Atlantic Christian College, Wilson, N.C., 1910. Image courtesy of ECU Digital Collections. Barton College [4], originally called Atlantic Christian College, dates to 1886, when the Committee on Education for the Disciples of Christ [5] expressed a desire to establish a collegiate institute in North Carolina. Predecessors to Atlantic Christian College included Carolina Christian Institute (Beaufort County [6]) and Carolina Christian College (Pitt County [7]). In 1901 the North Carolina Christian Missionary Convention (Disciples of Christ) acquired Kinsey Seminary [8] in Wilson [9], which had opened in 1897 but closed four years later. In 1902 Atlantic Christian College was incorporated by the state of North Carolina and opened in September of that year with 107 students (20 men, 87 women) and seven faculty. The following year Carolina Christian College [2] in Ayden closed, and the land and buildings were sold. Among the first instructors at Atlantic Christian was Abdullah Ben Kori, a Syrian linguist who supervised the Language Department. Atlantic Christian inaugurated a four-year curriculum in 1923 and was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools [10] in 1953.


Barton College's presidents since its inception have included James Caswell Coggins (1902-4), namesake of the Coggins Cup for academic achievement; John James Harper (1904-8), who gave Atlantic Christian College its name and was honored, along with other members of his family, with the dedication of Harper Hall in 1950; and Howard Stevens Hilley (1920-49), a Rhodes scholar and Oxford graduate who, during his lengthy tenure, witnessed the construction of the Hardy Alumni Hall (1935), the gymnasium (1935-39), and Howard Chapel [13] (1939).

References:

**Additional Resources:**

Barton College: [http://www.barton.edu](http://www.barton.edu) [4]


Barton College Yearbooks: [https://lib.digitalnc.org/search?ln=en&p=691:%22Barton+College%22%20AND%20655:%22Yearbooks%22&sf=year&so=a](https://lib.digitalnc.org/search?ln=en&p=691:%22Barton+College%22%20AND%20655:%22Yearbooks%22&sf=year&so=a) [15]

**Image Credit:**


Barton College. Image courtesy of CFNC. Available from [https://www1.cfnc.org/Plan/For_College/Explore_Postsecondary_Schools/School_Profile/School_Profile.aspx?id=YDcwrXAP2BPAXDjjUjufZT6lNhFe5gXAP3DPAXXAP3DPAX](https://www1.cfnc.org/Plan/For_College/Explore_Postsecondary_Schools/School_Profile/School_Profile.aspx?id=YDcwrXAP2BPAXDjjUjufZT6lNhFe5gXAP3DPAXXAP3DPAX) (accessed November 15, 2012).

**Subjects:**

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- Gilded Age (1876-1900) [17]
- Religion [18]
- Universities and colleges [19]

**Authors:**

- Martin, James I., Sr. [20]

**Origin - location:**

- Beaufort County [21]
- Pitt County [22]
- Wilson County [23]

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**Links**

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[20] [https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/martin-james-i-sr](https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/martin-james-i-sr)
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