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# Foreword

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## FOREWORD

The School of Law joins in the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the University of North Carolina by devoting this issue of THE NORTH CAROLINA LAW REVIEW to the general topic, "A Century of Legal Education." The treatment of this topic is not limited to the period since 1845 when formal legal instruction and the training of lawyers was begun in the University of North Carolina, for the University, from its foundation one hundred and fifty years ago, has exerted a vital influence upon legal developments in the state.

The history of the Law School which follows is not an attempt to compare or evaluate the contributions of the other law schools in the state. They have their history and traditions; and they, too, have influenced the legal development of North Carolina—the Law School at Wake Forest since its establishment in 1894,<sup>1</sup> and the Law School at Duke (then Trinity College) since 1904.<sup>2</sup>

The preparation of the history of the Law School of the University of North Carolina was begun as a four-fold task of research and writing, divided by periods among the four members of the Law School Faculty who remained in residence during the war. Although much work was done, a four-fold authorship proved ineffectual and had to be abandoned. The results of this effort were turned over to Professor Albert Coates who agreed to write the history. Professor and Mrs. Coates began the arduous task of checking University records, Trustees' minutes, Faculty minutes, catalogues, Battle's *History* and other documents for the data needed. Acknowledgment is gratefully made for the painstaking research and devoted application of Mrs. Coates to this work.

No history is ever complete. No period can be placed in a volume of ever growing, ever cumulating events. Those who read this history of the Law School may be able to add items of value and interest to the story. They are requested to send such items to Professor Coates so that a more definitive history may be written at some later time.

A history of the Law Library, prepared by the Law Librarian, Miss Lucile Elliott, accompanies and supplements the Law School history. Mr. Thomas Ruffin, now living in Washington, D. C., where he has been engaged in the practice of law since his resignation in 1910 as Professor of Law and Acting Dean of the Law School, contributes some delight-

<sup>1</sup> George Washington Paschal, *History of Wake Forest College* (Wake Forest, 1935-43), III, p. 304.

<sup>2</sup> *Trinity College Catalogue*, 1904-5, p. 108.

ful reminiscences of his Law School days during the first decade of the century. Three former deans of the Law School have written articles for this issue. Dean Merton L. Ferson, just retired as Dean of the School of Law of the University of Cincinnati, discusses "Teaching Theory and Practice in the New Day." Dean Charles T. McCormick, now serving as Dean of the School of Law of the University of Texas, writes about "The Place and Future of the State University Law School." Dean Leon Green, now serving as Dean of the School of Law of Northwestern University, prepared a report for the Association of American Law Schools which is published in this centennial issue under the title of "Legal Education after the War."

Current thinking about problems of legal education is largely concerned with a broadening of the law student's training so that he may know something of the origin and background of modern institutions and gain a realization of the function of law in the world of today. Much of this must be done at the college level. But a law school may not avoid responsibility for the training of future lawyers who, through an understanding of the role of government in the present era, may become good citizens, not only of the communities in which they live, but of the state, of the nation, and of the world.

Whatever the trend of legal development, the Law School of the University of North Carolina, as a state-supported institution, will continue to play an important part. This centennial issue of the *LAW REVIEW* will appear in bound form as a volume in the Sesquicentennial Publications, under the general editorial direction of Louis R. Wilson. It should further an understanding of what the Law School has become and what it may hope to be.

R. H. W.

*Chapel Hill, N. C.*  
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