

**PROCEEDINGS: ST. JOHN'S
COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT
AND
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-
FIFTH ANNIVERSARY (1784-1909)**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649337286

Proceedings: St. John's college commencement and one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary (1784-1909) by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**PROCEEDINGS: ST. JOHN'S
COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT
AND
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-
FIFTH ANNIVERSARY (1784-1909)**

1784

1909

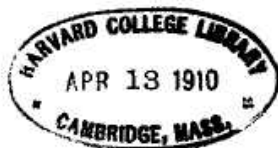
PROCEEDINGS

St. John's College
Commencement
and
One Hundred and Twenty-fifth
Anniversary



ANNAPOLIS
PRINTED FOR THE COLLEGE
NOVEMBER, 1909

Educ U 7008.20.125



67.0036

Historical

St. John's College, at Annapolis, the alma mater of so many of Maryland's most noted and honored sons, is charmingly situated on the banks of the Severn River, a few miles from the Chesapeake Bay. Nothing in the country surpasses the picturesque beauty of its situation.

It reaches back in the continuity of its records to the earliest colonial times. The first effort to establish a college in Maryland was made by the General Assembly, convened in the City of St. Mary's in the year 1671. An Act was then passed by the Upper House of Assembly, for "founding and erecting a school or college for the education of youth in learning and virtue."

This Act was returned by the Lower House with certain amendments providing for the differences in religious views existing at that time among the people, which amendments were not acceptable to the Upper House, and there the Bill rested.

In 1694, the then Governor, Sir Francis Nicholson, sent a message to the Legislature proposing "that a way may be found for the building of a free school for the province," and offering to give money for its maintenance. The plan was approved, and the General Assembly offered subscriptions of tobacco. No further action was taken at this time, but in 1696 an Act was passed which resulted in the establishment of King William's School. This Act recites that the school was established for "the propagation of the gospel and education of youth in good letters and manners." It was addressed to "His most excellent Majesty, etc., Dread Sovereign William III of England." This law further enacted that "the most Reverend Father in God, Thomas, by Divine Providence, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate and Metropolitan of all England, may be Chancellor of said school, and that to perpetuate the memory of your Majesty, it may be called King William's School."

The Reverend Dr. Bray, who had been appointed Commissary of Maryland by the Bishop of London, and who is said to have been the originator of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, was mainly instrumental in obtaining this said Act.

King William's School was thus established. Governor Nicholson gave to the school a lot in the town of Annapolis, with the house thereon, and the Legislature appropriated money to it, but the school-house was not finished until 1701. It was of brick, and stood on the south side of the State House.

In 1784 the charter of St. John's College was granted, two years after a like charter had been given for the establishment of Washington College at Chestertown, on the Eastern Shore.

It was intended by the terms of the charter that the two colleges thus founded should constitute one university under the name of the University of Maryland.

By Act, 1785, the property and funds and students of King William's School were conveyed to St. John's College.

Among the chattels passed to the college were a number of " quaint and curious volumes " brought over by the Rev. Dr. Bray from England, and which still remain in the library of St. John's.

On November 11, 1789, the college was formally opened, and the dedication was performed with much solemnity, all the public bodies being in attendance, and forming a long procession from State House to College Hall. The first president of the College was the Rev. J. McDowell, LL. D.

Among the students of that early period are to be found the names of George Washington Parke Custis, and Fairfax and Lawrence Washington, nephews of George Washington; also, of Francis Scott Key, who entered St. John's November 11, 1789, and graduated in 1796.

On Friday morning, March 25, 1791, President Washington, attended by the Governor of Maryland and a number of citizens, visited St. John's College, and expressed much satisfaction at the appearance of this rising institution.

In 1807 Rev. Dr. Bethel Judd was chosen principal, and the work, though grievously hampered by the action of the Legislature, was partially continued, and in January, 1812, \$1,000 of the annuity, which had been withdrawn by the Legislature in January, 1806, was restored. A lottery granted in 1821 added \$20,000 to the funds, and enabled the College to extend its work. Rev. Henry Lyon Davis served as principal from 1820 to 1824, and the Rev. Dr. William Rafferty from 1824 to 1831. In 1831 Rev. Dr. Hector Humphreys was appointed principal, and by his persevering efforts and personal influence with the members of the Legislature, a sum of \$3,000 was added to the annuity, provided the Board of Visitors and Governors should agree to accept it " in full satisfaction of all legal or equitable claims, that they might have or be supposed to have against the State."

Dr. Humphreys was succeeded by Rev. C. K. Nelson. He guided the College successfully till 1861, when the College buildings were utilized as a military hospital by the United States Army until the close of the war.

After the war the College buildings were put in thorough repair, and Dr. Henry Barnard, of Connecticut, late Commissioner of Education, was elected principal, and the College was reopened in September, 1866. On his resignation, the following summer, Dr. James C. Welling, afterwards president of Columbian University, Washington, D. C., was chosen principal, and the College opened in the autumn with 115 students. Before the close of the next session, the Board of Visitors and Governors, in recognition of an increased annuity, passed an ordinance establishing 150 State scholarships, each scholarship entitling the holder to exemption

from the payment of room rent and tuition fees in any department of the College, and the number of students in attendance increased to 225. Dr. Welling resigned at the close of the session 1869-70, and Dr. James M. Garnett, afterwards professor of English at the University of Virginia, was appointed in his stead. Under his administration, in 1871, the first class since 1860 was graduated, and continuously thereafter, classes have been duly graduated each year. In 1880 Dr. James M. Garnett, with other members of the faculty, tendered their resignations, which were accepted by the Board of Visitors, and the Rev. Dr. J. M. Leavitt was invited to undertake the administrative duties of the College.

In the summer of 1884 Dr. Leavitt resigned, and went abroad for his health, and Prof. William H. Hopkins, subsequently appointed President of the Woman's College, Baltimore, Md., was installed as acting principal. He maintained control during the sessions of 1884-85 and 1885-86, but in spite of strenuous efforts on his part to ameliorate the condition of things, no appreciable progress was made. Under his direction and personal efforts the detail of an officer from the United States Army, and also of an Engineer from the United States Navy, were obtained, in accordance with the provisions of certain Acts of Congress, with the conditions of which St. John's was able to comply.

He resigned in the summer of 1886, to accept the position offered to him by the trustees of the Woman's College, Baltimore, Md., and Dr. Thomas Fell was called to occupy the presidential chair.

On the 26th of June, 1889, the College celebrated the One Hundredth Anniversary of its existence under the title of St. John's College. Many of the old students returned for the occasion, and friends who had not met for years exchanged the heartiest greetings. Owing to the large assemblage of visitors a tent was erected on the campus, in the shade of the famous old poplar tree, where the literary features of the program were carried out.

Toward the close of 1891 the Board of Visitors authorized President Fell to initiate a movement for the formation of an endowment fund. In pursuance of this object he has met with much success, and as one of the results of his efforts in this direction, has paid off a mortgage debt of \$30,000, incurred by reinstating and equipping the College after the Civil War.

In 1901, a new scientific building was erected and dedicated to the memory of Henry Williams Woodward, the father of James T. Woodward, President of the Hanover Bank, New York. And in 1904 a dining-hall and a new dormitory for students was added to the group of buildings.

In 1905, Mr. Andrew Carnegie made a donation for the erection of a new building on the campus, which has not yet been built.

In January, 1907, an affiliation was formed with the University of Maryland, making St. John's College the Department of Arts and Sciences of the University. The combined schools are directed by a

Council of eight (two from St. John's College, two from the Law School, two from the Medical School, and one each from the Schools of Dentistry and Pharmacy), of which the Governor of Maryland is, ex-officio, the Chairman, with the title of Chancellor, the Honorable Bernard Carter the Pro-Chancellor and Dr. Thomas Fell, President of St. John's College, the Vice-Chancellor.

By this affiliation, a year of the time required to take the academic course and the professional course in any of the schools may be saved.

In 1908 a large new Gymnasium was erected, covering a ground space of 158 feet by 97 feet. The main gymnasium room is surrounded by a gallery containing a running track, and there are bowling alleys, a rifle range, reading room, trophy room, as well as the various other separate apartments for offices, etc., required in such a building. Adjoining, is a swimming pool, with a large shower bath and lavatory attached; also a large spare room.

In 1909 a severe misfortune befell the College in the burning of McDowell Hall, the most valuable of all the buildings, both in traditional association and in intrinsic worth. This building was begun in 1744 as a residence for a Colonial Governor, and was presented by the State for educational purposes in 1784.

