

Carlisle School 1892

A Century of Honor and Tradition

In 1992 we celebrate the centennial of Carlisle, the beginning of the Carlisle-Camden tradition. The Carlisle Fitting School was established in 1892 by the Methodist Church as a school to "fit" young men to attend Wofford College. It was named for Wofford's president, Dr. James H. Carlisle. In the early days, it was a civilian coeducational school, but it became a military school for young men before the end of World War I.

During the Great Depression the enrollment dropped to thirty-five students, but with the return of more prosperous times, the enrollment recovered until it reached 365 in the 1950s. In June of 1958, with an extensive waiting list for admission to Carlisle, the site of Camden Academy (1949-1957) was purchased, and a second campus in Camden was opened as Camden Military Academy.

The halcyon days of the 1950s and 1960s were followed by the strong anti-military sentiment of the 1970s, and Carlisle fell victim to decreasing enrollment. Regretfully, in 1977 the Bamberg campus of Carlisle closed its doors, but all rejoice and take heart in the fact that the Carlisle-Camden tradition of sound education, honor and integrity still lives in the Cadet Corps of Camden Military Academy, where each year this tradition grows stronger, more viable, and more permanent.

During this centennial we look back with gratitude toward the beginnings of our heritage, but, more importantly, we look forward heartily and enthusiastically to the next century of challenges and opportunities for Camden Military Academy.

by Col. Lanning P. Risher

