

Cokesbury School ^[1]

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Cokesbury School

by James W. Wall, 2006

The [Cokesbury School](#) ^[2], the first [Methodist](#) ^[3]-sponsored school in North Carolina, was built near Aquila Phelps's horse ford on the Yadkin River in eastern [Rowan](#) ^[4] (now [Davie](#) ^[5]) County in about 1790. It was named for the first two Methodist bishops, [Thomas Coke](#) ^[6] and [Francis Asbury](#) ^[7]. Asbury wrote in 1793 that the school stood "on a beautiful eminence and overlooked the low-lands and river Yadkin." He described the building as "twenty feet square, two stories and well set out with doors and windows." Minister and teacher James Parks was the school's principal. Asbury visited the school again in 1794, but in 1799, when he preached there, he noted in his journal that the schoolhouse was "now a house for God." The exact date of the closing or removal of the school is unknown.

References:

Elmer T. Clark, *Methodism in Western North Carolina* (1966).

James W. Wall, *History of Davie County* (1969).

Additional Resources:

The Cokesbury School, NC Highway Historical Marker M-44:<https://www.ncdcr.gov/about/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program/Markers.aspx?ct=ddl&sp=search&k=Markers&sv=M-44%20-%20COKESBURY%20SCHOOL> ^[2]

[Early Methodism in the Carolinas](#) ^[8], by Abel McKee Chreitzberg.

Subjects:

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[Schools \(K-12\)](#) ^[12]

[UNC Press](#) ^[13]

Authors:

[Wall, James W.](#) ^[14]

Origin - location:

[Davie County](#) ^[15]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina](#), University of North Carolina Press. ^[16]

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[3] <https://ncpedia.org/methodist-church>

[4] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/rowan>

[5] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/davie>

[6] <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/124856/Thomas-Coke>

[7] <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ch/131/christians/denominationalfounders/asbury.html>

[8] http://books.google.com/books?id=TdAQAAAIAAJ&pg=PA153&pg=PA153&dq=James+Parks+cokesbury+school&source=bl&ots=qvIU5QRI2r&sig=M59_JE4ow5474YCGkKv73WbXI0&hl=en&sa=X&ei=HrWaUL7I0o-k8ASL6YDwCA&ved=0CC4Q6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=James%20Parks%20cokesbury%20school&f=false

[9] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/early-statehood-1>

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