

WEAVERVILLE COLLEGE

Education was extremely important to the people of the mountains, instilling community values and providing an opportunity for growth and change. For 61 years, Weaverville (later Weaver) College “had an uplifting cultural and religious influence... and a positive educational and economic impact on Western North Carolina.”

Weaver College “sent out students with kinder and more valiant hearts and with higher ideals.”
- The Mountaineer 1920 Yearbook

Pre-1836 - Formal education was taught by family or preachers in the pioneers’ homes.

1836 - The Conference House at the Salem Camp Ground (now the Dry Ridge Inn) was the first formal school in Dry Ridge (later renamed Weaverville). It was erected for the Holston Conference as a site for religious gatherings.

1854 - The school outgrew the building, and the local Sons of Temperance built the Masonic and Temperance High School. The Temperance Hall, as it was known, was a highly respected school and attracted students from all over the mountain region, many of whom boarded in homes nearby.

1872 - Fire destroyed the Temperance Hall. The community immediately began building a new school, known as Weaverville College. Dr. James Americus Reagan, once a Holston Conference circuit rider, served as the first president of the college from 1872 to 1875.

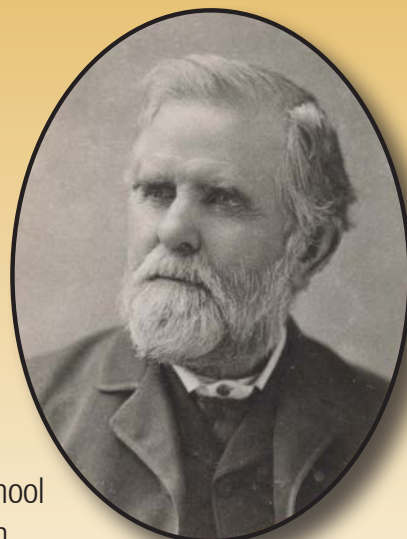
1873 - Weaverville College was chartered two years before the town was incorporated. The school served students from the first grade through college.

1874 - Dry Ridge changed its name to Weaverville to honor Montraville Weaver for his contribution of land and money to the town and the college. The college eventually grew to 55 acres through other gifts and land purchases.

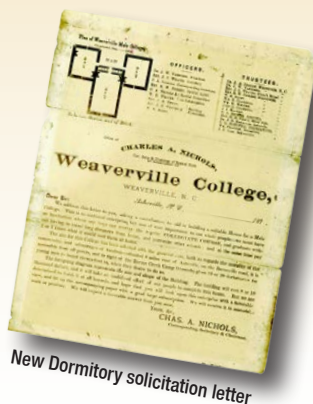
1876 - Enrollment was 123, including at least 12 boys from the Cherokee reservation who boarded with local residents during the school year.

1883 - The property was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal Church and became a church institution. Tuition was \$20 per term with two 20-week terms each year.

1886 - The two-story White House on South College Street (still standing) was built as the president’s home and later became a girls’ dormitory.



Dr. James Americus Reagan
Weaverville College's first president



New Dormitory solicitation letter



Administration Building

1893 - The college added classrooms, a library, and an auditorium. 220 students were enrolled.

1908 - Crutchfield Hall, a girls’ dormitory, was built on College Street (still standing).

1912 - The school was renamed Weaver College and changed from four-year to junior college status. No degrees were awarded after 1912.

1915 - The college received a new charter from the North Carolina General Assembly increasing its powers and privileges.

1920 - The first publication of “The Mountaineer,” the college yearbook.

1921 - Mrs. Louise Hornaday, widow of Charles Moore, gave Lake Juanita and 20 acres to the college. The lake was renamed Lake Louise in her honor.

1922 - Skinner Hall, a boys’ dormitory, was built at South College and Brown Streets (still standing).

1934 - Weaver College merged with Brevard Institute and Rutherford College to form Brevard College in Brevard NC. The Methodist Church chose the Brevard campus because it had newer buildings. The campus in Weaverville closed.

1957 - The Weaver College Alumni held a reunion at the Weaverville Methodist Church; it became an annual event.

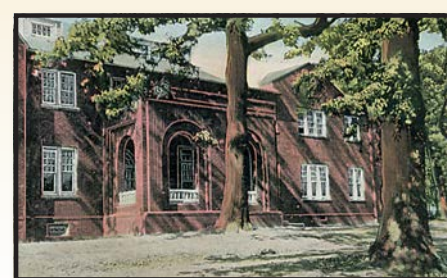
1976 - The Alumni Association established a Weaver College Scholarship Fund and raised funds to furnish a Weaver College Room at Brevard College.



CRUTCHFIELD HALL



Class of 1907



Skinner Hall



Alumni Reunion in 1975

Curriculum:

Courses included Classical studies, Greek and Latin, mathematics, English, religion, metaphysics, science, Bible, and languages. Degrees in Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, and Master of Arts were awarded until 1912. Courses were also offered in education and business administration, and junior college credits were transferable to four-year institutions. Medals and prizes were given to encourage excellence.

Attendance at Sunday worship was required. Strict moral character was emphasized. The Epworth League, a Methodist young adults association, promoted and developed Christian character and prepared students for community service and spiritual growth.

Student Activities:

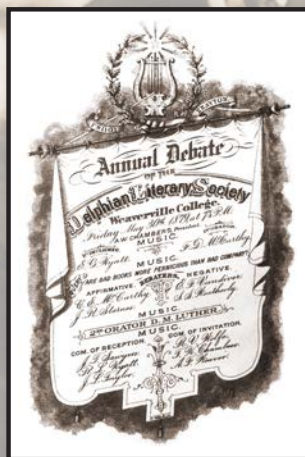
Student life flourished outside the classroom.

Literary Societies, the forerunners of fraternities and sororities, included the Cliosopic and the Delphinian for men, and the Euterpian and Mnemosynean for women. Membership was compulsory, as their debates,

dramatics and public speaking opportunities supplemented the curriculum.

Other school activities included a YMCA Cabinet, a double quartet, and a band.

Sports teams included baseball, football and basketball for men, basketball and tennis for women.



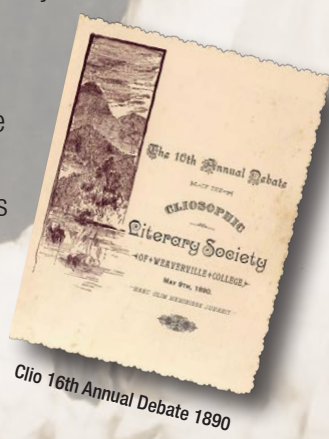
Delphinian Annual Debate 1879



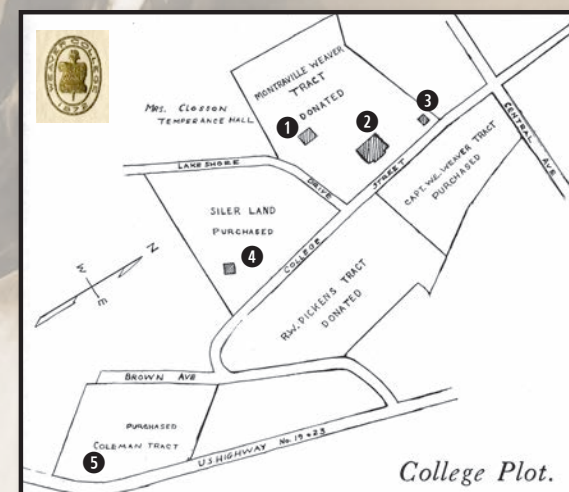
The football team won junior college state championships in 1920, 1927 and 1928. Pictured is the 1927 football squad



Tennis Club 1905



Clio 16th Annual Debate 1890



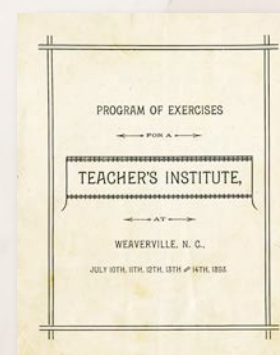
College Plot.

- Key
1. Crutchfield Hall
 2. Main/Administration Building
 3. White House
 4. Dunham Athletic Field
 5. Location of Salem Camp Ground

Three buildings from the college still stand today. The White House, home of the college presidents for many years, is now a private residence. Skinner Hall is also a private residence, and Crutchfield Hall is an apartment building.

Weaverville alumni include a Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, two Congressmen, and lawyers, ministers, judges and educators.

The town of Weaverville parted with the college with deep regret, for it had been a great influence on the cultural and religious atmosphere of the whole area during all the years it had provided an education for students from first grade through college.



Starting in 1892 the college began offering a summer Teacher’s Institute for professional development. Pictured is a program from the 1893 session.