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Dedication: Dudley Warner Woodbridge

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The most characteristic photograph of Professor Dudley W. Woodbridge, to whom this issue is respectfully and affectionately dedicated, shows him in the classroom. Retiring from teaching this spring after nearly four decades of service to the legal profession, Professor and Dean Emeritus Woodbridge has richly earned the distinction conferred upon him by a national magazine more than a decade ago, as one of the eight greatest college teachers in America.

DUDLEY WARNER WOODBRIDGE

JOSEPH CURTIS*

This issue of the Law Review is dedicated to Dudley Warner Woodbridge, Dean Emeritus and Chancellor Professor of Law of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law of the College of William and Mary.

At the end of this 1965-1966 session, he retires from his teaching position here, as he did from his administrative position as Dean of the School in August, 1962. While this appears to be his final severance of all ties with the School in an active capacity, there will never be another day in the future existence of this School that his influence will not permeate its every activity.

Dudley W. Woodbridge was born in Bellaire, Ohio, February 24, 1896. He was raised in the State of Washington, and in May of 1964 visited Seattle to attend the golden anniversary reunion of his Lincoln High School class of 1914. After attending the University of Washington, he received the Bachelor of Arts degree in 1922 and the Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1927 from the University of Illinois. He came to William and Mary in 1927 and at the close of this session he will conclude 39 years of continuous law teaching at this College, 21 of which were as Chancellor Professor, 20 as Dean, and 4 as Dean Emeritus. He has also served as a visiting professor at the University of Illinois, the University of Virginia, and the University of Florida.

In 1952 Dean Woodbridge was named by *International Life* as one of America's eight "Great Teachers". No dissenter would be found among the many hundreds who have passed through this School during his tenure of teaching. The reverence in which he is held by all who have had the good fortune to have been his students was perhaps best expressed by one of them on the occasion of Burgesses Day, September 22, 1962, when tribute was paid to Dean Woodbridge upon his retirement from the deanship. David O. Williams, Jr., then president of the William and Mary Law School Association, aptly voiced the esteem of the alumni for Dean Woodbridge in these words:

Possessed of a brilliant mind, Dr. Woodbridge is a recognized authority on property, contracts, torts and negotiable instruments. As

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an outstanding teacher, he utilizes techniques which encourage student participation and original thinking and which develop in the student a deep insight into the nature of the judicial process. But the Dean is not only revered as an eminent teacher, he is loved as a gentle, kind, and good man. Dr. Woodbridge has been an inspiration to everyone who has known him. As the years pass, we may not readily recall all the details and ramifications of the Rule in Wild's Case, or the Rule Against Perpetuities, but we will always remember his qualities of personality and character, which serve as a guide for our professional and personal lives. Truly, Dean Woodbridge's life is a continuing course in legal and personal ethics. He is the best of good men.

This great regard for the man as well as for the teacher extends well beyond the Law School family and reaches all who may happen to become exposed to his influence. On Charter Day at the College, February 8, 1963, Dean Woodbridge became the first recipient of the Thomas Jefferson annual award as the person in the College community who "best exemplifies the ideals of Thomas Jefferson." In recognition of this event an editorial appeared in the *Newport News Daily Press* on February 12, 1963, headed, "So Many Share His Rare Gift." The concluding paragraph of this editorial reads,

Dr. Dudley Warner Woodbridge stands as a man of the law, a knowledgeable man. But he also stands as a man who understands the young students who absorb his familiarity with the law and his love of it, who sit before him preparing for a license to practice the law, and finally those who go forth armed with his principles as recognized standards.

The users of Dean Woodbridge's "Virginia Bar Review Notes" probably number the same as those who take the Virginia Bar Examination in each year. It is perhaps the only publication that has been intensely studied by most, if not all, of the practicing lawyers in this State. The story is told of the fledgling lawyer who stood before the bar of a Virginia court arguing his first case. Asked for a reference for a legal point that he was making, he gave the "Virginia Bar Notes", and the judge nodded, accepting the authority for the point under discussion. It would not be at all surprising if true, as Dean Woodbridge's expertise in the law is a matter for judicial notice in Virginia.

In the earlier history of this Law School, a line of distinguished law teachers followed George Wythe, America's first law professor and teacher of Jefferson, Marshall and Clay. Judge St. George Tucker,

whose edition on Blackstone is an American classic, Judge William Nelson, Robert Nelson, Judge James Semple, Judge N. Beverley Tucker, Judge George P. Scarborough, Lucian Minor and Charles Morris are some of the more eminent persons who taught law here in the period 1779 through 1861, when the College closed at the commencement of the Civil War. In more recent times there have been Charles P. Sherman, Frederick K. Beutel and Judge Oscar L. Shewmake. Dudley Warner Woodbridge is the latest in the distinguished line of successors to the chair of George Wythe. I can write with confidence that he will be second to none who have preceded him in future remembrance of the great men who were revered as teachers at this school.

The articles that follow in this issue have been graciously contributed by their authors in tribute to this "best of good men."

HARROP A. FREEMAN**

I am pleased to have this privilege of honoring my old colleague, Dudley W. Woodbridge, for no lawyer whom I have known more nobly evidenced the qualities of a counselor than did Dudley. It was during the so-called "Flat Hat Controversy" of 1944, that I watched Dean Woodbridge in that capacity. The editor of the Flat Hat (she has become a well known woman in radio-television) had written an article entitled "Lincoln's Job Half Done", pleading for equality of the Negro. The College administration decreed she must be disciplined. Many of us felt this was to discourage free discussion and academic freedom. Dudley was one of the advisors for the paper, a respected faculty member, and the acting Dean of the Law School. In two tumultuous weeks the students of the College of William and Mary probably learned more about democracy, more about power, more about prejudice, and more about responsibility than they would ever learn in four years of normal study. And there was Dudley—tall, stooped, kindly, persistent—counseling all involved. He talked law—to the administration the basic democratic foundations of the First Amendment and the right of editorial comment; to the students—the legal status of the student publication and the authority of a college. He talked education—to the administration, the value of student questing, the need for aspiration and change; to the students—the relationship of faculty and pupil. He talked power—to the administration, the folly of a college

** This is an introduction to article by Mr. Freeman appearing on page 203.

without students and the ability of student boycott to wreck education; to the students—the ultimate power of the administration to bring them to their knees by parental and financial pressure. To all he talked politics and psychology—the method of finding the sound policy which would permit individual differences of approach and unity of ultimate goals.

I had come to the College of William and Mary from a dozen years of private practice with a large law firm. I was keenly aware of how much a lawyer's activity was in counseling—and not merely technical "legal" counseling. Somewhere in this union of law office and academic experience was firmly planted in me the idea that law teaching, if I continued in it, could never be simply to produce technicians, nor even merely to turn out "not pettifoggers but well educated leaders of the bar." It must set for itself the purpose of aiding lawyers to develop that jurisprudence, that socio-psychological knowledge, that innate wisdom which would permit them to act as sound and complete counselors in the total life problems of clients. To understand the great benefit to society that results from the fusion of the "lawyer" and the "counselor" in an individual, one need look only to Dudley W. Woodbridge.