

1954

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Charles K. Marshall

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### Repository Citation

Marshall, Charles K., "Descendants of John Marshall Gather to Honor Great Jurist" (1954). *History of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law*. 21.

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## Descendants of John Marshall Gather to Honor Great Jurist

By Charles K. Marshall  
Virginian-Pilot Staff Writer

Williamsburg, Sept. 25—John Marshall surely must have been here in spirit today. It seemed as if most everybody else in the family showed up. Close to 100 direct descendants of the great jurist descended on this normally peaceful college town as guests of the

College of William and Mary to stage a mammoth family reunion and to help launch the Marshall Bicentennial Year, which will be observed on a nation-wide scale during the next 12 months. Their visit coincided with the Marshall-Wythe-Blackstone Celebration.

They came from as far north as New York and from as far south as Georgia, Kentucky and Tennessee. Their families and friends helped swell the total reunion guest list to near 200.

Beginning before the rites attending the unveiling of busts of Marshall, Wythe and Blackstone, and continuing through an evening reception at the College's

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## Marshall

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President's Home, the Marshalls worked hard at renewing and strengthening family ties. They realized a chance like this comes all too seldom in a lifetime.

### Take Spotlight

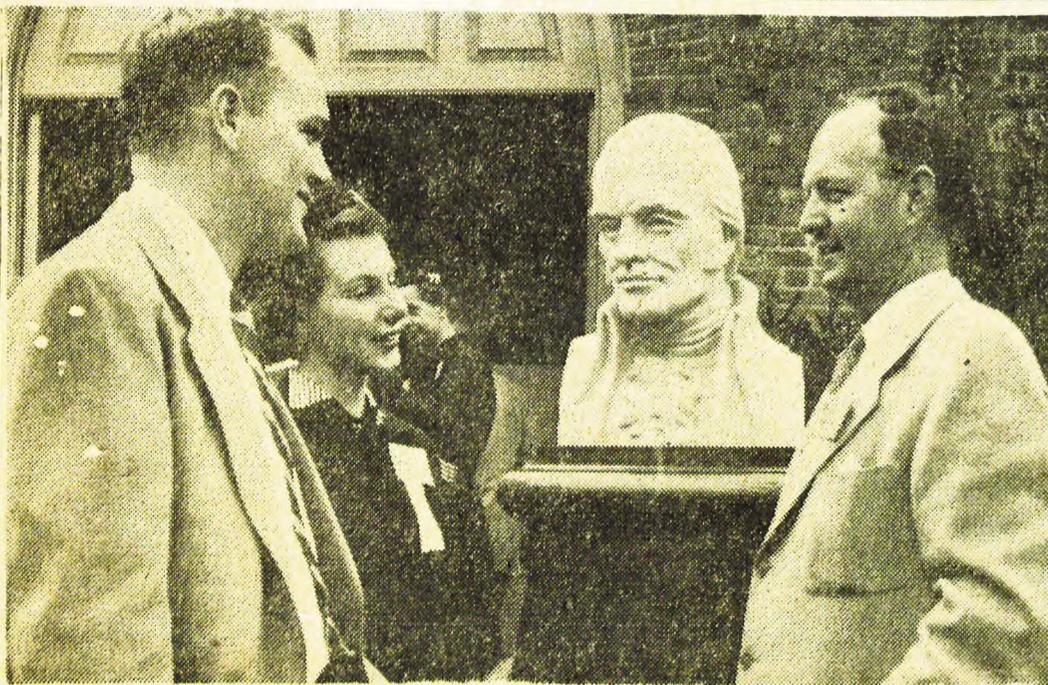
Rarely, if ever, has a solemn academic proceeding such as the morning ceremony been preceeded by so much hugging, kissing and handshaking. There were other times, too, during the day-long celebration when the Marshall clan took the play away from an imposing array of dignitaries assembled for the occasion.

Sometimes the business of greeting got confusing. One elderly Marshall, during a hugging session, wound up greeting his granddaughter, with whom he had just arrived.

Probably the most poised descendant through it all was Miss Julia W. Willis, of Bayside, N. Y., a senior in the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at William and Mary. A great-great-great-great granddaughter of the Chief Justice, she was one of the official welcomees during a formal afternoon family get-together in the Christopher Wren Building at the college.

She more than held her own with such seasoned speakers as William and Mary President Alvin Duke Chandler, Dean Dudley Woodbridge, of the Marshall-Wythe School, and Dean F. D. G. Ribble, of the University of Virginia Law School.

The formal meeting was presided over by Mayor Marshall J.



Three descendants of John Marshall, known as the Father of American Constitutional Law, discuss a bust of their ancestor unveiled at the College of William and Mary, in Williamsburg, yesterday. Left to right are Charles K. Marshall, of Norfolk, a member of the Virginian-Pilot news staff; Julia Willis, of Bayside, N. Y., who is at present a third-year law student at the college, and Alexandria's Mayor Marshall J. Beverley.

Beverly, of Alexandria, another descendant, who gained fame recently in a battle to return to Alexandria two fire engines of ancient vintage. Dean Ribble, a descendant himself, talked briefly on the life of the Father of American Constitutional Law.

### 3,000 Descendants

Although an unofficial source estimated there are some 3,000

direct descendants of John Marshall abroad in the land, Chandler told the group he was delighted with such a turnout.

All of the direct descendants took time out to sign a leather-bound guest book, which will be turned over to the William and Mary Library. And a majority of them visited the library, where 14 display cases were filled with

the Chief Justice's papers and belongings. Mostly though, they just visited and talked family talk.

The displays and speeches during the day proved quite an education of many a descendant, including this one, whose previous knowledge of John Marshall's contributions to American law had been limited pretty much to

an argument the Chief Justice once helped settle between two gentlemen named Marbury and Madison.

It remained for a confessed outsider, Dean Woodbridge, to contribute the inevitable peotic touch to the reunion—at the expense of Dean Ribble. Here is his offering:

Full many a Marshall of fair-  
est ray serene  
Has blossomed beauteously  
on the current scene,  
But because of ancestry on  
feminine sides  
(Some offspring, you know,  
have been blushing brides)  
The noble name of Marshall  
may no where appear  
And our great Chief Justice I  
do sadly fear  
Fails to receive the credit that  
is his due  
From many contributions to  
these offspring, too.  
A case in point: Frederick  
Deane Goodwin Ribble.  
To find the Marshall in him we  
must consult the family Bible.