

Feminism, Suffragists, Money Woes, and the Spanish Flu: The Transformation of William & Mary in 1918

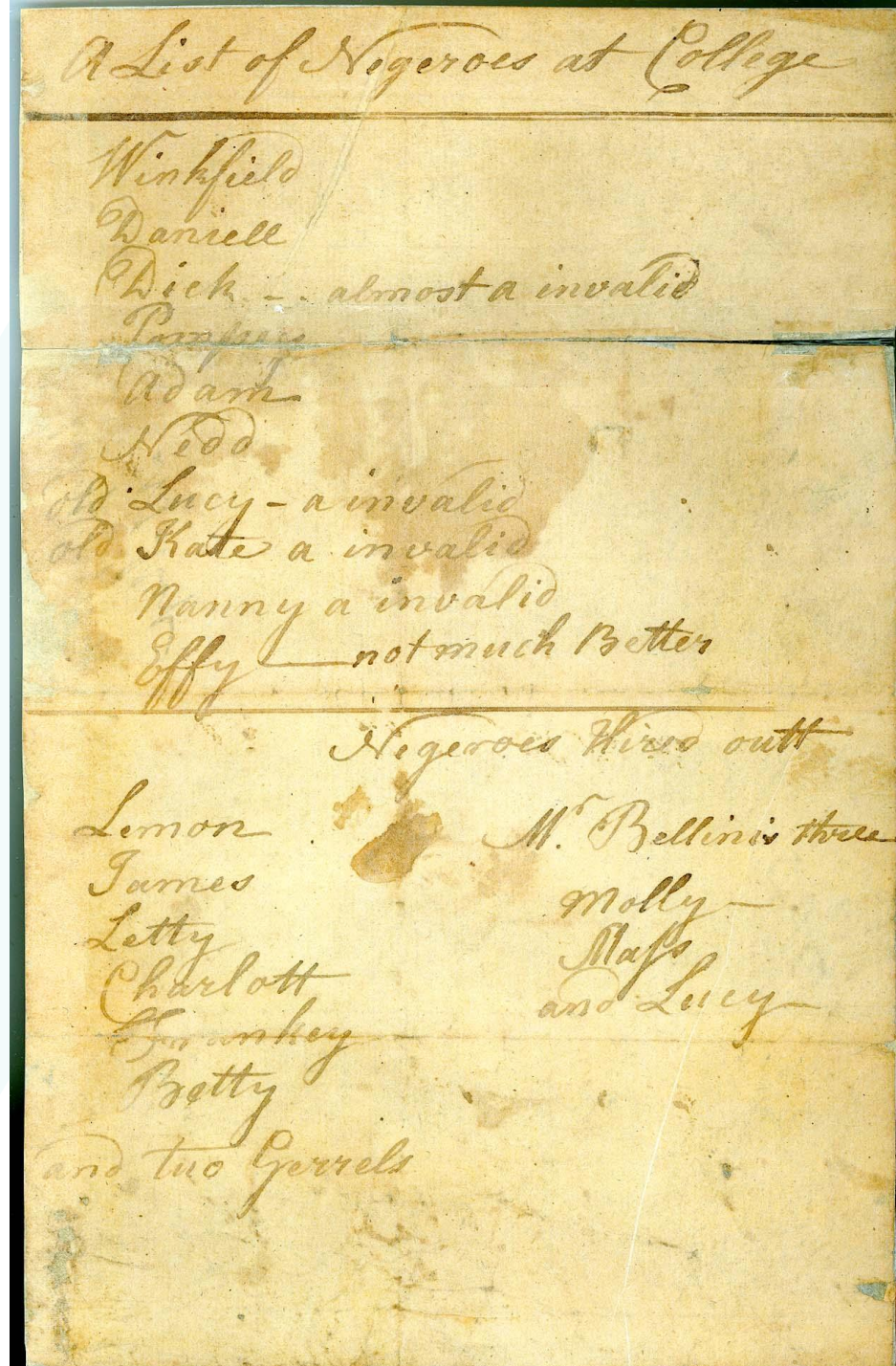
Jayne Barnard, Cutler Professor of Law, Emerita



WILLIAM & MARY
WOMEN

Feminism, Suffragists, Money Woes, and the Spanish Flu:
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1718 –
1800



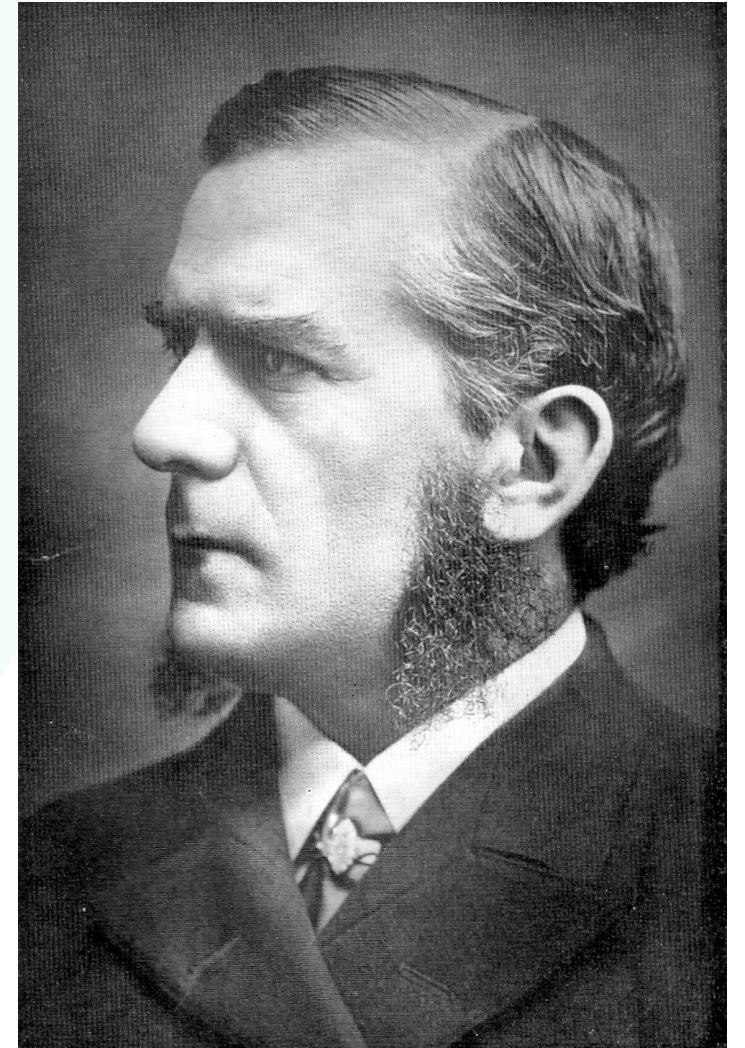
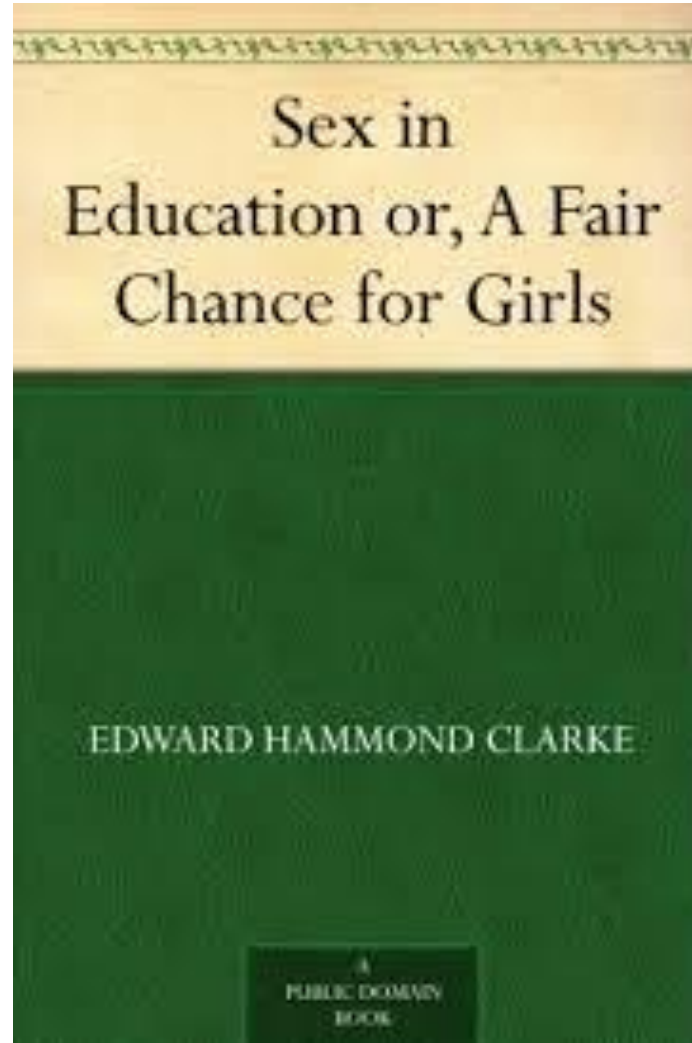
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1838 –
Oberlin
College



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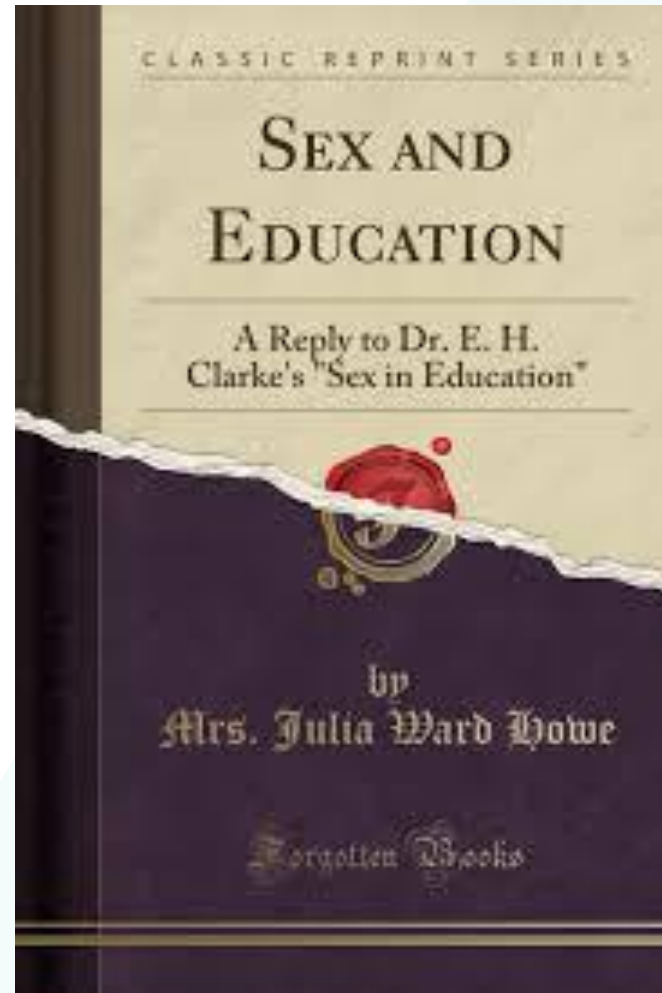
1873





Coeducation at the college level is harmful to women, especially to their reproductive organs. “Co-education is a sin against man.”

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February
6, 1896

"Ladies of town and College [shall] be permitted, at Dr. Hall's discretion, to attend his lectures on Shakespeare."

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October
2, 1896



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1912-
1917

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1912



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1913



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1914



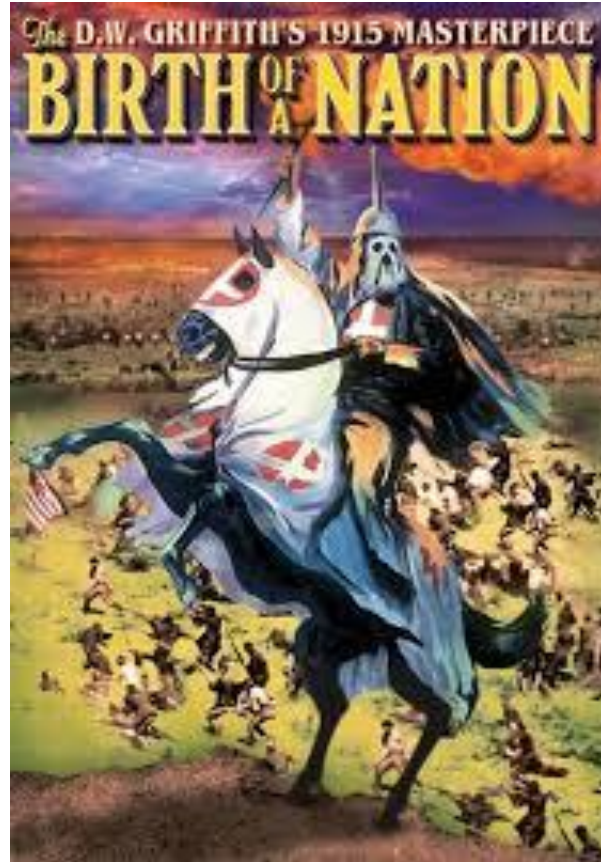
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1914



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1915



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1915



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1916



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1917



**Feminism, Suffragists, Money Woes, and the Spanish Flu:
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Feminism, Suffragists, Money Woes, and the Spanish Flu:
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Feminism, Suffragists, Money Woes, and the Spanish Flu:
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April 2,
1917




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President Lyon G. Tyler



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As Tyler recalled in his reminiscences, some legislators joked about Williamsburg being a deserted village where moss grows on the houses while he was practically reduced to tears by the desperate needs of the College.

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Mary-Cooke
Branch Munford



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Senator Aubrey E. Strode



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By Mr Davis + adopted
That the Strode Bill be endorsed
so far as it relates to this College on Co-edu-
cation - Judge Williams, Mr Hutcheson + Mr Hughes voted No.

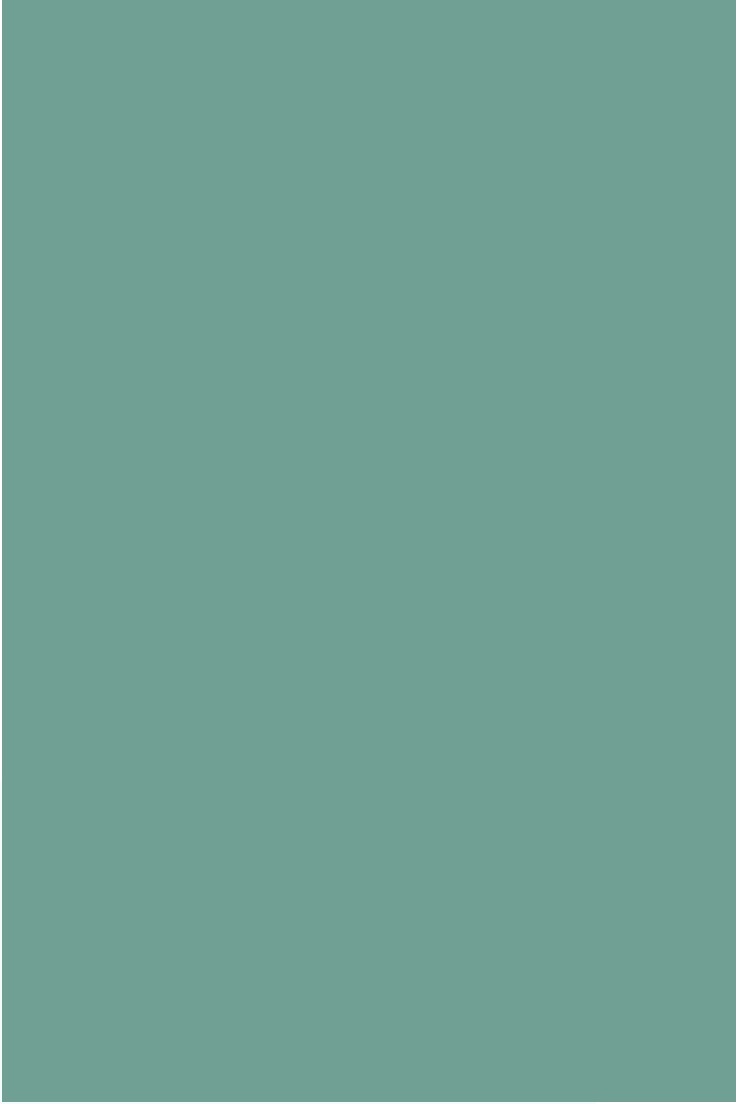
February 12, 1918
Board of Visitors

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“War has hit us hard, but William and Mary has passed through greater calamities and is still alive. Why must co-education be brought here in the guise of keeping her alive?”



“I am certain that all of us believe in higher education for women, but William and Mary is not the place for them to get it.”



“..... the last class to graduate from the old college before it is defiled by coeducation.”

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..... “at the price of the womanhood Virginia had cherished as a sacred thing.”

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Freshman
class, 1918



**Feminism, Suffragists, Money Woes, and the Spanish Flu:
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Catherine Dennis
Martha Barksdale
Janet Coleman

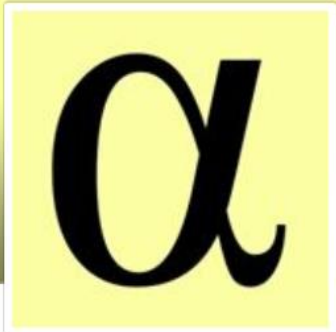


Martha Barksdale

[We] had classes one day before we were quarantined for Spanish influenza. This was a good thing for us. None of the girls had it so we used our time in getting well acquainted. We had met none of the boys and the quarantine served to make them want to meet us.

WHO IS MARTHA BARKSDALE?

"The first but looking to the future"-- α



- SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE FIRST CLASS OF WOMEN STUDENTS AT W&M.
- SHE WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE WOMEN STUDENT COUNCIL, THE FIRST HOUSE PRESIDENT AND AN ELECTED MEMBER OF THE PHI BETA KAPPA HONOR SOCIETY.
- SHE IS THE FOUNDER OF AN ALL WOMEN SECRET SOCIETY CALLED THE LADIES OF ALPHA

Martha Barksdale

Friends Following Message Call

Timeline About Friends 20 Mutual Photos More



Intro

The Ladies of Alpha are a secret society at William & Mary founded in 1918 by Martha Barksdale.

- Works at William & Mary
- Studied at William & Mary
- Went to Redlands High School

Make Post Photo/Video



Write something to Martha...



Photo/Video



Feeling/Activity



INSTANT GAMES MORE



YOUR GAMES MORE



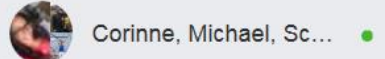
YOUR PAGES



CONTACTS

- Judy Conti
- Judi Diamondstone F...
- Patty Erikson Roberts
- Amy Pokras

GROUP CONVERSATIONS



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November 11,
1918



President Tyler's farewell

"The experiment of admitting women to the College has been fully vindicated by the results of this year. The young ladies were models of decorum and stood among the first in their classes. I ... hope soon to see women fully accorded all the rights of the law and suffrage, which justly belong to them."

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"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." - "Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

The Speaker's Rooms
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

June, 1919.

Fred H. Quinn.



William & Mary Women
@100yearsofWMwomen

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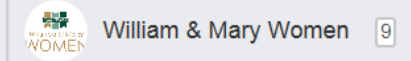
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CONTACTS

- Sheyna Burt
- Jason Rylander
- Debra Hill
- Paul LeBel

GROUP CONVERSATIONS

- Debra, Nicole

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[www.wm.edu/
100yearsofwomen](https://www.wm.edu/100yearsofwomen)

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the William & Mary website's 100 Years of Women page. The browser's address bar shows the URL <https://www.wm.edu/sites/100yearsofwomen/>. The website's header features the William & Mary logo with the text "WILLIAM & MARY" and "CHARTERED 1693". To the right of the logo are navigation links: "FOR THE BOLD", "MYWM", "DIRECTORY", "EVENTS", "VISIT", and "W&M A-Z", along with a search icon. Below the header is a dark green navigation bar with links: "ABOUT", "ACADEMICS", "ADMISSION & AID", "RESEARCH", "CAMPUS LIFE", "NEWS", "ATHLETICS", "ALUMNI", and "GIVING". The main content area features a large banner image of two women sitting on a stone wall, with the text "100 Years of Women" overlaid. Below the banner, there is a sidebar on the left with links: "The Anniversary Story", "Women's Weekend", "Speakers, Performers & Special Events", "Students", and "Faculty". The main content area on the right has the text "Sites > 100 Years of Women" followed by the heading "100 Years of Women". Below the heading, the text reads: "In the fall of 1918, 24 women were admitted as undergraduate students at William & Mary, making W&M the first public coeducational university in Virginia." and "The men of the Class of 1918 lamented that they would be".