

The New Bern Academy. ✓

New Bern is a town in Eastern North Carolina. At one time it was the home of Gov. Tryon and therefore the seat of Government for the Colony.

In Dec. 1763 one Mr. Farquharson came to New Bern and, "on the first of January (1764) he opened a school in this town and immediately got as many scholars as he could instruct." He seems to have been one of the first really successful teachers in the Colony.

He was at the head of this school until 1772 when he had some trouble with the Trustees and was dismissed.

While the school is classified as a "private and church" school it was not without state influence and support. In fact it seems to have been a combination of a private enterprise, a church institution and a public school.

Mr. Farquharson started it as a private business and the Assembly of 1764 authorized that a school building be erected and church property by "private

subscriptions" The building was completed by 1766. A tax on rum was imposed to help defray the expenses of the School. "In return for this money the teacher admitted ten poor Children free of tuition, upon the advice of the trustees." The master was to be licensed by the Governor.

As a Church institution we find it under the influence of the Society for Propagating the Gospel. In 1765 we find the people of New Bern petitioning Gov. Tryon to get the Society to give Mr. Faulkner a salary for teaching their Children useful Knowledge and the principles of the Church of England." The Society did this giving Mr. Faulkner ten pounds that year and fifteen next. The Master was to be a member of the Church of England.

The preamble to the act of the Assembly is significant. It sets forth the the ideas at the bottom of this School enterprise. It is in part as follows: "Whereas, a number of well disposed persons, taking into Consideration

The great necessity of having a school established, whereby the rising generation may be brought up and instructed in the principles of the Christian Religion and fitted for the several offices and purposes of life, have, at a great expense, erected and built, in the town of New Bern, a Conventual house for the purpose aforesaid; and being desirous that the same may be established by law on a permanent footing, so as to answer the good purposes of the said persons intended, therefore &c. They authorized the election of trustees to whom a Charter should be granted.

The school seems to have prospered and also to have made itself felt in the Community. The first board of Trustees was dominated by Rev. Jas. Reed and the Church, but when the new board came in they seem to have "cut themselves loose from the Church's jurisdiction" tho' the institution still felt the Church influence.