

THE COLLEGE COURIER

Chapel Hill and Durham, North Carolina

20 February 2013

Dyed in the Wool Blue



The Old Well, campus landmark at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dyed in the Wool Blue

By Google reckoning it is 10.2 miles from UNC to Duke, gym-to-gym.

For schools separated by supposedly unbridgeable gaps – public-private, well off-wealthy, North Carolina-New Jersey, Southern-Yankee, and the proper shade of blue – it seems uncomfortably close.

But there is nowhere near the spiritual and emotional conflict when it's as close as sleepy heads and the hands that tuck(ed) them in.

On my continuing trip through North Carolina, I spent a day with my sister-in-law Allison, a Duke graduate, walking the campuses where we spent our four years, visiting her older son, a Carolina student, and her younger son, who applied to both schools – among other places – for next fall.

For some period of my pre-high school life, my family and the John Williamsons from Hamlet made an annual fall trip to Durham to see a Duke football game because the Blue Devils – then as now – couldn't draw flies to their horseshoe-shaped stadium. Consequently, family-plan tickets in the end zone were dirt cheap. Because my cousin Nancy had graduated from Duke, we put a Blue Devil decal in the car window for her.

One Saturday in high school, John Adeimy's father drove him and me to Chapel Hill to see Carolina play Maryland because John's brother, Butch, lived in Winston Dorm across the street from Woollen Gym, where the Tar Heel basketball teams played two buildings ago.



Allison lived in this dorm as a Duke student

We drove home that night in a snow storm after I bought a Carolina sweatshirt.

Allison's parents went to UNC, and she shared a room growing up with Emily, who went to Wake Forest. Today I'll visit a niece who went to N.C. State.

We get along as best we can.

Could I see a copy ... ?



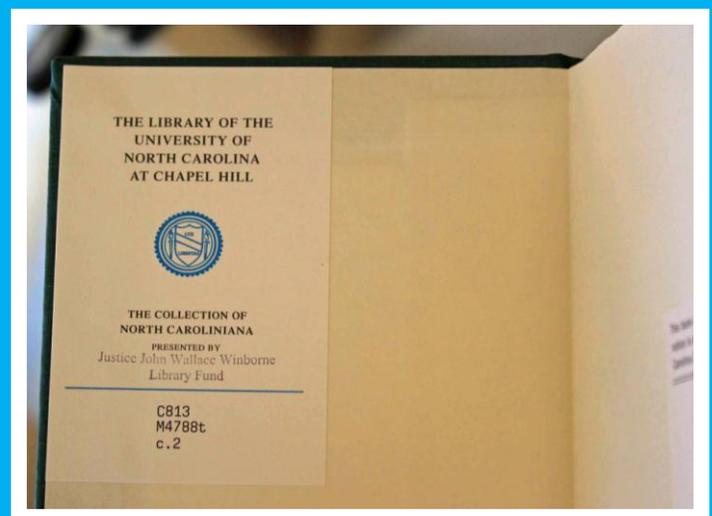
It was a special moment when the librarian retrieved my book.

I simply requested to see a copy of a book. Allison added "and he's the author."

That's when the royal treatment started. "Please register with us, let us take your picture and then have a seat here in the room. We'll bring a copy right out to you."

The previous librarian I had spoken to in this building had said "Leave your backpack outside." That was 40 years ago. Bygones are apparently bygones.

My paperback novel was hard bound in blue, and it had a card catalog number on it: C813 M4788t. The state gives out numbers to car owners and convicts, but this one meant the library I loved valued what I wrote.



That's what made me tear up. And I thank Allison for having the presence of mind to photograph the moment I enjoyed.

War of the Roses



Duke's Wallace Wade Stadium is named for the football coach who led the Blue Devils to two Rose Bowls, including the one played here January 1, 1942. Oregon State 20, Duke 16.

Within days of the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. government banned large public gatherings on the West Coast, fearing it would invite another attack.

There is no larger public gathering on the West Coast than the New Year's Day football game played in Pasadena, California's 100,000-plus seat (then) Rose Bowl.

To avoid cancellation, undefeated Duke, which had been invited to play Pacific Coast Conference champion Oregon State, offered to host the game in its 35,000-seat stadium and borrow 20,000 bleacher seats from UNC and N.C. State. Many of the players and Wade himself would enter the military during the war.

- Duke's Walter Griffith and Oregon State's Everett Smith were killed in the war.
- Beavers end Chiaki Yoshihara was not allowed to play because Japanese-Americans were banned from travel. He spent a year in an internment camp.
- Duke's Charlie Haynes saved wounded the life of OSU's Frank Parker in Italy.
- Oregon State's Sam Czech provided food to a hungry soldier at the Battle of the Bulge who turned out to be Wade.
- Gene Gray, who caught the winning touchdown pass for the Beavers, lost both arms as the result of a plane crash.
- Duke quarterback Tommy Prothro would later take Oregon State and UCLA to the Rose Bowl as a head coach.
- The 1942 Rose Bowl is the only football game Duke and Oregon State have ever played against each other.

History class



UNC's memorial to slaves who built the original campus.

"Silent Sam" is a soldier who never fires his rifle because he's a bronze statue – a memorial to UNC students who died for the Confederacy in the Civil War.

He is only the best known among numerous memorials on campus to slave owners and secessionists – mostly in the form of named buildings – that are part of a history of racism both UNC and Duke have struggled to honestly and openly confront.

In 1924, when Duke benefactor James B. Duke decided the school, founded in 1838, needed an impressive new campus, the architectural firm he hired assigned Julian Abele, its top designer and the first black architect in Philadelphia, to do the job. But that fact about Duke, which was whites-only

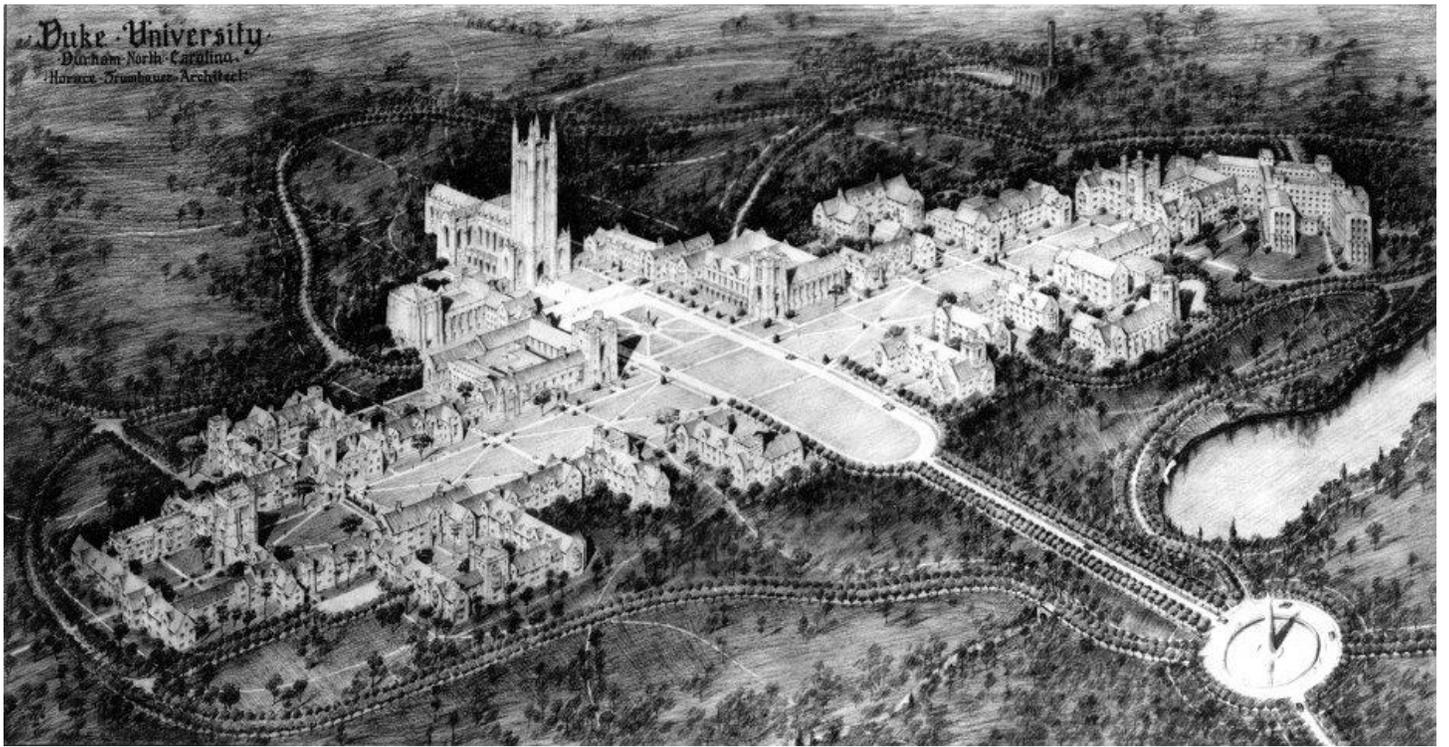
until 1961, was a secret for a 62 years.

A 1986 campus protest about school investments in apartheid South Africa resulted in a cluster of shacks being built in front of Duke's iconic neo-Gothic chapel. When a student complained in a letter to the Duke newspaper that the shanty town "violates our rights as students to a beautiful campus," the secret unraveled.

Susan Cook, Abele's great-grandniece, was – by great coincidence – a Duke sophomore at the time. She wrote a response revealing the identity of the man responsible for that beauty "was a victim of apartheid in this country" and would have supported the protest.

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History class



Julian Abele's design for Duke's main campus.

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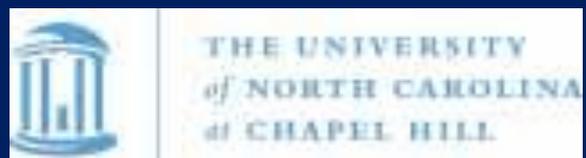
UNC's class of 2002 erected a memorial to the people of color "bond and free" who constructed many of its buildings and filled service jobs but were denied admission as students. But the more unusual step was naming one of its newest dorms for George Moses Horton.

Horton was a slave from nearby Chatham County who wrote poetry. UNC students paid him to write love poems to their girlfriends, and he hoped to buy his freedom with the proceeds. He was unsuccessful.

He also wrote poems about the experience of being a slave, and in 1829, a Raleigh printer published them.

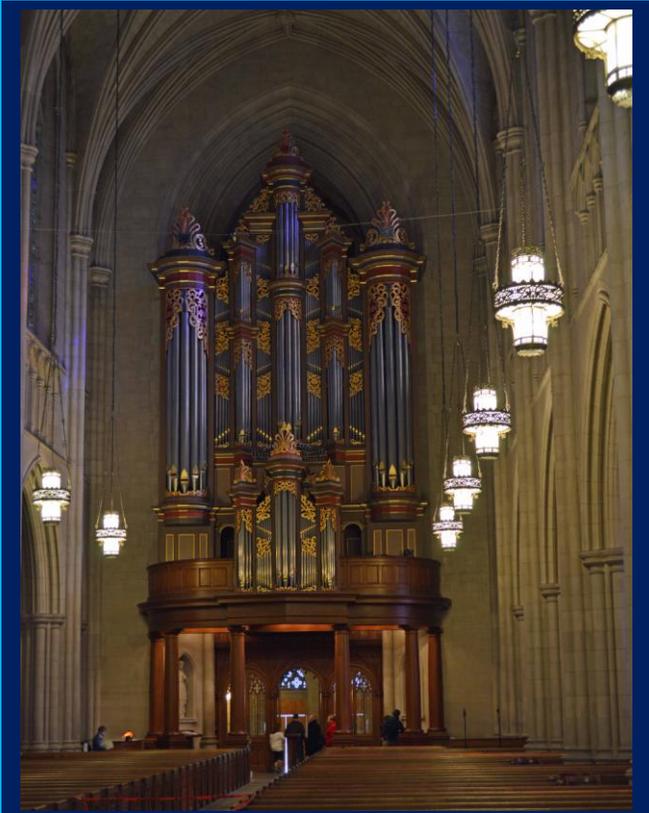
Here's a stanza from one of those poems:

*Come, melting Pity, from afar,
And break this vast enormous bar
Between a wretch and thee;
Purchase a few short days of time,
And bid a vassal soar sublime,
On wings of Liberty.*





Students between classes on the Polk Place quad at UNC.



Organ pipes, Duke Chapel



Walking across Duke quad



This chapel is on a hill in Durham – Duke University Chapel