

Eureka College ^[1]

Eureka College

by Michael R. Pelt, 2006



Image courtesy of Mount Olive College.

^[2]**Eureka College** ^[3] was established by the North Carolina **Free Will Baptists** ^[4] in 1898 as the **Free Will Baptist Theological College** ^[2] in **Pitt County** ^[5]. A building large enough to accommodate the school was erected on Lee Street in Ayden. The school enrolled pupils in a primary department and offered several curricula for students in the "higher branches"—including a theological department for the training of future ministers. The institution was coeducational from the beginning and educated hundreds of students between 1898 and 1925. In addition to the courses of study offered, there was an emphasis on spiritual and moral instruction and on character development.

By 1918 enrollment at the school was declining, in part because of the rapid growth of high schools in rural eastern North Carolina, which led to the establishment of a college curriculum by 1925. In 1926 the board gave a new name to the institution—Eureka College. Enrollment remained low, however, and continuing economic troubles caused it to close in 1931.

Reference:

Michael R. Pelt, *A History of Original Free Will Baptists* ^[2] (1996).

Additional Resources:

Mount Olive College, Eureka College: <http://www.moc.edu/index.php/eureka> ^[3]

The Free Will Baptist, 1926: http://www.moc.edu/images/uploads/library_files/FreeWillBaptist1926%282%29.pdf ^[6]

Former College, NC Highway Historical Marker F-58: <https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?MarkerId=F-58> ^[7]

Free Will Baptist Seminary, Free Will Baptist Press: <http://www.fwbpress.com/tfwb/august-2011/free-will-baptist-seminary-ayden/page/0/1> ^[8]

Howard Kester papers, 1923-1972, UNC Libraries: <http://search.lib.unc.edu/search?R=UNCb4525962> ^[9]

Image Credit:

Image courtesy of Mount Olive College. Available from <http://www.moc.edu/index.php/aydenseminary> ^[2] (accessed November 14, 2012)

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Authors:

[Pelt, Michael R.](#) ^[14]

Origin - location:

Pitt County ^[15]

From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.^[16]

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