

1-1957

Longwood College: A pioneer in both private and public education

Meade Shackelford

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/spec_luhistories

Recommended Citation

Shackelford, Meade, "Longwood College: A pioneer in both private and public education" (1957). *Longwood Histories*. Book 3.
http://digitalcommons.longwood.edu/spec_luhistories/3

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Library, Special Collections, and Archives at Digital Commons @ Longwood University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Longwood Histories by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Longwood University. For more information, please contact hinestm@longwood.edu.

A HISTORY OF
LONGWOOD COLLEGE



BULLETIN OF

LONGWOOD COLLEGE

FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA

Public Education in Virginia

(A Reprint of An Editorial in *The Iron Worker*, Autumn 1955)

In the history of Virginia's system of public education, Longwood College plays a leading role. A basic consideration in the establishment of free public schools in the state was an adequate supply of qualified teachers and Longwood became the first institution devoted to this purpose.

While Longwood alumnae and friends may be fascinated by its history which dates from 1839, or perhaps earlier, it must be remembered that the real milestone, from the point of view of Virginia's growth and development, is the year 1884 when a normal school for female teachers was authorized by the Virginia Legislature and provision was made for its establishment at Farmville, Virginia.

As is the case with almost every significant accomplishment in history, this one did not come easy. In Virginia two very real obstacles had existed for the establishment of a school for the preparation of women. One was the lack of concern for educating women (it was

considered a frill) and the other was Virginia's concept of aristocracy as inherited from England—that education was for the elite.

Thus the establishment of the State Normal School at Farmville in 1884 was indeed a memorable event. It was basic to the fulfillment, in Virginia, of the principles of democracy as envisaged by Thomas Jefferson many years before. Jefferson believed that the people were capable of self-government and would make wise decisions provided they understood the issues. In 1884 the State took a very positive step toward an informed populace by making provision for teachers for the public schools.

Longwood's history is fascinating; her alumnae have distinguished themselves not only as teachers but in many other professions. Long may she produce women of character and ability for one of the highest callings we know—that of providing the youth of our state and nation with the knowledge necessary for self-government in a democracy.

THE FRONT COVER

The Rotunda at Longwood College. This is both the entrance to, and symbolic of, the Longwood campus. It is the central portion of Ruffner Hall, the college's administration building, named for Dr. William H. Ruffner, first president of the school as a state-operated institution.

THE BACK COVER

Beautiful Longwood Estate, 103 acres of land purchased by the college in 1928, and from which the school derives its name. It is part of a tract of land thought to have contained 20,000 acres when it was granted by the Crown to Peter Johnston in 1765. It was later the homesite of the Confederate General, Joseph E. Johnston. The orig-

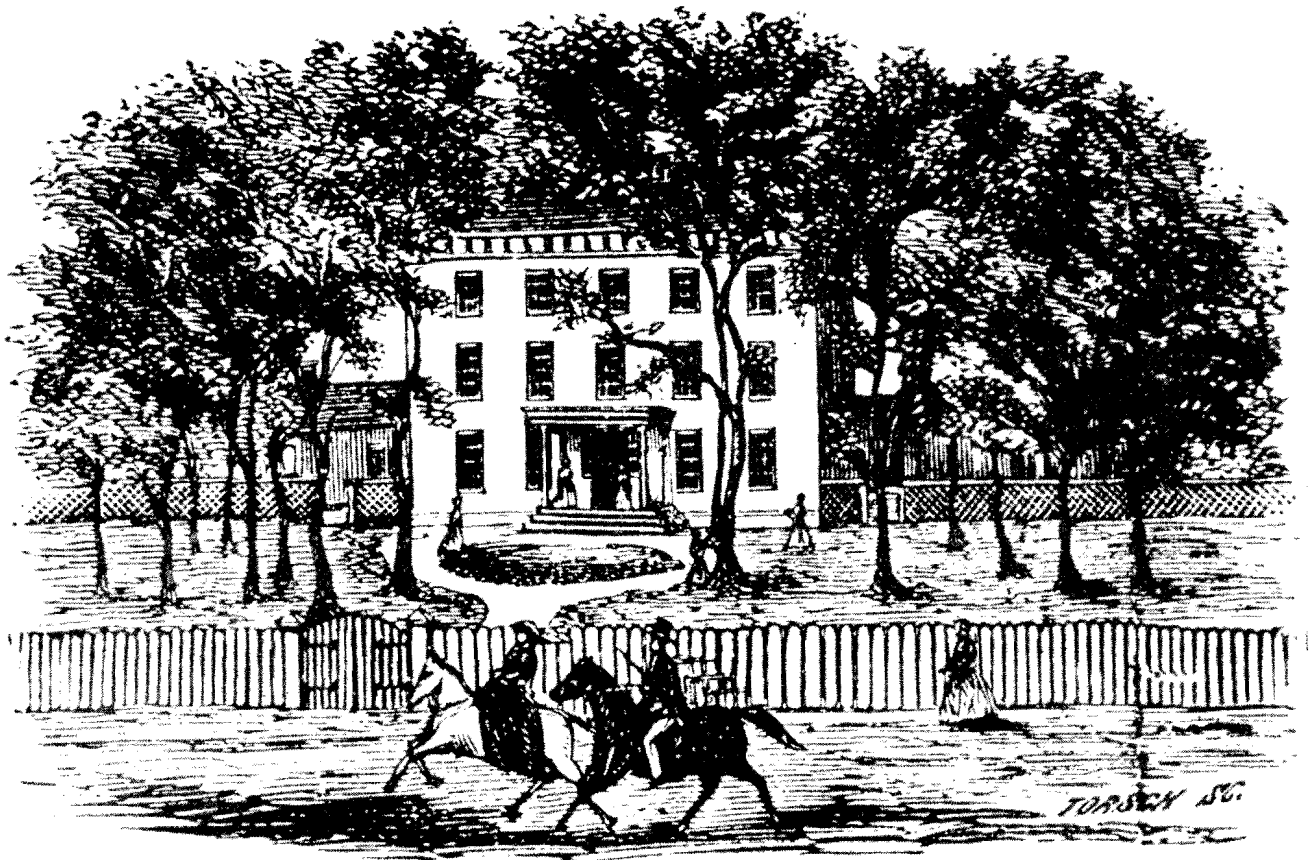
inal house burned in 1814 and the present house was built the following year. The house is now used as a recreation center by the students and on its grounds are lovely box-wood plantings, an outdoor amphitheater, a golf course and other recreational facilities.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Longwood College, A Pioneer In Both Private and Public Education is reprinted from *The Iron Worker*, Autumn 1955, published by the Lynchburg Foundry Company, Lynchburg, Virginia. It has been revised slightly for this printing. The photographs of the President's House and West Wing on page four, Jarman Hall on page eleven, and all plates were provided by *The Iron Worker*.

BULLETIN OF **LONGWOOD COLLEGE** **FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA**
VOLUME XLIII **NUMBER 1** **JANUARY 1957**

Published quarterly by Longwood College, Farmville, Va. Second Class mailing privileges authorized at Farmville, Va.



Farmville Female Seminary in 1859, from an old drawing. This building, completed in 1842, now forms part of Ruffner Hall, the administration building of the college.

LONGWOOD COLLEGE

A PIONEER IN BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC EDUCATION

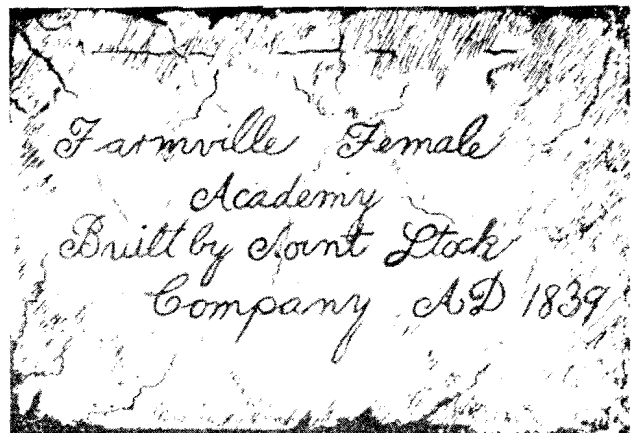
By MEADE L. SHACKELFORD

Longwood College, a pioneer first in private and later in public education, inaugurated in December of 1955, Dr. Francis G. Lankford, Jr., as president. On this occasion he became the latest among sixteen principals and presidents who have guided the institution since it was incorporated by the Legislature of Virginia as the Farmville Female Seminary Association in 1839. Its 116-year history makes Longwood the fifth oldest educational institution (now a college) for women in continuous operation in the United States.

Longwood is located in Farmville, a tobacco town in Prince Edward County, Virginia. The college had its beginnings in the fourth decade of the nineteenth century, when more than a half million dollars was paid for tobacco sold on the Farmville market each year. This market was the fourth largest in Virginia and was considered to have the best tobacco in the state, according to *Martin's Gazetteer* of 1835. The prosperity of the town in an era of little public education and few private schools for girls led a group of public spirited citizens to make plans for a girls' school in Farmville, although a female seminary

had been started at Prince Edward Courthouse, now Worsham, in 1832.

Farmville itself had a day school for girls known as



The inscription appearing on a metal plate attached to the cornerstone of the first building of the Farmville Female Seminary. The building was completed in 1842 and workmen found the cornerstone while excavating for a new building in 1897.



The State Female Normal School at it appeared in 1884 when the school began as a state-operated institution. A portion of this building was the original Farmville Female Seminary. Immediately prior to its acquisition by the state, the school was known as Farmville College and was operated under the sponsorship of the Methodist Conference. The property was deeded to the State of Virginia in 1884.

the Farmville Female Seminary established by a Miss Spence in 1833 and another female seminary established by the Reverend A. J. Heustis in 1835, but it is not known how long either school was in existence. Some persons believe that the Heustis school was connected with the second Farmville Female Seminary, but this fact has never been established.

Although there were 20 girls' seminaries in Virginia in 1830, education for women was not popular, and perhaps was considered nothing more than a form of conspicuous consumption. Most of the seminaries were short-lived, although a few achieved the brilliance of a supernova for a brief period. By 1845 there were fewer than twelve girls' seminaries that had been in existence in Virginia in 1839. Perhaps education for women would have received greater impetus had Thomas Jefferson, from whom Virginia received inspiration for popular education, included women in his educational plans. But he wrote on March 14, 1818, in answer to a letter from Nathaniel Burwell, "A plan of female education has never been a subject of systematic contemplation with me. It has occupied my attention so far only as the education of my own daughters required."

Although the Heustis school in Farmville closed before 1845, the Farmville Female Seminary, prospering at times and weathering storms at others, has been in continuous operation until the present time.

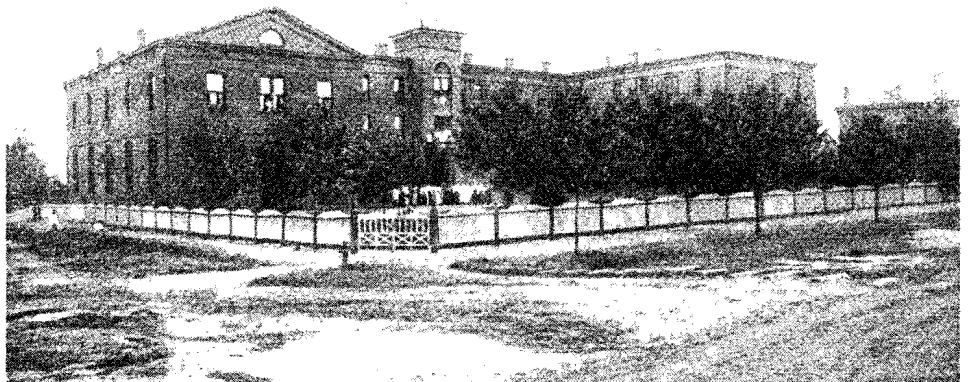
The Farmville Female Seminary Association

The Legislature incorporated the Farmville Female Seminary Association on March 5, 1839, with W. C. Flournoy, James E. Venable, Thomas Flournoy, William Wilson, George Daniel, Willis Blanton, and James B. Ely as incorporators. Three hundred shares of stock were issued at \$100 each in an effort to raise \$30,000 for the erection of a building and other items needed to start the school.

The Farmville Female Seminary Association purchased an acre of land on the heights of High Street, west of Spruce Street from George Whitfield Read and his wife Charlotte for \$1,400 by deed dated May 26, 1842. The land consisted of two lots—105 and 107—which James Madison, trustee for Josiah Chambers, had conveyed to George W. Read for \$1,250 on April 3, 1836.

Completed in 1842, the building was described by the principal a decade later as "spacious and comfortable

Victorian architecture was in vogue when this photograph of the State Female Normal School was made in 1898. Students of the era are assembled in front of the building and in second floor windows. The president of the school at this time was Dr. Robert Frazer.



The State Female Normal School in 1909, 25 years after its opening under state operation. Here are shown improvements and additions made by Dr. J. L. Jarman (president from 1902 until 1946) and another change in architecture, this time to Jeffersonian. The dome of the Rotunda, in the center of the picture, has become symbolic of the institution. This illustration is from the 1909 edition of the school year-book, the VIRGINIAN.



and for beauty of situation surpassed by few in the country." In excavating for a new building in 1897, workmen found the cornerstone of the original building, and over the opening of a four-by-five inch hole was a metal plate bearing this inscription:

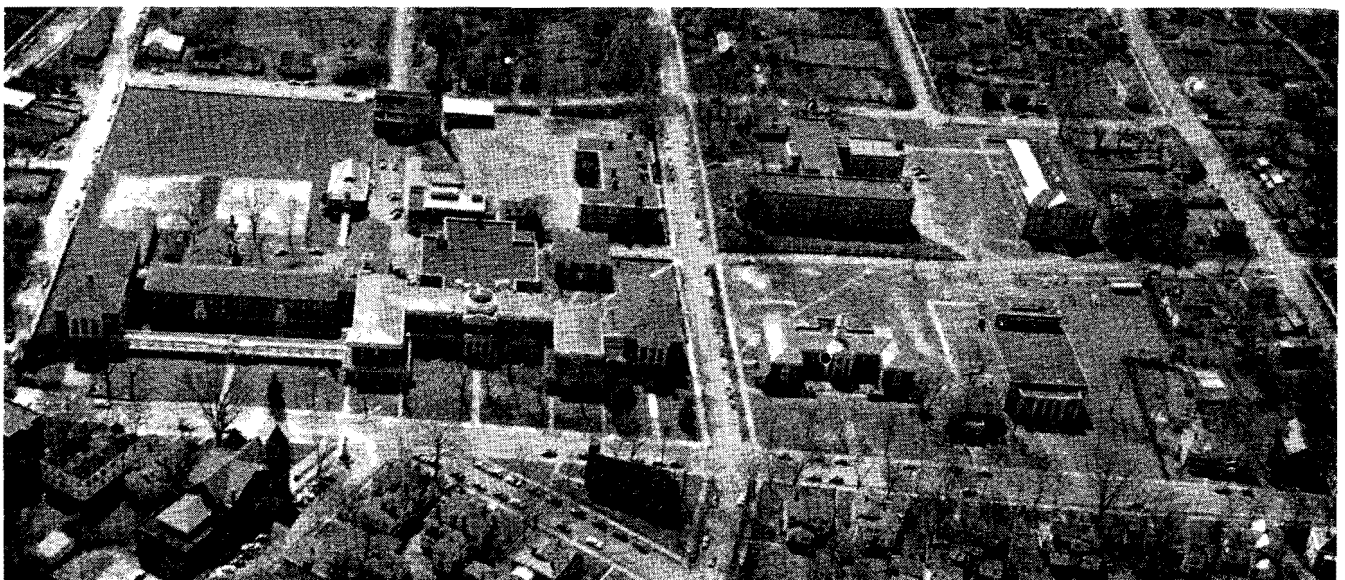
*Farmville Female Academy
Built by Joint Stock Company A D 1839*

Within the hole was the back of a New Testament (the few letters on it faded away shortly after being exposed to the air); a newspaper, of which only a square inch was legible; three silver coins—five, ten, and twenty-five cent pieces; and a Masonic emblem. The beautiful brick building of colonial architecture now forms part of Ruffner Hall, the administration building of Longwood College.

Shortly after completion of the building, the school opened with Solomon Lee as principal and offered English, Latin, Greek, French, and piano. The tuition fees for five months were \$20 for piano, \$15 for higher English, \$12.50 for lower English, and \$5 for each foreign language, with board available at \$8 to \$10 a month.

The Farmville Female Seminary flourished in the next decade as did the town of Farmville, one of the most prosperous in the history of Virginia. Farmville, which had shipped its tobacco in the early days by ox cart to Richmond, or by batteau down the Appomattox River to Petersburg, now found itself linked to Petersburg and Lynchburg by the Southside Railroad. The population of the town grew from 800 in 1839 to 2,000 by 1860.

During this period the Farmville Female Seminary had a succession of principals. Mr. Lee was followed



An aerial view of the Longwood College campus today. From left to right, in the foreground, the major buildings are as follows: Student Building; Tabb Hall (with the Colonnade in front); Ruffner Hall (with the Rotunda in the center); West Wing; Library; and Jarman Hall (auditorium and music building). Immediately behind Ruffner Hall are the Dining Room and the Home Economics Building; behind West Wing is Farmville Elementary School where students do practice teaching; behind the Library is Cunningham Hall (junior and senior dormitories), and behind Jarman Hall is Stevens Hall, the science building.



The Colonnade with the Student Building in the background.



The Longwood President's House on High Street in Farmville.

by his brother, the Reverend Lorenzo Lee, and later by Lorenzo Coburn, a Northerner. In 1850 John B. Tinsley was made principal, and he was succeeded by Benjamin Gould. George La Monte, a graduate of Union College in New York and former joint principal of Valley Female Institute in Winchester, was the last principal of the Farmville Female Seminary, which had an enrollment of 94 students in 1859-60.

A College Is Born

Optimistic in outlook, Mr. Ely, the president of the corporation, and the other stockholders in the Farmville Female Seminary Association, decided to expand the school into a college. In the summer of 1859 the stockholders secured Mr. La Monte, an ambitious man twenty-five years of age, to make the necessary arrangements for the addition of a curriculum at the college level and to become the first president of the college. On May 24, 1860, the charter was amended by the legislature and the name of the school was changed to the Farmville Female College.

Nearly half of the members of the Board of Visitors

of the new college were outstanding ministers of the gospel, and the remainder, prominent men of the day in Southside Virginia.

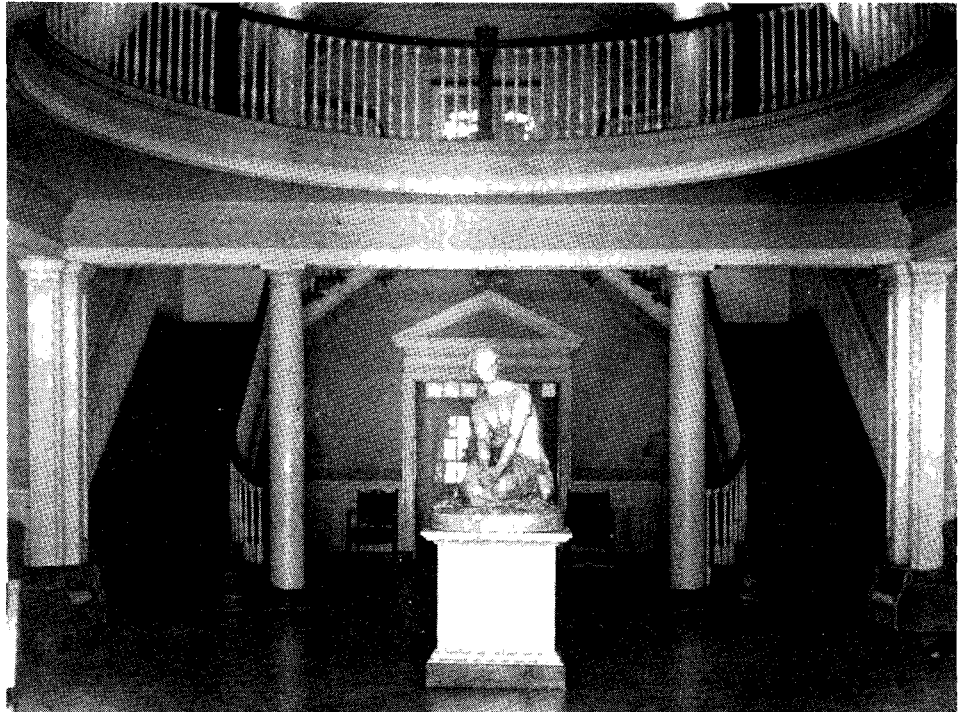
The college opened with a faculty of five, in addition to La Monte who taught Latin, higher mathematics, and literature. Four members of the faculty had taught at the Farmville Female Seminary during its last year of existence, and the fifth, Arnaud Preot, was a Frenchman La Monte added to the staff as a linguist and pianist. At the beginning boarding students in the college were limited to thirty in an effort to give the institution a "Home air and influence." The Annual Register and Announcement for 1859-1860 said, "The Pupils boarding in this college, reside with the family of the President, and are under his guardianship. In their evening studies they will enjoy the benefit of his assistance and that of his colleagues." Thus was initiated the atmosphere of friendliness which has characterized Longwood College throughout the years and is as typical of the college today as it was in the nineteenth century.

The course of instruction was designed to "develop the intellectual, social, and moral faculties, and by im-



West Wing, erected under the administration of Dr. Jarman in 1903. Immediately adjacent, on the left, is Ruffner Hall, the administration building. The influence of Jeffersonian architecture is evident in the classic beauty of this building.

Under the dome of the Rotunda in Ruffner Hall is the statue of Joan of Arc, patron saint of the college. Just inside the main entrance to the Longwood campus, this lobby is also its focal point. As a favorite gathering place for students, this is the spot perhaps most hallowed by its alumnae. On the three levels within the Rotunda take place the traditional sings when members of one class serenade those of another.



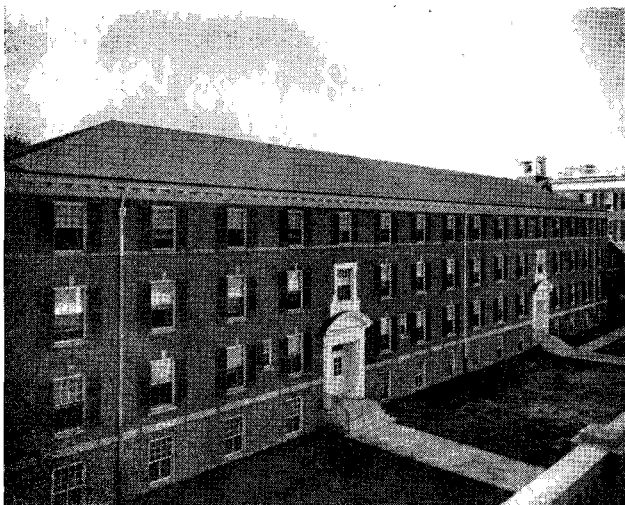
parting a thorough, practical, and accomplished, and Christian education, fit the pupil for the faithful discharge of the responsible duties of life." Special emphasis was placed on religious instruction, as the large proportion of clergy on the Board of Visitors would indicate, but the college did not become a church college until some years later. The students were permitted as they are today to attend the churches of their own choice.

The Annual Register and Announcement for 1859-60 said, "The religious teachings of the college contemplate a thorough and harmonious acquaintance with the fundamental facts and truths of Christianity, and . . . no pains will be spared to impart a practical knowledge of the Christian religion. . . . In addition to public services on Sunday, the teachers and pupils will assemble for an hour

in the evening for the reading and contemplation of the scriptures, and also to sing sacred melodies."

There were two academic departments in the college: preparatory and collegiate. The curriculum for the collegiate department, which was started with the opening of the fall session in 1860, included arithmetic, algebra, geometry, astronomy, chemistry, botany, geology, physiology, the history of France, Greece and Rome, and philosophy. The course of study led to a diploma conferring on the recipient the title, Mistress of Art, but a student who did not want to fulfill all of the requirements for the diploma, and who embarked on a special course of study, could obtain a certificate of proficiency.

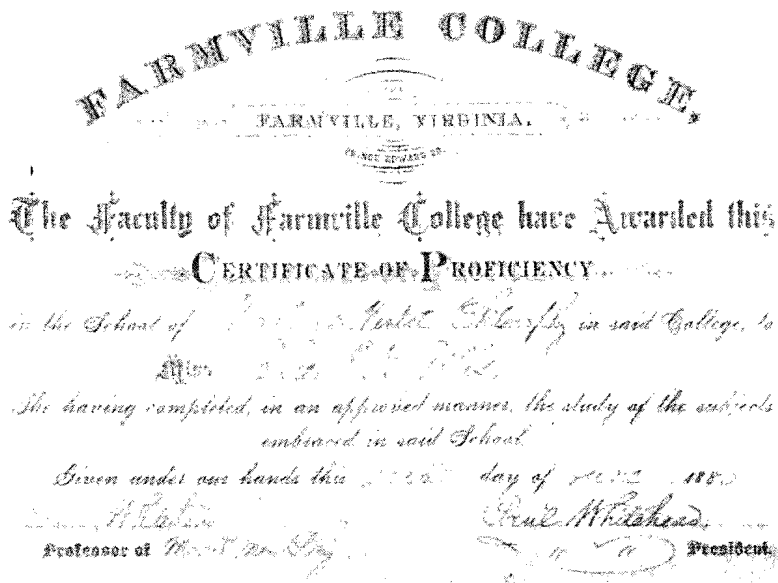
There was a society in the college known as Le Vert Literary Society, which published a newspaper, "The



Tabb Hall, the sophomore dormitory.



The junior dormitory wing of Cunningham Hall.



An 1880 diploma from Farmville College. This diploma was from the school when it was operated by the Methodist Church, with the Reverend Paul Whitehead, a Methodist minister, as president. At this time the college, like many educational institutions in the South, was a victim of difficult times resulting from the War Between the States and the Reconstruction Era.

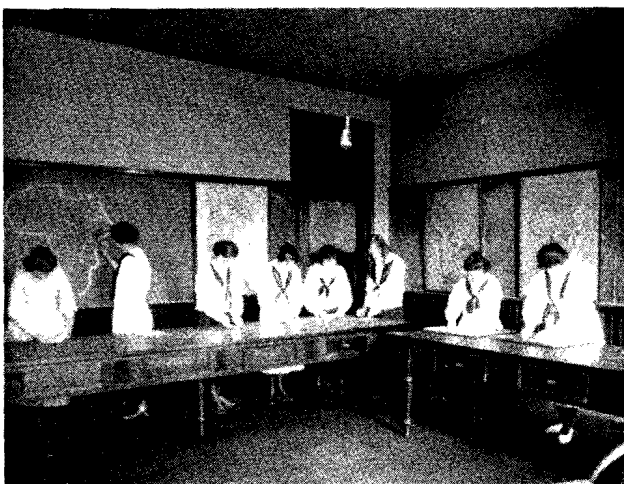
Laureola." In the issue of December 25, 1861, a letter was printed which gives an insight into the physical plant of the college at that time:

My Dear Cousin:

Your letter was received in due time and I take the liberty of answering some of your inquiries through the columns of the Laureola. In regard to the location of the college:—It is in an elevated part of the town, entirely apart from scenes of excitement. The College Building is large, Diningroom, Parlors, Chapel, and Recitation rooms spacious and complete in all their appointments; the rooms for boarders, of which you would know more particularly, are neat and comfortable, nicely, even prettily furnished, provided with fires, lights, and almost everything conducive to the health and happiness of their occupants.

Wartime Difficulties and Postwar Depression

In spite of the extreme optimism of the stockholders as to the future of Farmville Female College in 1859, the college encountered difficulties with the advent of the War Between the States in 1861, similar to the problems faced by older and more firmly established colleges in the South. La Monte, who was a native of New York, left the college in 1862 and was succeeded by Preot. The college survived the war with the aid of local ministers who filled vacancies on the faculty. In 1865 prospects of peace and prosperity prompted William P. Elam and other residents of Farmville to advertise in the newspapers for stock in the college which had been lost during the war. Preot headed the college until 1869, when S. F. Nottingham assumed the duties of president, and he in turn was succeeded by the Reverend James W. Crawley.



A class in geography at the State Normal School for Women in 1921. As is obvious, middy blouses were an essential part of a student's wardrobe during the early 1920's.



The Arts and Crafts Club sometime between 1910 and 1920. The club was directed by Raymond V. Long, now Director of the State Department of Conservation and Development.

May Day exercises for students of the Farmville Training School sometime in the 1920's. As a laboratory for practice teaching, the Farmville Elementary School, as it is now called, has been an important aspect of campus life. Here, as students and faculty members observe from the balcony, student teachers attempt to direct the youngsters in a May Day pageant.



The post-war depression was in full swing in the Farmville area in the early 1870's, and at a meeting held July 1, 1870, the stockholders decided to sell the college property and after paying off the debts, distribute the proceeds amongst themselves. It was not until several years later that they found a buyer and on January 15, 1873, they sold the property to G. M. Bickers and the Reverend Paul Whitehead, a Methodist minister became President.

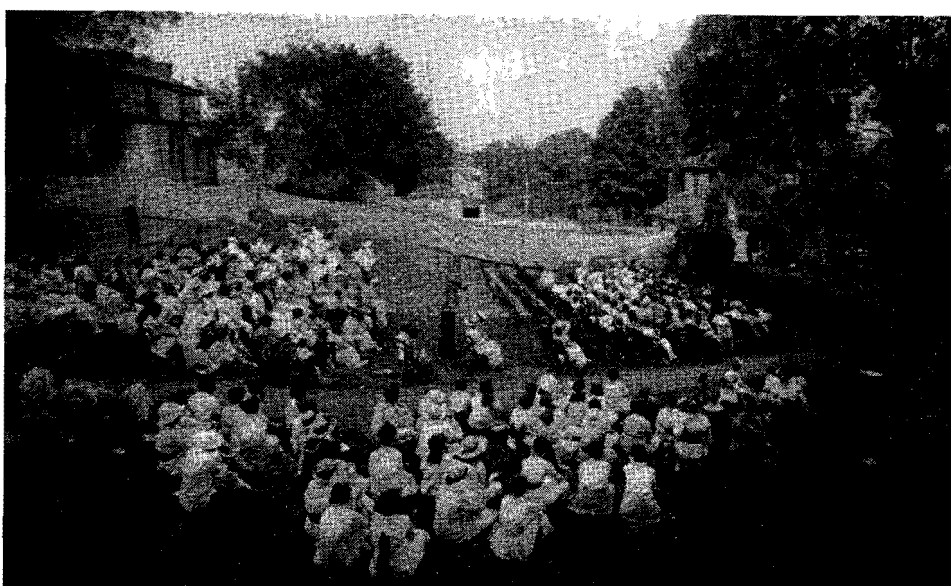
The school was incorporated as the Farmville College by the Prince Edward County Circuit Court in 1875 under the sponsorship of the Methodist Conference. The Reverend Mr. Whitehead, operated the college until 1882 when he turned it over to Miss Fannie Carter, who operated it as a girls' school for the next two years. This was during a decade when tobacco sales in Prince Edward County were at an all time low. John C. Page of Red Bank, near Farmville, wrote, "The prospect was never

more gloomy, than at present, in this portion of Virginia—in fact not one farmer in fifty paying expenses." The economy of the area continued to worsen, for Page wrote later, "Tobacco is lower than was ever known before. Consequently this portion of Virginia is in a sad financial condition."

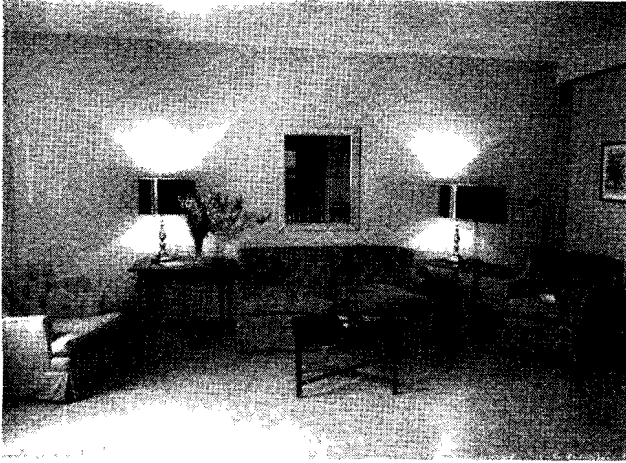
This economic climate was not inducive to the support of a girls' school, especially in a day when the education of women was considered a luxury. As a result, a group of public-spirited citizens of Farmville made a concerted effort to get the State to locate a proposed normal school for the preparation of public school teachers in Farmville.

Public Education in Virginia

Establishment of a uniform system of free public schools in Virginia was first provided for by the Underwood Constitution of 1869. Almost a century before, Thomas Jefferson, in 1779, just a few years after he



Through the years Longwood has maintained a position of leadership in the cultural life of the Farmville community. Here students and townspeople watch a Shakespearean play being presented by the (Charles) Coburn Players who appeared at the College each summer from 1910 to 1920.



Student parlors are attractively furnished. This one is in Tabb Hall, the sophomore dormitory.

wrote the Declaration of Independence, had introduced in the Virginia Legislature "A bill for the More General Diffusion of Knowledge." Jefferson believed the people were capable of self government and would make wise decisions provided they understood the issues, and his system was devised to enable them to achieve the necessary understanding. Virginia did not accept Jefferson's plan because of the social and educational traditions it inherited from England—that education was for the elite and not for the masses. Thus, although several moves were made from time to time to establish an adequate



The first faculty of the State Female Normal School in 1884.

system of public education in Virginia, no concrete achievements had been made along this line.

In light of the new constitutional provision for public education, the Legislature elected Dr. William Henry Ruffner of Lexington the first State Superintendent of Public Instruction and this scholarly crusader drew up the plan for the establishment and operation of the public schools. During the twelve years from 1870 to 1882 he led a valiant fight to prevent the diversion of public school funds to other purposes, to create an atmosphere of acceptance of free schools, and to get schools into operation in every county in Virginia. He was successful in all of these undertakings but he found one of the main detriments to the improvement of public education in Virginia to be the lack of an adequate supply of capable teachers.

This was a problem that had plagued Virginia since its earliest days as a commonwealth, and ironically is as evident today as it has been at any time in our history. At various times Dr. Ruffner tried to get the Legislature to appropriate funds to establish a normal school, but the man responsible for the final establishment of the normal school in Farmville was Dr. Jabez L. Monroe Curry, eminent statesman, educator, preacher, orator, and author. Dr. Curry was a member of both the United States and Confederate Congresses and was Minister to Spain under President Cleveland. He was President of Howard College in Alabama in 1866-67 and was President of the Board of Trustees of Richmond College for thirteen years. Dr. Curry was appointed Field Agent of the Peabody Fund for the promotion of public education in the South in 1881 and held that position for twenty-two years. It was in this capacity and as an agent of the Slater Fund for the education of the Negro that he used his boundless energy and compelling oratory to arouse the public to the need of universal education as propounded by Horace Mann. He was the inspiration for the establishment of Negro and white normal schools in twelve states. Dr. Curry wrote the bill for the establishment of the first normal school for white female teachers passed by the Virginia Legislature in March 1884, two years after the retirement of Dr. Ruffner as State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The State Female Normal School

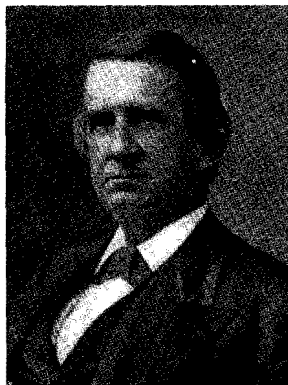
The act of 1884 made provision for the establishment of the State Female Normal School in Farmville, provided that the property of the Farmville College be deeded to the State of Virginia. Accordingly the Reverend Whitehead deeded the property of the Farmville College to the town of Farmville on April 7, and on the same date the town of Farmville deeded it to the State of Virginia. On April 9 the Board of Trustees held its first meeting in Richmond and elected Dr. Ruffner principal or president of the college and Dr. Curry president of the Board of Trustees. Dr. John L. Buchanan, LL.D., of Abingdon was elected vice-president of the Board and

The Longwood College Library, completed in 1939, is one of the more imposing structures on campus. It houses more than 74,000 books and many periodicals. Exhibits of paintings and other forms of art, on loan from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond, are displayed periodically in the Library. Also located in the Library are the audio-visual offices and equipment, which include a bureau of teaching materials and a regional film library.



Judge Francis Nathaniel Watkins, of Farnville was elected treasurer-secretary.

Although the Legislature in March had appropriated \$5,000 to be used for the establishment of the normal school, and \$10,000 a year for operating expenses, there was a delay in getting the funds, and it was not until September 17, 1884, that the Board of Trustees ordered the school to be opened. The Board set the opening date six weeks later on October 30. Dr. Ruffner later said that when the Board gave the order on September 17, "All that we had then was a principal, an appropriation, a rough scheme, and an old academy building. Not a



Dr. William Henry Ruffner

teacher, nor a book, nor a piece of furniture or apparatus, and more things to be done than any human mind could foresee . . . the building had to be repaired and added to." A lesser man would have been defeated before he started, but Dr. Ruffner set to work to get the school in operation. He believed that "instructors in a normal school should be specifically trained for their work," and he sought far and wide to obtain a faculty of the high calibre that he desired.

The State Normal School opened at Farnville at the appointed time on October 30, 1884, with an eminent group of educators to guide it in its initial and continuing mission of providing trained teachers for the public schools, thereby raising the standards of the teaching profession, and affording women in Virginia an opportunity for higher learning at a state institution. (The Normal School was the first state institution of higher learning for women established in Virginia.) By this time Dr. Ruffner had assembled a faculty of eight, including himself, to instruct the 111 girls who "came



The interior of the Longwood College Library.



Dr. John Atkinson Cunningham



Dr. Robert Frazer



Student teaching in the Farmville Elementary School.



One of the attractive dormitory rooms at Longwood.

rushing in upon us with their laughing faces." The following year, the catalog listed: "121 students, including 88 state students, 30 pay students, and three ministers' daughters." Of the original student body, Dr. Ruffner said, "We have been . . . fortunate in the character of our students. As a body they are bright, intelligent, and cheerful. Many of them have had good literary and social culture. . . . A number of our students have had experience as teachers, and some of them have reached middle age. The average age is, I think, 17 or 18 years."

The curriculum consisted of two courses, an elementary course and an advanced course, each of two years duration, which prepared teachers for the primary grades through the high school level. According to the catalog, the school offered in the advanced course: English, Latin, algebra, trigonometry, analytical geometry, geology, chemistry, physics, zoology, botany, history, arts, philosophy, and the history of education. Students in both courses received professional training by observing teaching methods and by practice teaching in the Model School operated on the campus. All of these subjects were not

actually available the first year, but they were what Dr. Ruffner believed student teachers should master, and what he planned to offer as soon as funds for expansion were secured.

After Dr. Ruffner surmounted all obstacles to get the Normal School running smoothly, he turned it over to Dr. John Atkinson Cunningham, who succeeded him as president in 1887.

During Dr. Cunningham's administration of ten years, the enrollment increased from 93 to 250, but his real interest and his greatest contribution to the school was teaching. His ambition was to build character and develop the mind. He built character by placing each student as much on her own resources as possible without denying his duty to her and to her parents. One of his teachers described his method of developing the mind as, "Socratic with additions of his own," and said, "I realize any efficiency I have as a teacher is in large measure due to him." He inspired both the faculty and students to greater learning and such effective teaching methods that A. D. Mayo, of the United States Bureau

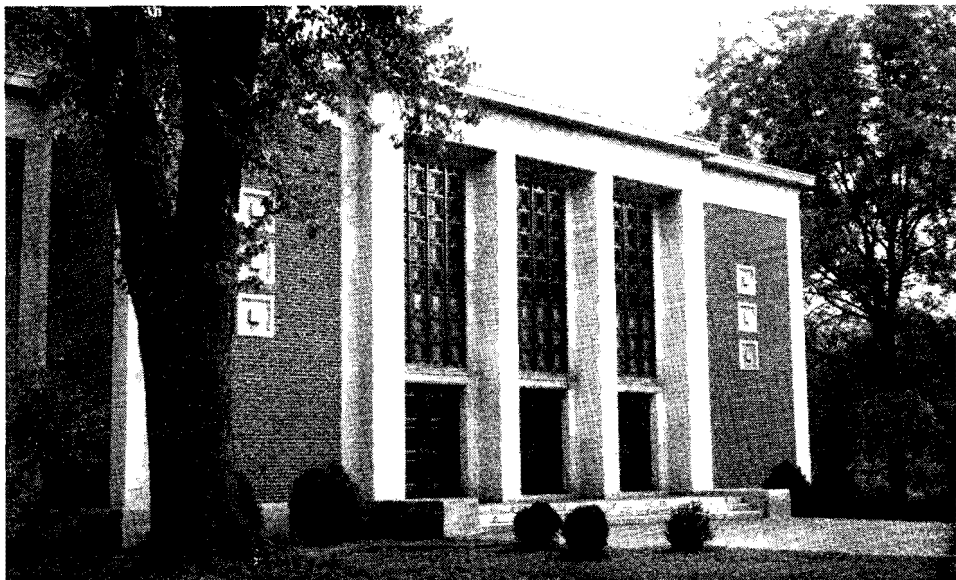


The dining room at Longwood College.



A scene in the snack bar at Longwood.

Jarman Hall, completed in 1951. Named for Dr. Joseph L. Jarman, president of the college for 44 years, the building contains an auditorium seating 1,235 persons. Longwood Players productions are held here as well as numerous other college and professional performances. In addition to an auditorium, Jarman Hall also houses music practice rooms, a listening room for recorded music, and a library of recordings and music.



of Education gave the teacher training at the Normal School the highest commendation.

Upon the death of Dr. Cuningham in 1897, Dr. Curry secured Dr. Robert Frazer as the third president of the Normal School. Known as a man of broad culture and great integrity, Dr. Frazer, on becoming president, expanded the school in numbers of students and faculty and in functions. He established a department of education and a department of physical culture, and also organized the Virginia Normal League. In 1902, Dr. Frazer resigned as president to become the field agent of the General Education Board.

Expansion in the Twentieth Century

In 1902, Dr. Joseph L. Jarman became the fourth president of the state school, which was by that time a vital factor in the public school system of Virginia. He was active in church, civic, and educational circles throughout his 44 years as president of Longwood College.

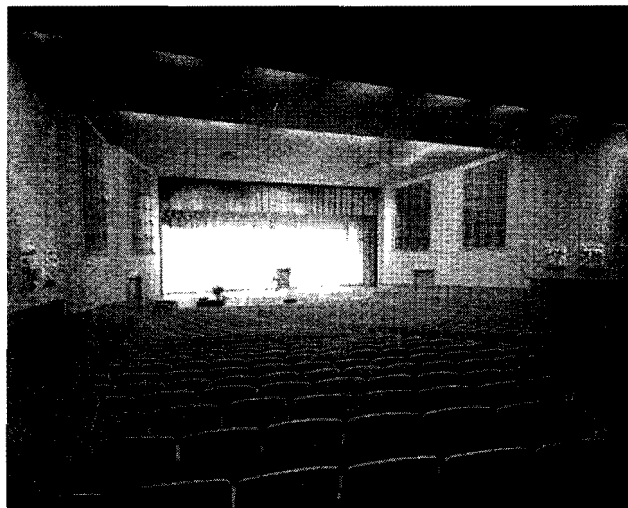
Dr. Jarman expanded the state institution from a normal school into a four-year accredited college conferring both the B.A. and B.S. degrees in the liberal arts as well as degrees in education. He inaugurated an honors course in 1930, the first to be inaugurated in a Virginia state college. Both the faculty and students of the college received national recognition.

One magazine said this of the college, "The American Educational Review (of Philadelphia) takes pleasure in commending the State Teachers College at Farmville as being among the very best and most carefully conducted Southern schools of its kind and as one after which similar schools, no matter where located might profitably model. All of its courses are modern and thoroughly up-to-the-moment".

Dr. Jarman enlarged the physical plant which accommodated 300 students to a group of imposing buildings of Jeffersonian architecture which at times has housed a student body of more than 1,000. When Dr. Jarman



A scene from a Longwood Players production in Jarman Hall.



An interior scene of Longwood's modern auditorium in Jarman Hall.



The traditional senior capping ceremony at Longwood College. Here Dr. Dabney S. Lancaster, president from 1946 to 1955, "caps" a senior.

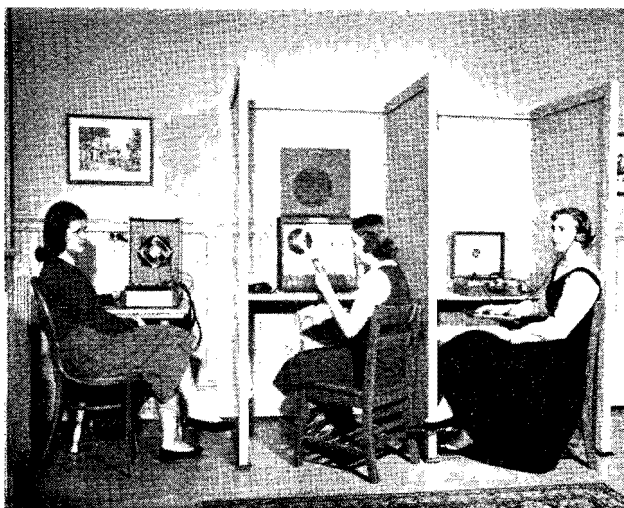


Dr. Joseph L. Jarman

arrived on the campus in 1902, he found there Ruffner Hall with many of its wings, the Fleming House, which served as a dormitory and classroom building, and a small science building. In 1903, the Fleming House was torn down, and West Wing was erected at the west end of Ruffner Hall. In 1905, White

House, which contained an auditorium with a seating capacity of 730, the Rotunda, and East Wing were built. The President's House on High Street, which had formerly been Dr. Cunningham's private residence, was purchased in 1908, and the Infirmary and Elementary School were constructed in 1912. Plans for a student activities building were first made in 1911, and the building was finally completed in 1924 with \$50,000 appropriated for that purpose by the state and \$100,000 donated by students, faculty, alumnae and other friends of the college. This proved to be one of the most popular projects ever initiated on the campus. As the Student Building was nearing completion in 1923, the college suffered its first major fire, when the South Wing, which contained the dining hall, kitchen, and 40 bedrooms, burned. However, it was rebuilt within a year. The junior dormitory of Cunningham Hall was constructed in 1928 at a cost of \$125,000 to provide space for 136 girls and relieve the crowded conditions on the campus. Also in 1928, the college purchased 10.3-acre Longwood Estate, a part of a tract of land thought to have contained 20,000 acres when it was granted by the Crown to Peter Johnston in 1765. Longwood Estate was later the home of General Joseph E. Johnston, the Confederate military figure. The original house burned in 1814, and the present house built in the following year was repaired in 1929 for use as a recreation center. The Library was completed in 1939, and the senior wing of Cunningham Hall in 1940.

At the same time that the campus was being enlarged, the college was undergoing other changes. In 1914 the name of the institution was changed from the Female Normal School to the State Normal School for Women and the Board of Trustees was replaced by the State Normal School Board established to direct the affairs of this school and the female normal schools established at Harrisonburg in 1909, Fredericksburg in 1911, and Radford in 1912. The state did not provide a liberal arts college for women until 1932, when the school in Fred-



Foreign language students use records and tape recordings to improve their pronunciation.



Actual practice on modern office machines is possible in business education classes at Longwood.

ericksburg was converted to Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia. In 1924, the Farmville school became the State Teachers College at Farmville under the Board of Virginia Teachers Colleges, and in 1929 the college was placed directly under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Education.

A list of Dr. Jarman's tangible achievements during his 44 years as president cannot begin to portray his vast influence over thousands of Virginians who passed through the portals of the college or his service to education in Virginia. Dr. Francis B. Simpkins, Professor of History at Longwood, wrote of Dr. Jarman a few months before he retired in 1946:

"This love and reverence (of Dr. Jarman) is the fruit of the rare personality he possesses. Handsome of countenance and possessed of a winsome smile, he inspires friendliness without sacrifice of dignity. . . . He is a man of profound piety . . . yet he is quite tolerant of the behavior of others. . . . He has kept it (the college) devoted to the task of training teachers while other institutions founded for the same purpose have been diverted to other educational activities . . . he has fostered an atmosphere of gentility and good breeding often associated with the aristocratic tradition of an old Commonwealth. . . . He feels that he is training citizens, wives and mothers, as well as teachers."

Upon retirement of Dr. Jarman, the State Board of Education selected Dr. Dabney Stewart Lancaster as president of the college. He had been, since 1941, State Superintendent of Public Instruction in Virginia, and hence repeated Dr. Ruffner's route of a generation before when he came to Longwood as president in 1946.

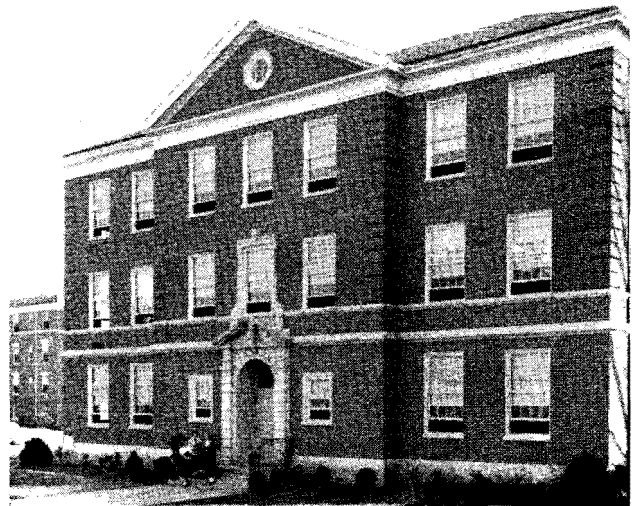
Dr. Lancaster, who rates teaching and the ministry as the two most effective and far-reaching fields of public endeavor, is a prominent and influential leader in education both at the school and college level and in the Episcopal Church. He recently began a four year term as Chairman of the State Council of Higher Education.

Higher Standards in Virginia

With the exception of twelve years on the faculty of the University of Alabama, Dr. Lancaster has spent his



An action scene of hockey, one of the many sports on the Longwood campus.



Stevens Hall, the science building, was constructed during Dr. Lancaster's administration. In addition to the various science laboratories, it houses a science museum and equipment for the recording of weather conditions.

entire life trying to raise the standards of the public school system of Virginia so that the graduates will walk in the manner of "the educated man."

Believing that human welfare depends on the kind of students leaving our schools, and that in turn the ability of these students to become educated men depends largely on the quality of the public schools and teachers, Dr. Lancaster worked ceaselessly to raise the standards of the teaching profession.

During the period from 1941 to 1946, when Dr. Lancaster served as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, he insisted on far more adequate appropriations by the state for the public schools than had been forthcoming. After the Denny Commission urged appropriations in line with Dr. Lancaster's proposal, the General Assembly provided the funds. As head of the state teachers college in Farmville, Dr. Lancaster did much to alleviate the critical shortage of qualified teachers of character and ability. One of his most far-reaching improvements in the college was a selective admissions program set up in 1947 which raised the level of mental ability of the entire student body. Longwood's admissions program is in agreement with the philosophy of Thomas Jefferson



Formal affairs such as the Junior Dance are important to campus social life.



Students in the biology laboratory in Stevens Hall.



A music lesson on the four-manual pipe organ in Jarman Hall.

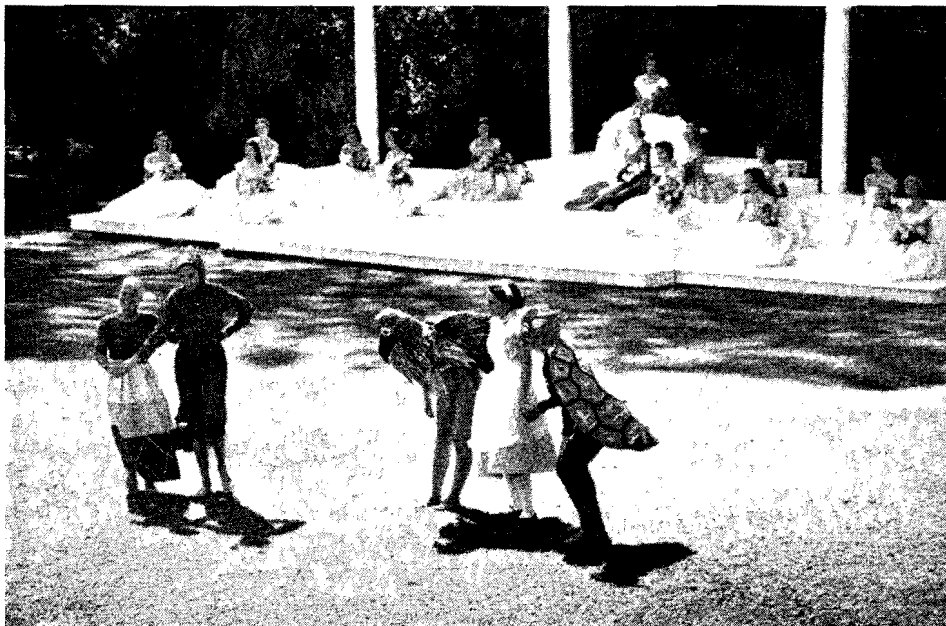
who believed that, after a period of education for all, those capable of further education should be selected, encouraged, and helped to continue. During his administration the faculty was strengthened so that 30 per cent of the members now hold doctorates and no permanent member holds less than a master's degree. A graduate program was added and other curricula expanded so that Longwood now confers 12 degrees, nine of which are in education, two in the liberal arts, and one in medical technology. The first master's degree was conferred in the summer of 1956. The college was approved by the American Association of University Women in 1953.

In 1949 the college changed its name once more, this time from the State Teachers College to Longwood College, obtaining the new name from Longwood Estate. The omission of the word "teachers" made the new name more in keeping with the enlarged area of academic activities.

Expansion of the physical plant during Dr. Lancaster's

administration included the construction of three new major buildings: Stevens Hall, the science building; Jarman Hall, the auditorium and music building; and Tabb Hall, the sophomore dormitory built to replace the White House which burned in 1949. At the Governor's request, Dr. Lancaster submitted plans for further expansion for the six years ending in 1962. The plans include additions to the library, a business education building, a dormitory building now being constructed, a home economics demonstration house, and a classroom building. Dr. Lancaster retired in July 1955.

Succeeding Dr. Lancaster as president of the college was Dr. Francis G. Lankford, Jr., noted authority on the teaching of mathematics. Dr. Lankford holds the B.S. degree from Randolph-Macon College and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Virginia. He has done post-doctoral work as a General Education Board Fellow at the University of Michigan, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He began his teaching career as an instruc-



"Alice in a Land of Wonder" presented before the May Queen and her court in the outdoor amphitheater at Longwood Estate, May Day 1955. To the right, Alice stands between the gryphon and the mock turtle. The May Day Festival, held every spring, is more elaborate than are the usual May Day festivities and attracts thousands of visitors each year.

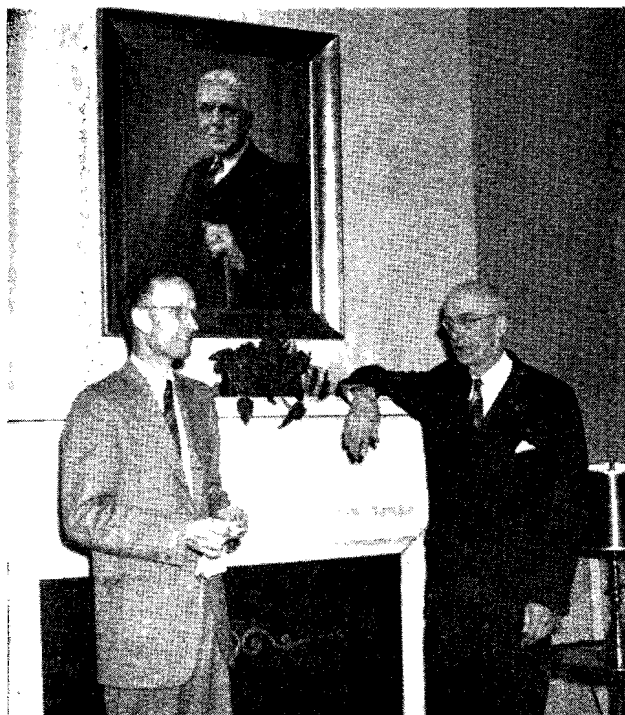
The academic procession on graduation day at Longwood College. Longwood confers twelve degrees, nine of which are in education, two in the liberal arts, and one in medical technology.



tor at Randolph-Macon College in 1927. Since that time he has been principal of the Heathsville High School, director of research for the Richmond City Schools, taught at the University of Michigan, Harvard University, the University of Texas, and has been a professor of mathematics at the University of Virginia for 24 years except for brief leaves of absence. As director of educational research at the University of Virginia, in addition to his teaching duties, he served as a consultant for both city and county schools all over Virginia, and completed a two-year research project on experimental methods of teaching arithmetic in elementary schools. He came to

Longwood well qualified to head a college so closely tied to the public school system of Virginia.

Upon assuming his duties, Dr. Lankford expressed profound respect for the calling of teaching. He stated that he believed Longwood to be a type of institution vital to the future of Virginia and that he expects to continue emphasis on the preparation of teachers. He found at the college two things for which he is especially grateful: a group of alumnae with extraordinary affection for their Alma Mater and a student body with "a wholesome attitude, fine spirit, and sense of loyalty unmatched anywhere."



Longwood's executive leadership since 1902. Over the mantle is a portrait of Dr. J. L. Jarman, president from 1902 to 1946. To the left is Dr. Francis G. Lankford, who came to Longwood in July 1955. To the right is Dr. Dabney S. Lancaster, president from 1946 to 1955.



A bronze equestrian statue of Joan of Arc presented to the Joan Chapter of Alpha Kappa Gamma by Sculptress Anna Hyatt Huntington and her husband, Milton Huntington. It stands in the colonnade leading from Ruffner Hall to the Student Building. This honorary leadership fraternity was founded at Longwood in 1928.

A Student Body of High Calibre

Longwood students are motivated by a tradition of friendliness, cooperation, leadership, and loyalty as old as the college itself. For this spirit two student organizations are largely responsible: the Student Government Association and Alpha Kappa Gamma, the honorary leadership fraternity on the campus.

In 1930 "The Virginian," the college yearbook, aptly stated the purpose of the Student Government Association: "To live our life at its best, to grow into wider freedom, to make and accept the pervasive college spirit, to leave Farmville a little stronger than we found it—for this the honor system came into being (in 1910) and for this the Student Government exists." The responsibility and the range of the Student Council, the governing body of the Student Government Association, has grown with the years, and received more and more freedom in its activities. During the nine years of Dr. Lancaster's tenure, he never reversed a decision of the Council.

As an example of its wider scope in another area, the Student Council assumed the management of the May

Day Festival in 1955 for the first time. This extravaganza, presented each year in the natural outdoor amphitheater on Longwood Estate, known to the students as the Dell, is far more elaborate than the usual May Day festivities and attracts thousands of visitors each year. The students write, enact and direct a drama of song and dance in addition to performing a May Pole dance before the May Queen and her court.

The Student Council also takes charge of the Orientation Week at the opening of the fall semester, publishes the "Student Handbook", and initiates projects in connection with special events such as Founders Day. Within the framework of the Student Government Association many organizations operate on the campus. Probably the best known of these is the "Longwood Players." This drama group has presented outstanding productions over a long period of years, ranging from Shakespearian plays to "Dark of the Moon," a drama in song and dance presented last spring. Much of the social life of the students is centered in the eight national sororities, four of which were founded on the Longwood campus: Kappa Delta in 1897, Sigma Sigma Sigma and Zeta Tau Alpha in 1898, and Alpha Sigma Alpha in 1901.



MISS LOUISE CLIFTON WALTON, of Lynchburg made history when she received a M.A. Degree in Education at the end of the 1956 summer session. This was the first Master's Degree conferred by Longwood College.

The Joan Chapter of Alpha Kappa Gamma was founded at Longwood in 1928 as an honorary leadership fraternity

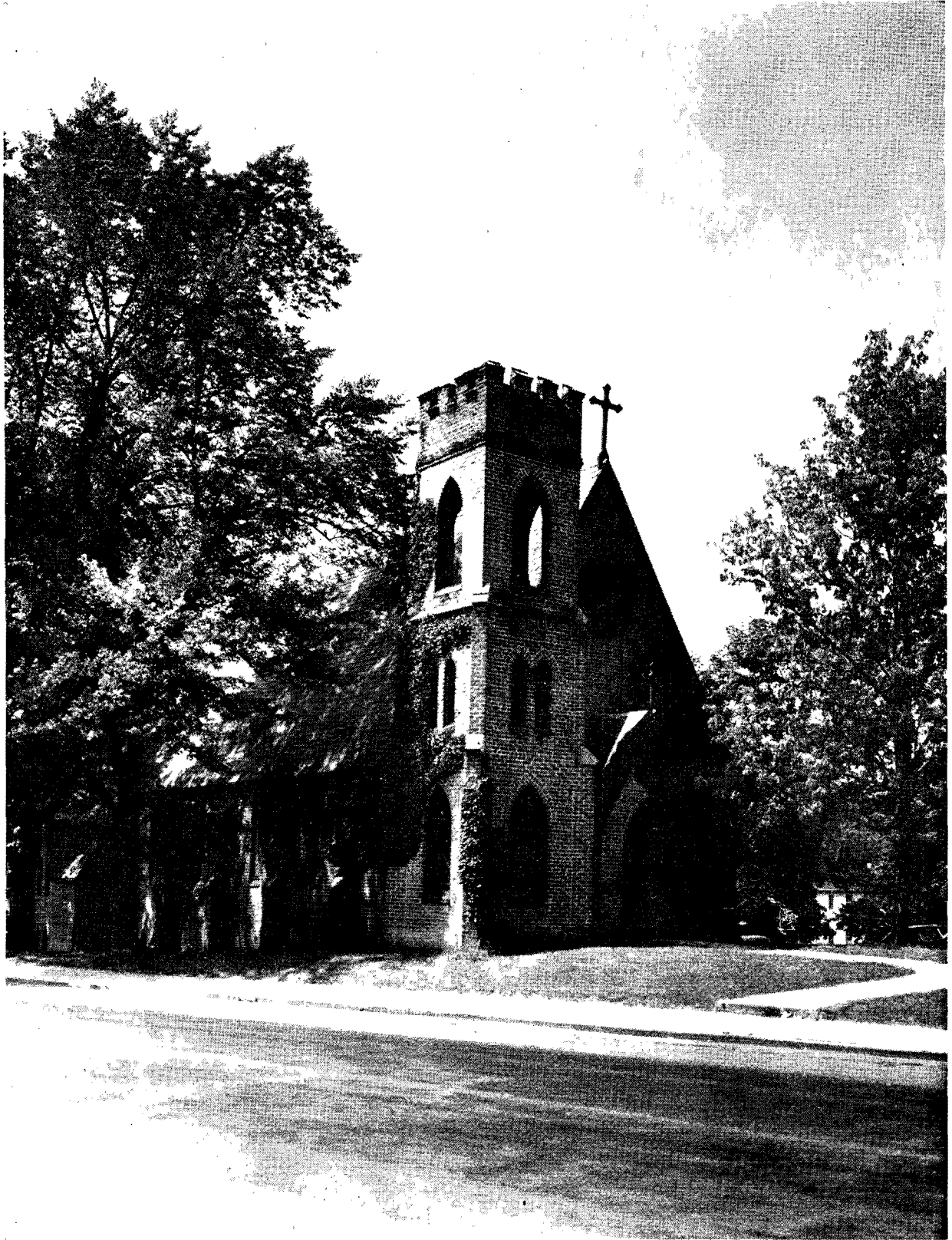
for womanly service and since that time has been expanded into a national organization. The chapter at Longwood was named for Joan of Arc, its patron saint. A bronze equestrian statue of Joan of Arc presented to the Joan Chapter by the well-known sculptress, Anna Hyatt Huntington and her husband, Milton Huntington, stands in the colonnade leading from Ruffner Hall to the Student Building.

The Rotunda, which is the symbol of Longwood College to each of the 23,000 women who have attended the college since it became a state institution in 1884, contains a second statue of Joan of Arc. This statue serves to remind each student of all that her Alma Mater means to her. Above the statue in the dome of the Rotunda is a painting of four great educators whose philosophies contributed to the founding of the college: Thomas Jefferson, Horace Mann, Dr. J. L. M. Curry, and Dr. W. H. Ruffner. Between the portraits of the men are symbols of rest, recreation, study, and meditation.

Longwood is a proficient faculty of 75 men and women and an enthusiastic student body of 900 young women whose home during the school year is a group of buildings of charm and beauty on a fifteen-acre campus in Farmville, Virginia. Its graduates have carried Alpha Kappa Gamma's motto, "Service through leadership," into every state in the nation and into many foreign countries . . . wherever they make their homes.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- A History of Prince Edward County* by H. Clarence Bradshaw
- A History of Education in Virginia*, by Cornelius J. Heatwole
- The Beginnings of Public Education in Virginia, 1776-1860*, by A. J. Morrison
- The Free School Idea in Virginia Before the Civil War*, by William Arthur Maddox
- The Church, the State, and Education in Virginia*, by Sadie Bell
- Secondary Education in Virginia, 1845-1870*, by John W. Boitnott (unpublished dissertation in library of University of Virginia)
- Secondary Education in Virginia, 1870-1886*, by Raymond P. G. Bowman (unpublished dissertation in library of University of Virginia)
- Development of Public Schools in Virginia, 1607-1952*, by Dr. J. L. Blair Buck
- A Documentary History of Education in the South Before 1860*, Volume V, by Edgar W. Knight
- Public Education in the South*, by Edgar W. Knight
- Who's Who in Farmville Portraits*, by Francis B. Simkins (unpublished, in Longwood College library)
- Martins Gazetteer*, 1836
- Richmond Enquirer*, January 10, 1833; February 14, 1835; May 20, 1835
- The Virginian*, 1909
- Minutes of Boards of Trustees, Longwood College, 1884-1914
- Presidents' Annual Reports, Longwood College, 1884-1914
- Annual Announcement and Register*, Farmville Female College, 1859-1860
- Letters from John C. Page of Clay Bank
- The Chivalric Side of General Grant by Mary Lynn Williamson, *Harpers Weekly*, July 10, 1909



Across the street from the Longwood College campus is the Johns Memorial Episcopal Church, where the Longwood YWCA holds prayer services each day for students who want to attend. The church was built in 1881.

