
The Life and Times of William Addison Caldwell: Virginia Tech's First Student

Clara B. Cox

Introduction

The life of William Addison Caldwell, a native of Craig County, Virginia, and an alumnus of Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (VAMC, today's Virginia Tech), did not differ much from the lives of hundreds of other students who attended the small college in Blacksburg—except in one respect. Caldwell, called “Add” by his family,¹ was the first boy to register when VAMC, an all-male school, opened its doors as a land-grant institution on October 1, 1872.² And he walked twenty to twenty-eight miles³ across two mountains from his home in Craig County to do so.⁴

Except for that singular—and historic—event, Caldwell's life was not particularly remarkable, but because of his determination to get an education, Virginia Tech views him as symbolic “of the change education makes in the lives of those with the perseverance to pursue it.”⁵ This article looks at Caldwell's life, from his family's roots in Craig County through his student days at VAMC and from his professional life following his graduation to his untimely death in Wilmington, North Carolina. Since few documents about Caldwell exist, many of the details of his life must be surmised from materials that provide generalities about Craig County life in his day, give information on the early years of VAMC, or relate to reported events of organizations—such as the VAMC Corps of Cadets—to which he belonged.

The Caldwell Family

William Addison Caldwell was born on January 10, 1856, to George Charlton Caldwell (1832–1904) and his wife, Lorena Elizabeth Givens (1833–1914), in the Sinking Creek area of Craig County.⁶ He was the second of their eleven children, and his siblings were Milton McHenry “Mic” (1854–1939), Frank Braxton (1858–1925), Byron Wiley (1860–1945), Annie Lorena (1862–1939), Permelia Grace “Gracie” (1864–1962), Benton Montgomery (1868–1876), Nellie Blanche “Nell” (1870–1945), Ida L. (1872–1878), Charles Minor “Charlie” (1874–1938),⁷ and Emmett Gambill “Gam” (1877–1960).⁸



Although not all of the Caldwell siblings appear in this photograph, taken after they reached adulthood, it does show most of them: left to right, front row, Milton “Mic,” William Addison “Add,” Frank, and Byron; back row, Permelia Grace “Gracie,” Charles “Charlie,” Nellie “Nell,” and Gambill “Gam” (courtesy of Special Collections, Virginia Tech).



What was once the Caldwell home place still looks out over farmland that was owned by George Caldwell. George and his wife, Lorena, probably assigned chores, either on the farm or in the house, to their children (photo by Clara B. Cox).

Several generations of Caldwells had lived in Craig's valleys since the 1770s, when King George III of England granted land to their forebear, John Caldwell.⁹ The land, rolling hills bordered by mountains in the Valley and Ridge Province (physiographic region) of Virginia,¹⁰ had once been part of Botetourt County, but that section of Botetourt and parts of Roanoke, Montgomery, Giles, and Monroe (now in West Virginia) counties were joined in 1851 to create the new county of Craig.¹¹

George Caldwell served, at one time, as clerk of Craig County and its circuit courts. In his later years, he moved those of his family who had not left home to Radford, Virginia, and became involved in the real estate business. However, he was a farmer for most of his life and owned land in Craig County that he had inherited from his father, Archibald Caldwell Jr.¹²; his land was valued at five thousand dollars in the 1860 census so it can be assumed that he owned many acres.¹³ His large, two-story frame house, where his children were born,¹⁴ still sits above the base of a mountain, providing a panoramic view of the farmland that he owned and beyond.¹⁵ Growing up on a farm, Add and his siblings surely had chores assigned to them, which was customary for the children of farmers during the nineteenth century.¹⁶ An enslaved person owned by their father before the Civil War¹⁷ most likely aided with the farm work or helped Lorena Caldwell with her household chores or did both.¹⁸

Add Caldwell's father probably encouraged or made arrangements for his children's schooling after he returned from the Civil War, where he served from its beginning to its end in Company C, 22nd Virginia Regiment, reaching the rank of orderly sergeant.¹⁹ According to J. C. Martin, who examined the early history of education in Craig County, "The Confederate [soldier] who had been deprived by the war of such educational advantages as his time afforded was very anxious that his children . . . might have a better opportunity than he [had] had."²⁰ The method of educating Add and his school-age siblings can only be surmised since the county's school records were destroyed by fire, but Craig County historian Jane Echols Johnston said that the Caldwell children most likely attended a one- or two-room school since several existed near the family farm at Sinking Creek. Or, she noted, they may have been taught by an instructor hired to go into their home, another method of education popular in the county among more prosperous residents. Add most likely spent his last year or two as a Craig County student in a public school since that system of education was introduced into the county in 1870.²¹ By 1871, the county could boast of having thirteen public and four private schools.²² After Add reached the age of sixteen, he was ready to move beyond what he could acquire in the education system of Craig County.

VAMC and Add Caldwell

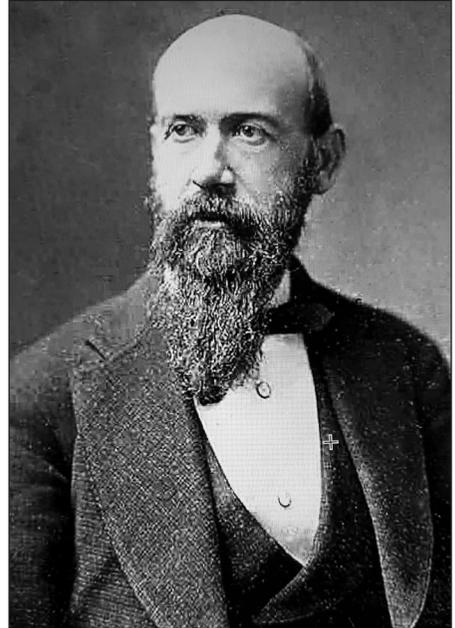
The Commonwealth of Virginia was re-admitted to the Union on January 26, 1870, nine years after the state had seceded to join other Southern states in forming the Confederate States of America. On March 5, 1870, fewer than two months later, the Virginia General Assembly voted to accept the provisions of the Morrill Act, federal legislation enacted and signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. The act provided each state that accepted its provisions with thirty thousand acres of federal land per member of the state's congressional delegation. The states were authorized to sell the land and use the proceeds "to fund public colleges that focused on agriculture and mechanical arts."²³ Within a week of the General Assembly's vote, nine schools in Virginia had applied to secure the funds that the Morrill Act would make available. Before the General Assembly made its decision two years later, some twenty-four Virginia schools, in what the *Daily Dispatch* in Richmond dubbed the "War of the Colleges,"²⁴ were vying for the funds. Among them was a small, relatively insignificant boy's college in Blacksburg known as the Preston and Olin Institute, which was supported by the Baltimore Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.²⁵

As a result of the planning and efforts of several men associated or formerly associated with the Blacksburg college and the locality's representatives in Richmond,²⁶ the General Assembly designated Preston and Olin as the state's white land-grant institution. The designation required Montgomery County to supply twenty thousand dollars for the college and Preston and Olin itself to donate its property—a three-story brick building and five acres of land²⁷—and change its name. The county and the school acquiesced, and Preston and Olin Institute was converted into Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College in March of 1872.²⁸ Gov. Gilbert C. Walker (1832–1885) appointed a board of visitors, and the board named the college's first president, Charles Landon Carter Minor (1835–1903),²⁹ and a treasurer, V. E. Shepherd. The board also appointed a faculty of three men: Brig. Gen. James Henry Lane, professor of natural philosophy and chemistry, with military tactics assigned as well; Gray Carroll, professor of mathematics, with the added assignment of modern languages; and Charles Martin, professor of English language and literature, with ancient languages also assigned. The board decided to offer a three-year program of study in both agriculture and mechanical arts, although it determined it would delay hiring professors in either area of study until January 1873.³⁰ Hired that month instead was W. B. Harvie as the farm manager,³¹ with John W. C. Davis, professor of technical agriculture and natural history, and Dr. M. G.

Ellzey, professor of technical mechanics, appointed in February.³² At some point before or soon after the college opened, the board also hired a black janitor and assistant to the faculty, Andrew Oliver, who served the institution from its beginning probably until the early to mid-1880s. Oliver's son, named Andrew after his father, worked at the college as a messenger boy.³³ In other action, the board determined that the first-year courses would be the same for all students, and it set Tuesday, October 1, 1872, as opening day.³⁴



Charles Landon Carter Minor (above) was the first president of Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and probably taught the bookkeeping class taken by Add Caldwell during his third year (courtesy of Special Collections, Virginia Tech).



As a member of the cadet corps, Add Caldwell probably had more interactions with Brig. Gen. James H. Lane (above) than any other college official since General Lane oversaw military operations at the college (courtesy of Special Collections, Virginia Tech).

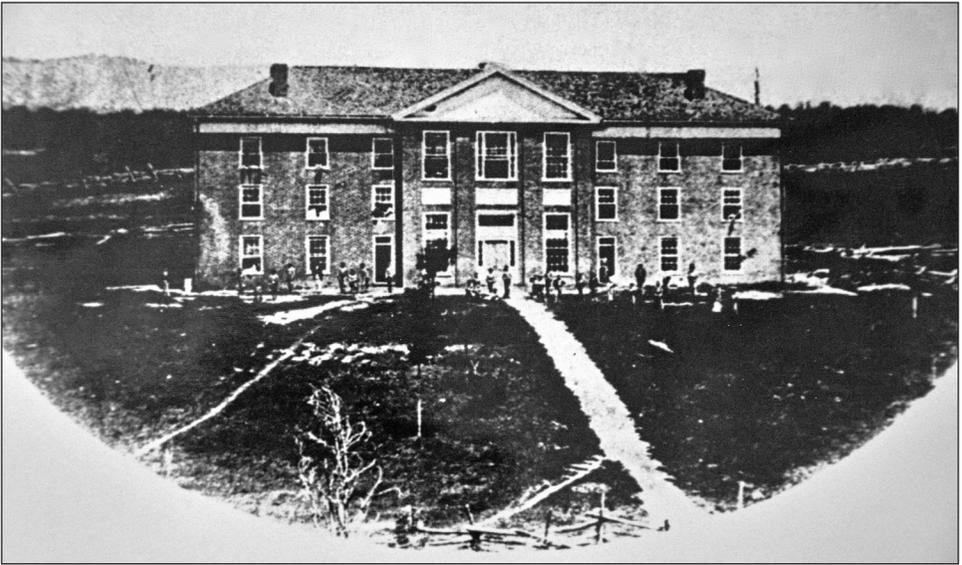
Probably very early in the morning of October 1, two Caldwell boys, Add and his eighteen-year-old brother, Mic, left home to walk to Blacksburg. Their trek was probably twenty to twenty-eight miles, depending on which local foot trails the boys may have followed. Johnston said they would have known about trails across the mountains that would have shortened their walk considerably more than following roads,³⁵ and Virginia Tech alumnus J. Morris Brown estimated the distance at approximately twenty miles after measuring his own excursions from Sinking Creek to Blacksburg.³⁶ The

fact that the Caldwell brothers walked to Blacksburg came to light in 1991, when Mic's then ninety-year-old daughter, Katherine Caldwell Mendez, recalled her father telling her that he had walked with her Uncle Add "to Blacksburg to go to school."³⁷ However, Mic probably returned home since he did not enroll until November 2.³⁸

The first student to show up at the school on October 1, 1872, was William Addison Caldwell.³⁹ What prompted his interest in attending VAMC probably will never be known. He may have read about the new college in a newspaper, learned about it at his Craig County school, or heard of its existence through word of mouth elsewhere. Although President Minor placed numerous advertisements to secure students for the college in newspapers across the state, they did not appear until after Add's enrollment and thus could not have served as an enticement for the teenager.⁴⁰ Virginia Tech historian D. Lyle Kinnear described another possible reason for Add's appearance that day:

The faculty gathered early; President Minor unlocked the front door, and he, [the faculty, and the school treasurer] filed into the building and somewhat nervously, it can be imagined, awaited the arrival of the first student. The wait was much longer than had been anticipated, but finally William A. Caldwell from Craig County "drifted" in. There is a completely unverified tradition that Caldwell's appearance at the college was motivated more by curiosity than by any intention to enroll as a student. Certainly *he had not been nominated for a state scholarship by his county superintendent of schools, as it sometimes has been asserted*. Whatever his real motive may have been, immediately he was given a state scholarship by the faculty and enrolled as the first student in Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College [emphasis added].⁴¹

Caldwell did, in fact, have a scholarship, but it was not given to him by the faculty, as Kinnear asserted,⁴² certainly not according to a report submitted to state officials by President Minor. On December 6, 1872, two months after the college opened, the General Assembly followed a request from the governor and instructed the Senate Committee on Public Institutions to obtain information from VAMC President Minor on the number of students in attendance, dates of matriculation, and counties in the state from which they were appointed. The legislature also requested information on the number of students whose expenses were not defrayed by the state.⁴³ Minor complied on January 6, 1873; his report noted the scholarship status of each student, with two types of scholarships identified.



Constructed in the mid-1850s to house Olin and Preston Institute, which closed during the Civil War and reopened afterward as the Preston and Olin Institute, the Preston and Olin Building provided Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College with dormitory and classroom space (courtesy of Special Collections, Virginia Tech).

An “A” beside a student’s name meant that he was a scholarship appointee of his county school board, while a “B” beside a name indicated a student awarded a scholarship by the faculty under authorization of the VAMC Board of Visitors. Minor designated those students who had not received either type of scholarship with a “C” beside their respective names, meaning that they had to pay tuition and college fees. In the report, an “A” follows the name of William Addison Caldwell, whose name also tops the non-alphabetical list of fourteen students who matriculated on October 1, an indication that he registered first. Thus, with a scholarship in hand from his county school board, young Add more than likely made that long walk from Sinking Creek with the sole purpose of registering as a student. Mic, the forty-fourth student to register, also received a scholarship, but Minor’s report showed that his came from the faculty.⁴⁴

The scholarships freed each of the Caldwell boys from paying forty-five dollars a year,⁴⁵ at least for their first two years.⁴⁶ Add’s scholarship also signified that his school trustees considered his proficiency while enrolled in Craig County public schools to be the highest (however, see below under Coursework) and his character to be good, per the state requirements to award such a scholarship. The total number of scholarships awarded to VAMC students was limited to the number of members of the House of Delegates.⁴⁷

Other students trickled in over the month—never as many in a single day as the fourteen who had registered on the first day—prompting Minor to write to Gen. Joseph R. Anderson, a member of the VAMC Board of Visitors, during the first month of the college’s operation:

We have now thirty students matriculated, and there are, I think[,] a dozen more, of the vicinity, holding back in hope of some abatement of accommodation in the way of delay such as they have been used to received [sic] from the Preston and Olin Institute. We are corresponding with a good many others, but [it is] plain that our beginning is to be smaller than had been expected by most of those who were best informed in the matter.⁴⁸

By mid-November, newspapers reported that sixty students had registered and “the tide of entrance is steadily flowing on to as full numbers as can be comfortably accommodated.”⁴⁹ By year’s end, ninety-three students had enrolled.⁵⁰ Total enrollment during the college’s first year of operation eventually reached one hundred thirty-two, with all of the students hailing from Virginia.⁵¹ The slowness of student registrations, one newspaper surmised, was because the college was “organized late in the season, when the great body of educating people had already made arrangements for their sons at other schools”⁵²

VAMC Student Add Caldwell

A Family Affair

Each of the four years that Add Caldwell was enrolled in VAMC, at least one of his brothers was enrolled as well. Mic, who matriculated a month after the college opened, was on the rolls again the following year; after a two-year respite, he returned to VAMC for the 1876–1877 and 1877–1878 sessions, but he never graduated. One of their younger brothers, Frank, attended the school during Add’s third and fourth years, when Mic was not there, and the next two sessions, but like Mic, Frank did not graduate.⁵³

School Terms

The first school year at VAMC ran from October 1, 1872, to the last Wednesday in July 1873. After that, the schedule for the academic year was revised so that students had a long winter vacation, which began around Christmas and lasted until late February. The second academic year commenced on August 13, 1873, and ran until December 22, 1873. Thus, Add and Mic Caldwell had about a three-week break before they had to

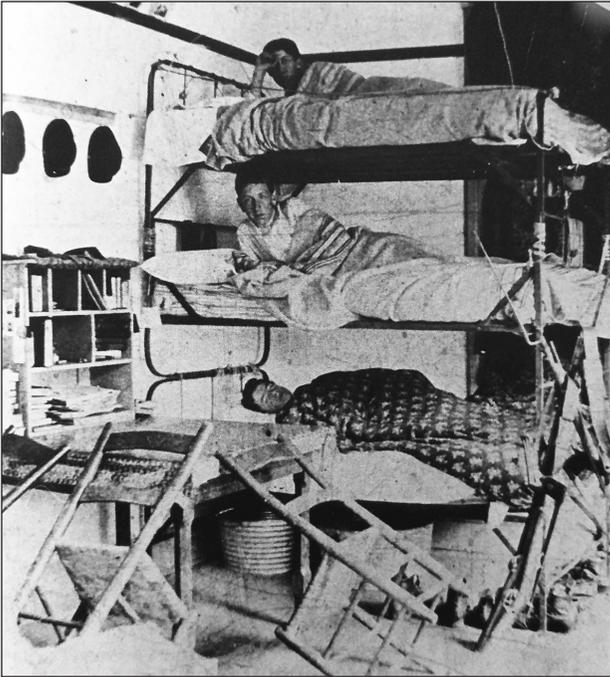
return for their second year. After closing just before Christmas for vacation, school resumed on February 24, 1874, and continued until the following August 12.⁵⁴ The student-produced *Gray Jacket*, presumably quoting President Minor, provided the justification for the school term, saying the winter vacation was “best suited for an institution of this character” because “the study of farm operations is interrupted at a less important season of the year,” besides “students from other sections of the country, while escaping the severity of winter in the mountains, will remain at College during the most pleasant and healthful part of the year.”⁵⁵

Room, Board, and Other Expenses

The scholarships awarded each of the Caldwell brothers covered tuition of \$30.00, college fees of \$10.00, and on-campus room rent of \$5.00 (if they lived on campus and brought bedding from home). Add and Mic were responsible for other expenses, which the college reported would “not exceed \$150” for the 10-month session for scholarship recipients. Each student living on campus was responsible for paying \$10.00–\$12.00 for furnishings. However, this fee could be eliminated entirely if the student provided “the necessary articles of furniture from home.”⁵⁶

Other fees for each student included \$5.00–\$7.50 for books, which, until 1881, were purchased from merchants in Blacksburg⁵⁷; \$7.50–\$12.50 for laundry; and \$7.50 for fuel and lights. Coal was reportedly “convenient and cheap.”⁵⁸ If a student lived and ate in Blacksburg, he paid \$13.00–\$15.00 per month, which included room rent, fuel, and furnishings. The college also required each student to deposit \$5.00 with the treasurer as a contingent fee to cover property damage, but if any balance of this fee remained at the close of the session, it was returned to the student.⁵⁹ This fee was reduced to \$3.00 for the 1874–1875 session, but an infirmary fee of \$2.00 was added.⁶⁰ Meals cost \$12.00 per month, and for the first session, all students had to eat in town. Since each healthy student was required to be a member of the corps of cadets—Add Caldwell fell into this category—such a student had to purchase his own uniform, which cost \$17.25.⁶¹ That expense increased to \$18.94 for the 1874–1875 session.⁶²

By 1875, expenses for students varied from \$6.50 per month to \$15.00 per month, and it was possible, according to the *Gray Jacket*, “for state students to keep [their] year’s expenses, including books and uniform, within \$110” (by “state student,” the *Gray Jacket* was referring to students with scholarships).⁶³ From the time it opened, the college allowed some students to recoup some of their expenses by working on the farm or in the workshops or by filling any number of other jobs needed to maintain the



According to historian Col. Harry Temple, school officials at Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College had to stuff students three per room in an effort to provide lodging on campus when the land-grant school opened in 1872. However, as enrollment grew throughout the year, eventually reaching one hundred thirty-two students, hotels and other forms of lodging in the town of Blacksburg became living options (courtesy of Special Collections, Virginia Tech).

college, from tending livestock to erecting buildings,⁶⁴ but it is not known if Add was one of these students.

Where Add Caldwell lived while he was enrolled in VAMC may never be known. When the land-grant institution commenced operations, it had the Preston and Olin Building; a five-acre lot; and a two-hundred-fifty-acre estate known as Solitude, which included a house and farm buildings. The estate was purchased on October 1, 1872, from Robert Taylor Preston. Since Preston and his wife, Mary, were allowed to live in the house until their deaths, that facility was not available for use by the college until 1881, when Mary died a year after her husband's demise.⁶⁵ The Preston and Olin Building, while it served as a Methodist-supported college, contained "three recitation rooms, a chapel, and twenty-four lodging rooms."⁶⁶ These lodging rooms, although unfurnished,⁶⁷ continued to serve the same purpose when VAMC opened, but the number of rooms available became inadequate as enrollment grew during the first year. According to Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets historian Col. Harry D. Temple, the building "could not house the entire student body, even with crowding three cadets to a room."⁶⁸ Virginia Tech historian Jenkins M. Robertson also reported that the facility was "not large enough to house the total student body by the end of the first year. Consequently, students had the option of living in town or on campus . . ."⁶⁹ In a survey of historic Blacksburg architecture, architectural historian Gibson Worsham noted:

“The town supported a number of hotels in this period, mostly to house and feed the students at the college.” Worsham also discussed a commercial/residential block constructed around 1870 called Lybrook’s Row, which he said was known as “Hell’s Row” because “early students of the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College resided there.”⁷⁰ William Addison Caldwell, as the first student on the scene, had the option of living in one of the on-campus rooms, but a hotel room or other town lodging could have been his choice, although it would have cost him more. With three students per room on campus, those rooms could accommodate seventy-two students, or slightly fewer than fifty-five percent of the 1872 VAMC cadets. With lodging cheaper on campus, it seems more likely that both Add and Mic lived in the Preston and Olin Building, especially since their respective scholarships covered on-campus room rents.

There is no question, however, about whether Add and his classmates ate on campus; they did not. Since VAMC initially had no facilities for providing meals, all students ate in Blacksburg, most taking their board at Luster House (Luster Hotel) or at any of several other hotels.⁷¹ The college began offering meals on campus in 1873, and students who selected that option—called “table board”—paid ten to twelve dollars per month.⁷² With cadets providing the labor and the college furnishing the construction materials that year, several small, frame buildings were erected on campus specifically to serve meals, and students then had the option—until the 1881–1882 school year—of eating in town or on campus.⁷³ Until 1876, these “messes,” as the military calls its dining facilities, were the only buildings added to the campus.⁷

Coursework

According to state educator William H. Ruffner, Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College was designed to be

a truly technical school of secondary grade. Its whole cast will have special reference to the wants of the “industrial classes”; by which are meant those who are directly (not remotely) engaged in producing, developing, or shaping the material products of the State; and its ultimate object is not to educate them out of, but in and for their vocations; and not only to make them more capable of achieving success, but to give them enthusiasm for their work.⁷⁵

Academically, the college was organized into three departments, including a literary department, scientific department, and technical department, to provide three-year courses of study for both agricultural and mechanical

students.⁷⁶ The college adopted a curriculum, which it required every student to follow. According to the first VAMC catalogue, the junior (first) year included arithmetic, English grammar, geography, French or German, physics, Latin and Greek (optional), weekly compositions, algebra, and English composition. As noted earlier, instruction in military tactics was also required for all healthy students.⁷⁷ Based on an extant report card, however, at some time during the next three years, several courses were added to junior year offerings: dictation, penmanship, and farm work (presumably just for agriculture students; shop work was probably required for mechanical arts students).⁷⁸

A couple of months after classes started, President Minor wrote that he was “embarrassed by the fact that the wants of the students who have come to us have forced us to vary materially from the strictly technical training enjoined by the organization Committee’s report.” He reported that a number of them had arrived with “the scantiest preparation,” making it necessary for VAMC to “include much of the work properly belonging to the high schools, or even the grammar schools, thus leaving it impossible to do all that is to be desired in the special technical courses.”⁷⁹ Indeed, the extant report card shows an initial “preparatory year,” when mathematics, English grammar, geography, elocution, dictation, penmanship, Latin, composition (written), military tactics, and farm work were taught.⁸⁰ The fact that it took Add Caldwell an extra year to complete the requirements for graduation points to the likelihood that he was one of those scantily prepared students. If so, his first-year studies would have included at least some of those courses listed above for the preparatory year.

The board of visitors determined before VAMC opened and before President Minor found his students lacking in educational achievement that “two parallel courses of two years each, suited to agricultural and mechanical students respectively” would follow the first year. However, rather than the board of visitors determining the coursework for those two years, it left the duty of preparing “a working programme” to the faculty once a faculty had been appointed.⁸¹

During the last two years of Add Caldwell’s studies and if his education in agriculture followed the board’s intended path, he would have been exposed to the college’s experimental farm of about two hundred forty-five acres. However, based on his one existing report card, farm work was also part of the preparatory and the junior years.⁸² According to VAMC’s first catalogue, “This farm has been well equipped, and the students in the agricultural department will there be taught practically the most improved methods of cultivation, under the direction of the Professor of Agriculture and the Farm Manager.”⁸³

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College

Monthly Report of Scholarship of *W. A. Caldwell*
for the Month of _____, 187*5*.

SCALE OF MARKS: 10 Perfect; 8 Satisfactory; 7 Tolerable, &c.

PREPARATORY YEAR.

Mathematics English Grammar Geography Elocution Dictation Penmanship	Latin Compositions, (written) Military Tactics Farm Work
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JUNIOR YEAR.

Mathematics English Grammar Geography Dictation Physics Penmanship French German	Latin Greek Compositions, (written) Military Tactics Farm Work
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INTERMEDIATE YEAR.

Mathematics Physics Chemistry Natural History Composition and Rhetoric French German Latin	Greek Drawing Compositions, (written) Military Tactics Farm Work
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10
9.5
10

SENIOR YEAR.

Mathematics History and English Literature Moral Philosophy Political Economy Astronomy Book-Keeping	Agriculture Technical Mechanics Mechanical Drawing Compositions, (written) Military Tactics Farm Work
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Absent from Roll Call _____ times.

Remarks: _____

C. L. C. MINOR, President
Secretary Faculty.

The only report card of Add Caldwell known to exist (above) was mailed to his father at the end of Add's third year in college. It reveals some of the changes made in the curriculum after Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College opened (courtesy of Special Collections, donated by Frank Yingling Caldwell Jr).

Young Caldwell's performance in his classes during four years at VAMC is only partially known. His obituary said he graduated "at the head of his class,"⁸⁴ but the reporter most likely confused his status as the college's first student, especially since those grades that survive do not indicate that he was an exceptional student; he took an extra year to complete the three-year program in agriculture; at least two of his grades were below that considered "tolerable" by the college (see below); and he was not included in the list of outstanding students published in the *Gray Jacket* at the time of his graduation.⁸⁵

William Addison Caldwell’s 1875 report card was mailed to his father in Craig County on July 17 at the end of Add’s third year at VAMC.⁸⁶ At that time, the college based grades on a 10-point scale, with 10 being “perfect,” the highest grade a student could obtain; 8 was “satisfactory”; and 7 was “tolerable.”⁸⁷ Add’s courses and grades were as follows:

Intermediate Year			
Mathematics	5	French	8
Chemistry	7 ⁸⁸	Compositions (written)	10
Natural History	8	Military Tactics	9.5
Composition and Rhetoric	7.5	Farm Work	10
Senior Year			
Book-Keeping	5		

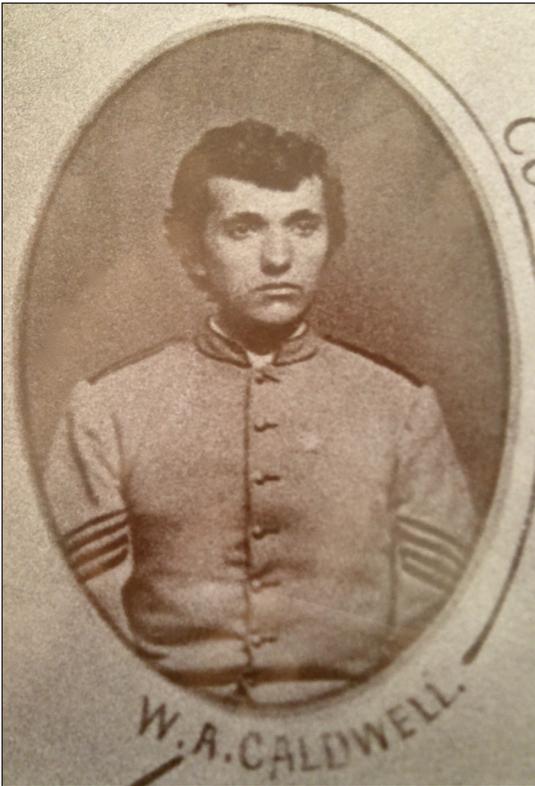
Most likely, President Minor instructed Add in the bookkeeping course since it was one of two subjects the college president taught.⁸⁹

As noted above, VAMC’s two majors had been designed as three-year courses of study before the college opened. Thus, the “Intermediate Year” on the report card probably reflected what would have been Add Caldwell’s second year of instruction, unless his progress was slowed by having to take preparatory courses. Based on the report card, mathematics, history and English literature, moral philosophy, political economy, astronomy, agriculture, technical mechanics, mechanical drawing, compositions (written), military tactics, and farm work awaited Add’s “Senior Year” of studies.

Thus, rather than three-year courses of study, students’ lack of preparation for college forced VAMC to change its plans to include a preparatory year. For those students enrolled in preparatory courses, the junior year became the second year; the intermediate year, the third year; and the senior year, the fourth year. Only twelve students graduated in 1875⁹⁰; presumably, they did not require preparatory work.

The Military Component

As can be noted from Add Caldwell’s grade on the report card, he did very well in military tactics, scoring a 9.5 out of a possible grade of 10 and indicating that his participation in VAMC’s military activities was



Add Caldwell had reached the rank of second sergeant in Company B before his graduation (courtesy of Special Collections, Virginia Tech).

well above average. The entire college was under military discipline from its beginning until the early 1920s.⁹¹ During the first week of October 1872, a single infantry-type company was formed, with a second one organized as more students enrolled. The cadets drilled twice each week at first, then daily.⁹² Robertson reported that the cadets were “required to meet formations, march to classes, pass room inspections, have military passes when off campus, and conform to other types of military behavior.”⁹³ This military component of VAMC “became a unit of the Virginia State Active Militia under the governor of Virginia”⁹⁴ Students were assigned to one of two companies, A or B, and each wore a standard uniform:

a cap, jacket, and pants of cadet gray, trimmed with black. Add, a member of Company B, attained the rank of second sergeant by his final year in college.⁹⁵

Information about corps’ activities gives us a glimpse into some of Add Caldwell’s life at VAMC, from daily military requirements on campus, listed above, to trips off campus. Each Memorial Day, the corps marched to Montgomery White Sulphur Springs, approximately eight miles away, to honor the Confederate soldiers buried there and returned to campus the same day. On June 21, 1873, the cadets were assembled at 7:30 in the morning and arrived at the resort before 10:00 a.m.⁹⁶ Their precision that day elicited praise from a Richmond newspaper, which reported that the cadets did “both themselves and the officers a great deal of credit. They are a fine, gentlemanly set of fellows, and their behavior during the entire day evinced refinement and careful training.”⁹⁷ Two years later, according to the *Gray Jacket*, parts of the two companies formed one company for the long march, while the remaining cadets rode to the ceremony, prompting

a comment from a General Preston (most likely *Col.* Robert Preston of Solitude) that it was a “d_____ poor militia that had to be hauled about in ambulances.” At least those who marched “won many flattering comments from the assembly.”⁹⁸ Information about whether Add Caldwell marched or rode to the resort that day could not be found.

In an earlier trip taken in 1875 by the corps, the cadets journeyed to Richmond at the beginning of Add Caldwell’s final year in college for the unveiling of a statue of Stonewall Jackson. On the return trip, they spent the night in Farmville, Virginia.⁹⁹ Thanks to the corps, then, Add Caldwell did not spend all of his school days on campus or in the small town of Blacksburg.

Extra-curricular Activities

Since students had to provide their own entertainment, they often relieved their boredom by playing pranks,¹⁰⁰ although several other forms of entertainment were sometimes available. Many nights during the college sessions, dancing was a readily available activity. Students could attend dances at Yellow Sulphur Springs¹⁰¹ or at “the nearby watering places,” except during the winter months,¹⁰² but Add Caldwell’s participation in these pastimes could not be ascertained. Nor could it be determined if he joined in any of the “haphazard” sports organized by students, such as running and jumping; participated in outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, and hunting; or attended one of three churches in Blacksburg on Sundays, a practice encouraged by the college.¹⁰³ However, in later life, he was a member of a Presbyterian church in at least two different localities, so he may have attended the one located in Blacksburg during his college days. Just before he graduated, he received a bible, dated July 4, 1876, from a Mrs. William C. McKemey, a possible indication that he was already a churchgoer.¹⁰⁴

Another extra-curricular activity offered both companionship and entertainment on campus. Initially, students participated in the Virginia Literary Society, which they organized in 1872. Because of its rapid growth during the first year, that society was divided into the Sophsonian Society, which became the Lee Literary Society in early 1873, and the Philomathian Society, which changed its name to the Maury Literary Society in mid-1873. President Minor was a frequent visitor at the meetings of these societies, which focused on public speaking, debate, and creative writing, providing their respective members with valuable training in these areas. They also introduced the first student publication, the *Gray Jacket*, in 1875,¹⁰⁵ which, at least for the first two years of publication, was issued five times a session. The first issue was printed in July of that year.¹⁰⁶

Add Caldwell was a member of the Maury Literary Society and served on a joint committee representing both his society and the Lee society during March of his last year at VAMC. The committee, according to the *Gray Jacket*, concurred with the societies of Washington and Graham-Lee (both student organizations at Washington and Lee University¹⁰⁷) in having a convention in Lynchburg, Virginia, to organize an "Inter Collegiate Association of Virginia." The committee recommended that the VAMC societies "participate in the . . . [c]onvention and send a delegate from each [s]ociety."¹⁰⁸ The following month, delegates from the literary societies of several colleges in Virginia met in Lynchburg to officially organize the intercollegiate association. Colleges represented at the meeting were William and Mary; Richmond; Hampden Sidney; Emory and Henry; Roanoke; and VAMC, which sent S. P. Snavelly and R. Withers. During the meeting, the delegates decided that the association would hold oratory competitions, with "each college entitled to one contestant." They set the first competition for the following November in Lynchburg.¹⁰⁹ Beyond Add's committee work to support an organizing convention, it could not be learned if he was involved in any other efforts involving the association. However, by the time the association held its first competition, he had already graduated from college.

According to Colonel Temple, nearly all of the societies' members attended meetings.¹¹⁰ Thus, Add Caldwell probably was among members of the audience when the Maury Literary Society held a public debate on May 9, 1876. Following arguments by both sides, the audience determined "that women suffrage should not be allowed" by selecting the negative team as the winner of the debate.¹¹¹

Add Caldwell's Graduation

William Addison Caldwell finished his coursework in time to join VAMC's second graduating class in the 1876 commencement exercises, which began on Sunday evening, August 6, with a sermon by the Rev. Oscar F. Flippo of Baltimore. The sermon, according to the *Gray Jacket*, "was considered one of much beauty and force," and the Reverend Flippo "greatly endeared himself to the students" by "his genial manners and warm heart."¹¹² A former missionary and minister in Delaware, the Rev. Oscar Farish Flippo (1835–1903) had become editor of the *Baptist Visitor*, a monthly periodical, before moving to Baltimore to assume duties as the pastor of a Baptist church there. Two years after his VAMC sermon, he settled in Virginia to continue his work as a missionary and pastor, which included a pastorate in Roanoke, Virginia, from 1886 to 1893.¹¹³

Colonel Temple reported that on the evening of the next day, a graduation ball was held in the ballroom of the Yellow Sulphur Springs Hotel.¹¹⁴ However, according to historical information posted online via Virginia Heritage, the resort's new hotel was destroyed by fire in 1873 and was not rebuilt until 1888.¹¹⁵ Thus, while the Class of 1876 may have enjoyed a graduation ball, it is unlikely that it occurred at Yellow Sulphur Springs.

VAMC's 1876 commencement exercises continued on August 8 in the Methodist church in town, where Add and his fellow seniors listened to the fourth annual address¹¹⁶ before the literary societies, delivered by Maj. John W. Daniel of Lynchburg, Virginia. Major Daniel chose the theme "The Defense of the Present Age" for his talk, about which the *Gray Jacket* reported, "To say that his address was beautiful, chaste, elegant, and eloquent is to bestow but faint praise upon it." The publication declined to give a synopsis of the presentation "as we would only do Maj. Daniel injustice" but noted that the talk would "increase the wide fame which he has already won as an orator."¹¹⁷ John Warwick Daniel Sr. (1842–1910) was a well-known orator, especially on topics related to the Confederacy, and was often called the "Golden-tongued Orator of the South."¹¹⁸ He was a state senator, an author, and a former member of Virginia's House of Delegates when the VAMC Class of 1876 heard him speak. In the years following his VAMC presentation, he addressed the Democratic National Convention and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.¹¹⁹

The *Gray Jacket* further reported that Virginia Gov. James Lawson Kemper (1823–1895) attended the Daniel presentation and was "loudly called for" and "responded in a brief but able and eloquent speech. His words went to the hearts of his auditors, and many are grateful to him for his kindly words of praise and encouragement." At 5:00 p.m. the same day, the governor and the college's board of visitors reviewed the battalion and "expressed themselves as highly pleased with the 'beauty, precision, and promptness' with which the movements were executed." After the governor complimented the cadets, their Adjutant General Frye presented him with a petition for more guns, which elicited a promise from Kemper not only for the guns but also for "a battery of artillery with harness and all complete." Afterward, at the prompting of the governor, the cadets called on several guests to speak, among them Col. Robert Preston of Solitude; Gen. William Henry Fitzhugh Lee, a state senator and son of Gen. Robert E. Lee; and Daniel Coleman DeJarnette Sr., a former member of Virginia's House of Delegates and the U.S. House of Representatives.¹²⁰

That night, the Maury Literary Society held its fourth annual celebration at the Methodist church. Following orations and debates, Professor Martin

and Thomas N. Conrad, editor of the local *Montgomery Messenger*, former president of the Preston and Olin Institute, and later president of VAMC,¹²¹ presented awards for oratory and debate.¹²² As an active member of that society, Add Caldwell most likely attended the event, especially since it was part of the graduation ceremonies.

On the morning of Wednesday, August 9, President Minor presented diplomas to twenty-seven graduating students, including William Addison Caldwell.¹²³ Afterward, the *Gray Jacket* reported, Gen. Jas. H. Williams of Winchester, Virginia, delivered the annual address to faculty and students.¹²⁴ A member of the state's House of Delegates,¹²⁵ Virginia native James Harrison Williams (1836–1903) had been a prominent member of the Shenandoah County (Virginia) bar, a member of the Iowa state legislature, a newspaper correspondent, and a Confederate soldier before his election to the Virginia legislature.¹²⁶ According to the *Gray Jacket*, “He was followed by Hon. John Dodson.”¹²⁷

Another event on the morning of August 9 concluded the graduation ceremonies for the Class of 1876. The new graduates held an alumni meeting in the Lee Society hall and heard remarks by President Minor and J. Lawrence Radford of Montgomery County.¹²⁸ Radford, a VAMC alumnus who had graduated with the first class in 1875, may have been the same J. Lawrence Radford who was the top landowner, with 1,260 acres of land, in the community that became known as Radford, Virginia.¹²⁹ During the meeting, the alumni association elected officers for the ensuing year, including William Addison Caldwell as secretary, and scheduled the next meeting for the following year.¹³⁰ No information on whether the new secretary attended that meeting could be found.

William Addison Caldwell's Professional Life

Teaching School in Craig County, Virginia

If Add Caldwell was typical of many alumni described in the *Gray Jacket* in 1877, he may well have returned to Craig County immediately after graduating and obtained a job as a schoolteacher. If so, he probably still helped his father, at least some, on the farm. An editor of the *Gray Jacket* complained in 1877 that “so few of our ‘Old Boys’ are farmers” and that “so many of them became teachers.” But, the editor continued,

We must remember that these gentlemen are, as far as we are informed, teaching public schools in their immediate neighborhoods, and that the session of these schools, in most cases, holds only through a part of

the fall, winter, and spring months, leaving cropping months entirely out. Now from what we can learn of the matter[,] our “Old Boys” are farming in summer and teaching in winter; thus they are most aptly filling their places as good citizens and grateful sons of Virginia.¹³¹

Certainly by 1880, Add, Mic, and Frank were living with their parents in Sinking Creek, and all three were teaching school.¹³² At that time, Craig County employed twenty-six teachers, including twenty-two white males and four white females, for its twenty-six public schools.¹³³

Working in Roanoke, Virginia

How long or where Add Caldwell taught cannot be ascertained, but by 1887, he was living in Roanoke, possibly with his youngest brother, Gam.¹³⁴ There, Add worked in the general office of Norfolk and Western Railway.¹³⁵ Since Gam and Frank both worked at one time for Norfolk and Western, the three brothers may have worked there together.¹³⁶ Some evidence exists that Frank was a Roanoke resident at least part of the time while Add was living there (see below). Nonetheless, Add’s work at the railroad office prompted a description of him as “a well known and popular employee.”¹³⁷

During all or part of the time Add resided in Roanoke, he was a member of the First Presbyterian Church.¹³⁸ At some point before leaving the area, he became interested in the real estate business, but whether he derived any income from the sale of property could not be ascertained.¹³⁹ He may also have served as a juror on more than one occasion. The local newspaper listed a William A. Caldwell as a member of the jury pool for the September 1893 term of the Hustings court. His brother Frank may have served with him since the list also includes a B. Caldwell—because of damage to the newspaper, the first name is missing; however, Frank’s middle initial was B.¹⁴⁰ Three years later, Add possibly served on a special grand jury for the criminal term of the court since the newspaper named a W. A. Caldwell as having been summoned for that purpose.¹⁴¹ Throughout his years in Roanoke, Add apparently impressed those around him since a later report of his life in the city noted that “he was highly esteemed.”¹⁴²

Tackling Jobs in Wilmington, North Carolina

Add Caldwell relocated to Wilmington, North Carolina, around 1898¹⁴³ and moved his church membership from First Presbyterian Church in Roanoke to St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Wilmington in March 1902.¹⁴⁴ In Wilmington, he worked for several large wholesale firms on the wharf: the Stove Company, Mr. W. B. Cooper (probably William Bryant

Cooper, former governor of North Carolina, who was a prominent banker and businessman in the area¹⁴⁵), Messrs. Blair & Healy, and the C. C. Covington Company, traveling part of the time out of Wilmington.¹⁴⁶ The Virginia Tech Alumni Association reported in 1911 that Add had been a salesman for a molasses firm,¹⁴⁷ and at least two of the firms for whom he worked were involved in the molasses trade: Blair & Healy¹⁴⁸ and the C. C. Covington Company, which was a direct importer of molasses and shipped it throughout the South.¹⁴⁹ W. B. Cooper was involved at various times in the wholesale grocery business, a peanut cleaning operation,¹⁵⁰ and probably the produce business since he was president of the Produce Exchange in Wilmington.¹⁵¹ It could not be ascertained if Add Caldwell worked for him in one or more of these enterprises. No information could be found regarding the Stove Company.

Add Caldwell's death

After Add left the family home place in Craig County, Mic moved to Radford and later persuaded his parents to sell the family farm in Sinking Creek and to move to Radford as well. Two sisters, Gracie and Nell—like their brother Add, the two never married—moved with their parents to a house across the street from Mic. During summer vacations, Add visited his relatives in Radford.¹⁵²

Sometime before 1910, Add's health declined, and Katherine Caldwell Mendez remembered that her favorite uncle underwent surgery for a brain tumor. He recuperated from the operation at his mother's home—his father had died in 1904¹⁵³—spending more than one summer there. According to Mrs. Mendez, the doctor told Add that salt air would be good for him, so he secured a position in the spring of 1910 as a clerk at the Tarrymoore Hotel,¹⁵⁴ which had been constructed in 1905 at Wrightsville Beach near Wilmington.¹⁵⁵ The job, which he probably started around the first of June, was to last until September 1.¹⁵⁶

On June 15, 1910, Add wrote to Katherine (Mrs. Mendez), who had developed a fond attachment for this uncle who would play games, such as "hole in the wall," with her and help her with such chores as capping strawberries.¹⁵⁷ In the letter, which included several pictures of the beach, Add wrote that it had been "too cold and rainy" for the hotel to have many guests but that "by July 1st we expect to have the house full. Don't know how I am going to like my job, haven't had much to do so far." He noted that the hotel was "a fine place to spend the summer" but said he would rather spend it in Radford.¹⁵⁸

Regarding his health, he wrote, “I have not been here long enough to tell whether the salt air is going to benefit me or not.” He continued, “I am feeling about the same, no worse, no better.” He closed the letter by asking Katherine, who was then nine years old, to “[r]emember me to your grandmother [his mother] and with much love to all of you and especially to yourself, I am fondly yours, Add.”¹⁵⁹ The two-page letter can be seen in the Appendix.

Those would be the last words young Katherine—and probably any other family member—would ever receive from him. On June 19, just four days after he wrote the letter, he fainted, sustaining a severe fall that ruptured a blood vessel in his brain (one newspaper named the rupture as the cause of death,¹⁶⁰ while another one claimed that he died from a tumor or abscess on the base of the brain¹⁶¹). He was taken to the James Walter Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, where “it was thought he would recover.” However, he “suffered a relapse, and from that time, he continued to sink rapidly until the end came” on June 29, 1910. Only his younger brother Gam was with him when he died, and Gam accompanied the body to Radford.¹⁶² According to the *Roanoke Times*, “He had been in failing health a long time,”¹⁶³ which corroborates what Katherine Mendez remembered.

Add Caldwell’s funeral was held in his mother’s home in Radford. His old pastor from the First Presbyterian Church in Roanoke, Dr. William Creighton Campbell (1850–1936), conducted the service, with assistance from three other pastors, the Rev. John L. Einstein, headmaster of St. Albans School in Radford; the Rev. J. Harry Whitmore, pastor of the Presbyterian church in Radford; and the Rev. Paul Seig. On July 1, 1910, William Addison Caldwell was buried in the Caldwell family cemetery on Sixth Street in Radford,¹⁶⁴ where those brothers who had joined him as classmates at VAMC; his parents; and siblings Gam, Charlie, Gracie, and Nellie, all now rest with him.¹⁶⁵

Conclusion

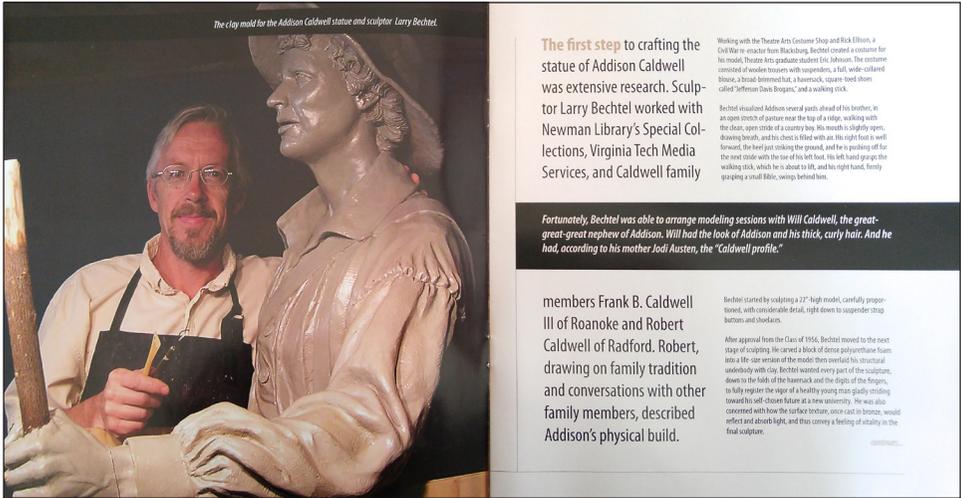
William Addison Caldwell’s twenty- to twenty-eight-mile trek from his home in the Sinking Creek area of Craig County across two mountains to Blacksburg to register at VAMC and his willingness to continue his education for an extra year in order to obtain his diploma in agriculture demonstrate his unwavering focus on furthering his education. Today, his long walk is memorialized by the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, whose first-year cadets and their training cadre make two representative walks annually. The first one, which occurs in the fall, begins in front of Add’s Craig County home and continues across Gap Mountain to Caldwell Fields,



Add Caldwell's mother and siblings buried him in the family cemetery where his father had been interred six years earlier. The Woodsmen of the World placed a marker at his gravesite (left). The words on the marker can be seen more clearly in the second photograph (photos by Clara B. Cox).

an area in the Washington and Jefferson National Forest named for Add; Mic; and their father, George. The second march, held in the spring of each year, starts between Gap and Brush mountains about a quarter of a mile from Caldwell Fields, crosses Brush Mountain, and concludes in the Upper Quad on the Virginia Tech campus; it represents the second half of Add's walk to Blacksburg (no one knows the exact trail he and his brother took).¹⁶⁶

Several memorials also honor Add Caldwell's determination, perseverance, and historical significance, two on the Virginia Tech campus; one in Craig County; and one, Caldwell Fields, in Montgomery County. On campus, a lounge on the top floor of the G. Burke Johnston Student Center bears his name and features a plaque about the Craig County native, all dedicated in 1993 (a portrait of Add, painted by one of his nephews, also hangs in the lounge).¹⁶⁷ The second campus memorial features a marker about Add's life and a statue of him sculpted by Tech alumnus and



The clay mold for the Addison Caldwell statue and sculptor Larry Bechtel.

The first step to crafting the statue of Addison Caldwell was extensive research. Sculptor Larry Bechtel worked with Newman Library's Special Collections, Virginia Tech Media Services, and Caldwell family

Working with the Theatre Arts Costume Shop and Rick Ellison, a Civil War re-enactor from Blacksburg, Bechtel created a costume for his model. Thanks to graduate student Eric Johnson, the costume consisted of wooden breeches with suspenders, a full, wide-collared blouse, a broad-brimmed hat, a haversack, square-toed shoes called "buckles" (two brogues), and a walking stick.

Bechtel sketched Addison several years ahead of his brother in an open stretch of pasture near the top of a ridge, walking with the clean, open stride of a country boy. His mouth is slightly open, showing teeth, and his chest is bare with an ill-fitting shirt well forward, the feet just striking the ground, and he is pushing off far the most stride with the toe of his left foot. His left hand grips the walking stick, which he is about to lift, and his right hand, firmly grasping a small ball, swings behind him.

Fortunately, Bechtel was able to arrange modeling sessions with Will Caldwell, the great-great-great nephew of Addison. Will had the look of Addison and his thick, curly hair. And he had, according to his mother Jodi Austen, the "Caldwell profile."

members Frank B. Caldwell III of Roanoke and Robert Caldwell of Radford. Robert, drawing on family tradition and conversations with other family members, described Addison's physical build.

Bechtel started by sculpting a 22" high model, carefully proportioned, with considerable detail, right down to suspender strap buttons and shoelaces.

After approval from the Class of 1956, Bechtel moved to the next stage of sculpting. He carved a block of Dorco polystyrene foam into a life size version of the model; then overlaid his structural underbody with clay. Bechtel wanted every part of the sculpture, down to the folds of the haversack and the digits of the fingers, to fully register the vigor of a healthy young man gliding toward his self-chosen future at a new university. He was also concerned with how the surface texture, once cast in bronze, would reflect and absorb light, and thus convey a feeling of vitality in the final sculpture.

These two pages from the booklet, "Building Addison Caldwell," show sculptor Larry Bechtel beside the clay mold of Caldwell (left) and describe Bechtel's research before crafting the mold (right).

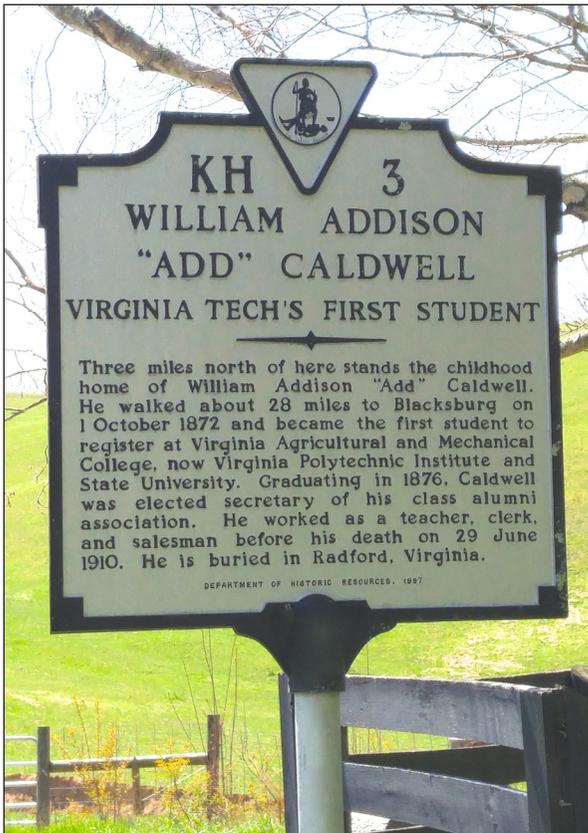
employee Lawrence Reid Bechtel and dedicated in 2006.¹⁶⁸ The statue was moved in 2017 from its position behind Brodie Hall to the Upper Quad. Off-campus, in addition to Caldwell Fields, a state historical marker about William Addison Caldwell, funded jointly by Virginia Tech and Craig County during the university's 125th anniversary celebration, stands beside State Route 42, about three miles from the Caldwell home place.

These varied memorials remind us that a sixteen-year-old boy hiked as much as twenty-eight miles and struggled through an extra year of school to obtain the education that meant so much to him. Through those actions, he not only became an historic symbol of perseverance and determination, but he also set an example for thousands of students who turn to institutions of higher education to acquire the knowledge and skills that can lead to richer lives and better futures.

Acknowledgments

The author owes a debt of gratitude to numerous people, some now deceased, who helped make this article possible. Foremost among them is the late William Addison "Bill" Caldwell, who spurred the research on his Uncle Add Caldwell's life. Mr. Caldwell contributed materials and information and encouraged his relatives to do the same. Consequently, the late Katherine Caldwell Mendez and the late Frank Yingling Caldwell Jr. donated valuable items and provided important biographical data. Mrs.

Mendez's revelation about her father and uncle walking to Blacksburg even led to a new tradition for the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets. A particular note of thanks goes to Craig County historian Jane Echols Johnston, who generously supplied information about Craig County, and to Linda Smith, for opening the Caldwell home place to the author. Appreciation is also expressed to Louise King, Jim Lemon, Wendy Jean Cox (Royston), and J. Morris Brown, who provided other data relevant to the life of William Addison Caldwell. Additionally, the invaluable assistance of Special Collections at Virginia Tech in locating reference materials and providing graphics is gratefully acknowledged.



A state historical marker about Add Caldwell was erected on Route 42 in Craig County in 1997, the 125th anniversary of his enrollment in and the opening of the college known today as Virginia Tech (photo by Clara B. Cox).

Appendix

Below is the transcription of Add Caldwell's 1910 letter to Katherine Caldwell (Mendez), followed by a photocopy of the original two-page letter, which was donated to Virginia Tech by Mrs. Mendez and is held in Special Collections:

June 15, 1910

Dear Katherine:

I am enclosing you a few pictures of the Beach but you cannot form much idea of the Beach or Ocean without seeing them. The Tarrymoore hasn't much crowd yet, too cold and rainy, by July 1st we expect to have the house full. Don't know how I am going to like my job, haven't had much to do so far. It is a fine place to spend the summer and that is what brought me more than anything else. I will be here until September 1st – Don't know when I will get home, I will have to figure that out after September.

[Page 2]

If I were able to lose the time I would go to Radford and stay all summer. I have not been here long enough to tell whether the salt air is going to benefit me or not – I am feeling about the same, no worse or better. I suppose you are having a good time since your school was out. It is a pity you can't go through life without having more real trouble than you are having now, if you do have to cap gooseberries. Tell sister [Katherine's sister, Sallie] I am going to send her some pictures before I leave here.

There is no post office on the Beach. All mail is sent to Wilmington and delivered twice per day by carriers from that office.

Remember me to your Grandmother and with much love to all of you and especially to your self, I am –

Fondly yours,
Add

TARRYMOORE HOTEL COMPANY

W. J. MOORE, PRESIDENT AND MANAGER.



EVERY ATTRACTION AND CONVENIENCE OF THE SEACOAST.

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, N. C.

June 15 1916

Dear Katherine:

I am enclosing you a few pictures of the Beach but you cannot form much idea of the Beach or Ocean without seeing them. The Tarrymore hasn't much crowd yet, too cold and rainy, by July 1st we expect to have the house full. Don't know how I am going to like my job, haven't had much to do so far. It is a fine place to spend the summer and that is what brought me more than anything else. I will be here until September 1st - Don't know when I will get home, I will have to figure that out after September 1st.

If I were able to lose the ~~time~~
would go to Radford and stay all
Summer, I have not been here long
enough to tell whether the Salt air
is going to benefit me or not - I
am feeling about the same, no worse
or better. I suppose you are having
a good time since your ^{school} was out.
It is a pity you cant go through life
without having more real trouble than
you are having now, if you do have
to Cap gooseberries. Tell Sister I am
going to send her some picture
before I leave here.

There is no Post office on the Bend
all mail is sent to Wilmington
and delivered twice per day by carrier
from that office.

Remember me to your Grandmother
and with much ^{love} to all of you and
especially to your self, I am -

Fondly yours,
Add

Notes

1. Add Caldwell, letter to Katherine Caldwell (Mendez), June 15, 1910, 2, original in Special Collections, University Libraries, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia.
2. C. L. C. Minor, Communication from the President of the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, Enclosing a Statement of the Number of Students in Attendance, etc. to W. A. Anderson, chairman, Committee on Public Institutions, Senate of Virginia, January 8, 1873, Library of Virginia, Richmond. Minor's report lists Caldwell first among the students who registered on October 1, 1872, and the list is *not* in alphabetical order. Three Virginia Tech historians also named him as the first to register: Duncan Lyle Kinnear, *The First 100 Years: A History of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University* (Blacksburg: Virginia Polytechnic Institute Educational Foundation, 1972); Jenkins Mikell Robertson, comp. and ed., *Historical Data Book* 65: 4 (Blacksburg: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, April 1972), Centennial Edition; Harry Downing Temple, *Bugle's Echo: A Chronology of Cadet Life at the Military College at Blacksburg, Virginia* 1 (Blacksburg: Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets Alumni, Inc., 1996). Craig County historian Jane Echols Johnston also said that Add Caldwell's status as Virginia Tech's first student was general knowledge in Craig County, Virginia. Clara B. Cox, interviews with Johnston, 1990, 1991.
3. The mileage from Blacksburg to the Caldwell home place in Sinking Creek via today's roads is approximately thirty miles. Walking on trails across the two mountains between Blacksburg and Sinking Creek would cut the distance a *minimum* of two miles. It is more likely, however, that the distance for Add Caldwell in 1872 was approximately twenty miles. Cox, telephone interview with J. Morris Brown, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, February 29, 2020. A Virginia Tech alumnus, Brown accompanied the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets on each of its two annual Caldwell Marches (the corps marches half of the distance in the fall and the other half in the spring) and measured the mileage with a Global Positioning System. The corps estimates the total distance at twenty-six miles, but Brown recalled that his GPS indicated that each march was approximately ten miles.
4. Cox, telephone interview with Catherine Caldwell Mendez, July 17, 1991. The late Mrs. Mendez was a daughter of Mic Caldwell and a niece of Add Caldwell, both of whom attended VAMC and were enrolled during the school's inaugural session.
5. Bronze plaque, William Addison Caldwell, William Addison Caldwell Lounge, G. Burke Johnston Student Center, Virginia Tech. The lounge was dedicated and the plaque unveiled on March 19, 1993. The invitation to the dedication of the lounge also carries the words that appear on the plaque (invitation and dedication program in author's possession).
6. George Charlton Caldwell, Find a Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82774294/george-charlton-caldwell>, accessed February 7, 2020; "George Charlton Caldwell," Geni, <https://www.geni.com/people/George-Caldwell/6000000039578212861>, accessed February 7, 2020; William Addison Caldwell, Find a Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82774812/william-addison-caldwell>, accessed March 9, 2020.
7. Although the author could find no verification, she believes that Charles Minor Caldwell was named for the first president of Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, especially since Caldwell was born while his older brother Add was a student at the college and probably had President Minor as an instructor.
8. William Austin II and Rebecca H. R. Austin, *Caldwell–Eakin–Lemon–Reid and Related Families*, self-published, n.d., 33; William Addison Caldwell, Find a Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82774812/william-addison-caldwell>, accessed February 13, 2020; Jim Lemon, "Descendants of Archibald Caldwell," October 8, 1997, copy in author's possession; Tombstone Transcription Project, Craig County, Caldwell Cemetery II – Craig County VA, location: Rt. 624 near Mt Carmel Church, copied March 26, 1995 by Randy Abbott and Ruth G. Hale, <http://files.usgwarchives.net/va/craig/cemeteries/caldwell02.txt>, accessed March 7, 2020.

9. Caldwell Family History, <https://www.msirelandusa.com/family-history>, accessed February 9, 2020. There is some confusion about this matter since two men named John Caldwell migrated to Virginia. See Hendon and Caldwell Families of North Carolina and Virginia, 1649–1998, chapter 2—Caldwell Family, North Carolina Digital Collections, <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p15012coll1/id/62635/rec/1>, accessed March 7, 2020.
10. Virginia Department of Transportation, Region 1: Valley and Ridge, http://www.virginiadot.org/Projects/vtransNew/resources/VSTP_%20by_Chapter/Chapter%206%20by%20Region/Chap6_1ValleyRidge.pdf, accessed February 9, 2020.
11. Craig County, <https://craigcountyva.gov/history-of-craig-county/>, accessed February 9, 2020; Craig County, Virginia, Genealogy, https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Craig_County_Virginia_Genealogy, accessed February 9, 2020; Mabel Lee Damewood, *About Craig Valley: A Mini History of Upper Craig County* (New Castle, VA: Craig County Historical Society, ca. 1980).
12. Hendon and Caldwell Families of North Carolina and Virginia.
13. “Obituary, George Charlton Caldwell,” *Roanoke (VA) Evening News* 9: 53, June 15, 1904; U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1860 census, Free Inhabitants in the Valley of Sinking Creek in the County of Craig in Virginia, June 11, 1860.
14. Cox, interview with William Addison “Bill” Caldwell, 1989 (no month or day in author’s notes). Bill Caldwell was a nephew of and was named for Add Caldwell.
15. Author visits to the Caldwell farm, 1991 and October 1, 1997.
16. John Buescher, “Families on the Farm,” teachinghistory.org, National History Education Clearinghouse, <https://teachinghistory.org/history-content/ask-a-historian/25754>, accessed February 9, 2020.
17. Craig County, 1860 U.S. Census, compiled by Johnston.
18. [ushistory.org](http://www.ushistory.org), *Slave Life on the Farm and in the Town*, U.S. History Online Textbook, <https://www.ushistory.org/us/6d.asp>, accessed February 9, 2020.
19. Application of Widow (Lorena E. Caldwell, widow of George C. Caldwell), Confederate Pension Rolls, Veterans and Widows, collection #: CP-3, 179; roll # 179, Library of Virginia. According to the application, George Caldwell was wounded several times and retained a Minié ball in one of his legs until his death. See also “Obituary, George Charlton Caldwell,” *Roanoke Evening News*. The Confederate service of the 22nd Regiment, Virginia Infantry, began in July 1861, and the regiment was disbanded in the spring of 1865 (22nd Regiment, Virginia Infantry (1st Kanawha Regiment), Confederate Virginia Troops, Battle Unit Details, National Park Service, <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battle-units-detail.htm?battleUnitCode=CVA0022RI>, accessed February 13, 2020).
20. J. C. Martin, “Beginning of Craig County Public School System,” *New Castle Record*, New Castle, Virginia, June 8, 1951, reprinted in *Bits and Pieces of Craig County Schools* (New Castle, VA: Craig County Retired Teachers Association, 1976).
21. Cox, interviews with Johnston; William F. McDermott, *Craig County Schools: Antebellum to 1910* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1976), 7; M. E. Julienne and B. Tarter, “Establishment of the Public School System in Virginia,” July 26, 2016, in *Encyclopedia Virginia*, https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Public_School_System_in_Virginia_Establishment_of_the, accessed February 13, 2020. Add Caldwell received a scholarship from his county school board to attend VAMC, and the recipients of those scholarships had to be white males attending public schools. *Daily State Journal* 4, no. 273 (Richmond, Virginia), September 7, 1872, 1.
22. William H. Ruffner, *First Annual Report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, for the Year Ending August 31, 1871* (Richmond: C. A. Schaffter, Superintendent Public Printing, 1871), 159, 188, 193, Hathi Trust Digital Library, <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/008924596>, accessed February 15, 2020.
23. “Reconstruction Timeline: 1867–1877,” *Reconstruction: The Second Civil War*, PBS, www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/reconstruction/states/sf_timeline2.html; “General Assembly of Virginia,” *Staunton Spectator*, March 15, 1870, 2; “Primary Documents in American History: Morrill Act,”

- The Library of Congress Web Guides, www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/Morrill.html; Daniel W. Hamilton, "Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862," Major Acts of Congress, 2004, ENCYCLOPEDIA.com, www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3407400192.html, accessed January 8, 2016.
24. "Local Matters: Progress of the War of the Colleges," *Daily Dispatch* (Richmond), 42: 25, January 29, 1872, 1. The newspaper reported on the colleges, universities, and academies that had been rejected by the House of Delegates to receive the land-grant funds and predicted that the "Preston and Olin Institute, in Montgomery county, will be disposed of to-day."
 25. Kinnear, *The First 100 Years*, 30; William H. Ruffner, J. R. Anderson, and W. T. Sutherlin, "Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College," plan of organization and instruction, presented to the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College Board of Visitors, August 14, 1872, Yellow Sulphur Springs, Virginia, published in pamphlet form and adopted by the board as its annual report to the Virginia General Assembly (n.d.), 1; Cox, "Olin and Preston Institute and Preston and Olin Institute: The Early Years of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University: Part II, *The Smithfield Review* 20, 2016, 15–19.
 26. Those men included the Rev. Peter Harrison Whisner, Dr. Harvey Black, and Thomas Nelson Conrad, all associated with Preston and Olin Institute, and Sen. John Penn, Del. Robert A. Miller, and Del. Gen. Gabriel C. Wharton, all members of the Virginia General Assembly. Cox, "Olin and Preston Institute and Preston and Olin Institute: Part II, 15–19.
 27. "General Information: Historic Statement," *Catalogue, Preston and Olin Institute, Session 1869 and 70* (Baltimore: Preston and Olin Institute, n.d.), Special Collections, Virginia Tech. The building was later converted into a two-story shop building.
 28. An Act to Appropriate the Income Arising from the Proceeds of the Land Scrip accruing to Virginia under Act of Congress of July 2, 1862, and the Acts Amendatory Thereof, Virginia Acts of Assembly, approved March 19, 1872, 312–315. For a detailed discussion of Preston and Olin Institute and its drive to secure the land-grant funds, see Cox, "Olin and Preston Institute and Preston and Olin Institute: Part II, 1–26.
 29. According to the *Alexandria Gazette and Virginia Advertiser* (Alexandria, Virginia), August 16, 1872, 2, quoting from the *Lynchburg Republican*, "We but express the sentiments of all who know Prof. Minor when we say that a better selection could not have been made, and we congratulate the Board of Visitors and the public generally upon the fortunate selection of an accomplished scholar and genial gentleman, by whom the interests of the College will be ably and faithfully guarded."
 30. Ruffner, Anderson, and Sutherlin, *Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College*, 27, 35.
 31. "Farm Manager Elected," *Daily Dispatch*, January 11, 1873, 1.
 32. *Alexandria Gazette and Virginia Advertiser*, February 13, 1873, 2; *Daily State Journal*, February 12, 1873, 1.
 33. A. J. Oliver, letter to Harvey B. Apperson, Roanoke, Virginia, date unknown, written in response to Issac Diggs, "The First Faculty," *The Virginia Tech*, date unknown, reprinted in the *Techgram*, Virginia Tech, August 1, 1934, copy of letter's text in author's possession. Oliver's letter gave his father's ending year at VAMC as 1887, but historian and *The Smithfield Review* history advisor Dan Thorp said that Andrew Oliver and his family appear in the 1885 Iowa state census. Thorp, e-mail message to Cox, March 5, 2020.
 34. Ruffner, Anderson, and Sutherlin, *Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College*, 27, 35.
 35. Cox, interviews with Johnston.
 36. Cox, telephone interview with Brown.
 37. Cox, telephone interview with Mendez.
 38. Minor to Anderson, Communication from the President.
 39. In addition to President Minor implying Add's number one position in his report to Anderson, several Virginia Tech historians citing Add as the first student to register at VAMC, and Johnston's statement that his position as the first student was part of the oral tradition in Craig County (see note 2 for citations), that fact has also been passed down in the Caldwell family.

40. In the past, this author assumed that Add Caldwell may have seen one of President Minor's newspaper advertisements before he registered, but the president did not place the ads until he realized that the school was not reaching the anticipated enrollment.
41. Kinnear, *The First 100 Years*, 68.
42. Cox, telephone interview with Kinnear, July 16, 1991. Kinnear said that he checked state records and could not find a list where the superintendent of schools recommended William Addison Caldwell.
43. "General Assembly of Virginia," *Daily State Journal*, December 6, 1872, 1.
44. Minor to Anderson, Communication from the President. See also Robertson, *VPI Historical Data Book, Bulletin of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute* 42: no. 3 (Blacksburg: Virginia Polytechnic Institute, January 1964), 8.
45. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, 1872-73* (Richmond: Clemmatt & Jones, 1873), 13-14, Special Collections, Virginia Tech.
46. According to the Act to Appropriate the Income Arising from the Proceeds of the Land Scrip accruing to Virginia under Act of Congress of July 2, 1862, and the Acts Amendatory Thereof, Virginia Acts of Assembly, 313, scholarships would last two years, but on the recommendation of the faculty, "any student may be returned by the said trustees for a longer period."
47. An Act to Appropriate the Income Arising from the Proceeds of the Land Scrip accruing to Virginia under Act of Congress of July 2, 1862, and the Acts Amendatory Thereof, Virginia Acts of Assembly, 312.
48. President Charles L. C. Minor, letter to Gen. Joseph R. Anderson, October 1872, Special Collections, Virginia Tech.
49. *Lynchburg Daily Virginian*, November 18, 1872, quoting the *News Messenger*.
50. Minor to Anderson, Communication from the President.
51. *Gray Jacket* 1: no. 3 (Blacksburg: Lee and Maury Literary Societies, September 1875), 3, Special Collections, Virginia Tech; E. A. Smith, *A Brief History of the College, Bulletin of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute: Semi Centennial* 15, no. 4, May 1922.
52. *Lynchburg Daily Virginian*, quoting the *News Messenger*.
53. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1872-73*, 7; *Catalogue of the Officers and Students 1874-75* (Lynchburg, VA: Virginian Book and Job Print., 1875), 6; *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1875-76* (Lynchburg: Virginian Book and Job Print., 1876), 6; *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1876-77* (Lynchburg: Virginian Book and Job Office Print., 1877), 6; *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1877-78* (Lynchburg: Virginian Book and Job Print., 1878), 6, Special Collections, Virginia Tech, <https://wayback.archive-it.org/all/20180521171601/https://spec.lib.vt.edu/archives/catalog/> accessed March 13, 2020.
54. Robertson, *VPI Historical Data Book*, 1964, 8; *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1872-73*, 12.
55. *Gray Jacket* 1: no. 3, September 1875, 3.
56. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1872-73*, 13-14.
57. John Perry Cochran, "The Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College," Ph.D. dissertation, University of Alaska, 1961, 201.
58. Advertisement placed by VAMC President Charles Minor, *Lynchburg Daily Virginian*, October 1, 1872, 1.
59. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1872-73*, 14.
60. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1874-75*, 14.
61. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1872-73*, 14.
62. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1874-75*, 15.
63. *Gray Jacket*, September 1875, 3.
64. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1872-73*, 14, 16.
65. Gibson Worsham, "Solitude Historic Structure Report" prepared for Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), Blacksburg, 1997: 3, 4, <https://docplayer.net/11522539-Solitude-historic-structure-report-prepared-for-virginia-polytechnic-institute-and-state>

- university-blacksburg-virginia.html*, accessed March 6, 2020; Michael J. Pulice, "The Log Outbuilding at Solitude: An Architectural and Archaeological Investigation of Virginia Tech's Second Oldest Building," master's thesis, Virginia Tech, 2000, 10, <https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/33657/MpsThesis.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>, accessed March 6, 2020.
66. Ruffner, Anderson, and Sutherlin, "Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College," 1, 3.
67. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1872–73*, 14.
68. Temple, *Bugle's Echo* 1, 26.
69. Robertson, *VPI Historical Data Book*, 1964, 8.
70. Worsham, "A Survey of Historic Architecture in the Blacksburg Historic District, Montgomery County, Virginia, conducted for the Town of Blacksburg and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources," Autumn 1996–Spring 1997, 21, https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/pdf_files/SpecialCollections/MY-059_Survey_Historic_AH_BlacksburgHD_1997_WORSHAM_report.pdf, accessed March 8, 2020.
71. Worsham, "A Survey of Historic Architecture in the Blacksburg Historic District," 21.
72. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students 1874–75*, 14.
73. Robertson, *VPI Historical Data Book*, 1964, 8; Temple, *The Bugle's Echo* 1, 46.
74. Ralph Minthorne Brown, *VPI Historical Index 1872–1942, Bulletin of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute* 35: 12 (Blacksburg: Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1942), T171.V89 B7 1942, Special Collections, University Libraries, Virginia Tech.
75. Ruffner, "Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College," *Daily State Journal* 4, no. 237, July 27, 1872, 1.
76. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1872–73*, 17; Ruffner, "Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College," *Daily State Journal*, 1.
77. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1872–73*, 15.
78. Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, Monthly Report of Scholarship of W. A. Caldwell for the Month of [name of month left blank], 1875, author's copy, original in Special Collections, Virginia Tech.
79. Minor, letter to General Anderson.
80. Monthly Report of Scholarship of W. A. Caldwell.
81. Ruffner, "Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College," *Daily State Journal*, 1.
82. Monthly Report of Scholarship of W. A. Caldwell.
83. *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1872–73*, 12.
84. Frank Y. Caldwell Jr., letter to Cox, March 15, 1989, 3. Caldwell was reporting information he had gathered from newspaper clippings he kept in his files.
85. Monthly Report of Scholarship of W. A. Caldwell; *Gray Jacket* 2: no. 1, August 1876, 6.
86. The report card was donated to Virginia Tech in 1992 by Frank Y. Caldwell Jr., a nephew of the first student. Frank Caldwell also provided the date the report card was mailed. Frank Caldwell, letter to Cox, 5.
87. Information provided at the top of the report card.
88. Among the holdings of Special Collections at Virginia Tech is a copy of the 1875 chemistry exam that Add would have taken.
89. Temple, *The Bugle's Echo* 1, 39.
90. Temple, *The Bugle's Echo* 1, 86.
91. Faith Skiles, "Change Amidst Tradition: The First Two Years of the Burruss Administration at VPI," *The Smithfield Review* 20, 2016: 34.
92. Temple, *The Bugle's Echo* 1, 28.
93. Robertson, *VPI Historical Date Book*, 8.
94. Temple, *The Bugle's Echo* 1, 30.
95. *Gray Jacket* 1: no. 7, May 1876, 5; *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1875–76*, 6.
96. Temple, *The Bugle's Echo* 1, 53.

97. "Montgomery White Sulphur Springs," *Daily Dispatch*, June 23, 1873, 1, Chronicling America, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024738/1873-06-23/ed-1/seq-3/>, accessed February 21, 2020.
98. *Gray Jacket*, September 1875, 3.
99. *Farmville Mercury*, August 19, 1875, 1, from the notes of Temple, copy in author's possession.
100. Robertson, *VPI Historical Data Book*, 1964, 8.
101. *Gray Jacket*, September 1875, 3.
102. Temple, *The Bugle's Echo* 1, 49.
103. Temple, *Bugle's Echo* 1, 53; *Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1872-73*, 22.
104. William Addison Caldwell's bible was donated to Special Collections at Virginia Tech in 1989 by his nephew and namesake, Bill Caldwell, of Radford, Virginia.
105. Robertson, *VPI Historical Data Book*, 1964, 8; Temple, *The Bugle's Echo* 1, 43, 45 83, 85.
106. *The Gray Jacket*: Virginia Tech's First Literary Magazine, <https://wayback.archive-it.org/5315/20170403172155/http://grayjacket.vtath.org/issues>, accessed March 26, 2020.
107. *Catalogue of Washington and Lee University, for the Year Ending June, 1874* (Petersburg, VA: Nash & Rogers, 1874), 38, https://books.google.com/books?id=IZxPAAAYAAJ&pg=RA2-PA38&lpg=RA2-PA38&dq=washington+and+graham-lee+societies&source=bl&ots=ATLXI0u3ww&sig=ACfU3U1hG7twxeFTVZIOEYwyOdRweh27Pg&hl=en&ppis=_e&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiy-KqpvP7nAhU2lnIEHVvFB84Q6AEwAXoECA0QAQ#v=onepage&q=washington%20and%20graham-lee%20societies&f=false, accessed March 3, 2020.
108. *Gray Jacket* 1: no. 6, March 1876, 5.
109. *Daily Dispatch*, April 7, 1876, 1, from the *Lynchburg Virginian*, Chronicling America, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn84024738/1876-04-07/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1875&index=2&rows=20&words=Association+association+Inter-Collegiate+Virginia&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Virginia&date2=1878&proxtext=Intercollegiate+Association+of+Virgini&a&y=12&x=13&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>, accessed March 4, 2020.
110. Temple, *Bugle's Echo* 1, 45.
111. *Gray Jacket*, May 1876.
112. *Gray Jacket* 2: no. 1, August 1876, 3.
113. George Braxton Taylor, *Virginia Baptist Ministers*, 5th series, 1902-1914, with supplement (Lynchburg: J. P. Bell Company, 1915), 72-74, https://books.google.com/books?id=yt8pAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA75&lpg=PA75&dq=baptist+visitor+edited+by+Oscar+flippo&source=bl&ots=Wcw2JKfiaT&sig=ACfU3U19CTt3_TZuDv9BeWlsDlkjO1lqw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiqg9Po-ODnAhUshOAKHVUGASoQ6AEwA3oECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=Flippo&f=false, accessed February 20, 2020; George Presbury Rowell, ed., *American Newspaper Directory* (New York: George P. Rowell & Company, 1879), 140, https://books.google.com/books?id=-aAQAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA140&lpg=PA140&dq=rev.+oscar+f.+flippo+baltimore+md&source=bl&ots=9hzOKdLv7&sig=ACfU3U1PH2ID12_jz3nTTObCeGzOM3VPTQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwJ78MGI9uDnAhWymXIEHZsdCeIQ6AEwAHoECAgQAQ#v=onepage&q=rev.%20oscar%20f.%20flippo%20baltimore%20md&f=false, accessed February 20, 2020.
114. Temple, *Bugle's Echo* 1, 106.
115. Biographical/Historical Information, A Register of the Yellow Sulphur Springs Hotel Account Book 1887-1895, MS1940-033, Special Collections, Virginia Tech, Virginia Heritage, Guides to Manuscripts & Archival Collections in Virginia, <https://ead.lib.virginia.edu/vivaxtf/view?docId=vt/viblv00126.xml>, accessed March 8, 2020.
116. An address was also presented at the close of each of the first two years, when the college had no graduates.
117. *Gray Jacket*, August 1876, 3.
118. Sen. (CSA), John Warwick Daniel Sr., Geni, <https://www.geni.com/people/Sen-CSA-John-Daniel-Sr/6000000000943537236>, accessed February 20, 2020.

119. John W. Daniel, *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_W._Daniel, accessed February 20, 2020.
120. *Gray Jacket*, August 1876, 3; William Henry Fitzhugh Lee, *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Henry_Fitzhugh_Lee, accessed March 26, 2020; Daniel Coleman DeJarnette Sr., *Wikipedia*, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Coleman_DeJarnette_Sr., accessed March 26, 2020.
121. Cox, "Thomas Nelson Conrad: Educator, Editor, Preacher, Spy," *The Smithfield Review* 20, 2016: 47–54.
122. *Gray Jacket*, August 1876, 3–4.
123. *Gray Jacket*, August 1876, 3–4; Robertson, *Historical Data Book*, 1972, 8; Temple, *Bugle's Echo* 1, 109.
124. *Gray Jacket*, August 1876, 3–4.
125. *Thirteenth Annual Report of the Library Board of the Virginia State Library 1915–1916* (Richmond: Davis Bottom, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1917), 446, https://books.google.com/books?id=Pa0YAQAIAAJ&pg=RA2-PA445&lpg=RA2-PA445&dq=james+harrison+williams+virginia+general+assembly&source=bl&ots=vpdIU_KvsG&sig=ACfU3UIPKySLoiW0so-dWdeiPCh6DPTMEw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi-4MS7leHnAhWpmOAKHdzfB_YQ6AEwBnoECACQAQ#v=onepage&q=james%20harrison%20williams%20virginia%20general%20assembly&f=false, accessed February 20, 2020; *Annual Reports of Officers, Boards, and Institutions of the Commonwealth of Virginia for the Year Ending September 30, 1917* (Richmond: Davis Bottom, Superintendent of Public Printing, 1918), 446, https://books.google.com/books?id=_nVDAQAAMAAJ&pg=RA1-PA445&lpg=RA1-PA445&dq=james+harrison+williams+virginia+general+assembly&source=bl&ots=fth_FspyRi&sig=ACfU3U3GjERom68h-ZoBmxECEyX8Hh_tWA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi-4MS7leHnAhWpmOAKHdzfB_YQ6AEwChOEC_AkQAQ#v=onepage&q=james%20harrison%20williams%20virginia%20general%20assembly&f=false, accessed February 20, 2020.
126. James Harrison Williams, Standard Form for Members of the [Iowa] Legislature, Iowa Territorial and State Legislators Collection, compiled by volunteers and staff at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library, Des Moines, <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/HD/923391.pdf>, accessed February 20, 2020.
127. *Gray Jacket*, August 1876, 3.
128. *Gray Jacket*, August 1876, 5.
129. A Guide to the J. Lawrence Radford Grade Reports, 1874–1875, ms2009-120, Special Collections, Virginia Tech.
130. *Gray Jacket*, August 1876, 5.
131. *Gray Jacket 2*: no. 7, May 1877.
132. U.S. Census Bureau, 1880 Census.
133. Virginia School Report 1871–1920, 14.
134. Cox, telephone interview with Frank Y. Caldwell Jr., Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, n.d., information in author's notes.
135. "W. A. Caldwell Dies in Wilmington," *Roanoke (VA) Times*, July 1, 1910.
136. Cox, telephone interview with Frank Y. Caldwell.
137. "W. A. Caldwell Dies in Wilmington," *Roanoke Times*.
138. Louise King, First Presbyterian Church, Roanoke, telephone message for Cox, n.d. King said that the church registry "shows a William A. Caldwell member from April 1, 1887, to March 28, 1902, when he transferred membership to Wilmington, North Carolina."
139. "W. A. Caldwell Dies in Wilmington," *Roanoke Times*. Interestingly, Add's nephew and namesake, William Addison "Bill" Caldwell, was also involved in the real estate business. Bill Caldwell's business was located in Radford, where Add's father had been engaged in the same occupation before his death.

140. "Jurors for the September Session," *Roanoke Times*, September 2, 1893, 1, Chronicling America, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86071868/1893-09-02/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1871&index=0&rows=20&words=A+Caldwell+William&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Virginia&date2=1910&proxtext=William+A.+Caldwell&y=6&x=15&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>, accessed March 17, 2020.
141. "Criminal Term of the Court," *Roanoke Times*, April 5, 1896, 5, Chronicling America, <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn95079481/1896-04-05/ed-1/seq-5/#date1=1856&index=0&rows=20&words=Addison+Caldwell&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=Virginia&date2=1910&proxtext=Addison+Caldwell&y=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1>, accessed March 17, 2020.
142. "W. A. Caldwell Dies in Wilmington," *Roanoke Times*.
143. "W. A. Caldwell Dies in Wilmington," *Roanoke Times*.
144. "Obituary, W. A. Caldwell," *Evening Dispatch* (Wilmington, North Carolina), June 30, 1910, 1.
145. William B. Cooper (NC politician), Wikipedia, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_B._Cooper_\(NC_politician\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_B._Cooper_(NC_politician)), accessed March 3, 2020.
146. "Obituary: W. A. Caldwell," *Evening Dispatch*, June 30, 1910, 1; Frank Caldwell Jr., letter to Cox, March 15, 1989, 4. Frank Caldwell included information about Add Caldwell's life that he had learned from a "Radford paper" (most likely the *Radford (VA) Journal*).
147. *Context* 6: 2 (Blacksburg: Virginia Tech, winter 1972), 4.
148. Bulletin of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture 30: no. 1 (Raleigh: E. M. Uzzell & Co., Printers, January 1909), 70, https://books.google.com/books?id=a63NAAAAMAAJ&pg=RA13-PA70&lpg=RA13-PA70&dq=blair+%26+healy+wilmington+nc&source=bl&ots=69718m1XHA&sig=ACfU3U3noc4T-PHVXQLd1_XeHAM9t8TxpQ&hl=en&ppis=_e&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjX_M-E1P7nAhWtIXIEHZfDuMQ6AEwAHoECakQAQ#v=onepage&q=blair%20%26%20healy%20wilmington%20nc&f=false, accessed March 3, 2020.
149. I. J. Isaacs, comp., *Wilmington Up-to-Date. The Metropolis of North Carolina* (Wilmington: W. L. De Rosset Jr., 1902), compiled under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, <https://docsouth.unc.edu/nc/uptodate/uptodate.html>, accessed March 3, 2020.
150. Cotton Exchange History, Wilmington's Favorite Local Shopping Destination, <http://www.shopcottonexchange.com/cotton-exchange-history/>, accessed March 3, 2020; *The Spice Mill* 35: no. 1 (Spice Mill Publishing Company, 1912), 60, https://books.google.com/books?id=jxwxAQAAAMAAJ&pg=PA60&lpg=PA60&dq=w.+b.+cooper+wholesale+grocery+business+wilmington+nc&source=bl&ots=k_3eK8lgid&sig=ACfU3UIAKeoan3Z20rp9mbC7GUWPPd0D5w&hl=en&ppis=_e&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjEjenU0f7nAhVulXIEHeZtAOIQ6AEwAXoECAwQAQ#v=onepage&q=w.%20b.%20cooper%20wholesale%20grocery%20business%20wilmington%20nc&f=false, accessed March 3, 2020.
151. Biographies, New Hanover County, North Carolina, Genealogy Trails History Group, <http://genealogytrails.com/ncar/newhanover/biographies.html>, accessed March 3, 2020.
152. Cox, telephone interview with Mendez.
153. George Charlton Caldwell, Find A Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82774294/george-charlton-caldwell>, accessed February 25, 2020.
154. Cox, telephone interview with Mendez.
155. Jules Norwood *et al.*, "The 110 People, Places, & Events That Shaped WB," *Wrightsville Beach Magazine*, published monthly by SOZO8, Inc., February 2020, <http://wrightsvillebeachmagazine.com/article.asp?aid=460&iid=62>, accessed February 18, 2020. The name of the hotel was changed to Oceanic Hotel sometime before burning to the ground in 1934.
156. Add Caldwell, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, letter to Katherine Caldwell (Mendez), Radford, Virginia, June 15, 1910, 1, Special Collections, Virginia Tech, donated by Katherine Caldwell Mendez.
157. Cox, telephone interview with Mendez.
158. Add Caldwell, letter to Katherine Caldwell (Mendez), 1, 2.

159. Add Caldwell, letter to Katherine Caldwell (Mendez), 2.
160. "W. A. Caldwell Dies in Wilmington," *Roanoke Times*.
161. Frank Caldwell, letter to Cox, 3.
162. "W. A. Caldwell Dies in Wilmington," *Roanoke Times*; "Obituary, W. A. Caldwell," *Evening Dispatch*.
163. "W. A. Caldwell Dies in Wilmington," *Roanoke Times*.
164. "William A. Caldwell," *New Castle Record*, New Castle, Virginia, July 16, 1910.
165. "Obituary, W. A. Caldwell," *Evening Dispatch*; William Addison Caldwell, *findagrave.com*, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82774812/william-addison-caldwell>, accessed February 25, 2020.
166. Caldwell March, Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets, <https://www.vtcc.vt.edu/give/caldwell-march.html>, accessed February 26, 2020; Cox, "April Sky: Homer Hickam and the Caldwell March," *Virginia Tech Magazine*, summer 2005, <https://www.vtmag.vt.edu/sum05/feature1.html>, accessed February 26, 2020. The author accompanied the corps on the spring march in 2005 and the fall march in 2006, thereby confirming the beginning and ending locations of each march.
167. William Addison Caldwell Lounge Dedication, program, March 19, 1993, in author's possession; Cox, "Ceremony Scheduled to Dedicate Student Lounge in Memory of Virginia Tech's First Student," Virginia Tech news release, March 18, 1993.
168. Class of 1956 and staff member memorialize university's first student, <https://vtechworks.lib.vt.edu/bitstream/handle/10919/59738/2006-566.html?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>, accessed February 26, 2020.

About the Author: A member of *The Smithfield Review* Editorial Board since 1998, Clara B. Cox currently serves as co-editor of the journal. A Virginia Tech retiree, she holds a master of arts in English from the university. Her work on Tech history has appeared in books, magazines, journals, and newspapers, and she has written the text of some sixty-five building biomarkers and other brass plaques on campus. Additionally, she edited and co-wrote the Blacksburg, Virginia, bicentennial history book and has written the text for several state historical markers, including one about William Addison Caldwell, Tech's first student, and William Black, founder of Blacksburg.

