

Algernon B. Chandler, Jr. Records 1919-1928

BIOGRAPHY:

Algernon B. Chandler, Jr.
President, 1919-1928
Fredericksburg State Normal and Industrial School for Women (1919-1924)
Fredericksburg State Teachers College (1925-1928)

Algernon Bertrand Chandler, Jr. was born in Bowling Green, Va. on May 12, 1870. He attended the University of Virginia for both his undergraduate and graduate degrees. He then took and passed a course in law at Washington and Lee University, after which he practiced law in Atlanta with his brother. He made his return to academia after leaving law and began his teaching career at several private schools in Richmond: Locust Dale Academy, Nolley's School for Boys, and Miss Ellett's School for Girls (later St. Catherine's School). After leaving private for public education he served as principal of Clifton Forge grade and high school, then returned to Richmond as principal of Leigh Public School for six years. During this time he gradually made his way to higher education by teaching evening English classes at the Virginia Mechanic's Institute. He also served as a state school examiner and secretary of that board.

In 1909, President Russell hired Chandler as a professor of Latin at the new normal school in Fredericksburg; he became Dean shortly thereafter, also serving as acting president during an illness late in President Russell's term. Just under a month after President Russell resigned in May 1919, Chandler was elected to replace him, at a special meeting of the Normal School Board on June 7, 1919.

Mr. Chandler was a scholar as well as a teacher. He wrote the Virginia supplement to Frye's *Grammar School Geography* which was nationally used textbook. He also published in the magazine for the Virginia Teacher's Association as well as being the education editor of the Richmond *News-Leader* for three years.

In his nine years as president (1919-1928) Chandler faced many challenges that he met with great success. He doubled the size of the faculty, eliminated the high school curriculum to focus on college courses, strengthened the student teaching program by establishing the College Heights High School on campus, and increased the physical plant with the a student activities building, an open-air theater, and the Virginia Hall residence. Finally, he oversaw an institutional name change. In 1924, The Fredericksburg State Normal and Industrial School for Women became Fredericksburg State Teachers College.

Chandler's most significant challenge was due to a 1919 change in the mission of the Normal Schools as imposed by the State. In order to eliminate unnecessary duplication in programs, areas of specialization were assigned to each of the four state normal schools.

While still concentrating on teacher education, Fredericksburg would focus on teaching music, industrial arts, and commercial subjects (business). It would also have the only four-year degree in commercial subjects.

In 1927 he was elected to membership in Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Virginia. He was also one of the two Fredericksburg persons listed in *Who's Who in America*.

On September 10, 1928, at the age of 58, Chandler suffered a stroke while on his way home from the College. He is buried in Bowling Green. After his death his wife, Blanche, sold their College Avenue home to the College where it served first as the infirmary and then was named Anne Fairfax Hall. As a testament to his commitment to higher education for women as well as an indication of his great fondness for the school that he served, he willed \$1,000.00 to the college to establish scholarships for the education of "some worthy Junior or Senior" students.

Sources Consulted:

The Bullet. Volume II, #3. January 31, 1929.
History of Mary Washington College: 1908-1972 by Edward Alvey, Jr., 1996.
"The Second President, 1919-1928" *MWC Today*. Winter 1983.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

The collection contains papers covering the years from 1919-1928, and includes principally: correspondence related to school employees and students, reports to various state education and governmental bodies, and items documenting the fundraising for and building of the Student Alumnae Services Building.

- Files 1-3. Correspondence with Faculty and Staff
 - F 1. Faculty appointments and reappointments, 1920
 - F 2. Memos regarding school matters, 1919-1921
 - F 3. Dean
- Files 4-5. Correspondence with students
 - F 4. Disciplinary Problems
 - F 5. Student Government Officers, March 3, 1927
- File 6. Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1920-1921
- Files 7-11. Reports
 - F 7. Virginia Normal School Board, 1919-1921
 - F 8. Virginia Normal School Board, 1922-1923.
 - F 9. Board of Virginia Teachers Colleges, 1927-1928.
(Formerly Virginia Normal School Board)

- F 10. Budget Committee of the State Legislature, 1921
- F 11. State Budget copies, 1920-1926 (incomplete)

Files 11-14. Student Alumnae Services Building

- F 12. Publicity Materials.
- F 13. Alumni and Donor lists
- F 14. Building Fund Correspondence
 - F 14.1 June-July 19, 1927
 - F 14.2 July 20-30, 1927
 - F 14.3 August 1-6, 1927
 - F 14.4 August 17-31, 1927
 - F 14.5 September-March 1928

Series: Correspondence with Faculty and Staff

File 1: Faculty appointments and reappointments, 1920.

Scope note:

This file contains documents related to appointments and reappointments of faculty. Files are arranged alphabetically, with a list of names appearing in Appendix 1.

File 2: Memos regarding school matters, 1919-1921

Scope note:

This file contains memos to the school faculty covering several topics. Of note is the fact that all the memos are signed by the faculty.

File 3: As Dean

Scope note:

This file contains two memos Chandler wrote to President Russell when he was Dean.

Series: Correspondence with students

File 4: Disciplinary Problems

Scope note:

This file contains correspondence relating to disciplinary problem with several students. It includes letters from the students' families answering the accusations, as well as the President's reply.

File 5: Student Government Officers, March 3, 1927

Scope note:

This file records a meeting with Student Government Officers who were concerned with the authority of the Dean of Students, Mrs. Bushnell.

Series: File 6. Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1920-1921

Scope note:

This file contains miscellaneous correspondence of the President.

Series: Reports, 1919 - 1926

File 7: Virginia Normal School Board, 1919-1921

Scope note:

This file contains various reports to the state board governing the 4 normal schools in Virginia, from 1919-1921.

File 8: Virginia Normal School Board, 1922-1923.

Scope note:

This file contains various reports to the state board governing the 4 normal schools in Virginia, from 1922-1923.

File 9: Board of Virginia Teachers Colleges, 1927-1928

(Formerly Virginia Normal School Board)

Scope note:

This file contains various reports to the state board governing the teachers colleges in Virginia, from 1927-1928. This board was formerly called the Virginia Normal School Board, but the title was changed when the state changed all normal schools to teachers colleges in 1927.

File 10: Budget Committee of the State Legislature, 1921

Scope note:

This file contains a budget for 1921 submitted to the state legislature.

File 11: State Budget copies, 1920-1926 (incomplete)

Scope note:

This file contains 3 bound copies of the state budget bill for 1920, 1922, 1923. It also has copies of the appropriations bill for 1922-1924, as well as a supplemental appropriation bill for 1926.

Series: Student Alumnae Services Building

File 12: Publicity Materials

Scope note:

This file contains publicity materials related to the capital campaign to raise money to build the Student Alumnae Services Building. It includes a brochure and a drawing of the building. A copy of a sales manual used to train those soliciting the donations is also included.

File 13: Alumni and Donor lists

Scope note:

This file contains lists of alumni to contact as well as donor lists with pledges for the new building.

File 14: Building Fund Correspondence

Scope note:

This file contains solicitation correspondence with people regarding the capital campaign. Included are some original solicitation letters, however, there are mostly replies of people to those letters. The correspondence is arranged chronologically as indicated below.

- F 14.1 June-July 19, 1927
- F 14.2 July 20-30, 1927
- F 14.3 August 1-6, 1927
- F 14.4 August 17-31, 1927
- F 14.5 September-March 1928

Finding aid prepared by Kevin McCluskey.

Appendix 1:

Faculty appointments and reappointments, 1920.
Named persons.

Atkinson, Eula H.
Black, Ethyl
Chiles, J. H.
Clark, Annie G.
Crawford, Clara M.
Mathias, Margaret E.
Meyers, Mary M.
People, Charlotte Ross
Ninde, M. Lousie
Perrin, Miriaim Stausford
Reed, Mary M.
Roberts, Lottie A.
Ruff, Dalia L.
Starke, (Illelligible) P.
Vaughen, Carrie Belke
Walker, Marie
Williams, Eliabeth
Young, M. J.
(Illelligible), Grace K.