



# CONTENTS

I.	Incorporation Papers .....	3
II.	Introduction .....	4
III.	Incorporators	
	Rev. Jacob Brinton Smith .....	5
	Bishop Thomas Atkinson .....	6
	Dr. Kemp P. Battle .....	7
	Rev. Joseph B. Cheshire, Sr. ....	8
	Gen. William R. Cox .....	9
	Dr. Armand J. DeRosset .....	10
	Rev. Edward M. Forbes .....	11
	Rev. Dr. Richard S. Mason .....	12
	Rev. Aldert Smedes .....	13
	Richard H. Smith .....	14
	John Wilkes .....	15

# STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

To all to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS, *Thomas Atkinson, A. L. Mason, P. Branton Smith, P. Robert Edulwise, Albert Smiley, E. M. Stokes, A. P. De Coust, Clark & H. Smith, M. C. Cox, John Miller, W. M. P. Cottle*, of the County of \_\_\_\_\_ and State aforesaid,

in accordance with the law, (as prescribed in sections fourteen and fifteen of chapter twenty-six of the Revised Code,) have made application to be created and constituted a body politic and corporate, to be known as the *Saint Augustine Normal School and Collegiate Institute*

for the purpose of *educating teachers for the colored people of the State of North Carolina and elsewhere in the United States*

NOW, THEREFORE, KNOW YE, that I, *Jonathan Worth*, Governor of said State, by virtue of the power and authority in me vested by the Constitution and laws of the State, do issue these, my LETTERS PATENT to the said *Thomas Atkinson, A. L. Mason, P. Branton Smith, P. Robert Edulwise, Albert Smiley, E. M. Stokes, A. P. De Coust, Clark & H. Smith, M. C. Cox, John Miller and W. M. P. Cottle* hereby creating and constituting them and their successors a body politic and corporate under the name and style of the *Saint Augustine Normal School and Collegiate Institute*

under which name they may have succession and a common seal, sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, in any Court of Record, or before any Justice of the Peace in this State, contract and be contracted with, acquire, hold and dispose of personal property for the benefit of the said corporation, and such real estate as may be requisite for the convenient transaction of its business, to have power to pass such by-laws and regulations as may be necessary for its government, which may not be inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the State and of the United States, and to have all other powers usual and necessary to such corporations; for the purposes hereinbefore set forth:

UPON THE CONDITION, however, that the said corporation shall exist only for the term of *Twenty* years from the date hereof; and the FURTHER CONDITION that the capital stock of the same shall not exceed the sum of \_\_\_\_\_

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, HIS EXCELLENCY, *Jonathan Worth*, our Governor, Captain-General, and Commander-in-Chief, has hereto set his hand, and caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed.

Done at the City of Raleigh, this the *19th* day of *July* in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty *seven*, and in the *seventy* second of our independence.

*Jonathan Worth*

BY THE GOVERNOR:

*Wm. H. Cayley*  
Private Secretary.

## INTRODUCTION

The introductory remarks in a speech given in 1920 captures the singular moment in time when Saint Augustine's School was established in 1867. Each of the Founders possessed unique skills and attitudes for the education of "colored" people in North Carolina and the South:

### THE NEGRO IN NORTH CAROLINA AND THE SOUTH

#### His Fifty-five Years of Freedom and What He Has Done

(Commencement Address at St. Augustine's School, Raleigh, N. C.,  
May 26, 1920, by Chief Justice Walter Clark, of North Carolina)

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Faculty, and Board of Trustees and Friends:*

At the close of the great Civil War the colored people were like those lost at sea, without chart or compass by which to steer their way. There were nearly 4,000,000 throughout the south, without education, without property, without experience, with an uncharted and unknowable future before them. In this time of stress and uncertainty there were broad-minded men in the south who understood the situation and felt that the first need of the colored people was education. Religious instruction you already had. Your labor could command a support, but there was need of education that you might walk understandingly. This institution is a foundation created in 1867 by an historic church, and the Board of Trustees with which this institution was organized was a noble body of men with a broad outlook. They were Kemp P. Battle, afterwards president of our State University and State Treasurer, Gen. William R. Cox, a gallant soldier of the Confederacy, later a member of Congress from this district, and Secretary of the United States Senate, both of whom have but recently passed from among us, full of years and of honors; then there was Bishop Atkinson of this Diocese, of loved and honored memory; Rev. Dr. Mason, the Rector of Christ Church; Rev. Dr. Joseph B. Cheshire, Rector of Calvary Church at Tarboro, N. C., and father of the beloved Bishop of this Diocese; Rev. Dr. Aldert Smedes, founder and Rector of St. Mary's School; the Rev. Mr. Forbes of New Bern and Beaufort; Dr. A. J. DeRossett, an honored layman in Wilmington; and Richard H. Smith, a wealthy planter, and formerly a large slave owner, of Halifax. These men saw well into the future and did that which was right and their works do follow them. Among the many acts which they did that were of service to their State there was probably none in their lives which in the long course of the years will be of more enduring benefit to their State and its people than that which they did here. They builded wiser than they knew.

*The Negro in North Carolina and the South. His Fifty-five Years of Freedom and What He Has Done. Commencement Address at St. Augustine's School, Raleigh, N. C., May 26, 1920, by Chief Justice Walter Clark, of North Carolina. Walter Clark, 8 p. Raleigh, N. C.: [St. Augustine's School?], 1920. Call number Cp326 C59n c 2 (North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill). Appears in *St. Augustine's Record*, Vol. XXV, No. 5, 1920.*



**Rev. J. Brinton Smith  
( 1822 - 1872 )**

The Reverend Jacob Brinton Smith, D.D., was ordained Deacon on December 25, 1845, by The Right Reverend Bosworth Smith, Bishop of Kentucky, who was the presiding Bishop from 1865 to 1884. One year later, Dr. J. Brinton Smith was ordained to the priesthood in St. Luke's, Georgetown. He served as rector of St. Luke's Church in Seaford, Delaware, as well as at other churches in the diocese. He also served as rector of St. James Church in Philadelphia for one year.

In 1867, The Reverend J. Brinton Smith became one of the incorporators of Saint Augustine's Normal School and Collegiate Institute, which he helped to establish. He assumed the position as the first principal, serving from 1868 - 1872.

As preparations for the opening of Saint Augustine's were made, announcements were carried in the *Tri-Weekly Standard*, a Raleigh newspaper. Printed below is a copy of a notice that appeared in the classified advertisements:

**The Normal School for the State of North Carolina designed for the Education of Teachers for the Freedmen will be opened in the Howard School House, on the Fair Ground on Monday next, January 13th, at 9 o'clock A.M. Pupils admitted any time on satisfactory examination. Persons at a distance wishing either to become pupils in this school, or to obtain more particular information concerning it, will address the undersigned.**

**J. Brinton Smith, D.D., Principal**



**Bishop Thomas Atkinson  
( 1807 - 1881 )**

Thomas Atkinson was born on his father's plantation and educated in local schools. He then graduated with honors from Hampden-Sydney College in 1825. Atkinson was licensed to practice law in 1828, a vocation he pursued successfully for eight years. In 1863, Atkinson decided to enter the ministry. Ordained a deacon, he served one year as assistant rector of Christ Church, Norfolk. Upon his advancement to the priesthood, he became rector of St. Paul's, Norfolk. During the next sixteen years, he served successfully as rector of St. Paul's, Norfolk (1837-39); St. Paul's, Lynchburg (1839-43); St. Peters, Baltimore (1843-50); and Grace Church, Baltimore (1850-53). In 1853, he was elected bishop of North Carolina, following a sharply divided North Carolina diocesan convention. In October, Atkinson was consecrated at the General Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in New York and remained North Carolina's Episcopal bishop for twenty-eight turbulent years.

Atkinson promoted education by founding a school for boys in Raleigh and the Ravenscroft School in Asheville. He urged the religious instruction of slaves throughout the state. He argued effectively against using theories of Negro racial inferiority as a basis for defending slavery. At the conclusion of the Civil War, he became one of the only two southern bishops to attend the Philadelphia general convention in October 1865, and to participate in the plan for reunification of the church. Soon thereafter, Atkinson announced his intention to make North Carolina a model for dealing with the problem of freed blacks. In 1866 he placed the operation of black Episcopal churches fully in the hands of black clergymen. Two years later he led the move to open the Episcopal School for Blacks near Raleigh that eventually became Saint Augustine's University.

*Sources:*

Fise, Larry Edward. "Thomas Atkinson (6 Aug. 1807 - 4 Jan. 1881)." In *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, edited by William S. Powell. University of North Carolina Press, 1996. <http://ncpedia.org/biography/atkinson-thomas>  
Image courtesy of the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library



**Dr. Kemp Plummer Battle  
( 1831 - 1919 )**

Kemp Plummer Battle, lawyer, railroad president, university president, educator, and historian, was born in Louisburg. Battle received his early training in private schools in Louisburg, Raleigh, and Chapel Hill. He entered The University of North Carolina as a freshman in 1845 and was graduated with first honors as valedictorian of his class in 1849. During 1849–50 he served as tutor of Latin in the university, and for the following four years he was tutor of mathematics, meanwhile studying law with his father. He was admitted to the bar in 1854 and entered the practice of law in Raleigh.

Dr. Kemp Plummer Battle led a long life of devoted and eminent service in Church and State. He was an outstanding business leader, public servant, and historian for Raleigh and the state of North Carolina. Battle was especially active in the restoration of Raleigh after the Civil War.

From 1854-1876, Battle was an active member and vestry member at Christ Church, which was built in 1853. In 1857, he was named a director of the re-chartered Bank of North Carolina. About the same time, he was appointed a director of the State Asylum for the Insane and a member of the executive committee.

In 1867, at the request of Dr. Brinton Smith, Battle accepted the office of treasurer without salary for the newly formed Saint Augustine Normal School and Collegiate Institute, now known as Saint Augustine's University.

*Sources:*

Gass, W. Conard. "Battle, Kemp Plummer (19 Dec. 1831 – 4 Feb. 1919)." In *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, edited by William S. Powell. University of North Carolina Press, 1996. <http://ncpedia.org/biography/battle-kemp-plummer>  
Fatman, George Hackney. "Kemp P. Battle Nomination to Raleigh Hall of Fame." *TheBattleBook.com*. Last modified January 23, 2011. [http://www.thebattlebook.com/KempPBattle\\_Nomination\\_to\\_RaleighHallOfFame.pdf](http://www.thebattlebook.com/KempPBattle_Nomination_to_RaleighHallOfFame.pdf)  
Images courtesy of the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library.



**Rev. Joseph B. Cheshire, Sr.  
( 1814 - 1899 )**

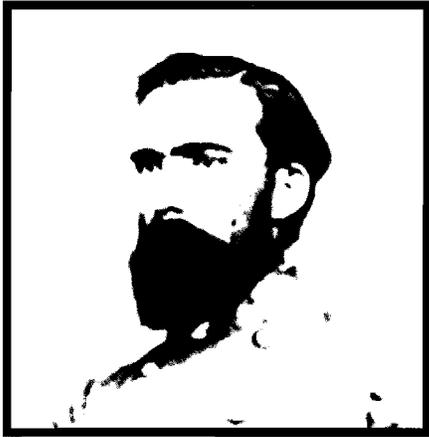
The Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire had been baptizing, marrying, and burying people in Tarboro since 1842. A native of Edenton, he studied law in Raleigh. He was ordained in Christ Church in Raleigh in 1840. The next year he began ministering in Scotland Neck and helped establish Trinity Church, serving as rector for 25 years. He became the rector of Calvary Episcopal Church in Tarboro in 1842, and served both churches until he resigned from Trinity in 1869. A strong interest in botany led to his beautifying the grounds around Calvary with unusual plants not native to the area.

During the Civil War, he ministered to the wounded at the hospital and held funerals for those that didn't survive. He also financed the printing of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Reverend Cheshire conducted services for black parishioners each Sunday. His son remembered that before and during the war, African Americans were welcomed at the regular morning services, but had to sit in the balcony. During the afternoon services, blacks sat in the regular pews and any whites who attended had to sit in the balcony. Cheshire supported the 1867 development of Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, a private Episcopal school to train black ministers and teachers. He also helped establish St. Luke's as the first African-American parish in the Diocese of North Carolina.

*Sources:*

Fleming, Monika S. *Edgecombe County: Along the Tar River*. Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2003.  
Image courtesy of the Calvary Episcopal Church, Tarboro, North Carolina.



**Gen. William Ruffin Cox  
( 1832 - 1919 )**

William Ruffin Cox was born in Scotland Neck. Cox graduated from Franklin College in 1851 and from Lebanon College Law School in 1853. He was admitted to the bar the same year, and practiced law in Nashville, Tennessee, until 1857, when he returned to North Carolina. Cox moved to Raleigh in 1859. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he was appointed major of the 2<sup>nd</sup> North Carolina Infantry. He spent the next four years in command of Confederate troops in Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

Cox was officially promoted to colonel in April 1863, after taking command of the regiment after the Battle of Fredericksburg. His service brought high praise and commendation from his superior officers, and Cox was promoted to the rank of brigadier general on May 31, 1864. In April 1865, Cox's Brigade had the distinction of serving in the last infantry action of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse.

After the war, Cox returned to Raleigh and enjoyed a long career in public service. Over the next decade, he served a variety of local duties, including solicitor, judge of Superior Court, and chairman of the Democratic Party in North Carolina. Cox was then elected to the U.S. Congress and served three terms between March 1881 and March 1887. From 1893 to 1900 he served as Secretary of the U.S. Senate. Cox retired to his plantation at Penelo in Edgecombe County in 1900. He was a grand master in the Masonic Order and served on councils of the Protestant Episcopal Church, the executive committee of the State Agricultural Society, and as chairman of the committee printing the North Carolina Journal of Education. Cox died at the age of 88, at Westbrook Sanatorium in Richmond, Virginia, on December 26, 1919.

*Sources:*

North Carolina Historical Marker Program. "E-70 William R. Cox." North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. Last modified 2009. [http://www.nemarkers.com/print\\_marker.aspx?id=E-70](http://www.nemarkers.com/print_marker.aspx?id=E-70).

Image courtesy of the North Carolina Historical Marker Program website



**Dr. Armand John DeRosset III**  
**( 1807 - 1897 )**

Armand John DeRosset III was (a bit confusingly) known as "DeRosset Jr." until his father's death. After graduating from the University of North Carolina at the age of 17, "Junior" wrote in a memoir that he longed to go to West Point, but was opposed by his father. Instead, he entered the Medical College of South Carolina in 1826 and later transferred to the University of Pennsylvania, where he earned his M.D. in 1828.

DeRosset III, however, wrote that he found medicine "quite distasteful" (although he liked surgery) and abandoned the practice after a few years. Instead, he ran a plantation in Brunswick County for a few years, and entered into a partnership with Platt K. Dickinson to run the Phoenix Mill lumber business in the 1830s. In 1839, with John Potts Brown, he launched a commission merchant and shipping business that prospered until the Civil War, even opening a New York branch.

He also invested in the Wilmington & Weldon railroad and was a director for many years. He later wrote that among his most satisfying accomplishments was serving as the railroad's agent in Britain, exchanging bonds to buy iron rails for the line's construction.

DeRosset III also was a Wilmington town commissioner. He was an original trustee and first president of Oakdale Cemetery; by a sad coincidence, his daughter Annie DeRosset (1848-1855) became the first person buried at Oakdale. According to biographer Mary Ellen Gadski, he held every post open to a layman in the Episcopal church, serving as a vestryman and senior warden at St. James Church and as treasurer of the North Carolina diocese.

*Sources:*

Carver, Wayne. "Dr. Armand John DeRosset, Jr." FindAGrave.com. Last modified January 15, 2003. <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=7084857>

Steelman, Ben. "Members of Prominent DeRosset Family Still Visit Port City, MyReporter Finds" *Star-News Online*, October 18, 2011. <http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20111018/ARTICLES/111019686?p=1&tc=pg>

Image courtesy of the North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Library.



**Rev. Edward McCartney Forbes  
( 1811 - 1893 )**

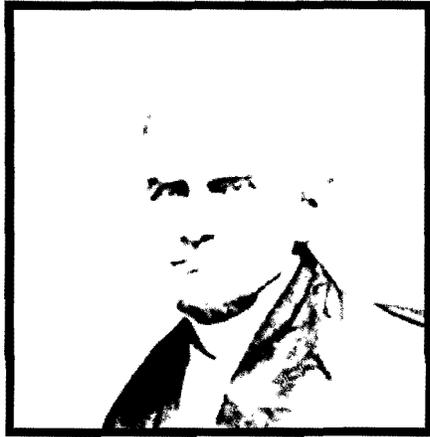
On May 8, 1836, Mr. Forbes was ordained a priest in Christ Church, New Bern. After the Civil War, he became the rector of Christ Church, and from 1866 through 1877 held the pastorate. His term was the third longest service of all the local ministers. Recognized as exceptionally well informed on the Bible, he was the author of an oral catechism.

Through his entire career he went about doing good. Industrious and consecrated, he was one of the most beloved of all the ministers of his time. Though poor in material things and generous to the needy, he was thrifty and economical, so left a considerable estate. Rev. Forbes willed a substantial part of his estate to a fund for the education of Negroes.

At the diocesan convention, he announced that all the colored communications had been transferred to St. Cyprian's Church with the Rev. H.A. Skinner in charge as their rector. Two years after the start of this colored church, 102 members were reported. Previously, most of the Episcopal ministers in North Carolina had given much time to work among African Americans, and many had belonged to Christ Church. The first African Episcopal congregation in North Carolina had been formed at Fayetteville in 1832 under a white rector. The results of Forbes' work were also evident in Tarboro, when in 1868 he reported 136 communicants and 49 baptisms. Throughout his entire career Mr. Forbes was kind and helpful to young ministers and ministry students.

*Sources:*

Halliburton, Cecil D. *A History of Saint Augustine's College* Raleigh, N.C.: Edwards and Broughton Co., 1937.  
Image courtesy of MilitaryHistoryPhotos.com



**Rev. Dr. Richard S. Mason  
( 1795 - 1874 )**

Rev. Richard Sharp Mason, D.D., was born on the Island of Barbados. He was brought to this country when quite young by his parents and educated in Philadelphia. He was admitted by Bishop White in 1817 as deacon of the Episcopal Church, and became rector of Christ Church, New Bern. In 1820 he was received into the order of priest by Bishop Moore (Rich'd Channing) in St. Paul's Church, Edenton. Dr. Mason remained some ten years in New Bern, a faithful, active pastor, and an earnest, self-denying missionary; for the church had then scarcely a foothold in the diocese beyond the limits of New Bern, Wilmington and Fayetteville; to this Dr. Mason rejoiced to minister.

In 1828 he was elected president of Geneva, now Hobart, College, New York, which he exchanged in 1835 for the presidency of Newark College, in Delaware. There he trained many pupils who became distinguished in after life; he remained for five years, when he became the rector of Christ's Church, at Raleigh. He was a long time resident of Raleigh, and the rector of the Episcopal Church, from 1840 until his death in 1875. All who knew Dr. Mason can testify to the purity of his life and the sincerity of his character. He was a man of deep and diversified learning, and of exemplary and agreeable manners.

*Sources:*

*Reminiscences and Memoirs of North Carolina and Eminent North Carolinians.* Wheeler, John H. (John Hill), 1806-1882. 15, lxxiv, 478 p. Columbus, O.H.: Columbus Printing Works, 1884. Call number CR970 W56r c 2 (North Carolina Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Image courtesy of *The Episcopal Church in North Carolina, 1761-1959* Lawrence F. London and Saran M. Lemmon, eds. Raleigh, N.C.: Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, 1987.



**Rev. Aldert Smedes  
( 1810 - 1877 )**

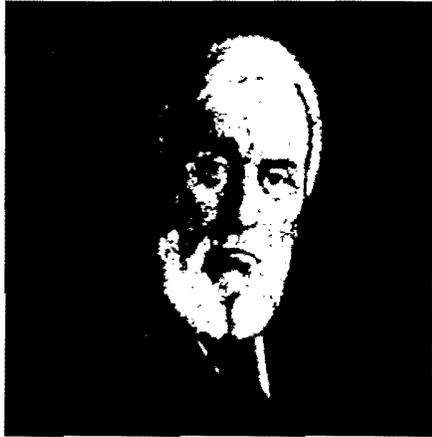
Aldert Smedes, Episcopal clergyman, was the founder, and for thirty-five years the rector, of St. Mary's School (now St. Mary's College), in Raleigh. A brother, Reverend John Esten Cooke Smedes, D.D., was the second president (1872-84) of Saint Augustine's Normal School and Collegiate Institute (now Saint Augustine's University), in Raleigh.

In 1832 he graduated from the General Theological Seminary and ordained deacon; he was ordained priest in 1834. An astute businessman, Smedes weathered Reconstruction. He provided many scholarships from personal funds accumulated from investments in the North before the war, so that more southern young women could be educated during those depressed years.

He was a trustee of the General Theological Seminary, the University of the South, and Saint Augustine's. The Right Reverend Thomas Atkinson, D.D. bishop of North Carolina, said of Smedes that he "accomplished more for the advancement of his deices and for the promotion of the best interests of society in its limits than any man who ever lived in it." He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh.

*Sources*

Stoops, Martha S. *Aldert Smedes, 1810-1877*. Documenting the American South. University Library, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. 2004. <http://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/smedesa/bio.html>  
Image courtesy of Martha Stoops. *The Heritage: the Education of Women at St. Mary's College, Raleigh, North Carolina 1842-1982*. Raleigh, N.C.: Saint Mary's College. 1984.



**Richard H. Smith**  
**( 1812 - 1893 )**

Richard H. Smith was a planter and legislator. Mr. Smith graduated from University of North Carolina in 1832. He decided not to pursue his career in law, but returned to his birthplace, Scotland Neck, to become a planter. By the Civil War he had accumulated over 10,000 acres of land. Always interested in whatever advanced the farming interests of the state, Smith was one of the founders of the North Carolina Agricultural Society and served as an officer.

Smith started his career in politics in 1848. He was elected to the General Assembly as a Whig, but was defeated in 1850 because he voted to bring the railroad to the rural eastern counties. He was re-elected in 1852 to serve a single term. In 1861 he was a delegate from Halifax County to the secession convention that met in Raleigh on May 20. He held various other positions, such as delegate to the constitutional convention, member of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, and chairman of the court.

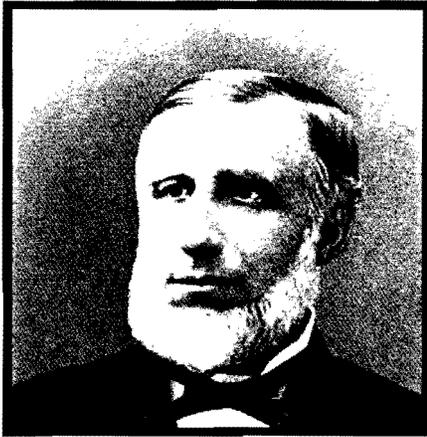
One of the founders of Trinity Episcopal Parish in Scotland Neck in 1833, he was warden for forty years. He was a delegate to the diocesan convention of the church for 59 years and a lay delegate to the General Convention of the national church for 25 years. He published a pamphlet, *The Organization of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A., A.D. 1865*, recording the events.

*Sources:*

Smith, Claiborne T. "Smith, Richard Henry (10 May 1812 – 2 Mar 1893)" In *Dictionary of North Carolina Biography*, edited by William S. Powell. University of North Carolina Press, 1996.

--- *Smith of Scotland Neck: Planters on the Roanoke*. Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, Inc., 1976

Image courtesy of Claiborne T. Smith. *Smith of Scotland Neck: Planters on the Roanoke*. Baltimore, M.D., Gateway Press, Inc., 1976



**John Wilkes  
( 1827 - 1908 )**

John Wilkes entered the Navy in 1841 and graduated first in the class at the U.S. Naval Academy in 1847. He took a leave from the military and came to Charlotte to supervise the family milling and mining property. After the Civil War, President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William Henry Stead relieved Wilkes of the consequences of his involvement in the Confederacy. Upon receipt of the pardon in 1865, John procured a charter for the First National Bank of Charlotte.

A member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Charlotte, John served his parish in many capacities. This included vestryman (and senior warden), lay reader, treasurer, Sunday school teacher, superintendent, and representative on church councils. He taught Sunday school to the African American children in the 1860s. He also represented the Diocese of North Carolina at seven consecutive general conventions of the Episcopal Church beginning in 1886. Wilkes's wife, Jane, helped found the city's Good Samaritan Hospital, which opened in 1891 as one of the nation's first hospitals built for African Americans.

The Bishop of Diocese of North Carolina (Episcopal), the Right Reverend Joseph Blount Cheshire, officiated Mrs. Wilkes funeral.

*Sources*

Wilkes Family. Wilkes Family Papers. Special Collections. University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Charlotte, N.C.  
Image courtesy of the Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library.

## Acknowledgements

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Keith Longiotti, Wilson Library  
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Jackie McDaniel and Anne Pemberton, William Mason Randall Library  
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### Special Acknowledgement



President Dianne Boardley Suber and the university family would like to especially acknowledge the late Alpha Howze Jr., the former archivist for Saint Augustine's University. Mr. Howze was instrumental in helping to make this brunch a success. His untimely passing was a shock to us all and he will be remembered as a hard worker, dedicated to preserving the rich legacy of Saint Augustine's University. He will be missed.



SAINT AUGUSTINE'S  
UNIVERSITY

*Transform. Excel. Lead.*