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W&M and State Honor Dr. D.W. Woodbridge

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Daily Press Photos by Willard Owens

Notables From All Over State Honor Retiring Law School Dean

W&M And State Honor Dr. D. W. Woodbridge

By WILL MOLINEUX

WILLIAMSBURG—Dr. Dudley W. Woodbridge, who has taught for 35 years at William and Mary, was honored Saturday by state and college officials as one of America's great law teachers.

Woodbridge, who retired three weeks ago as dean of William and Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law, was visibly touched by the surprise tributes made at the college's Burgess Day. The 66-year-old chancellor professor of law, who will continue to teach, officially was designated as dean emeritus of the oldest law school in the United States.

The college honored the law professor on a day annually set aside to recognize Virginia's modern-day burgesses, the members of the General Assembly, and state government leaders. Burgess Day, primarily a social occasion, always is held on a Saturday in the fall when William and Mary plays a home football game.

Woodbridge, in thanking the college, pledged that although his "academic duties have been lessened," "my interest in William and Mary will not cease until I am buried."

He expressed his gratitude to members of the college administration, his fellow faculty members and "especially the generations of fine young men and women I have had the opportunity to teach."

Lt. Gov. Mills E. Godwin, State Atty. Gen. Robert Y. Patton, some 80 members of the General Assembly, four State Supreme Court justices and leaders of the local profession in Virginia were on hand for the noon ceremony on the portico of the college's historic Wren Building.

Judge C. Sterling Hutcheson, rector of William and Mary's board of visitors, said Woodbridge's "good and faithful service" has been "characterized so notably by those attributes of mind and spirit that distinguish him as a great teacher."

The William and Mary Law School Association presented the college a portrait of Woodbridge, who is considered by the school's alumni as "the best of good men."

David O. Williams Jr. of Arlington, president of the association, praised Woodbridge's "qualities of personality and character which serve as a guide for our professional and personal lives."

The portrait, painted by Thomas L. Groom, a senior law student from Ottumwa, Iowa, will hang in the halls of the law school named for George Wythe, 18th century scholar-jurist who first taught law at William and Mary, and U.S. Chief Justice John Marshall, who attended Wythe's lectures.

Hutcheson, a retired federal judge from Boynton, recalled William and Mary's contribution to American law — both in colonial times and at present.

"It is particularly significant," he said, "that William and Mary's pioneer chair in law (established in 1779) contributed substantially to the development of legal education in Virginia — in that graduates of this early law school encouraged the beginning of legal studies at the University of Virginia and at Washington and Lee."

And he went on to state:

"In its 20th century era the Marshall-Wythe School of Law continues to inspire great teachers, to produce effective and worthy practitioners of the noble profession, and to earn for the college additional significant priorities in the field of legal education." William and Mary has the only law school in the country which now gives a master's degree of law and taxation.

Judge Hutcheson listed a number of "renowned scholars" associated in recent years with the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, including Dr. Frederick D. G. Ribble, a William and Mary graduate who now is dean of the University of Virginia Law School.

Dean Ribble and the deans of the other two law schools in Virginia — William T. Muse of the University of Richmond and Dean Charles P. Light Jr. of Washington and Lee — were present Saturday. So were State Chief Justice John W. Eggleston of Norfolk and Justices C. Vernon Spratley of Hampton, Harold F. Sneed of Richmond and Lawrence W. Tanson of Portsmouth.

Williams, in presenting the law association's portrait to the college, said Woodbridge, an authority on property, contracts, torts and negotiable instruments, uses in his classes "techniques which encourage student participation and original thinking and which develop in the student a deep insight into the nature of the judicial processes."

But, Williams continued, Woodbridge "is not only revered as an eminent teacher, he is loved as a gentle, kind and good man."

Woodbridge, a native of Bellaire, Ohio, attended the University of Washington and received his bachelor's and Doctor of Jurisprudence degrees from the University of Illinois. His education was interrupted by service during World War I in the Army Medical Corps. After completing his studies at Illinois he came to William and Mary in 1927.

He has served as a visiting professor at the University of Virginia, University of Illinois and the University of Florida. A number of years ago Life magazine selected Woodbridge as one of America's eight "great teachers."

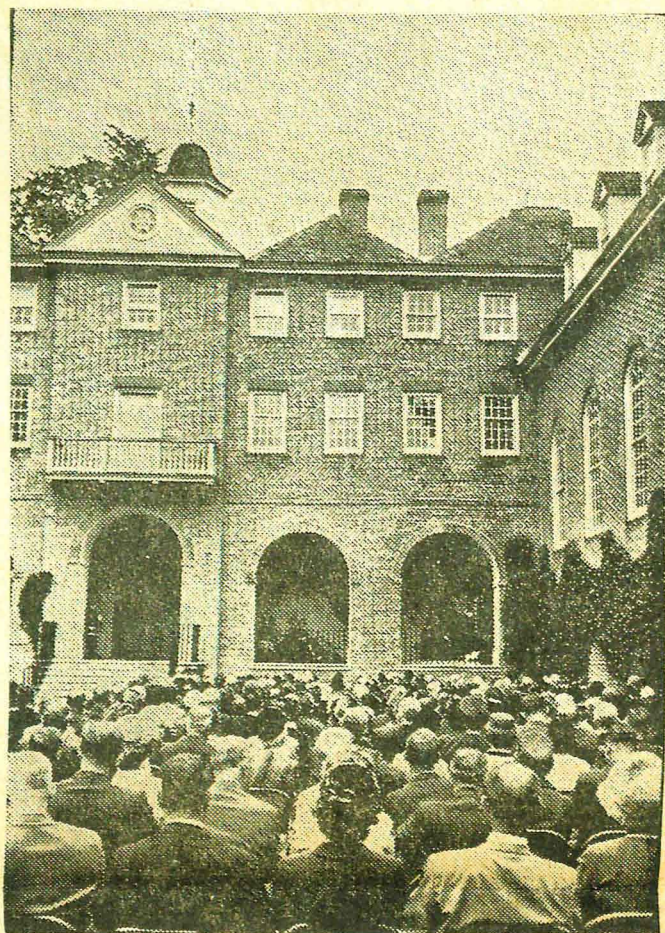
He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, the national scholarship fraternity, Order of the Coif, Omicron Delta Kappa, Phi Alpha Delta and Tau Kappa Alpha. He is also a member of the American Society of International Law, American Judicature Society, American Law Institute and the



Lieut. Gov. Mills E. Godwin (left) and James S. Kelly (right), secretary of alumni.



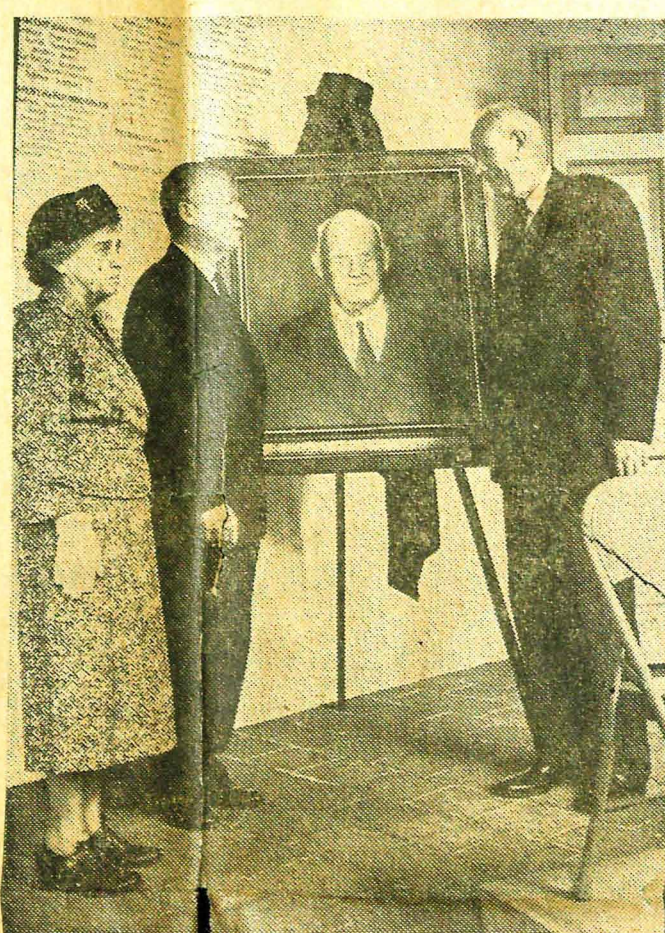
Dr. Woodbridge (left) is given framed copy of resolution by Judge Hutcheson.



Virginia's notables from all sections watch ceremony honoring 35-year teaching career of Dr. Woodbridge.



Dr. Paschall, W&M; Davis O. Williams of Arlington, president of law school assn., and Mrs. Williams.



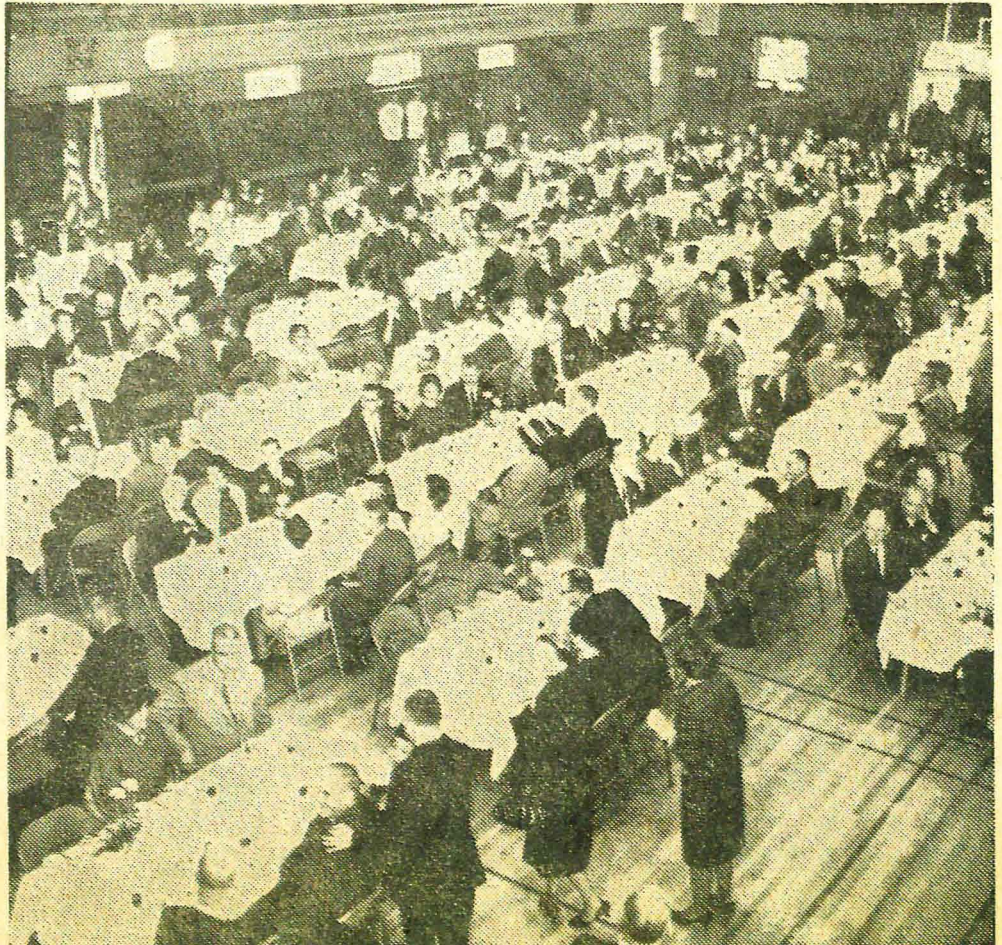
Mrs. Dudley W. Woodbridge, President Davis Y. Paschall of William and Mary, and new dean emeritus of law school.



Lineup of law school deans: Charles P. Light Jr., Washington and Lee; Mrs. Woodbridge; Dr. Woodbridge; Frederick D. G. Ribble, University of Virginia; William T. Muse, University of Richmond; Joseph P. Curtis, acting dean of Marshall-Wythe School of Law.



Part of the crowd on hand for the noon ceremony on the portico of the college's historic Wren Building. The modern-day burgesses and their wives gathered before attending the William and Mary-University of Virginia football game in Cary Field Stadium.



Luncheon was served to the college guests numbering approximately 400 in Blow Gym.



Dr. Edgar F. Shannon, president of the University of Virginia (right), and Dr. Paschall.