Section 2

The Law School Faculty
1939-1940

This section begins with a history of the W&M Law School which was written by Dean Theodore S. Cox and published in the October 1940 issue of the *Alumni Gazette* (page 71).
The copy from the *The Colonial Echo* of 1936 is included here because it pictures Virginia Mister. She was not a participant of our student movement. She had graduated with her BCL in 1937. However she very definitely belongs in this section on the history of the William and Mary Law School as written by Dean Theodore S. Cox.

She is the first woman graduate of W&M Law School.

Virginia Mister Walker '35, B.C.L. '37 of Capeville, Va., died Feb. 10, 2003. She had a career with the United Nations that spanned almost 30 years with most of them spent in research as head of the legal, political and security council affairs library. During her years in New York, she was a member of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church. Earlier positions included working with the law firm of Jas. G. Martin & Son in Norfolk, Va., as secretary, and then being admitted to practice before the courts of record in the city of Norfolk, Norfolk County, the United States District Court in Norfolk and the Supreme Court of Virginia in Richmond, Va. She was also admitted to practice before the Circuit Court of Princess Anne County and the Circuit Court of Northampton and Accomack Counties, being the first woman to be so admitted. During her years in Norfolk, she was a member of Pilot Club International where she served as president. She was an active volunteer during World War II and received a United States Treasury award for patriotic service. In retirement, she was a member of Capeville United Methodist Church, the Eastern Shore of Virginia Historical Society, the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and the Eastern Shore of Virginia Barrier Islands Center. In 1937, she was admitted to the Virginia State Bar and was a member for more than 60 years. She was the first woman to be graduated from the College's Marshall-Wythe School of Law. Her undergraduate years included belonging to the Music Club, the German Club, the French Club, the Wythe Law Club and the Knights of Botetourt. Named to Who's Who in American Colleges & Universities, she sang in the Glee Club, played women's basketball, was secretary-treasurer of her freshman, sophomore and senior classes and was president of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Several years ago, at the Olde Guarde Homecoming luncheon I saw Virginia Mister and in the course of conversation commented “Virginia, we have one thing in common – we both married Walkers,” to which Virginia quickly retorted “Yes Honey, but you kept yours – I got rid of mine.” Her age had not dimmed that quick wit one little bit.
The Colonial Echo

Wythe Law Club

Officers
Merrill Brown .................. President
Robert Armistead ............. Vice-President
Pat Lyons ....................... Secretary-Treasurer
Mark Woodward ............... Sergeant-at-Arms

Members
Cecil Harper
Dr. T. S. Cox
Dr. D. W. Woodbridge
Dr. P. P. Peebles
W. E. Hoffman
J. L. Lewis
Virginia Mister
Dr. Theodore Cox, Law Dean, 53, Dies

Officials at William and Mary
Since 1932 Was an Officer
in Both World Wars

Special to The New York Times
WILLIAMSBURG, Va., May 10—Dr. Theodore Sullivan Cox, dean of the School of Jurisprudence at the College of William and Mary, died today at the McGuire Veterans Hospital in Richmond. He was 53 years old.

Born in Washington, D.C., he was the son of the late William Van Zandt Cox and Juliet Hazelton Cox. After his graduation from the University of Michigan in 1917, Dr. Cox entered the Army. He received a degree from the University of Virginia Law School in 1922, then joined the faculty of the University.

In 1922 he went to Stanford University for two years of research, and he later studied at Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Cox was a delegate to the International Congress of Comparative Law at The Hague in 1925 and 1937.

He leaves a widow and several nieces and nephews.

During his first two years at William and Mary, Dr. Cox was Professor of Jurisprudence. He had been dean of the Law School since 1932, and was director of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the college.

In the first World War Dr. Cox served successively as a first lieutenant, field artillery, and as a captain in the 126th Field Artillery, A.E.F. He was commissioned, major in the recent war, and in May, 1919, was graduated as provost marshal general from the School of Military Government of the University of Virginia, later serving overseas.

Since 1940 Dr. Cox had been president of the Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce. He was a member of the Society of Colonial Wars, the Sons of the Revolution, the Order of the Old Colonials, Phi Epsilon Kappa Society, Phi Alpha Delta, Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa, Phi, Independent Democrat, Episcopal Church, Army and Navy, Corinthian Yacht Club, Farmington Country Club, Colonades (University, Va.), and the Independent Democrat, Episcopal Church, Farmington Country Club, Colonades (University, Va.), and the

BIOGRAPHY INDEX
August 1949—August 1952

COX, Theodore Sullivan, 1894-1947, lawyer
Biography. por NCAB 3E:2774 '50

COX, Theodore Sullivan, 1894-1947, lawyer
Biography. por NCAB 3E:2774 '50

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Dudley Warner Woodbridge, affectionately known as “Woodie,” but never in his presence, received the citation from Life Magazine in its issue of October 23, 1950.

As students we knew him to be a compassionate, humble and dedicated instructor at the William and Mary Law School, whose brilliance and leadership enabled Marshall-Wythe to achieve the national recognition it enjoys today. History has and will continue to document the achievements of this singularly outstanding gentleman in both his professional and personal life. For me to attempt any further characterizations would be presumptuous, and I shall refrain from so doing. However you might be interested in some tidbits relating to his personal life which would not necessarily be known outside the circle of his students and friends.

Woodie was a man whose daily life always reflected a seriousness of purpose. But he continued to retain a wonderful sense of humor and one of his favorite quotes which he often told and ended with a hearty chuckle was:

Under the English Common Law, husband and wife were considered as one and the husband was the one; today, with Women’s Rights, husband and wife are considered as two and the wife is both of them.

A lovable story we know about Woodie arises from a relationship he established during his college years. Every time we have heard it told it has never failed to evoke a reaction and comments of admiration. We are not familiar with the circumstances of Woodie’s financial status as a college student but as the story goes he was befriended by a custodian of his dormitory and that her efforts in assisting financially enabled him to complete his college work. So deep was his gratitude they were married and moved to Williamsburg where he then embarked upon his illustrious career at the Law School. We know salaries at William and Mary then were far from top level and apparently their resources needed a boost – Mrs. Woodbridge advertised she was available to do family laundry at their residence. Now Dr. J.A.C. Chandler was the President of W&M and he did not exactly wish his faculty to engage in domestic activity. “Someone” needed to tell him but Woodie had already won the affection of his associates and that “someone” could not be found. Dr. Chandler became a committee of one to talk to Woodie. Thus ended that extra-curricular effort. Obviously Woodie would never do anything that would offend anyone.
However, we do not know whether this little episode resulted in a pay increase for Woodie or not.

At some time unknown to us Woodie stated in a public speech that there were three high-lights in his career. We do not know in what order he placed them but they were:

1. The Law School's student protest that saved the Law School from being closed.

2. His selection by *Life Magazine* as one of the seven most outstanding instructors in the U.S.

3. His appointment as Dean of the Law School.

We have a friend, not a candidate for a law degree, taking Woodie's class in Contracts. He came to class one day without having prepared the day's assignment – Woodie simply could not understand why an individual with the opportunity to be in College could come to class unprepared. Our friend said he never pulled that stunt again – that he wanted to cry because he had upset Woodie so badly. This was typical of Woodie's emphasis upon attendance and preparation. Never did he demean or berate the student but the student knew that Woodie had been offended.
GREAT TEACHERS

U.S. college students select 1950's outstanding professors

In any roster of America's greatest teachers of the century, the names of giants like William Lyon Phelps of Yale and George Lyman Kittredge of Harvard come at the top of the list or very close to it. To find out who in 1950 come near to being their equals, LIFE asked the student governing bodies of 52 leading U.S. colleges to nominate the outstanding teachers on their faculties.

In the candid, critical judgment of the students, the professors who earned greatest respect were those who, whatever their field and however great their ability, give of their hearts as well as their minds. At some schools students said they could not name a man to be measured against the Phelps and Kittredge mold. The students chose not the teachers who are "easy marks" but those who work hard and conscientiously and expect the same of their students. On these pages are some of the professors whom students consider 1950's great teachers.

DUDLEY WOODBRIDGE

A normal work day for William and Mary's Woodbridge is 15 or 16 hours. Yet in all his 23 years at the college law school, the dean of the department of jurisprudence has always been on call to help even the sorriest student through a tough problem. In what other people call his spare time, Woodbridge, 54, works constantly on his monumental bar review notes, tries his hand at humorous verse, plays tennis or goes skating with students. In coldest weather he never wears a coat or hat. One student contends that he doesn't need them; almost reverentially, he insists Professor Woodbridge is cloaked with a special warmth that springs from his humility and greatness.
J.L. Lewis Jr. dies; former W&M dean

Times-Dispatch State Staff

WILLIAMSBURG — John Latane Lewis Jr., 76, retired Williamsburg businessman and former assistant professor of law and assistant dean at the College of William and Mary, died Tuesday night in Richmond following an extended illness.

A native of Bethesda, Md., Mr. Lewis received his A.B. and law degrees from William and Mary and his masters of law from Georgetown University.

In the 1930s, Mr. Lewis worked at the college in the law school and as assistant dean of men. In the 1940s, he was director of personnel for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. He also served for a time as substitute trial judge in Williamsburg.

Mr. Lewis also served as vice president of Cogar, Lewis and Geiger Inc., president of Williamsburg Packing Co., Inc., and vice president of Williamsburg Savings and Loan Association, which later merged with Virginia Federal Savings and Loan Association.

He served as president of Tidewater Services Inc., as a director of Farmers and Merchants State Bank in Fredericksburg and as director of the Williamsburg Branch of Virginia Federal Savings and Loan.

Mr. Lewis was active in a variety of community organizations, serving on the city planning commission; chairman, Williamsburg School Board; president, Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce; chairman, Williamsburg-James City Chapter American Red Cross; chairman, Peninsula Council Boy Scouts; president, Peninsular Council Boy Scouts; president, Williamsburg Rotary Club; president, Williamsburg German Club; and he served on the vestry of Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg.

He was a member of the Virginia Bar Association, Kappa Alpha Fraternity and Omicron Delta Kappa Fraternity.

He is survived by his wife, Anne Harrison Shepherd Lewis; and three sons, John Latane Lewis III of Powhatan, Shepherd Fitz-Hugh Lewis of Tappahannock; and 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. A service will be held at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Powhatan on Wednesday, July 23 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to St. Luke’s Episcopal Church.

LEWIS

Anne Harrison Shepherd Lewis, widow of John Latane Lewis Jr., died July 21, 1997. Born in Fredericksburg in 1908, Mrs. Lewis lived all her married life in Williamsburg. She is survived by three sons, John Latane Lewis III and Thomas Randolph Lewis, both of Powhatan and Shepherd Fitz-Hugh Lewis of Tappahannock; and by 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. A service will be held at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Powhatan on Wednesday, July 23 at 2 p.m. In lieu of flowers contributions may be made to St. Luke’s Episcopal Church.