The Planting
of a
Campus Tradition

A HISTORY OF THE LANDSCAPE
OF THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY
DEDICATION

This booklet was made possible by the generous support of Clem Oliver and is dedicated to the memory of her husband, Dr. George J. Oliver. Dr. Oliver was a member of the College of William and Mary faculty, initially as Head of the Department of Education in 1945 and later as president of the Richmond Professional Institute. He was dedicated to excellence in education, involved in athletic competition and was involved in guiding the College through difficult times. George Oliver was recognized for distinctive service and received the accolades of the Board of Visitors. He exemplified the concerned involvement which has been a characteristic of those faculty members who have provided the stewardship of our College and landscape over the years.

FOREWORD

The author would like to express his appreciation to those who assisted in the preparation of the text and figures for this manuscript. Davis Y. Pitchall, Donna Ware, Carlson Swearingen, Stewart Ware, Lawrence WIseman and Barbara Wallace provided comments and Dean Olins directed the production of the booklet. Assistance by the staff in the Colonial Williamsburg Information Office and in the College and William Archives is gratefully acknowledged.

The Planting of a Campus Tradition

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Our rich cultural heritage is preserved, restored and demonstrated as a result of the activities of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. The College of William and Mary would be remiss in our responsibilities if we did not include our landscape in this historical concern. Our college landscape has evolved from the contributions of a series of concerned individuals who shared a fear of "esthetic claustrophobia." The College of William and Mary is situated in a continuum of tradition and history which has resulted in the establishment of a number of educational priorities.

Our second oldest college also has been reported to be the site of the first formal garden in the Colonies. The College landscape has witnessed generations of scholars and citizens who were influential in the molding of our country.
The evolution of the Campus began as a result of a Royal Charter grant of 20,000 acres and action by the House of Burgesses, in October 1693, to select Middle Plantation (Williamsburg) as the site for the College. On May 14, 1694 the Coat of Arms of the College, granted by the College of Arms in London, contained a College building in silver on a green field which symbolically indicated the importance of the landscape. College lands, purchased from Colonel Thomas Ballard, included 330 acres dedicated to provide timber, pasture and garden for the Masters and others associated with the College. The surrounding area, in addition to providing income, served as a study area for one of the first scholarly activities – botanical investigation.

The first indication of the existence of College Garden was made by Sir John Evelyn in 1694. The noted horticulturist wrote to John Walker and informed him that a gardener had been sent to Virginia "on purpose to make and plant the Garden designed for the new College." (Evelyn letter book Christ Church, Oxford). Virginia gardens, including the College, served a role in the quest for knowledge of the plant life in the colonies. The College garden, associated with the Wren building, was probably in the area of the current sunken gardens.

In 1729 the attractive College Courts, gardens and orchards, were noted in a document titled "The Transfer of the College of William and Mary" and further described in the writings of Governor William Gooch. Botanical activity was supported by John Bannister and John Clayton who documented the Virginia flora of the late seventeenth century. The use of the College grounds as a source of income was indicated in an early advertisement in the Virginia Gazette (January 6-13, 1738). Thomas Crease, first gardener to the College, listed flower roots, garden seeds and trees for sale. The College grounds, containing clipped rows of topiary evergreens and bushes, are shown in Bodleian plate (late 1730’s). Ebenezer Hazard, in 1777 described the College as a courtyard with trees cut to different forms and a large kitchen garden.

Maps of Williamsburg, drawn in 1781-82 (Rochambeau and Desandrouins maps) indicate substantial gardens located to the west of the main building. Peter Martin suggests that the garden probably included a nursery, botanical garden or simple beds for vegetables and herbs. The gardens, eroded by years of neglect, were replaced by rows of trees as shown in an 1856 scene. Campus trees provided an "overshadowing canopy of elms" as noted by Judge N.B. Tucker. The burning of the Wren building and the subsequent reconstruction, resulted in additional tree plantings to complement the arboreal survivors.

The progressive sale of College lands reduced the holdings to a mere 17 acres in 1888. Purchases, primarily from the Bright family, increased the area to 50 acres by 1906 and awakened the Jeffersonian spirit of a verdant tapestry.

The "Jeffersonian Prospect" contained a symbolic portion of land which "stretched from the Wren building west, into nature, into the sunset and into the entire American continent." This concept in effect established a mature preserve which is incumbent upon future generations.

The fulfillment of Jefferson’s vision has involved a number of facets. Thomas Jefferson (Volume I of his Writings) said, "The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add a useful plant to its culture".
"The greatest service which can be rendered any country is to add an useful plant to its culture."

- Thomas Jefferson

Detail of the boundary live oak. A portion of the corner live oak which was removed from the College entrance and preserved by Dr. Donald Davis.

Cutting the corner live oak (1943) which served as a boundary marker for at least 275 years.

Our gift of solace is reported to have an origin with Jefferson who conceived a "Prospect" as a symbolic portion of College land. The presence of live oaks on the campus represents an example of our verdant heritage. A significant live oak tree, noted by the first award in the Virginia Historical Tree Contest in March 1931, grew at the entrance to the College. This historic oak was designated as a line corner on the map of lands produced by Robert Beverley in June 1678. In 1931 the tree, listed as at least 275 years old, had a girth of 9½ feet and was titled "old monarch of Middle Plantation." Every means was employed to save the decaying behemoth but the Corner Live Oak was finally removed from the south side of the College entrance in 1943.
Professor Donald W. Davis, however, preserved the heritage by growing seedlings and saving the wood for preservation as blocks and gavel sets. Mr. Saunders of the grounds staff also grew seedlings from the Corner Live Oak acorns. He planted sixteen tender trees at the head of the Sunken Gardens, even to the south and west of Barrett Hall and west of Chandler Hall and finally the magnificent spreading specimen between Jefferson and Washington Hall. The live oak lives on in the self-pollinated (no other live oaks were in the area) offspring.

Additional live oaks now join the original representatives and those planted in 1848 by Dr. Bernice Speese.

The story of the appreciation of the live oak trees has been recorded in a number of forms – including an original water color by Thomas Millington with a view, dated in 1836, of the Wren Building including interpreted live oaks at either side of the entrance to the College Yard.

Live Oaks, shown here at the President’s home, are found throughout the campus.

Benson J. Lessing in 1948, described the College Yard as "flanked by stately live oaks cheering the visitor in winter with the evergreen foliage." Dr. William R. Garrett presented a lecture discussing the College in 1858 and noted graduation picnics at the tables under the umbrella of live oaks. David H. Strother described his view of the College in 1856 as a spacious campus flanked at the entrance by stunted live oaks. William Barten Rogers (founder of Massachusetts Institute of Technology) wrote about the noble live oaks as illustrated by a Colonial Williamsburg photograph in 1829. Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr. noted a probable continuous pictorial history of the Corner Live oak from c. 1836 to 1930.

Assuming an age of approximately 50 years in the 1820’s, it is possible to extend the origin to the 1770’s and the germination of the acorn to a time prior to the Revolution.

Perhaps Patrick Henry enjoyed the young oak when he used the site behind the Wren building as a site for the training of troops. This training field was vacated when the troops moved to draw the lines for the Battle of Yorktown. The campground was fallow until it sprouted into a pea field crossed with paths and later served as the site for a unique "sunken garden.”

President J.A.C. Chandler’s plan in 1939, resulted in a sunken area composed of 113, 340 square feet of turf rimmed with boxwoods. Charles M. Robinson designed the Sunken Garden after two trips to England. He studied examples of Wren’s architecture and selected the plan of the London Chelsea Hospital as a model for the William and Mary Campus. The symmetrical landscape, unifying the campus areas along Jamestown Road and Richmond Road, was completed in 1934 by President Bryan who generously donated 800 boxwood plants from his estate in Powhatan county.

The simple, serene beauty was expressed by President Paschall. "So it is today, when the trees are clothed in green, and one stands at the west end of the Wren Building, he cannot see any other building. His view remains unbroken as it sweeps across the long Sunken Garden with its huge boxwood borders backed by deep, pink crepe myrtle, and at the far end the stately firs, pines, maples, oaks and dogwood are silhouetted.”
President John S. Bryan donated the Boxwoods which rim the Sunken Garden.

"A view unbroken... sweeping across the long sunken garden with its huge boxwood borders." – President Paschall.

A rustic bench and meandering trails found in the area of Matoaka park and woods (ca. 1935).

Players Dells which served as a natural setting for outdoor performances (ca. 1935).
These boxwoods later served as a portion of a comprehensive collection which contains numerous varieties with a few to be officially described and named. The 45 plants in the boxwood garden illustrate a diversity of form from little leaf to weeping varieties and represent a collection of national importance.

Jefferson's early influence, Chandler's purchase and Paschal's perseverance have been instrumental in the preservation of our unspoiled ambient beauty.

A proposal to build the main library at the end of the Sunken Garden was discarded by Paschal, leaving a continuum of natural beauty which extended from the Sunken Garden thru the Player's Dell to Lake Matoaka. The scenic area, currently known as Crim Dell, was originally a portion of Matoaka Park. The park represented a total of 1,200 acres purchased for the College by president J.A.C. Chandler and developed to "a sight of rare beauty" by the Conservation Corps under the direction of the National Park Service in the fall of 1933.

The farm, lake and woods were designed with trails meandering around scenic points, across rustic bridges and streams and provided a haven for birds, animals and a collection of native flora for biological study. A Richmond paper described the process as the evolution of real beauty.

The area, devoted to education and enjoyment, was nestled in a hollow in the woods, with gently sloping grassy slopes forming a stage for the presentation of plays, concerts, masques and pageants.

Players Dell, as it was known, was dedicated on October 20th, 1934, to provide a sylvan retreat which was close to the busy campus. This secluded arena utilized the texture of the trees and the color of flowering shrubs to enhance the natural setting of outdoor performances. The trees were included in the supporting cast for each presentation. Students staged several plays on

"the turf stage, with its proscenium arch formed of the living branches, the seats of hollow logs, the green of the trees and the blooms of shrubs and wildflowers which enhances the illusion so necessary to the full appreciation of dramatic effects." This site, in the area of a lily pond at the western end of the Sunken Garden, had fallen into disarray and neglect, but soon after 1961 became the lovely Crim Dell segment of the "Jefferson Prospect."

It is historically significant to review the origin of the concept of "The Jefferson Prospect," and its implementation. President Paschal's first major task after beginning the Presidency involved the development of a Master Plan during the winter of 1960-61 for a new campus. Preliminary sketches placed the desperately needed main library in the landscape at the west end of the Sunken Garden. Despite Paschal's expressed concerns that the lovely plantings in the area would be lost, the debate continued.

President Paschal finally promulgated what became an impressive and persuasive advocacy. He described the huge library proposed for the Sunken Garden area as not only "closing in the view" and producing "aesthetic clausrophobia," but also as a violation of Jefferson's reported admonition that "the College should always look out upon the country." He termed it "The Jefferson Prospect," and envisioned stages of a landscape continuum—each with a
distinctive aesthetic appeal—being developed from the end of the Sunken Garden to Lake Matoaka. Paschall was a master of "constructive ambiguity." "It is indicative of Dr. Paschall’s view of William and Mary that he probably considers as his proudest achievement not the massive William and Mary Hall but the beautification of the Jefferson Prospect, Crim Dell and the entrance to the New Campus." It was noted (Alumni Gazette, October 1879) that "if the campus landscaper should plant a shrub slightly out of line in future years, he will no doubt hear the polite voice of an old Southern gentleman admonishing him over his shoulder."

The new library site was subsequently relocated to constitute the apex of the semi-circular design for the new campus. The open west end of the Sunken Garden portion of the Jefferson Prospect was intrinsically designed to include nature plantings of Yaupon holly, southern magnolia, tea, mountain laurel, rhododendron, barberry, Osmanthus, white and pink dogwood, white and pink azaleas, red and white camellias, snowball, weeping cherry, evergreen japonica, Canadian hemlock and bayberry. Funds for the Dell area were derived from a gift of the Senior Class of 1964.

At the dedication of Crim Dell—in full bloom—on the occasion of the first Parents’ Day, May 7, 1966, President Paschall said: "That here one may walk in beauty, discover the serenity of the quiet moment and dispel the shadows."

During the 275th anniversary of the College in 1969, an additional aspect of the Jefferson Prospect was dedicated—as a symbol for the transition to the new campus—across the road from Crim Dell (a gift of the class of 1932). This landscaped corner features the Coat of Arms set in a curved wall with a bronze Phoenix on Vermont greenstone. A plaque bears an inscription from President Paschall’s dedicatory remarks: "From the old to the new, may this entrance, like the Phoenix, symbolize a look to the future made promising by a challenging heritage."

The natural area between the Crim Dell and the lake was perused by President Paschall, who approached the Garden Club of Virginia with an extensive, elaborate beautification plan for a portion of the "Jefferson Prospect." This further extension of the Campus landscape included the development of a natural park area from Crim Dell to the road bridge and dredging from the campus bridge to the lake in such a manner as to bring an arm of the lake almost to the bridge, thereby creating a lovely vista. The proposal also included trails, rustic benches and an ambitious system of waterfalls using water pumped from the lake, to a natural ravine which extended to the lake. In spite of favorable responses, these projections lapsed and this final segment of the Jefferson Prospect remains incomplete while buildings have sprouted along the perimeter.

In 1974 Dr. Martin Mathes strolled thru the ravine adjacent to Crim Dell and realized that steps had to be taken to preserve the natural beauty and prevent the encroachment of construction. With encouragement from President Thomas Graves, the Wildflower Refuge was "developed" and set-aside by Resolution of the Board of Visitors. The Wildflower Refuge contained an unspoiled collection of trees, ferns and wildflowers in a setting with paths, an ambling stream and a cool quietness. The area will continue to be a depository for endangered species and native Virginia Wildflowers. A self-guided tour contains a bird checklist and 63 listings of common native trees and a collection of vines. The canopy and contents can be viewed from an outdoor amphitheater, a secluded gazebo or from scattered benches along quiet pine-bark paths.

Jack-in-the-Pulpits are just one of the many varieties of native American plants to be enjoyed in the Wildflower Refuge.

Generous financial support from individuals, business, Girl Scouts and senior classes have added significantly to the appreciation of our natural heritage.

This area in the heart of the campus represents a guaranteed parcel for future generations to appreciate native Virginia plants in a natural setting.

The threads of natural science and botanical commitment have been woven through the years. Natural science at the College was recognized by Dr. William Small (1758) and was reflected by Thomas Jefferson who said "that he (Dr. Small) fixed the destinies of my life." Botanical interest was maintained
by Dr. John Millington (1886), Van F. Garret (1888), John W. Ritchie (1904) and by John T. Baldwin (1937). Relatively sparse documentation of unique trees on the campus includes plant legends such as the "Shoe Holly" in the area of Bryan Hall. This tree provided a shaded location while putting on shoes to become properly attired before entering the city.

Continued documentation has included an energetic attempt to locate and identify all trees and shrubs on the campus. A catalog, prepared by a team effort, resulted in a comprehensive document which identified and located the woody species found on most of the campus landscape. The only previous catalog was in the form of a brief history by Raymond Taylor who was a member of the faculty from 1931 to 1946.

The number of campus species literally flowered following the arrival of Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr., in 1937. Dr. Baldwin randomly dotted the campus with exotic species which he used as a natural laboratory. He recognized the unique Williamsburg climate as the result of the effects of our location on a peninsula. The mild climate of the campus provides an ideal habitat for many trees such as the windmill palm located adjacent to Ewell Hall and the cork oak are found only as far north as South Carolina, and are native to warmer climates.
Certain trees which thrive in cold northern temperatures are also adaptable to the heat and humidity of the Tidewater season. Protected locations on the campus nestle an unexpected number of species from diverse climates. A variety of trees on the new campus was insured when, in the fall of 1968, President Paschall acknowledged Dr. Baldwin's interest "in making the Millington (Hall) area not only beautiful but educational." Dr. Baldwin accepted the responsibility for supervising the planting of Millington Hall. He thought "a collection of living plants at an academic institution should be comparable to that of a collection of books in the library. They are that important."

The area surrounding Millington Hall has become a center for the planting of a wide range of exotic species. The alert observer notes Western white pine, trembling aspen, deodor cedar, Japanese maple, Carolina jasmine, swamp gum, flowering cherry, Leyland cypress and Dragon's eye pine. Earlier Baldwin had extended the laboratory of botany and Millington Hall of bald cypress species, Himalayan pines, coast redwoods, China fir and dawn redwoods.

The dawn redwood (Metasequoia) is a spectacular species which dots the campus with an autumn brick coloration prior to yielding needlelike leaves to the rigors of winter. Until 1946 this species was known only in fossil remains and therefore, represented an extinct relic prior to its rediscovery, at approximatively thirteen million years.

Plant explorers stood in awe of a veritable plethora of a thousand living fossils growing in seclusion in Szechuan, China. These tall, pyramidal trees provided a source of fine wood for a wide variety of peasant uses and served as the progenitors of the William and Mary trees. Dr. Baldwin recognized the uniqueness of the discovery and surmised the adaptability of the species to the conditions of our peninsula.

The Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University served to reintroduce this deciduous conifer to Europe and North America with the distribution of seeds from the Metasequoia, thus allowing Dr. Baldwin to obtain seeds while touring Belgium in 1948. He shipped the seeds from the Jardin Botanique de L'Etat in Brussels to the College and Dr. Bernice Speese germinated the seeds and nurtured the seedlings until they were planted on the campus. The redwoods have thrived in the humid summers and mild winters to become the tallest in North America. Superb specimens, found between Washington and Barrett Halls and adjacent to Old Dominion Hall tower more than 100 feet with the most magnificent individual found at the foot of the Sunken Gardens.

The Arnold Arboretum evaluated and measured the trees resulting from the 1948 seed dissemination, finding the tallest Metasequoia in North America on our campus. Records of our tallest dawn redwood tree show a height of 86.3 feet in 1968 and 120 feet in 1981.

This collection of woody species, including Eurya tea, crepe myrtles, magnolias, live oaks and boxwoods, thrived during Baldwin's tenure. As a result of his love of boxwood, he became a world authority on the box, and developed a representative collection on the campus in the area of Ewell Hall.

For many years Baldwin shared his encyclopedic knowledge, enthusiasm and love of plants with the Garden Clubs and the Williamsburg community. While touring the campus he wove stories concerning the sources and biology of the exotic trees. His accumulated knowledge was recorded in the hearts of his friends but never appeared in an organized fashion.

Prior to his untimely death in 1974, he charged his colleagues with the verdant responsibility for his accumulated efforts. When he died, much of the detailed information concerning the woody specimens was lost. In the years after his death, efforts to establish an arboretum were unsuccessful. An inventory and mapping of campus woody plants was initiated by Martin Mathes and a capable senior biology student, Louise Mozingo. A campus map, obtained from the Buildings and Grounds Department, was used as a basis for the division of the Campus into small separate maps. For each small map, Mozingo painstakingly located each tree and shrub, identified common species and called on local experts for final recognition. Each sector was sequentially completed, the information collated and supplemented with a variety of collections located in various locations throughout the old and new campus. Robert M. McCartney provided invaluable information concerning the sources and identification of many exotic species. Professors Donna Ware, Stewart Ware and Gus Hall also graciously assisted in the identification process. This combination of talents resulted in the production of a bound catalog listing approximately 325 species and varieties of woody plants and keys to special collections.

Funding support was obtained from the Virginia Flora Committee of the Virginia Academy of Sciences and the Society of the Alumni. The project was initiated in May 1979 and "completed" the following September of 1980.

This systematic representation of the College woody flora includes a scientific name index and a corresponding common name index. Using the catalog, it is possible to stand in the shade, determine the identity of the source of the shade, and determine the number and locations of additional representatives of the same species.

For example, the campus houses 30 Cryptomeria japonica trees on 6 separate maps. This species, introduced by Dr. Baldwin 1947 from Japan, proved to be well adapted in its colonial setting.
The catalog also contains a copy of a self-guided walking tour of a selected sampling of a number of exotic trees on the old campus. This tour follows the steps of "J.T." and reflects his random placement. The catalog has been useful in the teaching program as an illustration of the diversity of woody species and is a guide for the planting of species which are lacking in the collection.

Dr. J.T. Baldwin, Jr., scientist, educator, scholar, shown here in Millington Hall Lobby

The completed documentation led William Carter and Martin Mathes to compose a resolution which was submitted to the College Board of Visitors. "Resolved, that the Board of Visitors of the College of William and Mary in Virginia, in recognition of the contributions made to the College of William and Mary by the late Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Professor of Biology, hereby establishes the Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr. Memorial Collection of Woody Species, which shall consist of the woody species catalogued in the Collection of Woody Species, a Department of Biology publication dated August 1980; and resolved further, that the resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board of Visitors to constitute an expression of appreciation and esteem of his colleagues and the Board of Visitors for the dedicated life of Dr. John T. Baldwin, Jr."

A plaque, placed on a wall near Washington Hall, further recognizes Dr. Baldwin as a "Scientist, Educator and Phi Beta Kappa scholar who worked for many years to provide future generations with a verdant heritage." Approval of the statement completed the recognition of a unique, working arboretum dispersed in an academic atmosphere. The collection embodies 30 years of Baldwin’s dedication as a friend of the College, scientist and observer of nature.

He freely donated his time and expertise to the College and provided a nucleus which has been nurtured and serves as an inspiration for research, documentation and teaching. Introductions included the Lorna Baldwin upright peach (named for Dr. Baldwin’s mother) and hybrid oaks. The peach was selected as a natural sport and the oak was discovered in the fall of 1946 by Lena Artz and J. B. Brouwers, Landscape Superintendent for Colonial Williamsburg. E. J. Palmer of the Arnold Arboretum identified these specimens (origin as a spontaneous tree on Boush Creek, south of Norfolk in 1937) as hybrids between live (virginiana) and overcup (fyrate) oaks.

The planting of a living remembrance tree to honor Nick Mathews (1983)

The suggestion to establish an informal arboretum in 1974 had waited 6 years. Formal recognition of a significant collection of woody species has provided the foundation necessary to encourage the addition of new species. Two mechanisms have been employed to gradually add unique species to the original Baldwin Collection. In 1978, Martin Mathes encouraged the Senior Class to establish a "new" tradition and denote a portion of their annual gift to add additional dimension to the tree planting program. The class graciously provided funds to purchase and plant (Everett Raynes) two Class Trees - Juniperus species (ashei and silicola). They also provided for the establishment of a tree planting, replacement and maintenance fund. Successive Class Gifts, appropriately noted by a brass plaque, have resulted in the addition of a white fringe tree and purple leaf beech trees to our collection. Remembrance trees provide an opportunity for a personal expression and serve to expand the collection of trees. Recognition of Nick Mathews, Tom Ward, Jo Jones, Mary Ferguson, Arthur Gluckman and others has been an indication of co-operative College efforts to provide a variety of interesting trees on our campus. Students have strongly supported the campus beautification efforts as evidenced by continued funding of the Class Tree Tradition and additional projects such as construction of the wooded pinebark paths in the Wildflower Refuge. Support from additional sectors of the College has also been welcomed. The Office of Development was instrumental in providing a permanent mechanism for the addition of exotic species. Jim Rees, Duane Dittman and Martin Mathes have played an integral part in the development of a Living Remembrance program.
Living gifts have been placed on the campus and small plaques have noted the memories and deeds of many individuals. The benches and Yoshino cherry trees mark a quiet area adjacent to Millington Hall and the memory of Joseph G. Pastore - "of all the things granted us by wisdom, none is better than friendship". Plantings have been established in new areas so that succeeding generations may continue to enjoy educational opportunities in pleasant surroundings. Gardens, "developed" at the intersection of Richmond Road and Boundary Street have been dedicated to the memory of Gregory S. Adams and emphasize bulbs and perennial species. An additional garden, sponsored by the Williamsburg Garden Club has been tucked into a protected niche adjacent to Phi Beta Kappa Hall.

Numerous private donations have provided an additional parameter to the campus program. The support of Dr. Robert Sessions, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Baker, Dr. John Tarver and Mrs. Arthur Strong has expanded the involvement to include alumni and friends of the College. These contributions have resulted in the acquisition of a Japanese maple, a spruce collection and native flame azaleas interspersed with numerous daffodils.

The College houses a significant collection of daffodils (more than 8500 bulbs in 1985) which add to the annual spring display. A walking tour listing the locations and varieties is also available. Ties with the Natural Arboretum have also provided for the introduction of additional foreign species into the exotic campus flora. These materials have been evaluated in a hardiness testing program after they have been grown to an adequate size. The College Buildings and Grounds staff have been involved in this program and have also recognized the importance of our horticultural ambience. They have provided, under conditions of staff attrition and economic stress, a very supportive grounds staff which has been directed by Roy Williams.

Since 1981, Mr. Williams has been instrumental in providing the expertise and facilities necessary to establish a flow of plant materials from seeds to trees and from the Biology Department greenhouse to nursery and campus. The conversion of an old mule barn to a holding area and construction of a greenhouse and nursery area have completed the cooperative sequence from pot to planting. This enables the purchase of small plants, growth under protected conditions with adequate water, fertilizer and pest control until they are at a height above the critical lawnmower injury level for planting out on the campus. The annual appearance of "pockets of color" has effectively complemented the predominance of green.

The combination of perennial bulbs, flowering trees and shrubs, melded with the profusion of foliage, has been supplemented by the tasteful placement of pieces of sculpture and has provided a panorama which pleases the eye of many beholders. "Spring", a sculpture, was donated by Johnston Atelier,
and has been placed in a secluded niche adjacent to Crim Dell pond, while the artistic statue, "Frame of Mind", standing in the garden behind the Alumni House, was presented by Anne Belle Koenig Nimmo in dedication to a beloved teacher, Professor Victor Hurralde. Another secluded garden has been designed as a sculpture garden — as designated in 1966 when Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall was built. This area was submerged in gravel until 1985 when Wright B. Houghland, Martin Mathes, Jerry Begley and James Kornwolf cooperated to produce a plan which melded plants, water and sculpture. Private funds donated by Jesse Choate Phillips have insured that the garden will represent a significant addition to the campus landscape. A bronze "Pan", donated by Susie Meyers, also adds to the decor of the campus.

One of President Paschal's final actions was to maneuver landscape funds for the mall between the academic complex on the New Campus. The College's historic sundial is mounted here and displayed near the center of the mall which is faced by the Swenn Library and the Andrews Hall of Fine Arts. This area was projected by President Paschal and designed by Kenneth Higgins, architect. It features low growing evergreens which are flanked by crepe myrtles and crosswalks lined with an assortment of daffodils and seasonal color. The sundial's origin is documented to 1815 when it stood before the President's House. In 1900 it stood half-erect, obscure and neglected, with numerals missing, behind the Wren Courttyard. In the spring of 1971 President Paschal, with encouragement from Flat Hat Editor Tom McDonald, decided to move the sundial to the mall on the new campus. Professor George W. Crawford, who had recommended a sundial for that area, was requested to restore it and supervise its relocation as a focal point in the "circle within a circle" design. Following restoration and placement the Board of Visitors approved a recommendation of its Buildings and Grounds Committee chaired by Aubrey Mason, that the sundial remain indefinitely at its present location on the New Campus.

The Office of Publications of the College distributes informative brochures — "The William and Mary Sundial" and "Vital Facts". An additional historic area on the campus landscape is marked by the tombstone of president Benjamin S. Ewell. This marker was placed (December 18, 1925) as a result of a Flat Hat campaign and became the site of a memorial service each June. In all, ten bodies are buried at the College Cemetery site.

The administration of the campus landscape has been under the direction of the Vice President for Business Affairs and utilizes the guidance provided by the Landscape Advisory Subcommittee which has been composed of faculty members, students, Building and Grounds representatives and a member from Colonial Williamsburg. This advisory group has been able to work closely with landscape architects and maintain an underlying purpose of developing a pleasing, appropriate design which emphasizes a diversity of plant materials. This concept has not changed the basic thrust of plans but adds botanical interest beyond the classic dogwood and holly planting pattern. The cooperative combination of talents has resulted in an exemplary program of campus beautification which emphasizes a diversity of materials in a balanced design with low maintenance plantings. These aspects have been illustrated in the planting of the Common Glory parking lot. This area contains a collection of oaks which features Japanese evergreen, saw tooth and Darlington oaks.

The educational value of the campus plants has been stressed in a number of ways. Dr. Stewart Ware has provided a community service by offering a Special Programs adult education course which emphasizes tree identification. The campus collection enables participants to study a wide variety of trees within a small area without visiting a scattered variety of habitats. Dr. Gus Hall also used the campus flora in an upper level course, Biology of Vascular Plants, where the presentations involved the classification and identification of plants which features Japanese evergreen, saw tooth and Darlington oaks.

Trees which are pleasing to the casual observer are living educational requisites to the students of Botanical Science. Tropical trees, which cannot survive in protected locations on the campus, have been represented on an exposed basis, in the plant collection in the spacious greenhouse atop Millington Hall. Balsa wood, mahogany, banana, sausage tree, weeping fig and Acacia species have been represented. Native trees, in a relatively undisturbed state, have been preserved in the College Woods. This natural preserve, surrounding Lake Matoaka, is a quiet, tree shaded extension of the busy campus.

The campus trees have survived many forms of disease and physical abuse. The Dutch Elm disease has taken its toll of the elms which were planted in the protected Yard in the 1890's. The sycamores (which predated the elms) and replacement species, such as linden, continue to line the area which has witnessed college activities since the granting of the Royal Charter in 1693. An occasional act of vandalism has been recorded. At the Christmas holiday season many young women have gathered from the campus to a student's room where he presented a bill for $100 for their decorative pilferage and attempted reap. The survivors of such pilferage encompass a variety of evergreen trees which have grown beyond the Christmas tree size.

S. Dean Olson, writing in the Alumni Gazette, noted additional evergreen species in a statement by Dr. Baldwin, "I like to think of Williamsburg as the Cryptomeria Capitol of America." In the spring of 1947 Baldwin purchased four specimens of Cryptomeria japonica from Greenbriar Farms near Norfolk. These Cryptomerias on the campus have provided a lovely texture with numerous small cones and a symmetrical form. This Japanese native has added to the international character of other species from distant locations such as Switzerland, Mexico, China and the Himalayas. Seeds collected in a park in Geneva, Switzerland in the late 1940's were the progenitors of the European Cypresses which grow in an upright growth habit and add to the natural
A west coast redwood, grown from cuttings, came to the campus from a ship which sailed to Norfolk around Cape Horn. These beautiful Coast Redwoods are magnificent specimens which overlook a shaded walk lined (until 1985) with fall blooming Camellia sasanqua. We are indebted to President John E. Pomfret, who was convinced by Dr. John T. Baldwin, to plant the October to January flowering Sasanquas in the late 1940's. The funds for this planting were budgeted and the superintendent of grounds was instructed to obtain small plants. Large plants appeared and it was found that the groundsman had yielded to his penurious nature and obtained 6-foot tall plants from the stadium perimeter at the Norfolk Division of William and Mary, now Old Dominion University. This lovely palisade of flowers was killed during the winter of 1984-85 when temperatures fell as low as five below zero (Fahrenheit). The recrudescence of this area will take the form of a Town-n-Gown garden which features a 19th century iron gate from Bruton Parish Church.

A detail of the leaves of a Ginkgo tree shows its fern-like properties.

beauty of the campus. A relatively common, yet unique species, is the Ginkgo tree from China, which, as in the case of the dawn redwood, was previously known primarily from fossil evidence. This shade tree is characterized by fan-shaped foliage and unpleasant foul-smelling fruits which can be eliminated if only male trees are specified. Ginkgo trees in the front of Phi Beta Kappa Hall were ordered as male but revealed a mistaken identity when the fleshy seeds developed as the trees matured.

Ginkgo trees are relic species known previously only from fossil evidence.
Baldwin’s contributions to the Williamsburg Council of Garden Clubs were appropriately noted in the establishment of a collection of unique plants in a small park adjacent to Sorority Court. This Baldwin Memorial Garden, dedicated on May 1, 1977, contains a collection of 25 plants including the upright Lorna Baldwin flowering peach and a superb pistachio tree which provides an annual splash of vivid autumnal coloration.

Upon Baldwin’s death the Council of Garden Clubs also decided to further honor their friend and provide guided tours of the campus trees, but problems arose and the tour was not offered. Dr. Baldwin’s walking tours, charming anecdotes and manner led to a community-wide appreciation of the trees on the campus. He also presented a tour, complete with a short pamphlet, as a portion of the annual Colonial Williamsburg Garden Symposium. Since that time, Dr. Martin Mathes has obtained the original materials from Colonial Williamsburg and compiled a printed, self-guided tour of unique woody plants on the Old Campus. This self-guided excursion offers visitors an insight into the history and wealth of plantings which have been preserved for future generations. The tour includes a short narrative and lists 42 species from American elm through Arizona cypress to creeping fig. For a number of years the Williamsburg Council of Garden Clubs sponsored a guided tour of the campus. Josephine Jones served as coordinator.

A collection of Cacti (Opuntia) grows in a sunny Millington Hall planter

The variety of campus trees has also been expanded as a result of the activities of the varied activities of friends of the landscape. For example, on October 4, 1982, the Catholic Student Association commemorated the 800th anniversary of the birth of St. Francis of Assisi by planting hybrid flowering almonds. A number of small plant collections are scattered throughout the campus for those who wish to pursue the plants beyond the “look” stage. These are designated by a brass plaque or a visible key for the identification of the species or varieties. The area adjacent to Millington Hall shelters named collections of day lilies, daffodils, ivy and Opuntia (cuttings from cold-desert species obtained from Colonial Williamsburg) cacti. The importance of the campus flora was reflected in Dr. J.T. Baldwin’s statement that teaching value was obtained from a collection of plants.

Lake Matoaka became a portion of the campus landscape in 1925.

The adjacent College Woods contains a lake and a rich flora preserve which was delineated by Arlene C. Barans who conducted a floristic study of the tract. The survey of vascular plants, completed in May 1969, revealed a total collection representing 322 genera of 105 families (Castanea 39: 1-39, 1974). Matoaka Lake, a colonial mill pond previously called Jones’ Mill Pond and Ludwell’s Pond was obtained by the College from D. S. Jones on September 8, 1929 for $10,000 (including a 57.6 acre lake tract south of the lake – James City County deed book, Volume 22: page 108). The Alumni Gazette on May 31, 1934, highlighted the value of this natural preserve as an area of botanical treasure for classwork and educational study (Figure 32). The College Woods and Lake Matoaka have become islands of sylvan beauty which are surrounded by encroaching development.

In 1965 the State Forest Service reported that the pines in several sections of the College woods, west of Lake Matoaka, suffered from an invasion of the
Southern pine bark beetle. The College contracted to cut and remove those trees marked by the Forest Service. When the cutting began, members of the community garden clubs joined by some faculty members and students “rose in revolt” at what they termed desecration of the environment. President Paschall sought the advice of Mitchell A. Byrd, Chairman of the Biology Department, in preparing a resolution for the preservation of the College woods as a future “botanical and wildlife preserve”. The threat of commercial timbering of 153 acres in the spring of 1965, attacks by pine bark beetles, bulldozers and siltation have resulted in the designation of the “major portion of the College Woods north and west of Lake Matoaka for development as a future nature preserve for educational purposes (Board of Visitors, Minutes of November 20, 1965). The Board further recognized (January 14, 1966) this unique asset in the approximately 700 acres of woods surrounding Lake Matoaka and recommended that the College explore the various possibilities for the management of the College Woods. This natural area is a dynamic portion of the campus landscape which has not been formally protected by resolution. The future will hold new developments. As stated in the College Self-Study in 1974, the College Woods and Lake Matoaka, an area considered to be environmentally critical by the Virginia Division of Planning and Community Affairs, should be preserved in an undeveloped state.

President Paschall’s continued concern for beautifying the campus was captured in the title of an article by S. Dean Olson in the October 1971 Alumni Gazette: “For Every Building, A Hundred Shrubs. His Proud Legacy.” He describes the President’s frequent trips across campus in a “rickety old truck” driven by A. D. Ror, Superintendent of Grounds. On one occasion, involving a Friends of the College tour, Paschall pointed to a flower and commented that it enjoyed the “brush of the Divine artist.” He worked to provide aesthetic landscaping with harmonious buildings and recalled the words of Keats: “A thing of beauty is a joy forever. Its loveliness increases. It will never pass into nothingness.” President Graves was also instrumental in providing critical support at a time additional emphasis was needed. His informal encourage-ment led to the development of a number of programs (Mathes, M.C., “Market- ing Botany,” The Biologist. Aug-Nov 1983), which underlined our unique botan-ical resources.

The Campus was further expanded on February 27, 1946 with the acquisition of the Alumni (Bright) House tract for $25,000. J. T. Baldwin noted that the few original trees which were present in 1946, were supplemented according to a basic landscape plan devised by Richmond landscape architect, Charles F. Gillette. Ansel D. Ror formed boxwood plants from J. B. Brouwers of Colonial Williamsburg. The boxwood hedge, planted in ca. 1947, blends with live oaks, crape myrtle and dogwoods. The grouping of American hollies were dug from the College Woods and the six live oaks were obtained by Dr. Bernice Speese from acorns collected in 1947 from Seashore State Park. Her death in 1983 was a loss to our community.
The contribution of the College landscape, as an educational resource and a beautiful focal-point, has been recognized by the Williamsburg Council of Garden Club’s Annual Arbor Day Award which was awarded to Dr. J. T. Baldwin, Jr. in 1971, Dr. Martin C. Mathes in 1979 and Roy Williams in 1985. A variety of Rhododendrons, daffodils and dogwoods have been planted to further insure the pulchritudinous splendor. The College has been gracious in its policy of allowing individuals to become directly involved in the landscape and has profited from the sequence of those who chose to become associated with the panorama of green. We move into a new era as a result of the implementation of our Master Plan.

The spirit of challenge looms now, and in the future, to those having stewardship of this, the second oldest College in America, that the “landscape green” of the Coat of Arms be preserved and enhanced for posterity, and that the College ever have a new “look upon the country.”

A visual slice of this look upon the country is provided by the enclosed Self-Guided Walking Tour of Selected Woody Species.

General References:

7. The William and Mary Sundial, The College of William and Mary.
THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

COLLEGE TOUR

Featuring Plantings at the College of William & Mary

Assemble at: Wren Building Front Courtyard