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### 0006: Virgil Anson Lewis Papers, 1843-1973

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**Virgil Anson Lewis Papers, 1843-1973**

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Special Collections Department  
James E. Morrow Library  
Marshall University  
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1979

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**VIRGIL ANSON LEWIS PAPERS, 1843-1973**

Accession Number: 6

Processed by: Lisle G. Brown and Cora P. Teel

Register Prepared by: Cora P. Teel

Date Completed: May 1979

Location: Special Collections Department

This collection was a gift, in part, of Lucie and Virginia Lewis; it was received on various dates in 1974 and 1976.

Linear feet of shelf space: 1

Literary rights: not assigned to Marshall University.

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Explanatory notes:

"Bx" refers to box in which papers are filed.

"Fd" refers to folder.

"Ts" refers to typescript.

## **CONTENT AND SCOPE OF THE COLLECTION**

The Virgil A. Lewis papers consist primarily of a holograph draft of a history of Marshall College from its founding in 1837 until the 1890's, with an emphasis on the early years, before the Civil War. Included are research notes, transcriptions of documents, correspondence, and a copy of the contract between Mrs. Virgil Lewis and Lawrence Corbly, former president of the college, who carried on the work of the history after Mr. Lewis' death.

There are also pamphlets written by Mr. Lewis and two compilations by his daughters Lucie and Virginia: "A History of the Lewis and Stone Families," and a reminiscence of Elizabeth Blizzard Stone Lewis.

## **VIRGIL ANSON LEWIS, 1848-1912**

Virgil A. Lewis was born near West Columbia, Waggener District, Mason County, (West) Virginia, on July 6, 1848, the son of George W. and Lucy Edwards Lewis, both of pioneer Mason County families. Upon the death of his father in 1858, Mr. Lewis, the oldest child, went to work to support the family. Working as a printer's assistant, and later as a shipping clerk, he continued his education, later teaching and serving as principal in Putnam and Mason Counties. He also read law and was admitted to the bar. In 1892 he was elected State Superintendent of Free Schools. It is as an historian, however, that Mr. Lewis is best known. Author of such works as *General History of West Virginia*, *History and Civil Government of West Virginia*, *Life and Times of Anne Bailey*., and *The Original Indiana Territory*, he also founded the West Virginia Historical and Antiquarian Society in 1891 and served as state archivist from 1905 until his death.

In 1886 Mr. Lewis married Elizabeth Stone of Mason City, West Virginia, the daughter of Richard J. and Anna E. Biggs Stone. They were the parents of five children: Anna, born in 1888; Hale, born in 1890, died in 1891; Lucie, born in 1892; Virginia, born in 1896; and Alfred, born in 1898. They also raised Maude, a niece of Mr. Lewis'. Mr. Lewis died in Mason City, West Virginia on December 5, 1912.

## VIRGIL ANSON LEWIS PAPERS, 1843-1973

### **I. *A History of Marshall Academy, Marshall College and Marshall State Normal School* (holograph draft)**

**Bx 1 Fd 1-4**

<b>Bx 1</b>	Fd 1	“Prefatory”	1
	item (3 p.)	Fd 2 “Chapter I, Incorporation of Marshall Academy”	1
	item (4 p.)	Fd 3 “The Incorporation of the Academy”	1
	item (3 p.)	Fd 4 “Note from Itinerant on Marshall College”	1
	item (18 p.)	These chapters were received from the Lewis daughters in 1974.	

Their original  
order has been maintained.

### **II. *A History of Marshall Academy, Marshall College and Marshall State Normal School* (holograph and typescript draft, with corrections)**

**Fd 5-16**

Fd 5	“Prefatory” (Ts)	1 item (3 p.)
Fd 6	“Introduction” (holograph; Ts)	1 item (5 p.)
Fd 7	“Educational Conditions in Cabell County in the Early Days of Marshall Academy” (holograph)	1 item (4 p.)
Fd 8	Chapter I, “Old Mount Hebron Church...” (Ts)	1 item (3 p.)
Fd 9	Chapter II, “Early Years of the Academy...” (holograph; Ts)	1 item (17 p.)
Fd 10	Chapter II, “Early Years of the Academy...” (Ts)	2 items
	Includes press notices of Marshall Academy in 1844.	
Fd 11	Chapter V, “Marshall Academy Under the Control of the Western Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South” (holograph)	1 item (2 p.)
Fd 12	Title pages (holograph)	3 items
Fd 13	“Marshall College During the Civil War” (holograph)	2 items
Fd 14	Part III, “Marshall College State Normal School” (holograph)	

1 item (19 p.)

Fd 15 "Appendix" (holograph) 2 items

Consists chiefly of "Some Historical Data Relating to Marshall College, and the Dormitory Accommodations Connected Therewith." (6 p.)

Fd 16 "Notes From Itinerant on Marshall College" (Ts) 1 item (18 p.)

### III. Notes and Transcriptions

**Fd 17-27**

Fd 17 "Cabell County schools aided by the Literary Fund;" 1818-1837 (holograph; Ts) 1 item

Fd 18 "What commissioners said, 1825-1837" 1 item

Fd 19 Transcriptions from the *Kanawha Valley Star* (holograph; Ts) 3 items

Fd 20 "Notes and References to Data for Marshall College..." (holograph)

4 items

Fd 21 "Marshall College State Normal School After the War" (holograph) 3 items

Fd 22 Notes on post-Civil War period (holograph) 2 items

Fd 23 Miscellaneous notes for the *History* (holograph) 6 items

Includes "Aid from the School Commissioners of Cabell County" and "The Student Body"

Fd 24 Notes for the *History* (Ts) 10 items

Numbered notes include "The Incorporation of the Academy," "Principals of Marshall College, Under Incorporated Board of Trustees, 1838-1850," "Principals of the Academy, Under Management of Southern Methodist Conference, 1850-1857," "Stock Holders in the Marshall College Joint Stock Company...formed...1857," "The names of the Stock-Holders..." and "Field Agents of Marshall College Under the Management of the Southern Methodist Conference, 1857 to 1861."

Fd 25 Bibliography notes (holograph) 7 items



Gives sources of information on Marshall College contained in *West Virginia Historical Magazine*, *Kanawha Valley Star*, and the *Kanawha Republican*.

Fd 26 Transcriptions of documents (Ts) 5 items

Includes transcription of indenture (1838) between James and Lucy Holderby and the trustees of Marshall Academy, a petition for incorporation (1857), and a prospectus of Marshall Academy (1840-41).

Fd 27 Copy of charter (Ts), 1838, 1858 1 item

**IV. Contract and Correspondence Fd 28-30**

Fd 28 Contract, 1920 1 item

Between Lawrence J. Corbly and Mrs. Virgil A. Lewis, allowing Mr. Corbly use of all material collected by Virgil Lewis, in order that Corbly might finish the history of Marshall College.

Fd 29 Advertisements, Marshall Academy 2 items

Photoreproductions, mounted.

Fd 30 Correspondence, 1920, 1928 5 items

1928 May 12, Huntington, W. Va. - to Mrs. James Beauchamp Clark, widow of former Speaker of the House of Representatives, inquiring about Mr. Clark's career at Marshall College.

**V. Other Lewis Papers Fd 31-37**

Fd 31 Miscellaneous notes (holograph; Ts) 3 items

“Educational statistics for the year 1860, for the counties which were afterward included in the State of West Virginia” and “Textbooks prescribed for use in the old field schools of West Virginia in 1838.”

Fd 32 “The Genesis of Education in the Ohio Valley” (Ts) 1 item

Fd 33 “Origin of Flag Day” (Ts) 1 item

Fd 34 Pamphlets by Virgil Lewis 4 items

*Manual and Graded Course of Primary Instruction for the Country and Village Schools of West Virginia* (1894); *The National Character of the Battle of Point Pleasant* (undated); and *Programme and Syllabus or manual of work for use in the Institutes of West Virginia* (1895-1896).

Fd 35 *West Virginia Educator*, vol. 4, no. 11 (November 1909) 1 item Fd 36

Lucie and Virginia Lewis, writings 3 items *Leaves from our*

*Family Tree* and *We Remember* contain genealogical information about the Stone, Lewis, Edwards and Biggs families, and reminiscences about Virgil Lewis.

Fd 37 Photographs 5 items