1973

0006: Virgil Anson Lewis Papers, 1843-1973

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OF THE

Virgil Anson Lewis Papers, 1843-1973

Accession Number: 1973/01.0006

Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
1979
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.
CONTENTS

Content and Scope of Collection  

Biography  

Inventory of the Collection  
   I. “History of Marshall Academy...”, holograph  
   II. “History of Marshall Academy...”, corrected draft  
   III. Notes and Transcriptions  
   IV. Contract and Correspondence  
   V. Other Lewis Papers

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.

**Bx 1**  

Fd 1  “Prefatory”  

item (3 p.) Fd 2  “Chapter I, Incorporation of Marshall Academy”  

item (4 p.) Fd 3  “The Incorporation of the Academy”  

item (3 p.) Fd 4  “Note from Itinerant on Marshall College”  

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)  

Fd 6  “Introduction” (holograph; Ts)  

Fd 7  “Educational Conditions in Cabell County in the Early Days of Marshall Academy” (holograph)  

Fd 8  Chapter I, “Old Mount Hebron Church...” (Ts)  

Fd 9  Chapter II, “Early Years of the Academy...” (holograph; Ts)  

Fd 10  Chapter II, “Early Years of the Academy...” (Ts)  

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)  

Fd 12  Title pages (holograph)  

Fd 13  “Marshall College During the Civil War” (holograph)  

Fd 14  Part III, “Marshall College State Normal School” (holograph)
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


Fd 25  Bibliography notes (holograph)  7 items

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