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1948–1962: Dudley W. Woodbridge (Acting Dean  
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1969

## Woodbridge, Dean Emeritus Of W&M Law School, Dies

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### Repository Citation

"Woodbridge, Dean Emeritus Of W&M Law School, Dies" (1969). *1948–1962: Dudley W. Woodbridge (Acting Dean 1948-1950)*. 3.  
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Oct 21, 1969

# Woodbridge, Dean Emeritus Of W&M Law School, Dies

WILLIAMSBURG — Dudley Warner Woodbridge, one of William and Mary's most respected teachers, died Monday in Williamsburg Community Hospital. He was 73.

Woodbridge was dean emeritus of the Marshall-Wythe school of Law at William and Mary and chancellor professor of law.

He joined the William and Mary faculty in 1927 when the law school was unaccredited and over the years helped build the institution into one that is nationally recognized.

#### Edited Bar Notes

Woodbridge was an authority on the law of property, contracts, torts and negotiable instruments. For more than 30 years he edited the "Virginia Bar Notes."

"Dean Woodbridge was a great teacher, humanitarian and a friend," Dr. Davis Y. Paschall, William and Mary's president said. "He exemplified the best in the William and Mary tradition. I fear we shall not see his likes again."

A funeral service will be held at 4 p.m. Wednesday in the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church with burial in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Dr. John Grey, pastor, will officiate.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that contributions may be made to the Dudley Woodbridge scholarship fund at William and Mary or to the Marshall-Wythe law library.

#### Named Great Teacher

Except for five summers when he was a visiting professor, Woodbridge's entire teaching career was at William and Mary. He joined the college faculty as an assistant professor of law



D. W. WOODBRIDGE

and was named associate professor the following year and full professor in 1933.

He served as dean of the law school from 1950 until 1962 when he was named chancellor professor of law. He continued to teach after his retirement as dean.

Life magazine, in 1950, named him one of America's eight "great teachers."

Woodbridge was a visiting professor at the University of Virginia in the summers of 1943 and 1944 and taught during other summer sessions at the Universities of Illinois and Florida.

#### Medic With A.E.F.

A native of Bellaire, Ohio, Woodbridge was raised in Seattle, Wash. He was the son of George Morgan Woodbridge and Julia Warner Woodbridge.

He studied at the Universities of Washington and Chicago and received his undergraduate and professional law degrees.

During World War I he served as a private in the Army Medical Corps with the American expeditionary forces. He practiced law briefly in Chicago before coming to Williamsburg.

Although he was licensed in 1929 to practice law in Virginia, he did not. He felt that it would take too much time from his teaching duties. He often spent 12 or 16 hours a day at work on campus.

#### Helped Youngsters

Woodbridge took an active interest in youngsters and has taught hundreds how to ride a bicycle, ice skate and play tennis. He kept ice skates to loan children who didn't have them.

Dean Woodbridge was fond of cycling himself. He didn't own a car and preferred to cycle about the college campus and the city.

He lived near the William and Mary campus, at 118 Griffin Ave. His home is perhaps the only one in Williamsburg equipped with a bomb shelter, one he had built about a decade ago.

He was known for giving time and money to charitable causes.

Woodbridge frequently was honored at William and Mary for his "long and faithful service."

#### Honored By W&M

He was the first recipient, in 1963, of the Thomas Jefferson award at William and Mary. The citation called him "a faithful and effective teacher, a man whom Jefferson would readily have ranked alongside William Small and George Wythe and a man who continues brilliantly in the present to carry forward the college ideal of inspired and inspiring leadership."

He also has received the college's Sullivan award for "recognition of influence for good."

He was twice honored by student law groups—in 1951 by the George Wythe Club on his 25th anniversary at the college and in 1966 by Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity during Law Week.

#### Professional Associates

Dean Woodbridge was a member of the American Association of University Professors, American Bar Association, Virginia Bar Association, American Judicature Society, American Law Institute, Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Alpha Delta, Loyal Order of Moose, Tau Kappa Delta, Order of Coif, Omicron Delta Kappa, Virginia Social Science Association and the Kings Daughters and Sons.

During the second World War he worked in Williamsburg with the American Red Cross and served as the government's appeals agent of the local Selective Service boards.

Dean Woodbridge published law review notes and articles in the Illinois Law Review, the Virginia Law Review, the Pennsylvania Bar News and the William and Mary Law Review. He did his thesis on "The Acquisition of One Carrier by Another Under the Transportation Act of 1920."

#### Survivors Listed

Dean Woodbridge is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ruby Belle Mandenhall Woodbridge; two sons, Dr. Hensley Charles Woodbridge, librarian at the University of Southern Illinois, and William L. Woodbridge of Williamsburg; a daughter, Mrs. Julia W. Oxrieder; a sister, Mrs. Julia W. Peoples of Chattanooga, Tenn., and four grandchildren.

The body is at the Bucktrout Funeral Service, Williamsburg.

Pallbearers will be I. D. Hall, John Hollis, William Prince, Harvey Chappell, Russell Collins, Ernest Goodrich, Cecil C. Harper, Garland Clarke, Judge Dixon L. Foster and Harry E. Atkinson.