

This is the Virginia Military Institute

**A larger purpose.
A proven method.
A historic place.**

Founded in 1839 as the nation's first state military college, the Virginia Military Institute has made major contributions to the development of American higher education.

Civil Engineering, a subject rarely taught in colleges and universities before 1839, was established at the founding of VMI as the corner stone of its program. The first industrial chemistry course in the south was developed at VMI by Commodore Matthew Fontaine Maury. Today, VMI's demanding academic program reflects the established needs and the emerging trends of a constantly changing society.

VMI is a state-supported undergraduate college for young men and women. It offers a choice of majors from the general fields of engineering, liberal arts, and the sciences. Programs leading to the bachelor degree include biology, chemistry, civil engineering, computer science, economics & business, electrical engineering, english, history, international studies, mathematics, mechanical engineering and physics. All academic courses are taught by full-time faculty members, 80 percent of whom hold the doctorate degree. Successful completion of the VMI program enables cadets to enter many civilian professions, the Armed Forces, or to continue at graduate, medical, and law schools.

The challenging military portion of the VMI program is a distinctive aspect of the VMI college experience, and it reflects the Institute's debt to the United States Military Academy and the prestigious Ecole Polytechnique in Paris, France. All students at VMI are members of the Corps of Cadets. The Department of Defense maintains Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC units and cadets are required to take eight semesters of ROTC classes and encouraged to seek commissions in these three branches of the Armed Forces. Commissions are available, if cadets meet the necessary standards, and are contingent upon the needs of the Department of Defense. While the military program is an important part of the overall VMI experience, it is only one of several functions of the Institute. Historically, only about 17 percent of VMI's graduates have chosen military careers. The Institute's programs have been based on the concept of the citizen-soldier, a man prepared to take his place in



civilian life, but ready to respond in times of national military need.

Almost from the first day of its founding, VMI alumni have served America in many fields of endeavor. More than 14,000 graduates since 1839 have moved from cadet life to enter finance, business, industry, government service, and the professions. In the military, VMI alumni have held top command posts. The Chief of Staff, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the United States Army in World War II, and two former commandants of the U.S. Marine Corps were VMI graduates. Distinguished service by other VMI alumni has been rewarded through a variety of honors, including a Nobel Peace Prize, Congressional Medals of Honor and Rhodes Scholarships.



Welcome to Lexington

LEXINGTON, VIRGINIA

Rockbridge County is located toward the south end of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The county takes its name from Natural Bridge, the massive stone formation that spans Cedar Creek in the southern part of the county.

For centuries, this area has been a natural thoroughfare from the northeast to the richness of the lands west of the Appalachians. The Cherokee and Monacan Indian tribes lived in the area prior to its settlement by European colonists, which began in the 1730's.

Most of the settlers were Scotch-Irish and Germans, who migrated south from Pennsylvania in search of more land. Several large land grants, notably one to Benjamin Borden, stimulated settlement in the 1740's. Grantees were required to induce a certain number of families to settle on the granted land. The Borden Grant, originally 100,000 acres, included most of present-day Rockbridge County.

In 1777, Rockbridge County was established, and the town of Lexington was founded as the county seat.

A defining event occurred in 1782, when Liberty Hall Academy was moved from Augusta County to a site just west of Lexington. The school's future was assured in 1796, when George Washington gave it \$50,000 worth of James River Canal stock, at that time the largest such bequest to a college in the history of the new nation. The school was renamed Washington College in the general's honor, and soon moved to its present location after the Liberty Hall building burned. The ruins of Liberty Hall can still be seen just north of Rt. 60 at the western edge of town.

In 1839, the Virginia legislature established Virginia Military Institute at Lexington, in what had previously been a state arsenal. VMI has educated thousands of citizen-soldiers in its more than 150-year existence, including Gen. George C. Marshall, Gen. George S. Patton, and Adm. Richard E. Byrd.

The Civil War had a devastating effect on Lexington and its people. Raiding Federal troops burned VMI in 1864. Graduates of VMI and Washington College served with distinction in many campaigns of the war, and the VMI Corps of Cadets fought as a unit at the Battle of New Market. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, a professor at VMI until the war, is remembered as one of the history's greatest military strategists. Jackson is buried in Jackson Memorial Cemetery, along with many other Civil War veterans.

After the war, Gen. Robert E. Lee was persuaded to come to Lexington to serve as president of Washington College. Lee revitalized the school, modernized the curriculum, and encouraged reconciliation between the North and South. After his death in 1870, the school's

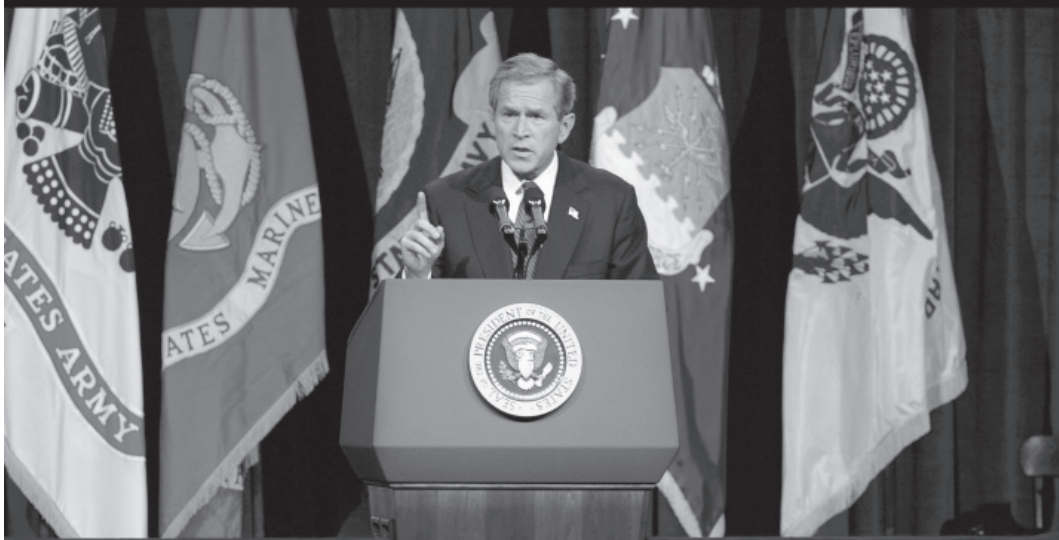
trustees renamed it Washington and Lee University.

Around 1890, a speculative boom hit western Virginia. Numerous towns were established by development companies, with a grand hotel as a centerpiece. Streets were laid out and lots sold, and resold, at ever-inflating prices. Buena Vista and the towns of Glasgow and Goshen were all founded as a result of the boom. When the bubble burst, many of these boom towns stagnated.

Buena Vista weathered the crash and became the industrial center of the county. The boom-era hotel is now Main Hall at Southern Virginia College.

We invite you to visit our museums - the Marshall Museum, the VMI Museum, and the Stonewall Jackson House; walk the campuses of our towns, take a drive on the Blue Ridge Parkway, see a horse show at the Virginia Horse Center, enjoy a cool swim in Goshen Pass, take in a play in the natural setting of Lime Kiln Theater, or browse in our many distinctive shops.





This is VMI

FOUNDATION

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

LEADERSHIP