

Crook

Students have been participating in the Crook tradition since 1906. The senior class hides the crook giving the junior class clues to find it. If the juniors find it the crook is brought into Class Day with a black ribbon. If the crook is not found it is brought into Class Day with the senior class colors. Although this tradition is still alive today, there were many years when students did not participate in the crook hunt. As seen in the page to the right from the 1914 Oak Leaves, the tradition of hiding the crook was abolished during a certain period of time. During other years the crook may not have been hidden because of a lack of interest. To learn more about the Crook tradition and the Crook Hunt rules click on the links below or visit the [College Archives](#).



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Learn more:

- Crook Hunt, Subject Files, Meredith College Archives, Raleigh, N.C.
- [A History of Meredith College](#) by Mary Lynch Johnson (Meredith College Archives website)
- [Student Handbook](#), Meredith College Archives, Raleigh, N.C.
- 7.09.05.07 Crook, Festivals, Student Leadership and Service, College Programs, Meredith College Archives, Raleigh, N.C.
- [Crook Hunt](#) (Meredith College Archives website)
- [The Crook](#) (Meredith College website)



Why the Crook Was Abolished

1. The search for the crook made it a matter of class loyalty for the girls to be up late at night looking for it. This was not only highly injurious to their health, but it was also dangerous and unwise for girls to go in small groups or alone about the campus, or from building to building, in the dead of night. In addition, as commencement approached, the nerve tension became fearful, and this strain fell on the girls most in need of rest.

2. The search for the crook made invalid all the laws governing personal conduct. It not only gave a girl license to break the rules of Student Government, but also gave her the right to go through another person's property without restriction. This was not right.

3. The search for the crook, when it created any spirit at all, created one of antagonism and hatred between the classes. There have been years when the crook created no spirit at all. But there have been times when it has caused unbelievable bitterness, not only between classes, but individual girls. Friendships have been broken up, and shameful things have been said and done in the cause of the crook which can probably never be undone.

4. The search for the crook was not one which could be limited. A choice was necessary. And while for many reasons it was hard for the Junior and Senior classes to give it up, we feel that we have chosen the better part; and are we not fully justified in this belief by the wonderful new spirit of friendliness now existing between us?