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Marshall University Chronology

Lisle G. Brown

Marshall University, brown@marshall.edu

Cora P. Teel

Marshall University, teel@marshall.edu

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MARSHALL UNIVERSITY CHRONOLOGY

COMPILED BY
CORA TEEL AND LISLE BROWN



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1830-1899

- 1837 John Laidley and other local residents established a school for their children, naming it after John Marshall.
- 30 March 1838 Marshall Academy incorporated by an Act of the Virginia General Assembly.
- 30 June 1838 Marshall Academy and its land purchased from James Holderby.
- 4 March 1858 The Virginia General Assembly elevates Marshall from Academy to College status.
- 27 February 1867 West Virginia State Legislature designates Marshall as a State Normal School.
- 12 June 1870 First Normal class graduates.
- 11 January 1873 Ambassador Dwight Morrow, father of Anne Morrow Lindberg, born in Old Main.
- November 1898 First *Parthenon*, the student newspaper, issued.
- 9 November 1898 First football game: Marshall, 5 - Catlettsburg, 11.

1900-1909

- 25 October 1902 Green and White colors first worn by the football team.
- 1 December 1905 First Varsity "M" awarded.
- 14 December 1906 First basketball game: Marshall 6, Taw Club Athletic Association of Charleston, 13.
- 1908 First year book, the *Mirabilia*, issued
- 8 January 1908 Formal opening of Old Main Auditorium.
- 13 March 1908 First full-length play produced in Old Main Auditorium.

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1910-1919

- April 1915 "Big Green" appears in print for the first time as a nickname for the baseball team.
- 6 November 1915 Marshall uses the Tower Pass to score its only touchdown against West Virginia University (92-6); the pass is promptly outlawed.
- 18 November 1916 Northcott Hall dedicated.

1920-1929

- 11 June 1921 First four-year baccalaureate degrees conferred.
- 19 July 1923 First summer commencement.
- 5 June 1924 Commencement Oath administered for the first time.
- 17 September 1925 First night classes held.
- 27 September 1925 "Thundering Herd" first used in newspaper.
- 23 October 1925 First sorority house established (Phi Kappa Delta).
- 15 September 1926 First student handbook distributed.
- 1 October 1925 Enrollment during a regular term exceeds 1000 for the first time.
- 4 June 1928 First honorary degrees awarded, to Dwight Morrow and Fielding Yost.
- 17 July 1928 Masonic Student group organized.
- 7 October 1928 Dedication game of Fairfield Stadium, Marshall beats Fairmont, 27-0.

1930-1939

- 30 January 1931 James E. Morrow Library dedicated.
- 29 September 1931 A buffalo purchased as mascot.
- 11 November 1933 Shawkey Student Union dedicated.

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- 23 January 1937 Marshall closed due to rising flood waters.
- 2 June 1937 Centennial commencement and dedication of Laidley and Hodges Halls.
- 3 June 1937 Dedication of a marble John Marshall bust, which stood on a pedestal west of Old Main until it was defaced in 1957.
- 30 May 1937 Dedication of library murals painted by Marian Vest Fors.
- April 1937 *Chief Justice* and Catalog first use “Old Main”
- 6 April 1938 Opening ceremony for the Albert Gallatin Jenkins Laboratory School.
- 6 June 1939 Registration for first graduate students.

1940-1949

- 1940 Yearbook renamed to the *Chief Justice*
- June 1940 First Masters’ degrees awarded.
- 1 November 1940 First Sadie Hawkins Day.
- 13 January 1945 Basketball team breaks 100 points against Salem, 55 to 119.
- 15 March 1947 Marshall wins NAIB championship,
- 1 July 1947 Stewart H. Smith officially begins the longest Presidency (21 years).
- 21 September 1947 Marshall’s biggest modern football victory, 60 to 6 against Steubenville.
- 19 May 1948 Graduate program becomes a separate school

1950-1959

- 27 May 1950 Omicron Delta Kappa Circle Terrace dedicated.

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- 10 November 1950 Dedication of the Science Hall.
- 2 February 1951 Roy Edwards becomes first black student to enroll at Marshall.
- 26 May 1951 Victory Tower dedicated.
- 1953 Marshall joins the Mid-American Conference.
- 9 May 1959 Bust of John Marshall dedicated on west lawn in front of Old Main; sculpted by art faculty member Joseph Jablonski.

1960-1969

- 12 September 1960 First classes begin for two-year nursing program.
- 12 January 1961 First services held in Campus Christian Center.
- 2 March 1961 Marshall is awarded University status by the state legislature.
- 6 December 1961 State Board of Education approves the naming of Prichard Hall for Miss Lucy Prichard.
- 5 January 1965 “Thundering Herd” voted official nickname.
- 12 March 1967 First appearance of the basketball team in the NIT tournament, at Madison Square Garden, New York City.
- November 1967 Stewart Smith Academic Center and Evelyn Hollberg Smith Music Hall dedicated.
- 20 December 1967 First Marshall Memorial Invitational Held.
- February 1968 Marshall scored most points in a basketball game: 131 against Old Dominion’s 91.
- July 1969 WMUL-TV (now WPBY-TV) broadcasts first program.
- 23 July 1969 Marshall expelled from the Mid-American Conference over a football recruiting scandal.

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- 1 August 1969 Groundbreaking for Communications Building.
- 1970-1979**
- 22 April 1970 Students observe Earth Day on campus.
- 23 April 1970 Clayton Glasgow, English professor, presents hand-crafted replica of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre to the University.
- 14 November 1970 Airplane crash kills football team, coaches, other passengers, and crew just off the runway at Tri-State Airport
- 25 September 1971 The "Little Thundering Herd" football team beats Xavier in its first home game, 15-13.
- 22 October 1971 First inaugural ceremony for the President, John Barker.
- 12 November 1972 Dedication of the Memorial Fountain, sculpted by Harry Bertoia.
- 27 August 1975 First classes held in Harris Hall.
- 11 May 1976 Dr. Paul Whear's "The Chief Justice: John Marshall" presented at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D. C.
- 14 May 1976 Marshall joins the Southern Conference
- 3 January 1978 First day of classes in the Marshall University School of Medicine, later named the Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine.
- 20 February 1978 West Virginia University is a basketball opponent for the first time since 1931.
- 1980-1989**
- September 1981 Record attendance at Fairfield Stadium (18, 212).
- 27 November 1981 Opening basketball game in the Henderson Center (Marshall 71, Army 53).

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- 22 May 1982 Dedication of the Henderson Center.
- 29 October 1983 Dedication of the C. I. and Marie Thornburg Carillon in the Morrow Library cupola.
- 17 November 1984 Marshall ended its football season, beating East Tennessee State, 31-28, with a 6-5 record—its first winning season in 20 years.
- 7 February 1985 Bruce Morris fires the “shot heard ‘round the world”— an 89 feet, 10 inch basketball shot against Appalachian State.
- 27 April 1987 Wind storm toppled the Old Beech Tree, a long-time campus landmark that stood in front of Old Main.
- 1990-1999**
- 10 November 1990 Marshall played its last game in Fairfield Stadium, losing to Eastern Kentucky, 12-15.
- 7 September 1991 Marshall played its first football game in the new Marshall Stadium, beating New Hampshire, 24-23, before a crowd of 33,116.
- 2 October 1992 Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center opening gala.
- 19 December 1992 Willy Merrick kicked the only field goal of his career, giving Marshall football team its first win in the Division I-AA national championship, beating Youngstown University 31-28.
- 21 October 1995 Ovie and Jesse Cline One Room School museum dedicated.
- 1995**
- Fall 1997 Marshall rejoined Mid-American Conference, having left it in 1969.
- 3 August 1997 First football game between Marshall and WVU since 1923, WVU won 42-31.

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- 1 July 1997 West Virginia Graduate College merged with Marshall University, becoming the Marshall University Graduate College.
- June 1998 Marshall University Medical Center adjacent to the Cabell Huntington Hospital completed and opened to the public.
- October 1999 The Forensic Science Program of Marshall University's School of Medicine moves into Fairfield's old locker room after \$850,000 in renovations.
- 12 October 1998 John Deaver Drinko Library opened to students
- 23 October 1998 Full-figure sculpture of John Marshall by William Behrends dedicated.
- 23 December 1998 Marshall beat Louisville in the Motor City Bowl 48-29, its first bowl game win.
- 27 December 1999 Marshall's football team ranked 10th with a win-lost record of 13-0, beating Brigham Young at the Motor City Bowl, 21-3, completing a perfect season

2000-2009

- 19 December 2001 Byron Leftwich led the Thundering Herd all the way back from a 30-point halftime deficit to beat East Carolina in the GMAC Motor Bowl, 64-61, in double overtime.
- 18 December 2001 Byron Leftwich led the football teams to its second GMAC Motor Bowl victory, beating Louisville, 38-15.
- 23 August 2003 Opening of Marshall Commons, which consists of Gibson, Wellman, Haymaker, and Willis Residence Halls, along with Harless Dining Hall.
- 28 November 2003 Marshall Stadium named the "John C. Edwards Stadium," the first Division I-A stadium named for

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- a woman.
- 27 October 2005 Marching Thunder band performs at the Cincinnati Bengals football game.
- Spring 2005 Marshall left the Mid-America Conference and joined Conference USA.
- 9 January 2006 Edwards Comprehensive Cancer Center opened.
- 3 April 2006 “We Are Marshall” crew began filming on campus.
- 12 December 2006 World Premiere of “We Are Marshall” held in the Keith Albee Theater, following by a gala in Huntington Civic Center.
- January 2007 Robert C. Byrd Biotechnology Science center completed.
- August 2007 New Welcome Center on the corner of Hal Greer and 5th Avenue opened, which was renamed the Joseph M. Gillette Welcome Center on 12 April 2008.
- 15 March 2008 Opening of new Dot Hicks Field, in which Houston won both games of a double header.
- 9 April 2008 Memorial Fountain, recently renovated, was re-dedicated.
- 16 August 2008 Dedication of the Arthur Weisberg Family Engineering Laboratory.
- 22 August 2008 First Year Residence Halls opened.
- 5 February 2009 Health and Wellness Center opened to MU students and employees.
- 11 May 2009 First undergraduate classes offered at the university’s South Charleston campus
- 21 July 2009 Forensic Science Graduate Program ranked no. 1 in the nation based upon scores on the Forensic Science Assessment Test (FSAT).

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- 26 December 2009 Marshall topped Ohio in the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl, 21-17.
- 2010-**
- 2010 With the offering of both graduate and undergraduate classes, Marshall Graduate College renamed, Marshall University—South Charleston Campus.
- 27 February 2010 Dedication of the Erickson Alumni Center, which houses the Marshall University Foundation and the Marshall University Alumni Association.
- April 2011 Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District voted to transfer the Veterans Memorial Fieldhouse to Marshall University, which will demolish the building in order to build a \$30 million indoor sports and soccer complex.
- 20 December 2011 The Thundering Herd beat the Florida International Panthers in the Beef O’Brady Bowl, in a 20-10 win.
- 5 January 2012 Meter parking lot on Fifth Avenue closed for construction of new parking garage.