday) ......................... Matriculation Day
September 19 ........................................ School Year Opens
November 29 ........................................ Leach Inter-society Contest
December 14 ...................................... First National Bank Recitation Contest
December 21 to January 8 ....................... Christmas Holidays
January 23-25 ..................................... Mid-Year Examinations
January 28 .......................................... Second Semester Begins
February 22 ........................................ Patten Inter-society Debate
April 17 .............................................. Morris Debate
April 19-21 .......................................... Easter Recess
May 12-14 .......................................... Final Examinations
May 14-15 .......................................... Commencement Exercises

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Grammar School Subjects and Domestic Science

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Secretary to the President

Mrs. E. Frank Ruble
Matron, Girls' Dormitory

Miss Novella McIntire
Music
SCHOOL SONG

On Carolina's eastern border,
Where the waters flow;
There you'll find the dearest College
By the Pamlico.

CHORUS
Washington, Washington,
Load the anthems swell;
Sing, oh sing, of Alma Mater,
All her praises tell.

In the halls and on the campus,
Float the colors bright;
Always calling men and maidens
To stand for truth and right.

While the Pamlico continues
Flowing to the sea,
To our colors and our College
We will loyal be.

"God, the Lord of every nation,
Help of truth and right;
Guard and bless and keep our College
Ever in thy sight."

WASHINGTON COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

WASHINGTON Collegiate Institute is located in Washington Park, Washington, N. C. Founded by the Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the school was first opened to students October 1, 1913. On November 25, it was dedicated by Bishop Theodore S. Henderson and officially recognized as the Conference School of the Blue Ridge-Atlantic Conference. Since that time the needs of an institution of this kind have been felt more and more. The Institute has made every effort possible to meet these needs. Its intention is to encourage character building and scholarship.

The town of Washington is one of the wide-awake, progressive cities of the South. Its location on the Pamlico is healthful and beautiful. The town is easy of access by water and rail. It is reached by the Atlantic Coast Line Railway, the Norfolk-Southern, and the Washington and Vanderene roads. Washington is the trade center of four rich agricultural counties. The people possess a reputation for genuine hospitality characteristic of the best Southern type. The citizens have been cordial, liberal and loyal in their support of the Institute. In fact it was their interest and determination to secure the Institute that brought it into existence.

Through the generosity of some local citizens a tract of land located in Washington Park, consisting of twenty-eight acres, was presented, in 1913, to the Board of Education for the purpose of establishing the school. In 1919 the Board of Trustees purchased an additional tract of fifty acres. In the following year, in order to accommodate the large attendance, they bought, in addition, the Chas. Morton property and rented the dwelling house known as the Old Small Homestead and later the John Woolard house to be used as dormitories. On March 8, 1921, Bishop Frank M. Bristol broke the ground for a new dormitory for girls. This building is completed and has been in use the past year.

During its ten years of history, the Washington Collegiate Institute has made a strong religious influence felt far and wide. There is an insistent and increasing demand for a Greater Washington Collegiate Institute in Eastern North Carolina and it has a splendid opportunity to serve a real need and therefore faces a future of great usefulness. The personnel of the student-body has grown better; and the class of work has shown improvement.

RELIGIOUS INFLUENCE

The Institute, though denominational in its origin and auspices is non-sectarian and stands for the highest ideals of the Christian religion. Every plan which has for its end the moral training and development of the students is fostered and encouraged.
Bible study is held on Wednesday evenings, and Sunday School on Sunday mornings. Epworth League and regular preaching services are conducted on Sunday evenings and a daily Chapel service is held during the week. Attendance at these services is required of all students.

In the town are churches of the M. E., South Presbyterian, Episcopal, Baptist and Christian denominations, all of which extend a cordial and hearty invitation to the students and teachers to attend their services. The pastors of each of these churches visit the school regularly during the school term.

**DISCIPLINE**

Moral and upright living characterizes every true lady and gentleman. We expect every one of our girls to be a true lady and every boy to be a real gentleman, always and everywhere.

Insubordination or disrespect to members of the faculty, or officers of the Institution, will result in immediate punishment, suspension, or expulsion.

Rising bell at 6:00 a.m.
Retiring bell at 10:00 p.m.
Chapel, 10:00 a.m.
Lights out at 10:15 p.m.
Visiting between rooms is permitted only on Friday and Sunday evenings.
Visitors will be allowed upon dormitory floors at stated periods and upon permission from the President or Matron.

The smoking of cigarettes or the use of tobacco in any form is absolutely forbidden in the buildings and upon the campus.

Students will be held responsible for the care of their rooms.

These rules are made for the purpose of benefiting the students and protecting school property, and are not intended to be burdensome. In case there are repeated infractions, due warning will be given the pupil, and the parents, if possible, after which the right of suspension or expulsion is reserved without further explanation or correspondence.

**ATHLETICS**

Great emphasis is placed on the value of athletics in the development of the whole man. Besides the physical value, nothing teaches a stronger lesson of self-control and mental alertness under strain.

The faculty encourages every form of athletics but in no way permits it to become a dominating force in the institution. Every legitimate effort is made to put out strong teams but never at the sacrifice of honor or scholarship. Every member of a team representing the institution must be a bona fide student of the institution at the time of, and at least a month prior to, his participation in any match game.

The past years have been years of success and development. To stimulate interest in one of our organizations known as the Boy's Basketball League of W. C. I., Mr. J. S. Campbell of Washington, N. C., has given a silver loving cup. The name of the pennant winner is inscribed on the cup each year. A similar donation to the Girls' Basketball League has been made by the Harris Hardware Company.

The plans for the coming year are to increase the interest in lawn tennis, to continue the basket-ball leagues, to put out stronger basket-ball and baseball teams and to develop a good volley-ball team.

A dressing room and two shower baths with hot and cold water are provided in the basement of the boys' dormitory. Excellent bathing facilities are also provided in the new dormitory for girls.

**LITERARY SOCIETIES**

There are two well organized Literary Societies—the Pamlicoan for the young women; the Athenian for the young men. Each student upon matriculation becomes a member of one of the societies. Both societies meet on Friday night of each week. Each student is expected to appear on one of these programs at least once every three weeks. Friendly contests, open programs and entertainments are held at various times during the year. Each society is carefully guarded and directed by some member of the faculty. Through these organizations the students are given the opportunity to develop those powers and qualities essential to leadership.

**John A. Patten Prizes**

_**Debating Contest**—The Washington Collegiate Institute is a member of the North Carolina High School Debating Union. According to the constitution of this organization two teams are selected, one debating a visiting team at home, and the other representing the school away from home. If both win they go to Chapel Hill to compete for the Aycock Memorial Cup. To stimulate local interest in this debate, a prize contest is held between the two Literary Societies, $10.00 being awarded to the side presenting the better debate and $5.00 to the other side.
FINANCIAL AID

The Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, through its loan fund, renders a limited amount of financial aid annually to worthy students. Application should be made to the President.

EXEMPTION FROM TUITION

Regularly ordained ministers and children of ordained ministers of any evangelical denomination are exempt from the payment of tuition, but will pay all other regular and special fees.

RECOMMENDATION OF CHARACTER

All students are expected to forward a recommendation of good moral character from some representative citizen of the community where the student lives.

VISITORS

Visitors are always welcome at the Institute. Rooms will be furnished in the dormitory for their entertainment, but arrangements must be made in advance. A nominal charge of twenty-five cents per meal will be made to cover cost of material and service. Students and teachers will obtain meal tickets from the office for their guests. All visitors, while our guests, are under the same regulation as students.

OUTLINE OF COURSES

The Collegiate Department*

Admission to the regular Freshman Class of the collegiate course will be granted on the unit basis. A unit refers to a study satisfactorily completed in a full year of the high school course in recitation periods of at least forty minutes for five periods a week. High school graduates who furnish satisfactory evidence by certificate or examination of the completion of the regular college preparatory work prescribed by the State Department of Public Instruction will be admitted without condition to the Freshman Class. Students who expect to enter this department must make special arrangements in advance.

The following are the requirements for admission to the Classical Course:

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<th>Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>4</td>
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**Elective—4 Units Required**

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<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>1½ or 2 units</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>1½ or 2 units</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Subjects</td>
<td>1½ or 2 units</td>
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*For Admission to the Scientific Course the Following Units are Required

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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latin or German</td>
<td>2 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
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**Elective—3 Units**

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*This department will be opened when there is sufficient demand.
<table>
<thead>
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<td>History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>2 units</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Subjects</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$, 1 or 2 units</td>
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**THE ACADEMY**

**No. 1—Classical Course**

**FIRST YEAR**

1. Arithmetic (Advanced)..........................5 Periods
2. History I (English)............................5 Periods
3. English I (Composition and Literature).....5 Periods
4. Latin I.........................................5 Periods
5. General Science................................5 Periods

**SECOND YEAR**

1. Algebra I........................................5 Periods
2. History II (Ancient to 800 A. D.)............5 Periods
3. English II (Composition and Literature).....5 Periods
4. Latin II.........................................5 Periods
5. Biology.........................................5 Periods

**THIRD YEAR**

1. Algebra II.......................................5 Periods
2. History III (Medieval and Modern)............5 Periods
3. English III (Composition and American Literature)............5 Periods
4. Latin III......................................5 Periods
5. Greek I, French I or German I..................5 Periods

**FOURTH YEAR**

1. Geometry (Plane)..............................5 Periods
2. History IV (American)............................5 Periods
3. English IV (Composition and English Literature).....5 Periods
4. Latin IV.......................................5 Periods
5. Greek II, French II or German II...............5 Periods
New dormitory for girls, 1923

President's home
Our hostess, Mrs. Emily Padgett, began by telling us about her guests, Mr. Sam Moore and Mrs. Sam Respess, who were, like Mrs. Padgett, associated with Washington Collegiate Institute.

Mrs. Padgett: Sam Moore was a student there. He was the president of the Bank of Washington for years and then NCNB. I don't know when you [Mr. Moore] went out there [WCI] or what your years were. Lois taught there. She is now Mrs. Sam Respess. She was Lois Randall, sister of George B. Randall, who was for years a teacher at the school. He taught Latin, French, and German. And he was the athletic director. Well, he left here [Beaufort County] after the school closed and taught at the Boys' College out of Baltimore for the rest of his life. Mr. E. Frank Ruble taught history and math at WCI.

We asked Mrs. Respess if she taught at WCI.

Mrs. Respess: I was assistant teacher there. They called me when a teacher retired to get married or to take another job, and asked me if I'd come and teach out there. I hadn't had any experience in teaching, but I came.

What subjects did you teach?

Mrs. Respess: That year [was] almost the beginning of the school. And they [the administration of the school] made up classes for students who had not finished their term of education that they should have had. And I think most of the subjects I taught were around seventh grade [level], something like that.

I'm a Methodist, and my understanding is that the Methodist bishop had a great deal to do with starting the school. But I didn't have any idea that I would ever be there. See, my brother thought maybe I could handle what they needed the year that the lady [whom Mrs. Respess replaced] stopped.

What year was that?

Mrs. Respess: I honestly am not quite so sure. I forget. It can't possibly be 1917, that far back. But I reckon it is.

Nineteen seventeen, that's when you think it was?

Mrs. Respess: I kind of think it was because--the war, when did the war come into it?

Nineteen seventeen, about then.

Mrs. Padgett: The armistice. The armistice was signed in 19 and 18. And I was eating at the dining room table when it was announced. That's all I know.

Mrs. Respess: It must have been 1917 ... because when the armistice was signed, I was in bed with the flu in Asheville, in my home in Asheville. And it was before that that I was at WCI.

How long were you there, one year?

Mrs. Respess: One year, and then I was out during the war. The time that my brother was in the war I stayed home with my mother that year. I guess he was in the service two years. And when he came back, I came back with him that year. So all together I was there two years.
They made places for people. I mean, students that needed to go. It was planned to take care of the areas that needed an education along the beaches and the mountains. The oceans and the mountains. Isn't that what ya'll heard?

Mrs. Padgett: Yes. A lot of people came from Ocracoke [Island] and Hatteras and the Outer Banks.

Mrs. Respess: And if the Depression hadn't come along, I think it could have done quite well.

When did the school close?

Mrs. Padgett: Nineteen thirty, I've been told.

Mrs. Respess: I don't remember; I married in 1930.

Mr. Moore: I graduated in 1930, and it was one or two years after my graduation. So it was at least '32 or '33.

You graduated in 1930?

Mr. Moore: Yes, sir. Of course that was for high school.

How many years did you go?

Mr. Moore: I went there four years.

Four years?

Mr. Moore: Yes, so this was much later. What you're talking about is 1926.

Could you describe to us what courses you took and how your teachers were?

Mr. Moore: Yes, I recall that you had to have at least 20 units to graduate. Other high schools only required 16 at that time. Does this sound right? These were required: You either had to have four years foreign language or two years foreign language and two years Bible. Am I right about that?

Mrs. Padgett: Well, I had four years Latin and two years French, and that's what I was supposed to take.

Mr. Moore: Did you take Bible? ... Well, maybe Bible wasn't required. But, of course, you had to have four years of science, four years math, history, English, and the other required subjects. Had a very good music department. In fact, Mrs. Respess, your sister-in-law was the music teacher there, Evelyn Eubanks Randall.

Mrs. Padgett: And taught you?

Mr. Moore: That's right.

Mrs. Padgett: She could play the piano, I'll tell you!

Mrs. Respess: She could really play!

Mr. Moore: And what was interesting to me is that there were people there from just about everywhere. Do you remember? This was probably after you. But I remember when I was there, there were two girls there from Montana. And a lot of people from New Jersey and Tennessee.

Mrs. Respess: Tennessee--there were a lot
of people from Tennessee.

Mr. Moore: And the Outer Banks, particularly Ocracoke, Hatteras, Harkers Island--those places. They did not have the facilities then to get to the schools that they have now. Many of them worked their way through school; of course, it was a boarding school.

Did the school have dormitories?

Mr. Moore: Oh, yes!

And eating facilities?

Mrs. Padgett: There was a spacious dining room and kitchen on the lower floor of the Administration Building.

Mrs. Respess: When the attendance was full at the dormitory and the main building, they rented some of the residences that were around. I'm trying to think of the name of the first one.

Mrs. Padgett: I stayed in the Emma, named for Mrs. Emma Fletcher, the President's wife. They called it the Emma, but I don't know who owned it.

Mrs. Respess: Was that the Respess House?

Mrs. Padgett: No, that was the one at the other end of the park.

Mrs. Respess: Yes, that's the first one. And then the next time they rented the Respess Home. Originally wasn't Norton the name? They rented that for the girls' dormitory because they were filling up the main building with the boys, you see, and they had to have a place for the girls. So they rented that.

The Respesses lived there but they had gone to Colorado for their daughter's health.

Mrs. Padgett: That building, which, I think, we called Maynard Hall [named for President Maynard O. Fletcher] was described as having bay windows. The one that we called the dining room--I guess that was used as the dining room--I lived a year in that with seven girls. Had the best time of my life! Seven girls in that one room! We had three dressers across there. We fired the heater. It was one of these open top heaters.

And one night--you know what the discipline was there; Mrs. Ruble knew everything we did--she saw that it was done. Well, her room, her apartment, was just outside our room and one night she, I guess, smelled candy or something wrong. We [had] decided we wanted some candy, so we washed out a wash basin--I hope we did it well enough--and sat it in that hole. It exactly fitted and made our chocolate fudge. So pretty soon we heard a knock on the door, and it was Mrs. Ruble. So we grabbed it off the stove. I guess I did; I don't know who grabbed it. Put a plank across the woodbox, you know, put the fudge down under that plank, and I sat on it--the plank. Mrs. Ruble would always wait for the invitation to come in, you know. She didn't knock and come right in. So we let Mrs. Ruble in, and she didn't see anything wrong. I might have gotten kind of warm--I don't know. She didn't see anything wrong. So she said a few words and went back out. And later we ate our fudge!

When did you finish there, Mrs. Padgett?

Mrs. Padgett: Nineteen twenty-three. I
stayed about seven years there, I think, because they made arrangements for a younger new class. I know I was there at least six years because my brother Jack was five years younger than I was, and he went at the same time. He didn't graduate there; he graduated at Bath because they were put on buses, you know, and they went to Bath before they graduated. Several other WCI students went there also [Bath].

Did they have the 12th grade then, or was it the 11th?

Mr. Moore: The 11th.

And it went down how far?

Mrs. Respess: About the 7th grade. They later started a kindergarten when Washington Park began to increase in population.

Each year the Inter-Society Contest was held between the Athenians and the Pamlicoans and an award of $10 in gold was given by the First National Bank for the best recitation.

My job was to do anything that came up that needed tending to if I could do it. And I coached Emily, an Athenian. They were having a contest, a recitation contest, and she won the big prize!

Mrs. Padgett: Ten dollars in gold!

Is that right!

Mrs. Padgett: My sister won too. She recited "Gypsy Flower Girl" and won on that one year.

Mrs. Respess: They had something going all the time, let me tell you. They had shows, well, about every week it seemed to me they were having something for the faculty to do. Put on a little show of some kind. And they had a good time. They were well-cared for. There were several ministerial students—I don't know how many—but there were several, and some are still doing real well. They were in school. That's why Bible was a subject.

Were there many students who were not boarding but just lived locally?

Mr. Moore: I was for a couple of years. Some of you may remember the buildings. The girls' dormitory hasn't been torn down too long, maybe four or five years. Later it was the private school of Pamlico Academy. Then it was turned into apartment houses for many, many years. And that's where the tennis courts are. And the school owned—what did we decide a while ago?—about 78 acres.

Mrs. Padgett: Twenty-eight acres at first and then 50 acres.

Mr. Moore: A good bit, I'd say! About half, well, maybe not half, but a good bit of Washington Park was owned by the school. All the new section going out on this end [east] was owned by the school, along where the supermarket is along the road on both sides.

What was a typical class like there? Today you hear so much about the problems with discipline.

Mr. Moore: There was very strict discipline, very strict. As we were talking about a
while ago, there was chapel everyday. Some faculty member had charge of this; it was just like a church service during the thirty-five to forty minute class period. That was one of the requirements, to go to chapel everyday.

Mrs. Padgett told us about an example of the strict discipline, about an episode when some of the students tried to take advantage of the faculty's being off campus.

Dorm scenes

Boys' basketball team, 1923-24

Faculty play, "Son John," 1924
Mrs. Padgett: Do you remember one day—no, you [Mr. Moore] were not there—when they, the faculty, went to Washington one night to some sort of meeting? This was when I was at the "Emma" dormitory. There were about a dozen or more pretty good students. They couldn't [expell] them all, so they made them stand up in chapel one day and ask for another chance to stay because they were going to expell them. They couldn't, you know. That was the plan—to scare them into thinking that. They were so strict with the discipline; that's what they [the students] thought.

The faculty had left?

Mrs. Padgett: To attend a meeting in
Washington, so they left. And these students—
I don't know how or who—got word that all
the faculty was missing. It was a beautiful
moonlight night, so they decided to go down
to the river edge. So that's what they did!
[Everybody laughs.] So it was just before
time for the faculty to get back, and every-
thing was quiet. I don't know how they
[faculty] found out about it, but they did.
So they got up in chapel, and everybody asked
for another chance, but most of them sat
down after asking for another chance to do the
same thing again. That's what they said.
I was crying, and Gertrude was laughing. My
sister was laughing, and I was crying because
she had disgraced us. That discipline, I
mean it really stood out! People stood in
fear of it because it was a pretty serious thing.

Mr. Moore: These girls [Life interviewers]
would probably be interested talking about
discipline. Later when the student body
had 100 to 150 girls in the dorm, maybe once
a week they were allowed to go up the street,
but they marched up the street.

Was that right?

Mrs. Padgett: Yes, sirrie!

Mr. Moore: And they separated to do their
shopping in the store, and then they were supposed
to be back at a certain place at a certain
time.

Mrs. Padgett: This is true.

Mrs. Respess: That [chaperoning the
girls] was one of my duties, too.

Is that right, to chaperon the girls?
Mrs. Respess: Yes, and study hall. I did that a lot. I was just anything they needed me for, if I could do it.

Did you have to wear any sort of uniform, or did they have a dress code?

Mrs. Padgett: Oh, thank you, oh, yes! I had forgotten. We didn't have a uniform, but our dresses one year—I don't know how long it lasted—but I know one year we were supposed to have our dresses about along to there, anyway, below the calf. Mrs. Ruble, the matron, would come around every morning and measure your skirt to see about the length. And we had these little devices, a little trick of having elastic tied around our waist and having skirts separate so we could put them up when she wasn't going to see us or if somebody wasn't going to report it. We would pull our skirts up and tuck them under the elastic and pull the elastic when we thought we were going to get caught. We pulled the elastic to make the skirt go down.

What was the official connection with the Methodist Church to the school. Was it their school?

Mrs. Respess: I don't think they taught or leaned to any denomination, but it was organized and started by the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Did the funding for the school come from the church, or did it come from tuition or what?

Mrs. Respess: It came from the conference, the students, and other donations. I really don't know how that worked.

But the church did contribute some money to it?

Mrs. Respess: Yes.

Did you say you worked with the girls as a coach?

Mrs. Respess: My brother did.

Your brother was a coach?

Mrs. Respess: Yes, he was a coach. He coached everything. It was a small school, so he had tennis, basketball for the girls and boys. That's how I met my husband, on the tennis court.

At the school there?

Mrs. Respess: Yes.

Mrs. Padgett: Talking about the discipline, they had it in the athletic program as well as everywhere else.

Mrs. Respess: Yes.

Mrs. Padgett: I remember—I don't remember who the boy was; maybe Sam has heard this story—about this boy who was playing basketball and he [Mr. Randall] knew the boy was chewing tobacco, so he kept talking to him and talking to him until he finally swallowed his chewing tobacco. Who was it, Sam?

Mr. Moore: I just do not know. I don't think I've heard it. I think that there was a more seemly crowd there when I was a graduate there than when you were.

Mrs. Padgett: I thought the world was
going to the dogs after I left.

Mr. Moore: No, I was just teasing. I know stories that just can't be told!

Was language required of everybody?

Mrs. Padgett: Yes, my sister didn't graduate because she didn't bother to take her Latin. She didn't bother to learn Latin; she didn't like it. So we sent her to Chapel Hill one summer. She took a nursing course. The next summer she took a campus course. She never did get a diploma. She lacked two years of Latin or a year of Latin.

Where did most of the students, when they graduated, go to college? All over the country? East Carolina?

Mr. Moore: Of course, back then East Carolina was a teacher's training school—ECTC. I know, I had a couple of older sisters, and that's where they went.

Did many of them go to schools that are popular today like State and Carolina and Duke?

Mrs. Padgett: A lot of them went to Duke. Hannis Latham, I know he went to Duke.

Mrs. Respess: Willie Eubanks was a graduate. He graduated at WCI and then at Chapel Hill. He was in the legislature until he died.

Finally, Mrs. Respess remembered that WCI would try to make a place for everyone.

Mrs. Respess: I remember one good thing was that they would make a place for anyone that needed to go to school. They would find a way to take them. Even tried one boy who was so bad, it was just impossible. He couldn't get along in the city schools. He stayed outside all the time. They just told him to settle down.

After our conversation with Mrs. Padgett, Mrs. Respess, and Mr. Moore, Mrs. Padgett served all some delicious cake and coffee. Our thanks to Mrs. Padgett were inadequate for all that she has done for us and for Life on the Pamlico. Without people like Mrs. Padgett who remember and who care about the local history of the Pamlico River and Sound area, that history would be lost.