

GREENBRIER MILITARY SCHOOL

1875-1972

Louise Rawl Haberfeld

Greenbrier Military School (GMS) was a respected boys' military boarding school for two-thirds of the twentieth century. From 1910 until it closed in 1972, it bore the imprint of the Moore family of Lewisburg. H.B. Moore and his two brothers, J.M. and D.T., bought the property from the Greenbrier Presbytery in 1920. The school was a vibrant, thriving, growing institution until the late 1960s, when new enrollments began to outnumber returning old cadets. It educated around 350 boys a year from the seventh grade through a post-graduate year after high school and, for a time, through two years of junior college. Local boys and, in the early days, all the Moore children attended as day students. Boarding cadets came from West Virginia and the neighboring states of Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Some years, particularly the war years of the 1940s, saw many boys from Latin America and Cuba.

GMS was an accredited member of the Virginias Military Schools League, the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and the National Association of Military Schools (GMS 1971-72 Catalog, p. 2). Its students were active in local churches and brought revenue into the town's shops and businesses. Its graduates served in the Armed Forces, fought in wars and died for their country. As athletes and scholars, cadets graduated from colleges and universities and went on to become responsible citizens and community leaders.

GMS property covered the hills on the northeast end of town, while the columned edifice of Greenbrier College for Women dominated the western end. The short valley in between was split by Washington Street, which followed U.S. Route 60 east-west. GMS fronted Lee Street (north-south, parallel to Jefferson Street); Greenbrier College was on Church Street (north-south) across from the Old Stone Presbyterian Church.

Dr. John McElhenney, pastor of the Old Stone Church from 1808-1870, was a great educator who founded a coeducational academy that was chartered by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1812 (Montgomery, 1983, p. 146). This is considered the birth date of both GMS and Greenbrier College.

The process of education in Lewisburg, Virginia, was interrupted from 1860-65. John McClanahan, who once owned 1000 acres in the corridor from Washington Street through the north end of Lee Street, sold some land to William Spotts. In 1856, Spotts sold several acres to the Greenbrier Agricultural Society for the Fair Grounds. These Old Fair Grounds were the flat lands just behind where the GMS barracks would be

built. Imagine an empty fair ground, or a wheat field in 1862, on the hill where the GMS tennis courts once stood (the present location of the Sharp Alumni Center). From this vantage point on the eastern hill bordering the settlement of Lewisburg, on the morning of May 23, 1862, Confederate Gen. Henry Heth attacked northern forces across the valley. Union troops under Col. George Crook were camped on the hill behind the eventual site of Greenbrier College. Col. Crook's Ohio Brigade advanced and ultimately Gen. Heth's troops retreated all the way down the mountain and across the Greenbrier River at Caldwell. In an hour's battle, some 180 Confederate soldiers were dead and wounded, with 157 taken prisoner. Union casualties of dead, wounded and missing amounted to 73 (Battle of Lewisburg). A year after the Battle of Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, Virginia, became Greenbrier County, West Virginia, on June 20, 1863. Seventy-five years later, a grove of oak trees sheltered a dairy barn and encroached on a typical West Virginia sinkhole. In the springtime lilacs bloomed on a small hillside next to the GMS Activities Building and garage.

THE EARLY YEARS 1875-1921

In 1875, when the succeeding Lewisburg Academy trustees put all the original assets of Dr. McElhenney's "Old Brick Academy" into the Lewisburg Female Institute, the boys were set adrift. It is probable that Dr. Mathew Lyle Lacy, Dr. McElhenney's successor who became president of the Female Institute in 1882, reestablished the boys' charter, but still there is no record of a boys' school until the Gilmore Academy fifteen years later. Perhaps, as Dr. John F. Montgomery (1991) suggests, the fashion of the day pushed for separate education for girls and boys. Perhaps, after the widespread slaughter of young men during the Civil War (Chambers), the trustees saw the wisdom of educating girls. For whatever reasons, the boys suffered a break in the strong educational tradition of the Presbyterian Church and Greenbrier County. Their schooling proceeded in some combination of private teachers and public school, such as the Lewisburg Graded School, until Thomas H. Gilmore of Washington and Lee University started the Greenbrier Male Academy in 1890.

A Succession of Male Schools Leading to GMS

The years from 1875 until the Greenbrier Military School came to fruition saw various male schools, many on the site of GMS. Often the schools changed names, whether official or not, to reflect the leadership and purpose of the school.

Greenbrier Male Academy or Gilmore Academy 1890-92. In 1890 Thomas Gilmore purchased property (by promissory note) of slightly more than three acres from Sarah Spotts at 412 East Washington St., at the corner of what is now Dwyer Lane, The first year of attendance at Mr. Gilmore's

Greenbrier Male Academy was full to capacity with 45 boarding and 45 day students. When second-year applications again were above expectations (with a capacity of 50 boys, 68 applied), a large four-story building was begun. The building was nearly finished on March 15, 1892, when a fire started in the basement, where there were four large furnaces. Students were evacuated with most of their possessions, but the entire structure burned to the ground.

The Greenbrier Male Academy had started with high hopes. Its motto was, in fact, “Hope” on an anchor motif. A flyer (GHS Archives) for the 1890-91 academic year calls it a “Classical, Professional, Stenographic and Business School for Young Men and Boys.” The school aimed to lead boys “to habits of systematic study, to a high sense of honor, and to a deep interest in the moral purity of the School.” For this instruction, the boys paid \$130 for boarding for a nine-month session, while day scholars paid \$30 – 40 depending on their course of study. Boarding pupils were “required to furnish soap, towels, one pair pillow-slips, one pair sheets, and one blanket. Room, fire and light furnished free of charge.” Courses included primary English, higher English and mathematics, classics, modern languages, higher mathematics, engineering, Latin and Greek, Roman history and mythology, Greek history and literature, French, and German. “All students will be daily exercised in spelling, penmanship and reading.” The Business department taught arithmetic, penmanship, business letter writing, bookkeeping, stenography, typewriting, and commercial law, with attention to double entry bookkeeping. Principals of the school were the Rev. J. H. Gilmore and Thomas Gilmore. Chaplains were the Rev. J. O. Knott, the Rev. R. L. Telford, and the Rev. J. H. Gilmore. “Our government,” the Gilmores said, “will be mild, but *firm*. All irregularities will receive the prompt, personal attention of the Principals.” Chapel services were to be held twice a day, at 8:45 a.m. and at 6:45 p.m.

Unfortunately, Thomas Gilmore had insured the school building for \$11,000 and the cost of the fire came to \$15,000. His creditors (primarily the St. Lawrence Boom and Manufacturing Co.) got the money in a court settlement (GHS Archives). The Gilmore Academy, as it was also known, did not survive, yet its short-lived success proved the local interest in an academy for males that offered practical and classical education. Perhaps it also offered a “military form of government . . . for the sake of better discipline,” as Professor Henry B. Graybill states in *A Brief History of Greenbrier College* (p. 12), calling the Gilmore Academy the first military school in Lewisburg. The school hardly lasted long enough to instill any military training in its pupils, if that was one of its purposes at all. What the academy had done successfully was to assemble a teaching staff of more than twenty professionals from Greenbrier, Pocahontas, Monroe, Summers, Raleigh, and Kanawha counties (GHS Archives). Those teachers

continued educating their students, even though the school was gone. For the rest of the session of 1892, Professors H. W. Barclay and S. H. Coffman continued teaching in private homes. In September of 1892, Barclay and C. W. Bidgood taught. Barclay continued with Prof. J. S. Basore in 1893-94; Edward Lane maintained a private school in 1894-95, and the Rev. J. M. Sloan carried on in 1895-96 (Ambler, p. 740).

Lee Military School 1896-1899. In 1896 trustees of the Greenbrier Presbytery, H. T. Bell, John J. Echols, and John A. Preston, bought four acres of land from Alex F. and Laura Mathews (Montgomery, 1991). The land is described in the Greenbrier County Deed Book (#49, p. 614) of Nov. 10, 1896, as already having a school building and fronting 482 feet on the east side of the present North Lee Street. This site, part of the larger area that contained the former county Fair Grounds, became the Lee Military School. Half of the acreage was covered by a grove of red and white oak trees. The school building, which was completed in October, 1896, had four rooms. The Greenbrier Presbytery leased the property to Maj. James M. Lee, distinguished graduate of West Virginia University and former superintendent of schools in Huntington, who served as principal for two years. The Lee Military School offered three courses of study: academic college preparatory, commercial, and military. No boarding was available on the campus. For each of two 18-week terms, boys paid \$25 for the academic course or \$17 for the primary, or lower grades.

A flyer for the year 1897-98 states: “A modified military system has been introduced, with the belief that in no other way can be taught so effectively the essential habits of punctuality, self-control, physical training, and grace of carriage. . . . By this system uniformity of dress, *esprit de corps*, obedience, promptness, precision are attained.” A classic uniform—the kind that will continue into Greenbrier Military School—is described as being “of Charlottesville gray, of same cut as West Point uniform.” It is to be worn by cadets “at all times except upon social occasions. This suit is of excellent quality, and costs, including cap and four pairs of gloves, \$15.00.” The Class of 1898 had five graduates. Prizes awarded were the Rucker Prize in English and the Lee Prize in Military Tactics (GHS Archives 17).

The *Greenbrier Independent* of April 21, 1898, printed a letter from Principal James M. Lee. As an advertisement sent by Lee Military Academy to county teachers, the letter explained that the school would offer a ten-week course in lieu of summer school. “We offer the advantages of a fine reference library of over 1000 volumes; instruction by teachers of broad culture and large experience; most delightful surroundings in the springtime” and special classes in botany, psychology, theory and practice in teaching, and bookkeeping. “Cheap and excellent board near at hand. A

special tuition rate of \$10 for ten weeks is offered to teachers.” Special rates could not keep Maj. Lee, however, and he resigned shortly thereafter.



Lee Military Academy, 1889.

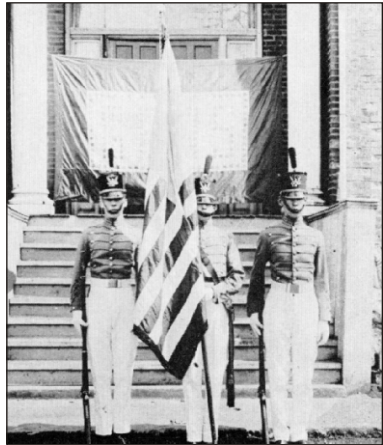
Greenbrier Academy 1899-1902. In 1899, Samuel R. (Gordon) Houston of Augusta County, Virginia, was named principal by the Presbytery trustees. A *Greenbrier Independent* (6/22/1899) announced that Prof. Houston, a “distinguished graduate” in the Chemical Engineering Department of Washington and Lee University, was the son of Dr. Hale Houston of the Presbyterian Chinese Mission. Prof. Houston’s aim, said the newspaper article, was to build a first class English and Classical school with scientific and business departments, as a college preparatory school. He discontinued the military education and operated the school as the Greenbrier Academy for four years. Dr. Lacy, who had served as a pastor in Monroe County after leaving the position of principal of the Female Institute in 1887, returned to lead the school in 1902.

Greenbrier Presbyterian School 1902-1908. Like Dr. McElhenney before him, Dr. Lacy was a long-time minister (serving Old Stone Presbyterian Church 1871-82) and educator. Around this time the Greenbrier Presbytery, under Lacy’s leadership, was looking to establish a boys’ school in Lewisburg. Dr. Lacy persuaded local businessmen to buy the Greenbrier Academy and turn it over to the Presbytery. Assisted by Prof. J. L. Daniels of Hampden-Sydney

College, Lacy served as principal of the Greenbrier Presbyterial School until 1906 (Ambler, p. 741). The GMS catalog of 1920-21 shows a picture of Dr. M. L. Lacy as the founder of the school. Yes, its origins were in 1812, but it was Dr. Lacy who convinced the citizens of Lewisburg and the Presbytery to support the boys' Greenbrier Presbyterial School.

Greenbrier Presbyterial Military School 1908-1920. In 1906, fire destroyed much of the school, and a new, fireproof building was constructed (GHS Archives). The Greenbrier Presbytery hired Houston B. Moore as principal. An energetic and ambitious young man, H.B. Moore took charge. Very quickly he set the school "upon a prosperous course" and "engaged competent teachers." Dr. Lacy stayed on as Bible teacher for several years.

In 1908, military training was reintroduced (Ambler, p. 741). H.B. asked his two younger brothers to join him at the Greenbrier Presbyterial School, a Military School for Boys. The Greenbrier Presbyterial Military School catalog for 1912-13 shows Col. H.B. Moore as principal and teacher of math and science. Capt. Joseph M. Moore, A.B., was assistant principal, and Capt. D.T. Moore was business manager and instructor in Bible courses. Maj. E.H. Huff, B.S. The Citadel 1910, was Commandant of cadets and teacher of math and military science. There was a five-member Board of Directors.



Three cadets in 1918.



Greenbrier Presbyterial Military School.
The two left buildings (1920). The right building was added in 1921.

The Acquisition of Land

The four-acre property along modern Lee Street, which housed Lee Military Academy and later the Greenbrier Presbyterial School, changed hands over the years. The Moore brothers bought the property in November 1920 and on April 29, 1922, signed the deed giving title of Greenbrier Military School, a corporation, to them and their wives. According to deed records, the Moore brothers conveyed four acres of land to Clarence M. McMurray on Dec. 14, 1921 (Deed Book #100, p. 1). This land, promised to the husband of Priscilla Moore for the low price of \$1000, was on the park side of Lee Street near the home of D.T. and Emma B. Moore. When Clarence suggested to his brother-in-law H.B. that he might prefer land on Greenbrier Road, H.B. grew angry that Clarence was refusing the prime land that H.B. had chosen for him. When H.B. asked Clarence how much land he wanted, Clarence answered one acre. Houston, all of about five feet two, said he would step off one acre wherever Clarence wanted it. Now Clarence was over six feet tall, so he feared that H.B.'s steps would not give him as much land as if Clarence had walked them off himself. But H.B.'s temper took hold and he angrily walked off what turned out to be a good bit more than one acre of land for his brother-in-law. Clarence also got the property for free (McMurray).

The Moores continued to buy property and gradually increased the holdings of Greenbrier Military School. As the land was consolidated, GMS property stretched from Greenbrier Road, down Greenbrier Avenue, across Route 219 along Jefferson Street, from the present Robert C. Byrd Clinic up through Crowfields. All of North Lee Street was GMS.

A family member once joked, "What did these old country farmers know about running a military school?" (Howard). The answer is that they knew a lot. The Moore brothers may have been from the country, and they loved farming, but they were also smart and well educated. Presbyterian to the core, every member of the large Moore family had a superlative work ethic. Their hearts and souls went into the building of Greenbrier Military School. The Moore family *was* GMS.

THE MOORE FAMILY

The First Generation

The Moores came from Mingo in Randolph County, West Virginia. William John Moore married Ida Ella Burger from Bath County, Virginia, in 1874. They had eight healthy children, all born in Mingo Flats except for the youngest, who was born in Mossy Creek. Minnie, the eldest, was born in 1875; she married young and spent the rest of her life as Mrs. W.L. Reeves on a small farm in Mossy Creek, Virginia. Alvin L., born in 1877, lived less than a year. Houston Burger was born in 1879, David Tay in 1881, Ethel Kate (also called Katherine) in 1883, Joseph Marion in 1885,

Priscilla Leslie in 1887, Emma Eliza in 1889, and William John in 1892. The youngest child, who was called Willie and was known later at GMS as Miss Willie, was named for her father because she was born on the February day her father died at age 43. (Note: These dates were confirmed by the author on Shep's Place.net, May 2009)

The family had moved to Mossy Creek in Augusta County, Virginia, in the fall of 1891. They still owned land in Randolph County, so the widow felt some financial security. The Moores and Burgers were stocky, sturdy people, short of stature but large of character. Houston, age 13, became the man of the family and in Mossy Creek he and his brothers learned farm work. They thinned corn, cut wheat, and looked after cows, chickens, hogs, and sheep. According to Col. Ben or J.W. Benjamin, GMS's favorite journalist since 1925, the boys went to school, did farm chores, trapped, and fished. Col. D.T. Moore, when asked by Col. Ben (Benjamin, 1951) if they had to work hard, chuckled as he replied, "Well, Aunt Betsy—that was Father's sister—always said the reason we didn't become tall men was that they kept us so busy chasing the cattle we didn't have time to grow!"



Moore siblings and their mother. Bottom Row: Kate, Emma, Mother Moore, Willie.
Top Row: H.B., Joe, Priscilla (note engagement ring), D.T.

H.B. Moore earned his A.B. at Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia in 1902. He was a fellow in Latin and Greek there for the following year and received his M.A. in 1903. He was an instructor in Latin and Greek at Hoge

Military Academy in Virginia in 1903-04, instructor of Latin and Greek at the Bingham School, Asheville, N.C., 1904-05, and principal at Midway High School, 1905-06. Then he came to Lewisburg as principal of the Greenbrier Presbyterian School, where he also taught math (GMS Catalog, 1920-21).

The Rev. Joseph M. Moore earned his A.B. from Washington and Lee University in 1908. He was an instructor in ancient and modern languages at Greenbrier Presbyterian School, 1908-10. He earned his B.D. from Union Theological Seminary in 1914, and then returned to GMS to teach Bible and philosophy.

D.T. Moore was the business manager at GMS. Although he attended Washington and Lee University, he was seriously considering a banking career when it came time for his brother J.M. to go to college. Family finances dictated that only one college tuition could be paid at a time, so Joe started college. D.T. took a business course before starting work at a bank in Harrisonburg, Virginia. After ten years of banking, D.T. left his job as auditor at National Exchange Bank of Roanoke, Virginia, and came to GMS in 1912.

Priscilla Moore wanted to attend the Lewisburg Female Institute, so when her brother H.B. accepted a job in Lewisburg in 1906, he brought all his sisters and his mother with him. Priscilla and Katherine had been teaching in Virginia before the move. Mrs. Ida E. Moore and the girls soon moved into an apartment in Lewisburg. As he made plans to start a military program, by 1909 H.B. needed an assistant. He advertised for a military officer with a college education, and the only applicant was a lanky, footloose South Carolinian who had just graduated from The Citadel and needed a job. So Clarence McMurray signed a contract to teach and help set up a military program; he coached football at the Presbyterian School in the fall of 1909. Clarence, a charmer, dated Miss Katherine and Miss Willie, but it was Priscilla who captured his heart. Soon he asked Mrs. Moore if he could take Priscilla on a buggy ride. She gave her permission, but big brother Houston wasn't so sure. The afternoon grew long and Clarence and Priscilla did not return. It was a beautiful fall day, and as they headed up toward Muddy Creek Mountain, they were happily talking and laughing and just kept going. The sun sank behind the mountain as the young couple traveled west. H.B., as head of household and protector of his younger sisters, furiously gathered a posse of some thirty men on horseback to go search for Priscilla. As the men reached an overlook, they saw the buggy slowly wending its way down the mountain road. When H.B. met up with the buggy's occupants and demanded an explanation, Priscilla cheerfully told him that they had gone over the mountain to view the sunset, without realizing that the sun was setting on the home side. Since it was very nearly dark, H.B. concluded that Clarence was not a suitable escort for his sister. In the early spring of 1910, the Army called Clarence. He was a commissioned Second Lieutenant so he had to go. By breaking his contract with H.B. and



Colonel H. B. Moore
Principal, 1921



Colonel H. B. Moore
1879-1953



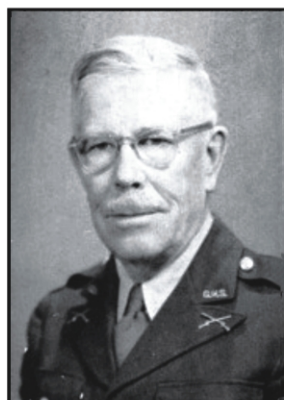
Captain D. T. Moore
Business Manager, 1921



Colonel D.T. Moore
1881-1974



Rev. J.M. Moore
Asst. Principal, 1921



Colonel J.M. Moore
1885-1975

the school, Clarence solidified H.B.'s poor opinion of him (McMurray). Love has its way, though, and Clarence and Priscilla were married in 1912—the same year that Houston married Ida Virginia Jasper of Lewisburg. Clarence and Priscilla traveled all over the world on assignment with the Army: the Philippines, Japan, Korea, China, and Panama. They had seven outstanding children; three sons graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, a fourth went to M.I.T., and the fifth son became a Presbyterian minister. The daughters married and were active in their chosen cities of Washington, D.C., and Charleston, S.C.

David T. Moore married Emma Brown, a belle of Salem, Virginia, in 1910. Although living in Roanoke, they started building a house on Lee Street directly across from the Greenbrier Presbyterial Military School as soon as H.B. called his brother to Lewisburg. They moved to Lewisburg in 1912. In 1919, they had a daughter, Brown Watson (who grew up to marry Col. W. A. Rawl, later GMS dean and treasurer).

Meanwhile, Joe Moore took a leave of absence from his teaching duties to serve in World War I. From February 1918 – July 1919 he was in France working with the YMCA as liaison between American and French troops and the French people. During this time he met a Canadian Red Cross aide, Margaret Taylor of Montreal, a graduate of McGill University. They were married in Montreal soon after returning to North America (Moore, P.). One of Joe's nephews tells the story of Joe, long scarf flying behind his neck, driving a convertible into Lewisburg, lovely new bride by his side (McMurray). They built a house on Jefferson Street at the northern edge of Lewisburg. They had three children, Anne, born in 1921, Joseph Marion Jr., born 1925, and Pamela, born 1926. Anne married and lived in Cleveland, Ohio; Pam became a pediatrician in Washington, D.C.

H.B. married the gracious Ida Virginia Jasper in 1912. Her father, William N. Jasper, had some wealth in coal mines. He gave Ida and H.B. the house they lived in on Washington Street. They had five children, four of whom lived into adulthood: Caroline Nichols, born in 1913; William John, born 1915; Virginia, who lived from 1920-24; Jean, born 1923; and H.B. Moore Jr., born 1927. W.J. and H.B. Jr. served as president and superintendents, respectively, of GMS. Jean married and lived in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Second Generation Moves to the Helm

H.B. Moore was president of GMS from 1922 until his death in 1953. He died in a tragic fall from a hay wagon on one of his beloved farms. J.M. Moore, serving as superintendent, took over as president in 1954 and continued in that position until he retired in 1970. He died in 1975. W.J. Moore, H.B.'s elder son, was vice superintendent from 1940-55 and superintendent from 1955-70. After J.M.'s retirement, W.J. was named

president in 1971. H.B. Moore Jr., W.J.'s younger brother, became superintendent in 1971. D.T. Moore was business manager of the school from 1912 until his semi-retirement in 1968. At that point, D.T. became assistant treasurer and his son-in-law, W.A. Rawl, became the treasurer. D.T. retired in 1970 and died in 1974.

William A. Rawl (1912-2007), who earned his A.B. from The Citadel in 1934 and his M.A. from Duke University, 1939, came to GMS as a teacher in 1938. He had previously taught in Walterboro, South Carolina, and at Riverside Military Academy. He fell in love with Greenbrier and with the boss's daughter, so he stayed. "Dub," as he was known, married D.T.'s daughter Brown in June of 1941. A U.S. Army Reservist, he was activated in March, 1941, and served primarily in Washington, D.C., and in San Antonio, Texas, for the duration of World War II. He retired from the service a Lieutenant Colonel and in 1945 returned to GMS, where he taught post-graduate English and served as dean of students.



W.A. Rawl

W. John Moore (1915-2000) graduated from GMS in 1934 and earned his A.B. and M.A. degrees from West Virginia University. He taught at Kentucky Military Institute before settling back at Greenbrier. While doing graduate work in the Harvard School Administration Department in Cambridge, Massachusetts, he met Caroline Mercer, whom he married in 1940. W.J., too, was on leave of absence from GMS during the war years. He served with the Army Air Corps as a personnel officer in Denver, Colorado.



W. John Moore

H.B. Moore Jr., or Houston (1927-1996), graduated from GMS in 1944. He was a cadet Second Lieutenant and was awarded membership in the GMS Hall of Fame for scholarship. He served in the U.S. Army from June 1945 – October 1946 and then earned both his A.B. (1949) and his M.S. (1951) from West Virginia University. He married Shirley McClung of Lewisburg in 1952 and taught mathematics and physics at GMS.

Carolyn Moore Harris (nee Caroline Nichols Moore, 1913-2007), John and Houston's older sister, graduated from Brenau College in Georgia and married Robert M. Harris (1908-1948), who was hired as basketball coach at GMS. Bob, who had his A.B. from Centre College in Kentucky,

took a shine to the young basketball player at Greenbrier College for Women. She was smitten as well, but her father, H.B. Moore, would not allow his teenage daughter to date a faculty member. As Carolyn was completing her intense college years—for she graduated at age 18—she also embarked on a secret romance. Upon her graduation in 1931, she and Bob were married (Wester). Robert Miller Harris soon became director of Camp Shaw-Mi-Del-Eca and GMS athletic director. When he died tragically of a heart attack in 1948, his widow, Carolyn, was named business manager of the camp. Shaw-Mi-Del-Eca, named for the American Indian tribes that once lived in the area (Shawnee, Miami, Delaware, Seneca), was started by H.B. in 1929 so that GMS faculty and employees would have a place to work in the summer. Besides having all the fun activities—swimming, canoeing, tennis, horseback riding, riflery, archery, Indian lore—of summer camp, Shaw-Mi-Del-Eca hosted a summer school for cadets. Carolyn kept the camp running smoothly until 1972, the year the school and camp closed. Activities director for the camp was Richard H. Staten, who graduated from GMS in 1938 and from Elon College in 1946. He joined the Greenbrier faculty as teacher and coach in 1947.



Camp Shaw-Mi-Del-Eca, 1938.

MAKING A MILITARY SCHOOL 1922-1967

Once the Moore brothers had bought the school in 1920, they started on a building program, adding a brick south wing in 1921. According to the 1920-21 catalog, this fireproof building, which contained the dining room and dorm rooms for one hundred boys, cost \$125,000. Unfortunately, as fire had haunted every incarnation of the boys' school, the new military school was no exception. On the night of Feb. 21, 1925, a fire started in the furnace room. Soon the whole center section of the brick-veneer school was in flames. Across Lee Street, six-year-old Brownie Moore watched from her upstairs bedroom window. Her daddy, D.T. Moore, was up and out and helping to evacuate even as the Lewisburg and Ronceverte fire companies were on the way. Her mother did what she could to comfort the boys who ran out of the building. Everyone escaped unharmed, although some boys lost all their clothing. The *Greenbrier Independent* (2/27/1925) says that more than two hundred students were sent home, to return on March 5. The entire north wing of the school burned, but the kitchen and dining room in the newer south end remained intact. The unburned rooms would house one hundred students, the newspaper said, and others would be housed in nearby buildings. The gym would be used for classes. When the present school session ended, said the *Independent* writer, the Moores would rebuild with fireproof construction. And they did. Within a year, the new building was completed. The familiar crenellated tower in the center, with the Quadrangle on the north and the dining hall on the south, became the GMS of dreams and memory.



GMS New Building in 1925

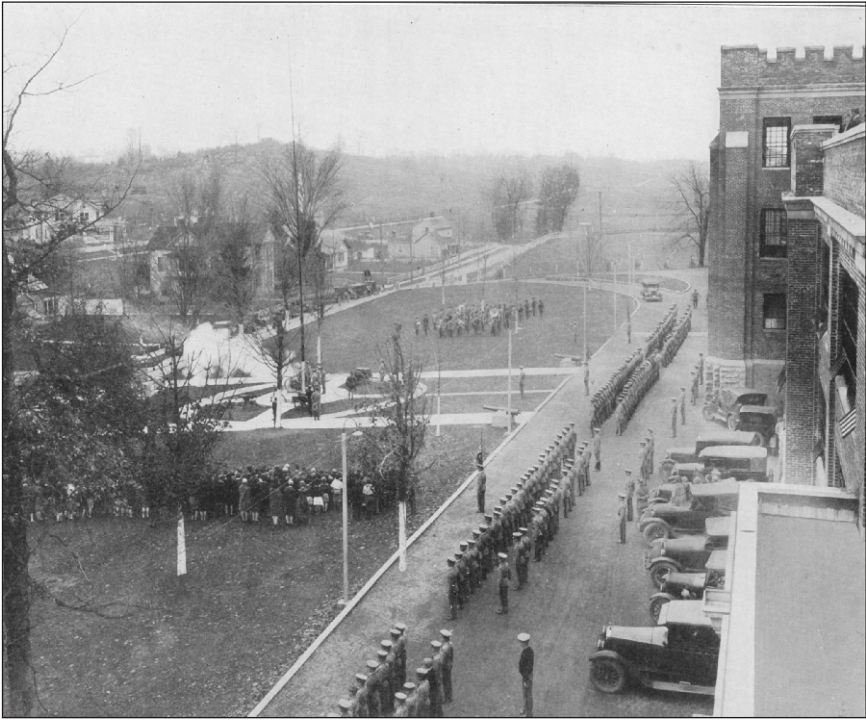
Military Structure

GMS had its own military title system. The president of the school called himself Colonel H.B. His brother J.M. came in as major, and D.T. was named captain. A teacher was automatically awarded the rank of captain. Those who had been around for a while—or beloved

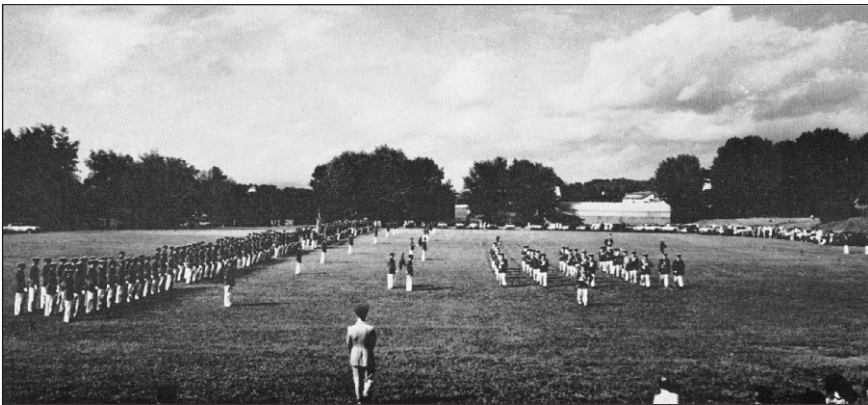
coaches—became majors. Department heads eventually became lieutenant colonels, while only those few members of the administration held the title of full colonel. And those administrators were promoted over the years. Col. John the later superintendent was, in 1951, the assistant commandant Maj. W.J. Moore. Maj. H.B. Moore Jr. was the long-time faculty member, but he was Col. H.B. Moore when he became superintendent in the final years of the school. Rank signified importance at the school; some faculty and staff, of course, had actually earned their rank in the U.S. Army. Cadets earned their rank or, if they had too many demerits or an infraction of the honor code, had it taken away from them.

The cadet battalion was divided into Companies A, B, C, D, E, and Band, each with its own squads and platoons, commissioned and non-commissioned officers. The smallest unit was the squad, headed by a sergeant. Then came the platoon with its commissioned lieutenant. Each company had its own captain, and commanding over all was the cadet major. Since Company E was the junior school, or “peanuts,” a senior cadet served as captain. Through the 1920s, the junior school included cadets in primary school. As education tilted toward older students, however, and college classes were added, the junior school dropped the youngest cadets and accepted only seventh and eighth graders. There was gentle rivalry between the companies. At the end of the year, one of them would be named Honor Company. Best Drilled Company, Athletic Company, Best Drilled Cadet, and the Band Medal were other honors to be awarded.

When H.B. Moore became principal of Greenbrier, he quickly concluded after six years that “the best results are accomplished in connection with the military discipline” (GMS Catalog 1925-26, p. 66). In 1921, the U.S. War Department established a Junior ROTC unit and stationed an Army officer to supervise it (Ambler, p. 743). The government supplied all rifles and equipment. The 1925 catalog (p. 76) states that “our Tactical Officer is stationed here by the War Department and our students, when entering Senior ROTC schools receive credit for work done at Greenbrier and get their daily stipend as well as uniform equipment.” The catalog further assured that military activities were not detrimental to regular classwork and did not take up required study time. In 1925 “the cadets drill for one hour a day for five days in the week when the weather permits, and during the inclement season this time is taken up in setting-up exercises, the manual of arms, signal corps work, map-drawing, and classroom lectures on military science. All formations, including the school and class formations, are military and students are accounted for at least twelve times per day in this way and by personal inspections” (p. 68). By 1960, the cadets had drill three times a week, plus a dress parade, but otherwise, until its closing days, the school’s schedule remained about the same.



Cadets Firing Salute, 1929.



Dress Parade, 1962.

Active Army military staff was a big part of GMS in the 1940s and 1950s. Yearbooks show the numbers of military personnel. In the 1944 Brier Patch, the military staff was six men: an Army colonel as professor of military science and tactics (PMS&T), an Army second lieutenant as assistant, two sergeants, and GMS Commandant Lt.-Col. C. Edward, or "Tite," Turley and assistant Commandant Robert W. Keene. In 1948 the military staff had eight men, including a PMS&T, an adjutant, GMS

Commandant Lt.-Col. Turley, an Army major, and four military instructors. In 1951 the military staff had five active Army officers, including Maj. Thomas C. McGuire as PMS&T, an infantry captain as his assistant, and three instructors. Commandant was Lt.-Col. Turley and Maj. W.J. Moore was his assistant. By 1955 Capt. H.B. Moore Jr. was GMS commandant, with Capt. Harry Barker as his assistant. Four Army personnel included a weapons instructor. Master Sgt. Chester Conyers, who had served on previous staffs, was now the U.S. Army retired assistant military property custodian. The 1961 Brier Patch explains the military staff this way: "The Department of the Army maintains a unit (military science and tactics) of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Greenbrier. This is staffed with Army personnel who have had practical experience in the service. Greenbrier has long held the rating of 'Military School Honor ROTC Unit' for having maintained exceptionally high standards of military training and discipline during the school year. This distinction is based on each year's work and the results of the annual inspection by a visiting board of officers" (Brier Patch, 1960-61).

Naturally, military school cadets had to wear uniforms. The GMS catalog describes the uniform needs of a cadet in 1925: dress blouse, dress pants, overcoat, two fatigue breeches, two caps, fatigue leather leggins, one dark blue V-neck uniform sweater, two gray cloth shirts, belt, two black ties, two pairs white gloves—all for \$150. "The Uniforms," according to the 1925-26 catalog (p. 113), "are made of the best heavy-grade 'Charlottesville' woolens." To former cadets this must sound familiar. In 1971 (GMS catalog, p. 101) the uniform consisted of: one dress blouse, one overcoat, two pairs wool trousers, one dress cap, one over-seas cap, two white duck trousers, one white cap cover, one regulation rain coat, one zipper jacket, four gray poplin shirts, one belt, two black ties, one pair black gloves, one pair white gloves, two pairs regulation shoes, and two pairs gray cotton trousers. This was quite a bargain for \$250.

The 1925 catalog (p. 76-77) contained two pages describing Military Instruction, as supplied by the U.S. War Department and operated under Section 55c National Defense 1920. Close order drills, physical training, military courtesy, equipment and marksmanship, military hygiene, sanitation and first aid were considered the Basic Course. The Advanced Course, for students who had satisfactorily completed the Basic Course, included further infantry drill regulations, physical training, map reading, scouting and patrolling, musketry, and command and leadership. In the late 1950s, cadets (Petrie) continued their studies in military science, drill, marksmanship, and leadership. They practiced battle with fifty-caliber machine guns (using blanks, of course). Two companies of cadets marched over to the hills behind Col. Joe's house where he kept his sheep, and there they skirmished—attacking, retreating, and practicing military field maneuvers. The cadets euphemistically called it battling on "sheep stuff hill."

Academics

Greenbrier was known as The School of Achievement. Fully accredited, it had excellent teachers and provided cadets with a solid classical or business secondary education. Courses taught remained remarkably the same over the years. GMS was nonprofit and non-sectarian. Its administration was Christian, from its very first days as the Presbyterian school. The final catalog (1971-72, p. 96) says, "We believe in Christian education. . . without regard to man-made creeds or denominations. . . . A comprehension of religion reveals the beauty and meaning of life. We think the Bible should be taught as living literature and the revealed word of God." Bible was a required subject for all high school students. At the close of every school year, individual academic medals were awarded in Bible, English, math, language, science, and commercial work.

In 1947, GMS (catalog, p. 59) offered three college preparatory courses through the four years of high school: Classical, Classical-Scientific, and Scientific. As expected, the Scientific Course offered more math and science, including chemistry and physics, while the Classical Course taught the more standard English, Latin, algebra, geometry, biology, and history classes. Also offered were a General High School Course and an English and Business Course. The Junior College offered more rigorous English courses and debating; French, German, and Spanish; economics, history, government, and psychology; calculus, chemistry, physics, geology, and several business administration courses. Each of these options provided a solid, strong education. The final GMS catalog of 1971-72 (p. 47) offered similar high school courses, following the Classical, Classical-Scientific, Scientific, and General High School divisions for a total of eighteen units. Courses included English, algebra, civics, and general science; Latin, world history, modern foreign language, and biology; geometry, language, chemistry, and world history; English, advanced mathematics, American history, foreign language, chemistry or physics. The English and Business Course, which was a fifth program of study, was still available. At a traditional military school, schedules, classes, and drill remained much the same. The physical plant, as well, did not change significantly after 1926.

Physical Plant

In 1921, rooms were furnished with single iron bedsteads, bureau, table, chairs, and with steam radiator and incandescent light. "The buildings are fitted out with all the modern improvements, being heated by steam, lighted with electricity, and supplied with water and bath rooms" (GMS catalog). After the fire in 1925, H.B. took furniture from his own home to put in the school. A large old oak bookcase with movable shelves became a gun display case in the library; it eventually found its way to the

office of W.A. Richardson –better known as Col. Rich. He was a Latin teacher and pianist for nearly the entire life of the modern school. Some teachers were as venerable as the buildings themselves.



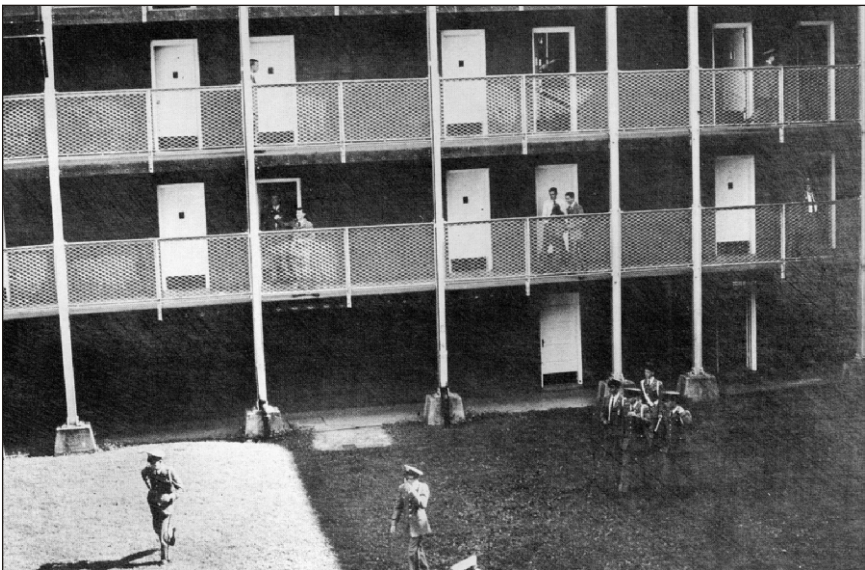
Room prior to fire in 1925.

A flyer from 1925 provides a “Sketch of Barracks and School Building” as follows: “This modern fire-proof building is now under construction. . .” and will be ready for the 1925-26 session in September. It is made entirely of fire-resisting material, with walls of brick tile construction, and floors of reinforced concrete covered with mastic floor surfacing. The window sash and stairways are of steel; partitions are hollow tile and metal lath and studding. This building, stated what was undoubtedly the builder’s advertising flyer, “will be one of the largest and best equipped private school buildings in the south, if not in the United States. It is 462 feet in length and extends back 162 feet at the deepest part.” The building consisted of three units: the right or south wing, constructed in 1921, which would be the “quarters for the small boys of lower school and the rooms for Matron and other ladies of the school.” The description written in 1925 sounds familiar to any cadet who ever went there. The Infirmary was upstairs in a “private part” of the building with the nurse’s apartments and doctor’s office and treatment rooms. The center section housed Administration with a large auditorium and study hall, classrooms, labs, library, . . . reading room, parlors, the post office, supply store and business offices. The left or north wing was the military barracks with 127 rooms in the Quadrangle, which was 140 feet square. There were three stories of dorm rooms; the lower floor had offices for the Commandant, the PMS&T, the Officer-in-Charge, Officer-of-the-Day, medical inspection room, barber shop, athletic store, laundry storage, shooting galleries, shower room, lunch room and boys’ cooking room. The GMS plant, the writer concluded, will accommodate 300 to 325 cadets (GMS flyer, 1925). Most of this description fits GMS as it was and remained. The barbershop,

the PX (post exchange, or store), and the armory were in the main building. The dry cleaner was in a separate small laundry building. Such a rosy picture, however, was a far cry from teachers' apartments, which had no kitchens at all.

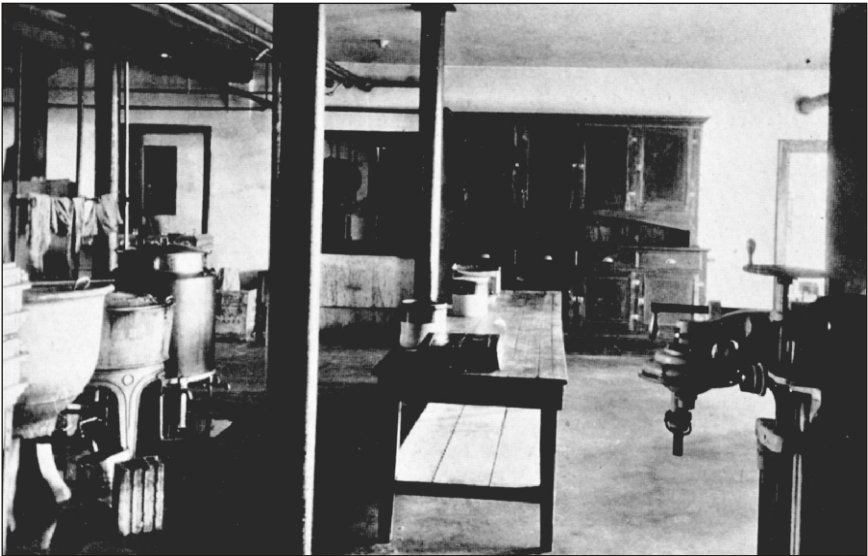
When Capt. Harry Barker (A.B., M.A. West Virginia Wesleyan, Marshall College) taught psychology, German, and sociology in the early 1950s, he and his wife and young daughter lived in a small apartment at the corner of the Quadrangle. "I still vividly remember the bugler standing directly outside our door blowing reveille every morning," said Nancy (Marker), who was around five at the time. "And just fifteen minutes later, the full band was playing." She remembered the Morgans (Coach Al Morgan and his wife Mary, children Carolyn and Mike) living on the first floor, her family on the second, and Capt. and Mrs. Cohen on the third. The Cohens invited any Jewish cadets to join them for special holiday dinners. It was a trick for women to cook in the kitchenless apartments. Teachers and their families were expected to eat their meals in the dining hall with the cadets. One Christmas Eve, Nancy recalled, Miss Willie served them oyster stew. Mrs. Barker eventually got a stove installed in the hallway, but their dishes were kept on a shelf that Capt. Barker built over the bathtub. "The shelf folded up against the wall when not in use. The washing machine was also in the bathroom, and the drain hose emptied into the tub, too. Baths had to be carefully scheduled between dishwashing and clothes washing chores."

The Quadrangle, which was basically four joined walls of rooms facing a square open to the sky, had slatted, bare metal stairs connecting its four floors. In the open center on the ground floor stood the guard house



Inside the Quad, after 1970.

gazebo (where the Officer of the Day hung out). The cadets of Companies A, B, C, and Band lived in the Quadrangle, but the boys of Companies D and E lived in the south barracks hall. Company D, downstairs, didn't even have its own shower room; those cadets had to walk outside to the Activities Building, or old gym, to take their showers. By the 1950s there were lots of big maple and oak trees around the campus. One cool evening a flying squirrel glided through an open window at the end of Company D hall. Quick-thinking cadets threw a blanket over the creature, and they were thereby able to carry it outside and let it go back into the trees (Petrie). Young Nancy Barker, living on the opposite end of the long building, also remembered a flying squirrel getting inside. The wild countryside was never far away.

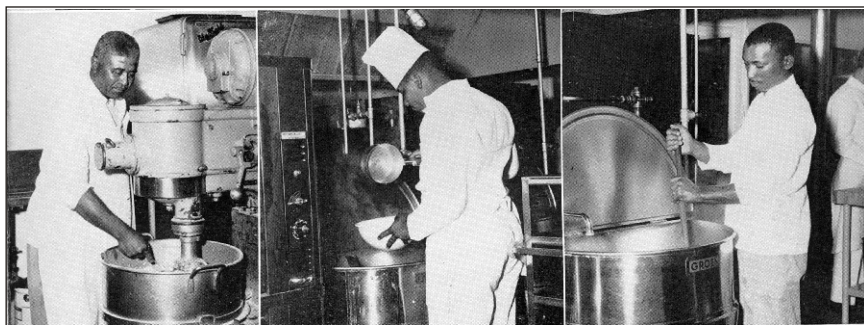


Kitchen, 1921.



Dining Room, 1947.

If accommodations were somewhat sparse, the food was always good. In the early years there were other hired dieticians, but ultimately the kitchen came under the iron control of Miss Willie Moore. Though a small woman, she was a mighty presence. A trespasser into her kitchen could expect to be yelled at and perhaps chased by a white-haired dervish waving a wooden spoon. On Sunday mornings, the same woman enthusiastically played piano for the Sunday School at Old Stone Church. But every cadet remembers her fried apples and fluffy buttermilk biscuits. In the 1950s she was helped in the kitchen by Reuben, tall and thin, and Nick, short and round as the kettles of steaming vegetables surrounding him. The old kitchen was a magical, mystical place to a child wandering through (even though an ogre might be lurking in some dark corner). If Reuben was peeling apples, a child's eyes would be caught and held by the machine that rapidly twirled the apples while shedding cores and peelings in great curlicues. The Moore families and their children traipsed through the kitchen to the cold rooms, where great slabs of beef hung on heavy hooks. Another storage room was not so cold, and a small child might have been enticed to climb a mountain of rolling brown potatoes. In the pantry off the far end of the dining hall, boxes of cereal and bags of flour and sugar were there for the taking. If an occasional cockroach was seen, scurrying for the dark, that was just part of the strange Moore family "grocery shopping."



Kitchen, 1963.

In the vast fields back beyond the parade ground, most of the groceries were home grown. Behind the Statens' house (Capt. Dick Staten, coach, teacher, and camp manager, with his wife Carol, daughter Stuart Ann, and sons Dick, Michael, and Stanley), where parking lots exist today, were more gardens. Moore family members could pick their own green beans, peas, bell peppers, onions, broccoli, asparagus, carrots, chard, lettuce, and tomatoes. In the distant fields—today's Crowfields neighborhood—grew corn. In the fall, Moore children might play amongst the cornstalks, being careful to avoid the dangerous sinkholes that were hidden behind bushes and brambles. Yes, there were squawking crows in abundance. Next to the

Activities Building and garage behind the Company D hall, and adjoining the garden, were the smokehouse and the private gas pump. Everything the Moores could reasonably produce or grow for themselves, they did. GMS grew almost all of its own food, from vegetables and fruits and grains to the providers of meat. H.B. and later H.B. Jr. had farms of prize Aberdeen-Angus cattle. J.M. raised sheep on his property, and D.T. had chickens. More vegetables were grown on the camp property next to the Greenbrier River at Caldwell. The school had its own dairy barn into the early 1950s, when the state regulated pasteurization and thus the cadets could no longer drink fresh, raw milk. A young Louis Longanacre (GMS class of 1952) worked at the GMS dairy barn. After he provided each day's fresh milk to Miss Willie for use in the kitchen—and gave milk to Moore family members—he sold the remainder to the Greenbrier Dairy in town, thus making a profit for the school (Longanacre). It's hard today to imagine a school where the mind and body were trained with military discipline and tough academic classes, where spiritual needs were met with regular chapel and church attendance, where the body was fueled with the freshest locally grown produce and meat, milk and butter fresh from real cows, no additives or processing involved. A bucolic dream, yet this was the early GMS.

The 1930-31 GMS catalog describes the campus and farms as a large thirty-acre campus and playgrounds. The school owned two farms of 800 acres and rented 600 acres, or 1400 acres in all. "On these farms are raised almost all the food used in the school." The main advantage of killing their own meats and using milk and their own farm-raised products, said the catalog writer, "is not in the lowering of expense, but in knowing the kind and character of food placed on the tables and insuring it to be of the best quality." The faculty, nurses, and families ate the same food as the cadets, it was pointed out. "Our milk, butter, ice cream, all secured fresh from our



Dress Parade in front of barns, 1938.

own tested dairy herd and stored in our perfect modernly cooled room, comes on our tables to nourish the growing boys placed in our care. Our constant aim is to furnish a scientifically well-balanced food, well cooked and carefully served. We do not guarantee all the frills and knick-knacks of the home—would not furnish them if we could, as plainer food is more wholesome. Some dessert is served at dinner each day.”

GMS was located in the clean countryside of West Virginia, in a town described in the 1925 catalog as a “typical ‘Old Virginia’ residential town, fourteen miles from the Virginia line just off the C & O Railway. . . It has a population of about 2000 people, most of whom are well-to-do, conservative in politics, business and religion, and enjoy the prosperity and happiness which comes with industry and integrity. They are cultivated and hospitable, and take a kindly interest in the cadets, offering to them pleasant and refining social advantages in the inner circles of their homes, warmly welcoming them to their churches, and . . . showing the esteem which is ever commanded by gentlemanly conduct and merit.” The C & O Railway had ten passenger trains a day coming through Ronceverte in 1925, and parents could depend on telegraph and telephone to communicate with their boys at any time of day or night. Cadets went to the Greenbrier Hotel in White Sulphur Springs to play golf or to watch golf and tennis tournaments. They could go to the swimming pool with swimming instructors at school expense. And dances like the formal, elegant Final Ball at the end of the school year were always held at The Greenbrier.

The school had a five-member Board of Visitors “appointed by the Presbytery of Greenbrier, at our request, to advise with us in regard to the morals of the school.” H.B. Moore was principal and president, J.M. was vice-president, D.T. was business manager. Miss Kate Moore was the librarian, Miss Emma and Miss Willie were dieticians. Momma Moore (as Mrs. W.J. Moore, the matriarch, was called by the family) helped in the dining room and fixed butter pats for every table. “Mother Moore,” as she was known to cadets, and her three maiden daughters lived in an apartment in the GMS barracks in the early years. Col. D.T., who lived across the street, used to go over and play Chinese checkers with his mother nearly every night. When enrollment boomed after the war, the Moore ladies moved into the house on Washington Street that was purchased for them in 1949 (Talbert, 2007). Momma Moore died that year.

Naturally, improvements to the physical plant were made over the years. The infirmary was remodeled in 1948. The H.B. Moore Memorial Gymnasium was built in 1953. The Recreation Building, adjoining the Gym, with indoor swimming pool was completed in 1970. The year 1962 was a big one for remodeling. On March 21, a freak tornado (Brier Patch 1962, p. 149) blew through the north end of town and tore the roof off the old gym. Boys huddled against the walls and were unharmed, but the

building had to be reconstructed, resulting in the fine new Activities Building. A new library wing was started that summer, along with the complete remodeling of the kitchen, new faculty apartments, and a new shower room for D Company.

The kitchen was modernized to bring it into compliance with current health regulations. Brothers Bob and Dick Phelan were hired as manager and chef, respectively. Meals at Greenbrier took on the more professional air of fine hotel dining. Remnants of the earlier country life were removed. Gardens still flourished, but the smokehouse was a thing of the past—along with nine “moldy” hams that were found hanging there. “But what did the Phelans know about cherished country hams?” asked horrified family members and long-time kitchen staff, upon discovering the hams were gone. “They were from Michigan” (Howard).

The school owned or leased several farmlands in the nearby countryside. At one time, tenant farmers were under rigid contracts with the Moores. In 1917, for instance, farmer Joe Hayes signed up to work the “Mason farm” for one year. H.B. and D.T. Moore agreed to pay Mr. Hayes \$1.25 a day for ten hours a day including Sundays for seven months of the year; Hayes did not have to farm December through April. The dwelling house and garden plot were provided rent-free, and Hayes had the right to keep free of charge “one cow, three hogs (rings to be kept in the hogs’ noses), and fifty chickens.” The farmer needed to furnish grain for his own chickens and for fattening his own hogs. Hayes was allowed to use one of the farm horses “for light work such as coming to town and church” when the horse was not being used by the Moores and “in their opinion it is not detrimental to the horse used (Moore personal papers).” Wheat and hay crops were grown in fields far away from the GMS campus. When it came time to harvest these crops, various school workers and farmers would do the long day’s (or maybe two days) work of threshing. Miss Willie fired up the GMS kitchen to make dinner for the workers, and family members in cars and the school truck delivered the food.

The Moore farmers-turned-schoolmasters kept a firm hand on the land and the use and care of their crops and animals. H.B. stayed active in both the Aberdeen-Angus and the Holstein Cattle Breeders Associations (Benjamin), and he was a founder and director of the West Virginia State Fair. All the Moores were active in the Old Stone Church. Because he served on committees and went to so many church meetings, D.T. was nicknamed “Mr. Presbyterian.” He never missed a Rotary Club meeting in more than fifty years.

H.B. was active in real estate deals that involved the town and Greenbrier College property. In 1943 the Moore brothers and others sold ownership shares in the Greenbrier College Syndicate to Greenbrier College, and in March 1949 agreed to complete the sale of all their interests

in the college to Greenbrier College, Inc., the non-stock, nonprofit corporation (County Deed Book # 146, p. 371). On March 16, 1939, H.B. sold to the town of Lewisburg a one-half acre property on the Greenbrier College campus, which had on it a building called “the old Masonic Temple originally built as a Library and Club House for the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia.” Townspeople might recall this structure as the old pink-painted Greenbrier County Library. The 1939 deed (Deed Book #133, p. 627) stated that it was to be used “as a Public Library, a Public Museum or a Public Historical Building.” When the new Greenbrier County Public Library opened in 2007, technically the emptied historic building (dating to 1834) reverted back to the Moore estate. However, with the agreement of the Moore descendants, in April 2010 the town of Lewisburg leased the property to New River Community and Technical College for the hosting of special community college workshops (Register-Herald, 4/30/2010). So the ongoing education of county citizens by the Moores has continued to the present day.

Enrollment

The population of the school fluctuated over the years, with full capacity being anywhere from about 340 to 410. Classes generally were divided into a junior school of seventh and eighth grade, high school, and a post-graduate year. In the school’s earliest days, two kind-hearted matrons lived in the dormitory and served as nurse and mother to the small cadets (GMS Catalog, 1925-26, p. 129). All the Moore daughters—Carolyn and Jean, Brown, Anne and Pam, and Katharine McMurray—attended primary school at GMS. They wore dresses, not cadet uniforms. As Brownie Rawl said, “As soon as we got interested in the boys, we were sent across town to Greenbrier College.”

In 1930, with only nine post-graduates, the school had 285 students. In 1933 a college freshman class was enrolled. Primary school was dropped and college sophomores were added. The population of the school surged during the years of World War II. Veterans, aided by the G.I. Bill, enrolled in the GMS junior college. According to Otis Rice in his 1986 book *A History of Greenbrier County*, GMS added the freshman college year in 1933 and the sophomore year in 1940. By 1942, states Rice (p. 436), the school had a faculty of fourteen men, eleven of whom held graduate degrees. There were 345 cadets. “More than 90% of its graduates,” said Rice, “entered U.S. colleges and universities.” In 1944 there were 442 cadets—so many, in fact, that a large clapboard home across Lee Street was made into “the Annex” and housed some twenty-two cadets with a resident faculty officer. In 1948 there were 375 students, again with two college classes. By 1951, however, even with large freshman and sophomore college classes, enrollment had dropped to 299. The Annex was closed, and

the home became the residence of Maj. Bob Keene (with wife Sally and daughter Cynthia), faculty member and public speaking teacher. In 1955, the number passed 300, and by 1957 enrollment was up to 357, even though the number of college students had dropped to 31. In 1957 the junior college was discontinued and only one post-graduate year remained. In 1960, the enrollment was strong and healthy with 374 cadets.

Over the years, GMS had cadets from around the world, from places as diverse as Spain, Hawaii, and Lebanon. Besides foreign students, American students had parents who were in the military, in the Foreign Service or U.S. Diplomatic Corps, or worked for international corporations. From reading through old editions of the Brier Patch, which can be found at the GMS Museum in the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine's Sharp Alumni Center, as well as at the Greenbrier Historical Society at North House and a few on display at the General Lewis Inn, one learns much about the classes and companies that comprised GMS in a given year. In 1947 all the classes had female sponsors. In later Brier Patches, of course, all companies had female sponsors (sisters, mothers, or girlfriends of cadets) and there was a Queen of the Brier, but only in the war years of the 1940s were female sponsors on nearly every page.

Discipline

Cadets had rules and regulations, and following them was all part of their military training. The 1925 catalog (p. 129) states: "Cadets must always be clean and neat in person and dressed according to school regulations and deport themselves as gentlemen both at school and in public." Gambling, chewing tobacco, spitting on the floor, using or having cigarettes in one's possession, and using profane or vulgar language were forbidden. The penalty for these offenses was one hundred hours of penalty tour for the first offense and expulsion for a repetition. A penalty tour was colloquially known as "walking the beat." Cadets who were assigned demerits for minor infractions of the rules walked them off by marching on the walkway around the flagpole on the front campus. Demerits also were walked off in the Quadrangle during inclement weather, and chores like polishing the brass cannons could work down demerits as well. In modern times, as in 1925, cadets "found guilty of drinking intoxicants. . . will be immediately dismissed." And "hazing in any form is not tolerated." As a final reminder to parents, the 1925-26 catalog states plainly: "If you have not confidence enough to allow us to control him [your son], and do not intend to make him conform to the regulations of the School, do not send him. It is injustice to us, puts you in a false position, and is ruinous to your child."

The Moore brothers knew what they wanted, and obviously parents wanted it, too, for fifty years. The 1920-21 catalog (p. 58) states their

philosophy clearly: “Greenbrier is a Christian School, founded and maintained by Christian men.” Cadets had their choice of churches to attend on Sunday morning—Baptist, Episcopal, Methodist, Catholic (in Ronceverte), or Presbyterian—and every Sunday evening they marched en masse to the Old Stone Presbyterian Church for a second Sunday service.

Greenbrier cadets lived by their motto “Truth – Duty – Honor” (inscribed on their class rings). A cadet charged with breaching the honor code would have to appear before the Honor Court. Led by the cadet major and consisting of commissioned officers and first sergeants, the Honor Court was in charge of all matters pertaining to the traditional honor system. These cadets, with a faculty officer present, held court trials for those suspected of breaching the honor system. The court’s findings were always reviewed by the GMS administration before any action was taken.

The United States Army.

From 1921 until 1966, the presence of the U.S. Army was an integral part of GMS. Army officers, soldiers, and teachers lived on campus as they conducted the junior ROTC program. Some retired and stayed in Lewisburg, some returned after their years of military service. Some of the military staff, like Sgt. Chester Conyers and Col. Tom McGuire, were beloved figures whose names were synonymous with Greenbrier. Col. Thomas C. McGuire, U.S. Army Retired, grew up in Lewisburg and was educated at Lewisburg High School, GMS (post graduate 1935), and West Virginia University (B.S. 1939). In his twenty-four years of service in the Army, he spent six years on the Army General Staff; he and his family (wife Christine and daughter Betty) were stationed around the world, plus he served as PMS&T at GMS from 1950-53. Upon his retirement from the Army in 1962, Col. McGuire joined the GMS faculty (GMS catalog 1971-72). He was director of military training from 1968-1972.

The U.S. Army-guided ROTC program at GMS came to an end in 1966. The last PMS&T was Maj. Marshall Lanter; he was assisted by Capt. Louis Longanacre and seven enlisted men. Until the spring of that year, GMS had signed a yearly contract with the Department of Defense to supply the PMS&T and other Army personnel. The GMS Administration (Longanacre) chose not to renew the contract and thereby lost the small stipend that the Department of Defense had paid for each enrolled ROTC student. Greenbrier may have believed it was controlling its own destiny in the turbulent Vietnam War years, but in hindsight this decision to separate itself from the U.S. Army was one of the first causes of the school’s ultimate closure six years later. Military training and discipline continued after the Army left, but the great days of our country’s military high schools appeared to be over. With a history much like GMS and lasting for 116 years, Greenbrier’s archrival Staunton Military Academy closed

(Wikipedia) in 1976 for similar reasons to Greenbrier's. By 1967, at least, the glory days of GMS were over.

What were the glory days? The 1940s and '50s were the years of high enrollment when the school was popular, acclaimed, and won honors for itself and for individual students. The School of Achievement grew in every way from 1925 until about 1965, when the times were changing as the war in Vietnam escalated. GMS always sent its graduates to serve in the wars. Cadets were honored and they died. The athletic field and parade ground was called Mathews Field in honor of Alexander Mathews, the first alumnus to die in action in World War I (GMS catalog, 1971-72, p. 72). The Honor Plaque, once displayed in the GMS library, listed the names of 1500 cadets who served in World War II. Charles Ambler, WVU professor emeritus who wrote the book *A History of Education in West Virginia from Early Colonial Times to 1949*, listed forty-eight known alumni and student casualties (p. 744).

Two of the casualties were Moore sons: John M. McMurray and Joseph M. Moore Jr. John Moore McMurray, born in 1920, died in November 1942, the same year his younger brother Cadet Sgt. William Harvey McMurray graduated from GMS and was elected to the Hall of Fame for scholarship. J.M. Moore Jr. (Ian) also graduated in 1942 and was named to the Hall of Fame for military in 1943. When it came time for Superintendent J.M., or Col. Joe, to choose the cadet who would be appointed to the U.S. Military Academy, these two young men were tied in their test scores and their abilities: his nephew Bill McMurray and his only son Ian. Which one would he recommend to get the appointment? Calling upon the wisdom of King Solomon, with prayer and study, Col. Joe made his choice. Bill McMurray went on to graduate first in his class at West Point and he served a distinguished Army career. Second Lt. J.M. Moore Jr. went into the Army infantry and died on Nov. 11, 1944, after he was wounded in the early days of the Battle of the Bulge. In October 1944, Gen. George C. Marshall had presented Ian with the Silver Star. Posthumously he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. The citation reads, in part: "Although seriously wounded, Lieutenant Moore gallantly continued to lead his platoon and so inspired his men that they overran and destroyed the entire enemy position. The bravery, resourcefulness, and devotion to duty displayed by Second Lieutenant Moore" Ian was 18 years old. Though the loss was of personal significance to the Moore brothers, the bravery and skill demonstrated by Ian would also be shown by many former GMS cadets who fought and died in World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

Activities

The cadet Band won many honors through the years. Depending on the talent of the cadets and the accomplishment of their leader, some years had

concert bands and jazz bands. The band played on the radio (1400 on your AM dial, WRON) and marched in parades. Captain Beardsworth was the bandmaster in the 1930s and '40s, and the band—by all accounts—was great. In 1930 they marched in the Grand Parade at the seventh annual Shenandoah Valley Apple Blossom Festival, Winchester, Virginia. For the third time in four years, the GMS Band (Brier Patch 1930) won first place, “competing against the best military school bands of Virginia, West Virginia, and Maryland.” In the 1950s, another award-winning band played under the leadership of Capt. Charles A. Hill. Capt. Hill, who earned his A.B. and M.A. from Ohio University, 1949 and 1950, respectively, belonged to honorary societies and played in many bands. While serving in the U.S. Army from 1944-46, he played in the 7th Infantry Regimental Band and the 78th Division Band. With Capt. Hill as bandmaster, the GMS band played at the State Forest Festival in Elkins in 1954, and the GMS band was the official representative for the state of West Virginia at the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C., in 1955 (Brier Patch 1957). For many years the band marched in the Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester.

The Fighting Cadets won many football and basketball championships. The varsity football team, under Coaches “Tite” Turley and Dave Taylor, was undefeated in 1956 and 1957 (and in 1906, 1924, 1934, and 1936). The usual sports rivals were the other Virginia military schools: Staunton, Fork Union, Massanutten, Hargrave, and Fishburne. In 1957 and 1958, under Coach Al Morgan, the GMS basketball team won the Eastern States Preparatory School Tournament championship. The rifle team won the Second Army Interscholastic Matches and the VPI Annual Invitational Tournament in 1957 (Brier Patch 1957).

Green-Briers, founded in 1920, was published monthly during the school year. In 1948, under the tutelage of Col. Benjamin, “the Official Newspaper of the Corps of Cadets” took First Honors in the annual State Journalism Contest sponsored by WVU. Although many activity clubs continued through the years, some changed according to cadets’ interests. For several years there was a model airplane club, a chess club, a camera club. The waiters’ club appeared now and then and in 1930 there was a new polo team—with no matches, just for fun. (Horses, as might be expected, were kept at Camp Shaw-Mi-Del-Eca.) Typical clubs listed in the 1957 Brier Patch included Boot & Spur, or the commissioned officers in charge of social activities; the Owls Club, whose top-ranking students had more merits than demerits and were “acceptable to the Military Department;” the NRA Club; the Forensic Club; the International Club, and Lewisburg Leisure Lovers, or the town boys’ club. The Glee Club, Intramural Sports Council, and Hi-Y Club (a national organization promoting high standards of personal and group conduct, and the importance of religious influence in daily living) were among those still listed in the 1971-72 catalog.

Besides all the honors won and their adherence to strict rules of deportment, the cadets were, after all, teenage boys, and stories were always told of their antics. One of the most popular was about marbles put into the piano in the auditorium, so that when Col. Rich started to play for chapel, the piano made the horribly clanking noise of a hailstorm gone awry. Then there was the tale of polishing the D Company hallway. On Sunday nights the cadets did major cleaning chores in preparation for Monday morning's inspection. Now it was unfortunate that Col. Ben's office was located at the long end of the D Company hall, for when the cadets were ready to buff the freshly polished floor, they made a game of it. One boy sat on a blanket as two boys each grabbed a corner and pulled. They ran the length of the hall, the blanket buffing the floor all the way, and let go as they approached the office doorway. Boy and blanket slammed into Col. Ben's door, often knocking the door off its hinges. Col. Ben always put on a great display of anger come Monday morning (Petrie).

GMS sporting events welcomed townspeople as spectators, and local girls might hope to be invited to dances. But the best public spectacle of all was the formal Dress Parade, held on Sunday afternoons in the spring. The Dress Parade was the culmination of the hours of drilling, the practice shouldering rifles, and the precise foot movements commanded by sword-wielding officers. Cadets in formal dress wore crisp white pants, with shoes and brass buttons gleaming in the sun. The band played Sousa marches while spectators watched from bleachers or stood on the small hill next to the Activities Building, where lilacs bloomed in the soft springtime air. Lilacs last bloomed, just as handsome marching cadets once filled young girls' imaginations. In their most accomplished years, the whole cadet battalion performed the Silent Drill, in which all their precision moves were done silently, with no voice commands. The mistakes were usually small, unnoticeable to the undrilled eye, and the results were thrilling. Commencement, held around Memorial Day or early June, was supposed to be the beginning of the next stage in a cadet's life, yet it always was a bittersweet ending for the townspeople. The ceremonies of the two schools, Greenbrier College and GMS, were exciting and beautiful. From queens to cadet majors, from parades to coronations to grand balls, Commencement held more promise than Christmas. In the 1950s the Band gave concerts on the front lawn. Dogwood trees and yellow roses bloomed in the yards across Lee Street. Miss Willie made gallons of fruit punch, which was served politely from crystal punchbowls on linen-covered tables by administration and faculty wives. All the pomp and ceremony were delicate vestiges of the Old South, and on fragrant sunny days they swelled the heart. When evening came, the cadet battalion marched through town to the Old Stone Church; there they sang throbbing old hymns: "Come, come, come to the church in the wildwood, to the little brown church in the vale." For God and country, those were the glory days of GMS.

THE FINAL YEARS 1968 - 1972

As the Vietnam War escalated in the late 1960s, the tide of support for the military steadily continued to ebb. Young people became more alienated and demanding, coeducation was coming into fashion once again, and the whole U.S. culture grew less trusting of government. As the Wikipedia entry on the closed but once prestigious Staunton Military Academy states: “With the 1960s came a new generation, geared to permissiveness and nonconformity. . . . The fallout from Vietnam helped perpetuate an anti-military sentiment that further eroded enrollments at military schools throughout the country.” Four (Fishburne, Fork Union, Hargrave, and Massanutten) of the five Virginia military prep schools that were Greenbrier’s competitors held on and in fact prosper today (two are coed, one dropped the Army JROTC), but Greenbrier did not have the finances for exceedingly lean times. The structure, the physical plant, and the caring people - all were still there—but the students did not come. In 1970, GMS had 307 cadets, including 54 seniors, 68 juniors, 41 post-graduates, and 14 seventh graders. In 1971, GMS graduated 53 seniors and had 45 juniors and 38 post-graduates, but only 21 eighth graders and six seventh graders. The total had dropped to 219 cadets. In 1972, although there was a large post-graduate class of 44, only 35 seniors graduated, fewer juniors were coming up, and the total of cadets was 170 (*Brier Patch*, 1972).

Dropping enrollment coincided with the school’s increased debt. While integration was mandated by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, its Title VI barred use of federal funds for segregated schools. When the U.S. Army departed in the spring of 1966, GMS lost money. Although by 1968 (Hefner) the school was maintaining its own military program directed by a retired U.S. Army colonel who was “following the official protocol,” cadets and administrators alike felt the lack of a full, active Army staff. When a building program begun in 1969 ran over the amount donated for the project, the school’s debt increased. Even if post-graduate enrollment remained steady, there were not enough underclassmen coming up to ensure strong future classes. GMS, like any successful school, needed good students to keep a good faculty.

For the school year 1969-70 scholarships were awarded to the first black students, two day cadets from White Sulphur Springs. Harry Mack Childress and Thomas Stephen Dooley are recognized for their contribution to GMS history. In 1971, six black post-graduates, half of whom were boarding students, went to Greenbrier. In the 1972 *Brier Patch*, there was a black cadet in every class, including two seniors.

But it was too little too late. As reporter George Steel pointed out in his *Charleston Gazette* story on April 4, 1972, “in 1965, state officials announced that GMS, along with Greenbrier College, was ineligible for any

federal aid because officials hadn't signed a statement of compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964." Treasurer Col. W.A. Rawl was interviewed by Steel (Gazette, 4/4/72) when GMS announced its closing in the spring of 1972. "This is an age of permissiveness," said Col. Rawl. "Parents let their boys do just about what they please. Military schools aren't as popular as they were some years ago." Citing declining enrollment, Col. Rawl said that in 1970 GMS had thirty instructors, while in 1971 it had only fifteen. Normal enrollment in good years was 340; in the spring of 1972 it was 145. Col. Rawl told the reporter that the school's fireproof buildings would cost two to three million dollars to construct in 1972. GMS had two gyms, barracks for 410, and a swimming pool only two years old. Total costs with tuition were \$2300 per year per cadet. Although in better days cadets spent \$1200 weekly in town, the treasurer said that in the past year he disbursed only \$600-800 weekly. He added that about fifty people would lose their jobs when the school closed.

Yet just three months later, the West Virginia Society of Osteopathic Medicine agreed to purchase the school plant. Jobs came to Lewisburg, and by 1974 new students—in the form of future doctors, not soldiers—were adding to the town's economy. The GMS story has a remarkably happy ending as the education of young people continues. With a strong Alumni Association headed by Herb Pearis (GMS class of 1956), and projects like the Greenbrier Forever Fund, the GMS Memorial Museum, dedicated in October 2001, and the Moore Family Philanthropic Scholarship Honoring Greenbrier Military School, established by Dr. Nat Harris (GMS class of 1966) on July 13, 2010, the name of GMS continues, too.

With hands on hearts or in proud salute, those of us left standing sing her anthem still:
"Greenbrier Forever—her name will never die!"



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