Section 1

The Law Class of 1940

and

Friends

Law Class of 1939
Class of 1940
CLASS OF 1940
WILLIAM & MARY LAW SCHOOL

82
1. ARTHUR B. HANSON
2. LETITIA ARMISTEAD
3. J. BINFORD THOMPSON
4. ROBERT LEE SIMPSON
5. JAMES BANKHEAD
6. T. T. DAVIES
7. WILLIAM ARTHUR
8. HAROLD M. GOULDING, JR.
9. JAMES MICHAEL WATKINS, JR.
LAETITIA ARMISTEAD, Williamsburg, Virginia; A. B., 1938; Admitted to the Virginia Bar, 1939; Kappa Kappa Gamma; Phi Beta Kappa; Wylde Law Club; Master of the Rolls; International Relations Club; History Club; J. Lesslie Hall Literary Society; Day Students Organization

Lettie was the daughter of Judge Frank Armistead and brother of Robert Travis Armistead who passed the Virginia Bar Exam at age 19 and could not practice until he became 21. Dean Woodbridge tells this story on a taped speech held by the Law School today.

The Armistead home, the only piece of private property occupied on Duke of Gloucester Street, is located next to Bruton Parish Episcopal Church. The Armistead family has steadfastly refused to sell to the restoration, which today is “Colonial Williamsburg” from William and Mary to the Colonial Capital.

Lettie was a brilliant student who often took members of the Law Class of 1940 to her home for study. Judge Armistead loved to see these students, and friends of Lettie, and would soon join them and dominate discussion for an hour or two.

Lettie would often say to us “You boys are going to war and lawyers will be in demand. I will get a position with a prominent law firm without any trouble at all.” And this is precisely what happened. After our graduation, Arthur B. (Tim) Hanson, a classmate, introduced Lettie to his father, Elisha Hanson, a senior partner of Hanson, Lovett & Dale of Washington, D.C. Employment was assured and a few years later Tim’s mother died. You guessed it – Lettie married Elisha and now, as Mrs. Elisha Hanson, she becomes Tim’s stepmother.
Lettie was a very considerate person, always performing some little favor. During the bar exams she kept the W&M applicants supplied with chocolate balls for “Keeping your energy up.”

During the 1930’s women were not generally accepted as candidates for law degrees but not so at William and Mary. Women who were not law degree candidates took law classes but Lettie pursued a degree and is the second lady to have received a law degree at William and Mary. (Virginia Mister was the first to receive a degree in 1937.) Nothing was thought about lady students in law classes at William and Mary and they were always welcome.

Lettie today resides in a Seniors Housing Complex in Washington, D.C.
R. William Arthur '38, B.C.L. '40 of Wytheville, Va., died April 4, 2003. He practiced law in Wytheville for a number of years and was a circuit court judge for 15 years prior to his retirement in 1985. He was a member of the Virginia Higher Education Study Commission, which recommended the merger of the Medical College of Virginia and Richmond Professional Institute into Virginia Commonwealth University. The Commission also recommended the creation of the Virginia System of Community Colleges. A past mayor of Wytheville, he saw the town through a polio epidemic so severe that it made headlines across the country. In addition, he was a member of a number of civil organizations and sang in the choir of St. Paul United Methodist Church. For about 20 years, he was a recognized announcer at George Wythe High School football games and would write up games for the newspaper. The community later recognized him for those efforts by naming him to the Wythe County Sports Hall of Fame. He was president of the Virginia Municipal League in the early 1960s and served as Wytheville's town attorney from 1962-1969. In 1961, he was named to a steering committee working toward a two-year college, which is now Wytheville Community College. In 2001, he received a distinguished service award from that college. As a William and Mary student, he was named to Omicron Delta Kappa and was active in the Athletic Association, Sigma Nu fraternity, the Backdrop Club, the W&M Band and the "13" Club. He served on the College's Board of Visitors from 1943 to 1962 and again from 1966 to 1969. In 1963, he was awarded the Alumni Medalion. While a law student, he rallied students, alumni, representatives of the judiciary and newspaper editorialists to oppose a May 27, 1933, decision of the Board of Visitors to close the Marshall-Wythe School of Law. His leadership and well-organized campaign led to the decision being recalled. His wife, Dorothy, survives him.

R. W. Arthur

dies at age 85

Roy William Arthur, who spent 15 years as a Circuit Court judge in Wytheville, died Friday at age 85.

A graduate of the College of William and Mary and the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, Judge Arthur was admitted to the bar in 1939 and practiced general law in Wytheville, where he was also mayor from 1946 to 1950.

He was a member of William and Mary's board of visitors in the 1950s and again served on the board just prior to being named to the bench in 1969.

Judge Arthur was appointed to the Virginia Higher Education Study Commission, which recommended the creation of Virginia Commonwealth University and the state community college system.

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Dorothy Ellett Arthur.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Monday at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Wytheville.

ARThUR

Judge Roy William Arthur, of Wytheville, Va., died on the 4th day of April, 2003. He was 85 years of age. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Ellett Arthur. Also surviving are a niece, Mrs. Martha Price Nance; and a nephew, William H. Price. He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy Watson Arthur and Verna Peletor Arthur; and by sisters, Audrey A. Price and Lucille A. Jones. Judge Arthur was born in Louisa County, Va., but lived most of his life in Wytheville. He practiced law in Wytheville for a number of years and was a Circuit Court Judge for 15 years prior to his retirement on January 1, 1985. Judge Arthur graduated from the College of William and Mary and from its Marshall-Wythe School of Law. He was a member of the College's Board of Visitors for a number of years and was a recipient of the William and Mary Alumni Medalion. He was a member of the Virginia Higher Education Study Commission, which recommended the merger of the Medical College of Virginia and Richmond Professional Institute into Virginia Commonwealth University. The Commission also recommended the creation of the Virginia System of Community Colleges. In 2001, he received a distinguished service award from that college. As a William and Mary student, he was named to Omicron Delta Kappa and was active in the Athletic Association, Sigma Nu fraternity, the Backdrop Club, the W&M Band and the "13" Club. He served on the College's Board of Visitors from 1943 to 1962 and again from 1966 to 1969. In 1961, he was named to a steering committee working toward a two-year college, which is now Wytheville Community College. In 2001, he received a distinguished service award from that college. As a William and Mary student, he was named to Omicron Delta Kappa and was active in the Athletic Association, Sigma Nu fraternity, the Backdrop Club, the W&M Band and the "13" Club. He served on the College's Board of Visitors from 1943 to 1962 and again from 1966 to 1969. In 1963, he was awarded the Alumni Medalion. While a law student, he rallied students, alumni, representatives of the judiciary and newspaper editorialists to oppose a May 27, 1933, decision of the Board of Visitors to close the Marshall-Wythe School of Law. His leadership and well-organized campaign led to the decision being recalled. His wife, Dorothy, survives him.

William & Mary Fall 2003
Ralph was a member of the Class of 1937, being awarded an A.B. degree with a major in Law. He continued with law the next two years receiving a BCL in 1939. He took and passed the bar exam in 1938. Although not a member of the Class of 1940, he was extremely active in our protest movement. It was he who raised the question about duplication and its application to Schools of Education for Teachers. He also made trips with Lettie Armistead to visit with Judge Spratley and members of the Board.

Ralph and Anna Mae (an undergraduate classmate and his wife) rarely failed to return to campus for Homecoming and also Olde Guard Meetings. He often would comment about the College’s failure to give proper recognition for the student protest that saved the Law School but was extremely reluctant to protest again for fear it would appear “we were tootin’ our own horn.” But for his death, we firmly believe Ralph would have joined us in expanding Bill Arthur’s report. His obituary from The Daily News, December 15, 2001, follows.
Ralph Terrell Baker

NEWPORT NEWS

Ralph Terrell Baker, 87, died Friday, Dec. 14, 2001. A lifelong resident of Newport News, he had been a resident of the Chesapeake Retirement Community.

He was a prominent attorney, having retired in 1981 after 32 years of service. He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy and was a member of the First Baptist Church of Newport News. He received his law degree in 1939 from The College of William & Mary. On July 22, 1940, Ralph married his college sweetheart, Anna Dickerson.

He was past president of the Newport News Bar Association, past president of the Exchange Club of Newport News, member of the James River County Club and was a member of the Committee for Consolidation of Newport News and Warwick County.

Mr. Baker was preceded in death by his parents, Ralph Goodwin Baker and Sadie Terrell Baker, and his brother, Aylett Goodwin Baker.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Anna Dickerson Baker; sister-in-law, Sarah McPhillips Baker; nephew, Dr. John Patrick Baker and his wife, Anne Marshall Baker; two great nephews, John Goodwin Baker and Robert Joseph Baker; his great niece, Sarah Marshall Baker; and his special and loving family friend, Jean Overman.

A graveside service will be conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16, in Peninsula Memorial Park by the Rev. Richard Holley, of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Memorial donations may be made to a favorite charity.

Peninsula Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.
Upon graduation he returned to his home in Arlington County, Virginia where he served a brief period as Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney. By spring 1941 our National Conscription Act was law and he decided to enlist, complete his year of training and “get it over with.” December 7, 1941 (Pearl Harbor Day) occurred before his year had expired and we find him on active duty until the fall of 1945 when he was discharged as Captain U.S. Army.

In Law School he was generally called Banky or Bankhead. He was one of those who majored in law in his senior year to attain his Bachelor’s Degree and then attended Law School for two more years for his Law Degree. Banky drove himself hard in his schedule of study and recorded notes on 3x5” file cards in such numbers they were literally “coming out of his ears.” (Reminiscent of Dr. E.G. Swem, William and Mary’s renowned librarian who recorded his records on 3x5” file cards for his publication, Virginia Historical Index, an index to eight publications that opened the door for historical research of Virginia).

Lawrence Douglas took Banky back into the Commonwealth Attorney’s office where he remained until December 1947 at which time he and Douglas formed a partnership setting up an office across the street from the Courthouse.
In Arlington, Banky was known occasionally as Bankhead but generally Bank. Regardless of what he was called, he was born in Manassas, Virginia August 8, 1916, one of four children of William Willis and Norma Vera Round and named James Bankhead Taylor Thornton Davies.

In November 1947 Bank married Hope Massie Cosby (better known as Dixie) and as she says “it is common knowledge that this is the first girl named Dixie that looked like his beloved English bull dog.” Of their children, Hope is a 1971 graduate of William and Mary, Vera finished James Madison in 1972, and Bankhead is a graduate of the University of Richmond and studied law under his father, passed the bar and remains in practice with him today.

In 1952, Bank and Lawrence Douglas terminated their partnership and Bank constructed an office building across the street from the Courthouse which Dixie says “of course was named for his bull dog.” This was the beginning of Bank’s investment in real estate which has proven to be quite a fruitful enterprise for him.

Whereas Bank, and also with his son, has enjoyed a very active and productive practice of law, it should be noted that he conducted many hours of pro bono practice on his own initiative for which there was never any compensation. This was as he would have it.

Bank continues to go to the office daily, driven by Dixie, and as he says “I am still practicing and soon I will learn.” They continue to be active in civic activities and other normal pursuits of senior citizens.
Jack Garrett did not attend William and Mary Law School, but received his A.B. degree on June 3, 1940. During our movement to preserve the Law School, Jack had just been elected President of the Senior Class, the Class of 1940.

Although not a member of the Law School, Jack was a viable and integral part of our activities. Contributions he made to our efforts were significant and he is included in our group because he was part of our group.

Jack was a newspaper boy for John Stewart Bryan while in high school in Richmond, Virginia, which carried over to college at William and Mary. His personal acquaintance with newspaper staffs opened doors to proper officials who then realized ours was a serious group.

Jack continued his active duty service with the United States Navy, retiring as Captain in the Navy Supply Corps. He then embarked upon a second successful career as a financial consultant, representing brokerages in the Kilmarnock-Irvington area in the Northern Neck of Virginia in sales of investments.

Jack’s family life has been a remarkable story. He and his wife, Ann Terrell, were childhood sweethearts in the city of Richmond through high school graduation and continuing with their respective enrollments and graduation with the Class of 1940 at the College of William and Mary. College was followed by marriage, service in the military during World War
II and his ensuing career in the Navy, while raising a family of five children. Ann’s health required their move to Richmond to a retirement facility where Jack remains today after her untimely death in 2000.

His location in the Northern Neck placed him in close proximity to Williamsburg which enabled frequent visits to W&M where even today he remains one of the College’s most vocal advocates and active in alumni affairs. Such service has been recognized by both the Olde Guarde and Alumni Society. He is a recipient in 1984 of The Alumni Medallion.
Born at Potomac Beach, Westmoreland County, Virginia, July 29, 1916, the only child of Harold Moore and Ruth (Ashton) Gouldman. His father was employed as the Civilian Personnel Director at the Naval Proving Ground, Dahlgren, King George County, Virginia.

He attended school at Dahlgren and transferred to Washington-Lee High School in his junior year, graduating in 1933. He entered William and Mary in the fall and received an A.B. in 1937 and BCL in 1940.

After a brief service in Richmond and Norfolk with the Travelers Insurance Company as a claim adjuster, he was called to active duty with the U.S. Navy Reserve the day after Pearl Harbor. By July 1942 he was located at P.T. Boat Command at Melville, Rhode Island and eventually was assigned duty with Motor Torpedo Boat Squadrons in the Pacific theater. P.T. boats drew many notable and prominent personalities for duty, the most famous obviously being John Fitzgerald Kennedy, who then was the Ambassador’s son.

Gouldman was released to inactive duty in January 1947 as LCDR, USNR and was appointed Trial Justice of King George County, Virginia, a position he retained until February 1949. At that time Trial Justice Court served as today’s District Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

He resigned as Trial Justice to become Counsel for the Naval Proving Ground, now Naval Surface Warfare Center, at Dahlgren, King George County, Virginia.

After retiring he became quite involved in serving in many fields of church work with and for St. James Episcopal Church, Montross, including many years as delegate to the annual council of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

Gouldman devoted many years to genealogical and historical research and served for five years as a trustee of the Westmoreland County Museum and Library. Presently he serves as Chairman, Westmoreland County, History Documentation Committee.
Arthur Briggs Hanson, 72, a Washington lawyer and retired major general in the Marine Corps reserves, died of cancer July 1 at his home in Potomac.

He joined the firm of Hanson, O'Brien, Birnie & Butler after World War II, becoming a senior partner before becoming of counsel in January 1988. He also had operated his own law offices in Washington since then.

Mr. Hanson was an authority on First Amendment law and was the author of "Hanson on Libel and Related Torts." He had served as general counsel of organizations such as the American Newspaper Publishers Association from 1962 to 1981, and of the National Geographic Society from 1963 to 1978.

He also had been a trustee of the society. He was a founding member and served on the advisory board of the Media Law Reporter. He had been general counsel of Printing Industries of America since 1986. He also had been general counsel of several other groups, including the American Chemical Society.

Mr. Hanson was born in Washington and graduated from Episcopal High School in Alexandria. He was a graduate of the College of William & Mary, where he also received a law degree.

He served on active duty with the Marine Corps during World War II in both Latin America and the Pacific and retired from the reserves in 1974. His decorations included three Bronze Stars and the Legion of Merit. He was a past president of both the Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association and the Marine Corps Reserve Policy Board. He was awarded a Defense Department Distinguished Service Citation for his work on the board. At the time of his death, he was president of the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation.

Mr. Hanson was a founding member and past counsel of St. Francis Episcopal Church in Potomac. He had been a lay reader and chalice passer in the Episcopal Church.

He had been active in Republican politics in Maryland and had served as vice president and member of the executive committee of the Republican Heritage Foundation. A yachtsman, he had participated in four transatlantic races as well as numerous Newport-to-Bermuda and Annapolis-to-Newport races.

Survivors include his wife, the former Jane Harden, of Potomac; two daughters, Kim Hanson Willens of Sioux City, Iowa, and Jane D. Weeks of Purcellville, Va.; two brothers, Kurtz McRoberts Hanson of Palm Beach, Fla., and William Vernon Hanson of Chicago; and a grandchild.
W-M Graduate Smokes Out Japs on Namur

(The following story was written by Staff Sergeant Dick Tennelly, of Washington, a Marine Corps combat correspondent.)

NAMUR ISLAND, KWAJALEIN ATOLL, Marshall Islands—A group of scouts led by Marine Captain Arthur B. Hanson, son of Elisha Hanson, Bethesda, Md., constituted themselves into an assault team during the fighting on Namur Island, wiping out enemy positions bypassed in the first rush ashore.

Captain Hanson, son of the general counsel for the American Newspaper Publishers' Association, is one of the smallest officers in the Marine Corps. He is a law and academic graduate of the College of William and Mary, where he served as aid to the college president.

The command post had just landed on Namur, a few hours after the shock troops and scouts were coming in with their first reports on the situation. I myself had just got back from our foremost lines, when a marine captain came up with grenade wounds in his face and told of an active enemy pillbox about a hundred yards down the beach.

"Come on, gang!" called Captain Hanson. "Let's get the Japs who got the captain!"

ENEMY DARTS OUT

Most of the pillbox was underground. The visible part was less than 3 feet high. It was entered through a small opening in the rear. As Captain Hanson's scouts and I began closing in, from all sides, rifles going full blast, several of the enemy darted out, one after another, and lobbed hand grenades at a stalled marine tank nearby. They were shot down.

Captain Hanson called for hand grenades and himself tossed them into the entrance of the pillbox. Charges of high explosive were set off as near the opening as possible. More rifle fire was poured in on the enemy from two or three other tiny openings. Still signs of movement inside continued.

Eventually, 16 dead Japanese were taken from this one pillbox, one wounded and one unhurt. The latter two were made prisoners.

Still another live Japanese was found later, crouching beneath some brush. Captain Hanson's scouts took care of him and several others of the enemy found in similar circumstances during the first two days of fighting on Namur.

On the morning of the third day, when most of the island had been rid of the enemy, Captain Hanson took his men, an interpreter, and myself to clear out an almost intact stronghouse in the center of Namur Island.

Arthur B. Hanson's obituary (The Washington Post, July 3, 1989) is on the previous page. The article above may be found in the archives of William and Mary and describes an event which is so typical of the Arthur Briggs Hanson we knew at W&M (March 2, 1944). Always known as Tim on campus, he was a member of a very affluent family and was never deprived of what he wanted. During the depression years, this placed him in a rather exclusive group. Physically short in stature and independent in activity, Tim was definitely on the egotistical side. But his generosity, which was always evidenced by reason of his means, simply was unmatched and he was widely known and liked on campus.
Robert Lee Simpson Sr. '38, B.C.L. '40
of Virginia Beach, Va., died July 17, 2002. He began his legal career practicing law in Virginia Beach in 1942 after clerking for the federal judges of the eastern district of Virginia. He served as Commonwealth's Attorney from 1958-1967, becoming in 1963 the first Commonwealth's Attorney of the city of Virginia Beach. He retired as chief judge of the General District Court in 1982. Throughout his life, he was very involved in community affairs, serving on the town council of Virginia Beach, during which time Virginia Beach High School was established and the first major beach sand replenishment program was provided to control erosion. He was a charter founder and twice president of the Virginia Beach Bar Association. An avid sports enthusiast, he was a charter founder and president of the Virginia Beach Sports Club, which honored him in 2002 for his years of service to the organization. Also, he was a charter member of the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad Foundation as well as an organizing team leader for the establishment of the Virginia Beach General Hospital, which he served as a member of the board of directors until his death. He served on the Mayor's Committee on Aging, was a former officer in the North Virginia Beach Civic League and served as a member and in leadership positions with the Virginia Beach Chamber of Commerce and the Lynnhaven Optimists Club. A founder and first president of the Virginia Beach Elks Club, he was a leader of the Virginia Beach Rotary Club, the Fraternal Order of Police and served as an organizational fund chairman at Star of the Sea Catholic Church where he had been a parishioner since 1942. He had been a member of the Virginia Bar Association, the Virginia State Bar, the American Trial Lawyer's Association, and was past president of the Commonwealth's Attorneys Association for the Commonwealth of Virginia. During his undergraduate years, he played football and swam, was Freshman Class President, and belonged to Theta Delta Chi fraternity, the Debate Council, the Interfraternity Council, the Phoenix Literary Society, Tau Kappa Alpha debate society and Phi Alpha Delta law society. He also wrote for the Flat Hat. As an alumnus, he held many leadership positions with the Society of the Alumni, from his co-chair of his class's 50th Reunion Committee to being one of the charter members of the Order of the White Jacket and serving on the Order's board. He established, in trust, an endowed professorship at the Marshall-Wythe School of Law honoring his parents and was inducted into the Woodbridge Associates in 1998, an organization honoring lifetime commitment to the Law School. In 1997, he was awarded the Alumni Medalion. He is survived by his wife, Alice, a son, Robert Lee Simpson Jr. '63, J.D. '68, two daughters, five grandchildren, including Ann Simpson Rush '87 and James Baakervill Simpson '96, and three great grandchildren. Memorial donations may be made to the The William and Mary Alumni Association, P.O. Box 2100, Williamsburg, VA, 23187.
James Binford Thompson, Jr., better known to me as J.B., I saw very little of him except in class. My recollections are of a most favorable personality centered on a modest attitude and quiet demeanor. He was a member of the Class of 1937 for his Bachelor’s Degree and the Law Class of 1940 for his BCL.

The last known address I have for him is Portsmouth, Virginia. I have two rosters for the Class of 1937. One is dated 1940 which shows Portsmouth as his residence; the other was prepared for the Class of 37’s 50th Reunion, printed in 1982 and reports him as deceased. The Alumni Office cannot provide me with a date and/or place of death or even a source of its information.

Remember in February 1940 the Law Faculty introduced us to the Virginia Court of Appeals. J.B.’s name is not on their records as being with us on that date or any other date.

In response to my inquiry of the Virginia State Bar, I was advised he was never a member of the State Bar. Without that membership he could never have practiced law legally in Virginia. I enlisted the help of classmates and lawyers of the Portsmouth area, but found no information at all.

There is information out there somewhere on J.B. that continues to elude me. It will surface some day and this bio will be corrected. Any reader who can provide any enlightenment on J.B., please advise the William and Mary Law School.
As you see from the above, Jimmy, in addition to his classes, was a participant in a number of extra-curricular activities, both as an undergraduate student and as a graduate student. The most prominent recollection is perhaps the fact that wherever you might be, particularly if it was an occasion where presence might be welcomed, there was Jimmy. He would appear with such consistency in such events you would gasp and say “where in h**1 did he come from?”

The following two pages beautifully portray the Jimmy Watkins we knew. It was written by Lacy H. McDearman, a prominent banker after the war and civic leader of Emporia. He and Jimmy both rendered active duty service with the Army in the 116th infantry.

*Watkins Families of Southern Virginia, April 23, 1994* by Evelyn Jones Ewing; a copy of the Netherlands American Cemetery and Memorial brochure, and *The Civil Law* by S.P. Scott, A.M.follow.
James Michael Watkins was born in Greensville County, Virginia, June 22, 1911. The third son of an old and prominent Greensville County family. He graduated from Emporia High School in 1930 and during the young days of his life there was known as an outstanding scholar for his gentlemanly and sociable qualities. An excellent student he as also a good athlete, making up for his lack of physical size in spirit and aggressiveness.

He enlisted at the age of eighteen in the Emporia National Guard unit and in 1937 was discharged to accept a second lieutenant’s commission in the Officers Reserve Corps of the U.S. Army. He served three summer maneuvers with the 315th Infantry and the C.M.T.C.

While a member of the old Howitzer Company, 116th Infantry, he was the first enlisted man of the Virginia National Guard to qualify as an expert gunner with infantry howitzer weapons.

He attended William and Mary College and received his Bachelor of Civil Law degree from that institution in 1939. While in college he was active in the Debating Council, Glee Club and church choir.

At the time of going into active military service he was practicing law in Emporia. He was active in civil interests; in 1940 he was Red Cross Roll Call Chairman and taught a Sunday School Class in Main Street Methodist Church, of which he was a member.

In October 1940 he chose to give up his Reserve commission to go on active duty with Company M, 116th Infantry, and left Emporia in February 1941 with this unit, a part of the 29th Infantry Division.

After some months attendance at the Infantry School, Fort Benning, Ga. He quickly rose to the rank of 1st lieutenant and as such commanded Company M, 116th Infantry during most of 1942 and when the unit went overseas in September of that year. In England he was picked for special duty with the 29th Infantry Division Headquarters, and for his outstanding work was later transferred to the Assault Training Center at Barnstaple, England, where he as an instructor in the work designed to teach and rehearse the actual assault plans on Hitlers Fortress Europe, which plans were later carried out on the Normandy Beachheads of France. He was here promoted to Captain and later assigned to the 35th Infantry Division, going into combat as commanding officer of Company F, 320th Infantry.

Captain Watkins was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action on January 8, 1945. He has been previously awarded the Silver Star Medal for gallantry in action in an assault crossing of the Saar River on December 8, 1944. (Citation copied from local newspaper enclosed.)

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Captain Watkins wrote his wife, Mrs. James M. Watkins of Emporia on March 4, 1945 that he was within spitting distance of the Rhine River and stated that he would be on its banks by the following day, March 5th. He told his wife he had been assigned a special mission which would be carried out on that day. (March 5th) with 125 men under him.

He was reported as killed in action on March 5, 1945.

Since the war Captain Watkins’ sister, Mrs. Albert N. Mason, of Emporia, has received several letters from people of Fouron, St. Martin, near Liego, Belgium, praising his fine qualities and stating that he had been billeted there during the war.

He is buried in the national cemetery at Maargraten, Holland.

A memorial service was held for Captain Watkins in Main Street Methodist Church, Emporia in 1945.

This fine officer’s death was a great loss to Emporia and to Virginia. Through perseverance and hard work he had fitted himself to play a large part in the future civil and military leadership of his community. Young, vigorous, intelligent, he had barely stepped upon the stage of a wide service when the war intervened to claim him. He certainly exemplifies the long and incomparable tradition of William and Mary men who have served the Commonwealth and the Nation so ably and so nobly. He lives behind in the hearts of the men who knew and loved him.

(To the writer no finer tribute could be paid Jimmy Watkins than that of a soldier unknown to me whom I happened to converse with a few minutes on a bus while this soldier and I were patients at Fort Story Convalescent Hospital, Virginia, in 1945. Saying that he was a member of Company F, 320th Infantry in combat, this soldier advised that his company commander was a Virginian, and that Captain Watkins was always right up there with us, using his carbine and constantly pushing forward ahead of any of us when the going was rough. I was a little too overcome with emotion to ask the soldiers name, as I had been Jimmy’s company commander back in the days of maneuvers, and I knew only too well how he had always pushed forward with that never-say-die spirit.)

Lacy H. McDearman, Ex Major 116 Infantry

Emporia VA.

25 Nov. 46

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WATKINS FAMILIES
OF
SOUTHERN VIRGINIA

by
Evelyn Jones Ewing

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INTRODUCTION

Watkins Families of Southern Virginia was undertaken to provide a written record of the families descending from John Watkins who lived in Amelia County, Virginia, in 1760. Two great, great grandsons, Dr. John Carter Watkins and Dr. Richard Henry Watkins, married Bailey sisters of Sussex County and settled in northern Greensville County in the 1850s. Their ancestors were William \(^4\), William \(^3\), John \(^2\), and John \(^1\) of the southern Virginia counties of Nottoway, Halifax, Prince Edward, and Amelia, respectively.

Wills, deeds, birth, death, and marriage records were researched in the above counties and, in addition, the counties of Brunswick, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Greensville, Isle of Wight, King and Queen, Prince George, Sussex, Surry, and the cities of Petersburg and Richmond. The Virginia State Library, the United States Archives, the DAR, and Quaker, Mormon, and other church records were researched and compiled with the earlier research of Raymond W. Watkins and Charlotte G. Watkins. Their sharing of that data is sincerely appreciated.

The eastern counties of Virginia were researched in an attempt to locate the ancestors of John Watkins of Amelia. A definite link was not documented but most of that research is included with the hope that in the future some genealogist may find the missing documentation. Information is also included on the Bailey, Walton, and Prince families of Sussex County who lived nearby the Watkinses and were connected by marriage.

Generations are numbered to assist the reader in following the lineage. John \(^2\) Watkins (John \(^1\)) was the son of John \(^1\) Watkins. The Watkins genealogy is provided in chart form following the Index at the rear of the book.

This compiler is most grateful to the many family members who provided family data and photos. Graham Meredith, Stuart Vincent, and Winston Watkins deserve high praise for their interest and cooperation. We endeavored to include all descendants through 1993 in order to record what is known of the ancestors and descendants of John Watkins of 1760. It is hoped that this genealogy will be useful in sharing our heritage with our children, grandchildren, and future generations.

Evelyn Jones Ewing

115 Walnut Circle
Emporia, Virginia 23847
April 23, 1994


Cynthia Ann White, born 23 July 1960, is unmarried. Cynthia lives in Greenville, S.C.


James Michael Watkins Jr., born 22 June 1911, married Juanita Bradley. James, a graduate of William & Mary Law School, was a new attorney practicing in Emporia when he left for Europe as Captain James Watkins during World War II. A son, James Michael III, was born after his departure.

Captain James Watkins was killed in action in Germany 5 March 1945. His family learned that he was struck by a sniper's fire while standing in a group of soldiers that included friends from home. They buried him there but he was later moved. He has a marker in the Emporia Cemetery. Nita Watkins married second Emmett Harrell, the son of Edward Harrell of Gates, N.C. who married second Inez Darden, Risup Darden's first cousin. Nita Harrell later married Woody Page. They reside in Richmond.

James Michael "Jimmy" Watkins III, his wife Gale, and daughters Jennifer, Emily, Stephanie, and Katherine lived in Greensboro, N.C. where Dr. Jimmy Watkins was a practicing chiropractor. The marriage ended in divorce.

Deal Prince Watkins, born 15 August 1913, married 19 April 1941 Frances Pauline Dunn, born 5 March 1920, the daughter of James Thomas and Pearl Beatress Horne Dunn of Suffolk, Va. The Dunn family had lived in Emporia during Frances' teenage years.

Deal and Frances Watkins were the parents of a son, Deal Prince Jr., and a daughter, Mervlyn Diana. The family made their home in Raleigh, N.C. where Deal was a route salesman for 20 years.

Frances Dunn Watkins died 9 August 1985. Deal Watkins, who served in the U.S. Army during WW II, resides in Imperial, Nebraska near his daughter's family.

Deal Prince Watkins Jr., born 22 January 1942, married Peggy Janet Howell, born 13 November 1945, daughter of Joseph and Geneva Williams of Fayetteville,

Deal and Frances Watkins

Clayton R. Watkins

Netherlands American Cemetery
and Memorial

The American Battle Monuments Commission

On the west wall the map portrays the daring large-scale airborne operation which was intended to outflank the fortified Siegfried Line and seize the crossings of the Lower Rhine. It, too, is accompanied by an inscription in both languages of which this is the English version:


On the east wall the map records the operations in the crossing of the Roer and the advance to the Rhine; this is the English version of its inscription:


MEANWHILE THE ADVANCING 30 CORPS PASSED THROUGH THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION WHICH HAD CAPTURED EINDHOVEN, IT THEN JOINED THE 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION IN ITS ATTACK ON THE NIJMEGEN BRIDGES, BOTH OF WHICH WERE FINALLY SEIZED. ON THE EVENING OF 20 SEPTEMBER BY THE 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION IN COOPERATION WITH BRITISH ARMORED UNITS; BUT BRITISH INFANTRY COULD NOT REACH THE SOUTH BANK OF THE NEDER RIJN IN FORCE UNTIL 24 SEPTEMBER. THE ENEMY PREVENTED ALL ATTEMPTS TO REINFORCE THE TROOPS BESIDE THE RIVER, AND AFTER DARK ON 25 SEPTEMBER THE REMNANTS OF THE DECIMATED 1 AIRBORNE DIVISION WERE EVACUATED.

On the east wall the map records the operations in the crossing of the Roer and the advance to the Rhine; this is the English version of its inscription:
In the early morning hours of 23 February, following an intensive artillery preparation, the leading units of the Ninth Army lowered their assault boats into the swirling waters of the still flooded Roer. The swift current and enemy artillery fire on the crossing sites made passage of the river most hazardous, but the XIX Corps advanced and captured Jülich on the first day while the XIII Corps made substantial gains in the Linnich area. Fighters and medium bombers of the Ninth Air Force closely supported the forward units, destroying enemy tanks and equipment; the bridgeheads on the east bank were made secure by the end of the second day.

Once across the river, the U.S. Ninth Army offensive rapidly gathered momentum. On 25 February the XVI Corps crossed on the left flank. Armored units were committed as the direction of advance turned northward and broke through the enemy lines. By 1 March the industrial center of Monchen-GLADBACH had been cleared, the largest Germany city yet captured by Allied forces.

The battle became a pursuit; the objective now was to prevent as many enemy as possible from escaping. The XIX Corps reached the Rhine near Neuss on 2 March while the XIII Corps entered Krefeld; early the next day the XVI Corps made contact with the Canadian First Army at Geldern. Constantly harassed by the fighter-bombers of the Ninth Air Force, the enemy withdrew, demolishing the bridges as he retreated across the river. By 6 March Rheinberg, the future crossing site for the Ninth Army, had been taken. Four days later the west bank of the Rhine from Dusseldorf northward was in Allied hands.

Overseas American Cemeteries

James M. Watkins

ID: O-359346
Entered the Service From: Virginia
Rank: Captain

Service: U.S. Army, 320th Infantry Regiment, 35th Infantry Division

Died: Monday, March 05, 1945
Buried at: Netherlands American Cemetery
Location: Margraten, Netherlands
Plot: L Row: 3 Grave: 19

Awards: Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart
With the 35th Infantry division in France—Captain James M. Watkins, of the 320th Infantry, has been awarded the Silver Star medal, with citation as follows:

“For gallantry in action near... France on 8 December 1944. Captain Watkins, commanding Company F.; Infantry, led his unit in and assault crossing of the Rhine river, up the steep bank of the opposite shore, over many trenches, and through wire entanglements to the far crest of the ridges, from which he planned to attack the enemy flank. As forward elements commenced scaling the ridge, a group of the enemy attacked in a half-track vehicle. Realizing the peril to troops still crossing the river should the enemy vehicles reach a position overlook the river, Capt. Watkins and three enlisted men remained in position in a shallow trench.

“From this position, Capt. Watkins directed artillery fire on the vehicle as it moved forward. Under cover of machine gun fire, five German soldiers dismounted and attacked the small group. Capt. Watkins killed the enemy leader, as officers, while his men killed the other four Germans. The enemy half-track reached a point but twenty-five yards distant when it was demolished by a direct hit from artillery fire which Capt. Watkins had continued to adjust throughout the firefight. Captain Watkins’ aggressive leadership, intrepid bravery and determination for the successful accomplishment of his mission, are in accord with the highest traditions of the military service.

Captain Watkins left Emporia with Company M, 116th Infantry, in February 1941, but was separated from that unit after arriving in England. In addition to the Silver Star he wears the Purple Heart awarded for slight wounds received on January 8 and also wears the Expert Combat Infantryman Badge.
THE CIVIL LAW
INCLUDING

Translated from the original Latin, edited, and compared with all accessible systems of jurisprudence ancient and modern.

By S. P. SCOTT, A. M.
Author of "History of the Moorish Empire in Europe," Translator of the "Visigothic Code"

IN SEVENTEEN VOLUMES

VOL. I.

CINCINNATI
THE CENTRAL TRUST COMPANY
Executor of the Estate Samuel P. Scott, Deceased
PUBLISHERS
In memory of
James Michael Watkins,
Captain, U.S. Army.
Killed in Action, Germany,
March 5, 1945.
Presented by
Theodore S. Cox, Dean,
Department of Jurisprudence:
Lt. Col., General Staff Corps;
U. S. Army.
Robert J. Watkins

POQUOSON

Robert Jerald Watkins, 82, an attorney at law who retired in 1988 as Commissioner of Accounts for York County, died Sunday, April 10, 1994.

Mr. Watkins was the first attorney for the city of Poquoson. A member of the Virginia Bar for over 50 years, he had been affiliated with the law practices of Jones, Blackman, & Jones, as well as Montague, Ferguson & Holt. He had been a member of Poquoson Masonic Lodge 49 A.F. & A.M. for over 50 years. Mr. Watkins founded the William and Mary Educational Foundation in 1948 and served as its first president. It is now known as the William and Mary Athletic and Educational Foundation. He had served with the 111 Field Artillery Unit of the Army during World War II.

Mr. Watkins was a member of Tabernacle United Methodist Church, where he had taught the men’s Sunday school class.

He is survived by his wife, Betty Burkholder Watkins; two daughters, Bonnie Ann Shriver and Jerilyn Jean Watkins of Poquoson; and three grandchildren, Robert J. Shriver, Ashley A. Watkins, and Scarlett L. Watkins of Poquoson.

Funeral services will be private.

Memorials may be made to the Poquoson Rescue Squad or the William and Mary Athletic & Educational Foundation in Williamsburg.

Claytor Rollins Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

The above obituary is characteristic of Robert J. Watkins; short, simple, to the point and written by him about a year prior to his death. Family, church, profession and the College of William and Mary make up his life with equal devotion to each. Physically he was never robust but he “stood tall” in his compassion for his fellow man.
Campus life was not easy for Bob. He enrolled in 1934 as a member of the Class of 1938. He had no money and the family, typical of the depression years, could not afford a college education. His father was a stone-mason and naturally his father wished his son to follow this trade. However, Bob was determined he would attend William and Mary. His only possession was a $5 gold piece which he used as security for a loan of $5.00 from his grandfather, a local merchant. This loan enabled his enrollment.

Bob worked many jobs and achieved his A.B. in 1938. There is only one known picture of Bob at William and Mary and that is the image at the beginning of this biography which was taken for the Junior Class pictures in the Class of 1937 Annual. Ironically, Walter Zable, a member of the Class of 1937 who has given millions to William and Mary, could not afford to have his picture in the 1937 Class Annual.

Bob’s story about his $5.00 enrollment loan reminds of a story told by Dr. William Guy, Head of the Chemistry Department, to my wife at a Homecoming party, namely “During the Depression, male attendance became so limited that he and several others of the faculty stationed themselves at the College corner and upon seeing a likely looking candidate would detain him with a tender of $5.00 if he would enroll.” Incidentally, Bob redeemed his security within a time of weeks.

It was during his law school days that we became better acquainted with Bob and soon learned that he was a profound worrier. Bill Arthur would tease him continually and began calling him “Worry-worry,” a nickname which remained with him among his associates in Law School for the rest of his life.

Bob was one of twelve W&M law students to take the Bar Exam in June 1939 and one of the ten who passed that exam. He did not return to W&M for his senior year of law but elected to open a law office in Poquoson as noted by Gail Bronson in the Daily News article of January 1980. However there are other references herein to Bob’s life stating or implying he received a law degree from William and Mary in 1939.

Bob was a viable member of the Law Class of 1940. He was an active member of our group that memorable week in protesting the Board’s decision and “degree or not” he belongs in this story. With no intention whatsoever of casting any shadow on his performance as a student, the
following facts should be considered to show he never received a degree in law from W&M:

1. He enrolled at W&M in 1934.
2. He received an A.B. degree, with a major in law, in 1938.
3. He continued Law School in 1939.
4. Two years of law were required to take the bar exam.
5. Three years of law were required for a law degree.
6. Eligibility to practice law was predicated upon passing the bar.
   It was not necessary to receive a law degree having passed the bar.
7. Bob Watkins had a difficult struggle financially as a student and his move to begin practice rather than continue study appears reasonable and is understandable.
8. If Bob received a law degree from W&M it could not have been awarded prior to 1940.
9. Several references to Bob at W&M reflect he graduated from Law School in 1939. It is believed this idea became confused with his passing the bar in 1939 and then beginning his practice.
10. On February 14, 1940 the W&M Law Faculty arranged our Law Class introduction to the Virginia Court of Appeals. The Court’s records do not reflect Bob’s presence with us.
11. Bill Arthur, in his much earlier write up of our law story, does not show Bob with a law degree.
12. William and Mary has no record of having awarded a law degree to Robert S. Watkins.
First attorney to practice in Poquoson has held other legal posts, too

By GAIL BRONSON

POQUOSON — Attorney Robert Watkins has taken gifts of seafood for payment of legal fees, and then again, he’s taken nothing at all.

“I guess I’ve been paid with just about everything — including promises,” says Watkins, who at 68 has been practicing law for 40 years.

“My father wanted me to be a doctor. He said I’d starve as a lawyer, and he was just about right.”

Watkins was the first attorney ever to have a practice in Poquoson.

A distant relative, Powhatan Roberts, was an attorney from Poquoson during the Civil War, but he never practiced in Poquoson. He moved on to Richmond, where he served in the General Assembly. He came to an untimely death there when a balcony in the Capitol fell on him.

Watkins can boast a number of other firsts in Poquoson. He was the first town attorney and served also as the first town manager — a position he held for two years with no compensation.

Today his office is located in York County on Route 17, but his practice began in an office on Poquoson Avenue in 1939.

He had just finished law school at the College of William and Mary, where he also received his undergraduate degree.

He had worked four years between his undergraduate and graduate schooling, supporting his family while his father had cancer.

He left Poquoson in 1941 to serve in World War II, and when he returned, was elected York County Commonwealth’s attorney.

Then after working with a Newport News law firm for a while, he returned to Poquoson to practice.

One of his most memorable accomplishments as a private attorney in the 1950s was his job of handling the legal problems involved in the purchase of land in York County for Amoco’s refinery.

Representing the American Oil Co during four years of litigation over the land was a tough job, he recalls.

“It was in the early 1950s, during the movement to incorporate Poquoson as a town, that he drew up the town charter as the first town attorney.

He served another stint as town attorney in the 1960s.

He finally moved to his present location in 1966 because it was closer to the York County courts and more centrally located to the population he served.

“I’ve seen the law from as many sides as possible, and I’ve enjoyed all my experiences,” says Watkins, noting he has also served as a substitute judge.

Gentlemanly and with soft Southern speech, Watkins pauses frequently to shift his glasses on his nose. He smiles showing a space between his front teeth acquired when one tooth was dislodged while playing football in college.

“A country lawyer, in a fashion, had to be a jack of all trades,” he says. “He has little opportunity to specialize.”

Things which have little signification economically take up a long of time for country lawyers, he says.

It’s difficult not to become personally involved with clients in a small town practice, he says.

He always stuck to the canon of ethics he was taught in law school, which says a lawyer doesn’t charge when his client can’t afford to pay. It’s a rule he still follows, he says, agreeing it’s an unusual practice today.

“There’s a different outlook today, he says. “We didn’t have legal aid societies when I came along.”

Watkins lives with his wife at 1 Laydon Way, Poquoson, in a house he built in 1955 on the same spot where his grandfather’s house stood.

Looking much younger than his years, Watkins says he’ll practice law as long as he can. “I’m too restless to retire,” he says. “I hope I will go to sleep one night and not wake up. But I’m going to be busy until then.”
Dinner Honors AEF Founding President

May 7th Banquet To Honor Bob Watkins, Ernie Colburn, Harvey Kostel, George Mumford

Bob Watkins, '38, BCL '39, of Poquoson, Va., says he weighed 125 pounds “soaking wet” as a freshman running back at William and Mary in the 1930s. Early in his first and only season after he had his front teeth separated from his face, his coach, Bill Scott, suggested Watkins try out for baseball instead. In fact, said Scott, he would guarantee Watkins a place on the baseball team if he would give up football because “the coach didn't want to be responsible for my death.”

Watkins played baseball and ran track for the Tribe, but his name is not found in any record books. Maybe it should be, for Bob Watkins, who went onto a successful law career, made a much bigger contribution to William and Mary athletics than his prowess on the playing field would indicate.

Thirty-four years ago this year, Watkins almost single-handedly organized and chartered what today is known as the Athletic Educational Foundation. (Watkins and three other AEF past-presidents from the Peninsula - Ernie Colhoun, Harry Kostel and George Mumford - will be honored guests at the Peninsula AEF dinner, Friday night, May 7 at 6:00 p.m. at the James River Country Club. Reservations at $12.50 per person may be made through the AEF office.)

The AEF today is a $600,000 organization of 2000 members with a full-time director, 80 prominent trustees, and an executive committee that takes a personal interest in the goals and administration of the Foundation. But in 1948, Watkins remembers, William and Mary had a loosely organized approach to fund-raising that generally resulted in last-minute, emergency requests to a few contributors to bail out the coaches who had signed too many athletes.

Watkins says that prior to 1948, Pappy Gooch made personal appeals to a few William and Mary alumni and friends through what was then known as the William and Mary fund for athletics. Simultaneously, but independent of Pappy's efforts, football coach Rube McCray would sign up his football players for the coming year. “Invariably,” says Watkins, “McCray would sign more players than Pappy had money, and there would be a last-minute, emergency appeal to raise the extra funds.”

Watkins, who was one of those solicited, finally decided William and Mary needed a better approach to fund-raising. He called together a group of 20 key supporters on the Peninsula and proposed the idea of an athletic fund-raising organization based on a concept employed successfully by the University of North Carolina. They whole-heartedly supported the idea and with Watkins organized a meeting of William and Mary alumni from across the state in Williamsburg to formalize the plan.

After the Williamsburg meeting, attorney Watkins drew up a charter, which Lenny Graves of Williamsburg, Jack Willis of Hampton, and Watkins signed and presented to Judge Frank Armistead who incorporated the Educational Foundation. Watkins served as the Foundation's first president for the next three years.

From that beginning, the Foundation has gone on to raise over three million dollars for William and Mary athletics. And Watkins has remained a dedicated Tribe booster as both a financial contributor and vocal supporter of Indian teams.

“I haven't missed a game at William and Mary since I graduated, except for the years I was in the service,” says Watkins.

Watkins says he is “gratified” to see his idea take root and flourish through the Foundation.

“I am delighted with the trustees and officers who have served the Foundation and made it successful over the years,” he says. “As a result we have been able to help many hundreds of good students through the College.”

Bob Watkins may have been a “frustrated athlete” in his playing days at the College, as he puts it, but through the founding of the AEF, he scored one of the biggest touchdowns in Tribe history.
In the citation attached to this article, Duke Chandler states "Bob saw every member of the Board of Visitors personally in June 1939 to argue the case for the Law School." This would have been a monumental achievement if it were true, but visiting 10 members of the Board in four days simply is not true. What Chandler read was obviously written by someone else and should have stated that every member of the Board was contacted by a representative of our group.

W&M Celebrates Peninsula Day; Robert J. Watkins Given Honors

BY BARRY WILSON
WILLIAMSBURG — A host of Peninsula civic, educational and military leaders gathered in Williamsburg Saturday to participate in activities of the College of William and Mary's second annual Peninsula Day, highlighted by the William and Mary-West Virginia University football game, tours of the college campus, and the presentation of a special medallion to a Lower Peninsula alumnus of the college.

Robert J. Watkins, Poquoson attorney, was named as the first recipient of the Lower Peninsula Alumni Chapter Medallion, in ceremonies preceding a luncheon at the Blow Gymnasium, which was attended by approximately 125 Peninsula civic, educational and military leaders.

Watkins, who has served as York County Commonwealth's Attorney, substitute trial justice, and Poquoson town attorney and town manager, was a 1939 graduate of the William and Mary law school. William and Mary President Alvin Duke Chandler, reading the citation which accompanied the medallion award, lauded Watkins as "a gentleman in the finest tradition of the Old South, respected citizen of his community, and an alumnus whose devotion to the college has been "a life work."

Prior to the luncheon, which was given by the college and the Peninsula Day Committee, conducted tours of the college campus were held for Peninsula alumni and visitors. Student aides to President Chandler led guests through the college's library, Blow Gymnasium, Wren Building, and Ewell Hall.

At the football game Saturday afternoon, visitors were entertained in a halftime show which featured the playing and marching of six area bands, including the Air Force Band, Langley Air Force Base; 505th Army Band, Fort Monroe; 39th Infantry Band, Ft. Eustis; Newport News Braxton Perkins American Legion Post 85; and the Newport News High School Band, and Warwick High School Band.

The central committee for the 1958 observance was composed of Chairman B.E. Rhodes, executive vice-president of the Bank of Warwick; L.W. Kliever, immediate past president of the Lower Peninsula Alumni Chapter; and J.W. Hornsby Jr., president of the Lower Peninsula Alumni Chapter. Committee chairman from the Lower Peninsula who assisted in planning the event were Harry Kostel, special activities; L. Elden Jones, invitations; Ernest Colbourn, publicity, and Wesley Cofen.
Robert Jerald Watkins of Poquoson, a gentlemen in the finest tradition of the Old South, respected citizen of his community, and possessor of boundless faith.

Bob came to William and Mary in 1931 and remained to receive his legal education. He was admitted to the Virginia Bar in 1939. In June of that year the Board of Visitors of the College voted to abolish the Law School. Bob was one of a handful of law students who toured the Commonwealth, saw every member of the Board personally to argue the case for the Law School, and exhibited such a high degree of loyalty and dedication that the Board reversed its previous decision, thereby continuing the existence of the oldest Law School in the country.

He was given the unique honor of being elected Commonwealth Attorney of York County in 1945 while still in the service of his country. Since that time he has been substitute trial justice, and Town Manager and Town Attorney for Poquoson.

He is a loyal and active member, a past secretary, a past director and a past president of the Lower Penninsula Alumni Chapter. In 1945, at a time when the need for alumni support was particularly great, Bob called together the initial group which organized the William and Mary Educational Foundation and assumed the legal duties in connection with having that body incorporated. He became its first president and is perenially an active and enthusiastic member.
Throughout the years since 1939, many of the young people of Poquoson have attended the College as a result of Bob's active encouragement and because of the example he sets as a man.

Bob has never waited to be called upon by the College for service but has actively sought ways in which he could be of service. He has been an advisor to students in problems connected with their life at the College and has on occasion extended his professional services to them gratis.

Bob Watkins is a man of deep conviction and staunch faith and a believer in his fellow man. His devotion to William and Mary is neither sporadic nor a hobby but is, rather, a life work. No one who has known Bob for even a short time has escaped his standard admonition: "I haven't a friend in the world when it comes to William and Mary".

Bob, your Alumni friends cannot reward your service and loyalty but do wish to recognize them. I take pleasure in presenting to you, the first recipient of this award, the Lower Peninsula Alumni Chapter Medallion for 1958.
President Alvin Duke Chandler of W&M, (Left), Reads Citation Honoring Robert J. Watkins, Poquoson Attorney Who Received The Lower Peninsula Alumni Chapter Medallion During Peninsula Day Ceremonies Saturday. At Right Is J. W. Hornsby Jr., President Of The Chapter.
JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TINFE
FINT

ICCOLO
COLO

SCOMAT
MASCOT

SHAMON
HANSOM

What the law professor faced when the students protested

He never gives a fair grade

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

At a "CLASH" ACTION

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRAWL, AXIOM, NEPHEW, BEYOND
Answer: When he took too many long lunches, he became "EXPANDABLE"
The foregoing in this narrative is my recitation of the sequence of events that could have created a disaster for the College of William and Mary. Much akin to the old musical refrain “The Song is Ended but the Melody Lingers on” we are confronted with the ever haunting “Why?” Before we engage in any thought about the “why” of this ill conceived action, it is necessary to determine the identity of “who” was responsible for the proposed action to have occurred.

We find the record to be quite clear that President John Stewart Bryan was determined that W&M should cease awarding a degree in law notwithstanding the fact that the Law School was then and remains today the nation’s oldest. Some might argue that his proposal did not eliminate the teaching of certain law classes by a merger with the School of Government, but with no degree in law to be awarded, obviously there would be no School of Law on campus.

Let me begin my analysis with a review of the minutes of the Board of Visitors for its meeting of February 8, 1938 (page 20). Therein is submitted the report of the President to the Board which proves to be the move to disestablish the Law School. Now bear in mind this report is that of President Bryan and is not someone’s opinion of what he said or intended.

He states he had inherited the Law School and that when he was a member of the Board of Visitors he had suggested to then President Dr. J.A.C. Chandler “that it was unwise to spend money in this field.” Bryan was inaugurated President of William and Mary October 20, 1934. This suggestion was prior to 1934 and hence this opinion on the Law School was not conceived while he was President. Other adverse opinions on the Law School could have been formulated prior to his Presidency and developed and/or intensified during the period of 1934-38.

In his report of February 1938, he refers to the Law School as “the so called School of Jurisprudence.” He further states the Law School is “no credit to William and Mary” and “it cannot be a credit to us without the expenditure of money which we do not now have and which I can see no likelihood of getting.” However, he acknowledges that a very large percentage of our law students pass the bar examination.

John Stewart Bryan was the publisher of The Richmond News-Leader, an active prominent and leading member of a very wealthy family.
which consistently provided substantial financial support to Richmond’s cultural and historical institutions. The Editor of his newspaper was Douglas S. Freeman, the Pulitzer Prize winner for his biographies of Robert E. Lee and George Washington. Considering this background, no where do we find any warning that our Law School was in danger of having to be closed because of financial needs. Even with the acknowledgement of the Law School’s historic prominence and its success in producing a high percentage of candidates passing the bar exam, all his actions and comments point to the Law School “crossing the bar.”

One of the most puzzling records in the Board of Visitors Minutes is dated September 23, 1938. On this date, the day before the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board, the Special Committee studying the Law School met with John Stewart Bryan in his, Bryan’s office at 8:00! The Minutes do not reflect a.m. or p.m.! Why in Bryan’s office, why not at the regular meeting the next day? Present were Bryan, Channing Hall, Sydney Hall, and by special invitation of Bryan, Dean of the Law School, Theodore S. Cox.

Sydney Hall really was not a member of the Study Group, J. Gordon Bohannan was absent and Channing Hall, Committee Chairman, was the only member present. This was not a committee meeting. Remember Bryan made his request for a study of the Law School in February 1938. September 1938 finds us in a new academic year, and from the records, apparently nothing by the Special Committee had been accomplished. I firmly believe he called the meeting because of his frustration over the Committee’s inaction.

Sidney Hall was State Superintendent of Public Instruction and served as an ex-officio member on the Board. Note in The Times-Dispatch article of June 3, 1939, which reported the Board’s reversal, the statement is made Dr. Sidney Hall, as an ex-officio member, votes only in event of a tie. The Minutes for the Meeting of June 2, 1939 (page 45) records Dr. Hall as voting, and voting Aye!

Some of the thoughts in the Committee’s Report sound much akin to the thinking of Bryan’s Report of February 8, 1938 (page 20). When the vote to close became public and John Stewart Bryan was approached for help, he did not acknowledge that this action was the outgrowth of his own request. Indeed he publicly defended what was done.
Dean Cox told us his hands were tied. God knows this is certainly true. He was in no position to protect himself for his future at W&M by biting the hand that fed him. But he could not have been surprised by the vote of May 27, 1939. He had been privy to what was being planned for a considerable length of time. I do not question his judgment in the course he pursued but these actions, conducted in obvious secrecy, shows the College Administration did not give a damn about the law students and/or those planning to attend the Law School. It may be argued that the records were available and we could have read the Minutes then. I am not so sure this is true. First, we had no reason to suspect the Law School to be in trouble. Second, availability of and access to public documents were a far cry from the Law, Rules and Regulations on this subject today. Had we requested those documents then we would have probably received, as Richard Nixon told Congress “all that was necessary on the subject.”

Now is the time to review the biography of John Stewart Bryan in the dictionary of Virginia biographies, an ongoing project of the Virginia State Library. The author, Brent Tartor, commends him on many different facets of his life and at the same time is somewhat critical of his administrative performance as President. He notes the Law School episode and credits it with surviving by growth and gain in stature “beginning shortly after Bryan’s death.”

Why was John Stewart Bryan opposed to the Law School? His opposition was manifested while serving as a member of the Board of Visitors. We know him as a dedicated promoter of Liberal Arts and my understanding of Liberal Arts does not encompass a Law School. Certainly it was not a part of John Stewart Bryan’s perception of Liberal Arts.

One year after his inauguration as President, 1934, in the fall of 1935, there appears on the scene a young architectural graduate of Yale University, named Leslie Cheek, Jr. James Cogar, Curator of Colonial Williamsburg and an instructor in an 18th Century Social History course at the College, recommended Bryan employ Cheek to teach his class one semester while he, Cogar, went to England for Colonial Williamsburg. The work of this man, Cheek, and the relationship he enjoyed with John Stewart Bryan is well defined in a book published by William and Mary College and written by Parke Rouse, Jr., Living by Design, Leslie Cheek and the Arts. On page 63, Rouse states “The worldly Bryan, publisher of The Richmond News-
Leader and an overseer of Harvard, had been inaugurated President only a year before. The tall, aristocratic Richmonder had immediately set out to strengthen the state supported College’s Liberal Art offerings, to improve the quality and pay of the Faculty, and to lift the School’s morale which was affected by the hard times. . . . Bryan was instantly drawn to the confident, determined Leslie Cheek. They shared similar backgrounds of wealth, travel and interest in the arts. Bryan hired the Tennessean to take over for Cogar. . . . The success of Cheek’s courses suggested to him (Cheek) that the College should include them in a full-fledged Department of Fine Arts. . . . [His] proposals met with President Bryan’s enthusiasm. . . . he offered Cheek space for the new department in the Taliaferro Building, an unused dormitory. He also authorized Cheek to enlist teachers of painting and sculpture and directed Bursar Charles E. Duke to provide the money to carry out Cheek’s designs for the Taliaferro Building’s conversion into class rooms.”

Taliaferro Hall was dedicated February 1937 by John Stewart Bryan as the Fine Arts Building.

Leslie Cheek, Jr. turned the College around during his tenure as Director of Fine Arts, and as an old friend would say, from the “first beginning.” The campus suddenly became alive with social activities that students had never witnessed before. Althea Hunt had been directing six student plays each academic year. Cheek took over the design of some of her productions, and Leslie, never a bashful individual, spread the word through his writings and communications with proper sources nationally.

Parke Rouse tells us in his biography of Cheek “one of Leslie Cheek’s most challenging assignments at the College was to produce President Bryan’s annual Christmas Party and June Ball, both made possible largely through Bryan’s generosity. In those depression years, Williamsburg and the College remained poor and austere. To add pleasure to their lives, Cheek recalls, Mr. Bryan felt students should go home in December and June with happy memories. Those who attended never forgot the beauty and originality of these extravaganzas.” And the list of Cheek’s accomplishments at William and Mary continues with Bryan becoming more and more pleased with his work and with him personally.

Now enters Mary Tyler Freeman, the daughter of Douglas S. Freeman. A recent graduate of Vassar she would occasionally accompany
her father for one of his lectures he periodically gave at the college. Having heard of Leslie Cheek from her father’s friend, John Stewart Bryan, she was interested in meeting him and did in 1937. Leslie persuaded her to become Secretary and Librarian at the Fine Arts Department.

They became engaged in October 1938, and other than with family, remained quiet on the engagement until February 1939. It was at this time Leslie had accepted a position as Director of the Baltimore Museum to be effective at the conclusion of William and Mary’s second semester in June 1939. John Stewart Bryan, on February 14, 1939, apprised the Board of Cheek’s resignation with the following comments.

Changes in the Faculty this year . . . . to take effect as of June, 1939, the resignation of Mr. Leslie Cheek, Jr. I have had occasion many times to call to your attention the extraordinary work which he has done in the Fine Arts Department; this work has attracted national attention, and for the last three years Mr. Cheek has been diligently sought by other colleges and various undertakings; finally he has been induced to accept the position of Director of the Baltimore Museum of Fine Arts, and the general work of three museums and the organization of the art work in educational institutions.

I take this occasion to express to you my sense of the obligation which the College of William and Mary owes Mr. Cheek for the excellent work, intelligence, imagination, and force which he has brought to bear upon other problems here at William and Mary.

Mr. Edwin C. Rust, now connected with the Department of Fine Arts, has been selected to succeed Mr. Cheek.

Finally, John Stewart Bryan reported to the Board of Visitors on May 27, 1939:

FACULTY – There have been very few changes in the Faculty this year, of which the most important will be the loss of Mr. Leslie Cheek, Jr., who leaves us to accept the position of Director of the Baltimore Museum of Arts. It is most gratifying to know that one of our professors has attracted national
attention, and I believe that Mr. Cheek’s transfer to Baltimore will prove not only highly gratifying to that City, but will continue to reflect interest and reputation on the Department of Fine Arts at the College of William and Mary.

John Stewart Bryan received his charter to close the Law School on May 27, 1939. On June 2, 1939, he was over-ruled by the same Board of Visitors by reversing their vote. Where was Bryan when this action was taken? He was not present at the meeting. I suspect you would find him preparing for the rehearsal and other activities of a great social event in the city of Richmond on June 3, 1939, the story of which appeared in The Richmond News-Leader on June 3, 1939 and is reprinted herewith.
Miss Freeman, Mr. Cheek Marry Today in St. Stephen's
The Bride and Groom Will Leave for Trip To Honolulu After 'Westbourne' Reception

Miss Mary Tyler Freeman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Southall Freeman, becomes the bride of Mr. Leslie Cheek, Jr., son of Mrs. Leslie Cheek of Nashville, and the late Mr. Cheek, at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Cathedral candles, cymbotium fern and white flowers are the decorations in St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Westhampton, where the ceremony is being performed by the Rt. Rev. James E. Freeman, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Washington of the National Cathedral, assisted by the Rev. Giles B. Palmer, D.D., rector of St. Stephen's.

The bride, who is entering with her father by whom she is given in marriage, is wearing a wedding dress of ivory satin fashioned on simple lines of the nineteenth century. The gown is trimmed with lace owned by Mrs. Cheek, which is former property of Empress Zita, the last Crown Princess of Austria. The lace outlines the square neckline of the dress, forms bouches on the skirt and a panel down the long train. One thickness of illusion forms the bride's veil and she is carrying a round old-fashioned bouquet of gardenias and lilies of the valley.

Miss Anne Ballard Freeman, the maid of honor for her sister, is wearing a gown of light cream, organdy over satin and a leghorn hat. Her flowers are a bouquet of pale yellow roses.

The other attendants, whose dresses are like Miss Freeman's, are carrying round bouquets of blue delphinium matching the sashes on their gowns and the bands on their large leghorn hats, are the bride-groom's sister, Miss Lydia Cheek, of Nashville; Mrs. Stewart Bryan, Jr.; Miss Elizabeth Cecil Cary, Miss Em Bowles Locker and Miss Courtenay Sands of this city, and Mrs. David Jameson Bond, of Montclair.

Mr. Edwin Frost, of Nashville, is the best man for Mr. Cheek and the groomsmen are Mr. Stewart Bryan, Jr., Mr. David Keeble, of Nashville; Mr. John Bethel, of South Essex, Mass.; Mr. William Turnbull, of New York; and Far Hills, N. J.; Mr. James Cogar, of Williamsburg and Lexington, Ky., and Mr. Edwin Cooper Russ, of Williamsburg, and Berkeley, Calif. The ushers are Mr. Tennant Bryan, Mr. Egbert C. Leigh, III, Mr. Merritt K. Rudduck, of this city, and Mr. George Cole Scott, Jr., of Peapack, N. J.

A reception follows the marriage at "Westbourne," the Freeman home in Hampton Gardens.

Mr. Cheeks and his bride will spend their wedding trip in Honolulu and on their return will live in Baltimore, where Mr. Cheek will assume the directorship of the Baltimore Museum of Fine Arts. He is at present head of the Fine Arts Department at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg.