

## Barber-Scotia

Nestled at 145 Cabarrus Avenue West in the southern town of Concord, North Carolina, is Barber-Scotia College, formerly known as Scotia Seminary and Scotia Women's College (AAREG,2020). Casted in brick and obscured behind a front lawn of wispy willows, history lay in the hands of the Reverend Luke Dorland. Here, he founded a college destined to allow African-American women to pursue careers in education at the elementary and secondary levels (Smith, 2010). A pathway led to the main building between two brick posts, providing a spirit of welcoming; an aura of opportunity. In the deep south, in the post Civil-War era, this was hard to come by for many. The only way to truly immerse oneself into this time period and understand the hopes, dreams, and ideals of those that attended this school, would be to build a time machine. While that technology may not exist even now, a time capsule would be the next best thing.

If one were to discover a time capsule buried on these grounds, one of the first contents unearthed would be cotton. Barber-Scotia was founded in Concord, NC, a town recognizable for nothing other than its cotton mills (AAREG,2020). This was the primary basis of the economy in many small southern towns, and Concord was not an exception. The second thing that would be found in such a time capsule would be a journal. A journal written by a college aged female, who was allowed to dream, hope, and aspire for the first time without regard to the color of her skin. Reading through this journal, one would see aspirations for a better world and future for young girls like herself. Education was of the utmost importance, and will continue to be regardless of the passage of time, and being given the opportunity to work towards a degree that would pass the fruit of education to the next generation was a game changer; a game changer for the betterment of society.

The third and final item that would be found in this capsule would be two scriptures, inscribed on the front of a Bible or a piece of cloth. The school was founded on deeply religious principles of the Presbyterian Church and one of the items in the capsule would reflect those ideals (Barber-Scotia College, 2019). Firstly, Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men..." (Knowing Jesus, 2021). This would be recorded as a reminder that hard work is a universal principle. Success is derived

from having goals and striving towards them; being willing to make sacrifices along the way in the pursuit of knowledge. Secondly, Ephesians 2:14; “For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility...” (Bible Study Tools, 2021). This would be said in hope rather than in experience. The dividing wall of hostility stood firm at the time that the structures on Barber-Scotia’s campus were built, and while only African-American women were in attendance at the time, there was a hope that in the future, women and men of all backgrounds and races would be able to attend school and learn together as one.

The value of unity is not one that should be taken lightly. When this structure was built, it was built because of disunity in the South. Unity, hope, opportunity, and the pursuit of success and happiness beckoned from the past. While it is impossible to know exactly what the contents of this capsule would be, the values and hopes that they would reflect are crystal clear.



## Works Cited

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