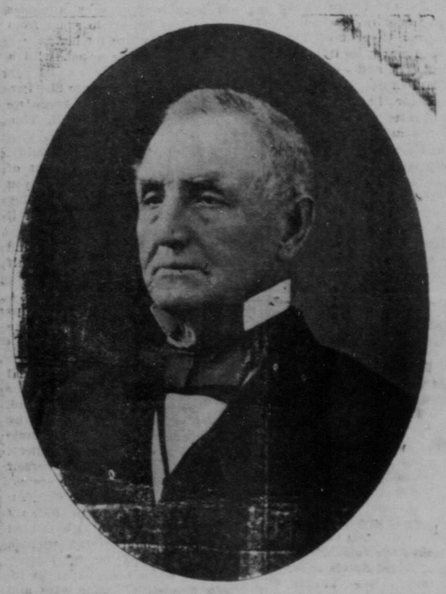
Western Maryland College

25th Anniversary of the Presidency of Rev. Thomas H. Lewis, D. D.

1886---1911

The Present Main Building



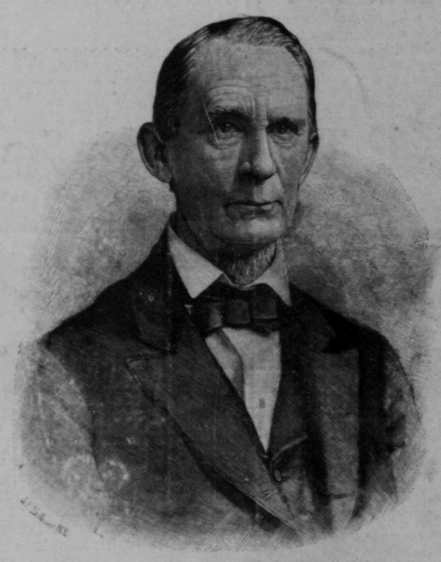


John Smith of Wakefield, a devoted friend of the founder, Rev. J. T. Ward, and a member of the original board of trustees. He extended financial aid to the college and suggested the name of Western Maryland. His son, Joseph W. Smith, is a member of the present board of trustees.



The Main Building of Western Maryland College as it appeared in 1886 when Rev. Thomas H. Lewis, D. D., was elected President.

The founder of the College and its first President.



Sincerely Yours,
J. T. Ward

Western Maryland College; its Inception, Aims and Success.

At the west end of Main street of this city, on a commanding eminence, Western Maryland College is delightfully located. Spread out on every side is a wonderfully beautiful panorama of natural scenery, wooded hills and fruitful vales alternating as far as the eye can reach, with the Blue Ridge Mountains for a background.

The building shown above, commonly known as the Main Building, consists of a central part—the original College, with flanking wings, known as Ward Hall, Smith Hall and Hering Hall, commanding in their names the great triumvirate so prominently connected with the early history of its career: Rev. J. T. Ward, D. D., the first president and founder; John Smith, of Wakefield, first president of the Board of Trustees and to whom the name "Western Maryland" is due; and Hon. J. W. Hering, M. D., LL. D., the present president of the Board and the sole surviving charter member.

This main building, about three hundred feet in length and one hundred and fifty feet in depth, is chiefly devoted to living apartments for the students and lecture rooms. Scattered about the twenty acre campus are numerous other buildings attractive in appearance and adapted to the specific needs of a college. There is a spacious President's House, a stone and frame structure; cottages for the professors; Baker Chapel, a beautiful white stone edifice of unique and churchly design; Yingling Science Hall, providing lecture rooms and laboratories for Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Geology and Astronomy; Levine Hall, which houses the Preparatory School; Alumni Hall containing one of the finest auditoriums in the state; and last and perhaps best of all is the most recent addition—the handsome new Library and Administration Building. It is built of Indiana limestone and gray hydraulic pressed brick, in free Roman Doric style, showing massive engaged stone columns the full height of the three stories, which combined with the surmounting stone balustrade produces a most imposing effect.

Western Maryland College was founded in 1867 and has continued with uninterrupted success so that it is now about to enter upon its forty-fourth year. The first president, the late Rev. J. T. Ward, D. D., was succeeded in 1886 by the present incumbent, Rev. Thomas Hamilton Lewis, D. D., LL.D., himself a graduate of the college in the class 1875.

Western Maryland College is the outgrowth of a private Academy started in Westminster in the year 1860.

The movement for enlarging the Academy into a College began in 1866, but under such disadvantagious circumstances as to make its failure almost a certainty.

One simple incident gave the movement its only promise of success. In the spring of 1866, Rev. J. T. Ward, D. D., member of the Maryland Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church, retired from the active itinerancy and settled in Westminster. It happened that Dr. Ward possessed in a marked degree the confidence and affection of Mr. John Smith and Mr. Isaac C. Baile, both of Westminster and men of considerable wealth. These gentlemen, Mr. Smith in particular, willing to venture something in an enterprise endorsed by their friend and former pastor, agreed to loan to the proprietor of the Academy the money with which to erect the first building, provided Dr. Ward was placed in charge of the College as President. Mr. Smith also suggested that the institution should be called, "Western Maryland College."



Rev. Thomas Hamilton Lewis, D. D., President of the College. In 1886 he succeeded his father-in-law, Rev. J. T. Ward, the first President, and the marked success of the College is due to his untiring energy and ability.

Both these suggestions were accepted; the cornerstone of the first building was laid September 6th, 1866, and the first session of Western Maryland College was opened September 4th, 1867, with six professors and 73 students.

This college is under the special patronage of the Methodist Protestant Church and is distinctively a christian college though it exacts no religious tests of its Faculty or students. The several denominations are well represented in the makeup of its enrollment.

The students are strictly classified into Freshmen, Sophomore, Junior and Senior Years and must raise from one grade to the next by attaining a required average in all the studies of the year. In the first two years the principal studies are: English, Mathematics, Ancient and Modern Languages and History. In the last two years the Group System is followed, the student electing one of the three groups: The Classical Group which gives the greatest attention to the languages; the Scientific Group—socalled because of the predominence of the sciences and fitting especially for the medical or engineering professions; and the Historical Group which in addition to History includes the courses in Politics and Economics. All of these courses lead to the degree of Bachelor of Arts and the diploma of "Western Maryland" admits to the Graduate Schools of all the large Universities.

At the very first this College threw its doors wide open to young women as well as young men and in this respect it took the lead among the colleges in this section of the country. And yet it is not strictly co-educational, the sexes not even reciting together. It is practically two schools conducted under one administration.

The State recognized it as one of its important agents for higher culture by founding in 1879 a number of free scholarships for those intending to enter the services of the State in the profession of teaching. For their benefit the College maintains an up-to-date department of Pedagogy and the State Board of Education gives its certificate to those who in addition to doing the required work for the A.B. degree also follow with credit these pedagogical courses.

The enrollment is usually in the neighborhood of 250; about 3,000 students have been registered in its history and of these 800 have received the diploma.

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