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Principals and presidents of Marshall University: 1837-2013

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**PRINCIPALS AND PRESIDENTS
OF
MARSHALL UNIVERSITY
1837 – 2013**



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INTRODUCTION

Marshall University has been known by three official names, and thirty-nine individuals have guided it as its forty chief administrative officers—one man served as its principal twice. The institution began as Marshall Academy in 1837, was renamed Marshall College in 1858, and finally became Marshall University in 1961. Of the thirty-nine persons who have shepherded the institution during its one-hundred and seventy-five years, thirty-eight were men and one was a woman. Eight men were principals during the Marshall Academy years, and five were teachers who stepped in to keep the academy functioning during critical years, especially the Civil War. It was during these war years that a single woman kept the dream of Marshall alive. After the Civil War there were nine men who held the title of principal during the Marshall College period. In 1907 the title of principal was changed to president, and six men held that title during the rest of the college period. Since becoming a university, thirteen men have held the title of president. Of these thirteen men, two were called acting presidents and two were called interim presidents.

Each of these individuals has left his her own mark on Marshall University, whether for only a few months or for decades. Yet it has been difficult to find much information about the lives of many of them. Yes, there are a number of historical studies of the University, both published and unpublished, in which there appear brief biographical sketches of some of them, but the last of these studies was published in the 1980s, more than thirty years ago. There is no single place an interested person can go to find information about these important figures in Marshall's history. The purpose of this brief paper is to ameliorate that unfortunate situation.

A number of interesting facts emerge upon reading about the lives of these men and woman. For

example, Thackston was the only man to serve as principal twice. After retiring from academe, Hamilton worked as a photographer on numerous exploratory expeditions round the world. Two men, Perry and Farrell, were not even educators, but were in the private sector when asked to serve as temporary presidents.

A number of men were ordained ministers, some even serving as pastors of congregations while at Marshall: Thom and Poage were Presbyterian ministers; and McFarland and Fields were Methodist ministers. Kenny had been a Catholic priest before coming to Marshall. Corbly was a preacher in the Christian Church. Barker was an elder in the Presbyterian Church. Brown was also a minister, but his affiliation is not known.

When Marshall was founded in 1837, it was part of the slave-holding state of Virginia, but only one of its principals, Thom, owned slaves. No evidence suggests that any of the other principals during the antebellum years were slave owners.

Marshall also had its share of men who had roles in the Civil War. Field and Chesterman were Confederate veterans; Morrow was a Union veteran. Thackston worked for the Confederate government in Richmond. McFarland, a Confederate sympathizer, was placed before two Union Army firing squads, but was not executed; he also had his church seized by the Union Army for a short period. Thrush, upon leaving Marshall at the commencement of the Civil War, told the assembled student body that he was going home to Pennsylvania to enlist against the Confederacy, but changed his mind when he got there. The only woman, Mason, was a Confederate sympathizer, who purchased the Marshall Academy in her name but with her father's money, because he would not swear the loyalty oath required by the court.

Not only were there Civil War veterans among Marshall leaders, there were also veterans from the Second World War. Barker dropped out of school when fifteen and joined the army serving in the infantry and earning a bronze star. Both Hayes and Clagg were United States Marines, who fought in the Pacific during the war; Clagg even wrote a book about his war experiences. Farrell also served in the military during the 1970s.

A few of the men who guided Marshall went on to gain national prominence. Champ Clark left education for politics, winning a seat in the United States House of Representatives and eventually becoming a Speaker of the House. The integration of the University of Mississippi, a result of *Brown*

vs. Board of Education, focused national attention for Williams who was its president at the time. Dwight Morrow, who was born in Old Main while his father was principal, became the Ambassador to Mexico. He was elected to the United States Senate, and was the father of Anne Morrow Lindbergh, whose husband gained fame for his solo flight across the Atlantic.

This is just a sampling of some of the exploits of the extraordinary men and woman who have guided Marshall through the last one-hundred and seventy-five years. As the University looks toward the next twenty-five years that lead toward its bicentennial, perhaps a woman will become Marshall's first female president.

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PART ONE — PRINCIPALS DURING THE MARSHALL ACADEMY PERIOD, 1837-1867

Isaac N. Peck — First Principal, 1837-1839

Isaac N. Peck was Marshall Academy's first Principal. Between 1836-1837 he taught a subscription school in Mount Hebron Church, a simple log building, on a knoll called Maple Grove, where Old Main at Marshall University now stands. He had a solid reputation as an "efficient teacher,"¹ who was also described as a "more than ordinary scholar."² With the efforts and support of local residents the Virginia Assembly established a new school, called Marshall Academy, on March 13, 1838.³ Local residents constructed a fine two-story brick building on land acquired from John Laidley for \$40—the current site of Old Main. The deed called for the property to be "used for the express purpose of an Academy and no other use."⁴ The new academy proved to be so popular, with more than 100 students enrolled, that Peck hired a Mr. Shepherd⁵ as an assistant. Peck was described in these words:

¹Virgil A. Lewis, "A History of Marshall Academy, Marshall College and Marshall College State Normal School by Virgil A. Lewis," edited by Cora Teel, *Libraries Faculty Research*. Paper 13, p. 8 (mds.marshall.edu/lib_faculty/1; accessed 1 July 2012).

²B. S. Morgan and J. F. Cork, "History of Education in West Virginia," in *Biennial Report of the Superintendent of Free School of the State of West Virginia for the Years 1891-1892* (Charleston, WV: Moses W. Donnally, 1893), 67.

³*Acts of the Virginia Assembly*, 1838 Session, p. 167.

⁴Copy of a Holographic Deed, dated 3 June 1838, in Marshall University Archives.

⁵No information could be found to identify this man.

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Mr. Peck was not the typical “old time” school master. In the management of the school he did not rely chiefly on sternest of countenance, sharpness of speech and strength of arm, but rather by his pupils, he bound them to him by the silken ties of reverence, respect and affection. It was fortunate for the school that its beginnings were in the hands of such an eminent teacher.⁶

Peck left in September 1839, after teaching the school for three years. Unfortunately, no further information on Peck can be located about him, either before or after he left Marshall Academy.

Jacob Harris Patton — Second Principal, 1839-1840



Principal Peck was succeeded by twenty-seven-year-old Jacob Harris Patton in the September 1839, who had received his bachelors degree from Jefferson College earlier that year. He served as Principal for one school term. In a letter that he wrote in 1901, he stated, “I spent about fourteen months at Maple Grove, when I was principal of Marshall Academy, 1839-40. I look back even now with pleasure to that period of my life. I left in the autumn of 1840, and reached Nashville, Tenn., in November, and was appointed Tutor in Nashville, University”⁷ During his tenure at Marshall Academy his conduct was described as “gentle and persuasive, it is of the strictest moral character; and that the attendance at chapel exercises on the part of the pupils was compulsory.”⁸

The following biographic sketch highlights Patton’s life and academic career as a renowned historian:

Jacob Harris Patton, teacher and author, was born in Fayette county, Pa., May 20, 1812; son of Thomas and Anna (Harris) Patton; grandson of Joseph and Sarah (Weir) Patton and of Jacob and Rebecca (Mofford) Harris. He was graduated at Jefferson College, Pa., A.B., 1839, A.M., 1842; was a tutor in the University of Nashville, Tenn., 1840-43, and at Union Theological seminary, New York city, 1843-46, and was graduated there in 1846. He was

⁶Morgan and Cook, “*History of Education in West Virginia*,” p. 67.

⁷W. S. Laidley, “The West End of Virginia,” *The West Virginia Historical Magazine Quarterly*, 1 (October 1901), p. 38.

⁸Lewis, “History of Marshall Academy,” p. 9.

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principal of a private classical school in New York city, 1846-82, and was licensed to preach by the presbytery of New York in 1846, but chose the profession of teaching. He was married in 1854 to Caroline, daughter of Oliver Chear; she died in 1880. He received the degree of Ph.D. from Washington and Jefferson college in 1884. He devoted the latter part of his life to literary work, and is the author of: *A Concise History of the American People* (2 vols. 1860-1901); *Yorktown Memorial 1731-1831* (1881); *Political Parties of the United States, their History and Influence* (1884-1902); *A Popular History of the Presbyterian Church in the United States* (1901); *The Natural Resources of the United States* (1888-1894); *Which Religion Satisfies the Wants of the Soul?* (1902), and contributions to periodicals.⁹

Alfred E. Thom — Third Principal, 1840-1843

Following Principal Patton's tenure, Presbyterian minister Rev. Alfred E. Thom, a recent graduate of the Presbyterian Theological School and Seminary, was hired in November 1840 as the Academy's third Principal. In 1841 he was also hired as the pastor of the Western Church in Guyandotte, which had been founded on July 27, 1838, in the half-finished Marshall Academy building.¹⁰ Apparently, he supplemented his pastoral salary of \$500 a year, supplied by The Western Church, as well as a church in Burlington, Ohio, by teaching at the Academy, where he had been an instructor since the school's founding in 1838.¹¹ In 1840 he accepted a full-time position. The Virginia House of Delegates highly recommended him for the position, based on "their knowledge of [his] qualifications," and because of that they "recommended [the Academy] as an Institution worthy of patronage."¹² He maintained his residence on the Virginia side of the Ohio River while the pastor of the Burlington Church, because he owned a slave girl, named Susie, and "slavery was

⁹ Johnson, Rossiter, ed. *Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans*, 8 vols. (Detroit, Gale Research Co., 1968), 8: not paged.

¹⁰ *Inventory of the Church Archives of West Virginia: The Presbyterian Churches* (West Virginia Historical Survey, 1941), p. 157; Gill I. Wilson, *The Story of Presbyterianism in West Virginia* (Privately published, 1938), p. 26. Thom was the pastor of the Burlington Ohio, Presbyterian Church, from which the Guyandotte church, originally called "The Western Church," was formed. Wilson mistakenly spelled Thom's surname, "Them."

¹¹ Wilson, *Story of Presbyterianism in West Virginia*, p. 26.

¹² *Journal of the House of Delegates of Virginia, 1840-41 Session, Document 4*, pp. 44-45; *Addresses at the inauguration of Rev. Rufus W. Bailey, A.M., as president of Austin College, Huntsville, Texas, February 18, 1859.* (Houston, Tex., 1859), p. 23.

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prohibited in the Northwest Territory of which Ohio was a part.”¹³ Rev. Thom continued to head the Academy until September 1843,¹⁴ when he resigned to accept a more lucrative pastorate in Paris, Kentucky.¹⁵

Little is known about his life after he left Marshall Academy. He married Mary Reaves. While the pastor of the West Church he baptized two of his infant children.¹⁶ He subsequently joined the faculty at Austin College, Huntsville, Texas, as Professor of Mathematics and Natural Science. He also served as the seventh pastor of the Huntsville Presbyterian Church. He was Austin College’s acting president from 1857-1858, until the inauguration of Rev. Rufus W. Bailey in February 1859.¹⁷

Josiah Baird Poage, — Fourth Principal, 1843-1850

Marshall Academy’s fourth Principal was thirty-year-old Rev. Josiah Baird Poage, a Presbyterian minister.¹⁸ He took office in September 1843. It was only after his employment at the Academy that he took an “interest in the local Presbyterian pastorate,” becoming the minister of the Western Church after Thom left.¹⁹ He received a salary of \$400 a year from his congregation, and a similar

¹³Clyde A. Wellman, “History of the First Presbyterian Church, Part 2” p. 3, Clyde A. Wellman Papers, Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University; George S. Wallace, *Cabell County Annuals and Families* (Richmond, Va.: Garrett & Massie, 1935), 308. On March 16, 1841, Thom baptized Suzie and it “was one of the few instances in West Virginia History of a slave-owner administering the Christian rites of Baptism to his own slave” (Wellman, op. cit, p. 4).

¹⁴Lewis, “History of Marshall Academy,” p. 57.

¹⁵Clyde A. Wellman, “History of Marshall College,” in *One Hundred Years of Marshall College* (Huntington, West Va.: Centennial Committee of Marshall College, 1937 p. 85.

¹⁶Anna Thom was baptized on 1 Dec 1839 at six weeks, and E. C. Thom was baptized on 4 Nov. 1839 at seven weeks (Wellman, “History of the First Presbyterian Church, Part 2” p. 5a).

¹⁷See: *Addresses at the Inauguration of Rev. Rufus W. Bailey, A.M., as President of Austin College, Huntsville, Texas, February 18, 1859.* (Houston: Telegraph Book and Job Establishment, 1859,) p. 23; *The Tri-Weekly State Times* (Austin, Texas), [Mary Reave Thom’s obituary] Mar. 23, 1854; *Nashville Christian Advocate*, Sept. 21, 1854; “The Church and Austin College,” (firstpresbyterianhuntsville.org/history3.html, accessed Aug. 8, 2012).

¹⁸The Guyandotte Presbyterian Church met in the Marshall Academy building from its founding in 1838 until 1849, first under Rev. Alfred E. Thom and then Rev. Josiah B. Poage (*Inventory of the Church Archives of West Virginia: The Presbyterian Churches*, p. 157).

¹⁹Wellman, “History of the First Presbyterian Church, Part 2” p. 5.

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salary from the Academy. Upon his employment he issued an advertisement for the coming school term in the *Kanawha Republican*, October 5, 1843.²⁰ During his tenure, Marshall Academy drew “students from Kentucky and Ohio, and from the counties of Cabell, Wayne, Mason, Greenbrier and others, of Virginia.”²¹ He combined “the capacity of instructing with a liberal knowledge of the languages and the sciences usually taught in academies and colleges.”²² A newspaper reported that his students performed well in their examinations, which “proved him to have been as efficient as anyone that ever had the government of that academy.”²³ He served as the Principal until July 1850.

The following necrology gives the highlights of his life and academic career:

Josiah Baird Poage, the son of Robert and Mary Poage, was born in Bath County, Virginia, June 25, 1813. When he was four years old, the family removed to Greenup, Boyd Co., Ky. His preparatory studies were pursued at home, and in the Literary Department of Lane Seminary. He was graduated from Marietta College, Ohio, in 1839; was received to the communion of the Greenup Presbyterian Church at the age of seventeen years; spent a year in teaching after leaving college; entered Princeton Seminary in 1840 and graduated in 1843; was licensed by the Presbytery of Philadelphia, June 22, 1843; was ordained an evangelist by the Presbytery of Green View, Oct. 4, 1845; was stated supply of Western Church, Va., and Burling[ton] Church, Ohio, 1843-50. With these churches he had charge of Marshall Academy, now Marshall College, the recipient of the Peabody Fund for West Virginia. In 1850 he removed to Missouri and took charge of Mount Prairie and Pleasant Hill Churches, 1850-55. In 1855, he established the Watson Seminary in Ashley Pike Co., Mo., having charge of the Ashley Presbyterian Church. This he left in 1860. He was engaged in missionary work and teaching, 1860-73; stated supply of Eastern and Willow Beech Churches, 1872-73; teacher at La Grange, Mo., 1873-77; Red Oak, Ia., 1877. In the latter year he removed to San Francisco, Cal. From that time until his death, he was connected with the “Occident,” as its office editor. He was emphatically a Christian gentleman, decided in his opinions, but charitable in his spirit. He died at his residence in San Francisco, Cal., Dec, 18, 1884, in the seventy-second year of his age.

²⁰Reproduced in Lewis, “History of Marshall Academy, 21.

²¹W. S. Laidley, “The West End of Virginia,” *The West Virginia Historical Magazine Quarterly*, 1 (October 1901), p. 38.

²²Lewis, “History of Marshall Academy,” 19.

²³*Kanawha Republican*, May 21, 1844, quoted in Lewis, “History of Marshall Academy,” p. 22.

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Mr. Poage was married, near Lewisburg, Va., April 25, 1844, to Miss Francis A. McElhany Arbuckle. Two sons and three daughters were the fruit of this marriage, survive him. (2) At Bridgeton, N. J., Nov. 4, 1872, to Miss Mary Reeve Clark, grand-daughter of the Rev. Nathaniel Reeve. She survives him.²⁴

Henry Clark and Joseph Foster — Teachers, 1850

After Josiah Poage left, the Academy began to decline, the school becoming “little more than a primary school.”²⁵ Henry Clark and Joseph Foster are included as Principals on some lists, but not on others.²⁶ In any case, their tenure must have been of very short duration, because Josiah B. Poage left in July 1850 and William B. McFarland took over as the new Principal in September 1850.²⁷ They may have simply been local towns people or Academy teachers who stepped in until a new principal arrived. Virgil Lewis in his history listed them as: “Henry Clark (1st) / Joseph Foster (2d),” suggesting that they served one after another for only a brief period. Little biographical information on these men could be located.

Henry Clark was probably the Henry Clark listed as living in Cabell County in the 1840 and 1870 Cabell County censuses. He was born in Virginia in 1805. His occupation in 1850 was listed as a merchant.²⁸ He and his wife, Elizabeth, built the Johnson-Meek home in Huntington, in 1832, which was sold to Samson Sanders in 1843.²⁹ The 1850 census indicated that he had three children, ages

²⁴*Necrological Reports Presented to the Alumni Association of Princeton Theological Seminary at its Annual Meeting, May 4th, 1886.* (Princeton: Princeton Press, 1886), pp. 41-42, in vol. 1 of *Necrological Reports and Annual Proceedings of the Alumni Association of Princeton Theological Seminary, 1875 -1932*, 7 vols. (Princeton, N.J., 1891-1932).

²⁵Thomas E. Hodges, “Historical Sketch,” *Catalogue of Marshall College, 1892-1893*, p. 29, as cited in Robert C. Toole, “History of Marshall College, 1837-1915,” Thesis, Marshall University, Huntington, W. Va., 1951, p. 12.

²⁶See: Lewis, “History of Marshall Academy,” p. 57; Vera Andrew, *The Unquenchable Torch: Historical Pageant of Marshall College, Presented in Commemoration of the Conferring of the First Bachelor Degrees, June Eleventh, Nineteen Twenty-one* (Published by author, 1921?), 31; *Centennial Catalog of Marshall College*, Bulletin Vol. 21, no 5 (Huntington, W. Va.: Marshall College, 1937), inside back cover; *One Hundred Years of Marshall College*, p. 167.

²⁷Lewis, “History of Marshall Academy,” p. 57.

²⁸“Henry Clark,” United States 1850 West Virginia Census. His wife was listed as Elizabeth.

²⁹“Johnson-Meek Home,” National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Mar. 26, 2004. Available at www.wvculture.org/shpo/nr/pdf/cabell/04000313.pdf.

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thirteen to seventeen, who may have been attending the academy when Poage left, so he might have agreed to briefly assist the school. The 1880 census has him living with his son in Mercer County, West Virginia.

There is even less information about Joseph Foster. He may have also been the man by that name who was a charter member of the Grand Lodge of West Virginia, organized in Cabell County in 1867.³⁰

William B. McFarland — Fifth Principal, 1850-1853

In the Fall of 1850 the Methodist Episcopal Church South took ownership of Marshall Academy.³¹ Rev. William H. McFarland was hired as the new Principal. He was born on February 9, 1820, in Indiana County, Pennsylvania, the son of William and Margaret Lewis McFarland.³² McFarland had been a Presbyterian, but when nineteen years old he switched to the Methodist faith. His family opposed his decision, so he had to work his own way through Allegheny College at Meadville, Pennsylvania, graduating in 1841.³³ After his ordination in 1842 by the Pittsburgh Annual Conference, he moved to (West) Virginia, where he served as pastor in a number of communities, until he was hired as a pastor of the Methodist Church in Huntington, as well as assuming the Principalship of Marshall Academy on September 15, 1850.³⁴ McFarland served as the Principal of the Academy until August 24, 1853, when he resigned following a transfer to Charleston (West) Virginia, where he continued also to serve as an agent for the Academy. He was subsequently

³⁰See; Wallace, *Cabell County Annuals*, p. 318.

³¹Andrew, *One Hundred Years of Marshall College*, p. 86. The Methodist Episcopal Church agreed to divide in 1844 principally over the question of slavery, and the Methodist Episcopal Church South was organized in Louisville, Kentucky in 1845 (Lewis, "History of Marshall Academy, p. 23).

³²"Notes for William B. McFarland," McFarland Family Manuscript, Ancestry.com., printout provided by Jack Dickinson.

³³*History of Lafayette County, Missouri* (St. Louis, Mo., Missouri Historical Co., 1881), p. 558.

³⁴Lewis, "History of Marshall Academy," p. 57.

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transferred to the St. Louis Conference, receiving a pastorate in Westport, Missouri, 1857.³⁵

He lived most of the rest of his life in Missouri, where he was an active and well-respected Methodist minister. He married his first wife, Margaret V. Cackayne (or Kayne) of Marshall County, (West) Virginia, in June 1848, and she bore him three daughters. Upon her death, he married Alvira Early in January 1857 of Kanawha County, (West) Virginia, who bore him three sons and three daughters.³⁶

He held strong sympathies for the Confederate cause during the Civil War. His wife was the sister of Confederate General Jubal Early, who spent time in their home recuperating from pneumonia at the war's end.³⁷ Although a noncombatant, he was an outspoken Rebel. Early in the war his home was looted by troops under General Nathaniel Lyon, who confiscated his wife's silver; it was later returned after the war. As the brother-in-law of the General Early, he "was taken out to be shot on two different occasions," but his strong oratorical skills prevailed and he "talked the 'Blue Bellies' out of shooting him."³⁸ Near the end of the war, some troops under Union General Grenville M. Dodge took possession of his church at Lexington, Missouri, "because he refused to pray for the President [Abraham Lincoln]," who had just been assassinated.³⁹

McFarland was a minister for sixty-two years. During the latter years of his life, he moved in with one of his daughters in Iowa, where he still occasionally preached, and later lived with his sons,

³⁵*History of Lafayette County, Missouri* (St. Louis, Mo., Missouri Historical Co., 1881), p. 558; "Notes for William B. McFarland," McFarland Family Manuscript, Ancestry.com., printout provided by Jack Dickinson; Lewis, "History of Marshall Academy," p. 57, fn 13.

³⁶"Notes for William B. McFarland," McFarland Family Manuscript, Ancestry.com., printout provided by Jack Dickinson.

³⁷Charles C. Osborne, *Jubal: the Life and Times of General Jubal A. Early, CSA, Defender fo the Cause* (Chapel Hill: Algonquin Books, 1992), p. 391.

³⁸"Notes for William B. McFarland," McFarland Family Manuscript, Ancestry.com., printout provided by Jack Dickinson.

³⁹*War of the Rebellion Records, A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (70 vols.), Series I, Part II, pp. 201-205. The Church was later returned to McFarland, after a reprimand to the offending officer, Major B. K. Davis.

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Samuel and Robert, in Idaho.⁴⁰ In a 1881 article McFarland wrote that he had “traveled quite extensively through the east, and is shortly intending to...visit the west coast. He is very popular with his people, preaching in practice as well as by precept.”⁴¹ In 1904 he wrote that he was eighty-four: and “I have gone beyond what I expected. I am now living day by the day.” He apparently died shortly there after and was buried in Corder, Missouri, nearby his second wife, who had died some five years earlier.⁴²

Staunton V. Field — Sixth Principal, 1853-1854

When Rev. William B. McFarland left, Rev. Staunton V. Field, also a Methodist Episcopal minister, became the Academy’s sixth principal on September 24, 1853, serving a single school term until August 8, 1854.⁴³ Rev. Field, however, had a much longer association with the Academy than just the one year as its Principal. By 1857 the Academy was in dire financial straits because of debts incurred during the construction of an addition to the school. To help alleviate the situation, the Trustees used the title to the Academy’s property as collateral for a note of \$650 to Robert Holderby, which would become due one year later, February 16, 1858.⁴⁴ In September 1857 at the Annual Conference meeting the trustees took a further step to pay off the note by forming the Marshall College Joint Stock Company, with the thirty members subscribing \$50 each. Rev. Field was selected as the company’s treasure and its first field agent.⁴⁵

The trustees also petitioned the Virginia Assembly to change the school from an academy to a

⁴⁰“Robert E. McFarland,” *Illustrated History of the State of Idaho* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co. 1899), p. 315; “Notes for William B. McFarland,” McFarland Family Manuscript, Ancestry.com., printout provided by Jack Dickinson.

⁴¹“Robert E. McFarland,” *Illustrated History of the State of Idaho* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co. 1899), p. 316.

⁴²“Notes for William B. McFarland,” McFarland Family Manuscript, Ancestry.com., printout provided by Jack Dickinson.

⁴³Lewis, “History of Marshall College,” p. 57.

⁴⁴Wallace, *Cabell County Annals*, 151.

⁴⁵Wallace, *Cabell County Annals*, p. 151-152.. Staunton Field was the chairman of the conference when the decision was made to form the Joint Stock Company (Lewis, “History of Marshall College,” p. 25).

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college, in hopes of expanding its programs and hopefully drawing more students, which was approved by the Virginia Assembly in 1858. Rev. Field was named as one of the school's twenty-one trustees.⁴⁶ Field's association with Marshall College ended soon thereafter, because by 1860 he had moved to Covington, Virginia.⁴⁷

Staunton V. Field was born in 1819 in Virginia. He married Mary J. Williams.⁴⁸ They had four children, two boys and two girls. He was a member of the old and influential Field family of Culpepper, Virginia. In 1843 he was the minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Suffolk, Virginia.⁴⁹

During the Civil War he threw his support for the Confederacy. On June 26, 1861, at Lewisburg, (West) Virginia he joined George W. Hammond's Company D, Sixtieth Virginia Volunteers, becoming a lieutenant. He resigned his commission on January 24, 1862, because of illness and returned home where he died of consumption on July 7, 1866, at the young of age of forty-seven.⁵⁰ He was buried in the Field family cemetery plot at Madison Heights, Virginia.

William R. Boyers — Seventh Principal, 1854-1858

William R. Boyers⁵¹ of Pennsylvania was hired to replace Staunton Field on September 8, 1854,

⁴⁶Wallace, *Cabell County Annuals*, p. 152.

⁴⁷Staunton Field (b. 1819, d. July 07, 1866)," *Family Tree Maker* (familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/w/i/l/Jim-S-Williams-NJ/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0113.html, accessed 10 Sep. 2012).

⁴⁸*Memorial and Biographical History of McLennan, Falls, Bell, and Coryell Counties Texas*. 2 vols. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1893), 2:701

⁴⁹*Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church for the Years 1839-1845*, vols. *New York: T. Mason and G. Lane, 1845) 3:421.

⁵⁰J. L. Scott, *60th Virginia Infantry* (Lynchburg, Va.: H. E. Howard, 1997), pp. 59, 97; *Memorial and Biographical History of McLennan*, 2:701. The latter book mistakenly states that he was in the 6th Virginia Infantry as a chaplain, and that he died 1865. He was not listed as one of the regiment's chaplains in Scott, *op cit*.

⁵¹His surname is spelled in a variety of ways in the sources: Boyer, Boyers, Bowyer and Bowyers. In an advertisement for Buffalo Academy his surname was spelled Boyers, and presumably he would have written the text, so I have adopted that spelling of his surname in this paper, except in quoted material where the spelling is retained as it appears.

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and he served three years until May 1858.⁵² Boyers was born on December 4, 1829, at Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, the son of Joseph Boyer and Mary (Herr) Boyer.⁵³ In 1850 he was a graduate with A. B. Degree from Jefferson College, Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania.⁵⁴

Although the Marshall Academy was run by the Methodist Episcopal Church, Boyers was a Presbyterian. This prompted a comment from the *Kanawha Valley Star* in its November 11, 1856 issue: “The control of the Methodist Conference gives assurance that a moral and religious influence will be around it. Notwithstanding this conference control, the principal of the academy is a Presbyterian.” The paper further noted that “the high character won for the school by Mr. Bowyer [sic], the admirable and estimable teacher at its head, is a harbinger of still greater success and usefulness.”⁵⁵

Boyers served during the time that the Methodist Episcopal Conference undertook to expand the school by adding a third floor to the original two-story building and constructing a new building on the west end of the original building for a chapel and classrooms. The cost of this enterprise sorely strained the finances of the school and Conference. A report by the finance committee reported in 1857 that among its \$1,700 indebtedness was \$723 due to Boyers “for fitting up the basement and third story [of the original building], with such other improvements as were deemed necessary for the good of the Institution.”⁵⁶ Even though Boyers was the College’s largest creditor, the Education Committee decided at its October 3, 1857, meeting that “Mr. Boyer [was] to remain as Principal of the school another academic year.” The Committee observed: “To have displaced him would have broken up the school for the time being and in the estimation of the Committee, done harm. Nor can we expect to secure the services of such a man as we desire until the building is

⁵²Lewis, “History of Marshall Academy,” p. 57.

⁵³“William R. Boyer,” New Family Search (newfamilysearch.com). Another sources gives his birth date as 1823.

⁵⁴Lewis, “History of Marshall Academy,” p. 57; J. A. Caldwell, *History of Indiana County, Pennsylvania* (Newark, Ohio: J.A. Caldwell, 1880), 375.

⁵⁵Wellman “History of Marshall College,” p. 86; Lewis, “History of Marshall Academy,” p. 60.

⁵⁶Lewis, “History of Marshall Academy” p. 28.

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finished and out of debt; but while the Committee does not regard Mr. Boyer's position in the institution as a permanent one, they do regard him as a worthy Christian gentleman and scholar; and they rejoice at the satisfaction he has rendered the public as a teacher; and they would distinctly say that his continuation in the institution another year was at the request and with the consent of the Committee."⁵⁷

Boyers left Marshall College in May 1858. He may have been forced out because he was a Northerner. Staunton Field, then acting as treasurer of the Marshall College Stock Company, wrote in a letter that the Conference wanted "a southern man" as Principal.⁵⁸ Boyers left and accepted the principalship of Buffalo Academy at Buffalo, (West) Virginia, where he only taught one term.⁵⁹

Boyers then read law with C. P. T. Moore of Point Pleasant (West) and during the summer of 1860 he traveled throughout Europe.⁶⁰ He returned to his home state of Pennsylvania, settling in Blairsville, Indiana County, where he passed the bar in 1861, and began to practice law.⁶¹ In what must have been one of his first legal actions, Boyers brought a suit in 1861 against the Trustees of Marshall College in Cabell County Court for the improvements he made, for which he had never been reimbursed, to the school's building when he was Principal. On April 1, 1861, the court ruled in his favor, ordering the school to pay him the sum of \$581.54 within one month and assigning Albert Laidley to act as a special commissioner to fulfill the court's decree. The school did not pay the funds to retire the debt and Laidley, having been elected to the Virginia Assembly, left for Richmond and did not carry out the Court's decree.⁶² Nothing occurred until 1863, when the court appointed a new commissioner, John Laidley, Jr. He had no choice but to place Marshall College

⁵⁷Lewis, *History of Marshall Academy*," p.28

⁵⁸Staunton Field to T. H. Breckenridge, Sept. 23, 1858, as cited in Toole, "History of Marshall College," p. 21.

⁵⁹Lewis, "History of Marshall Academy," p. 28; Morgan and Cork, *History of Education in West Virginia*, p. 169; J. D. Runkle, ed., *The Mathematical Monthly* (Cambridge: John Bartlett, 1859), p. vii.

⁶⁰Caldwell, *History of Indiana County, Pennsylvania*, 375.

⁶¹*The Twentieth Century Bench and Bar of Pennsylvania*, 2 vols (Chicago: H. C. Cooper, 1903), 1:368.

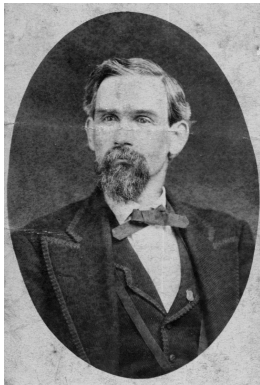
⁶²Wellman, "History of Marshall College," p. 87.

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with all its property in a public auction. Salina Mason purchased the property, which ended the school's quarter century existence as a private educational institution.

Boyers married Abigail McCurdy in 1853, and they had two children, Mary N. Boyers and Joseph H. Boyers.⁶³ He continued to practice law in Blairsville, except for three years between 1864 and 1867 when he published a newspaper called the *New Era*. He died of Brights disease on August 19, 1892.⁶⁴

Benjamin Hudson Thackston — Eighth Principal, 1858-1861



In May 1858, as the result of an advertisement, twenty-three-year-old Benjamin H. Thackston was hired to replace William R. Boyers, becoming the eighth Principal, which was the beginning of his long association with the school.⁶⁵ He had been offered a position at Buffalo Academy, but decided instead to work for the newly designated Marshall College at a guaranteed annual salary of \$800.⁶⁶ He arrived in time for the fall term in November 1858.⁶⁷

Thackston was born on September 25, 1835, at Farmville, Virginia, the son of Benjamin A. Thackston and Mary (Smithson) Thackston. He graduated with a bachelor of arts degree from Randolph-Macon College as valedictorian in June 1858.⁶⁸ The principalship of Marshall

⁶³Caldwell, *History of Indiana County, Pennsylvania*, 375.

⁶⁴*Indiana County [Pennsylvania] Gazette*, August 24, 1892, p. 1; J. T. Stewart, *Indiana County, Pennsylvania: Her People, Past and Present*, 2 vols. (Chicago: J. H. Beers & Co., 1913), 1:389; Charles C. Boyer, *American Boyers* (Kutztown, Pa.: Kutztown Publishing, 1915), p. 386.

⁶⁵Lewis, "History of Marshall Academy," p. 57.

⁶⁶Thackston, "A Short History of Marshall College," *Annual Catalogue, the Marshall College, Normal School, Huntington, West Va., Issued June 1900* (Huntington: Marshall College, 1900), p.14; The Virginia General Assembly passed a bill establishing Marshall College on March 4, 1858 (Toole, "History of Marshall College," p. 22).

⁶⁷Toole, "History of Marshall College," p. 25.

⁶⁸Richard Irby, *History of Randolph-Macon College, Virginia*, (Richmond, Va.: Whittet & Shepperson, nd), p. 137; Madge Lester Matthew, "Ante-Bellum Barboursville," *West Virginia History*, 11 (July 1950), p. 272.

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College was his first job. While field agents sought funds to assist the cash-strapped institution, Thackston “was doing what he could to maintain and extend the usefulness of the school.”⁶⁹ When the school could not pay the salary agreed upon, he resigned his position in 1861 and briefly opened a private school in Barboursville, tutoring the residents’ children.⁷⁰ Among the children he tutored were those of William C. Miller, where he met his benefactor’s twenty-four-year-old daughter, Eugenia Miller; they were married on July 14, 1861.⁷¹

The couple later took their honeymoon journey, visiting with his parents in Prince Edward County, Virginia. While there, Thackston became an ardent support of the Confederacy and he secured a position in the auditor’s office of the Confederate Treasury Department in 1862. On August 1, 1863, he was drafted into Company D, 3rd Virginia Battalion, Infantry Local Defense Troops, which was known as “Departmental Battalion and Clerk’s Battalion” and saw no action.⁷² The following summarizes his subsequent Civil War service “He spent much of 1864 detailed to the Treasury Department processing payments to the families of deceased soldiers or absent due to illness. He was hospitalized for nephritis at Chimborazo [Hospital] in Richmond, VA from November 25, 1864 through January 1865. He was paroled in Richmond, VA on May 5, 1865.”⁷³

After the war, the couple returned to Barboursville, West Virginia, where Thackston resumed teaching. From the 1872 to 1877 he filled the position of the first assistant instructor at Marshall College, during the presidencies of James E. Morrow and James Beauchamp Clark. He then left the school to become a businessman.⁷⁴ Between 1880 and 1881 he again returned to Marshall College

⁶⁹ Morgan and Cork, *Columbia History of Education in West Virginia*, p. 69

⁷⁰Hodges, “Historical Sketch,” p. 30, cited in Toole, “History of Marshall College,” p. 29; “Official of Confederacy and Marshall President Called by Death,” *Huntington Herald-Dispatch*, August 26, 1918, p. 1.

⁷¹Madge Lester Matthew, “Ante-Bellum Barboursville,” *West Virginia History*, 11 (July 1950), p. 272. They had nine children.

⁷²It was commanded by Major John A. Henry. (“3rd Virginia Battalion, Infantry Local Defense Troops,” *My Civil War* [http://www.mycivilwar.com/units/csa-va/va_inf_03_batt_ldt.html], accessed August 16, 2012).

⁷³“Benjamin Hudson Thackston, Class of 1858,” *The Men of Randolph-Macon During the Civil War* (rmccivilwar.blogspot.com/2012/06/benjamin-hudson-thackston-class-of-1858.html).

⁷⁴Thackston, “A Short History of Marshall College,” p.16.

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and held the position of first assistant.⁷⁵ In 1881 he was again offered, and took over the administration of the College, serving as its Principal until 1884. Although Thackston was successful in increasing the enrollment in the school, he was summarily removed because of politics. He wrote of the episode: “In this year [1884] a stormy democratic convention was held in Wheeling, in which...Hon. B. L. Butcher was defeated as state superintendent of free schools, and Hon. B. S. Morgan was nominated. The next day, the Board of Regents held a meeting in Wheeling, at which the principal of Marshall College, was summarily dismissed, and without a premonition, supplanted by the appointment of Prof. W. J. Kenney, of Point Pleasant.”⁷⁶

Thackston returned to private life, but he maintained a continued interest in teaching. He died on August 25, 1918, at the age of 83 years. His obituary described him: “There are scores and probably hundreds of people here, who received the more important part of their education under his direction. , and all of these accorded him honor and respect which the student always gives to the master in whom is recognized those qualities of learning, understanding and fairness which contribute so materially to the career of a successful educator.”⁷⁷ He was buried on August 27, 1918, in a family Mausoleum at Spring Hill Cemetery, Huntington, West Virginia.⁷⁸

Rev. J. M. Brown — Teacher, 1861

According to Benjamin H. Thackston, after he left Marshall College in May 1861 a “Rev. Mr. Brown,” and “D. W. Thrush” took charge of the school respectively, and he called these two men Principals.⁷⁹ There is, however, no evidence that they were ever hired with this title, but were more likely members of the faculty who stepped up to superintend the institution during the period of its

⁷⁵Morgan and Cork, *History of Education in West Virginia*,” p. 73.

⁷⁶Thackston, “A Short History of Marshall College,” p.17.

⁷⁷ “Official of Confederacy and Marshall President “Called by Death,” *Huntington Herald-Dispatch*, August 26, 1918, p. 1.

⁷⁸“Benjamin H. Thackston,” Root-Web, hosted by Ancestry.com Community (freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cabell/d238.html).

⁷⁹Thackston, “Short History of Marshall College,” p. 14.

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decline. It is probably for this reason that, in at least on one list, they are not included among the school's Principals.⁸⁰ For this reason, Brown is not designated as one of Principals in this paper

Vera Andrew listed his name as "Rev. J. M. Brown."⁸¹ The Cabell County 1860 Federal Census listed a John R. Brown, "minister," who was twenty-two; he may or may not be the same man.⁸² Thackston wrote that Rev. Brown "was sickly and was soon succeeded by Mr. Thrush, of Pennsylvania, who taught until the civil war began."⁸³ Without additional information, the possibility of further identifying Rev. Brown, especially with the lack of his full name, is nearly impossible. All that can be said is that he must have only supervised Marshall College for a very brief period, perhaps only days or weeks at the most.

Daniel Webster Thrush — Teacher, 1861

After Rev. J. M. Brown stepped down from leading Marshall College, Daniel Webster Thrush took over the thankless job of overseeing the final months of the school's existence as a private educational institution. There is evidence that he was a faculty member of the school during Principal Thackston's final year. The Marshall University Archives has the minute book of a student organization, the Diagnothian Literary Society, which met during the first four months of 1861.⁸⁴ Thrush was a member of the Society and in the minutes he is typically referred to as "Prof. D. W. Thrush." The minutes of the society indicate that its final meeting was held on April 19, 1861, a month before Thackston resigned as Principal. Clearly, Thrush was a member of Marshall College's faculty.

⁸⁰He is not mentioned, nor listed in Lewis, "History of Marshall Academy."

⁸¹Andrew, *Unquenched Torch*, 31.

⁸²Ernestine Hippert, comp., *1860 Cabell County (W)VA Census, Annotated* (Huntington, W. Va.: KYOVWA, nd), 92. She noted that his name was not in the 1870 Cabell County Census. There was no J. R Brown, and all other Brown's in the census were listed as farmers.

⁸³Thackston, "A Short History of Marshall College," p.14.

⁸⁴"Record Book of the Erodolphian and Diagnothian Literary Societies at Marshall Academy and Marshall College 1855-1861," edited by Jack Dickinson

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If Rev. Brown took over when Thackston resigned in May 1861 and he resigned for illness within a short time, is it possible to determine the approximate period of Thrush's tenure as "Principal"? Tradition holds that Thrush was one those who kept the school going during the Civil War years of 1861 to 1863.⁸⁵ Evidence suggests the actual situation was otherwise. Upon leaving Marshall College, Thrush returned to Pennsylvania where he "was admitted to the Franklin County Bar on August 12, 1861."⁸⁶ This suggests that Thrush could have only led Marshall College for two to three months, sometime between Thackston's firing in May 1861 and his joining the Pennsylvania bar in August 1861. This means that the school was essentially leaderless and probably moribund from the summer 1861 until 1863, when John Laidley, Jr., sold the school property to Salina Mason. As with Rev. J. M. Brown, Thrush is not designated as a Principal in this paper, because there is no actual evidence that he ever held the position or title.

Daniel Webster Thrush was the oldest son of Leonard Thrush and Nancy (Fisher) Thrush. He was born on August 12, 1830, in Franklin County, Pennsylvania.⁸⁷ He attended Pennsylvania (now Gettysburg) College in 1849-1850, intending to prepare for the Lutheran ministry. Although he received a license to preach in the Lutheran Church, he never accepted a pastorate and consequently never was ordained. He returned to Pennsylvania College during the academic year 1854-1855, majoring in philosophy.⁸⁸ After leaving the school, he accepted a position teaching at the Young Ladies Seminary at Augusta, Kentucky, where he taught two years. He next accepted a position at Marshall College. He was described as a professor who "was a linguist of some ability, having a good knowledge of English, German, Latin, Greek and Hebrew. He taught all of these languages at times and read them with ease. He also was a ready and fluent public speaker."⁸⁹ According to the

⁸⁵Clyde A. Wellman, "History of Marshall College," p. 83.

⁸⁶"Daniel Webster Thrush," *Descendants of John. Jacob (Dreisch) Thrush* (familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/t/h/r/donald--p-thrush/GENE4-0003.html, accessed August 3, 2012).

⁸⁷"Daniel Webster Thrush," *Descendants of John. Jacob (Dreisch) Thrush*. The following biographical sketch is based on this source unless otherwise noted.

⁸⁸Gettysburg College Alumni Association. *The Pennsylvania College book, 1832-1882* (), p. 359

⁸⁹"Daniel Webster Thrush," *Descendants of John. Jacob (Dreisch) Thrush*.

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recollections of Columbia Holderby, wife of Edward S. Holderby, and Dr. E. Stanard Buffington, at the beginning of the Civil War Thrush told the assembled students of the College, “I leave at once for Pennsylvania to arrange some private matters, and then I offer my services to my country.”⁹⁰ If this was the case, he changed his mind upon arriving in his home state and, as previously noted, he passed the bar and began practicing law, which he did for the rest of his life.

In 1863 he purchased the *Shippensburg News*, editing the newspaper until he sold it in 1867. Thrush married Mary Ann Bollinger on February 5, 1865. They were the “parents of two children, Ambrose Watts Thrush, born in 1865 and Nancy Lydia Thrush born in 1875.”⁹¹ He purchased a farm, two and one-half miles southeast of Shippensburg in 1869 and moved with his family there in the spring of 1870. He lived there until he died on August 9, 1875, at the young age of forty-five.

Salina Cordelia Hite Mason — Teacher, 1863-1867



When John Laidley, Jr., put Marshal College property up at a public auction in 1863 to satisfy the order of the Cabell County Court to reimburse former Principal William Boyers for personal funds he had used “for fitting up the basement and third story [of the college building], with such other improvements as were deemed necessary for the good of the Institution.”⁹² Salina C. Mason purchased the property for \$1,500, and the College passed from the control of the West Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.⁹³ Salina C. Mason

was the daughter of John W. Hite. He was a Confederate sympathizer, who would not take the “test

⁹⁰Andrew, *Unquenched Torch*, 22. Thrush’s name is not listed among the Civil War soldiers from Pennsylvania. See: Janet B. Hewett, *The Roster of Union Soldiers: Pennsylvania, Maryland and District of Columbia* (Wilmington, NC: Broadfoot Publishing Co., 1998), p. 112.

⁹¹George P. Donehoo, *A History of the Cumberland Valley in Pennsylvania*, 2 vols. (Harrisburg: Susquehanna History Association, 1930), 2:414.

⁹²Lewis, “History of Marshall Academy” p. 28. Boyers was just one of five creditors to whom the College was indebted. The others were Robert S. Holderby, Albert Laidley, Staunton Field and John H. Hite. Hite and Field were also members of the College’s Board of Trustees (Toole, “History of Marshall College,” p. 33).

⁹³Thackston, “Short History of Marshal College,” p. 14. The debts to both William R. Boyers and Staunton Field were paid from the \$1,500 (Toole, “History of Marshall College,” p. 35).

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oath” to the Union, so he could not appear in court. He had his daughter act in his behalf.⁹⁴ He was a prominent Guyandotte businessman and later took up residence in the College building.

The loss of the College did not mean that the Methodist Episcopal Church had lost interest in reacquiring the College. In 1866 the West Virginia Conference minutes noted, “Arrangements have been made by the Board of Trustees with the purchasers to reopen that Institution under the control of the Conference,” by assuming all of its still outstanding liabilities of \$2,750.⁹⁵ The people of Cabell County had already pledged to raise \$1,500 and the Conference pledged the remaining \$1,250, but the latter could not raise the money and the proposal failed.⁹⁶

Salina C. Mason was a teacher—she may have even taught classes in the College—and in order to satisfy the original deed that the property was to be used for educational functions, she and “her two sisters, Katie Hite and Mrs. Addie C. Holderby, all of whom were experienced teachers, taught [classes] in the College [building] while [they] lived there.”⁹⁷ Doris Miller wrote that after her husband died in 1863, Mason “invested money from her husband’s estate in the college, in order that she might preserve it from reverting to the original owner. She and two of her sisters, all qualified teachers, taught the children of the family and the community throughout the war years.”⁹⁸ These classes were undoubtedly small subscription schools and could not be considered part of the original Marshall College.

Mason held the title to the school until the West Virginia legislature passed an act on February 27, 1867, establishing a new State Normal School at Marshall College. The Cabell County board of supervisors approved the purchased of the property and building from Salina Mason for \$3,600,

⁹⁴Morgan and Cork, *History of Education in West Virginia*, p, 70; Toole, “History of Marshall College,” p. 35.

⁹⁵Wellman, “History of Marshall College, p. 89.

⁹⁶Wallace, *Cabell County Annuals*, p. 154).

⁹⁷Wellman, “History of Marshall College,” p. 88. The sisters’ full names were: Kate Antoine Hite; and Adeline C Hite (“Salina Cordelia Hite,” *New Family Search* [newfamilysearch.org]).

⁹⁸Doris Miller, “Farm Land Blossomed Into City of Huntington,” *Cabell County WV Gen Web* (www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wvcabell/history/farmsintohuntington.html).

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which was finalized on August 1, 1867.⁸⁶ However, this did not end her affiliation with the school; she taught the Preparatory School into the 1870s.⁸⁷

Salina Cordelia Hite was born on April 11, 1832, the daughter of John W. Hite and Malinda (McMahon) Hite, and she married George Wilson Mason on June 8, 1854, at Steubenville, Ohio. They had four children: John Hite Mason; Mary Mason; George E. Mason and Romaine Mason. Her husband died in February 13, 1863, while they were living in the Marshall College building. She subsequently married William Hampton on July 28, 1875, at Catlettsburg, Kentucky, where they took up residence. The couple was childless. She died on February 13, 1931 in Catlettsburg, Kentucky.⁸⁸

In hindsight, Cordelia Mason's work to maintain Marshall as a school during the few years she owned the property was providential. Without her and her sisters' diligent effort to keep a school functioning in the building, it is likely that Marshall would have ceased to be and the property might have even reverted back to the Holderby family, as the original deed of transfer specified. She should probably be viewed as Marshall's "Florence Nightingale," who saved the school for future generations of students.

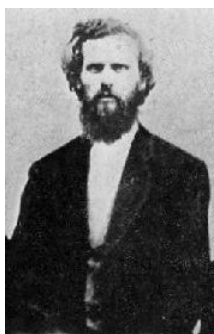
⁸⁶Wallace, Cabell County Annuals, 154-155. For a full account of the events leading up to the state purchasing the College, see: Toole, "History of Marshall College," pp. 35-41.

⁸⁷Thackston, "Short History of Marshall College," p. 16.

⁸⁸The above was taken from data in "Salina Cordelia Hite," *New Family Search* (newfamilysearch.org).

PART TWO — PRINCIPALS DURING THE MARSHALL COLLEGE PERIOD, 1867-1896

Samuel R. Thompson — Ninth Principal, 1868-1871



The first Principal of the new West Virginia Normal School at Marshall College was a Pennsylvanian, Samuel R. Thompson, who was hired on May 14, 1868, at \$1,500 per year. The first session of the school opened on June 15, 1868, with twenty-five students. By the 1869-1870 school year Thompson had increased the school's enrollment to 148.⁸⁹ In 1870 Marshall College, as a state institution, had its first graduating class of four "normal training course" students.⁹⁰ Normal schools could only offer certificates or diplomas for teachers, but they were not authorized to grant bachelor degrees. Although it retained its historic title of Marshall College, it was a college in name only, and it would be decades before it was permitted to issue bachelor degrees commensurate with its name.

Thompson's tenure lasted until 1871, when he resigned.⁹¹ Benjamin Thackston described the events leading up to his resignation: "In the previous year there had been a political upheaval in the state. Hon. John J. Jacob, a democrat, had been elected governor, and Judge Charles S. Lewis, a democrat had been elected state superintendent of free schools, and what was known as the "Flick Amendment" had carried. Prof. Thompson, finding himself of the opposite political persuasion from

⁸⁹*Register and Circular of Marshall College, State Normal School Located in Cabell County, West Virginia, Academic Year 1869-70* (No place: no publisher, 1869), pp. 3-8.

⁹⁰*Catalogue of Marshall College, State Normal School, Located in Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia, Academical Year, 1871-72.* (Cincinnati: Applegate, Pounsford & Co., 1872), p. 3.

⁹¹Lewis, "History of Marshall College," p. 50; Toole, "History of Marshall College," p. 47.

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‘the powers that be,’ offered his resignation to the Board of Regents, which was accepted.”⁹²

Thompson was born on April 17, 1833, in South Shenango County, Pennsylvania.⁹³ He was the son of William and Mary Thompson.⁹⁴ He entered Westminster College in 1856 and graduated in 1863, having taken a hiatus in his studies in order to complete an unexpired term as the Superintendent of Schools of Crawford County, Pennsylvania. He was reelected as Superintendent, serving until 1865, when he took a position at Edinboro State Normal School, resigning in 1867. In 1868 he accepted the position of Principal of Marshall College, serving until 1871. He relocated in Nebraska, becoming the first Principal of the State University of Nebraska’s Agricultural College from 1871 until 1877. From 1877 to 1881 he was the Nebraska State Superintendent of Schools, when he returned the Nebraska University, serving on its faculty until 1884. From there he became a professor of physics at Westminster College, his alma mater, in 1884. He remained there until his death on October 28, 1896, at the age of sixty-three.

A colleague described him in his later life: “Personally Professor Thompson was tall of pleasant manner and with a scholarly bearing. In his later years his white hair and full beard of almost snowy whiteness gave him a venerable look A kindly face from which looked out the clear soft eyes which betokened the sympathetic friend complete the picture of the man.”⁹⁵

John Ball Powell — Tenth Principal, 1871-1872

When Samuel R. Thompson resigned in 1871, the position of Principal was offered to John Ball

⁹²Thackston, “Short History of Marshall College,” pp. 15-16. The Flick Amendment proposed that two new provisions to be added to the West Virginia Constitution—giving African-Americans and former Confederates soldiers and sympathizers the right to vote. Liberal Republicans offered the amendment hoping to strengthen their position among the people. The amendments passed, but the issue of granting Confederates the vote divided the Republican party, which set the stage for the domination of the Democratic party in state politics (See: Ken Sullivan, *The West Virginia Encyclopedia* [Charleston, W. Va.: West Virginia Humanities Council, 2006], p. 244.)

⁹³The following biographical sketch is based on Charles E. Bessey, “Professor Samuel R. Thompson,” in Robert W. Furns, *Annual Report Nebraska State Board of Agriculture for the Year 1896* (Lincoln, Neb., Jacob North & Co., 1897), pp. 66-71, unless otherwise noted.

⁹⁴United States 1850 Pennsylvania Census, dwelling 175, family 175, NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 771.

⁹⁵Bessey, “Professor Samuel R. Thompson,” p. 70.

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Powell of Ashland, Kentucky.⁹⁶ He had a faculty of three teachers, one of whom was James E. Morrow.⁹⁷ His time at the school was short lived; he resigned in 1872.

John B. Powell was born about 1835 and he entered the Centre College at Danville, Kentucky, from Greenup, Kentucky, graduating with the class of 1859.⁹⁸ He apparently settled in Ashland, Kentucky, shortly after he graduated, because on December 23, 1859, he married Anna E. Meek in Boyd County.⁹⁹ They had a daughter, Anna Meek Powell, who was born in 1864.¹⁰⁰ The 1865 Boyd County Text List indicated that he had an income of \$230.¹⁰¹ This may reflect his salary as the Principal of the Powell Academy, which he probably founded.¹⁰² The Academy occupied two second-story rooms of the building on the present site of the Presbyterian Church in Catlettsburg, Kentucky.¹⁰³ The Boyd County, Kentucky, 1870 federal census listed him as thirty-five-year-old teacher, living in a boarding house, which suggest that his wife Anna, may have passed away some time after 1864. In any case, he married Mary B. Geiger on June 26, 1871, about the time he accepted the position as the Principal of Marshall College.¹⁰⁴ Unfortunately, after he left Marshall College nothing is known of his subsequent life, only that he was probably the John B. Powell who

⁹⁶Thackston, "Short History of Marshall College," p. 16.

⁹⁷*Catalogue of Marshall College, State Normal School, Located in Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia, Academical Year, 1871-72* (Cincinnati: Applegate, Pounsford & Co., 1872), p. 2.

⁹⁸*General Catalogue of the Centre College of Kentucky*. 1890 (Danville, Ky.: Kentucky Advocate Printing, 1890), p. 67.

⁹⁹"Anna E. Meek," New Family Search (www.newfamilysearch.org); Evelyn S. Jackson, *1870 Federal Census of Boyd County, Kentucky* (Ashland, Ky.: Eastern Kentucky Genealogical Society, 1998), p. 171.

¹⁰⁰Jackson, *1870 Federal Census... Boyd County*, p. 171. Anna Meek Powell married William L. Geiger, the brother of John B. Powell's second wife.

¹⁰¹*Boyd County Income List for 1865* (kyinfofolk.com/kyboyd/Census/incomelist1865.htm)

¹⁰²*Catalogue of Powell Academy, Catlettsburg, 1868-69*, reprinted in *Kentucky Ancestors*, 41/3 (Spring 2006), 148-150. His daughter Anna was listed as a student in his school (p. 150).

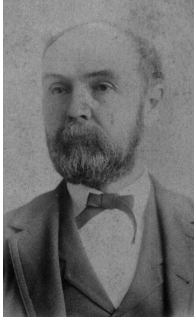
¹⁰³*History and Program Commemorating the Founding of the City of Catlettsburg, Kentucky* (Catlettsburg: Centennial Committee, 1949), p.21.

¹⁰⁴Jackson, *1870 Federal Census*, p. 171.

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died in 1902 at Miami, Florida, six years prior to the death of his wife, Mary, in 1908.¹⁰⁵

James Elmore Morrow — Eleventh Principal, 1872-1873



James Elmore Morrow was hired as the first assistant to James B. Powell in 1871.¹⁰⁶ When Powell left in 1872, Morrow was hired as the College's eleventh Principal. His son's biographer wrote, "The title attached to this position was more lavish than its emoluments, although the latter were supplemented by free lodging within the college building itself."¹⁰⁷ Morrow's tenure as Principal lasted only a year. The events leading to his departure were described by Benjamin Thackston: "Prof. Morrow and Miss [Lidia] Dearing [third assistant teacher] had a serious disagreement; and, at the end of the school year, the Regents accepted Miss Dearing's resignation and appointed in the place of Prof. Morrow, J. Beauchamp Clark, of Kentucky."¹⁰⁸ A student from the period described what may have led to the disagreement:

An alumnus from the early teens whose family was associated with the Normal School at the time of Dr. Morrow's resignation reported that Dr. and Mrs. Morrow held a wedding reception on campus for one of their children and served alcohol. This was strictly forbidden as no alcohol was permitted on campus or within the community. The alumnus reported that the serving of alcohol resulted with the immediate termination of employment for the Normal School's first principal.¹⁰⁹

The recollection of a wedding may be accurate, but the bride or groom could not have been one of Morrow's children; he had only been married for six years. Thackston is also mistaken, because

¹⁰⁵“John B. Powell,” *Find A Grave, Miami City Cemetery* (www.findagrave.com); Jackson, *1870 Federal Census*, p. 171. Mary Geiger Powell died in Atlanta, Georgia.

¹⁰⁶Morgan and Cork, “History of Education in West Virginia,” p. 73; *Catalogue of Marshall College, State Normal School, 1871-72*, p.2

¹⁰⁷Harold Nicolson, *Dwight Morrow* (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1935), p. 6.

¹⁰⁸Thackston, “Short History of Marshall College,” 16.

¹⁰⁹“James E. Morrow, Principal, Slippery Rock State Normal School, 1889 - 1890,” *President's Office*, (www.sru.edu/president/Pages/JamesEMorrow.aspx). Morrow was, of course, not the College's first principal.

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Miss Dearing worked until the end of the 1873 school year, suggesting that the Regents may have sided with Dearing and decided not to renew Morrow's appointment.¹¹⁰

James E. Morrow was born on March 28, 1837, the son of Alexander Morrow and Sarah Jane (Wilson) Morrow, in Fairview, the county seat of Hancock County, (West) Virginia.¹¹¹ Morrow eschewed the life of a farmer, and his family sent him to Jefferson College [now Washington and Jefferson University] at Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania. He entered at the age of fifteen and graduated with a bachelors of arts in 1856, with the intention of practicing law. However, the realities of earning a living intruded and he took a position as a teacher in a school near his home in Fairview. After two years, he resigned and took a position at the law offices of O. W. Langfitt of Wellsburg, where he read law and passed the Pennsylvania Bar in 1859.¹¹²

At the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in the 1st West Virginia Infantry at Wellsburg, (West) Virginia, on October 30, 1861.¹¹³ He advanced through the ranks to captain, commanding Company F. He had "months of hard service at points along the Baltimore and Ohio railroad between Cumberland and Washington, was wounded and retired to mend at Wheeling, West Virginia, with less active service in mustering in troops."¹¹⁴ He apparently considered remaining in the army at the war's end, but his commanding officer dissuaded him because of his health, and he was mustered out on November 26, 1864.¹¹⁵

After the war he, with two of his brothers, traveled west and established a private academy near Omaha, Nebraska. After this experience he abandoned his interest in the law and "devote himself

¹¹⁰Morgan and Cork, Morgan and Cork, "History of Education in West Virginia," p. 73.

¹¹¹ Nicolson, *Dwight Morrow*, p. 4; "In Memoriam," *Class Book: the Class of 1880, Pittsburgh Central High School, Academic Department, 1905*. (Pittsburgh, Murdock, Kerr & Co., 1906), p. 117.

¹¹²"In Memoriam," *Class Book*, pp. 119-120.

¹¹³ *Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of West Virginia*, p. 57.

¹¹⁴"In Memoriam," *Class Book*, p. 120.

¹¹⁵ Nicolson, *Dwight Morrow*, p. 4; *Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of West Virginia for the Year Ending December 31, 1864* (Wheeling: W. Va.: John F. M'Dermont, 1865), pp. 57, 59.

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to educational work—an accurate choice, the beginning of the second epoch in his life.”¹¹⁶ From then on he “turned to teaching and spent his life in that vocation.”¹¹⁷

During the war, apparently while recuperating at Wheeling, he met his wife, Clara Johnston, who was “winding bandages.”¹¹⁸ They corresponded frequently after he left Wheeling.¹¹⁹ He returned east from Nebraska and married her on September 19, 1867, at Cumberland, Maryland. They had eight children, five boys and three girls—three of the boys died in infancy.

Before teaching at Marshall College, he conducted a private academy in his hometown of Fairview. In 1871 he was hired as the first assistant at Marshall College, and became its Principal during the 1872-1873 school year. After leaving Marshall, he was hired at West Liberty Normal School (now West Liberty University), West Liberty, West Virginia. He left in 1875 to accept a position at Oakdale Academy near Pittsburgh, where he remained three years. In 1878 he accepted a position as teacher of mathematics and physics at the Central High School in Pittsburgh, and in 1880 he became principal of the Fifth Ward School (now Conroy School) in the same city.¹²⁰ From 1889-1890, he served as principal of Slippery Rock State Normal School (now Slippery Rock University). In 1889 he received an honorary doctorate from Washington and Jefferson College. In 1891 he returned to Central High School when he was selected as the school’s principal, where he remained for the next thirteen years.¹²¹

In 1904 he took a leave of absence for health reasons. While visiting his son, Dwight W. Morrow, at Englewood, New Jersey, he suddenly passed away on the morning of December 12, 1904, at the age of 67. A former colleague said that he was “ a well-knit sturdy figure of medium

¹¹⁶“In Memoriam,” *Class Book*, p. 120.

¹¹⁷Hewitt H. Howland, *Dwight Whitney Morrow* (New York: Century Co., 1930), p. 5.

¹¹⁸Nicolson, *Dwight Morrow*, p. 4

¹¹⁹His letters to Clara Johnson, 27 in number—dating from January 18 and December 4, 1864— can be found at Amherst College, Archives & Special Collections, Amherst, Mass.

¹²⁰“James E. Morrow,” *Slippery Rock State Normal School, 1889 - 1890* (www.sru.edu/president/Pages/JamesEMorrow.aspx)

¹²¹“In Memoriam,” *Class Book*, p. 121; “James E. Morrow,” *Slippery Rock State Normal School*.

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height with brown eyes, full of fire, a clear and accurate mind and a shrewd kindly manner. He impressed us as a man of energetic purpose who found his highest happiness in his chosen life work.”¹²² He was buried in the Uniondale Cemetery, Allegheny, Pennsylvania.

James Beauchamp Clark — Twelfth Principal, 1873-1874



After James E. Morrow left, the Board of Regents hired James Beauchamp Clark in 1873, a recent graduate of Bethany College, West Virginia.¹²³ In his application Clark wrote, “I have just graduated from Bethany College with highest honors; am twenty-three years old, over six feet high, weigh one hundred and seventy pounds, unmarried, am a Kentuckian by birth, a Campbellite in religion, a Democrat in politics, and a Master Mason.”¹²⁴ At twenty-three, he was not much older than some of his students. When faced with a hazing incident by four students, one of whom refused to apologize, Clark gave him the option of apologizing, of being expelled, or he said, “I will thrash you with an inch his life.”¹²⁵ The cowed student apologized, and he had “no more trouble in maintaining discipline.”¹²⁶ During his tenure the College’s enrollment fell to only seventy students. Coupled with this lack of success and with his high disgust at the West Virginia Legislature’s failure to pay the teachers’ salaries, he left after one year to pursue a career in law.¹²⁷

James B. Clark, the son of John H. Clark and Aletha Jane (Beauchamp) Clark, was born on

¹²²“In Memoriam,” *Class Book*, p. 122.

¹²³He had originally applied to West Liberty Normal School, but was turned down. He was surprised to be offer the principalship of Marshall College a few days later (W. L. Webb, *Camp Clark* [New York: Neal Publishing Co., 1912], pp. 42).

¹²⁴Wilfred R. Hollister and Harry Norman, *Five Famous Missourians* (Kansas City: Hudson-Kimberly, 1900), 198.

¹²⁵Webb, *Camp Clark*, p. 42-43.

¹²⁶Webb, *Camp Clark*, p. 42-43.

¹²⁷Thackston, “Short History of Marshall College,” 16; Toole, “History of Marshall University,” p. 60.

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March 7, 1850, at Lawrenceburg, Kentucky.¹²⁸ As a youth, he worked as a hired hand and in a county store, saving his money so that he could attend college.¹²⁹ In 1867 he entered the University of Kentucky, attending three years without incident, when he was expelled in his mid-senior year for shooting a gun at a fellow student. Years later he still remained unrepentant, “I fired and missed, a friend knocking the pistol upward as I pulled the trigger. Looking back, I feel that I was not censurable.”¹³⁰ He transferred to Bethany College, where he graduated with bachelors of arts in 1873, delivering the Latin salutatory.

After a year as Marshall College’s Principal, he entered the Cincinnati Law School, graduating with his LL.B. degree in 1875. He moved to Wichita, Kansas, to open a law office, but found himself nearly penniless instead. He heard of a teaching opportunity in Louisiana, Missouri, where he applied and was hired as the principal of the local high school. He stayed only one year. It was his last teaching job, and in retrospect he said that “his school teachings days were his happiest.”¹³¹

In 1876 he passed the Missouri bar and began to practice law, but few clients showed up. He took on editing a local newspaper, the *Louisiana Daily News*, to help pay the bills, which introduced him to state politics. His first foray into the political arena occurred in 1878, when he ran for the state legislature, but was defeated.¹³² He purchased the *Riverside Press* in 1879, turning the independent newspaper in a pure Democratic organ, editing it until late 1880. That year he moved to Bowling Green, Pike County, Missouri, which became his permanent home, in order to take a position as the assistant city attorney. He was elected as the city attorney in 1884, where he worked until 1889. During his tenure he tried over 2,000 cases.¹³³

In Bowling Green he met and married twenty-two-year-old Genevieve Davis Bennett on

¹²⁸“James Beauchamp Clark,” *New Family Search* (newfamilysearch.org).

¹²⁹*National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, 63 vols. (New York: James T. White & Co., 1898-1984), 14:171.

¹³⁰Webb, *Camp Clark*, p. 39.

¹³¹Hollister and Norman, *Five Famous Missourians*, p. 203.

¹³²Webb, *Champ Clark*, 47.

¹³³Hollister and Norman, *Five Famous Missourians*, 212-214; Webb, *Camp Clark*, 51.

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December 14, 1881.¹³⁴ They had four children. One son, Joel Bennett Clark, like his father, served in the U. S. House of Representative from 1933 to 1945.

In 1889 and 1891 he was elected to the Missouri State House of Representatives. In 1892 he was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives, in which he served continually, except in the 1894 election when he lost. He was reelected 1897, remaining in the house until his death. In 1908 he was elected as the Democratic minority leader. In 1911 he was elected the Speaker of the House when the Democrats took over that Chamber. He served in that position until 1919, when he lost the position, becoming the minority leader, in the Republican landslide of 1920. He died in his home in Washington, D.C., on March 2, 1921, just two days before the expiration of his final House term. His funeral services were held in the Statuary Hall of the House of Representatives. He was buried in the City Cemetery, Bowling Green, Missouri.¹³⁵

Alonzo Decatur Chesterman — Thirteenth Principal, 1874-1881



Marshall Colleges thirteenth Principal was thirty-two-year-old Alonzo Decatur Chesterman, who came from Richmond. He began his tenure in 1874. He was “hired to take charge of Huntington public schools, was to board and room in the college, have some classes before school hours and other classes after school hours and be the Normal School principal.”¹³⁶ He was described as “a man of more than ordinary executive ability, and was well equipped for the duties of the position...[and] under his competent management we find some of the prosperous years of Marshall College. Certainly, never before had the school been so successful.”¹³⁷ He stayed until 1881, when the fortunes of the College began to decline. In 1879 the Legislature failed again

¹³⁴“James Beauchamp Clark,” *New Family Search* (newfamilysearch.com).

¹³⁵The political data is taken from “Clark, James Beauchamp, (Champ),” *Biographical Dictionary of the U. S. Congress* (bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=C000437); “James Beauchamp Clark,” *Find A Grave* (www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=11742).

¹³⁶Thackston, “Short History of Marshall College,” p. 16.

¹³⁷Morgan and Cork, “History of Education,” 71.

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to appropriate the teachers' salaries. He "bravely kept the school in operation, in spite of these discouragements," the only funds coming from student tuition and fees.¹³⁸ After a smallpox outbreak in 1880, which greatly reduced enrollment, he apparently had had enough and left the College in 1881, having served the longest tenure since the state assumed control of the college.¹³⁹

Alonzo Decatur Chesterman was born on January 15, 1840, in Hanover County, Virginia. He was the son of John L. Chesterman and Mary F. Chesterman.¹⁴⁰ He graduated from Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia, with both bachelors and masters of arts degrees in 1860.¹⁴¹ He may have taught school in Richmond after graduating. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in the 1st Company of the Richmond Howitzers in 1862. Never rising above the rank of private, he served throughout the rest of the war, and was paroled with his company at Appomattox on March 9, 1865.¹⁴²

On April 13, 1865, a month after his parol, he married Elizabeth "Bettie" Logan Guthry, at Farmville, Virginia.¹⁴³ To this union were added ten children—six girls and four boys.¹⁴⁴ After the war, he again taught in Richmond public schools. He left Richmond in 1874, when he accepted the position at Marshall College, bringing his large family with him.¹⁴⁵

After leaving West Virginia, he apparently moved to Florence, Alabama, where he was the

¹³⁸Morgan and Cork, "History of Education," 72.

¹³⁹Toole, "History of Marshall College," p. 64.

¹⁴⁰Alonzo D Chesterman in household of John L Chesterman, Hanover county Virginia, in United States 1850 Virginia Census, citing dwelling 764, family 764, NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 949.

¹⁴¹Thomas William Herringshaw, ed., *Herringshaw's Encyclopedia of American Biography of the Nineteenth Century* (Chicago: American Publishers' Association, 1901), p. 212; "Necrology" *The Record of the Hampden-Sydney Alumni Association*, vol.3.1 (October 1928), 18

¹⁴²Lee A. Wallace, Jr., *The Richmond Howitzers* (Lynchburg, Va.: H. E. Howard, 1993), p. 125.

¹⁴³"Alonzo Decatur Chesterman," Virginia Marriages, 1756-1940, *New Family Search* (newfamilysearch.org).

¹⁴⁴"Necrology" *The Record of the Hampden-Sydney Alumni Association*, 18.

¹⁴⁵"Necrology" *The Record of the Hampden-Sydney Alumni Association*, 18; William A. Marsh, comp. *1880 Census of West Virginia*, 14 vols (Baltimore: Gateway Pres, 1979-1993), 11:41. The 1880 census shows that there were seven children in the household, ages two to fourteen. Two children were not listed, suggesting that they may have passed away.

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principal of the Florence Normal School.¹⁴⁶ He moved again, this time to Mississippi, taking a position at the Holly Springs Normal Institute.¹⁴⁷ The school, established in 1870, was designed for training African-American school teachers.¹⁴⁸ Apparently Chesterman remained with the school for a number of years. He was listed as the assistant principal in a 1888 report, and other sources indicated that he may have also served as principal at one time.¹⁴⁹ It is not known if he was there in 1904 when the Institute closed, because the state legislature failed to provide funds for its continued operation.¹⁵⁰ One source indicated that he taught at a “classic school” after leaving the Holly Springs Normal Institute.¹⁵¹ The 1910 Federal census indicated that he and his wife were living in Holly Springs, and by that time he had retired from teaching.¹⁵² The 1920 census indicated that the couple were then living with their son-in-law, Walter E. Daugherty, at Claiborne, Mississippi. He died on June 8, 1928, at Port Gibson, Mississippi.¹⁵³ He is buried at the Hill Crest Cemetery, Holly Springs, Mississippi.¹⁵⁴

Benjamin Hudson Thackston — Fourteenth Principal, 1881-1884

After Alonzo D. Chesterman left Marshall College in 1881, the Board of Regents turned again

¹⁴⁶Herringshaw, *Herringshaw's Encyclopedia of American Biography of the Nineteenth Century*, p. 212.

¹⁴⁷“Necrology” *The Record of the Hampden-Sydney Alumni Association*, vol.3.1 (October 1928), 18; *Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Education to the Legislature of Mississippi for the Years 188-1889* (Jackson, Miss.: R. H. Henry, 1890), p. 329.

¹⁴⁸Stuart Grayson Noble, *Forty Years of the Public Schools in Mississippi* (New York: Teachers College, Columbia University, 1918), pp. 58, 84, 89.

¹⁴⁹*Biennial Report of the State Superintendent of Public Education to the Legislature of Mississippi for the Years 188-1889* (Jackson, Miss.: R. H. Henry, 1890), p. 329; “Necrology” *The Record of the Hampden-Sydney Alumni Association*, 18.

¹⁵⁰Noble, *Forty Years of the Public Schools in Mississippi*, 89.

¹⁵¹Herringshaw, *Herringshaw's Encyclopedia of American Biography of the Nineteenth Century*, p. 212.

¹⁵²Roy D. Keehn, *Grand Catalog of the Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity* (Chicago: np, 1911), 92.

¹⁵³“Necrology” *The Record of the Hampden-Sydney Alumni Association*, vol.3.1 (October 1928), 18.

¹⁵⁴“Alonzo D. Chesterman,” *Find A Grave* (<http://www.findagrave.com>).

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to former principal Benjamin H. Thackston. From 1872 to 1877, Thackston had worked as an assistant teacher, who then left to enter a stock business. He returned during the 1880-1881 school year as the first assistant teacher.¹⁵⁵ He stepped forward and accepted his former position as Principal in 1881 at time when the College's future was clouded. He succeeded in reestablishing the school, as enrollment increased under his leadership. He continued as Principal until 1884, when he was forced out, because the Democratic party took control of the state government, and he was a Republican.¹⁵⁶

See Thackston's previous biographical sketch for additional information on his life after he left the College.

William Joseph Kenny, Sr. — Fifteenth Principal, 1884-1886



William J. Kenny, Sr., of Point Pleasant, West Virginia, replaced Benjamin H. Thackston as Marshall College's fifteenth Principal in 1884.¹⁵⁷ He was an experienced educator and under his leadership the school's enrollment increased, so he was rehired for the 1885-1886 school year.¹⁵⁸ But, for some reason he was "ousted" and was not hired for the next term.¹⁵⁹

William J. Kenny, the son of Robert Kenny and Mary (Harnett) Kenny, was born July 4, 1830, at Cappelquin, Waterford County, Ireland.¹⁶⁰ Choosing to become a priest, he entered All Hallows College, Dublin, in September 1848, and was ordained a

¹⁵⁵Morgan and Cork, *History of Education in West Virginia*, p. 73.

¹⁵⁶Toole, "History of Marshall College," pp. 65-66.

¹⁵⁷Thackston, "Short History of Marshall College," p. 17.

¹⁵⁸Toole, "History of Marshall College," pp. 65-66.

¹⁵⁹Thackston, Short History of Marshall College," p. 17.

¹⁶⁰The following is based on two biographical sketches written by Phyllis Ingraham Stout and Anora Kenny Ingraham, found in *The History of Mason County, West Virginia, 1987* (Salem, W. Va.: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1987), pp. 178-179, unless otherwise noted.

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Catholic priest in October 1853. That same month he left for his assigned field of labor, the United States, where he ministered to English-speaking Catholics in the California towns of Columbia, Sonora, Jamestown and Sacramento, becoming the Assistant Priest at the last town. On July 6, 1855, he was made the first resident Pastor of the Catholic Church in Placerville, California.¹⁶¹

At this time, he apparently decided to renounce his vows, and in 1856 he left for Richmond, Virginia. On May 30, 1858, he married Ariola Honorah Mulcahy, of Cork County, Ireland, at Weston, (West) Virginia.¹⁶² To this union there were added five sons and a daughter.

Kenny taught in a number of West Virginia public schools, located at Point Pleasant, St. Albans, Winfield, Buffalo, Mason City, Welsh, Moundsville, as well as two public schools in Kentucky, at Ashland and Greenup. During this period he also was president of Marshall College, 1884-1886. He finally settled in Point Pleasant, where he served sixteen years as the Mason County Superintendent of Public Schools. At the time of his death on August 25, 1917, he was living with his son, William Joseph Kenny, Jr., in Point Pleasant. He and his wife, who died in 1902, are buried in the Lone Oak Cemetery, at Point Pleasant, West Virginia.

Thomas Edward Hodges — Sixteenth Principal, 1886-1896



Marshall College's sixteenth Principal was Thomas E. Hodges, who arrived in 1886. In his first year the college's primary department, young children of elementary school age, was eliminated and only those students were enrolled who were "of age and advancement sufficient to admit them to the regular classes of the normal or academic departments."¹⁶³ He also re-instituted the academic department with its classical-oriented curriculum, which had been

¹⁶¹Placerville Catholics began to meet in 1850 and built a church two years later. This building was destroyed by fire in 1865, which was used until 1963, when it was replaced by the current Church. The church's web page includes a "List of Pastors" with their years of service. Kenny is not on the list, and the pastor's name who served for 1852-1857 was Fr. Woulfe ("Parish History," *Catholic Community of St. Patrick* [<http://www.stpatpv.org/>]).

¹⁶²The biographical sketch gives her name as Honorah, but the 1900 Census of Mason County, listed Ariola as her name. The Family Search database gives it as Anna Honorah Mulcahy. Likely the Anna is an error, and it should be Ariola.

¹⁶³Morgan and Cork, "History of Education in West Virginia," 72.

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dropped in 1877. The normal school curriculum remained a three-year program. Throughout his ten-year tenure many changes were made in the college's courses and administration, including establishing a "Marshall Business College," which had its own principal, who also served on the College faculty.

His time at Marshall was eminently successful, and when he left he had "set a new record that has not yet been equaled."¹⁶⁴ When revisiting the College in 1905, he addressed the student body and "referred to the ten years which he spent here as very pleasant ones and his first greeting was congratulations on the marvelous growth of Marshall College."¹⁶⁵ Hodges left in 1896 when he accepted a faculty position as a professor of physics at West Virginia University.

During Marshall College's centennial celebration in 1937, a new dormitory for men, called Hodges Hall, was dedicated. The speaker on that occasion was the West Virginia Treasurer, Merrill D. Carrico, whose words form a brief biography of Hodges, and will be here reproduced with only minor editing:

This magnificent new dormitory is today named the Thomas Edward Hodges Hall, honoring Doctor Thomas Edward Hodges, who was President of Marshall College from 1886 to 1896. He is recognized by friends and acquaintances as one of the State's outstanding contributors to the fields of education and good citizenship.

He was born December 13, 1858, near French Creek, Upshur County, in what was then Virginia, the son of John Henry and Melissa Humphrey Hodges. Thomas Edward Hodges was educated in the French Creek Academy, an institution fostered by the Presbyterian Church, in which religious faith he was thus nurtured and grew up. He entered West Virginia University in Morgantown in 1877 and graduated in 1881. He later took his Master's Degree in Science at Cornell University. From 1881 to 1886 he served as Principal of the Morgantown Public Schools.

In 1886 he was elected President of Marshall College at Huntington in which position he served for ten years. During this period he became known to thousands of southern West Virginians and formed friendships which lasted through his lifetime and have extended to other members of the family, notwithstanding that Doctor Hodges' life from 1896 until his death in 1919 was spent in northern West Virginia.

In 1896 he was elected Professor of Physics at West Virginia University, at which

¹⁶⁴Toole, "History of Marshall College," p. 78.

¹⁶⁵Brandon Woolum, "One Hundred Years Ago Today: April 25, 2005," *Huntington News Net* (archives.huntingtonnews.net/columns/050425-woolum-100yrs.html)

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post he served until 1909 when he was appointed by the late Governor William E. Glasscock as a member of the first Board of Control, which body was created by the Legislature of that year.

He had served on the Board of Control one year when he was elected President of West Virginia University in 1910. Owing to a statute which existed at that time providing that no citizen could hold two public offices of the State in succession, without the lapse of one year, Doctor Hodges continued to serve on the Board of Control without pay for several months, finally leaving the Board of Control in February 1911. After a vacation trip abroad with his wife and daughter, he took up his duties as President of the University on July 1, 1911, and was formally inaugurated on November, 3, 1911. The inauguration was one of the outstanding affairs of its kind in the history of the State and was attended by President William Howard Taft.

In 1914, Doctor Hodges voluntarily resigned as President of West Virginia University and returned to private business activities. His health began to fail in the fall of 1918, and on July 13, 1919, he died at his home in Morgantown after two unsuccessful operations. He was buried in the family plot in Morgantown.

In 1882 Doctor Hodges was married to Mary Amelia Hayes, a member of one of Monongalia County's oldest families, which settled there shortly after 1800 and whose members have been active and prominent in that community for more than one hundred and twenty-five years. Mrs. Hodges died in 1928. Two children were born to Dr. and Mrs. Hodges, both of them within the walls of Marshall College....

Beginning with his school days at French Creek, Doctor Hodges was active in the Presbyterian Church and his loyalty and devotion to church affairs was an important part of his life. He served as an Elder in the Presbyterian Church for more than twenty-five years and was a member of its College Board for the United States.

In addition to degrees conferred upon him for work done during his college career, he had conferred upon him two honorary degrees, that of Doctor of Science by Waynesburg College and Doctor of Laws by Washington and Jefferson College.

For a quarter of a century Doctor Hodges was prominent in school affairs of West Virginia and traveled over the entire State many times making public addresses and conducting teachers institutes. His public appearances on the rostrum and in the pulpit made him known to thousands of West Virginians in every county. To these were added the thousands of friends and acquaintances developed by thirty-five years of service with the students and faculty members of the two largest educational institutions in West Virginia. These generations of students, particularly those at the State University knew him affectionately as "Tommy" Hodges.

It seems to me particularly fitting that this building which will serve such a useful purpose for the students of Marshall College should be named for a West Virginian who has been as distinguished in the fields of education and citizenship as was

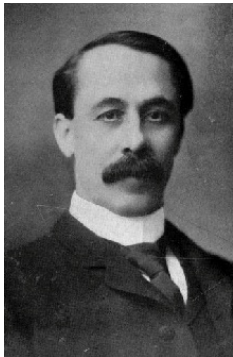
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Doctor Thomas Edward Hodges.¹⁶⁶

¹⁶⁶N. D. Carrico, "Thomas Edward Hodges," in *One Hundred Years of Marshall College* (Huntington: Centennial Committee of Marshall College, 1937), pp. 109-111.

PART THREE: PRESIDENTS DURING THE MARSHALL COLLEGE PERIOD, 1896-1946

Lawrence Jugurtha Corbly — Seventeenth Principal, 1896-1907; First President, 1907-1915



Lawrence J. Corbly replaced Thomas E. Hodges in 1896. A description of the Marshall College at that time indicated the challenges the new principal faced: “Marshall was little more than an advanced high school, the student body for the most part comprising young men and women from Huntington and vicinity. The enrollment, including the faculty, totaled less than one hundred.”¹⁶⁷ Although named a college, it could not grant baccalaureate degrees, only issuing normal school teaching diplomas.¹⁶⁸ Corbly sought to make it a college in more than name only, writing in 1911 that he would be “very happy to see *this* school converted into a degree-conferring college.”¹⁶⁹ He reorganized the College’s departments, adding courses, lengthening the time to receive a diploma, and increasing the faculty. When he took over there were only nine faculty members, and by 1907 the faculty had increased to twenty-seven. The student enrollment grew as offerings increased, quadrupling in size during Corbly’s tenure.¹⁷⁰

In 1907 an ambitious plan was approved by the state that looked toward the time when the

¹⁶⁷“Gentleman Scholar,” *The Parthenon*, Oct. 22, 1935.

¹⁶⁸At the time the state took over the school, it allowed the institution to keep its historical name, Marshall College, even though it was in truth only a normal school.

¹⁶⁹Toole, “History of Marshall College,” p. 112. Emphasis in original.

¹⁷⁰Toole, “History of Marshall College,” p. 95.

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College would be allowed to offer degrees. As part of the plan, Corbly's title was changed from "Principal" to "President" and the faculty received the commensurate title of "Professor," replacing "Teacher."¹⁷¹ During the remaining years of his tenure, Corbly continually sought to upgrade the school, but when he left in 1915, his desire to see the school become a degree-granting institution remained unfulfilled.

Lawrence J. Corbly was born on September 19, 1862, the son of Andre Lynn Corbly and Miranda (Moore) Corbly, on a farm near Alma, Tyler County, West Virginia. He was the sixth of eleven children.¹⁷² His early life was spent on the family farm, while he attended local public schools. He completed the normal course at Fairmont State School Normal (now Fairmont State University) in 1884, at the age of twenty-two.

He joined the law offices of W. I. Boreman, in order to read for the law, but before taking the bar examination, he entered West Virginia University, graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in 1890.¹⁷³ He felt "that to be a well-trained lawyer one should have university training."¹⁷⁴ His experience in obtaining a bachelors of arts in the classics, dissuaded him from the practice of law and he turned to teaching instead, "his eminent fitness for this profession having thus far prevented his giving attention to the law."¹⁷⁵

After his graduation, he moved to the South to take a position as superintendent of schools at Water Valley, Mississippi, serving from 1890-1892. He returned to West Virginia, taking a similar position, as the principal of Clarksburg Graded Schools, where he remained until 1895. He completed all the course work for a Ph.D. at West Virginia University. During 1895-1896 he traveled to Europe to study languages at universities in Halle, Jena and Berlin. While at Berlin he received a message, calling him back to West Virginia to accept a new position as the principal of Marshall

¹⁷¹Toole, "History of Marshall College," pp. 109

¹⁷²*Men of West Virginia*, 2 vols. (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Co., 1903), 1:224.

¹⁷³Toole, "History of Marshall College," p. 79.

¹⁷⁴*Men of West Virginia*, 1:224.

¹⁷⁵; *Men of West Virginia*, 1:224-225.

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College. He took over the new position, leaving his Ph.D. uncompleted. This began his nineteen-year association with the College as its Principal. He resigned in 1915 to pursue a business career in real estate.

In 1925 he returned to the College as a faculty member of the German Department, becoming the department chairman. He continued to teach, even teaching courses in astronomy, “a subject with which he was well acquainted.” During these years he “faithfully and efficiently fulfilled his professorial duties at the college, excelling as a teacher of science, the languages and the Bible.”¹⁷⁶

In 1887 he met Elizabeth “Lizzie” Holland of New Cumberland, while competing for a scholarship examination to the Peabody College at Nashville. When they tied for the scholarship, he graciously bowed out and let her have the scholarship.¹⁷⁷ A romance ensued, and they were married on December 23, 1887, at Belmont, Ohio. The couple had no children. His wife died in 1906. He then married Sydney Thomas of New Haven, Connecticut, on December 24, 1907. The couple had no children. She survived him.¹⁷⁸

Corbly died suddenly on October 20, 1935, while at home from a heart attack. That morning he had preached a sermon at the Central Christian Church, substituting for Dr. W. H. Shaffer who was out of town; he was also scheduled to deliver the evening sermon. His funeral services were held in the Old Main auditorium, where he laid in state. He is buried in the Corbly mausoleum in Spring Hill Cemetery.¹⁷⁹

Oscar Israel Woodley — Second President, 1915-1919

When Lawrence J. Corbly resigned in 1915, Oscar I. Woodley was hired as the College’s second

¹⁷⁶“Corbly’s Death Widely Mourned,” *Parthenon*, Oct. 22, 1935.

¹⁷⁷“Prof. Corbly of Marshall Dies Suddenly,” *Herald Dispatch*, Oct. 21, 1935.

¹⁷⁸“Lawrence J. Corbly,” *New Family Search* (newfamilysearch.org).

¹⁷⁹“Corbly’s Death Widely Mourned,” *Parthenon*, Oct. 22, 1935; “Classes Will Be Dismissed Today for Burial Rites,” *Parthenon*, Oct. 22, 1935.

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president, assuming his new position on July 1, 1915.¹⁸⁰ Woodley oversaw the College during the difficult war years of 1917-1918, in which the school lost a number of male students who enlisted. The school invested much time and energy in support of the war effort. Mrs. Woodley was the director of the local Red Cross Auxiliary, which involved the students in making prepared dressings and darning clothing for the troops.

During his tenure Northcott Hall, the second building on campus, was completed in 1916. Woodley was a progressive educator who felt that the traditional academic courses of teaching did not meet the students' needs. He introduced several, practical vocational courses to the curriculum, but his other progressive changes were resisted by the faculty. Although he held progressive views of pedagogy, he was a strict disciplinarian and ruled the college like a martinet, so much so that most of the students signed a petition in 1918, asking the Board of Control to replace him. Perhaps as a result of these pressures, he resigned suddenly in midterm, February 1, 1919.

Oscar I. Woodley, the son of Benjamin Woodley and Miriam (Slaght) Woodley, was born at Boston, Ontario, Canada, on October 19, 1861.¹⁸¹ In 1870 the family emigrated to the United States, settling in East Rapids, Michigan.¹⁸² He attended schools in that city, and later in Mason, Michigan, when his family relocated and he graduated from St. Clair High School. The 1880 Federal Census listed him as living in Vevay, Michigan, where he worked as a farm laborer.¹⁸³ In 1866 he graduated with a teaching certificate from State Normal School at Ypsilanti, and three years later with a masters

¹⁸⁰The following sketch of Woodley's term as President is based on Charles Moffatt, *Marshall University: An Institution Comes of Age, 1837-1980* (Huntington: W. Va.: Marshall University Alumni Association, 1981), pp. 26-36.

¹⁸¹The following biographical sketch is based on the *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, 24:118, unless otherwise noted.

¹⁸²James Morton Callahan, *Genealogical and Personal History of the Upper Monongahela Valley, West Virginia*, 3 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1912), 3:1228. His family moved in time to be listed in the 1870 Federal Census for Michigan, where his mother is listed as the head of the household.

¹⁸³United States Census 1870, Michigan, where he was living with Jay W. Hill (United States 1870 Michigan Census, citing p. 17, family 140, NARA microfilm publication M593, FHL microfilm 552174).

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degree of pedagogy from the same institution.¹⁸⁴ After graduation he served as the superintendent of public schools at Monticello and Sauk Centre, Michigan, from 1889-1894, and then at Menominee, Michigan, from 1894 to 1900.¹⁸⁵ At the end of his tenure at Menominee, he received his bachelors of arts from Abion College in 1900. In 1901 he earned a masters of arts from Columbia University.

In 1903 he was hired as the superintendent of the Passaic, New Jersey, schools, where he remained seven years.¹⁸⁶ In 1910 he moved to Fairmont, West Virginia, becoming the principal of the Fairmont State Normal School, which position he filled “acceptably and well.”¹⁸⁷ In 1915 he accepted the same position at Marshall College, where he remained until he resigned in February 1919.

The 1920 census showed that he and his wife were living in Washington, D.C.¹⁸⁸ At some point he settled in Florida, where he became a citrus grower. However, he did not abandon his vocation as an educator. He and his wife co-wrote textbooks on English and teaching.¹⁸⁹ He lectured at the University of Virginia for twelve successive summers, conducted teachers’ institutes, and lectured frequently on pedagogy.

On September 2, 1886, he married Myra Virginia Soper at Minneapolis, Minnesota.¹⁹⁰ They had

¹⁸⁴Callahan, *Genealogical and Personal History of the Upper Monongahela Valley, West Virginia*, 3:1229.

¹⁸⁵The United States Census for 1900, listed him living at Menominee, Michigan, as the head of the household, with his wife, Maria and one child, Marian (United States 1900 Michigan Census, citing sheet 10A, family 188, NARA microfilm publication T623, FHL microfilm 1240731).

¹⁸⁶The United States Census for 1910 listed him living at Passaic, N.J., as the head of the household with his wife, Myra and his daughter, Marion (United States 1910 New Jersey Census, citing sheet 16B, family 316, NARA microfilm publication T624, FHL microfilm 1374917).

¹⁸⁷Callahan, *Genealogical and Personal History of the Upper Monongahela Valley, West Virginia*, 3:1229.

¹⁸⁸United States Census, 1920, Washington, District of Columbia.

¹⁸⁹*Foundation Lesson in English Grammar* (New York and London: Macmillan & Co., 1901, 1902), *Studies in English Interpretation and Composition for High Schools* (New York and London: Macmillan company, 1906), and *The Profession of Teaching* (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1917).

¹⁹⁰“Minnesota Marriage, 1849-1950,” vol. 32, p. 365, at *Family Search* (familysearch.org).

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three children: Genevieve, Oscar Harold and Marion. He died at Clermont, Florida, on November 24, 1931, at the age of sixty-nine. He was described as “a man of sterling character whose life was controlled by high ideals and unselfish devotion to the cause of cultural advancement.”¹⁹¹

Frederic Rutherford Hamilton — Third President, 1919-1923



Frederic R. Hamilton¹⁹² took office as Marshall College’s third president on September 1, 1919, having been selected by the State Board of Control a few weeks’ previous.¹⁹³ Hamilton shepherded the institution while it became a full four-year degree granting college. With the demand for more properly trained teachers, he worked toward that goal.¹⁹⁴ The college’s first bachelors degrees were granted at the June 1921 Commencement.¹⁹⁵ At Hamilton’s suggestion, faculty member Vera Andrew wrote and produced a pageant, *The Unquenched Torch*, two days before commencement in celebration of the occasion.¹⁹⁶

Hamilton was a good administrator and the school expanded under his leadership. He was “very popular indeed with the entire student body—and no wonder, for he [took] an active interest in all worthy student activities.”¹⁹⁷ He was not so popular with some of the faculty, who agitated that Morris P. Shawkey, the former State Superintendent of Education, should take his place as the College’s president.¹⁹⁸ Apparently, Hamilton gave in to these pressures and resigned in 1923 to

¹⁹¹*National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 24:118

¹⁹²In some sources his first name is spelled Frederick, but he spelled it without the *k*, Frederic.

¹⁹³“Frederic R. Hamilton,” *Parthenon*, 5 Dec. 1919, p. 1.

¹⁹⁴Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, p. 41.

¹⁹⁵*Eighty-Fourth Annual Commencement, June 13, 1921, Program*, p. 3. Four degrees were granted, all to men.

¹⁹⁶Vera Andrew, *The Unquenched Torch* (Huntington, W. Va., np, 1921), p. 3.

¹⁹⁷*Mirabilia* (Huntington, W. Va.: Students of Marshall College, 1921), p. 26.

¹⁹⁸Marshall Bucklew, *The Life of Morris Purdy Shawkey* (Charleston: W. Va.: West Virginia Publishing Co., 1941), p. 70; Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*,” p. 43.

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accepted a position as assistant professor of education at Columbia, where he could also complete his doctorate.

Frederic Rutherford Hamilton, the son of Andrew Hamilton and Jane (Hessen) Hamilton, was born on July 31, 1881, at Richland Center, Wisconsin.¹⁹⁹ He graduated from the State Normal School at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, in 1901. Between 1901 and 1912 he was the superintendent of schools for the cities of Milton, Jefferson and Hudson, Wisconsin. During this time he also continued his schooling, earning a bachelors of philosophy from University of Wisconsin in 1906. On June 26, 1906, he married Marion Ethel Warren; the couple had two children.

From 1912 to 1914 he worked for the extension division of the University of Wisconsin, and from 1914 to 1918 he was the director of the extension division of the University of Kansas. During the First World War, from 1918 to 1919, he worked with the United States Sanitary Corps, Hospital Service at Waynesville, South Carolina. At the time he accepted the position of president at Marshall University in 1919, he was working toward a Ph.D. by attending summer sessions at Columbia University.²⁰⁰ Upon leaving Marshall College in 1923, he returned to Columbia as an associate professor of education, where he earned his doctorate in 1925.

In 1925 he accepted the position as president of the Bradley Polytechnic Institute (now Bradley University) at Peoria, Illinois. He guided the institution through the difficult years of the Depression and World War II. Between 1942 and 1943 he also worked in the Division of Higher Education, U.S. Department of Education, where he assisted “in the preparation of war training courses for the nation’s colleges and universities.”²⁰¹ He held the position of president at Bradley Polytechnic Institute until 1946, when he retired at the age of sixty-five.

He did not seek a life of leisure after his retirement. In 1946 he accepted the position as the new dean of the University of Illinois, Galesburg Division, where he stepped in at the last moment and

¹⁹⁹*Who Was Who in America*, 4 vols. (Chicago: A. N. Marquis, 1966), 3:362. This biographical sketch is based on this source, unless other noted.

²⁰⁰“Frederic R. Hamilton,” *Parthenon*, 5 Dec. 1919, p. 1.

²⁰¹“Former Bradley University Head Dies on Steamship,” *The Anderson Herald* (Indiana) 2 Feb. 1952.

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got the school up in running in a matter of weeks.²⁰² He remained there until 1947. He accepted a position on a number of expeditions between 1947 and 1952. He accompanied these exploratory-photographic expeditions around the world, including Canada, South America, Australia, New Zealand and Africa. On February 19, 1952, he died on the steamer, *African Enterprise*, while returning to New York City from an expedition to Africa.²⁰³ He was buried with his wife, who had died in 1942, at Bronswood Cemetery, Hindsdale, Illinois.²⁰⁴

Morris Purdy Shawkey — Fourth President, 1923-1935



Upon the departure of Frederic R. Hamilton, Morris P. Shawkey became the College's fourth president. Although a native of Pennsylvania there was no one who was as "intensely loyal to the Mountain State" as he was.²⁰⁵ One of the first tasks Shawkey undertook was to get the new four-year college accredited in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, which he attempted in 1925 and accomplished the following year.²⁰⁶ He reorganized the faculty into two colleges: Teachers' College and College of Arts and Sciences, each with its own dean. Shawkey added a number of buildings during his tenure, including Fairfield Stadium in 1928, the James E. Morrow Library 1932, the Student Union in 1933, and the president's residence along Fifth Avenue. He guided the College through the difficult Great Depression years. As a staunch Republican, he was forced to resign on April 27, 1935, when the Democrats took control of the State, but he stayed on until July 1.

²⁰²“Opening Unit Is a 30-Day Job for Dean,” *Antioch News* (Illinois), March. 6, 1947.

²⁰³“Former Bradley University Head Dies on Steamship,” *The Anderson Herald* (Indiana) 2 Feb. 1952.

²⁰⁴“Illinois, Deaths and Stillbirths, 1916-1947,” *Family Search* (familysearch.org).

²⁰⁵Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, 46.

²⁰⁶In 1928 the College was also accredited by North Central Association, and in 1930 it discontinued its dual accreditation, and since then it has been accredited by only the latter association (Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, 47).

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Morris Purdy Shawkey, the son of George Shawkey²⁰⁷ and Annie Elizabeth (Witherspoon) Shawkey, was born on February 17, 1868, on a farm near Sigel, Jefferson County, Pennsylvania.²⁰⁸ Eschewing a life of farming, he attended Bellevue Academy, acquiring a teaching diploma in 1883 at the tender age of fifteen. He accepted a job teaching in a one-room school in the Mill Creek District of Clarion County, Pennsylvania, finding his life's vocation in the classroom. He continued his education while teaching, attending not only Bellevue Academy in 1884 and 1885, but also Oberlin Business College, in Oberlin, Ohio, between 1886 and 1889. Instead of returning to Oberlin to complete his degree, in 1889 he enrolled in Ohio Wesleyan Academy, at Delaware, Ohio, and from there he matriculated at Ohio Wesleyan University in 1890. He received his A.B. degree in June 1894.

After graduating, he accepted a position as superintendent of schools at Reynolds, North Dakota, where he worked for only one year, 1894 to 1895; he found the cold winter almost intolerable. From there he accepted a position as a professor at West Virginia Wesleyan College at Buckhannon, arriving in August 1895. In 1897 he was offered and accepted the position of chief clerk in the West Virginia Department of Free Schools, where he worked until 1907, except for a brief period in 1902-1903 when he obtained a leave of absence to serve as a delegate in the State Legislature. During 1907-1909 he was the Superintendent of Kanawha Public Schools. In 1909 he was hired as the State Superintendent of Schools, which job he "filled most creditably."²⁰⁹ He held that position until becoming the fourth President of Marshall College in 1915. After leaving Marshall College in 1935, he accepted a position on the faculty of Morris Harvey College and he was named its president on November 23, 1935. He served in that position until 1941. At Marshall College's centennial celebration, he returned to campus and spoke at the dedication of the murals in the library, painted

²⁰⁷George was born Georg Schaaka, the son of Henrich Schaaka, who Anglicized his name to Henry Shawkey upon arriving in the United States from Germany in 1839 (Bucklew, *Life of Morris Purdy Shawkey*, p. 9).

²⁰⁸The following biographical sketch is based on Bucklew, *Life of Morris Purdy Shawkey*, unless otherwise noted.

²⁰⁹*Mirabilia, 1925* (Huntington, W. Va.: Students of Marshall College, 1925), p. 26.

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by Marion Vest Fors.²¹⁰ When he became ill in 1941, he left Charleston for St. Petersburg, Florida, to recuperate with friends. When he did not improve, his physicians directed him to return to Charleston, West Virginia, for a major operation. When en route by train, he died in his sleep in a Pullman car, near Savannah, Georgia, on February 6, 1941. A memorial service in Charleston, was followed by his interment in the family cemetery in Sigel, Pennsylvania.

James Edward Allen — Fifth President, 1935-1942



Although the Marshall College faculty favored Thomas Donnelly, Chairman of the Political Science Department, as Shawkey's replacement, Governor Herman G. Kump used his influence to have his close friend, James E. Allen, the longtime president of Davis and Elkins College, appointed the College's fifth President.²¹¹

It took Allen, who had been Davis and Elkins' president for twenty-five years and had not sought the College's presidency, two-month's consideration before he accepted the offer. He arrived on campus on July 1935. Allen, however, found the secular atmosphere at Marshall quite "alien" from Presbyterian Davis and Elkins. He "never really became completely acclimated to his college assignment in Huntington," and even after four years at Marshall he wrote to a colleague that his "interests abide at Davis and Elkins."²¹²

Nonetheless, he had quite a successful term. One of his major achievements was the creation of a graduate studies program at the College in 1938 with the authority to offer masters degrees in six fields.²¹³ The first masters degrees were conferred on two students at the 1940 commencement.²¹⁴ During his tenure two dormitories, Laidley and Hodges Halls, were completed, giving men the first

²¹⁰During the 1960s renovation of the Morrow Library, the murals, three in number, were removed and placed in storage. They were later restored by a conservator and mounted in Special Collections on the second floor of the library, where they can be viewed in the Hoffman Conference Room.

²¹¹Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, pp. 79-80.

²¹²James E. Allen to R. C. Hutchinson, 14 May 1939, quoted in Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, 86, 111.

²¹³Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, pp. 90-91.

²¹⁴*One Hundred and Third Commencement, Marshall College, June 14, 1940*, p. 4.

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opportunity to have on-campus housing, as well as the construction of the Albert Gallatin Jenkins Laboratory School.²¹⁵ He oversaw the College's centennial celebration, including the dedication of the previously mentioned Marion Vest Fors murals in the Morrow Library. He enticed coach Eli "Cam" Henderson from Davis and Elkins to come to Marshall, who brought national attention to the College's intercollegiate athletic program.²¹⁶ He also brought about a general improvement in the professional qualifications of the faculty. Upon his retirement in July 1942, he received the official title of President Emeritus of Marshall College."²¹⁷

James Edward Allen, the son of Peter Woodward Allen and Fannie Blunt (Scott) Allen, was born on June 13, 1876, at Hebron, Virginia.²¹⁸ His son described him as above all a "classical scholar," who possessed "a disciplined, pious outlook that had been honed to a fine edge by intensive parental moral and religious instruction."²¹⁹ After attending local public schools in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, he entered Hampden-Sydney College, from which he graduated with A. B. degree in 1898.²²⁰ That year he taught school in Campbell County, Virginia, and in 1900 and 1901 he served as principal of the public schools of Phoebus, Virginia. From 1901 to 1903 he was the vice-principal of the Latin High School at Newport News, Virginia. In 1904 he worked as an instructor of modern languages at Deichman Preparatory School in Baltimore, Maryland and the next year as Latin instructor at Notre Dame College in the same state.²²¹ During this time (1903 to 1905) he also took

²¹⁵*One Hundred Years of Marshall College* (Huntington, W. Va.: Centennial Committee of Marshall College, 1937), pp. 99-111.

²¹⁶See: Sam E. Clagg, *The Cam Henderson Story : His Life and Times* (Parsons, W. Va: McClain Printing Co., 1981).

²¹⁷Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, p. 110.

²¹⁸Callahan, James Morton, *The History of West Virginia, Old and New*, 3 vols. (Chicago and New York: American Historical Society, 1923), 3:623; *National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 36: 549.

²¹⁹David E. Koontz, *James E. Allen, Jr.: Educational Statesman* (Parsons, W. Va.: McClain Printing Co, 1981), p. 12.

²²⁰"James E. Allen," *The Record of the Hampden-Sydney Alumni Association*, 24 (January 1950), p. 15.

²²¹*National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 36: 549.

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Latin courses at the University of Virginia.²²² He pursued a graduate degree in Latin at John Hopkins University at Baltimore, also acting an instructor in Latin. After receiving his M. A., he returned to a high school at Newport News as its principal from 1905 to 1906.

In 1906 he joined the faculty at Davis and Elkins College to teach German and French. He remained at that college until 1909, when he was hired as the principal of the Nicholson School in Richmond, Virginia.²²³ The next year he returned to Davis and Elkins College, becoming its fourth president. While president “the college quadrupled its enrollment and substantially increased its endowment.”²²⁴ In 1923 Hampden-Sydney College conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, for his “outstanding contributions in the field of education.”²²⁵ He remained at Davis and Elkins for the next twenty-five years, until he was enticed to accept the job of president of Marshall College in 1935. After seven years he retired in 1942 at the age of sixty-six, to devote himself to writing.

On June 18, 1910, he married Susan Hackney Garrott of Frederick, Maryland, and the couple had six children.²²⁶ His namesake, James Edward Allen, Jr., had a distinguished career in education, becoming the Secretary of Education under President Richard M. Nixon. Susan Allen died in 1923 at the age of 43.²²⁷ Allen then married Mary Parke Dickinson Carter on June 11, 1927, to help raise his family.²²⁸ He died at his home in Danville, Virginia, on January 6, 1950.²²⁹

²²²*National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 36: 549.

²²³Koontz, *James E. Allen, Jr.*, p. 13.

²²⁴*National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 36: 549.

²²⁵“James E. Allen,” *The Record of the Hampden-Sydney Alumni Association*, 24 (January 1950), p. 15.

²²⁶*National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 36:549.

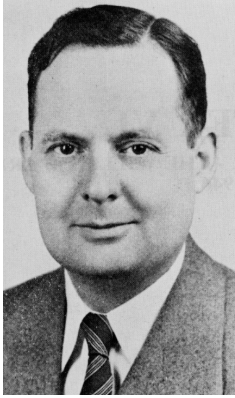
²²⁷Koontz, *James E. Allen, Jr.*, p. 13. Susan had graduated as valedictorian of her class at Hood College in 1900, where she remained to work as a librarian. She also worked as a librarian at Davis and Elkins College until the birth of her first child, James E. Allen, Jr., in 1911.

²²⁸*National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 36:549. She was the widow of Jedutham E. Carter.

²²⁹“James E. Allen,” *The Record of the Hampden-Sydney Alumni Association*, 24 (January 1950), p. 15.

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John Davis Williams — Sixth President, 1942-1946



John D. Williams, the newest member of the “Big Green fighting team” became Marshall College’s sixth President in 1942 at the beginning of the Second World War.²³⁰ He saw the institution through those difficult and trying years; the campus was put on a war footing. Enrollment declined as young men enlisted in the armed services.²³¹ Without adequate male students the football and other athletic programs were put on hold until the end of the hostilities. During the war 1,600 men passed through training for the College’s Army Air Corps and Naval Reserve Air Cadet Training Program.²³² Perhaps due to the lack of male students or maybe the shortage of paper, the College’s yearbook, *The Chief Justice* ceased publication during the war.²³³ Badly needed construction and building maintenance was put on hold as well. In fact, the entire campus “had been largely absorbed in the war against the Axis Powers” during Williams’ stint as President.²³⁴ He could have stayed to help with the College’s postwar booming recovery, but he aspired to become a university president. He responded to an advertisement for the Chancellor of the University of Mississippi in 1945 and was hired, leaving Marshall College in September 1946.

John Davis Williams, the son of Victor Oldham Williams and Lucy (Davis) Williams, was born

²³⁰*The 1945 Chief Justice* (Huntington, W. Va.: The Senior Class of Marshall College, 1945), p. 5.

²³¹When the war began in 1939 Marshall had 2,177 students, but by 1944 that number had dropped to 720 (Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, p. 119).

²³²Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, pp. 117-118. See also: “History of the 47th College Training Detachment (Air Crew),” Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University, and Beecher R. Papers, Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University.

²³³The College’s first yearbook, begun in 1908, was named *The Mirabilia*; it ceased publication in 1934 during the Depression years. When its publication resumed in 1940, the yearbook was renamed *The Chief Justice*. Two volumes were issued in 1940 and 1941. The third issue, really only a pamphlet of 36 pages, was issued in 1945 by the senior class. It listed 150 men who would have graduated with the senior class, except for the war.

²³⁴Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, 122.

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at Newport, Kentucky, on Christmas day, 1902.²³⁵ He attended local public schools. Even before he received his degree, he taught elementary school at California, Kentucky, in 1923, and served as principal of an elementary school at Southgate, Kentucky for 1923 to 1925.²³⁶ He received his B. A. from the University of Kentucky in 1926. From 1926 to 1928 he was the superintendent of schools at Crab Orchard, Kentucky, and 1929 he took the same job at Falmouth, Kentucky. That same year he accepted the position of principal of the Junior and Senior High School at Danville, Kentucky, where he served until 1934. While working at Danville, he completed his work on a M. A. Degree from the University of Kentucky in 1930. In 1934 and 1935 he worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority as the superintendent of schools at Norris, Tennessee.

In 1935 he joined the faculty of University of Kentucky as an associate professor of education and director of the University High School. Two years later he was promoted to the director of the University Elementary and High School. In 1940 he earned his Doctor of Education from Columbia University. In 1942 he became Marshall College's president, remaining until 1946.

That year he accepted the offer to become the Chancellor of the University of Mississippi at Oxford, where he remained for the next twenty-two years.²³⁷ He conformed to the University's segregationist position, which brought national attention to the institution when it denied the admission of the civil right activist, Medgar Evers, in 1954, who later filed a law suit against the university. That same year the Supreme Court issued *Brown vs. Board of Education*, overturning the segregation laws of denying African-Americans access to public schools. However, it took eight years before the first African-American was enrolled at Ole Miss. On the September 30, 1962, the university admitted James Meredith, an African-American student, following a court ruling.²³⁸ During this period of unrest, Williams kept the university open and sought to ease the arrival of

²³⁵The following biographical sketch is based on an entry in the *National Cyclopedia of American Biography* (New York: James T. White & Co., 1952), vol. H, p. 158, unless otherwise noted.

²³⁶*Who Was Who*, 9 vols. (Chicago: Marquis Who's Who, Inc., 1985), 8:428.

²³⁷*Who Was Who*, 8:248.

²³⁸See: Eagles, Charles W. *The Price of Defiance: James Meredith and the Integration of Ole Miss* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2009).

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additional African-American students. Williams left the university in 1968.²³⁹

He married Ruth Margaret Link at Columbus, Ohio, on June 14, 1924. They had one daughter, Ruth Harter Williams. After a long illness, he died on May 29, 1983, at his home in Oxford, Mississippi.²⁴⁰

²³⁹*Who Was Who*, 8:248.

²⁴⁰*New York Times*, 30 May 1983.

PART FOUR: PRESIDENTS DURING THE UNIVERSITY PERIOD, 1946 TO PRESENT

Stewart Harold Smith — Seventh President, College, 1946-1961; University, 1961-1968



When John D. Williams resigned in the summer of 1946, Stewart H. Smith, dean of the Teachers College, stepped in as interim President while a search was made to find Williams' replacement. At the end of the 1946-1947 school year he accepted the permanent position as the College's seventh President. His appointment would begin his career as Marshall's longest sitting president, twenty-two years.

During those years Smith oversaw the expansion and growth of the college, both in enrollment and in physical plant. Enrollment rose from 3,500 to 8,500 while he was President.²⁴¹ One of his early successes was the creation of the Graduate School in 1948 with its own Dean.²⁴² The College of Applied Science was also established in 1960.²⁴³ A number of buildings were constructed including the Science Building, Freshman Women's Dormitory (Prichard Hall), Physical Education Building (Gullickson Hall), University Heights, South Hall (Holderby Hall), and the Academic Center and Music Hall (Smith Hall), as well as renovations to the Shawkey Student Union, Morrow Library, Laidley Hall, Old Main, University Heights, and Fairfield

²⁴¹"Stewart H. Smith Dead at Age 78," *Herald-Dispatch*, 14 Dec. 1982.

²⁴²Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, pp. 152-153. The College's graduate program had been functioning under the direction of a Graduate Council for the previous ten years.

²⁴³Moffatt, *Institute Comes of Age*, p. 157.

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Stadium.²⁴⁴ When asked about the growth of buildings on campus, he replied, “To me, these are just necessary facilities. The real university is the students, the faculty—the people who make it up.”²⁴⁵

His most outstanding achievement was his long-term battle to get University status for the College; he “was its biggest proponent.”²⁴⁶ He remembered vividly the moment in 1961 when he heard the news. Jubilant students congregated outside his office in Old Main and wanted him to speak. He was so overcome that he recalled: “I couldn’t talk. I couldn’t form a word. I guess I said something.” He had almost given up and it came as “an emotion shock I couldn’t get over for quite awhile.”²⁴⁷ After a fulfilling career as President of both Marshall College and Marshall University, he announced his retirement in November 1967 to take effect on July 31, 1968.²⁴⁸

Stewart H. Smith, the son of Albert E. Smith and Annie M. (Leicht) Smith, was born on a dairy farm on September 19, 1904, at Glen Rock, Pennsylvania.²⁴⁹ The hard work on the farm did not appeal to him, and he recalled that he and his brother stated, “This isn’t for us.”²⁵⁰ He first attended a one-room school and then graduated from York High School in 1922, after which he attended a summer session at the State Teachers College at Millersville, Pennsylvania.²⁵¹ With this experience he began to teach in a one-room school in York County. In 1927 he graduated with a bachelors of science degree from Gettysburg College, and took a job teaching English in a high school at

²⁴⁴Stewart H. Smith, *President, Marshall University, 1947-1968* (Huntington, W. Va.: Marshall College of Office of Information and Publications, 1968), p. 2.

²⁴⁵“A Man and His Campus...,” *Herald-Advertiser*, May 12, 1968.

²⁴⁶Stewart H. Smith, *President, Marshall University, 1947-1968*, p. 2.

²⁴⁷“Stewart H. Smith and Marshall University,” undated newspaper clipping in “Smith, Stewart H.,” Vertical File, Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University.

²⁴⁸“Dr. Smith Submits Resignation,” *Parthenon*, Extra, 7 Nov. 1967.

²⁴⁹“Stewart H. Smith,” undated vita sheet, in Vertical File, Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University. His parents names are taken from information about his brother Lloyd Franklin Smith in “Find A Grave,” (<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=64415363>).

²⁵⁰“Stewart H. Smith and Marshall University,” undated newspaper clipping.

²⁵¹The biographical sketch is based on information from “Stewart H. Smith,” undated vita sheet, in Vertical File, Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University, unless otherwise noted.

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Somerville, New Jersey. In 1929 he transferred to a high school at Hackensack, New Jersey, where he remained until 1931. That same year he accepted a position as Supervising Principal of Schools at Roxbury, New York. In 1932 he obtained a masters degree in administration from Columbia University. In 1934 he took over as Supervising Principal of Schools at Middleburgh, New York, where he remained until 1945. During the summers he took classes at Syracuse University in school administration, receiving his Ph.D. in 1943.

In 1945 Smith accepted the position as Dean of the Teachers College at Marshall College, and the following year he became the Acting President, and in 1947 the President. After his resignation in 1968, he worked as vice president of public relations at the First Huntington National Bank until about 1972 when he moved to the Huntington Auto Club as a vice president, where he worked until he retired in 1975.²⁵² He was married to Evelyn Marion Hollberg and they had three sons and a daughter. He died on December 13, 1982, at the age of seventy-eight.²⁵³ Robert Hayes, President of Marshall University, stated, “Stewart Smith long will be remembered for his many achievements as president of Marshall College and Marshall University.”²⁵⁴

Roland Hill Nelson, Jr. — Eighth President, 1968-1970



When Roland H. Nelson took Stewart H. Smith’s place in the Fall of 1968, he faced considerable challenges, one of which was to fill the shoes of the affable Smith, who was held in high regard by the University and local communities. He arrived on campus with great expectation from the University and the community. He envisioned making Marshall a Metroversity—a force for societal innovation and regional development. Unfortunately, he did not possess those same qualities that

²⁵²*Huntington City Directories*, Richmond: Polk Publishing Co., vols. From 1968 to 1976. A newspaper clipping in the Special Collections Vertical File reported that in June 1970 he had accepted a position as student coordinator of personnel services at Alderson-Broadus College, but apparently he must have decided against the making the move to Philippi, because he remained in Huntington until his death in 1983.

²⁵³“Former President of M.U. Dies at 78,” newspaper clipping in Vertical File, Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University.

²⁵⁴“Stewart H. Smith Dead at Age 78,” *Herald Dispatch*, 14. Dec. 1982.

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former President Smith had, and he soon met opposition to his vision. In fact, he seemed to “make no special effort to integrate himself with the townspeople,” whose support he would need to achieve his goal, and more importantly to face the campus turmoil of the 1960s and 70s.²⁵⁵

Marshall University mirrored much of the student unrest of the Vietnam War era and the pressures of the Civil Rights Movement. The year after he arrived, African-American activists disturbed the campus with demands, among other things for a Black Cultural Center. Nelson complied by setting aside a group of rooms in the Shawkey Students Center. When Nelson recognized, on March 11, 1969, the Marshall chapter of the Students for a Democratic Society, he brought about a firestorm of criticism, in which he alienated much of the local conservative community.²⁵⁶ He also faced criticism for allowing a spokesman for the “Chicago Seven” to speak on campus in 1970. Final blows to his position as President came with North Central Association placing the University on private probation and with the athletic program’s ejection from the Mid-Atlantic Conference for violations. After only twenty-two months on the job, he resigned on July 16, 1970, saying “My impression was had I not resigned I would have been fired.”²⁵⁷

Ronald H. Nelson, the son of Rev. Roland Hill Nelson and Marian (Beauchamp) Nelson, was born on July 28, 1928, in Salisbury, Maryland.²⁵⁸ He graduated from Jarrett High School at Jarrett, Virginia in 1945. He attended Duke University and received a B. A. degree in English in 1949. He taught for one year in a high school at Stoney Creek, Virginia. In the Fall of 1950 he enrolled at the University of Virginia to pursue a graduate degree and then transferred to the College of William and Mary in the Spring of 1951. His academic work was interrupted in 1951 while he served in the United States Marine Corps; he was discharged in 1953 as a captain.

²⁵⁵Moffatt, *An Institution Comes of Age*,” p. 208.

²⁵⁶For a full treatment of this episode, see: John Hennen, “Struggle for Recognition: The Marshall University Students for a Democratic Society and the Red Scare in Huntington, 1965-1969,” *West Virginia History*, 52 (1993): 127-147.

²⁵⁷*Charleston Gazette*, 22 July 1970, quoted in Moffatt, *An Institution Comes of Age*, p. 215.

²⁵⁸“Duke, Harvard Graduate Is Marshall’s Eighth President,” *Marshall Alumnus* (Fall 1968): 14. The biographical sketch is based on this article, unless otherwise noted.

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After his military service, he taught elementary school in Albemarle County, Virginia, until 1955, while he also resumed his graduate work at the University of Virginia, receiving his master of education in 1955. In 1956 he traveled to New Orleans, where he was the headmaster of the Metairie Park County Day School, as well as a part-time professor of education at Tulane University. During this same time he attended summer sessions at Harvard University and completed his Ed.D. degree in 1960.

In 1961 he accepted the position as assistant dean of Arts and Sciences at Northwestern University, where he remained until 1965. That year he took a job as the dean of Department of Education at Duke University, remaining until 1968 when he became the president of the Richmond Professional Institute at Richmond, Virginia. Nelson left the school while it was in the process of merging with the Medical College of Virginia, to become the Virginia Commonwealth University. As part of the merger, he declined the offer to become provost of the new University and went to Marshall University instead.²⁵⁹ After he resigned as Marshall University's President, he took a faculty position at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in the Fall of 1970.²⁶⁰ The *Charleston Gazette* wrote that the job was such a demotion that the "switch [was] roughly analogous to Paul Newman's deciding he no longer [cared] for the stress of movie making and [preferred] to spend next season with Kanawha Players."²⁶¹ He remained there until 1985, when he resigned to found the Creative Leadership Systems, Inc., a private educational consulting company based originally in Greensboro.²⁶²

He married Hazel Batte of Jarratt, Virginia, on Sunday, February 17, 1951, at the High Hills Baptist Church, while he was serving in the Marine Corps.²⁶³ The couple had three daughters.

²⁵⁹"MCV's Dr. Smith is Granted Leave," *The Scarab*, 17 (4 Nov. 1968): 2.

²⁶⁰Owen Bishop, "Education Administrators Receive Unique new Training in Program," *University of North Carolina at Greensboro Alumni News*, 60 (Fall 1971): 14.

²⁶¹*Charleston Gazette*, June 17, 1969.

²⁶²John Hennen, "Struggle for Recognition," 146.

²⁶³*Salisbury Times*, February 14, 1951.

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Tragically his youngest daughter, Lisa, was killed in an automobile accident, while driving to school on icy roads; she was seventeen.²⁶⁴ He apparently still lives at Greensboro, North Carolina; he is eighty-three years old.²⁶⁵

Donald Newton Dedmon — Ninth President (Acting), 1970-1971



Donald N. Dedmon stepped in as acting President when Ronald Nelson resigned in July 1970. He had joined the University two years earlier, in July 1968, as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.²⁶⁶ In July 1970 he was promoted to Executive Vice President and shortly thereafter was asked to be the acting President. He served in the latter position for six months, while the University searched for a new President.

In what should have been typically a caretaker assignment for the thirty-eight-year-old Dedmon it became instead one of the most challenging and heart-renting periods of his career in higher education. On November 14, 1970, just four months into his presidency, the University's football team and coaching staff, as well as local supporters, were killed in a horrible plane crash at the Tri-State Airport, as the team was returning from a game at Greenville, North Carolina. Ironically, he had withdrawn his name for consideration as Marshall's next president by the search committee the day before the crash.²⁶⁷ His was the difficult task to draw the University together as it mourned such a tragic loss. He admirably shepherded the institution through those trying days, meeting the many challenges with grace and dignity. An editorial in a local newspaper best summarized his performance:

²⁶⁴*Charleston Daily Mail*, September 9, 1976.

²⁶⁵See: "Roland H. Nelson, Greenboro, North Carolina" *USA Background Checks* (<http://www.backgroundchecks.gov/fullname/N/Roland+Nelson.html>)

²⁶⁶*Press Release*, Office of Information and Publications, Marshall University, July 8, 1988, University Archives, Special Collections, Marshall University.

²⁶⁷*Commencement Exercises 1992, Marshall University*, (Huntington, W. Va., 1992), p. 8. Marshall University awarded Dedmon a honorary Doctor of Pedagogy at this commencement.

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Dr. Dedmon became a tower of strength during those bleak days. He seemed to be everywhere—consoling grief-stricken relatives, arranging memorial services, attending a long succession of funerals in many parts of the country, handling a myriad of university problems which arose from the ashes scattered on a hillside near Tri-State Airport.... He rose to the need and to many he was magnificent.²⁶⁸

Upon the selection of John G. Barker as the next president on January 12, 1971, Dedmon continued to serve until Barker took over in March 1. He resumed to his former job, which was later renamed the Vice President of Academic Affairs.²⁶⁹ He resigned on February 15, 1972.

Donald N. Dedmon, the son of Clarence Dedmon and Ola (Garner) Dedmon, was born August 13, 1931, at Hartville, Missouri.²⁷⁰ He attended local public schools at Mountain Grove, Missouri, and entered Southwest Missouri State College in 1949, where he graduated with a B. S. degree in 1953.²⁷¹ He obtained his M. A. from the University of Iowa in 1956. He accepted a position on the faculty at University of Iowa in 1956, where he worked until 1959. In 1959 he accepted a position at Minnesota State College at Saint Cloud, Minnesota, which he held until 1962. While at that institution, he also worked on a doctorate, receiving his Ph.D. in speech in 1961.

After receiving his doctorate he moved to Carbondale, Illinois, in 1962, where he held a position at the Southern Illinois University, becoming the chairman of the Speech Department before he left. In 1964 he accepted the chairmanship of the Speech Department at Colorado State University, remaining there until 1966. That year he joined Smith, Kline and French Laboratories, where he worked as a communication consultant and the head of training and management development.²⁷² He remained until he joined Marshall University as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences in

²⁶⁸ *Huntington Herald-Advertiser* undated editorial, quoted in *Commencement Exercises 1992, Marshall University*, p. 8

²⁶⁹ "Regents Cite Dr. Dedmon," *Parthenon*, 3 Mar. 1971.

²⁷⁰ Clarence Dedmon, 1940 U. S. Census, Missouri.

²⁷¹ *Press Release*, Office of Information and Publications, Marshall University, July 8, 1988. The information in the following biographical sketch is taken from this source unless otherwise noted.

²⁷² *Commencement Exercises 1992, Marshall University*, p. 8.

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1968.

After leaving Marshall University Dedmon became Radford College's fourth president, on March 20, 1972.²⁷³ At the time this Virginia college was a female-only institution with 3,600 students. He presided over the school for the next twenty-two years, endearing himself to the students and faculty. When he retired in June 1994, because of ill health, Radford College had achieved university status and was a coeducational institution with an enrollment of nearly 10,000. In 1989 a local newspaper stated: "He is a popular figure on campus, and his down-to-earth style has charted a casual-but-adventuresome course for a school that roared through the 1980s as the fastest growing public institution in Virginia."²⁷⁴ He died on February 13, 1998, in Naples Florida, at the age of sixty-six.²⁷⁵

John Grove Barker — Tenth President, 1971-1974



John Grove Baker, who was working as the assistant executive secretary of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, accepted the position of the tenth President of Marshall University on January 12, 1971.²⁷⁶ A colleague recalled that he "was president during a great time of civil unrest in this country....It was difficult to run an institution at that time, especially one that was underfunded as Marshall University was when he became president in 1971."²⁷⁷ Among the challenges he faced was the University's academic probation, the aftermath of the school's devastation from the plane crash, declining student enrollment, and woeful lack of adequate funding from the West Virginia

²⁷³*This Month in Radford History* (<http://www.radford.edu/centennial/thismonth/mar.html>).

²⁷⁴1989 newspaper article from the *Richmond News Leader*, quoted in *Commencement Exercises 1992, Marshall University*, p. 8.

²⁷⁵"In Memoriam: Dr. Donald N. Dedmon," *Radford University Magazine* (Nov. 1998), 2.

²⁷⁶"Barker—Many task, priorities," *Parthenon* (January 13, 1971), p. 1.

²⁷⁷Statement by Alan Gould in "Former MU head John Barker Dies," *Herald-Dispatch*, July 7, 2009; "John G. Barker," *The Roanoke Times*, July 4, 2009.

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legislature. Among his chief goals was to get the school off academic probation from North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, which he accomplished two years after joining Marshall. He resigned from Marshall in 1974, accepting a position as the president of Midwestern State University at Wichita Falls, Texas.

John Grove Barker was one of fifteen children of William Rolfe Barker and Betty H.(Cummings) Barker; he was born on June 24, 1926, at Ocala, Florida.²⁷⁸ He attended public schools in the Washington, D.C., area, but dropped out at the age of fifteen.²⁷⁹ He joined the U. S. Army and during World War Two he fought in the South Pacific Theater as rifleman, primarily in the Philippines, where he earned an infantry combat badge and a bronze star.²⁸⁰

After returning from the war, he focused on returning to school. He attended Concord College, where he earned a B. S. in biology in 1947. He next attended Shenandoah University for one year, in 1948.²⁸¹ He then transferred to the University of Maryland, where he earned a M.S. in zoology in 1953. Obtaining fellowships from the National Science Foundation, he received his Ph.D. in entomology from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1957.²⁸²

Barker left Marshall University in 1974 to head Midwestern State University at Wichita Falls, Texas, where he served until 1980.²⁸³ In 1980, he left higher education and began a new career as an investment broker with A.G. Edwards and Sons.²⁸⁴ He died on Wednesday, July 1, 2009 in St.

²⁷⁸“Former MU head John Barker Dies,” *Herald-Dispatch*, July 7, 2009; “John G. Barker,” *The Roanoke Times*, July 4, 2009.

²⁷⁹“Former MU head John Barker dies,” *Herald-Dispatch*, July 7, 2009.

²⁸⁰*SU Today* (Spring 2010), p. 30; “Class Notes,” *Shenandoah University Alumni Association* (January 2010), connect.su.edu/s/921/index.aspx?sid=921&gid=1&pgid=374 .

²⁸¹“John G. Barker,” *SU Today* (Spring 2010), p. 30.

²⁸²“Barker is an Experienced Man,” *Parthenon* (January 13, 1971), 3.

²⁸³Lee Ann Welch, “Prominent local passings in 2009 included Sales, Barr and Maynard,” *Herald Dispatch*, Dec. 23, 2009.

²⁸⁴“Former MU head John Barker dies,” *Herald-Dispatch*, July 7, 2009.

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Paul's Hospital in Dallas, Texas, surrounded by his family.²⁸⁵

After returning from the war he married Maxine Dayton of Keyser, West Virginia, in 1948.²⁸⁶ They were the parents of two daughters. He was a Presbyterian elder and in one of his many written prayers, which was *A Prayer for All*, he wrote: "We cannot glance in any direction without seeing the fruit of their labors and love....Continue to give them strength, compassion and vision as they work on our behalf."²⁸⁷

Robert Bruce Hayes — Eleventh President, 1974-1983



Upon John D. Barker's resignation on 1974, Robert B. Hayes, dean of the College of Education, stepped in as interim President on July 2, 1974, while the search for a new president commenced. On November 4, 1974, the Board of Regents named him Marshall University's eleventh President. His term of office has been called the "Decade of Progress."²⁸⁸ One of Hayes's first achievements was the creation of the Marshall University Community College, whose first classes were held in the Fall of 1975.²⁸⁹ In 1977 the Marshall School of Medicine was established; the first class graduated in 1978.²⁹⁰ The College of Science was created in the restructuring the academic programs, which resulted in the renaming of the College of Arts and

²⁸⁵Dr. John Grove Barker Obituary - Dallas, Texas - Tributes.com (www.tributes.com/show/John-Grove-Barker-86255961)

²⁸⁶"Mrs. Barker Converses," Parthenon, 15 Jan. 1971; *The Roanoke Times*, 4 July, 2009; "Mrs. Barker Converses," Parthenon, Jan. 15, 1971.

²⁸⁷Isaac Butterfield Blog (www.isaacbutterworth.com/your-compass-for-the-journey-on-the-path-of-discipleship-march-20-26-2011/).

²⁸⁸Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, p. 232.

²⁸⁹In 1991 the college was renamed the Community and Technical College. When the West Virginia separated the state community colleges from their parent universities, the college became independent in 2008 and was renamed Mountwest Community and Technical College in 2010. It is a free-standing school and is no longer associated with Marshall University. ("History," *Mountwest Community & Technical College* [<http://www.mctc.edu/about/college-history/>].)

²⁹⁰Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, pp. 235-241.

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Sciences, as the College of Liberal Arts. An expansion of campus facilities also took place, including the renaming of three existing buildings: Buskirk Hall, Harris Hall and Sorrell Maintenance Building. Hayes resigned in May 11, 1983.²⁹¹

Robert Bruce Hayes, the son of James Albert Hayes and Ruby Irene (Hitt) Hayes, was born on November 25, 1925, at the Coal District (Clarksburg), Harrison County, West Virginia.²⁹² He graduated from Victory High School in Clarksburg, after which he served in the United States Marines from 1944 to 1946, fighting during World War Two.²⁹³ Upon returning home he attended Fairmont College for two years and then he transferred to Asbury College (now University), where he graduated with his A. B. degree in 1951.²⁹⁴ After graduating he taught school at the Yates Center, Kansas, for three years, and in 1956 he accepted a position as the principal at Fair View High School in Fairview, Kansas.²⁹⁵ During this time he also attended the University of Kansas, earning his M. Ed. degree in 1956.²⁹⁶ From 1957 to 1959 he was chairman of the Division of Education at Ashbury College²⁹⁷ In 1959 he accepted the position as Director of Teaching at Taylor University, Upland, Indiana, where he remained until 1965.²⁹⁸ During this time he earned a doctorate in education from the University of Kansas in 1960.

His long association with Marshall University began in April 1965, when he was named the Dean

²⁹¹Hayes' resignation took effect on August 31, 1983; he took annual leave until that date ("Dr. Sam Clagg named acting president," *Greenline*, 13 [Summer 1983]: 1).

²⁹²"West Virginia Births, 1853-1930," index, FamilySearch.org.

²⁹³Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*," p. 232.

²⁹⁴"Dr. Robert Hayes - 2011 Alumni Award Recipient," Asbury University (www.asbury.edu/alumni/alumni-office/alumni-awards/robert-hayes).

²⁹⁵Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*," p. 232.

²⁹⁶"Dr. Robert Hayes - 2011 Alumni Award Recipient," Ashbury University; Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*," p. 232.

²⁹⁷*MU Press Release*, 28 Nov. 1990.

²⁹⁸"Hayes Take Helm at Marshall," *Morning Herald*, 5 Nov, 1974.

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of the Teachers College.²⁹⁹ He remained in that position until he became the interim president and then the eleventh president of the University in 1974. After a decade, he resigned on August 31, 1983, and returned to teaching in the College of Education, where he stayed until his retirement at the end of the Fall 1990 semester, completing a twenty-year association with the institution.³⁰⁰ But, it was not his last.

Although, he formally retired in 1990, he was asked to serve as the interim president of Warner Southern College at Lake Wells Florida and then continued as its executive vice-president until 1991.³⁰¹ In 1992 he returned to Marshall University as the interim dean of the College of Business, serving until 1993. From 1993 to 1995 he coordinated the University's self-study for the North Central Accreditation visit. From 1996 to 1997 he served as provost. From 1995 to 2007 he worked in the Marshall Community and Technical College, first as vice-president (1995-1997) and then as interim president (2006-2007). In 2007, he accepted a position in the Robert C. Byrd Institute.³⁰²

He married Ruth Harrison on July 19, 1947; they had three children. After the death of his first wife, he married Kathleen Peters.³⁰³ He divides his time between Huntington, West Virginia and Lake Wales, Florida.³⁰⁴

Sam Edward Clagg — Twelfth President (Acting), 1984-1984

Upon the resignation of Robert B. Hayes in May 1983, Sam E. Clagg, professor of geography, took over as Acting President on May 14, 1983.³⁰⁵ He served nearly a year, until March 1, 1984 when Dale Nitzschke became the next president. He later said, "I did not apply for the interim president

²⁹⁹Moffatt, *Institution Comes of Age*, p. 232.

³⁰⁰*MU New Release*, 28 Nov, 1990.

³⁰¹"Dr. Robert Hayes - 2011 Alumni Award Recipient," Ashbury University.

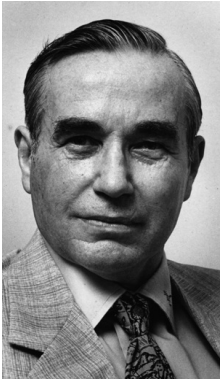
³⁰²MU Press Release, 10 Nov. 2006.

³⁰³*Who's Who in America, 2008*. 3 vols (Providence, N.J.: Marquis, 2007), 1:2011.

³⁰⁴"Robert B. Hayes," *Been Verified* (www.beenverified.com/p/wv/robert+hayes).

³⁰⁵"Dr. Sam Clagg named acting president," *Greenline*, 13 (Summer 1983): 1.

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position—this greatness was cast upon me.”³⁰⁶ Even while serving as president, he could not give up the classroom, teaching a night class in th Fall Semester.³⁰⁷ As a geographer he worked to make the campus more handicap accessible.³⁰⁸

Sam Edward Clagg, son of Frank Clagg and Louise (Messinger) Clagg, was born November 14, 1920, at Huntington, West Virginia.³⁰⁹ He graduated from Huntington High School in 1939 and went to Marshall College on a football scholarship, playing all four seasons.³¹⁰ He was also the co-captain during the 1942 season. He enlisted in the United States Marines in 1942 and served as an officer in the South Pacific and China from 1943 to 1946.³¹¹ He graduated with a B.A. degree in 1943. After the war, he returned to Marshall and obtained his M. A. degree in 1947. While a student at Marshall, he worked as an assistant coach under Cam Henderson. Upon graduating, he accepted a position teaching geography and sociology, as well as an assistant football coach, at Morris Harvey College from 1947 to 1948.³¹²

In 1948 he returned to Marshall, beginning a long career with the institution. He served both as a professor of geography and as an assistant football coach in the athletic department. He gave up the coaching duties in 1957 to devote all his energies to teaching. In 1950 he received his Ed.D. degree from the University of Kentucky. Over the ensuing years, he advanced in academic rank to

³⁰⁶“Clagg says ‘greatest cast upon me’ by the BOR,” *Parthenon*, 28 Sep. 1983. Under BOR rules an acting president could not apply for the job.

³⁰⁷“Dr. Sam Clagg: The Man and His School,” *Parthenon*, 15 Sep. 1983.

³⁰⁸“Clagg Shows He Cares,” *Parthenon*, 21 Sep. 1983.

³⁰⁹Sam Clagg, Oral Interview, 24 Oct. 1986, Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University, p. 1.

³¹⁰“Sam Clagg: Faculty ‘Regent’,” *Marshall Alumnus* (Fall 1974), 4. This biographical sketch is based on this articles, unless otherwise noted; Clagg was allowed to stay at Marshall until he received his B. A., and then he reported to officer candidate school (Sam Clagg, Oral Interview, p. 17).

³¹¹He recounted his life in the military in *The Marine Way* (Parson, W.Va., 1989). Clagg remained in the United States Reserves, retiring as a lieutenant-colonel in 1970 (“The Unsinkable Same Clagg,” *West Virginia Hillbilly*, 13 Mar. 1986).

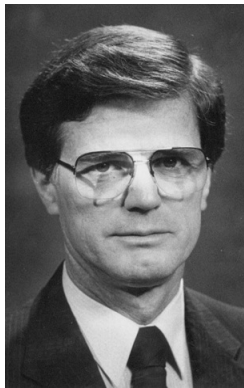
³¹²*Charleston Daily Mail*, 2 Oct. 1947.

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full professor. He chaired the department of geography from 1961 until his retirement. For twenty years he also served on the University Council, the most influential faculty group on campus, chairing the Council for sixteen of those years.³¹³ He retired in 1986, but he has continued to have affiliation with the University as a volunteer, such as chairing the University Sesquicentennial Committee in 1986. He has authored a number of books, including: *West Virginia Atlas* (1955); *The West Virginia Conceptual Atlas* (1970); *The West Virginia Historical Almanac* (1975); *The West Virginia Town-County Place Name List* (1979); *The Cam Henderson Story* (1981); and *The West Virginia Historical Almanac and Gazetteer* (2002). He resides in Huntington.

Clagg married Frances “Punky” Steorts on September 26, 1947, while he was teaching at Morris Harvey College.³¹⁴ They had one daughter. His wife passed away on December 14, 1995.³¹⁵ He then married Jerri Burnette on March 19, 1998; she has worked with University’s B.A. Regents Program since its founding in 1975.³¹⁶ They reside in Huntington, West Virginia.

Dale Frederick Nitzschke — Thirteenth President, 1984-1990



Dale Frederick Nitzschke assumed the office as the University’s thirteenth president on March 1, 1984. He had been the vice president of Academic Affairs at University of Nevada at Los Vegas, but decided to leave because of conflicts with that institution’s president over the new university code and other matters concerning academic freedom. He had quite an impact on West Virginia while he was here. Two colleagues stated that “providence brought Dale F. Nitzschke” to Marshall: “A dynamic people-person, Nitzschke began selling the university around the state in the 1980s. He was so effective that he was named the Charleston Gazette’s Man of the Year in 1987, the only non-West Virginian up to that date. Nitzschke made a lot of friends for

³¹³“Teaching at Marshall... Service, Devotion and Duty for Sam Clagg,” *Herald Dispatch*, 11 May 1986.

³¹⁴*Charleston Daily Mail*, 2 Oct. 1947.

³¹⁵Unidentified newspaper clipping, dated 15 Dec. 1995, in “Clagg, Sam,” Vertical File, Special Collections.

³¹⁶“Profile: Jerri Clagg - a Series on Interesting Marshall University People,” *We are...Marshall*, (May 26, 2010),

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Marshall...People around the state knew who the president of Marshall was, but didn't know who was president of West Virginia University."³¹⁷ He inaugurated the nationally-acclaimed Society of Yeager Scholars program. He reorganized the need for faculty governance by creating the Faculty Senate. During his tenure he worked toward the completion of a new Football Stadium.³¹⁸ During the Spring 1990 semester the campus learned that he was looking for a new job, and he resigned effective on July 31, 1990, in order to accept the presidency of the University of New Hampshire.³¹⁹

Dale F. Nitzschke, the fourth son of Elmer Nitzschke and Florentine (Stoos) Nitzschke, was born in Remsen, Iowa, on September 16, 1937.³²⁰ He was the center on his high school football team and received an athletic scholarship for Loras College, Dubuque, Iowa. However, he decided against the scholarship and focused instead on academics.³²¹ He worked his way through college, receiving a B.A. in education (cum laude) from Loras College in 1959.³²² He then obtained a M. Ed. at Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, in 1960. He accepted a position as an instructor at Loras College, from 1961 to 1963. During this period, he also continued his education at Ohio University, receiving his Ph.D. in 1964. In 1965 he accepted a professorship at Ohio University, and in 1967 he was promoted to associate dean of the College of Education. He left Ohio University in 1972 to become the associate dean of Professional and General Studies at State University of College of Arts and Sciences at Plattsburg, New York. In 1976 he moved to the University of Northern Iowa, when he accepted the position of dean of the College of Education. In 1980 he became the vice-president for Academic Affairs at University of Los Vegas, Nevada, where he remained until 1984, when he

³¹⁷“The 1980s: For some, Marshall wins in the '80s gave them hope,” *Herald-Dispatch*, 2 Nov. 2008.

³¹⁸The new stadium was first use unveiled on September 7, 1991, before a crowd of 33,116 (“Timeline of Joan C. Edwards Stadium.” *Herald-Dispatch*, 19 Dec. 2006).

³¹⁹“Nitzschke says ‘time to move on’,” *Parthenon*, June 21, 1990.

³²⁰“Dale F. Nitzschke,” vita, p. 1, in University Relations-Nitzschke Files, RG 1.31, University Archives, Special Collations, Morrow Library, Marshall University; “Dr. Dale Nitzschke,” *Southeastern Missourian*, Apr. 8, 1997, p. 16.

³²¹“Dale F. Nitzschke, biographical sketch, p. 1, in University Relations-Nitzschke Files, RG 1.31, University Archives, Special Collations, Morrow Library, Marshall University

³²²“Dale F. Nitzschke,” vita, p. 3. The following biographical sketch is based on this document, unless otherwise noted.

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accepted the presidency of Marshall University.

In 1984 he received the Meiklejohn Award for Academic Freedom from the American Association of University Professors for his defense of faculty rights while at the University of Nevada. He left Marshall University in 1990 to accept a position as the president of the University of New Hampshire, where he resigned in 1994, “citing philosophical differences with the Board of Trustees on the direction the University should take.”³²³ He became an educational consultant, residing at Milford, Ohio, for two years. Between 1996 and 1999 he was the president of Southeastern Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, after which he accepted a newly-created position of chancellor for development at its River Campus and Polytechnic Institute, his main function being promotion and fund raising.³²⁴ In 2000 he was hired as Southeast Missouri State University’s federal legislative consultant, which job he current holds, while maintaining his residence at Milford, Ohio. He married Linda Hutchinson on June 24, 1972, and they have five children, three boys and two girls.³²⁵

Alan Brant Gould, — Fourteenth President (Interim), 1990-1991



When Dale Nitzschke resigned in July 1990, provost Alan B. Gould stepped in as the interim president while the search for a new one took place. In his only state of the university address he called 1990 a “transitional year,” stating that the school needed to prepare students for a global society and stressed the need for a new library.³²⁶ On November 10, 1990, the football team played its final game in the Fairfield Stadium, which had been in use since 1928, in anticipation

³²³“Guide to Dale F. Nitzschke Papers, 1990-1994,” Archives, University of New Hampshire (<http://www.izaak.unh.edu/archives/holdings/ua2/ua2-1-15.shtml>).

³²⁴“Dale F. Nitzschke,” Presidential History, Southeastern Missouri State University (<http://www.semo.edu/president/history/nitzschke.htm>).

³²⁵Dale F. Nitzschke email to Lisle Brown, 13 ep. 2012.

³²⁶“We’re in a transitional year—Gould,” *Parthenon*, 20. Sep. 1990.

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of the new stadium's opening in the fall of 1991.³²⁷ He sought to recruit minority faculty and students, establishing the "Grow Your Own" program, the Carter G. Woodson Initiative, and cooperative programs with West Virginia State College and Hampton University. He oversaw a cooperative agreement with Southern West Virginia Community College that led to the 2+2 degree program in education and business.³²⁸ Gould's replacement, J. Wade Gilley, was announced in mid-June 1991, but he continued to work until July 31, when the new president took office.

Alan Brant Gould, son of Kermit H. Gould and Opal G. (Hysell) Gould, was born August 28, 1938, at Huntington, West Virginia.³²⁹ He graduated from Huntington East High School in 1956. He entered Marshall College and, after changing his major a few times, settled on American history.³³⁰ He obtained his B.A. degree (cum laude) from Marshall in 1961. He continued his schooling at Marshall and received his M. A. in 1962. He was a graduate instructor at West Virginia University while he pursued a doctorate from 1962 to 1965. During the summer of 1965 he traveled to Washington, D.C., to conduct doctoral research. While there he got a job as a Capitol Hill policeman, where he was required to carry a gun, which he said he was glad he never had to unholster.³³¹ In the Fall of 1965 he secured a position as an instructor at the District of Columbia Teachers College. The following year he moved to Northern Virginia Technical School as an assistant professor, while there he received his Ph.D. from West Virginia University in 1969.³³²

In the Fall of that year he decided to return to Marshall University as an assistant professor of

³²⁷“Win slips through Herd’s fingers,” *Parthenon*, 13 Nov. 1990.

³²⁸“Alan V. Gould, Vita,” Vertical File, Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University.

³²⁹“Kermit Gould,” United States 1940 West Virginia Census, citing enumeration district (ED) 1-400, sheet 2A, family 41, NARA digital publication T627, roll 566; “Kermit Hugh Gould,” *The Whole Clan* (treeofgenealogy.com/getperson.php?personID=I9873&tree=tree1).

³³⁰Mark Webb, “Huntington man dedicates more than half of life to Marshall University,” *Herald Dispatch*, 19 Oct. 2010.

³³¹Vaughn Rhudy, “Alan Gould: The man who will be president—temporarily,” *Parthenon*, 26 Jul. 1990.

³³²While Gloud was there the school’s name was changed to the Northern Virginia Community College (Rhudy, “Alan Gould,” *Parthenon*, 26 Jul.. 1990).

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history for just “a short time,” but he “enjoyed it so much” that he decided to stay and “became involved in administration.”³³³ During his forty-plus decades as a member of the University, he has filled many important positions on campus.³³⁴ From 1976 to 1977 he coordinated the Regents B.A. Program. In 1977 he became the chairman of the History Department, where he remained until 1980. In 1980 he was promoted to dean of the College of Liberal Arts, where he served until 1988. During these years he also served as the acting vice-president for Academic Affairs (1984-1986) and as an assistant to the president for special projects (1986). In 1988 he was promoted to senior vice-president and in 1989 to provost. While provost/vice-president he established the John R. Hall Center for Academic Excellence—a restructuring of a number of academic programs, including the Honors Program, John Marshall Scholars and the Society of Yeager Scholars.³³⁵ He served as interim president from 1990 to 1991. From 1991 to 1994 he held the position of vice-president for Academic Affairs. Since 1994 he has been the executive director of the John Deaver Drinko Academy; even when he retired in 2009, he was asked by the Drinko’s to continue as director, which he has continued to do.³³⁶

During his early years at Marshall University he also served in a few academic positions outside the university. Between 1970 and 1974 he was a visiting lecturer at Ohio University, Ironton campus. In 1970 he was a visiting lecturer for Project Newgate at the Federal Youth Correctional Institute at Summit, Kentucky. From 1976 to 1986 he was an adjunct professor at the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies in Charleston, W. Va.³³⁷ He has been heavily involved in community affairs, including a local museum, landmark and historic commissions, and the state humanities council.

³³³While Gloud was there the school’s name was changed to the Northern Virginia Community College (Rhudy, “Alan Gould,” *Parthenon*, 26 Jul. 1990).

³³⁴The biographical information is taken from *Who’s Who*, 2007, 3 vols. (Princeton, N.J.: Marquis Who’s Who, 2007), 1:1781.

³³⁵Alan B. Gould, Vita.”

³³⁶Mark Webb, “Huntington man dedicates more than half of life to Marshall University,” *Herald Dispatch*, 19 Oct. 2010.

³³⁷*Who’s Who*, 2007, 1:1781.

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In 1969 he married Mary Nell, and they have three sons.³³⁸ He resides in Huntington, West Virginia.

James Wade Gilley — Fifteenth President, 1991-1999



James Wade Gilley assumed the office of the president on August 1, 1991, becoming the University's fifteenth president. The student newspaper noted that of all the candidates he "was not the favorite among campus groups," but when asked why he thought he had been chosen, Gilley responded that "he was academically stronger than any other candidate," having been a successful college president and had written several books on education.³³⁹ Although he struggled in his rapport with the faculty throughout his tenure, he had a successful presidency in many ways. In 1994 the University awarded its first Ph.D. degree. During his tenure he saw an expenditure of \$250 million on campus renewal, with the erection of such buildings, as the Edwards Football Stadium (1991), the Edwards Performing Arts Center (1992), and the Marshall University Medical Center adjacent to the Cabell Huntington Hospital (1998). In 1997 West Virginia Graduate College merged with Marshall University, becoming the Marshall University Graduate College.³⁴⁰ One of his proudest acts was the dedication in October 1998 of the John D. Drinko Library and concurrently the dedication of the John Marshall statute, the most prominent landmark on the present campus.³⁴¹ He was also known as "winning-est president in college football through the 1990s," because of the Thundering Herd's prowess on the field, in which it won its first bowl game in 1998. Gilley left the University after eight years on July 31, 1999, to accept another college presidency.

James Wade Gilley, the son of Woodrow Charles Gilley and Forest (Hill) Gilley, was born on

³³⁸ Alan B. Gould, Vita;" Mark Webb, "Huntington man dedicates more than half of life to Marshall University," *Herald Dispatch*, 19 Oct. 2010.

³³⁹ "Gulley's goal getting top know you," *Pathenon*, 13 Jun. 1991.

³⁴⁰ Lisle Brown and Cora Teel, "Marshall University Chronology," Marshall University, Huntington, WV, 2012

³⁴¹ "John Deaver Drinko Library opens its doors to the future," *Evergreen*, 1 (March 1999), p. 11-13.

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August 15, 1938, in Fries, Virginia.³⁴² He graduated from Fries High School in 1965, where he received eleven letters in football, basketball and baseball. He attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and received a B.S. in engineering in 1961, and a M.S. in 1963. He continued on as an associate professor at his alma mater from 1963 to 1966, while he earned his Ph.D. in 1966. In 1975 he obtained a Post-Doctoral Certificate in the Harvard Graduate School of Business.³⁴³

After earning his doctorate he worked for a year as the assistant president and director of engineering at Bluefield State College, in Bluefield, West Virginia.³⁴⁴ In 1967 he was hired as the president of Wytheville Community College, at Wytheville, Virginia, where he remained until 1972. From 1972 to 1976 he was the president of J. Sergeant Reynolds College at Richmond, Virginia. In 1976 he returned to Bluefield State College as its president and reestablished it as an independent institution after its 1973 merger with Concord College was discontinued. He left in 1978 when Gov. John Dalton appointed him the Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Virginia, serving until 1982. Between 1982 and 1991 he was the senior vice-president at George Mason University. From 1991 to 1999 he was the president of Marshall University. He became the president of the university of Tennessee at Knoxville from 1999 to 2001. Since 2001 he has been a senior partner in Strategic Initiatives, Herndon, Virginia, as well as co-owner of Reston-Dulles Properties L.L.C. in Reston, Virginia, where he presently resides.

In 1960 he met Nanna Beverly while a senior at Virginia Tech and they were married the following year. They had three children, one of whom died as a teenager. He is also an author, having written a number of books on education, as well novels and a children's book.³⁴⁵

³⁴²*Wade Gilley Website*, (<http://wadegilley.com/>).

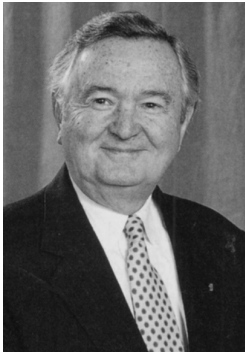
³⁴³*Who's Who in 2000*, 3 vols. (Princeton, N.J.: Marquis, 1999), 1:1754; "Wade Gilley Honors etc. over the years," *Wade Gilley Website* (http://wadegilley.com/wades_honors_etc).

³⁴⁴The biographical information is taken from *Wade Gilley Website*, unless otherwise noted.

³⁴⁵The nonfiction books are *Searching for Academic Excellence* (1986) and *The Interactive University* (1990). His novels are *Life Before Sister* (2002), *Damn Right It Hurts* (2004) and *Foy's World* (2012).

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Audy Michael Perry — Sixteen President (Interim), 1999-2000



A. Michael Perry, successful businessman and member of the University System of West Virginia Board of Trustees, agreed to be the interim president after J. Wade Gilley's departure on July 31, 1999. He took over the next day, giving his salary to the University's general scholarship fund during his tenure.³⁴⁶ In September a new unit, the University College, was opened, serving incoming freshman who did not meet full admission standards.³⁴⁷ At the end of his tenure Marshall's Thundering Herd capped the Mid-American Conference title and went on to defeat Brigham Young University at the Motor City Bowl, culminating the football team's only perfect season.³⁴⁸ Perry responded to the December-third announcement of his successors' appointment, "I'm relieved and looking to being even more relieved on Jan.1."³⁴⁹ He served for six months, leaving office at the end of the year, when Dan Angel took office.

Audy Michael Perry, the son of Austin L. Perry and Virginia (Cole) Perry, was born at Huntington, West Virginia, on May 31, 1936.³⁵⁰ He attended public schools in Huntington. He loved athletics, but his small stature prevented him from playing varsity sports. For what he lacked in sports he made up in the classroom, where he excelled academically.³⁵¹ His first paying job was a paper boy.³⁵² He graduated with honors from Huntington East High School in 1954. He next graduated with a B. A. from Marshall College in 1958. He moved to Morgantown to attend West

³⁴⁶“Perry gives salary to scholarship fund,” *Parthenon*, 22 Sep. 1999.

³⁴⁷“University College ready to cut ribbon,” *Parthenon*, 23 Sept. 1999.

³⁴⁸“Undefeated and Appreciated,” *Parthenon*, 6 Dec. 1999.

³⁴⁹“A New Legacy,” *Parthenon*, 6 Dec.1999.

³⁵⁰*Whos' Who in 1996*, 3 vols. (New Providence, N.J.: Maquis Who's Who, 1995), 1:3256; *One Hundred and Twenty-first Commence, Marshall College*, 1958.

³⁵¹John H. Houvouras, “The Two Lives of A. Michael Perry,” *Huntington Quarterly*, 1 (Autumn 1989), p. 11. The following biographical sketch is taken from this source, unless otherwise noted.

³⁵²Joann C. Elmer, “A. Michael Perry: Retired Chairman, Bank One West Virginia,” *The State Journal* (19 Nov. 2001), p. 12.

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Virginia University, where he obtained his LL.B. degree in 1961 at the top of his class.

Following graduation, he was hired by the Huddleston-Bolen law firm in Huntington, West Virginia, where he became a full partner within five years. He gave up the practice of law in October 1981, when Marshall Reynolds enticed him to become the chairman of the board and chief executive officer of First Huntington National Bank. Under his tutelage the bank's holding company, Key Centurion Bancshares, grew from \$200 million in assets in 1982 to over \$3.5 billion within twelve years—West Virginia's first billion dollar banking company.³⁵³ He continued to guide the bank until it was sold to Bank One of West Virginia, where he was both its chairman and CEO, until he retired in 2001.³⁵⁴

He has been involved many other activities. He was the first chairman of Affiliated Health Services, a nonprofit organization which represents Cabell County Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital and Pleasant Valley Hospital He continues to serve as broad member of Ultimate Health Services and St Mary's Hospital, and as a co-chairman of the West Virginia Children's Health Project Mobile Medical Unit. He has received numerous awards: the West Virginia Banker Association's "Banker of the Decade;" the Huntington *Herald Dispatch's* "Citizen of the Year" (twice); and the "Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser of the Year in 1996" by the West Virginia - NSFRE National Philanthropy. He is a "Charter Member" of Marshall University and West Virginia University Business Hall of Fame, where he and Buck Harless were the only charter members for both Universities.³⁵⁵

In 1958 he married Henriella Mylar, whom he met in the fifth grade and decided then that she would be his future wife. She is also a Marshall University graduate, class of 1958.³⁵⁶ They have three children. In 1973 the Perry's moved into an old, decrepit log cabin on a large farm in Wayne

³⁵³Elmer, "A. Michael Perry," p. 16.

³⁵⁴"A. Michael Perry," *Draw Foundation* (www.drwvfoundation.org/aboutus/perry.php).

³⁵⁵"A. Michael Perry," *Draw Foundation*.

³⁵⁶*Marshall University 1998 Alumni Directory* (White Plains, N.Y.: Beernard C. Harris Publish Co., 1998), p. 294.

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County, which they renovated with dreams of restoring its barn as a museum to the past.³⁵⁷ With his usual determination, Perry began to restore the old farm, even bringing other structures to the property. His avocation grew in the Heritage Farm Museum and Village, which current consists of sixteen restored log and frame buildings for the visiting public.³⁵⁸ It is one of the most popular public attractions in the Tri-State region.

Daniel Duane Angel — Seventeenth President, 2000 - 2005



Daniel Duane Angel became the University's seventeenth president on January 1, 2000. During his four-year tenure as president, the University added three new doctoral programs, strengthening the institution's research role. Under his direction the "Campaign for National Prominence," raised a total of 83 million dollars. The campus was further enlarged with the construction of a student housing complex—Marshall Commons, which consists of Gibson, Wellman, Haymaker, and Willis Residence Halls, along with Harless Dining Hall. He also oversaw the construction of a 1,000-space parking garage across from the Henderson Center. He notified the Marshall Board of Governors in November 2004 that he would retire on December 31, 2004—he turned sixty-five on December 23. He also said that after taking a six-month sabbatical he would return and teach in the Fall of 2005, and that he planned to teach for a year-and-a half.³⁵⁹ He taught classes in the Department of Education until the Fall 2006 semester, after which he resigned on January 1, 2007, to accept the position of president at Golden Gate University.³⁶⁰

Daniel Duane Angel was born on December 23, 1939, in Michigan³⁶¹ He is the son of Ernest A.

³⁵⁷Houvouras, "The Two Lives of A. Michael Perry," p. 12.

³⁵⁸See, *Heritage Farm Museum and Village* (www.heritagefarmmuseum.com/).

³⁵⁹Marshall University Press Release, 10 Nov. 2004,

³⁶⁰Former MU president takes a new job," *Charleston Daily Mail*, 1 Dec. 2006.

³⁶¹*Who's Who in America, 1996*, 1:103.

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Angel and Hallie T. (Lancaster) Angel.³⁶² He attended Wayne State University, graduating with a B.S. degree in 1961, and continued on with a M.S. degree, both in education, in 1962. He obtained a Ph.D. in communications from Purdue in 1965, where he was a teaching assistant.³⁶³

Upon graduating with his Ph.D., he accepted a faculty position as assistant professor at Albion College at Albion, Michigan, where he remained until 1969.³⁶⁴ During the summer of 1969, he worked as a special assistant to United States Senator Robert P. Griffin in Washington, D.C. He returned to Albion College in 1969, working as the director of adult and continuing education, where he resigned in 1972 to run for public office. He won the election to the Michigan House of Representatives, serving three-terms for the 49th District from 1973 to 1978. Of this experience, he later stated, “It was frustrating working in the house, because everyone had a different agenda....I wanted to take on a more executive role, where I thought I could implement change better, and I was able to find that in administrative positions at universities.”³⁶⁵

He was successful in his goal, becoming the president of Imperial Valley College, Imperial, California, where he worked from February 1978 to June 1981. He next secured a job as president of Citrus College, Glendora, California, serving from July 1981 to December 1984. In January 1985 he left the West Coast and moved to Texas, where he took over as the president of Austin Community College, in the state’s Capitol. He worked there until August 1992, when he resigned to accept the presidency of Stephen F. Austin State University at Nacogdoches, Texas. He resigned that position to accept the presidency of Marshall University in January 2000. He left West Virginia to accept the presidency of the Golden Gate University in San Francisco, California. He has

³⁶²“Ernest A. Angel,” and “Hallie T. Angel,” U.S. Social Security Death Register; and “Halley Landcaster” in United States 1930 Federal Census, citing enumeration district (ED) 0008, sheet 8A, family 177, NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 742; “Dannie Angel” in United States 1940 Michigan Kentucky Census, citing enumeration district (ED) 84-867, sheet 3A, family 46, NARA digital publication T627, roll 1866.

³⁶³*Who’s Who in America*, 1996, 3 vols. (New Providence, N.J.: 1995), 1:103.

³⁶⁴“Dr. Dan Angel,” vita sheet, vertical file, Special Collections, Morrow Library, Marshall University. The following biographical sketch is based on this source, unless otherwise noted.

³⁶⁵:Dan Angel: New President at Golden gate University,” *San Francisco Examiner*, 12 Jan. 2007.

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continued in that position until the present.³⁶⁶

He married Patricia Anne Schuster on July 10, 1965; they are the parents of two children.³⁶⁷ He is the author of a biography of Michigan governor, George Romney. He drove the governor's press car during his 1964 reelection campaign in order to gather information for his dissertation on Romney's campaign. He followed that up with six extensive interviews with the governor and published his book, *Romney: A Political Biography*, in 1967.³⁶⁸ He also wrote a biography of another Michigan governor, entitled, *William G. Milliken: A Touch of Steel*, published in 1970. He currently resides in San Francisco, California.

Michael Joseph Farrell — Eighteenth President (Interim), 2005



When Dan Angel resigned on December 31, 2004, Michael Joseph Farrell, a member of the University's Board of Governors, took over as interim President the next day. A. Michael Perry, chairman of the Board of Governors and a past Acting President himself, stated, "He has tremendous background and experience in academic affairs, having served on the Board of Regents and Board of Trustees and most recently on the Board of Governors. He is a longtime supporter of Marshall University and he has the support of the administrative staff at Marshall."³⁶⁹ He outlined a number objectives for his short term: principally to promote the academics in order to attract more students and to develop an outreach to areas outside the campus.³⁷⁰ He addressed these objectives by producing a video that highlighting the faculty achievements, so that people would know that

³⁶⁶Dr. Dan Angel," *The President's Office* (www.marshall.edu/itc/research/bios/angel.htm).

³⁶⁷*Who's Who in America, 1996*, 1:103.

³⁶⁸Alexandra Sifferlin, "Q&A: George Romney Biographer Dan Angel," *Time Magazine*, 12 Jan. 2012.

³⁶⁹Marshall University Press Release, 17 Dec. 2004. He resigned from the Board of Governors while he was the acting president.

³⁷⁰"Man with a Plan," *Parthenon*, 27 Januaru 2005.

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there is more to the University than athletics.³⁷¹ During his tenure work on a biotechnology center and a health and wellness center continued forward.³⁷² All in all, Farrell's six months in office helped the university progress.

Michael Joseph Farrell, the son of Dr. Joseph M. Farrell, M.D. and Annie (McGuire) Farrekk, was born on January 7, 1947, in Colorado Springs, Colorado.³⁷³ He graduated from Marshall University with a B.S. degree in 1969. After his graduation he joined the U.S. Army, completing his service in 1971 as a First Lieutenant. He then returned to school, graduating with a J.D. degree from West Virginia University in 1974. He was hired as an associate by the law firm of Preiser & Wilson of Charleston, West Virginia, in 1974, and left in 1977. He returned to Huntington, taking a position at Jenkins & Fenstermaker, where two years later he became a partner and chief of litigation at Jenkins, Fenstermaker, Krieger, Kayes & Farrell. He continued in that position until 1995, when he left to create his own firm Farrell, Farrell & Farrell, PLLC, of Huntington, with two of his brothers, Paul T. Farrell and Joseph M Farrell, Jr, where he was the managing partner. In 2011 he became the manager partner in Farrell, White & Legg, PLLC, where he works at present.

He is licensed to practice in West Virginia, Kentucky, as well as Federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. He has served on two occasions as a Special Assistant Attorney General, State of West Virginia.

Over the years he has had an especially close relationship to Marshall University. He was a student senator (1964-1966) and student body president during 1967-1968. He was MARCO, the university mascot, from 1966 to 1968. Since 1997 he has held two faculty appointments in the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine: "These academic appointments were bestowed in recognition of his fifteen years of presenting mock trials and seminar lectures, without compensation, to the

³⁷¹"Farrell addresses faculty concerns," *Parthenon*, 16 Feb. 2005.

³⁷²"Bridge placed," *Parthenon*, 12 Apr. 2005.

³⁷³"Michael J. Farrell, Curriculum Vitae," *Lawyers.Com* (www.lawyers.com/West-Virginia/Huntington/Michael-J-Farrell-1784963-a.html). The following biographical sketch is taken from this source, unless otherwise noted.

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students, faculty and staff of the Marshall University School of Medicine.”³⁷⁴ He served on the Board of Advisors (2000-2001) and Board of Governors (2001-2004 and from 2005 to the present).³⁷⁵

He married Anita L. Gardner, who is a Marshall University graduate, class of 1971.³⁷⁶ They have four sons.

Stephen James Kopp — Nineteenth President, 2005 - Present



Stephen James Kopp took over as “36th President” of Marshall University on July 1, 2005.³⁷⁷ Although he is called the “36th President” of the institution, he is actually the nineteenth person to hold that title—former chief administrators were called “principals.” However, Kopp is thirty-sixth in number of those who have overseen the institution since it founding in 1837—seventeen principals and nineteen presidents.

On June 28, 2012, the University’s Board of Governor’s recommended that he continue as President for another five years, which was approved by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. If he remains as president for the entire length of the contract, until 2019, he will become one of the longest serving presidents in Marshall University’s history, with a twelve-year-tenure.³⁷⁸ Under Kopp’s tenure the University has made major strides forward on many fronts.

President Kopp came to the University with a desire to improve undergraduate education. He reversed a six-year decline of student enrollment.³⁷⁹ He reinstated the Freshman Academic

³⁷⁴“Marshall Board of Governors names Farrell interim president,” Marshall University Press Release, 17 Dec. 2004.

³⁷⁵He was Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors from 2001-2004.

³⁷⁶*Marshall University 1998 Alumni Directory* (White Plains, N.Y.: Beernard C. Harris Publish Co., 1998), p. 122.

³⁷⁷“Office of the President,” *Marshall University* (<http://www.marshall.edu/president/>).

³⁷⁸“HEPC approves new contract for Marshall President Stephen J. Kopp,” *Marshall University Press Release*, 28 Jun 2012. Only two other presidents have served longer: Stewart H. Smith at 22 years (1946-1968) and Lawrence J. Corbly at 19 years (1896-1915). If he remains at Marshall he will match Morris Shawkey tenure of 12 years (1923-1935).

³⁷⁹“Stephen J. Kopp, Ph.D., Curriculum Vitae,” 17 June 2012, copy in author’s files. The following information on his tenure as president is taken from this source unless otherwise noted.

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Convocation and began a common book reading program for all incoming freshmen, in which the students read the same book and integrate a study of it into their first-year educational experience. In the Fall Semester 2011 he introduced a “Core Foundation” program, which is designed to prepare graduates to “perform the intellectual work demanded by the complexities of life and career in the 21st Century.”³⁸⁰ He also launched major initiatives to increase the enrollment of international students. He did not neglected graduate level education, introducing two new doctoral level programs in the School of Pharmacy and the School of Physical Therapy.

He succeeded in stabilizing the University’s financial situation, even producing budget surpluses from 2009-2011, which brought about an upgrade of the University’s bonds by Fitch in 2011. He worked effectively to improve the Marshall University Foundation portfolio, succeeding in raising more than twenty-five million dollars in major gifts. He was responsible for issuing four major bond issues—two new bond and refinancing two existing bonds.

He has overseen a \$300 million expansion and renovation of the University’s structures, including: the Byrd Biotechnology Center (2007); the Welcome Center (2007); the Dot Hick’s Playing Field (2008); the Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratory (2008); the Health and Wellness Center (2009) and the completion of a new multi-level parking garage (2012), with plans under way for the construction of a \$50 million Biotechnology Incubator/Applied Engineering Complex to commence construction in late 2012.³⁸¹ Future construction includes a \$5 million Soccer Stadium Complex and a \$25 million Indoor Practice Field Complex, to be built between 2013 AND 2014.³⁸² 2014 will also see the completion of a the Fine Arts Incubator in the former Stone and Thomas Building in downtown Huntington.

During the Kopp years the University teams have found success. In 2011 the Thunder Herd’s football team won the Beef O’Brady Bowl at St. Petersburg, Florida, in a 20 to 10 defeat of Florida

³⁸⁰“Stephen J. Kopp, Ph.D., Curriculum Vitae,” 17 June 2012.

³⁸¹“Dr. Stephen J. Kopp: 36th President of Marshall University,” *Office of the President* (www.marshall.edu/president/biography.asp).

³⁸²“Report of Presidential/University Milestone and Accomplishes: July 1, 2011 - June 20, 21012, copy in author’s files.

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International University.³⁸³ The basketball team won a bid to the National Invitational Tournament in 2012, the first time since 1988, but lost in the first round to Middle Tennessee University.³⁸⁴ As a cap to the University athletic endeavors, Kopp shepherded the reintroduction of the old “Kelly Green” and White as the official school’s colors, a highly popular move to Marshall fans that led to a surge in the proceeds of the University’s copyrighted resources..

Former interim President Alan Gould assessed Kopp’s place among the pantheon of Marshall University’s leaders:

I have served in various capacities with the faculty and administrators at Marshall over the past forty plus years, and have had the pleasure of serving under a number of Presidents. While a few stand out in my memory as being important to the growth of the university, no one has had a more profound effect on the growth both fiscally and programmatically than our present Chief Executive, Stephen J. Kopp.³⁸⁵

Stephen J. Kopp was born in Panama in 1951, where his father, a military physician, was stationed.³⁸⁶ Because of his father’s military service, he moved around a lot as a boy. He graduated from Lyons Township High School at LaGrange, Illinois, in 1969. That fall he entered the University of Notre Dame at South Bend, Indiana, where he received his B.S. degree, cum laude, in biology in 1973. Between 1973 and 1976 he was a teaching assistant at the University of Illinois in Chicago, while he worked on his Ph.D., which he received in 1976. Between 1976 and 1977 he was a post-doctoral fellow at the St. Louis University Medical Center. From 1977 to 1978 he was a research associate at the University of Chicago, and from 1978 to 1979 he held a National Institute of Health postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Illinois. In 1979 he accepted a position as an assistant professor of physiology and assistant director of Magnetic Resonance Laboratory at the Chicago

³⁸³“Marshall wins Beef ‘O’ Brady’s Bowl,” *Fox Sports*, 21 Dec. 2011 (msn.foxsports.com/collegefootball/story/Marshall-beats-FIU-in-Beef-OBradys-Bowl-122011).

³⁸⁴2012 *National Invitation Tournament Bracket Chart* (i.turner.ncaa.com/dr/ncaa/ncaa/release/sites/default/files/external/gametool/brackets/2012NITBracket.pdf).

³⁸⁵Quote by Alan B. Gould from notes taken by Christi Arrowood for the Marshall Foundation’s Donor Recognition Dinner, 26 Oct. 2012. Copy in author’s files.

³⁸⁶Jack Houvouras, “New Man on Campus,” *Marshall Magazine* (Autumn 2005): 7. The following biographical sketch is based on this article, unless otherwise noted.

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College of Osteopathic Medicine. In 1983 he began the chairman of the department of physiology, and in 1991 he was the acting dean of Allied Health Programs at the same institution. In 1992 he came the founding dean of the College of Allied Health Professions at Midwestern University, where he remained until 1997.

Between 1997 and 2002 he was also the founding dean of the Herbert H. and Grace Dow College of Health Professions at Central Michigan University. In 2002 he became the provost of Ohio University, where he remained until 2004. Upon leaving Ohio University, he took a position as special assistant to the Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents. This was the position he held prior to becoming the current President of Marshall University.

In 1972, he married Jane Schade, whom he met while a high school senior; she was a freshman at North Central College at Naperville, Illinois. She recalled hearing about the 1970 plane crash in her senior year: “I heard about it just like everyone else—from television news reports....I felt terrible for Marshall University—I couldn’t imagine a school losing so many athletes, coaches and community members.’ Little did she know that one day she would live in Huntington, WV, and experience firsthand the ‘ripples from this tragedy.’”³⁸⁷ They have two grown children.

³⁸⁷“Memories of North Central continue to shape First Lady’s university life,” *North Central University NOW*, Winter 2012 (www.northcentralcollege.edu/category/news-category/classnotes).