St. Mary’s: A “When-Did?” Timeline

by
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with
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and
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St. Mary’s Press
at St. Mary’s College of Maryland
FRONT COVER

Center: Entrance to St. Mary’s City, 1935-1939.

Clockwise from top:

- Reconstructed State House of 1676, St. Mary’s City (built 1934).
- Cheerleaders for the Seminary-Junior College, 1950s.
- Da Vinci horse in Milan, and College study tour, 1990s.
- Governor’s Cup Yacht Race, est. 1974.
- Henry Miller, director of research at Historic St. Mary’s City, lecturing inside the dig at the St. John’s site (2004).
- Fountain, Garden of Remembrance (constructed 1932-1934).

BACK COVER

Top to bottom:
- Seminary (high school) girls on an outing, 1913.
- The Dorchester, docking at Brome’s Wharf, St. Mary’s City.
- Joe Greeley, costumed in his role as captain of the colonial Dove, transfers the readings from the traverse board into the ship’s log.
- In 2007, interpreter Peter Friesen, at the Godiah Spray plantation, Historic St. Mary’s City, shows 4th-grade children how cider was made in colonial times.
- The River Concert Series, est. 1999.

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Cover design: Lee Capristo
Text design: Barbara Woodel
INTRODUCTION

Writers in College offices often telephone the Publications Office with “When-did?” questions. For example:

When did boys start coming to the original Seminary? When did the first archaeological dig take place? When did women first sit on the College's Board of Trustees? When did the first African American join the Board? When did the Alumni association start up? When did the Maryland legislature create St. Mary's Female Seminary? When did the Maryland legislature create the St. Mary's City Commission? When did the legislature create the affiliation between College and Commission? When did the College create its M.A.T. degree program? When did the St. Mary's City Commissioners have their offices in Calvert Hall? When did the first Madrigals evening take place? When did the first African-American student arrive at St. Mary's College? When did the ghost frames go up at St. Mary's City?

The following “When-did?” chronology is selective and strictly in-house for both College and Commission. It is an expansion of the original 2005 Timeline embedded in the style guide, “The Quick Fix: Helps for Office Writing.” For a complete history of the College, see Fred Fausz's excellent Monument School of the People (1990, illustrated), especially Appendix D (pp. 154-155). Much of the material in the following Timeline was originally researched by Fausz. See also the College's annual Factbook, researched and published by the College's Office of Institutional Research. Back issues of The Mulberry Tree are also a mine of information and photos. They are filed at the College in the Archives and also in the Publications Office. Finally, with her customary care, Regina Combs Hammett has set out a history of the College in just 12 pages of her History of St. Mary's County of Maryland (1991, 1994). This present “When-Did?” timeline is intended for use by writers (and other persons of insatiable curiosity) within the communities of both College and Commission. It has not been prepared for the outside world.

Shards. Perhaps this “Timeline” has grown out of contributory shards of history that the three of us (Wilkinson, King, and Haugaard) have gathered over the years we have worked at the College and at the Commission. Both institutions have full-blown publications that reveal, overall, our respective missions. But isolated puzzles persist (why, for instance, does the College give out D.A.R. prizes at Awards Convocation?), not to mention ancient rumors that the Commission once occupied administrative offices at the College.

One of us, Julia King, has turned up information about the mid-19th century Philodemic Society in the course of writing her forthcoming study, Landscapes of Ruin: Developing a Usable American Past, due to be published by the
University of Tennessee Press in 2008. Julia also suggests a relationship between land appropriation at Pax River (1943) and Historic St. Mary's City (1968).

Susan Wilkinson, well supported by Porzia Arneson's suggestions and formidable research skills, has created a rich timeline of her own. This has come out of the Commission's old notes, papers, directives, agreements, contracts, newsletters, publications, and Lois Green Carr's meticulous “History of the Commission,” prepared for the 1984 long-range-planning exercise. This present “Timeline” uses perhaps only 75% of the information that Susan has offered, but it could not have been prepared without her enormous organization of Commission dates and materials.

My own shards have been inquiries into the relation of the D.A.R. to the College; the de-mythologizing of the origins of the Governor's Cup race; inquiries into the College's logo by Hans Schuler Jr.; and ongoing preparation for a work on the Seminary-Junior College in the days of M. Adele France (1923-1948). I am indebted to Silas Hurry, Curator of the Collection at the Commission, for supplying me with generous explanations and illustrations of both the Pilgrims' Altar and the deWeldon shrine -- not to mention information about Miss France's acting role in Maryland's 1934 Tercentenary pageant. Archivists Kat Ryner and Carol Moody actively involved themselves in the project, made suggestions, supplied photographs, and have been wonderfully supportive throughout. Barbara Woodel, here in our Publications Office, has struggled with intransigent layouts and has worked miracles on faded photographs, using what Julia King refers to as “visual magic.” And Lee Capristo, director of the Publications Office and of the St. Mary's Press, has, as always -- without exception -- listened intently, suggested calmly, and led this little timeline through the complicated course of publication.

With all this collegial support, who would not be happy?

JBH
July 2007
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Our school, St. Mary's, did not spring up in 1840 just because someone thought we needed a school for girls in St. Mary's County. And because it is a public institution, St. Mary's is not now and never has been church-related. All its life it has been state-supported. It was built solely to eliminate the bitter religious tensions (Catholic and Protestant) that had existed in the County since colonial times.

Back in the 1600s, all colonies in the New World had a European “mother country” where the first settlers came from. In the case of the Maryland colony, the mother country was England – but it was an England where bloody wars were fought over just which Christian denomination (Catholic or Protestant) was going to be the official state church. Whichever religious group was not in power was either discriminated against or outright persecuted. This posed a problem for Lord Baltimore's family, the Calverts: they were Catholic at a time when they needed the royal support of James I, a Protestant, in order to bankroll an entrepreneurial colony in the Chesapeake. Worse, the Calverts knew they could not find enough Catholics to form a viable colony -- and therefore asked the king for permission to open the overseas venture to Protestants as well. But Catholics and Protestants working together on a common goal? Unheard of in 1634!

The king, however, was persuaded by the Calverts that the mixed-religions experiment would succeed, and so the adventurers set off for the Chesapeake where they established a trading post and legislative capital, St. Mary's City. When it became apparent that the preponderance of investors would be Catholic but that their many laborers would be Protestant, a principle of religious toleration was established (“Libertie of Conscience”), meaning that the colonists agreed to put up with each others' religious beliefs. They further agreed that the colony would not have an official religion, either Catholic or Protestant. Today we refer to this policy as “separation of church and state.” Modern archaeology has established that, in actual fact, the Calverts deliberately built the church and the secular seat of government as far from each other as feasible (see the “butterfly” layout).

But the initial harmony in St. Mary’s City eroded and eventually failed. After six decades, the Calverts were no longer able to withstand pressure and interference from the mother country, and their religio-political experiment in tolerance failed. The capital was moved from St. Mary’s City to Annapolis in 1695; the colonial statehouse was turned into a Protestant (Anglican) church in the same year; and in 1704 the principle of religious tolerance was dramatically overturned when Catholic churches and schools were forcibly closed in accordance with “An Act to Prevent the Growth of Popery within this Province.” When the original but crumbling State House was dismantled in 1829 (having been used for over a century as an Anglican/Episcopal church) its bricks were re-cycled as a second Episcopal church was being built.

Abandoned for the most part, St. Mary’s City sank back into the soil from which it had arisen in 1634, becoming a remote hinterland of religious bitterness until 1838 -- about six generations.
AN IVY TOWER?

The following “When-did?” timeline chronicles specific events at St. Mary’s, but it occasionally also records the dates of events in the “outside” world. These outside events -- seemingly unrelated to either the educational institution or the historic City – nevertheless have often precipitated lasting change.

For instance, the original Seminary came into being because of a novel about religious tolerance published in 1838. The Seminary expanded into the junior college in 1926 because of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution (1920) that gave women the right to vote and take a critical role in society. (The new junior college, wrote the principal, Miss France, would prepare its young women for “an economic place in the world.”) In 1941, the Board of Trustees was ordered by the Maryland legislature to include women among its membership – another result of the Nineteenth Amendment. In 1958, three African Americans were granted admission to Great Mills High School because of the 1954 Supreme Court ruling on the desegregation of schools. Six years later Liz Barber, an African American, felt sufficiently emboldened by that event at Great Mills to enter St. Mary’s Junior College (albeit under subterfuge). In the mid-1960s, while attempting to secure land for an outdoor museum, the St. Mary’s City Commission faced public outrage because citizens remembered something similar: the 1943 federal takeover of land that had been condemned in order to build the naval base. In 1970, the College’s board of trustees – because of the nationwide student movement of the Sixties and because of changing sexual mores – declared that it would no longer stand “in loco parentis” (as a parent) to St. Mary’s students. Social behavior on campus became radically liberalized.

As the College moves into the future, this “Timeline” can be expected to reflect more change – in both customs and curriculum. Colleges, universities, and educational museums – when public -- are not ivy towers. Rather, they reflect what is taking place in the mainstream of American thought and legislation.
A new work of fiction, *Rob of the Bowl*, portrays what daily life in St. Mary’s City might have been like under Lord Baltimore’s experiment in creating a society based on religious tolerance. It is widely read and reviewed in the post-Revolutionary, newly independent United States. Its author is a Baltimorean, John Pendleton Kennedy, well regarded and with two historical novels already to his credit. Kennedy notes in his introduction that the old, colonial City itself no longer exists and that there is no monument (such as Plymouth Rock in Massachusetts) to point to where the experiment had been tried – and had finally failed.

Three men of lower St. Mary’s County (a physician, a lawyer, and a planter) respond to Kennedy’s history and decide to get themselves elected to the Maryland legislature – apparently for the sole purpose of pushing through a bill that will create a monument to Lord Baltimore’s dream. The “monument” will not be the usual chunk of granite (such as Plymouth Rock), but a school, and therefore a “living monument.” The three men theorize that if girls from different religious backgrounds can learn to study, play, and live together in religious peace, they will one day be able to pass the same ethic along to their own children. As tolerance becomes a working principle, so the men theorize, religious bile will be eliminated.

As a result of these efforts from St. Mary’s County, the Maryland legislature authorizes a state-wide lottery to finance the construction of a public, non-denominational boarding “seminary” (academy) in St. Mary’s City. Although the school is designed for girls, throughout its early history it will accept the occasional local boy into the classroom – but not into the dormitory or dining-room. (For changes over the years, see 1929, 1935, 1955, and 1965.) The school will educate the elementary grades through high school. St. Mary’s Female Seminary is not named for Saint Mary herself but for St. Mary’s City, Lord Baltimore’s colonial capital, founded in 1634 to operate under the rule of religious tolerance, under the separation of state power from an individual’s religious belief. The three founders of 1840 are determined to succeed where Lord Baltimore – given the political climate of the mother country – finally had to fail.
As Maryland’s “living monument” to the history and ethic of the colonial capital, St. Mary’s City, the Seminary is required by its charter to collect and preserve archives and artifacts from Maryland’s earliest period. In part, this assemblage would later develop into the Maryland Collection in the modern College library. (Note that this preservationist mandate from the State in 1840 foreshadows the founding legislation of the archaeologically oriented St. Mary’s City Commission, established in 1966. See entries for 1934, 1936, 1966, 1984, and 1996.)

The new, state-supported girls’ academy is to offer lower tuition than similar institutions, is to offer a classical curriculum, and is to have an independent board of trustees. This “seminary” provides education for grades 1 through 12.

But above all – as a memorial to the colonial city for which it is named – St. Mary’s Female Seminary is to rigorously enforce its sole reason for being: religious toleration. In its charter, it forbids proselytizing. There is to be no religious argument or witnessing. The Board of Trustees decides that its 15 members – and the entire faculty – will be evenly divided among the three major white denominations in St. Mary’s County: Roman Catholics, Episcopalians (Anglicans), and Methodists. This program of governance-and-instruction-by-quota will be scrupulously upheld for 100 years, until 1941.

The Philodemic [that is, debating] Society of Georgetown College (later, University) holds the first of a number of celebrations commemorating the founding of Maryland. Although planned for St. Inigoes, organizers secure permission to have the event on the site of the old capital. The Philodemic Society defines the settlement of Maryland as a primarily Catholic event. “Thousands” – including author John Pendleton Kennedy – are reported to have attended the event.

The state-wide lottery has raised $18,000 for the future Seminary. Trinity Episcopal Church (of the larger William and Mary Parish) sells six acres of its land for $609.25, and the Seminary trustees immediately deed the land over to the State of Maryland, making the state the sole owner for perpetuity. The cornerstone is laid for “Main Building” (now, Calvert Hall). The only other structure is a horse-and-wagon stable, reportedly built from the bricks of the crumbling statehouse of 1676. The girls are required to go to their own churches on Sunday, and, until the early 20th century, the Seminary horse and cart are their means of transportation. Also, during the
19th century a vegetable garden is laid out somewhere behind the Main Building.

Students begin classes.

The Philodemic Society holds a second event. Though scheduled for St. Mary's City, at the last minute it is moved to St. Inigoes. However, a small group from the event does travel to St. Mary's City to view the colonial ruins.

A third, smaller event is held at St. Mary's, again by the Philodemic Society. This is mentioned only in the diary of Father Thomas Lilly, a Jesuit stationed at St. Inigoes in the mid-19th century.

In the face of rising anti-Catholic sentiment in the country, a fourth event, again sponsored by the Philodemic Society, is held in St. Mary's City. More than 800 arrive by steamboat, and hundreds of Countians attend. Bands and a large dinner are featured.

Seminary principals, serving briefly, come and go. One is fired for selling anti-Catholic literature to some of the girls.

Artist Emanuel Leutze (“Washington Crossing the Delaware”) visits St. Mary's City to collect information and ideas for his next painting, “The Founding of Maryland.” Julia King describes the painting, now owned by the Maryland Historical Society, as clearly about religious tension in mid-19th-century America.

Legislation is passed that requires the Seminary to annually sponsor 10 tuition-and-board state scholarships. These go to the 10 Maryland counties and legislative districts.

Jeannette Thomas is named principal.

The first printed diploma is awarded.

A very young Annie Elizabeth Thomas '77 is named principal (later, her married name is Mrs. John G. Lilburn). She is a daughter of the previous principal. Today, her portrait hangs at the far left in the library stairwell. She is known affectionately to students of the time as “Miss Lizzie.” Her two-story home is just down the hill from Main Building, and it will burn down around 1929. When it does, the College will buy the “Lilburn lot” and use it for the Freedom of Conscience statue, the caretaker's cottage (“White House”), and three garages (soon dismantled). (See 1934 and 1935.)
1890 | The Leonard Calvert memorial (cenotaph) is erected by the State in Trinity Church cemetery. A steamboat trip from Leonardtown to the dedication is advertised. James Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore attends.

1895 | Laurel Langley is named principal. A portrait of her remains in the family of former College trustee, J. Frank Raley.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.), founded in Washington, D.C. in 1890, becomes incorporated by an Act of Congress. One of its clearly stated missions – in addition to an emphasis on patriotism – is **historic preservation**. (See 1915.)

1899 | State legislation requires that the number of full scholarships (plus free books) be increased from 10 to 26. (See 1868.) The total Seminary enrollment is just under 40. Through the late 1940s, at least half the girls at St. Mary's are on full scholarship. St. Mary's was never a so-called "finishing school" for girls from wealthy families.

1900 | Lucy Lancaster Maddox is named principal of St. Mary's. Today, her portrait hangs second from the left in the library stairwell; she is wearing an embroidered shawl over a V-neck dress. As a Lancaster, she is a direct descendant of Leonard Calvert.

1908 | Music Hall (subsequently called Commencement Hall, and, later, the Gymnasium) is completed. Today it is known as **St. Mary’s Hall** and includes Auerbach Auditorium. It will not be damaged by the catastrophic fire of 1924 and is therefore the oldest building on the modern campus (year 2007).

1911 | A carriage and harness – "for church going" – is purchased by the Trustees for $75. It is kept in the stable – which will be completely renovated into the Alumnae Lodge in 1924.

1915 | German torpedoes sink the *Lusitania*; patriotism runs high as the United States edges toward World War I; and a chapter of the D.A.R. is formed in Leonardtown (Major William Thomas Chapter).

As part of its mission, the D.A.R. will focus on the nearby "monument" school in St. Mary’s City, which itself carries the legislative mandate of 1840 to oversee and preserve the vanished St. Mary’s City. The Seminary is always strapped for money, and the D.A.R. provides gifts and scholarships. Over time, D.A.R. membership in St. Mary’s County will include many wives of Seminary trustees as well as Seminary.
“Miss Lizzie” Thomas Lilburn, Lucy Lancaster Maddox, and M. Adele France were all members of the D.A.R. (See 1895, 1926, 1934, 1964.)

As one enters Main Building, the first large room on the left—opposite the president’s office—is known as the D.A.R. room; here the organization holds its annual “birthday” celebrations and Seminary girls learn the social grace of serving tea. This will continue even after the fire of 1924, up until the junior college becomes a four-year college. (See 1964.)

The Alumnae Association is established.

Congress proposes a nineteenth amendment to all the states, in which women are given the right to vote. After the states have ratified it, the Amendment becomes part of the Constitution in 1920.

The Maryland Society of Colonial Dames of America erects a memorial on the Copley vault in Trinity Cemetery. Lionel Copley was the first royal (and Anglican) governor following the Protestant revolution against Lord Baltimore in 1689.

M. Adele France, a former math and science teacher at the Seminary, as well as a veteran school administrator in the mid-Atlantic states, is named principal of St. Mary’s Female Seminary. Today, her portrait hangs in the library stairwell, third from the left. She is in full academic attire, wearing the robe of her 1942 honorary doctorate (Litt.D.) from Washington College.

January: fire completely destroys Main Building while the school is emptied for the Christmas holidays. A temporary barracks is immediately set up and houses students and faculty for 18 months while a new Main Building is constructed. (However, according to an April 2000 taped account by the caretaker’s daughters, Polly and Irva-nette Wood, the Barracks are not built on site but are floated down the Chesapeake by barge from Fort Meade.) The bricks from the burned-out building are used to transform the old brick stable into a red brick cottage, and for about a decade it will be referred to as the Old Stable. Over time, it will be used as an alumnae lodge, as a home economics lab, as a president’s home (May 1923)
Russell, beginning 1955), and, again, as an alumni lodge. In 2006, it will be renamed in memory of May Russell.

1925

In promotional literature for the fund-raising campaign to re-build Main Building, Lucy Lancaster Maddox (principal from 1900 to 1923) boasts that 70% of Seminary graduates go on to become teachers, often without the need of further study in the two-year teacher-training colleges of the time known as ‘normal schools.”

June: **The new Main Building (today’s Calvert Hall) opens.** It is similar to the original building of 1840 except that (1) now there is a third floor; (2) all the windows are shutterless; and (3) there are not sufficient funds to complete the riverside wing. (However, see 1929.) The dormitory barracks are taken down, and the timber is used to build a caretaker’s cottage next to the Alumnae Lodge – which itself had recently been transformed from a stable to a residential lodge. Old photographs from the post-fire period show two houses at the top of the cliff: Alumnae Lodge (red brick), and the caretaker’s home (a clapboard cottage, painted white over the recycled crude boards of the old 1924 barracks).

1926

The State of Maryland allows M. Adele France, principal, to add a junior college division (first two years of post-secondary education). The institution changes its name slightly to St. Mary’s Female Seminary-Junior College. Miss France explains that “the time is past when we educated our daughters for ornaments only” and pledges that the junior college will prepare its young women for “an economic place in the world.”

St. Mary’s now offers four courses of study:
(1) a general high school curriculum;
(2) a college preparatory high school curriculum;

Temporary wooden barracks house most of the girls for the next 17 months while a new Main Building is constructed. The photographer is standing behind what is now Calvert Hall, facing the Barracks (where Kent Hall now stands). A few girls will stay in Mrs. Lilburn’s two-story house, just barely visible downhill, to the right, where the White House stands today. (College archives)

The new Main Building is similar to the one built in 1842, but lack of funds means that the ell on the river-end can not be added until 1929. (College archives)
(3) a one-year business program for high school graduates; and (4) a two-year junior college program.

Note that instruction below the 9th grade is no longer offered.

In Trinity Church cemetery, the D.A.R. (assisted by Seminary girls) lays out 12 stone markers to indicate where the 17th-century State House may once have stood.

Great Mills High School opens. Because public schools in Maryland are segregated, Great Mills – in common with the Seminary-Junior College – is for whites only. (See entries for 1954, 1956, 1958, 1964, 1967, and 1969.)

Governor Albert C. Ritchie appoints a Tercentenary Commission to start planning the 300th anniversary (1934) of the founding of Maryland. The decision is made to build a replica of the original State House on 1.18 acres of land donated by the Howard family.

Edwin Burch is the first boy to graduate from the high school division of the Seminary. (See entries for 1840, 1935, 1949, 1955, and 1965.)

In anticipation of the 1934 Tercentenary, Main Building (today’s Calvert) is completed: the riverside section is added on, the six columns are painted white, and the Maryland seal is placed high above the front. This is all accomplished just six weeks before Black Tuesday (October 29th), the day the stock market crashes and the Great Depression begins.

The Junior College Division gives diplomas to its first four graduates (women).

The High School Division at St. Mary’s receives accreditation by Middle States. (See 1937, 1941, 1959.)

During the 1930s and ’40s, at least half the student body receives 29 full scholarships from the State of Maryland as well as scholarships and awards from the D.A.R. and one or two other private sources.

St. Mary’s is recognized by the State of Maryland as a “First Class, First Group High School.”

The Seminary-Junior College spruces up for the hosting role it will play at the Tercentenary in 1934. A pump house, new water tower (to replace the original windmill), and chlorinator are erected behind Main Building, and the school is connected to County electricity. The trustees decide to sell the old Delco generator, but this does not actually happen until 1934.
A 1931 insurance survey and map of the Seminary reveal that – on the same flat level as today’s boathouse, and edging an old tidal pool – lie a garage, a pump house for the new water tower – and a small chicken coop.
The Great Depression deepens, and Miss France turns down a salary increase of $1,000 due to “the existing business depression.”

The Depression also prompts the League of Women Voters to launch a campaign against the Seminary-Junior College. The League argues that the school is not economically viable because it seems to operate as a private boarding school and is run by an independent board of trustees (instead of the state’s Board of Education). Miss France responds by eliminating the 9th and 10th grades, thereby strengthening the four-year high school-junior college. By 1937 this transformation will be complete.

The Seminary Junior College buys its first land since its founding in 1840. Following “Miss Lizzie’s” death in 1932, it purchases “the Lilburn lot” where her house had stood before burning to the ground. The Trustees then lease part of it to the state of Maryland so that the Freedom of Conscience statue may be erected for the Tercentenary celebration in 1934. (See 1935.)

**TERCENTENARY** (300th anniversary of Maryland)

The State produces an enormous celebration in honor of the 300th anniversary of the beginnings of Maryland in St. Mary’s City. Dates: Friday, June 15 and Saturday, June 16. This celebration has been years in the planning.

Because the Seminary was established in 1840 to serve as both monument to and guardian of the vanished colonial city, it plays a huge role in the celebration that allegedly attracts 100,000 visitors in mid-June. The state-wide Tercentenary Commission, headed by Governor Ritchie, includes Miss France among its members. She is also on the Arrangements Committee and the Grounds Committee. Distinguished guests and the press are all housed in Main Building, just emptied of students after the June graduation. The single telephone line for this enormous Tercentenary is housed in Miss France’s office. Telephone: Great Mills 1.

The State provides: (1) Construction and paving of a bypass to Brome’s Wharf Road (which was Route 584, the narrow state highway that today still runs in a straight line up the hill to Calvert Hall). The new bypass is the curving section of Route 5 that today skirts St. John’s Pond and provides the site for the present brick post office. (2) The north wing (1929) of Main Building, left unfinished in 1925, as well as a painted-iron replica of the state seal above the main portico. (3) The Reconstructed State House of 1676. (4) A huge granite statue, “The Freedom of Conscience,” which marks the entrance to the colonial city whose guiding colonial policy had
been “libertie of conscience.” The statue is the gift of all the original counties of Maryland and is erected at the point where Rte. 584 (Brome’s Wharf Road) and the new bypass (Rte. 5) meet. It will be erected in 1935. The sculptor is Hans Schuler Sr. of Baltimore (1874-1951), a nationally respected artist. (See 1970.) (5)

A commemorative coin, a commemorative stamp, and a commemorative medal (also by Hans Schuler). (6)

A Hall of Records in Annapolis “for the preservation and exhibition of the Colonial Records.” (7) A memorial tablet at Cowes, on the Isle of Wight, “marking the place where the first Maryland colonists took their departure for their new homes across the Atlantic,” and (8) a 40-foot cross on Blackistone Island (St. Clement’s) to echo the cross erected by the first colonists in 1634. (9) The tiny wooden post office on Brome’s Wharf Road is moved out to the new highway, either now or in 1935. (See 1929.)

**The Alumnae Association provides:**

(1) The Garden of Remembrance, inspired and overseen by Miss France, who is on the Grounds Committee for the Tercentenary. It is the middle of the Great Depression, and the College does not have one nickel to spend toward what is meant to be the Seminary’s showpiece for the Tercentenary. The cost is borne entirely by relentless fund-raising of the recently formed (1917) Alumnae Association. The old vegetable garden is dug up. Mark Shoemaker, a garden designer from the agricultural extension at College Park, lays out the plans. The pérgola that frames the view of the river is the gift of the D.A.R. After two years of effort (1932-1934), the Garden is dedicated in June, just after the students have left and as the hordes of visitors and dignitaries are arriving. Because Kent Hall does not yet exist, the hot June drive up Brome’s Wharf Road to the State House has a wide open view – off to the right – of the new Garden and its splashing fountain.

**St. Mary’s Female Seminary-Junior College provides:** (1) Hospitality: Miss France is on the Arrangements Committee for the Tercentenary. (2) In 1926, the D.A.R., assisted by Seminary girls, had laid out stone markers in the cemetery to indicate where the original statehouse may
have stood. (3) A senior class (1927) had given the new cast-iron arch over the entrance to the Seminary driveway. (4) In Trinity Church cemetery, the D.A. R. had dedicated boxwood and provided a tablet at the supposed entrance to the old statehouse (1932). (5) A few Seminary girls and Miss France take part in the huge Tercentenary pageant with a state-wide cast of characters: “St. Maries, Mother of Maryland.” Miss France plays the part of Mary Vacaris (foreman of a real, 17th-century all-female jury), and a few students play the roles of jurors.

Because Historic St. Mary's City will not exist – or even be thought of – for another thirty years, it falls to St. Mary’s (the “monument” school) to implement much of the planning. It is assisted – among others – by the D.A.R., whose mission is to educate and take care of historic sites in the United States and all its off-shore possessions.

Charles Birch is the first male to graduate from the Junior College Division. (See entries for 1840, 1929, 1949, 1955, and 1965.)

Brome’s Wharf has been damaged by a severe storm in August of 1933, and the steamboat company (Baltimore and Virginia Steamship Company) no longer picks up and delivers girls to the Seminary-Junior College. They must now rely on family car or buses to Leonardtown.

On May 18, with an audience of 1,000 in attendance, Governor Richie speaks at the unveiling of the “Freedom of Conscience” statue. A chorus from the Seminary-Junior College sings, and cadets from Charlotte Hall Academy are part of the ceremony.

Over a period of three days and two nights in November, the one-story caretaker’s house – originally built from the boards of the old Barracks, and now situated between the Garden and Alumnae Lodge – is rolled down the slope, across Brome’s Wharf Road (Route 584) and repositioned behind the Freedom of Conscience statue, near where Miss Lizzie's two-story house had stood before it burned down. The caretaker's cottage is known today as “the White House.” (See 1925, 1932.) Moving it had been the suggestion of Mark Shoemaker, the College Park designer of the Garden of Remembrance, who felt that the cottage was too close to the Garden and detracted from it.
The move is carried out by a foreman and a crew of about 20 unskilled laborers from the new W.P.A. (Works Projects Administration), an agency formed only a few months before, in May, as part of Franklin Roosevelt’s New Deal. An athletic field is created on the wetlands downhill and east of the Alumnae Lodge, land that will later be used as a recreational waterfront. This may also be the time when the post office on Brome’s Wharf Road is moved out to the new main highway. A tennis court and three garages are built uphill from the statue, on the same side of the road. The Seminary views these physical changes as an improvement, but one irate citizen remarks that the new buildings behind the statue are “a desecration,” and that “this improvement has caused lots of fusses.”

1936 Historian Henry Chandlee Forman starts the first archaeological digs around St. Mary’s City. His work will bear fruit 30 years later when the General Assembly creates the St. Mary’s City Commission. (See 1966, 1984, 1997.)

1937 St. Mary’s eliminates the first two years of high school and now becomes a four-year junior college: high school grades 11 and 12 make up the Lower Division, and the junior college is called Upper Division. Confusingly to the modern ear, girls in the Lower Division (grades 11 and 12) are called “freshmen” and “sophomores,” while girls in the Upper Division are called “juniors” and “seniors.” (See 1932.)

The head of school is no longer known as “principal” but “president.” This happens as St. Mary’s becomes a regular line item in the annual State budget.


1940 On the 100th anniversary of the Seminary’s founding, Miss France erects a black and white Maryland-history sign on Route 584 (Brome’s Wharf Road), just opposite the Freedom of Conscience statue. The sign reiterates that the school is the “monument” to the first colony and its governing principle of religious liberty.
On the occasion of the Seminary’s one-hundredth anniversary, the State of Maryland gives St. Mary’s a gymnasium with a lower-level, roadside space to be used as a garage. This gymnasium is today’s re-modeled Kent Hall. (See 1998.) It quite likely sits on the site of the 17th-century jail (brick, colonial).

The State of Maryland grants accreditation to the high school-junior college: that is, grades 11, 12, and the first two years of college. (See 1930, 1937, 1941, 1959.)

The governor and the General Assembly order the Board of Trustees to modernize by including women, alumnae, and persons living outside St. Mary’s County. The three alumnae appointed to the board are Betty Revell Wathen (1885), Anne Weeks Ewalt (1925), and Agnes Coffren Sasscer (1912). Terms are to be limited to six years (renewable). At this time the number of trustees is reduced from 15 to 12, and the denominational “seats” – for both trustees and faculty – are also rescinded: Catholic, Episcopalian, Methodist. The trustees discuss opposing the governor on this unexpected change in governance but finally conclude that such a protest would be “unbecoming.” It is also decided – mercifully – that from now on the Board minutes will be typed, no longer written by hand.

The “base” opens in Lexington Park (Naval Air Station-Patuxent River). The Junior College girls (chaperoned) may go to dances at “Pax River.”

This naval base has been established only by federal condemnation of 6,412 acres of farm land at Cedar Point. The appropriation angers many Countians and will fester into memory. Julia King believes that this take-over will undoubtedly contribute – in the 1960s and ’70s – to popular resistance when the newly founded St. Mary’s City Commission embarks on its own attempts to appropriate land. (See 1967, 1971, 1972, 1976, 1978, 1980.)

In 1942, Henry Ford buys a 1654 (?) colonial house that is sited on the condemned land. It is “Susquehannah.” He has it dismantled, moved, and rebuilt on his museum site in Greenfield Village, Michigan. (See 1967.)

Report of the Marbury Commission: For a year and a half, Miss France (vigorously supported by alumnae and trustees) refutes the state-supported report of the Marbury Commission. This report has recommended that the State close St. Mary’s Seminary-Junior College. In her published response and testimony to the legislature, Miss France argues that St. Mary’s offers small classes in a liberal arts curriculum and that it serves as the only institution of higher education in St. Mary’s and Charles counties. She wins.

May Russell (a former math teacher in Annapolis and later dean of women at Salisbury State Teacher’s College) is named president of St. Mary’s Female-Seminary Junior College. She imme-
diately institutes an Honor Code that is both academic and social. Her portrait, by Peter Egeli, hangs fourth from the left in the library stairwell. She is dressed in green.

The word “Female” is dropped from the school name: it is now known as St. Mary’s Seminary Junior College (no hyphen). It is Miss Russell’s hope that this change in name will encourage local males to apply for admission. They may not, however, live on campus, a privilege reserved only for the “Sem-Fems.” (See 1965.)

This may be the first year in which the girls call themselves “Sem-Fems.”

1950

St. Mary’s buys land between Route 5 and Route 584 (Brome’s Wharf Road) in order to construct two buildings: Margaret Brent (1951, eight faculty apartments), and Anne Arundel (1954, classrooms). Up until this point, the Seminary-Junior College had existed only on the west side of Brome’s Wharf Road. (See also 1844, 1932, 1956, 1963, 1970, 1974, 2002.)

Miss Russell receives an honorary degree (LL.D.) from Western Maryland College.

Miss Russell institutes a history pageant, “The Birth of Tolerance.” Every girl has an assigned role in this production that is attended by groups of school children and is part of the annual Home and Garden tour from Baltimore. This three-day pageant is performed every year through 1959.

1951

Radio commentator Fulton Lewis, Jr. (living in Hollywood, Maryland) suggests in a Christmas Eve broadcast that “Old St. Mary’s City should be rebuilt, with the buildings serving as dormitories, classrooms, and laboratories for St. Mary’s Seminary.”

1954

Brown v. Board of Education: the United States Supreme Court unanimously outlaws segregation in public education and declares racially separate public schools (such as St. Mary’s) unequal. States are instructed to begin desegregation plans “with all deliberate speed.” (See 1927, 1956, 1958, 1964, 1967, 1969.)

Male faculty members arrive at the Junior College.
The number of male commuters ("day-hops") increases significantly. (See entries for 1840, 1929, 1935, 1949, and 1965.)


The Civil Rights movement begins, led by Martin Luther King, Jr.

A class action lawsuit is filed in District Court by 66 persons, requesting desegregation of public schools in St. Mary's County. But attorneys for the Board of Education move that the suit be dismissed – and it is. (See 1927, 1954, 1958, 1964, 1967, 1969.)


The Seminary Junior College is granted accreditation by Middle States. (See 1930, 1937, 1941.)

The mascot chosen for the Junior College is the Chesapeake Bay Retriever. The school colors remain orange and black. (See 1966, 1968, 1984.)

The last high school class graduates. What remains (but for only eight more years) is St. Mary’s Junior College, a two-year institution.

Oral contraception for women ("the Pill") becomes available, without prescription, in the 1960s. (See 1969, 1970.)

Elizabeth “Liz” Barber becomes the first African-American to enter St. Mary’s Junior College. However, she has been admitted only because (1) she did not answer the “race” question on the application, (2) did not submit a photograph, and (3) did not give the name of the “colored” school from which she was graduating – George Washington Carver. She graduates from the Junior College in 1964. (For her account, see The Mulberry Tree Papers, Spring 2001.)


Maryland Senator Daniel B. Brewster introduces a bill (S. 2089) “to establish the Saint Mary’s City Memorial Commission” to determine the feasibility of operating a restored site by the National Park Service.
1964  The Junior College boathouse is built, a gift of the Alumni Association.

In anticipation of St. Mary’s becoming a four-year college for the liberal arts, Governor J. Millard Tawes signs legislation changing the name of the institution from St. Mary’s Junior College to St. Mary’s College of Maryland. But it will not offer a senior college curriculum for another three years. (See 1971.)

This is the last year in which the Trustee minutes record that the D.A.R. holds spring and fall luncheon meetings at the Junior College. (See 1915.)

The Civil Rights Act becomes law in July.

1965  Queen Anne Hall, for women, opens. It is the first of the new residence halls. (Up until the late 1980s, all new buildings will be named for Maryland counties.)

The first resident male students arrive (see entries for 1840, 1929, 1935, 1949, 1955). They live temporarily in Calvert Hall until Dorchester Hall is completed in 1966.


Governor J. Millard Tawes appoints a committee, led by State Senator Louise Gore, to study possible restoration of St. Mary’s City. It is called the St. Mary’s City Restoration Study Committee.

1966  Under Governor J. Millard Tawes, the Maryland General Assembly creates a new, independent state agency, the St. Mary’s City Commission (reporting directly to the Governor – see 1970, 1997) “to preserve, develop and maintain” St. Mary’s City as a state “monument” – a monument that should, incidentally, promote tourism. The Governor is quite likely attempting to offset the economic loss caused by the elimination of legal slot machines and – at the same time – attempting to modernize rural areas in Southern Maryland. The “monument” is to be focused on colonial history and archaeology. The Commission tacitly takes over one of the Seminary’s original functions by becoming the caretaker of the old City and its “sacred” lands. (See 1840, 1934, 1936, 1965, 1984, 1996.)

This 1966 legislation concerning St. Mary’s City does the following: (1) transfers the 1934 State House replica from the Department of Forest and Parks to the St. Mary’s City Commission (“the Commission”); (2) appoints General Robert Hogaboom as chairman and director of the Commission; (3) employs a State House custodian and keeps the building open seven days a week; (4) hires H. Chandlee Forman (archaeologist and architectural historian) and Orin Bullock (preservation architect) to draw up an “Outline Plan for Preservation and Development.” (See 1967, 1970.)

The State House replica of 1934 is the only physical structure owned by the Commission. There are no other buildings.

On paper only, Maryland’s State Board of Higher Education formally elevates St. Mary’s Col-
lege to senior college status (four years of liberal arts at the newly named St. Mary’s College of Maryland). The College will offer both bachelor of arts and bachelor of science degrees. Over the next few years the State Board of Higher Education and the St. Mary’s trustees oversee the building of a faculty and a curriculum (divided not into traditional departments but into three – and later four – academic divisions). A president for the new four-year college must also be chosen (see 1969).

Dorchester Hall (residence hall) and Charles Hall (student union) open. The specially sculpted Junior College mascot, a Chesapeake Bay Retriever, is meant to lie on a pedestal in front of Charles Hall, but during the construction period it is put into the Garden of Remembrance for safekeeping and remains there to this day. (See 1959, 1966, 1968, 1984.)

The College and the new Commission make plans to re-route Route 5 from Park Hall to just south of Rosecroft Road, coming down off of St. Mary’s Hill (the hill on Mattapany Road). This would increase safety for students and visitors, at the same time reducing modern intrusion into the historic area. (But see 1977.)

The Board of Education of St. Mary’s County rules in year 1967-1968 “to employ, assign, reassign, dismiss teachers and professional staff without regard to race, color, or national origin.” (See 1927, 1954, 1956, 1958, 1964.) Racial integration of County schools is carried out under Robert King, recently appointed superintendent of schools for St. Mary’s County. He will receive an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the College in 1978.

The St. Mary’s City Commission hires a historian (Lois Green Carr) and a consultant archaeologist (J. Glenn Little).

The campus “dig” on Pine Tree Hill (carried out by the new St. Mary’s City Commission) turns out to be the foundation of the Hicks residence (1720-1741). It lies between what we know to-
day as Caroline and Prince George residence halls. (See 1970.)

Commissioners debate whether the proposed museum should be (1) a shrine to toleration or (2) an outdoor history museum. This marks only the first round of what will be an ongoing debate: the mission of the St. Mary's City Commission. Felix de Weldon (sculptor of the Iwo Jima Memorial) presents sketches and a plaster model of a large monument ("shrine") that would rest on a 12-acre site at Chancellor's Point. The majority of the Commissioners decide against a monument/shrine to tolerance and in favor of an outdoor history museum, but Mary Carter Roberts expresses a strong minority opinion. (See 1967, 1970, 1972, 1977.)

Editor's interjection: Lost in all the discussion is the realization that Maryland already has a “monument” to tolerance: it is the Seminary, founded in 1840. Its chartered mandate was to educate for this difficult ethic. Perhaps the original mission has been forgotten or overlooked in light of the fact that the re-focused College is now absorbed in (1) creating a four-year, liberal arts curriculum, and (2) distancing itself from its old Seminary past. (See 1840.)

The “Outline for Preservation and Development” for St. Mary's City is completed by Forman and Bullock and serves as a temporary master plan. (See 1966.)

The Commissioners develop an acquisition policy: (1) buy local houses as quickly as possible from willing sellers; (2) condemn only if historic or scenic value is threatened; and (3) attempt to raise funds from federal and private grants. (See 1943, 1967, 1971, 1972, 1977, 1978, 1980.)
For one dizzying moment, the Commission considers (but finally decides against) purchasing Kiplin Hall, originally the Calvert family estate in North Yorkshire, England. They discuss disassembling it in England and rebuilding it in St. Mary’s City. Possible precedents for this idea: (1) The Cloisters in New York City, re-assembled from five French cloisters (1934-1938); (2) the original London Bridge, bought and disassembled by American entrepreneur Robert P. McCulloch who re-assembled it in Arizona (1968-1971); and “Susquehannah,” the 1654(?) home overlooking the Patuxent that Henry Ford took down, transported, and re-assembled on his museum site in Dearborn, Michigan in 1942. (See 1943.)

The last junior college class graduates. There will be no graduations in 1969 and 1970 while the first liberal arts students work toward their bachelor’s degrees.

Talbot Hall infirmary opens (today, Chance Hall, the health center).

One African American enrolls at the College. (See 1967.)

The College mascot changes from the Chesapeake Bay Retriever (Junior College) to the Saints (St. Mary’s College of Maryland). School colors remain orange and black. (See 1959, 1966, 1974.)


The Maryland Department of State Planning, St. Mary’s County, and the Commission obtain a grant from HUD (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) to develop a master plan.

St. Mary’s City is put on the Maryland Register of Historic Places.

The College, the Commission, and the Smithsonian establish an informal consortium for educational programs in St. Mary’s City (St. Mary’s City Study Committee).

The State House is closed for three months for renovation and installation of heat. Commission members must vacate the State House.

Because of this, and because the Commission owns no other property, the College supplies Commission members with office space in Calvert Hall. This accommodation will continue for five years.
Two hundred acres at St. Mary’s City is certified as a National Historic Landmark by the Secretary of the Interior.

An additional 66 acres (Chancellor’s Point) are acquired by the Commissioners through the Nature Conservancy.

“Hundreds” of artifacts are unearthed at the dig on Pine Tree Hill and placed on exhibit in Calvert Hall. (See 1967.)

The College and the Commission sponsor underwater archaeology in St. John’s Pond. The results are minimal as there is too much mud.

Renwick Jackson is named president of St. Mary’s College of Maryland and takes office on July 1st. His portrait hangs in the library stairwell, second from the right. He is wearing a red academic robe.

Because Calvert Hall is now being used by General Hoggaboom and his staff (St. Mary’s City Commission), President Jackson sets up an office for himself in Lowell Thomas’s former home at the Placid Harbor Yacht Club on the Patuxent, 20 miles north of the College.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) of the U.S. Department of Education notifies the state of Maryland that it is one of 10 states operating a racially segregated public system of higher education and must eradicate all vestiges of segregation. This must be documented in annual reports.

An ad hoc Committee to Racially Integrate St. Mary’s College is approved by the Board of Trustees. (See 1927, 1954, 1956, 1958, 1964, 1967.)
The library opens, and the gymnasium is moved from Kent Hall to the new Somerset Hall. Kent is now renovated and becomes the Division of Natural Science and Mathematics. (See 1993.)

A second memorial to Father Andrew White ("Pilgrims' Altar") is deeded to the Commission by the Pilgrims of St. Mary's, a Catholic group founded in 1923 by Father John La Farge, S.J., serving at that time as a parish priest in St. Mary's County and as one of the organizers of the Cardinal Gibbons Institute in Ridge. It is Father La Farge's intent that the Pilgrims focus on the history of Roman Catholics in the founding of Maryland. Thus, for the 1934 Tercentenary his well-known brother, architect Christopher Grant La Farge, designed for the Pilgrims an “altar” dedicated to Father Andrew White. It was sited on 2.5 acres about ¼ mile from Route 5 on Snow Hill Manor Road-South. The altar incorporated a few very old bricks that had been found in the Chapel Field at St. Mary's City. The memorial altar is dismantled soon after the Pilgrims deed it over to the St. Mary's City Commission in 1969, but the old bricks that had been taken from the Chapel Field are returned to the Commission and used in the construction of the Brick Chapel around 2005.

The Woodstock Festival in Bethel, New York becomes a symbol of changing values and attitudes in the younger (college-age) generation. (See 1960, 1970.)

President Jackson and the Board of Trustees issue a Student Bill of Rights announcing that the College no longer legally serves in loco parentis ("in the place of parents"). At the same time, dormitory curfews are eliminated, students 18 and older are allowed to drink (state law permits this), and students are permitted to live off-campus. (But see 1984.)

The two-story Cobb residence is bought to serve as a president's house. (See 1969, 1974.)

Prince George Hall and Caroline Hall open on Pine Tree Hill (both are residence halls).

At the request of Renwick Jackson, the College medallion (bronze, three inches in diameter) is designed and struck by Hans Carl Schuler Jr. (1912-1999), son of the sculptor who designed the Freedom of Conscience statue in 1934. This design of the Ark and Dove will one day become the College logo.

The Master Plan of the St. Mary's City Commission is completed. Developed by Robert Plavnik, with funding from HUD, the plan focuses on a mission of both authenticity and broad research in history, archaeology, and architecture. (See 1966, 1967.) The Plan recommends acquisition of 1200 acres. It suggests a museum, visitor center, working tobacco farm, public transportation, and reconstruction of the Ark and Dove. (See 1943, 1967, 1969, 1971, 1972, 1976, 1978.)

The Commission opposes the efforts of Mary Carter Roberts to seek legislative support for the de Weldon monument/shrine to religious tolerance. (See 1967.)

The Commission moves the conservation lab (with artifacts from Pine Tree Hill) from Kent Hall to Calvert.
The Commission acquires land adjacent to the State House, including waterfront and Brome’s Wharf.

The College gives the Commission control over Pope’s Freehold, first owned by Nathaniel Pope, a great-great-grandfather of George Washington.

The National Audubon Society, the Maryland State Department of Forests and Parks, and Commission staff lay out trails at Chancellor’s Point.

At the Commission, Maggie Marlay initiates a docent-training program to provide guides for school tours.

**When Maryland state government is reorganized, the Commission is placed under the purview of the Department of Community and Economic Development.** (See 1966, 1997.)

A consortium of the College, the Commission, and the Smithsonian sponsors a six-week study program at the Hicks site. It is directed by Harold Skramsted of the Smithsonian. (See 1967.)

The College offers a new course, “Approaches to the Study of St. Mary’s City.”

**1971**

The first class of the new St. Mary’s College of Maryland graduates. They receive B.A. and B.S. degrees. (See 1964.)

Faculty tenured before 1971 may keep that status if they wish, but those hired from this year on will not be tenured. Instead, if they qualify, they will be offered a sequence of two-year, three-year, and five-year contracts. (But see 1993.)

The College sponsors a study-abroad trip to Colombia. President Jackson cites it as “the first-stage development of an International Program.”

Two 17th-century cannons (found in the river in the 1820s) are mounted on the grounds of the State House.

A field school in historical archaeology begins, co-sponsored by the College and the City.

The Enterprise newspaper reports organized opposition to the St. Mary’s City project, especially the size of the “Take Line.” Sue Wilkingson suggests that calling it the “Take Line” may have been “unwise.” (See 1943, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1980.)

**1972**

The General Assembly approves the establishment of the St. Mary’s College of Maryland Foundation. The legislation is sponsored by State Senator J. Frank Raley, a College trustee.
The College establishes the honorary Order of the Ark and Dove ("For distinguished service to the College"). (See 1978, 1980, 1981.)

At the Commission, Elizabeth "Polly" Combs Barber is named director (1972-1980).

Archaeology begins at the St. John’s site and concludes at both the Hicks site and Pope’s Freehold.

Maryland Day – the first one – is inaugurated by Commission, College, and St. Mary’s County Commissioners.

The National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities begin funding a major research program, which provides the basis for interpretation at the museum.

The first Madrigals evening is created by Maggie Marlay of the Commission and Sandra Willetts of the College. It is celebrated in the State House with a Yule log, a roast suckling pig with an apple in its mouth, and a flaming plum pudding.

President Jackson launches The Mulberry Tree Papers.

Maryland’s Board of Public Works (which includes Louis Goldstein) bypasses the St. Mary’s City Commission and signs a contract with de Weldon to begin work on his proposed shrine. But this never comes to pass. (See 1967, 1977.)

Local Countians fight the size of the Take Line, with over 200 residents forming the St. Mary’s City Civic Association to demand that the Take Line be reduced from 1200 to 325 acres. On a visit to St. Mary’s City, Governor Mandel complains that he has “heard more about this project than any other issue since I’ve been . . . Governor.” (See 1943, 1967, 1971, 1977, 1980.)

The one-story Chapman residence is purchased by the College. Today it is the Admissions Office. (See 1970.)
As a four-year institution for the liberal arts, St. Mary's College of Maryland receives its first accreditation from Middle States – but that accrediting body expresses some reservations and cautions. (See 1984.)

The College launches what will become an annual Governor’s Cup Yacht Race. Deak Reynolds, dean of administration, oversees this project of Ren Jackson's. Two students and a recent alumnus work hard to make it happen (Dale M. Rausch ’71, Peter B. Sarelas ’75, and J. Russell Baker ’76). The City Commission also cooperates in the venture.

The Commission holds its last meeting in the College’s Guest [Alumni] Lodge, and in December the offices move to the Merchant house, on Commission property.

The Commission also moves its archaeology laboratory from the College to the basement of another newly acquired house on Commission property.

The Plavnik Plan is revised. (See 1970.)


The St. Mary’s Outdoor Drama Group is formed in order to produce a Bicentennial drama about the colonial settlement. The Group contracts with playwright Kermit Hunter to produce Wings of the Morning: The Story of Maryland's Founding. It will be performed for the first time in Lexington Park.

In February, the Commission holds its first meeting on Commission property (Merchant house).

At Chancellor’s Point, a parking lot and restrooms are built.

Excavations begin at the Van Sweringen site.

As of June 30, the Commission owns 432 acres.

Wings of the Morning, though not a project of the Commission, is now performed on a temporary stage built on the shoreline below the State House.

Interns from the College begin to receive credit for working with archaeologists and historians at the St. Mary’s City Commission.
Both the College and the Commission learn that the planned Route 5 bypass has been eliminated from the state’s Twenty-Year Plan (1972-1992). (See 1966.)

Archaeological work at St. John’s site is completed and a fiberglass A-frame covers the stabilized site. (It will be removed during construction in 2006.)

At the Commission, total acreage owned is now 501.8. Senate Bill 95 allows more liberal life tenancies. (See 1943, 1967, 1971, 1972, 1980.)

Wings of the Morning is billed as “one of Maryland’s Top 20 Bicentennial Events.” Between June 26 and August 20, the part of Mathias da Sousa is played by 21-year-old Denzel Washington, Jr., a student at Fordham University.

Wings of the Morning is in its final summer at the waterfront stage.

Sculptor Felix de Weldon writes an article for The Enterprise newspaper on the failed plan for his shrine to tolerance, and the newspaper publicly laments the loss. (See 1966, 1967, 1972.)

The College establishes the honorary Order of the Mulberry Tree (“For distinguished service to the arts”). (See 1972, 1980, 1981.)

The Maryland Dove, designed by William Baker, is delivered to the Commission.

Burt Kummerow (coordinator of interpretation at the Commission) initiates a living history program. Necessary grants come from the Maryland Humanities Council in cooperation with both St. Mary’s College and the St. Mary’s County Creative Arts Forum.

Project 84 is the Commission’s planning for Maryland’s 350th celebration in 1984.

With support from the St. Mary’s City Commission, the St. Mary’s County Historic District Commission recommends to the County’s board of commissioners that it designate 8,000 acres of private land surrounding St. Mary’s City as a historic district (this had been recommended in the Plavnik Plan). Local residents respond in an uproar. The controversy extends into 1979, and a strong, sustained opposition results in significant budget reductions for the St. Mary’s City Commission.

By the end of 1979, and as a result of the historic districting controversy, the Commission’s budget has been slashed, a bill to reduce the Take Line is in preparation, and the director has resigned.

An equatorial sun dial is constructed at the College waterfront. (It will be added to in 1983.)
At the Commission, a membership program begins (Friends of St. Mary’s City), and a quarterly newsletter is created.

The Montgomery Hall Fine Arts Center opens, and the new bell tower (carillon) is dedicated.

The College establishes the honorary Order of Lord Baltimore (“For distinguished public service – men only”). (See 1972, 1978, 1981.)


The Maryland Historical Trust establishes the Southern Maryland Preservation Center at the Commission.


At the Commission, Daniel Reed (1980-1986) is named director.

An Indian longhouse is constructed at Chancellor’s Point, in cooperation with the Maryland Commission on Indian Affairs.

1980

The Historic St. Mary’s City Foundation is established to help support the Commission.

At the Commission, work begins on building a 17th-century farmhouse. (See 1982.)

The College establishes the honorary Order of Margaret Brent (“For distinguished public service – women only”). (See 1972, 1978, 1980, 1981.)

1981

Richard D. Weigle, College trustee and former president of St. John’s College in Annapolis, is named interim president of the College.

Archaeologists work on Country’s House and also the bastion of the 1634 fort.

The Godiah Spray Tobacco Plantation opens, and “living history” begins at this plantation tenant house. (See 1981.)

1982
Edward T. Lewis is named president of the College. His portrait, painted by his older son, Stephen, hangs at the far right in the library stairwell. He is not in academic dress and wears a striped tie.

The bachelor of science degree is no longer offered at the College. All degrees are now bachelor of arts.

The first desk-top computers are given to the College (9 Epsons).

The 1645 Pope’s Fort is discovered, and archaeology continues at Smith’s Ordinary, Cordea’s Hope, the Catholic Chapel, and other sites.

The Southern Maryland Regional Preservation Center of the Maryland Historical Trust moves from Historic St. Mary’s City to Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum.

The St. Maries City Foundation is incorporated and begins to find corporate donors for development of the Museum.

A new entity, known as Historic St. Mary’s City, is created by the St. Mary’s City Commission in order to develop archaeological and educational programs. (See 1936, 1966.)

350th anniversary of the founding of Maryland. The College, still absorbed by the end of the Renwick Jackson presidency, has not made plans for the celebration, but Historic St. Mary’s City has. Project 84, as it is known, has worked for the past five years on several aspects of museum development.

“Lord Baltimore’s World” – a Tri-county Council program – opens May 18 on Museum land and runs on weekends till the end of July. Through arts and crafts, skits, games, story-telling, music, and food, this fair brings the 17th century to life (both England and Maryland). It is reported that 175,000 people attend during the summer.

On Maryland Day, Governor Harry R. Hughes opens the Visitor Center and its exhibits.

On Charter Day (June 23rd), Governor and Mrs. Hughes escort the Duke and Duchess of Kent – representing the English royal family – at the celebration in St. Mary’s City.

The local community also takes part in the 350th celebration: the Garden Club of St. Mary’s County creates an herb garden alongside Anne Arundel Hall.
The National Minimum Drinking Age Act of 1984 goes into effect. Consumers of alcohol must now be 21. This strongly impacts the College community. (See 1970.)

The College colors and mascot are both changed. The new mascot is the seahawk (osprey), and the former colors of orange and black are changed to royal blue, gold, and white. Previous mascots had been the Chesapeake Bay Retriever (Junior College), followed by the Saints (St. Mary’s College of Maryland). (See 1959, 1966, 1968.)

Archaeology of the previous year continues, to which are added the priest’s house, the Mill Field, Brome Howard, Leonard Calvert House, Smith’s Ordinary.

Farthing’s Ordinary opens to visitors and is available for meetings and catered events.

**Middle States re-accredits the College, this time with commendatory remarks.** (See 1974.)

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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Lawrence Henry becomes director of Historic St. Mary’s City.</td>
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<td>1987</td>
<td>Charter Day celebration is enhanced by Grand Militia Muster.</td>
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<td>Historic St. Mary’s City celebrates its first Maryland Heritage Festival (today, known as Martime Heritage Festival).</td>
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<td>The Commission now operates under the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. (See 1966, 1970, 1997.)</td>
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<td>Henry Miller is appointed director of research at Historic St. Mary’s City.</td>
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<td>The College’s board of trustees must now include a student trustee and a student-trustee-in-training.</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Daugherty-Palmer Commons and the first set of student townhouses are dedicated.</td>
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<td>Commencement ceremony moves to its new location on Townhouse Green. Opposing the plans of the administration, seniors request that their seats face the river rather than the raised patio</td>
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of Daugherty-Palmer Commons. Up until this year, Commencement had been held on the grounds of the Reconstructed State House of 1676.

Public controversy erupts over the College’s proposed siting of the new science building, and the location is moved to the north campus.

The College library is renovated and expanded. (See 1969.)

St. Mary’s celebrates its 150th anniversary (1840-1990), and the College’s first history is written by J. Frederick Fausz, associate professor of history: *Monument School of the People: A Sesquicentennial History of St. Mary’s College of Maryland, 1840-1990.*

At the site of the Catholic chapel, ground-penetrating radar reveals three lead coffins.

At Historic St. Mary’s City, Ben Bradlee replaces John Hanson Briscoe as chairman.

**Project Lead Coffins:** In 1938, Henry Chandlee Forman uncovered the brick foundation of a large cross-shaped structure on land now held by Historic St. Mary’s City. In 1992, ground-penetrating radar (GPR) reveals the presence of three coffins made of lead (affordable only by people of status and wealth), buried in the left transept. These are now disinterred and the contents analyzed with the help of NASA, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, the F.B.I., and over a dozen public and private agencies. Human remains are sent to the Smithsonian for analysis and will be re-interred. Eventually, the coffins will be sent to the College of William and Mary for preservation (1996). A full story can be found by an online search for Project Lead Coffins.

The Maryland General Assembly designates St. Mary’s a “public honors college.” At the same time, it recognizes the working relationship between the College and the State, in large measure through an annual “block grant.” See House Bill 1327/Senate Bill 359.

The faculty vote to allow each academic division to voluntarily create academic departments, hitherto called “programs.” (See 1966, 1995, 2005.)

The Brome-Howard house is moved from its original location to Green’s Freehold. (See 1993)

Tenure (permanency) is reinstated for about 60% of the College faculty. (See 1971.)
Schaefer Hall opens to house the math and science departments – which now leave Kent Hall. (For renovation, see 1998.)

Townhouse Crescent (a residence hall) opens.

The Brome-Howard house is moved from Green’s Freehold to Rosecroft Road. Out-buildings and slave quarters go with it. (See 1992)

The Indian longhouse is moved from Chancellor’s Point to the Woodland Indian Hamlet.

Historic St. Mary’s City acquires Clocker’s Fancy.

The first ghost frames are erected at Historic St. Mary’s City. They indicate real locations of colonial buildings.


1995 The Middle States evaluation team finds that the College’s system of faculty governance by both departments and divisions is redundant. (See 1992, 2005.) Based on aerial photography, Walter Crowe creates a map of St. Mary’s City as it may have been around 1685. An artist retired from the National Geographic Society, Crowe distills and refines scholarship of the City gathered over the last 20 years.

1996 Jane Margaret “Maggie” O’Brien is named president of the College.

1997 The Maryland General Assembly approves an affiliation (not union) between St. Mary’s College of Maryland and Historic St. Mary’s City (Senate Bill 393.) Although the two institutions will maintain separate governing boards and separate budgets, they are expected to engage in joint educational programming.

Historic St. Mary’s City becomes an independent unit of the Executive Branch of Maryland government. (See 1966, 1970.)

At Historic St. Mary’s City, Candace Matélic is named director (1997-1998).

1998 St. Mary’s is approved for membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society and inducts members into its Zeta Chapter.

Kent Hall is gutted and completely renovated. Originally built in 1941 as a gymnasium and recreation center for the Female Seminary-Junior College, it had been renovated into a science build-
After the Somerset Hall Gymnasium was built in 1969. Now that the Schaefer Science building is complete (1993), Kent Hall is renovated into a building for history and the social sciences, previously housed for many years in the basement of Calvert. (See 1941.)

At Historic St. Mary’s City, excavation begins on the site of the print shop.

The Brome-Howard Inn opens.

Both the College and the Commissioners host a week-long teachers’ institute for elementary school teachers.

At Historic St. Mary’s City, the Chapel Campaign Steering Committee (of the HSMC Foundation) begins organization and fundraising towards rebuilding the Brisk Chapel of 1667 (hitherto referred to as the Catholic Chapel). The first brick will be laid in 2002, and the target date for completion is 2008.

At Historic St. Mary’s City, Martin Sullivan is named director.

The College launches a $40 million Heritage Campaign that will conclude in 2005.

The Maryland Heritage Project (developed by Maggie O’Brien, College president, and Martin Sullivan, director of Historic St. Mary’s City, and approved by Governor Parris Glendening), promises to use $65 million of “tobacco buyout” money for educational programming within the City and the College.

The Campus Center opens, a renovation and extension of the old Charles Hall. But where Charles Hall had been a student union, the Campus Center is meant to serve the entire College community and is also open to the public. (See 1966.)

Lewis Quadrangle (residence suites) opens. The Quad is named for president emeritus Edward T. Lewis.

President O’Brien launches River Gazette.
The College buys yet more land across Mattapany Road, bringing total campus acreage to 319. (The original Seminary of 1840 had been built on only six acres, bought from Trinity Church.) See entries for 1844, 1932, 1950, 1956, 1963, 1970, 1974.)

The Waring Commons (suites and apartments) opens. The Commons is named for H. Thomas Waring, College trustee, whose great-great-grandfather was Dr. James Waring, one of the Seminary’s earliest trustees (1858-1882).

The Board of Trustees signs a Memorandum of Understanding with representatives of AFSCME (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO).

At Historic St. Mary’s City, Richard Moe replaces Ben Bradlee as chairman.

The Athletics and Recreation Center opens, a significant re-design and expansion of the former Somerset Hall gymnasium. (See 1969.)

In academic year 2004-2005, the faculty votes to abolish all four academic divisions, replacing them with traditional discipline-specific departments. This becomes effective July 1, 2005. (See 1966, 1992, 1995.)

The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) approves a new degree program at the College: Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.). It is a one-year, accelerated program leading to initial certification in elementary, elementary with early childhood, secondary, and K-12 education. The program begins in 2006.

The Artist House on Mattapany Road is acquired by the College as a gift from trustee Michael O’Brien, of O’Brien Realty.

All roads on the College campus are now given names.

Major renovation of Van Sweringen exhibit begins. Chapel walls are complete. Construction of St. John’s exhibit begins. Re-creation of Print House begins.
All College archives and administrative archives of the Commission are re-located to newly renovated space in the basement of Calvert Hall.

At the College, construction of Goodpaster Hall is coming to an end (departments of psychology, education, and computer science). At the same time, work begins on a building for all student services.

The Historic St. Mary’s City Commission begins work on the St. John’s site (see 1972) and completes work on the Print Shop (see 1998).

At the College, the first M.A.T. degrees are awarded.

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Here: Your corrections, notes, and additions to the Timeline.