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Our Alma Mater

Jennie Masters Tabb

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**OUR
ALMA MATER**

**STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE
FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA**

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Longwood College
Farmville, Virginia

Our Alma Mater

State Teachers College

FARMVILLE, VIRGINIA

JENNIE M. TABB

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Farmville, Virginia

FOREWORD

ALMA MATER—the *personality* of an institution. It is more than buildings, more than Faculty and courses of instruction; while it goes without saying that these are indispensable, they are far from being all that makes the college. Alma Mater is the spirit that pervades the place, the ideals to which it leads and with which (often unconsciously) it imbues all within its walls.

The object of this bulletin is to give to prospective students and to friends of the college facts which are not (and should not be) in the catalogue; little things which convey to the reader the inner nature of the institution and serve to show just what the life of a student here is, both in and outside the classroom. While in no sense a history, I hope that it may bring to them a realization of the great work that has been done since the college was founded, a knowledge of the steady growth along all lines, and some conception of the ideals that obtain and the high standards that are always held up before the students.

JENNIE M. TABB, *Registrar.*

July, 1929.

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ALMA MATER SONG

Words by Jennie Masters Tabb, Class of 1893

Music by M. Virginia Potts, Class of 1927

All hail, Alma Mater, dear Mother, to thee
Thy daughters true, faithful, and loyal will be.
Thy gentle instruction, thy nurturing care
Will lead them to cherish things lovely and fair.
Thy loving protection, thy influence so sweet,
Will go with them always, a guide to their feet.
All hail, Alma Mater, dear Mother, to thee
Thy daughters true, faithful, and loyal will be.

Thy halls and arcades with their calm, classic air,
Thy campus with blossom perennially fair,
Thy trees and thy fountain, thy vine-covered walls,
Will live in their memory whatever befalls.
Though far from thy care and protection they roam
They still hold thee dear as a well beloved home.
All hail, Alma Mater, dear Mother, to thee
Thy daughters true, faithful, and loyal will be.



OUR PRESIDENT

OUR ALMA MATER



✓ The first teacher-training institution in Virginia was established by the Legislature in 1884 and located in Farmville, a small town in Southside Virginia, six miles from the old College of Hampden Sydney.

The first clause of the Act reads as follows:

"There shall be established, as hereinafter provided, a normal school expressly for the training and education of white female teachers for public schools."

It was not, however, until 1886 that the institution was incorporated by the Legislature under the name of the State Female Normal School.

That Farmville secured the school was due to the fact that the town offered to donate to the State the building and grounds of what was then known as Farmville College, a small plant occupying less than half a square of ground.

As the Bill was signed on March 7th, this date is observed in the College as Founders' Day: the members of the Virginia Legislature being the fathers of the institution. The signing of this Bill was a very important step in the educational life of Virginia; it was the beginning of a real schedule of growth for the public schools and was the first indication that the State was realizing the great importance of giving to her children proper opportunities for an education.

Among the men who were closely associated with this beginning of teacher-training we may mention two especially who threw themselves heart and soul into the work: Dr. J. L. M. Curry and Dr. W. H. Ruffner. To them is conceded the credit for the normal school idea in Virginia, and they were the guiding spirits of the new undertaking.

Dr. Curry drafted the Bill for the establishment of the school and from that day until his death in 1903, his interest was un-

flagging. He was the first President of the Board of Trustees and was one of a committee to report a plan for organization.

"As a statesman and leader in educational matters, Dr. Curry stood preeminent in the South." Among many prominent positions held by him was that of agent for the Peabody Fund for a period of twenty-two years, and he was also agent for the Slater Fund (for negro education) for twelve years. Through the administering of these funds he had more to do with the organization of the public schools of Virginia and the South than any other man. In a sketch of Dr. Curry the writer says: "He was a wonderfully versatile man—soldier, preacher, member of Congress, State Legislator, administrator of two funds, professor, college president, author, representative at a foreign Court—and with it all, a knightly gentleman and a lovable man."

So, from its very inception our school was blessed in having the highest ideals and standards set before those who were to be associated with it.

Dr. Curry's portrait hangs in the President's Office and his kindly face still looks down upon what, even to this day, may be called the work of his hands.



The first President of the State Female Normal School at Farmville, one of the first teacher-training institutions established in the South, was Dr. William Henry Ruffner, a man peculiarly well fitted for the work of organizing the school. He was the first Superintendent of Public Instruction in Virginia, taking charge of the public school system when it was founded in 1870, and remaining in this position until he came to Farmville in 1884.

From his experience as Superintendent Dr. Ruffner brought to the new institution a thorough understanding of the needs of the public schools: he had founded them, studied them and worked for them as had no other man in the State. He knew the needs of the teacher and how to meet them. He came to his work an educational expert, fully equipped.

His father, a distinguished Presbyterian minister, was for many years President of what is now Washington and Lee

University, from which institution Dr. Ruffner was graduated with the master's degree in 1845. Like his father, he also entered the ministry and was at one time Chaplain of the University of Virginia.

The broad culture and wide experience of the President were reflected in the school, as attested by the smoothness and efficiency of the organization from the beginning.

In the fall of 1884 its doors were opened to students, one hundred seven of whom enrolled (the total in all departments), with a faculty of seven.

It has been said of Dr. Ruffner that he did for Virginia what Horace Mann, thirty-three years before, had done for Massachusetts.



Farmville's second President came into office in 1887, Dr. John Atkinson Cunningham, a man worthy in every way to become the successor of Dr. Ruffner and to carry on most efficiently the work begun three years previously. Dr. Cunningham's mother was Mary Johnston, a granddaughter of Peter Johnston of "Longwood." This fact is mentioned because it has a peculiar interest for those who are associated with the State Teachers College since "Longwood" has recently been purchased by the college as a recreation center for the students; it is located on the outskirts of the town, about a fifteen-minute walk from the campus.

Dr. Cunningham was a man of sound scholarship: a student at the University of Virginia and a graduate of the University of Nashville, with a varied experience in teaching. He had served as professor in a college and in a military school, and as Principal of Madison School in Richmond, Va., from which latter position he came to Farmville—fresh from the problems and needs of the public school. Dr. Cunningham served Farmville and the State for ten years, and died in service. The school was his life: to it he gave his time, his thought and his marvelous power as a teacher. He was also an excellent administrator and progress under his guidance was steady. Dr. A. D. Mayo, who visited a great many schools in the interest of the Peabody Fund, said this was the best normal school in the South, although there were several at that

time that had the advantage of it from the standpoint of equipment and enrollment. Dr. Cunningham was a man of deep sympathy—especially for those who were struggling to help themselves, and for this reason there could be no more fitting monument to him than the Cunningham Memorial Loan Fund which was raised by the alumnae who graduated during his administration, to help worthy girls who are not of themselves able to finance their college life.

Under Dr. Cunningham the enrollment grew to two hundred seventy-seven (including students in both the academic and professional courses) with twelve members of the Faculty.



Upon the death of Dr. Cunningham, Dr. Robert Frazer was called to the Presidency of the Normal School. At the time he was President of the Industrial Institute and College at Columbus, Miss.; a write-up of Dr. Frazer says that "he brought to his new work a richly stored mind, a broad knowledge of life, and a varied and valuable experience in schools of many types. His four years' work was characterized by the same earnestness and zeal, the same conscientious devotion to his convictions of duty that he has displayed elsewhere and the result, as before, was growth and expansion of a steady, stable kind."

During the Presidency of Dr. Frazer, in 1899, the Virginia Normal League was established; a fund which is maintained by annual membership dues and by gifts, and exists for the purpose of making loans to students who need assistance in obtaining an education.

Dr. Frazer resigned his position in 1902, to accept that of Field Agent of the General Education Board.



Along with the portraits of Dr. Curry and Presidents Ruffner and Cunningham in the President's Office of the College, there is another that should be of interest to all who care anything for the early history of the institution.

At the time of the establishment of the Normal School Dr. James Nelson was Pastor of the Baptist Church in Farmville and was very enthusiastic in his interest in the new undertaking. It was largely due to him that the school was located here and he was almost a charter member of the Board of Trustees since he was appointed a few months after it was established, to fill the place of a member who resigned. He served on this Board with unusual faithfulness until it was abolished in 1914 and the institution went under the Virginia Normal School Board which had charge of the four teacher-training institutions of the State.

Dr. Nelson's portrait was presented to the College in 1927 by Mr. William Nelson (a son of Dr. Nelson) and his wife. The painting is the work of Duncan Smith of New York City, who married a daughter of the donors.

In the College Reading Room may be seen the portraits of three other members of this Board of Trustees, General William B. Taliaferro, Judge Francis Nathaniel Watkins and Col. J. P. Fitzgerald; the two last, citizens of Farmville.



The fourth President of State Teachers College, Dr. Joseph Leonard Jarman, has served much longer than all of the others combined. At this writing, in July, 1929, he is in the twenty-eighth year of his incumbency. Dr. Jarman is too well known as an educator, not only throughout Virginia but nationally as well, to need any introduction. It is impossible to put into a brief bulletin even a small part of what he has accomplished. The institution has grown, expanded, developed under his wise leadership until today it is recognized as one of the outstanding Teachers Colleges of the United States.

When Dr. Jarman entered upon his duties in 1902 he found a small school with a Faculty of thirteen members, offering three years of academic (or high school) work and one year of professional work. In that year there were only fifty-eight students in the professional course—in 1928 there were one thousand ninety-five.

Under the former Presidents the very small building that had been donated for the beginnings of the normal school had



MAIN ENTRANCE

been added to several times. The present Middle West Wing had been erected, there was a small dining hall in the rear, the Science Hall had been built, and the Training School had progressed from a small frame building in which it was first housed, to a nice brick building (a private residence) recently purchased by the school.

From this modest beginning has risen the splendid college of today with its beautiful buildings, its standard college courses, its up-to-date Campus Training School and six Rural Training Schools, its able Faculty and its thousands of loyal alumnae scattered over the nation.

The State Teachers College at Farmville is a member of the American Association of Teachers Colleges and also holds membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Among the many changes that have taken place during the administration of Dr. Jarman, we may note that the name of the institution has been changed twice. The old State Female Normal School existed as such from 1884 to 1914 when the Virginia Legislature changed it to State Normal School for Women. In 1916 the privilege of conferring degrees was granted and in 1924 it became the present State Teachers College.

An excellent description of the plant was given recently in the Norfolk and Western Magazine, as follows:

"The college plant consists of a group of connecting buildings. The Main Building occupies the central place in the frontage. This building with its Ionic columns, its old-fashioned doorway and its graceful rotunda, is a charming example of colonial architecture. Upon entering, a beautiful reception hall greets one; above are the balcony and the dome with its magnificent paintings. Here the artist, the late E. Monfalconi of Richmond, Va., has placed the portraits of Thomas Jefferson, Horace Mann, J. L. M. Curry and Dr. W. H. Ruffner, first President of the college. Between each of these portraits is a symbolic picture in rich colors, representing the four purposes of the institution: Study, Meditation, Recreation and Rest. In this painting we have the very heart of a school which gathers her daughters about her, shares with them her knowledge, inspires them with her spirit and sends



SIDE VIEW OF MAIN ENTRANCE

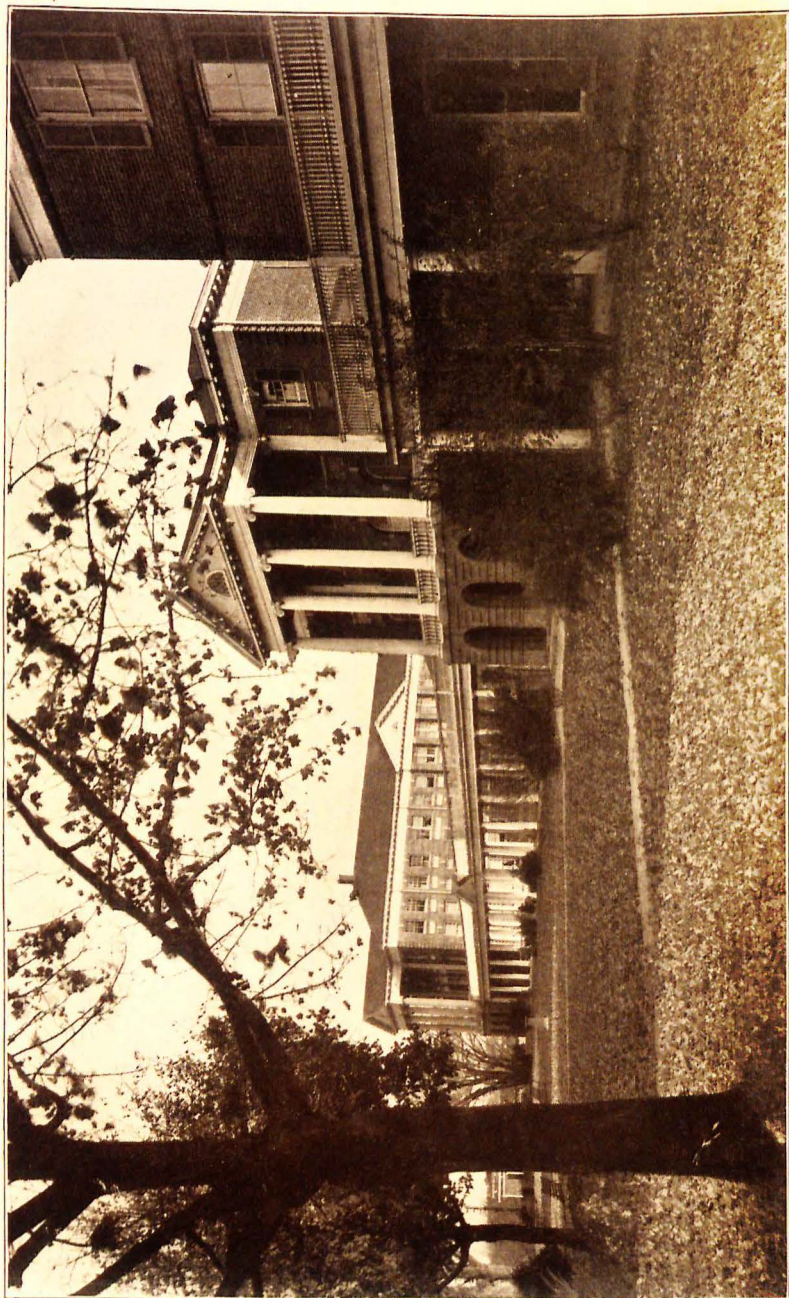
them forth to train growing minds and growing ideals. Farmville, the oldest of all normals; the great Mother Teacher."

During the administration of President Jarman the campus has been extended from time to time until it now occupies five squares (approximately twelve acres) in the heart of the town; this in the campus proper, without the buildings located off the campus—the President's Home, several dormitories, etc.

Among the many buildings which have been erected may be mentioned the East and West Wings, the Middle East Wing, the Training School, Infirmary, Dining-hall, Dormitories, the Laundry and Power Plant and, the greatest achievement of all, the beautiful Student Building which occupies the east end of the campus. In this building are housed the student activities: here we find handsome rooms, beautifully equipped, for the Student Government Association, the Y. W. C. A., Student Publications, Sororities, etc., while across the entire front is the splendid Lounge with its open fire and old-fashioned mirror over the mantel. ♡



Since as far back as 1904 it has been the beautiful custom of the graduating classes to leave with their Alma Mater some token of their affection and these gifts are so distributed that one comes upon them in practically every part of the plant. For instance: when the auditorium was built in 1904 the classes of that year gave the reading stand and Bible for the stage. The next year two statues were presented: these adorn the sitting room for students in the Main Building, and the reception hall—the Venus de Milo, and the Winged Victory. The 1906 classes also presented statuary: Urania, which stands in the reception hall, and Minerva, in the auditorium. In 1907 two beautiful pictures were given for the parlors, Aurora, and the Dance of the Muses. The 1908 classes presented a second statue for the auditorium stage as a companion for the Minerva—Diana Robing. There are also two handsome bas reliefs, on either side of the stage: Alexander's Triumph and Aurora; these were the gifts of students in the kindergarten course. Near these panels is a plain tablet of brass, expressing the love and admiration of students who were



EAST WING, COLONNADE AND STUDENT BUILDING

in the college during the administration of Dr. Cunningham. It bears the following inscription:

JOHN A. CUNNINGHAM

Our President

1887-1897

Born June 24, 1846

Died October 9, 1897

Strong and True.

The 1910 girls gave a Corot landscape for the President's Office and a flag for the dome of the Main Building.

The classes of 1910 and 1911 made donations to the Normal League; 1912 and 1915 gave a set of pictures for the Training School; 1913, books for the Infirmary; 1914 a statue of Joan of Arc which occupies the central place in the reception hall and greets all visitors as they enter.

The Classes of 1916 presented a portrait of President Jarman to be hung in the Library. In 1917, 1918 and 1919 class gifts were diverted from the college and went to the sufferers from the World War. These donations were to the Belgian Relief Fund, the Student Friendship War Fund, and the United War Work Campaign. During this time the students of the college were enthusiastic in their interest in the relief of suffering and many of them made very real sacrifices in order to add to the funds being raised.

In 1920 The Appeal to the Great Spirit was added to the college collection of statuary, and stands in the Senior Parlors.

The following year was the beginning of the real campaign for the raising of funds for the Student Building. This building was in reality built upon faith: the faith of the President in his students, alumnae, and friends. The State Legislature appropriated fifty thousand dollars toward it, providing for the first floor which is occupied by an excellent gymnasium and the offices, classrooms, etc., of the Physical Education Department, and the fourth floor which consists of dormitories. The cost of the building was approximately one hundred seventy thousand dollars—it took faith in great measure to begin this undertaking; but the dream has been accomplished and stands as a beautiful proof that



JOAN OF ARC

this great faith was justified; for, while the debt is not yet paid in full, it has been reduced to a comparatively small amount and students and alumnae still keep alive their interest in the work; on every Founders' Day they present their Birthday Gifts to Alma Mater, to be applied to this purpose. The first class donation toward the Student Building was that of 1921 and the next three years also added materially to the fund.

The four-year course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Education was installed at the college in 1916, the first graduates going out in 1919. For several years this degree class joined with the diploma class (graduates from the two-year normal courses) in their gift, but in 1925 thirty-one degrees were conferred and from that time the two classes have made individual gifts to the college. The degree class of that year presented two handsome pictures for the lounge of the student building: "The Cornfields" by Constable and "The Swiss Village of Laufenburg" by Cooper; the diploma graduates added a third picture, "Peace and Plenty" by Innes.

The degree class of 1926 placed a lovely sun dial on the campus and the diploma class hung two velvet panels, hand painted, in the Recreation Hall; in 1927 the two classes united in the presentation of a very fine Orthophonic Victrola for this hall.

The 1928 classes followed the example of their sisters of seventeen and eighteen years back, and left their remembrance in the form of a contribution to the Normal League.

The Summer Quarter, since it was made a part of the regular college work in 1925, has been organized on just the same basis as the quarters of the regular session and practically all of the student activities are carried on at that time. Up to 1928 there have been only a few students completing the course in the summer on account of the fact that such a short time has elapsed since its installation as a regular college quarter; however, in 1928 there was a sufficiently large class to warrant regular commencement exercises and the delivery of diplomas; this first summer class was composed of three degree graduates and thirty-one diploma graduates. Like the classes of the regular session, they also left their gift to Alma Mater in the form of a fourth picture for the Student Building—the best loved building on the campus.

Two other gifts to the college should receive very special mention. The first of these is the portrait of President Cunningham, presented by the Class of 1894 on the twenty-third anniversary of their graduation; practically all members of the class returned for the occasion and President Cunningham's son also was present. A plate on the frame bears the names of the members of the Class, twenty-one in number. Mr. Benjamin Matthew Cox began his service to the college under President Cunningham and was a faithful, loyal, beloved member of the administration, as Business Manager, to the time of his death in 1924. The following year a splendid portrait of him was presented by the alumnae, and hangs in the Business Office where he presided so efficiently for so many years.



In 1928 the Sigma Sigma Sigma Sorority commemorated thirty years of existence by placing in the Reception Hall a lovely bronze tablet bearing the coat-of-arms and the names of the founders of the sorority which has now become a national one.

At commencement the same year, a handsome stone seat and sun dial were placed on the campus in commemoration of the founding, in 1897, of Kappa Delta, another national sorority. Like the shield, this bears the coat-of-arms and the names of the founders.

In September, 1928, President Jarman received a letter from the National Office of Zeta Tau Alpha Sorority, notifying him that the National Convention of that year had voted to present the college with a gift of one hundred dollars each year for the next six years; the gift to be known as the Maude Jones Horner Scholarship of Zeta Tau Alpha. The recipient of this scholarship is to be, preferably, a girl from Buckingham County, Virginia, and the fund is to be administered through the Normal League.

Zeta Tau Alpha was founded at Farmville in 1898 and Alpha Chapter remained there until 1906 when it, along with Kappa Delta, was forced by the ruling of the National Panhellenic Congress concerning normal schools, to give up the chapter.

The college is now forty-five years old and for several years there has been among the students a "Granddaughters Club" composed of some thirty-five members. Thus do the alumnae show in a very concrete way, their love and loyalty. In September, 1928, two great granddaughters entered, their grandmothers having been students at the college just before it became the Normal School.



Mention has been made of the fact that we are an "A" grade Teachers College. In 1927 Mr. Howard J. McGinnis of East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville, N. C., made a study of the outstanding Teachers Colleges of the United States. In doing this, Mr. McGinnis sent a complete list of these colleges to a large number of prominent educators, asking that they check what they considered to be the twenty-five outstanding ones. The men and women selected for giving this information were not connected with Teachers Colleges but all were considered as being thoroughly competent of judging such institutions since all had been at some time in that kind of work or connected with it through a State superintendency, a professorship in the Education Department of a University, etc. We were pleased to learn that Farmville fell in the first twelve of these outstanding colleges.

The paramount purpose of the college is set forth in our motto: "We teach to teach." Never since her doors were opened to students has she swerved from what she considers to be the highest aim and purpose for any institution. The growth of the public school system has been closely followed and needs anticipated; whenever a new requirement was made the college at Farmville not only met it but often had teachers already trained for the new work.

The course of study consists of two-year and four-year courses for elementary teachers and four-year courses for high school teachers.

The instruction is of a high type; the Faculty, from the earliest days of the institution, has been carefully selected and has numbered among its members many men and women who were outstanding in the profession and whose influence has been most

potent in the lives of the young students who came in contact with them.

While the professional side of all work is emphasized and the professional attitude is fostered and maintained in every department, the student gets a full, well rounded academic college course; along with this she has methods of teaching, and special methods courses for the work in which she is specializing; furthermore, her ability as a teacher must be satisfactorily demonstrated before she is sent out with the stamp of the approval of the college. In this day when special training is so widely required in all business and professional positions, it is essential that those who are to undertake the training of our children and young girls and boys should be specially prepared for this important work, should serve their apprenticeship and prove their ability to handle the situation before they are put in the classroom; not assuming this great responsibility without a knowledge of the principles which underlie their work, of the most modern methods, and without an idea as to the standard of work that should obtain in the grades over which they are to preside. An untrained teacher (although the possessor of a most excellent general education) is just as untrained as the graduate of a college who undertakes a responsible position in a business in which he has had no experience, and in which he has to feel his way until he acquires a certain degree of efficiency.

The professional colleges are forging ahead at a very rapid rate and the people are beginning to realize the importance of professional training, not only for the elementary grades but for the high school as well; and it is also being considered and discussed as most important for the *college* teacher if the students in our colleges are to have the best opportunities in education.



The development of the student at Farmville is not considered as complete with classroom instruction alone; an all-sided development is the aim of the administration—development along the special line of teaching, development for citizenship, for the moulding and strengthening of character, for community work, and a development of the spiritual side.

Of the factors which enter into the training along these lines the two first to be considered are the Student Government Association and the Y. W. C. A.

The purpose of the Student Government Association is "to preserve the student honor and to further the interests of the college as far as lies within its power. It has jurisdiction over the girls during study hours, in chapel, in the dining hall and in all cases where the good name of the student body as a whole would be involved."

Nothing affords such excellent training for citizenship as the opportunity for self-government; that is, *directed* self-government. It makes the student feel that she is on her honor, that the reputation of the college is dependent upon the manner in which she conducts herself. The college is regarded as a community; a community of selected citizens, and at all times an effort is made to keep this before the minds of the students and to have them realize that each individual has her community responsibilities.

The life of the students is (as far as it is possible to make it so) a *home* life; this idea is stressed in many ways. There is no Dean of Women, but rather the Head of the Home, and all members of the staff of the Home Department regard it as a large family. The beauty of the campus, the close contact which exists between the students and the Home Department, the dormitory accommodations with their attractive halls, lounges, sitting rooms, and parlors, produce an atmosphere of ease and freedom, a hominess which surrounds the whole college.



Farmville is a State institution, and as such is not under denominational influence; but the college realizes fully the importance of religious training and fosters and encourages any agency that makes for such training. The Young Womens Christian Association is a very active and prominent organization, ranking along with the Student Government Association. Through it Bible study classes are conducted by members of the Faculty and the ministers of the town also take a part in outlining this work.

Daily religious exercises are held in the chapel by the administration of the college, and Evening Prayer Service by the Y. W. C. A. Farmville is well equipped with churches and the students are urged to attend upon their services and to identify themselves with their Sunday Schools and societies for young people.



In addition to these two organizations, there is a great deal outside the actual work of the classroom that contributes to the life of the student: broadening her culture and affording a pleasing variety in her life. These extra curricula activities offer opportunity to the student who cares to take advantage of them.

For the girl who is talented in drawing there is the Poster Club and the Sketch Class; those who love music enjoy working in the Choral Club, the Glee Club and the Orchestra; the Literary and Debating Societies provide excellent training along these lines, while the weekly newspaper (The Rotunda), the College Literary Magazine, and the annual (The Virginian) bring to light much unsuspected literary talent in our midst. The Dramatic Club presents two delightful plays each year and gives this type of training to a number of students.

For the athletic girl there are opportunities in basket ball, tennis, hockey, etc., besides work in connection with the Department of Physical Education which gives instruction in Natural Dancing, Athletic Dancing and Folk Dancing.

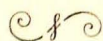


While the keyword of State Teachers College is "cooperation," there are three others which run a very close second: "scholarship, leadership, and service." These are emphasized to such an extent that in 1918 an Honor Society for their recognition was formed by the Faculty, with a very high standard for membership. Pi Kappa Omega flourished for ten years, established Beta Chapter at the State Teachers College at Harrisonburg, Virginia, and in 1928 was taken into the national organization Kappa Delta Pi.

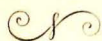
The true purpose of Pi Kappa Omega is expressed in the following:

Though oft the road seem toilsome, hard and long
(The weary road that leads toward the light),
To upward climb; to keep always in sight
The worthy goal; to ever sing a song
Of sweet content. In loving service strong;
In lending help to take a rare delight.
To learn, to serve, to lead toward the right,
To love of truth and hatred of all wrong.

To learn, to lead, to serve—behold, these three
The great object form. Full well to know
The joys of service and, whate'er there be
To overcome that maketh hard the way, to show
Unto the world (so all may see)
That Service doth from Love and Knowledge grow.



Pi Kappa Omega (now Kappa Delta Pi) was followed, in 1925, by a second organization of a slightly different nature: Alpha Delta Rho, the purpose of which was "to bring together each year a group of representative students and members of the faculty, to foster high ideals and standards of leadership among the students, and to help in the solution of college problems through the promotion of desirable coordination of the various interests, activities, and organizations of the college."



Like Pi Kappa Omega, Alpha Delta Rho has now become national and is forming chapters in other places; it has joined with a similar organization at the University of South Carolina, the two merging under the name of Alpha Kappa Gamma. The chapter at Farmville, the mother chapter, is known as the Joan Circle of Alpha Kappa Gamma. The requirements for membership are a high order of scholarship, and good citizenship—placing great emphasis on service.



THE COLONNADE, SHOWING STATUE OF JOAN OF ARC

During the session of 1926-1927 this society became very much interested in securing for Alma Mater an equestrian statue of Joan of Arc; through the correspondence relative to this the sculptor, Mrs. Anna Hyatt Huntington and her husband, Archer Milton Huntington, of New York City, became very much interested in the work of this Joan Circle: so much so that, to the delight of the members of Alpha Delta Rho and of all connected with the college, they presented the society with this beautiful bronze statue, valued at two thousand dollars. There are only four of these in existence: one on Riverside Drive in New York City, one in France, one in one of our western cities, and one on the campus at Farmville. Quoting once more from the article published in the Norfolk and Western Magazine:

"Approach the open colonnade which connects the Student Building with the East Wing and there, in the very center, is a figure in bronze atop a marble base which, in contrast to the dull metal bears its prize with stately grace. Here is eagerness, action, bravery, defiance, loyalty to an ideal, faithfulness to duty, beauty of countenance—Jeanne d'Arc, the Maid of Orleans. Her horse, an exquisite example of animal beauty, catching the fire of zeal from its rider, strains on the bit with muscles taut, neck arched, and nostrils dilated. The girl, raised on tiptoes in her saddle, thrusts her sword upward. Her visor is thrown back, revealing a face of fervor—of a leader, of a noble and beautiful character. Jeanne d'Arc, the patron saint of Farmville, expresses the spirit of this great school—this institution of eagerness, bravery, faithfulness to duty, beauty of countenance and loyalty to purpose. It is an institution which looks forward to an ideal, which raises its sword high in the battle against illiteracy; an institution which inspires young women to leadership in their country, and which prepares its daughters to train the citizens of tomorrow."

A member of the Class of 1929, Miss Martha Baker Bass, gives us the following lines:

With our wondering eyes uplifted
To your rapt face, Joan,
We have trod the years together
Till our race is almost done.

And I think we hear your Voices
As you heard them long ago,
And I think that your pure ardor
In our hearts has learned to glow.

So we would heed your Voices,
Loyalty and Faith and Love—
Selfless, raise our Alma Mater
To the stars above.



There are still other honor societies in the college, admitting to membership those who show special aptitude along special lines and at the same time attain to the required standard of scholarship in their general program. The Virginia Gamma Chapter of Pi Gamma Mu was organized in 1927 as a branch of the National Social Science Honor Society to further the scientific study of the problems of social science.



For a number of years the Debate Club has been in existence in the college. Public debates and inter-collegiate debates give excellent training in thinking on one's feet, and for successful club work. In 1928 this club affiliated with the National Debate Club, Pi Kappa Delta.



In any large body of students will be found numerous clubs and organizations the purpose and meaning of which (in many instances) are known to the members alone. In order to show that the girls at Farmville are by no means lacking in initiative along this line, we give in full the activities listed by them in their annual for the session of 1927-1928:

Student Government Association
Young Women's Christian Association
The Freshman Commission
The College Orchestra
The Virginian (annual)
The Rotunda (weekly paper)
Kappa Delta Pi
Alpha Kappa Gamma
Pi Gamma Mu
Pi Kappa Delta
Granddaughters Club
The Dramatic Club
The Choral Club
Cunningham Literary Society
Ruffner Literary Society
Freshman Orchestra
Merry Makers

SORORITIES

Sigma Sigma Sigma—Founded 1898, national
Gamma Theta—Founded 1911
Delta Sigma Chi—Founded 1919
Mu Omega—Founded 1911
Delta Kappa—Founded 1912, national
Zeta Tau—Founded 1920

CLUBS

LeCercle Francais
El Circolo Espanol
N. B. B. O.
Cotillion Club
Chi
14
De-Ho-Ec Club (Home Economics Dept.)
Eastern Shore Club
Portsmouth Club
North Carolina Club

Shenandoah Club
Lynchburg Club
Monogram Club

ATHLETICS

Athletic Council
Varsity Hockey Team
Varsity Basketball Squad
Class Teams in Hockey and Basketball



In all the years of her life the State Teachers College has made no backward step—her face has been turned ever to the front; the character and ability of the men who have been her leaders have been such that she is in the enviable position of having not a single tradition that needs to be lived down but, on the contrary, all are such that they need to be lived up to.

As in any life, there come **times** of discouragement: times when we feel that the youth within our walls are not getting out of their college all that they should get; when their care-free attitude and their seeming lack of responsibility call forth criticism. But let any emergency situation arise, or any time of testing come and they respond with all the vital enthusiasm and loyalty of youth, and measure up to all that could be desired of them.

And the times of discouragement are far away outnumbered by the times of joy and hope and inspiration, when the old college herself catches some of the fire of the young spirits. And so the work goes on from year to year, bringing to us in ever increasing numbers the daughters and pupils of our alumnae who send them to us with the oft expressed wish that they may have the same guidance, the same love and inspiration which was given them in their own girlhood days; and still they sing through the years:

Though far from thy care and protection they roam
They still hold thee dear as a well beloved home.
All hail, Alma Mater, dear Mother, to thee
Thy daughters true, faithful, and loyal will be.

[illegible]

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Our Alma Mater.

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