

Bridgewater College

The First Hundred Years

1880-1980



Francis Fry Wayland

Wood Engravings by Isaac J. Sanger

Bridgewater College
Bridgewater, Virginia
1993

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Dedication of This Centennial History

To

Bridgewater College

Her Founder, Daniel C. Flory, for Purpose and Vision,

And to the Following of Years Past and the Present:

The Institution's Trustees, for Devotion to the Interests of the School;

Her Head Administrators and Their Co-Workers, for Leadership and Service;

Her Classroom Teachers, for Instruction, Guidance, and Influence;

Her Alumni Worldwide, for Loyalty and Remembrance;

Her Benefactors, for Faith and Foresight; and

Students Now Within Her "Walls and Storied Halls."

Preface and Acknowledgments

In November, 1970, the Bridgewater College Board of Trustees authorized the writing and publication of "a definitive history" of the college's first hundred years (1880-1980), and two years later commissioned an alumnus of the college to do the research and writing of such a history.

The author's interest in undertaking the task of writing the history stemmed from several considerations. For 30 years (1889-1919), his maternal grandfather was a member of the Bridgewater College Board of Trustees, a member who served for some years as the board's secretary, its treasurer, and a member of its executive committee. The author's mother began her formal education in the Primary Department that the college operated (1886-1913) for children of the institution's trustees, faculty members, and Bridgewater townspeople, and, some years later, she was the college's librarian. The author's father received his B. A. degree from the college in 1899, served on its faculty for seven years, was editor-in-chief of the school's history published in 1905, and of its history published in 1930. The author himself entered the college in 1926, and graduated in 1930. His son and daughter are also Bridgewater graduates.

The history of the college published in 1905 covered the school's first 25 years; the one issued in 1930, the institution's first 50 years; the one published in 1955, the school's first 75 years; and another, completed in 1972, the college's first 92 years. The first two histories were projects of the college's alumni association; the third was one authorized by the institution's board of trustees, and the fourth was the doctoral dissertation of a university graduate student.

In preparing this volume, the college's centennial history (1880-1980), the author has sought to discover and use all available material on the subject, wherever it could be found, whether at the college or elsewhere, and has exerted every effort to make the study comprehensive and accurate.

Besides the various categories of records at the college in the administrative offices and in the library's archives and special collections, records in the offices of the State Corporation Commission of Virginia, in the Virginia State Library, in the Alderman Library at the University of Virginia, in the Earl Gregg Swem Library at the College of William and Mary, in the Rockingham County (Va.) courthouse in Harrisonburg, in the Bridgewater (Va.) municipal building, and elsewhere have yielded important information for this volume, which is based almost entirely upon primary source materials. Personal papers, diaries, autobiographies, biographical directories, contemporary newspapers, church records, atlases, and specialized studies were among other sources examined and used.

The college's records, as one might expect, are not complete. The earliest existing minutes of the institution's board of trustees date only from March, 1892, even though the board came into being in 1881. Continuous minutes of the school's faculty meetings date only from September, 1910; none earlier have survived, except a few pages for the years 1901-10. The earliest report on the college's finances the writer found is the one dated March 3, 1892.

Furthermore, official and relevant personal papers of the school's early head administrators are lacking.

From the beginning of work on this history, the writer had the benefit of the knowledge, the experience, and the judgment of John W. Boitnott, the college's academic dean, 1947-67, and secretary of the institution's board of trustees, 1957-71. He gratefully acknowledges that aid herewith.

To each of the individuals named alphabetically in the following paragraphs the writer is indebted also for courtesies and aid extended to him during the course of his research. In each case, the position of the person indicated and his or her address were those when aid was given.

Bridgewater Professor Raymond N. Andes lent the writer papers about visiting scholars who came to Bridgewater under the aegis of the University Center in Virginia; also lent student rosters for the sessions, 1965-83.

Virginia R. (Mrs. Raymond N.) Andes provided information about the Dames Club of Bridgewater College, now called "Bridgewater College Women."

Clement A. Bess, the Bridgewater College registrar, 1969-84, supplied information on minority students, on the number and degrees of Bridgewater graduates, 1947-80, and on those highest in scholarship.

Bridgewater Professor Emmert F. Bittinger was instrumental in getting (from Mrs. Joseph M. Mason) a photograph of the Bridgewater College buildings and grounds as of the 1888-89 session.

Flora Hoover (Mrs. Paul Haynes) Bowman, of Bridgewater, Virginia, permitted the writer to examine testimonial letters presented to her husband in 1944.

Millard L. Bowman, of near Harrisonburg, Virginia, supplied a photograph of Samuel M. Bowman, Bridgewater College benefactor.

Paul Hoover Bowman, of Prairie Village, Kansas, lent personal papers of his father, Paul Haynes Bowman.

Harper Brower, of Bridgewater, supplied a copy of the May 25, 1894, issue of the *Bridgewater Herald*, an issue missing from the college's file.

Richard A. Claybrook, Jr., of Richmond (later, Harrisonburg), Virginia, sent reminiscences of his student days at Bridgewater and other helpful information.

Jacob M. and Ruth Pence Garber, of Bridgewater, lent their Bridgewater Academy diplomas for photocopying.

Herbert S. Garst, of Bridgewater, provided a photograph of his grandfather, John Flory, president of the Virginia Normal School, 1885-87.

Linda F. Glover, the college's director of admissions, 1978-85, supplied helpful information on Bridgewater students from foreign lands.

Ruth A. Greenawalt, Bridgewater's library director since 1984, accommodated the writer with obliging service by making materials accessible, arranging interlibrary loans, and making helpful suggestions. For her time, given unstintingly, and her expertise, the writer of this history is grateful.

Mary Frances Heishman supplied records on Bridgewater women's lacrosse and volleyball for the seasons when she was coach of those sports.

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Thomas M. Kinder, Bridgewater's director of athletics since 1978, furnished records from his office.

Rufus B. King, of North Manchester, Indiana, provided information on the college's farm as it was when he was its supervisor, 1947-53.

Laura S. Mapp supplied records on Bridgewater women's field hockey, basketball, and tennis for the seasons when she was coach of those sports.

Lois Sanger McGuffin, of Roanoke, Virginia, lent diaries of her grandfather, Samuel A. Sanger, a Bridgewater College trustee, 1881-94.

Lula A. Miller, of Bridgewater, supplied a photograph of the Primary Department students and teachers of the 1912-13 session and a copy of her Primary Department graduation certificate (1913).

Mrs. Ralph L. Miller, of near Harrisonburg, lent a portrait of Samuel F. Miller, president, Bridgewater College Board of Trustees, 1898-1904.

Nancy (Mrs. Wilbur L.) Morris, of Stanardsville, Virginia, made available the diary of Nelia F. Wampler, Bridgewater student, 1906-9.

Joyce Moyers, of Broadway, Virginia, made available some old records of the Linville Creek Church of the Brethren.

Lucia Giddens (Mrs. Weldon T.) Myers, of Lakeland, Florida, supplied excerpts from her husband's reminiscences of life and persons during the Yount era at Bridgewater College.

Melvin L. Myers provided records on Bridgewater men's basketball for the seasons when he was coach of that sport.

Lamar B. Neal supplied records on Bridgewater men's golf for the seasons when he was coach of that sport.

Raymond R. and Kathryn Eller Peters, of Sebring, Florida, provided helpful information on Daleville Academy.

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Ruth E. Sanger, of Bridgewater, lent diaries of her father, William H. Sanger; also a photograph of her father and one of the Hebron Seminary building.

William H. Sanger, principal, Hebron Seminary, 1921-24, lent catalogues of that school.

William T. Sanger, of Richmond, Virginia, made helpful suggestions and lent diaries of his father, Samuel F. Sanger, a Bridgewater College trustee, 1881-83.

Maynard E. Seehorn, of Lincolnton, North Carolina, supplied helpful information about the college's farm adjoining the campus.

Helen H. Shelton provided needed information from the University of Virginia registrar's office.

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John S. Spencer supplied records on Bridgewater football for the seasons when he was coach of that sport.

Janet S. Stepp, secretary to Bridgewater academic deans since 1963, provided information from student records numerous times.

Lottie Evers (Mrs. J. Wilbur) Thomas, of Dayton, Virginia, made available a photograph of Jacob Thomas (and family members), president, Bridgewater trustee board, 1881-86.

Ben F. Wade, executive assistant to President Geisert, supplied in 1980 the dates of employment of those who were then on the Bridgewater College faculty and administrative staff.

Orland Wages, Bridgewater's head librarian, 1963-82, acquired for the library (and the writer's use) a file of the *Bridgewater Herald*; also arranged interlibrary loans.

Bridgewater Professor Fred F. Wampler lent records about his father, Fred J. Wampler, medical missionary to China, 1913-26.

Stanley R. Wampler, district executive, Shenandoah District, Church of the Brethren, lent district conference minutes.

Naomi E. Miller (Mrs. M. Guy) West, of Bridgewater, provided a photograph of the covered wooden bridge (1878-1916) over North River at Bridgewater.

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Earl M. Zigler, of Bridgewater, provided a photograph of the Daleville Academy students and faculty of the 1932-33 session.

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The writer is indebted also to each of the members of the Bridgewater College faculty and administrative staff named below (besides those already named) for courtesies and aid extended to him: William P. Albright, Terrell Barkley, J. Alaric Bowman, Jr., James M. Bryant, Patricia M. Churchman, A. Olivia Cool, Buu Duong, Marilyn T. Evers, J. Vern Fairchilds, Jr., Wendell P. Flory, Daniel S. Geiser, Karen Hensley, Brian C. Hildebrand, David L. Holl, Harry G. M. Jopson, Carolyn Kent, George W. Kent, Paul M. Kline, M. Ellsworth Kyger, Jr., Ralph C. MacPhail, Jr., Clarence E. May, W. Robert McFadden, David G. Metzler, Lowell A. Miller, William D. Miracle, Audrey Moats, Paul V. Phibbs, Margaret Flory Wampler Rainbolt, James A. Reedy, Jacob F. Replogle, Thelma S. Replogle, Judith S. Ruby, Larry C. Seilhamer, Charles E. Shull, William R. Swecker, Ruth E. Tandy, Carin Teets, Thomas R. Thornley, Jr., Dale V. Ulrich, Byron J. Wampler, Jr., Ernest M. Wampler, Melvin D. Wampler, and Donna M. Wilson.

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The original committee in charge of this centennial history, named in September, 1969, consisted of John W. Boitnott, dean emeritus of Bridgewater College (chairman); Herman L. Horn, then professor of history, political science, and education at the college; and Orland Wages, then the college's head librarian. In 1980, J. Roddey Jones, then the college's assistant director of development for deferred giving, was added to the committee.

In 1993, a new committee was appointed. Ruth A. Greenawalt, library director at Bridgewater College, was made the committee's head and the following Bridgewater College people were named as her associate committee members: Emmert F. Bittinger, professor

emeritus of sociology; Ellen K. Layman, assistant director of development and director of public information; W. Robert McFadden, Anna B. Mow professor of religion and director of convocations; and William R. Swecker, associate director of development and director of planned giving. All members of both committees deserve to be commended for their service, especially Ruth A. Greenawalt, who gave unstintingly of her time and professional knowledge in cooperating with the writer of this volume.

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Francis Fry Wayland

Bridgewater, Virginia