

Education

DAUPH AND BLAN'S EARLY YEARS AND EDUCATION

The Dougherty brothers were sent to school as soon as they were old enough to be enrolled. Having had little schooling, Daniel was anxious that Dauph and Blan get as much formal education as Watauga County had to offer.³² The younger one, Blan, was taught his "ABCs" by cousin Sarah Dougherty, when he was but three or four years old and while his frail mother was still living. Sarah would say, "I put the love of learnin' in him."³³ From a very early age, Blan wanted to learn. That burning desire to know and study manifested in his tender years, stayed with him throughout his life. Mrs. Alice Council, "a woman of rare culture and education," lived across the street from the Doughertys and often had the boys in her home, where she encouraged them, lent them books, and helped them with their lessons.³⁴



*Dauphin Disco as a young boy
and as a young man*

Blan retained vivid memories of the first school he attended. The building was a one-room log structure with alternating rows of logs and empty spaces to allow for natural light. The building sat beside Boone Creek, "near enough," he said, "to spit in the creek." This site was on the Blowing Rock Road about where the new Holmes Convocation Center is located. The school term began in the fall after harvest time and lasted for eight weeks. At that time there was very little interest in public schools and no compulsory attendance. Rebecca Dougherty Hyatt's family history (c. 1936) reports that "the schools were not graded and teachers were not required to be trained."³⁵



Boone Academy was the next site for Dauph and Blan's schooling. John Preston Arthur wrote that the old Academy "had been built but not quite finished by the Three Forks Baptist Association."³⁶ This body, he wrote, "turned the building over to the Boone [First] Baptist Church, which finished it." Daniel Baker Dougherty had donated the land on which

*Boone Academy, where Dauph
and Blan went to school (Photo
courtesy of Special Collections,
Appalachian State University)*

Boone Academy stood, "land well equipped with water and wood."³⁷ The building was a frame structure with two rooms, one above the other, and was heated by wood-burning stoves. On cold, wintry days it was impossible to keep the rooms warm, which meant hours of discomfort for students and teachers.

WAKE FOREST COLLEGE

The boys also attended New River Academy, just east of the South Fork of the New River, east of Boone. It had been in operation for many years, holding eight-week sessions. For two successive years, after attending Boone Academy in the fall, both the Dougherty boys attended this school in the winter. Blan mentions the

WAKE FOREST COLLEGE.		
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REPORT		
For <i>Spring Term, 1887.</i>		
Mr. <i>D. D. Dougherty,</i>		
SCHOLARSHIP.		
First Latin,		German,
Junior "	<i>99</i>	Rhetoric,
Intermediate Latin,		Logic,
Senior "		Mental Science,
First Greek,		Moral Science,
Junior "		Political Economy,
Intermediate Greek,		History,
Senior "		Ev. of Christianity,
Arithmetic,		Butler's Analogy,
Book-Keeping,		Junior Chemistry,
Algebra,		Senior "
Junior Mathematics,	<i>76</i>	Junior Physics,
Intern. "		Senior "
Senior "		Astronomy,
English Grammar,		Surveying and Navigation,
" Exercise,		Zoology,
" Composition,		Geology,
" Language,		Physiology,
" Literature,		Botany,
French,		
Absences from Recitation,		<i>22</i>
" " Religious Exercises,		<i>13</i>
Demerits,		
<i>W. H. Mitchell</i>		
Keeper of Rolls.		
The Maximum for Scholarship is 100		

Daugh's report card from Wake Forest College, 1889



Wake Forest College as it looked when Daugh and Blan attended in 1892 (Photograph courtesy of Wake Forest Birthplace Museum)



Entrance gates at Wake Forest College (Photograph courtesy of Wake Forest Birthplace Museum)