

VII. *The Heritage of Traditions*

Every college builds its own traditions. It does not borrow them. The State Teachers College at Harrisonburg has established certain traditions that would be a most valuable heritage for a liberal arts college for women.

1. The Harrisonburg student has a hopeful, happy, joyous, optimistic outlook upon life, an attitude that is the reflection of the influence of the invigorating and inspiring climate and scenery of the Valley of Virginia.
2. There is at Harrisonburg a tradition of unbounded loyalty to the college which places squarely behind every interest of the institution the energy and devotion of its 10,000 alumnae.
3. There is at the college the tradition of fine achievement, and dedication of one's energies and talents, one's enthusiasm and vigor, to the service of the Commonwealth.
4. A profound and constant devotion to the cause of scholarship, learning and truth dominates the atmosphere of the college.
5. The students of the college prize the tradition in their social life of thorough democracy. They look beyond the external evidences of the wealth of an individual for other signs of worth—signs of character, of ability, of worthy purposes, of friendliness.

These ideals we claim should prevail in all State colleges and are necessary to the success of any college for the daughters of all the people.

SAMUEL P. DUKE.

DUTY OF PRINCIPAL TO PRESERVE
SANITY

"A school principal is one who is paid extra to refrain from working too hard, so that when everyone else about the place has gone fagged or wild, his cool head will serve as a nucleus of sanity," writes Dr. Daniel Wolford LaRue, professor of psychology in the Pennsylvania State Teachers College at East Stroudsburg, in the *Journal of the National Education Association*.

CULTURAL RESOURCES OF
HARRISONBURG

MIDWAY between Lexington, the "Athens of the South," and Winchester, one of the most historic cities in America; near Charlottesville, the home of Jefferson, and Staunton, the birthplace of Woodrow Wilson; with its main street the scenic Lee Highway, one of the most celebrated old trails in the New World, Harrisonburg enjoys unusual historic, scenic, and cultural resources.

The fine associations of the region are suggested to the casual visitor and kept alive in the hearts of all residents by the names of buildings on the campus of the State Teachers College. For example, Maury Hall reminds us of the "Pathfinder of the Seas," who spent his last years in active service at Lexington. Jackson Hall commemorates the immortal "Stonewall," whose famous "Valley Campaign" was wrought out and fought out with Harrisonburg as a center. Ashby Hall brings to mind General Turner Ashby, "Knight of the Valley," whose death signalized a victorious day with Jackson on a wooded hillside almost at the edge of the College campus. Spotswood Hall recalls Alexander Spotswood and the "Knights of the Golden Horseshoe," who, in 1716, crossed the Blue Ridge only a few miles east of Harrisonburg. Harrison Hall bears the name of the distinguished family for whom the city was named and commemorates especially Gessner Harrison, who was for many years a distinguished teacher, author, and administrative officer at the University of Virginia. Reed Hall keeps in mind the fact that Walter Reed, eminent scientist and world benefactor, used to be a sojourner at Harrisonburg, where his father owned a home and frequently resided during a period of twenty years.

*Famous Men and Women**Associated with Harrisonburg and Vicinity*

In 1784 General Washington was a sojourner in the county for several days, visiting Thomas Lewis and Gabriel Jones, both of whom were prominent figures in colonial Virginia. Washington himself tells of this visit to Rockingham, at considerable length,

in his Journal of 1784. From Washington Irving's "Life of Washington" it is evident that Washington had been in the vicinity of Harrisonburg in 1756, while he was in command of the Virginia frontier, with headquarters at Winchester.

In 1794 the illustrious Francis Asbury established a school in Harrisonburg.

James Madison, cousin of the President, first Episcopal Bishop of Virginia, and for 35 years president of William and Mary College, was born at Port Republic, a few miles south of Harrisonburg.

Near Tenth Legion, whose name preserves a declaration by Thomas Jefferson, that this part of the State was his "Tenth Legion of Democracy," was born John Sevier, "Nollichucky Jack," six times governor of Tennessee.

At Timber Ridge, between Staunton and Lexington, was born the unique Sam Houston, liberator and first president of the Republic of Texas.

Thomas Lincoln, father of the President, was born eight miles north of Harrisonburg; and his father, Abraham Lincoln, was a captain of militia in the county before leaving for Kentucky in 1781.

William H. Ruffner, the distinguished State Superintendent of Education in Virginia from 1870 to 1882, married his wife in Harrisonburg and lived here for a number of years.

Henry Tutwiler, whose bust stands in the Library of the University of Virginia; who was the first man to receive the M. A. degree from the University; and who made an illustrious record as an educator in the state of Alabama, was a native of Harrisonburg.

Emma Lyon Bryan, artist, composer, and author, lived in Harrisonburg.

Walter Reed, whose father had a home in Harrisonburg for many years, was an occasional sojourner here between 1870 and 1885.

John E. Massey, "Parson Massey," famous Virginia leader of Readjuster Days, lived in Harrisonburg and vicinity for about ten years.

Chas. T. O'Ferrall, author, orator, jurist, and from 1894 to 1898 governor of Virginia, had his home in Harrisonburg from 1869 to 1893.

Harrison Holt Riddleberger, U. S. Senator,

and author of the famous "Riddleberger Bill," one outstanding feature of which was a more adequate provision for the public school system of Virginia, lived two or three years in Harrisonburg and spent most of his life in a neighboring community.

Daniel Boone spent the greater part of a year near Harrisonburg, in early life; probably met his wife, Rebecca Bryan, at the old Bryan homestead on Linville Creek; and one of the first books on Daniel Boone was printed in Harrisonburg, written by a resident, Daniel Bryan, in 1813.

Scenic Wonders

Along the eastern side of the Valley the billowy crest of the Blue Ridge stretches in an endless procession of majesty. Far to the west the ascending ranges of the Alleghanies loom against the sunset. Dividing the Valley is the Massanutten, a fifty-mile range that runs on a straight line from Harrisonburg to Strasburg.

"The glory of the Valley is Massanutten," wrote General Dick Taylor in 1879. In 1825 His Highness, Bernhard, Duke of Saxe-Weimar, touring the Valley and writing a book, was also attracted by this wonderful marshalling of mountains, in long parallels: "Very singular," he declared. "No instance occurs of it in the other parts of the world."

From the College campus at Harrisonburg one may see northward Brock's Gap, in the Alleghanies, through which McCulloch's Path led in Indian days and through which Washington came down into the Valley in 1784. Due west is Buffalo Gap, also in the Alleghanies, through which Jackson led his "Foot Cavalry" towards McDowell in May of 1862, and through which today the C. & O. Railway and the Midland Auto Trail stretch towards the West. Not far above Buffalo Gap, is Goshen Pass, immortalized by Maury.

Swift Run Gap, in the Blue Ridge, contains a monument to Spotswood and his Knights of the Horseshoe. For more than a century one of the main roads from Rockingham to Richmond has led over this pass. Here it was that Sidney Lanier rode across horseback in September, 1879, to Culpeper and back. In 1784 Washington had crossed the same way, after his visit with Thomas Lewis and Gabriel Jones, "bating" his horse before climbing the mountain.

Other scenic and historic mountain passes within a radius of twenty miles from Harrisonburg are Brown's Gap in the Blue Ridge, opposite Port Republic, and New Market Gap, through the Massanutten, on the old turnpike, now the Lee Highway, between New Market and Luray. Both of these were used by Stonewall Jackson and his "Foot Cavalry" in 1862.

Through the New Market Gap Jackson led his army twice, both times going eastward: first in May, 1862, to surprise Kenly at Front Royal and outflank Banks at Strasburg; again, in November of the same year, after Antietam and preceding Fredericksburg.

Peaked Mountain, the southwest promontory of the Massanutten, looms up out of the Valley between Harrisonburg and Elkton, bearing a striking resemblance to Gibraltar and affording a panorama comparable to the one that is afforded by Lookout Mountain at Chattanooga. It was a famous signal station of Blue and Gray from 1861 to 1865. Around its rugged foot lie the battlefields of Harrisonburg, Cross Keys, Port Republic, Lacey Springs, Mt. Meridian, Piedmont, and Waynesboro.

Marvelous Caverns

Outstanding among the scenic wonders of this part of the Valley are eight famous caves: Weyer's, Madison's, Massanutten, Harrison's, Endless, Shenandoah, Luray, and Ruffner's. Weyer's is now known as "Grand Caverns"; Harrison's as "The Blue Grottoes." Ruffner's Cave is near Luray, but not at present open to the public. Madison's Cave is near Weyer's. It was described at length by Jefferson in his famous book, "Notes on Virginia."

The Natural Chimneys ("Cyclopean Towers,"), great scenic curiosities, are within easy reach of Harrisonburg; and Mt. Elliott, one of the highest peaks of the Alleghanies, is in plain sight from the city.

Historic Incidents

Only a few of the notable events of history that have taken place at or near Harrisonburg can be mentioned, and they, for want of time and space, must be put down in bare outline:

1716, Spotswood and the "Knights of the Horseshoe" enter the Valley at Swift Run Gap.

1745, John Sevier born near Tenth Legion.

1746, the Fairfax Line surveyed by Thomas Lewis, Peter Jefferson, and others.

1749, Bishop James Madison born at Port Republic.

1752, the Boones sojourn here, moving to the Yadkin Country.

1756, First tour of Washington through Rockingham County.

1776, Muhlenberg's call to arms at Woodstock.

1781, February, British prisoners from Cowpens brought through, going northeast.

1781, the Lincolns move to Kentucky.

1784, Second tour of Washington through Rockingham County.

1794, Bishop Asbury founds a school in Harrisonburg.

1813, Daniel Bryan publishes his book on Daniel Boone.

1858, Jed Hotchkiss publishes a description of the region.

1862, May 8, Battle of McDowell.

1862, June 6, Ashby killed near Harrisonburg.

1862, June 8, Battle of Cross Keys.

1862, June 9, Battle of Port Republic.

1864, May 15, Battle of New Market.

1879, Summer, Sidney Lanier at Rockingham Springs.

1899, May 20, President McKinley makes an address in Harrisonburg.

Educational History

It may be a surprise to some persons to know that the first modern normal school in Virginia was operated near Harrisonburg, and the first white teachers graduated therefrom. The latter statement is made on the authority of Supt. William H. Ruffner.

From 1873 to 1878 Alcide Reichenbach, trained in Europe, J. D. Bucher, with four years of normal school training in Pennsylvania, S. H. Owens of Richmond, T. S. Denison, A. L. Funk, and others conducted a normal school at Bridgewater, seven miles west of Harrisonburg, offering a two-year course and a four-year course; shaping their courses after the best in Europe and America; operating a Model School; with teachers in attendance from eight or ten counties of Virginia, also from West Virginia and Ohio.

Among the special lecturers were Major

Jed Hotchkiss, E. E. Higbee, president of Mercersburg College, Hon. M. A. Newell, State Superintendent of Education in Maryland, Professor W. B. McGilvary of Richmond, and Supt. William H. Ruffner.

In 1877 Supt. Ruffner wrote to the principal: "You have graduated the first white teachers in Virginia."

During the same years that the Valley Normal School was going on at Bridgewater, a summer normal for music teachers was held from year to year at New Market. This was conducted by B. C. Unseld, Chester G. Allen, P. J. Merges, Aldine S. Kieffer, and others, some of the best teachers at that time in the United States; and the school was attended by musicians from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Georgia, North Carolina, West Virginia, Maryland, and Texas, as well as from Virginia.

In 1880 Bridgewater College began at Spring Creek, ten miles west of Harrisonburg, as a normal school and collegiate institute. In 1887 Shenandoah Normal College was located in Harrisonburg. It was short-lived, but it was a good witness to the interest of this community to progressive education. William H. Ruffner, the "Horace Mann of Virginia," declared the people of the Valley to be the leaders of popular education in Virginia. Ruffner himself was a native and an educational product of this region. So were Henry Tutwiler, Gessner Harrison, Joseph Salyards, John W. Taylor, John H. Grabill, George H. Hulvey, and many others.

Virginia Education Association

In 1898 the Virginia Education Association had its beginning at Mt. Jackson, a neighboring town of Harrisonburg, when the Virginia Teachers League was organized there. Men of this region were chiefly instrumental in launching this great organization and have ever since contributed materially to its success.

A Region of Colleges and Academies

It is not an accident that Northern Virginia is a land of schools. Washington and Lee University and Virginia Military Institute at Lexington; Mary Baldwin College in Staunton; Bridgewater College at Bridgewater; Shenandoah College at Dayton; the State Teachers College at Harrisonburg;

Fishburne Academy and Fairfax Hall at Waynesboro; Staunton Military Academy and Stuart Hall in Staunton; Augusta Military Academy at Fort Defiance; the Eastern Mennonite School at Harrisonburg; Randolph-Macon Academy at Front Royal; Massanutten Academy at Woodstock; Shenandoah Valley Academy at New Market; and Shenandoah Valley Academy at Winchester, all speak eloquently of a region that is loyal to educational enterprise.

Historic Battlefields

Within a radius of sixty miles of Harrisonburg we may find not only the birthplaces of five Presidents, together with the final scenes of labor of Jackson, Maury, and Lee, but also a dozen or more battlefields that are celebrated wherever military annals are read and military skill is studied.

Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign ranks with the most brilliant campaigns of Napoleon Bonaparte. McDowell, Front Royal, Winchester, Cross Keys, and Port Republic were outstanding incidents of that campaign. The battle of New Market, best known by the charge of the V. M. I. Cadets, was a brilliantly planned action, in which the weaker side won a notable victory. Cedar Creek, for strategy and daring, ranks with Jackson's attack at Chancellorsville. Kernstown, Piedmont, Opequon, Rude's Hill, Lacey Spring, Mt. Meridian, all add luster to the genius and valor of Northern Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley.

Ashby's Cavalry, Mosby's Men, Jackson's Stonewall Brigade, Rosser's Laurel Brigade, McNeill's Rangers, Chew's Battery, Carpenter's Battery, Rice's Battery, all of the Civil War, like Muhlenberg's German Regiment and George Rogers Clark's Illinois Immortals of the Revolution, were largely recruited in this part of the State and immeasurably enhanced its renown.

The Home of Home Music

Joseph Funk, "Father of Song in Northern Virginia," lived and did his notable work as author, teacher, and publisher in this region with Harrisonburg as a responsive center. His famous music book, "Harmonia Sacra," first published a century ago, is still in wide use and has run through 18 editions.

Joseph Funk's sons, grandsons, and great-

grandsons, with pupils of his and theirs, many a score, have won distinction as singers, composers, teachers, and publishers of church and home music all over the United States and Canada. Among them are A. J. Showalter of Georgia, J. Henry Showalter of Ohio, J. D. Brunk of Indiana, E. T. Hildebrand of Maryland, B. F. Wampler of Illinois, and Will H. Ruebush of Virginia.

Literary Associations

The Shenandoah Valley and adjacent sections have a notable literary history. Lexington was the home of Margaret J. Preston, one of Virginia's most gifted writers of verse. Staunton is the home of Armistead C. Gordon, distinguished author, and an early collaborator with Thomas Nelson Page. The lower Valley was the birthplace of Willa S. Cather and Joseph G. Baldwin; the birthplace and home of John Esten Cooke, Philip Pendleton Cooke, and Samuel Kercheval. This is also the chief scene of many of John Esten Cooke's best romances, for example, "Surry of Eagle's Nest," "Days and Nights in the Shenandoah," "Leatherstocking and Silk," and "Fairfax, the Master of Greenway Court."

Frank R. Stockton was some years a resident of this region. Washington Irving was an occasional visitor and wrote of it in glowing terms. Thomas Buchanan Read found moving themes and real inspiration in Sheridan's Ride from Winchester and in Muhlenberg's call to arms at Woodstock. Sidney Lanier wrote his "Science of English Verse" at Rockingham Springs. James Hay, Jr., the well-known novelist, and William J. Showalter, popular writer and distinguished editor, are both sons of Harrisonburg. "The Long Roll" by Mary Johnston and "The Great Valley" are examples of the literary wealth of this part of the State. Ticknor's beautiful poem, "Virginians of the Valley," and Mrs. Mary A. Townsend's "A Georgia Volunteer," true history and true poetry, are known wherever the English language is studied.

Eminent Sculptors

To the history, the music, the valor, the natural wonder, and the poetry of this part of the Valley have been added the imagination and skill of two great sculptors: William Randolph Barbee and his son, Herbert Barbee. Both studied in old Florence; both

have lived among and loved the Shenandoah hills; both have won honors at home and abroad; and both have places in our national encyclopedias of biography.

A Brilliant Pageant

At the foot of the campus of the State Teachers College at Harrisonburg passes the main street of the city—the Lee Highway, the Valley Turnpike, the old stage road, the "Indian Road," the "Long Gray Trail." From generation to generation, from year to year, since time unknown to the present, a ceaseless company of changing figures have passed along that way. It was once perhaps a buffalo path. It certainly was a warpath of the Indians of the North and of the South. Then came a few white men, driving packhorses. Then others, many others. It was the main trail to Cumberland Gap, to Boone's Wilderness Road, the way to Kentucky, to Tennessee, to the Carolinas—a way of danger and death, but a way of glory and opportunity.

After awhile this narrow trail was made wide enough for wagons, and then began a steady stream of white tents on wheels, arks of empire, ensigns of national daring and destiny, moving forward to the wild frontiers of prairie, mountain, woodland, and river plain. Then came the swaying stage coaches, with fleet horses oft relayed, and the strong Baltimore bell teams, laboriously drawing their heavily freighted wagons to Bristol, Blountville, and Knoxville. In years of gloom came marching men, with clanking steel, while near and far the sounds of battle smote the air. A nation's destiny was in the balance. One day a battalion of mere boys passed down the "Long Gray Trail," and soon came news of a stubborn fight, of many dead, both younger and older. Fifty years passed, and again a battalion of boys were in the pageant, this time going to celebrate the victory of '64.

But soon real war called again, and again the boys came, in gray, in blue, in khaki. This time they went beyond the seas and it seemed that the destiny of the world was in the balance. When the pageant returned many of the boys were out of the lines. But their spirits march on, up and down the "Long Gray Trail."

Two hundred years and two million souls are in this pageant—statesmen like Clay and

Houston, Jefferson, Washington, and Hickory Jackson; Benton, Sevier, and Lincoln; soldiers like Ashby and Early and Stonewall Jackson, Fremont, Sheridan, Rosser, and Taylor; pioneers like the Boones, the Bryans, the Harmans, the Lincolns, the Walkers, the Gilmers, and the Harrisons; Red Men, White Men, Black Men; Germans and Scotch-Irish, French and English; Indian chiefs and Moravian missionaries; staid matrons and blushing brides; frolicking children and hoary grandsires; some with heavy burdens, many with tired feet, but most with brave hearts, and all with faces forward.

What a pageant! Still 'tis passing. Now most of the figures in the pageant are happy and speed by quickly, southward in one season, northward in another. But the stream keeps moving; it is never ceasing, never ending. It is full of color, full of beauty, full of destiny.

It passes at the foot of the campus. The "Long Gray Trail" is still a path of promise, a highway of empire.

JOHN W. WAYLAND.

SCHOOL JOURNALISTS TAKE WARNING!

Gold keys will be awarded to five persons, faculty advisers or school officials, who have done the most outstanding work in the school publication field during the past year, when the Columbia Scholastic Press Association holds its sixth annual convention at Columbia University March 13, 14, and 15, according to Joseph M. Murphy, director of the association. The presentation will be made at a general meeting of the convention, in the presence of more than 1,200 student delegates from all parts of the country.

The keys will be awarded by the association annually, and their number will be limited to five or six, according to Mr. Murphy, who says that the conditions under which the recipients will be chosen will vary with individual cases. The selection will be made by the association's advisory and executive boards.

A LIFE WORTH LIVING

THE doors of this college open outward today. Those who have been nurtured within her walls go out to participate more actively in the society which this institution seeks to serve. Those about to depart have high ambitions and great hopes for the future. Their Alma Mater has confidence in them and in their ability to render important professional service.

The college expects much of those who are admitted into the fellowship of her *alumnæ* today. She has high hopes for the success and happiness of you who today receive your diplomas. Your life here in the classroom, library, and laboratory and in association with your fellows and your teachers has opened up for you the paths which lead to a life worthy of the traditions of the college. Because of the opportunities which you have had here, there is the possibility for you of joy and satisfaction in the activities in which you are to be engaged in the years which lie ahead. The door is open for you to go forth to render important professional service and to develop a life worth living. Whether or not you are to realize these ends will be determined by the choices which you yourself make.

It is ordinarily proposed that those who attend a professional school are interested above everything else in preparing themselves to make a living. This ideal is not sufficient for those who would enter the profession of teaching. There are two main lines of endeavor which the graduates of a teachers college should pursue. On the one hand, this institution and the state which supports it has a right to expect from you devoted professional service. On the other hand, you must choose to participate in other activities that will add to your professional life and which will enable you to

*A commencement address delivered at the State Teachers College, Harrisonburg, Virginia, June 12, 1929.