

During the year 1843 the question of educating the deaf mutes of the State was agitated. In the Summer of that year, Mr. W. D. Cooke had some correspondence with Governor Morehead on the subject; the Governor entered heartily in the work, and at the suggestion of the Governor, Mr. Cooke, in company with a deaf mute young man made a tour through several of the counties of the State, giving exhibitions of the manner of teaching this class of our unfortunate citizens. Mr. Cooke made it convenient to be in Raleigh at the session of the General Assembly of 1844-45, and make an exhibition before the members, of the mode of teaching the deaf mutes. The effect was all that could be desired. Gov. Morehead urged upon the Legislature the necessity of such an institution in this State, in a special message a few days before the expiration of his term of office. His successor, Gov. Graham, pressed the same measure before the Legislature. Through the earnest efforts at this time the Legislature was prevailed upon to adopt the following bill:

"An act to provide for the education and maintenance of poor and indigent deaf mutes and blind persons in this State."

This bill appropriated \$5,000 annually and provides for the Literary Board to hire teachers and open schools, or placing them in institutions in other States.

The Literary Board taking the matter under consideration, decided to start a school, and a building was secured on Hillsboro Street, on the site now occupied by the "Exchange Hotel," and the school opened on May 1, 1845, with seven pupils, during the first term the number was increased to seventeen, and to 26 during the second term.

The experiment having met with such success, it was the universal opinion of all that the work should be enlarged and the State to erect the necessary building specially adapted for the prosecution of the work on a grander scale. Such an endorsement was given the infant enterprise by the State Officers and philan-

thropists in the State, that at the session of 1846-47 the following became a law:

"An act to provide suitable buildings for the comfortable accommodation of deaf mutes and blind persons of the State." And provides that any unexpired balance of the annual appropriation made by the Legislature for educating the deaf mutes and blind shall be used in building and \$5,000 from the Literary Fund."

The appropriation for "suitable buildings" being now available, together with the site (Caswell Square) work was immediately begun, and on the 14th day of April, 1848, the corner-stone was laid with imposing ceremonies by the Grand Lodge of Masoms, under the direction of William F. Collins, M. W. G. M., after which an address was delivered by Rev. Samuel S. Bryant, of New Berne, who spoke of the philanthropic character of the work and the honor reflected upon the movers of the grand undertaking of educating the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind of the State.

The main building is 60x36, with two wings 38x32 extending at right angles from the main building, with four stories, including the basement, which is used for dining room, kitchen and store rooms, etc. The contract with the builders for "suitable buildings," are to be found in the Legislative documents for 1848-49.

The management of the Institution still remaining under the control of the Literary Board, and the work having reached such proportions requiring too much of the time of the Literary Board, it was deemed wise for a Board of Directors to be placed over the Institution, therefore at the session of 1848 the following law was enacted:

"An act to establish a Board of Directors for the Deaf and Dumb Institute in this State." Repeals the law in reference to Literary Board and provides for the election of a Board of Directors and other officers.

The demand for admission into the Institution having increased so rapidly, it was found that to accommodate this class of our citizens, it was necessary to increase the fund for the maintenance of the Institution.

of the Institution chapter 5, laws of 1848-49 was enacted as follows:

"An act to provide more effectually for ~~X~~ the education of the deaf mutes within this State. County Courts to levy and collect \$75 annually for four (4) years for each indigent deaf mute in the county, not to exceed five at one time, and does not apply to those whose parents are able to defray the expenses."

In 1850-51 an act to amend the act of 1848-49, was enacted, which provided for the admission of private pupils at a cost not to exceed \$13 per month, also for filling vacancies on the Board of Directors by the Governor.

In 1852 an act to amend the several acts heretofore enacted relative to Deaf and Dumb and the Blind was adopted by the Legislature, and providing for extending county tax levy from "4 years" to "7 years", ~~XX~~ establishing its corporate title, and appropriating \$8,000 per year for the maintenance of the Institution.

The Institution continued under the management of a Board of Directors until 1870-71, when the Board of Directors was abolished and a Board of Trustees established, vacancies to be filled by the Governor.

Mr. W. D. Cooke, who may be justly termed the father of the Institution, remained Principal until 1869, when Dr. Wiley J. Palmer was elected his successor, who held the position until the latter part of 1870, when, under Republican rule, John Nichols became Principal, but who remained only a short time when he was displaced by the election of Mr. S. F. Tomlinson, who in turn was ousted and John Nichols again became principal, who remained in office until 1877, when the Democratic party having gained possession of the State, and Mr. H. A. Gudger was placed in charge, where he remained until 1883, and then resigned and the present very efficient Principal, Mr. W. J. Young was elected to fill the vacancy, and his administration has not only been satisfactory to the Board of Trustees, but with every one who has been interested in the success of

this greatest of our States charities. The amount of good accomplished and the homes that have been made brighter and happier by the work done at the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind cannot be measured in dollars and cents, Eternity alone will reveal to us the good done, as we are gathered to that mansion not made with hands eternal in the heavens.

The following, taken from the report of the President for the two years ending November 30, 1892, shows the number of pupils at the White and Colored Institutions for that period:

Deaf Mutes (males)	35
Deaf Mutes (females)	86
Blind Males,	72
Blind Females,	<u>56</u>
Total whites,	299

Colored Department:

Deaf Mutes (males)	29
Deaf Mutes (females)	25
Blind Males,	21
Blind Females,	<u>15</u>
	90
Number of new pupils admitted,	60
Number of pupils discharged,	55