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Special School Endowments: Marshall-Wythe School of Government and Citizenship

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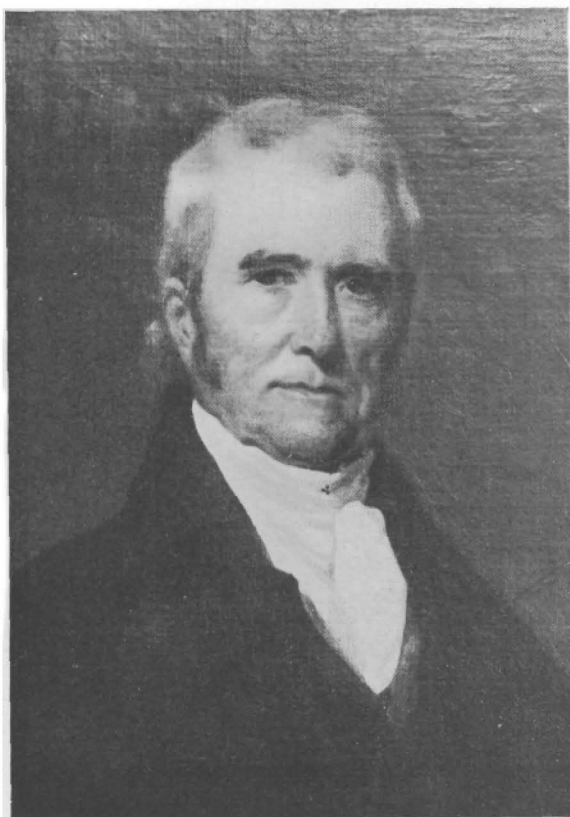
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Special School Endowments

Marshall-Wythe School of Government and Citizenship

"Next after that truth on which the eternal welfare of man depends, what study can be so important to the youth of this republic as that of our own institutions? What work of man deserves so much to engage your attention as those charters in which your rights and your duties are alike defined? What philosophy so worthy of your profoundest thoughts as the philosophy of government? . . . The function of a sovereign citizen is an affair not of right alone but of duty also; and he who presumes to act in that exalted character, far from being subject to no law but his own will, no reason but his own caprice, is exercising a high duty to which he is called by God himself, whose unworthy instrument he is, in his great work—the moral government of man."—*Judge Beverly Tucker, to his Law Class at William and Mary in 1845.*



CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN MARSHALL

TO inculcate safe and sane views of the form of American government is now conceded to be one of the most important functions of our education. The intelligent exercise of American citizenship, as a patriotic duty, must be regarded as a subject of major importance in our colleges.

William and Mary proposes to meet this need through the endowment of the Marshall-Wythe School of Government and Citizenship. She is qualified to lead in such teaching; her historical atmosphere and antecedents are, for instruction of this type, like a laboratory to the physical sciences. Established in 1779, and continuing to the Civil War, William and Mary's Law School was the oldest in this country. Its sole predecessor in the Anglo-Saxon world was the Vinerian Chair at Oxford, where Sir William Blackstone lectured. Chief Justice Marshall, the expounder of the Constitution, was a student of the Law School, studying under George Wythe, Signer of the Declaration of Independence and father of legal instruction in America.

The Marshall-Wythe School of Government and Citizenship will offer courses introductory to the study of law, and will prepare students for public life in legislative, educational or diplomatic lines. The present plan includes the establishment of two chairs:

1. *John Marshall Chair of Constitutional History and Law.*—Designed as a memorial to the great Chief Justice; course to be required for a literary degree. It would show the evolution of government, treating at length the formation of our Constitution and its subsequent history.

2. *George Wythe Chair of Governmental and International Law.*—This would be a memorial to the first professor of the first chair of law in any American college, the preceptor of Jefferson and Marshall. Its course of study would supplement the first course by treating specially of our international relations and obligations, and by comparing our government with other forms. The two courses, in conjunction with Latin, English, Philosophy, Psychology, Economics, History and French would be considered a special preparation for the study of law, and a special degree would be given on its completion.

It is impossible to overemphasize the value of such a School. The tendency everywhere to overlook the fundamentals of government is largely responsible for present-day difficulties. The proposed Marshall-Wythe School of Government and Citizenship offers to all who are interested in the maintenance of American institutions of government a channel for productive investment. It is the serious, constructive effort of the college which produced such men as Marshall, Jefferson, and Monroe, to equip its students to face the problems of today.

A survey shows that a large number of students now at William and Mary expect to teach in the public schools. They will help to mould the next generation. Under this system of training, each can be made a center of true Americanism in the community where he teaches.

Through recent State legislation, the College of William and Mary now admits women to its courses of instruction. Adoption of the suffrage amendment to the Federal Constitution makes it imperative that these new voters be given opportunity to prepare themselves for intelligent use of the ballot—a prime motive of the contemplated school.

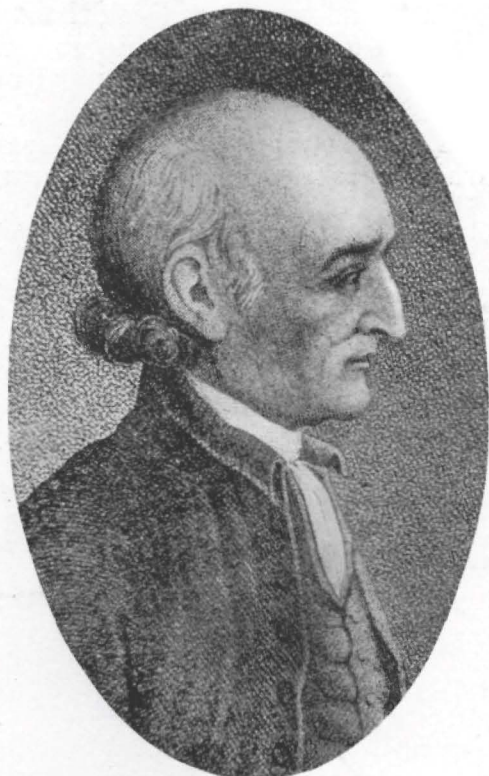
Back of all George Wythe's teachings loomed the great principle of the rights of man. His students' works were the fruits of that teaching.

"I became acquainted with Mr. Wythe," said Thomas Jefferson, "when he was about thirty-five years of age. He directed my studies in the law, led me into business, and continued until his death, my most affectionate friend. No man ever left behind him a character more venerated than George Wythe. Of warm patriotism and devoted as he was to liberty and the natural and equal rights of man, he might truly be called the Cato of his country, without the avarice of the Roman, for a more disinterested person never lived."

It is estimated that a building for the Marshall-Wythe School of Government and Citizenship could be erected for \$200,000. The gift of \$300,000 would provide against endowment.

Amount Needed for Building
\$200,000

Amount Needed for Endowment
\$300,000



GEORGE WYTHE