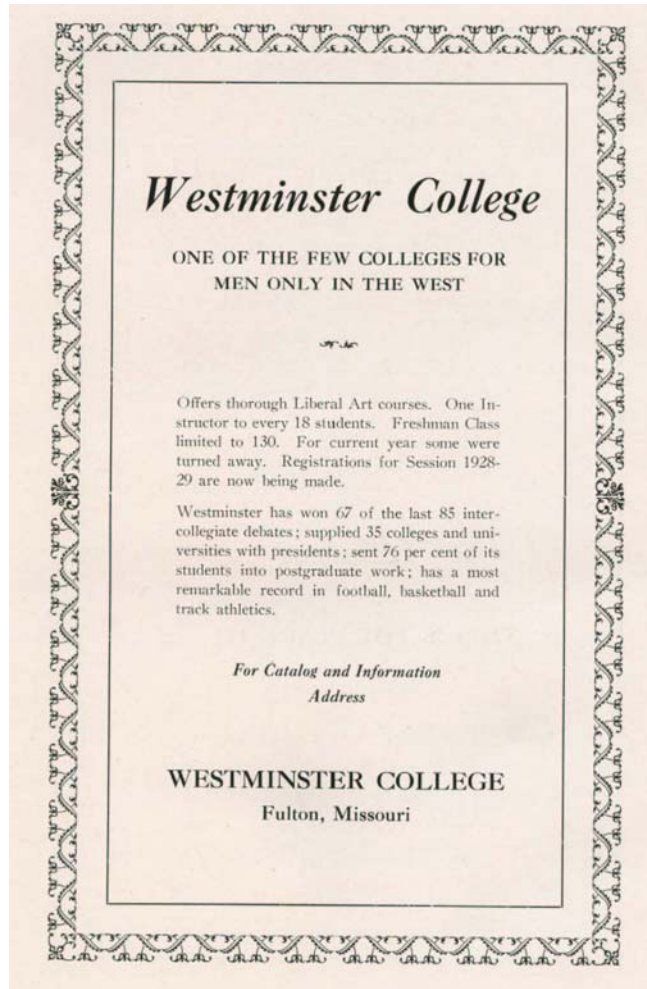


**Members of the Westminster College Community  
Who Have Served as Presidents of Colleges and Universities**

Westminster College placed an advertisement in the *1928 Seminole*, the yearbook of Synodical College. The text of the ad indicates that Westminster "...supplied 35 colleges and universities with presidents..."



A partial listing follows with summary information for 23 Westminster alumni and 13 faculty or administrators. Contact Ray Brown, Director of Institutional Research at [brownr@westminster-mo.edu](mailto:brownr@westminster-mo.edu) or 573-592-5238 if you know of others who should be added to the list or have additional information on institutions served by Westminster alumni. [updated May 24, 2006]

**George F. Ayres** (WC class of 1887) president of Lindenwood College [Source: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918]

**Charles B. Boving** (WC class of 1891) served as president of WC (1911-1914)

**Walter Hensill Bradley** (WC class of 1886) minister; 1890, professor at Shurtleff College; 1891-05, Dean at Blackburn College; 1897-04; President of Blackburn College [Source: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918]

**William Thomas Carrington** (attended WC in 1871) served as president of the State Normal School in Springfield, MO from 1905-1918. State Normal School, District #4, was authorized by the Missouri General Assembly on March 17, 1905. With a pledge by local business leaders of \$25,000 and a 38-acre tract on the corner of National and Grand streets, State Normal School #4 was sited in Springfield on July 26, 1905. W.T. Carrington, who was serving as State Superintendent of Schools, was selected as the school's first President. He served until 1918.

Carrington himself was a product of State Normal School #1 in Kirksville where he took a Master of Scientific Didactics degree. His AB degree was from McGee College, and he did additional work at Westminster College and the University of Missouri. [Sources: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918; <http://www.missouristate.edu/President/past/carrington.htm>]

**Edwin B. Craighead** (WC 1876-78) A.M., Central College, 1883 LL. D., University of Missouri, 1898, D.C.L., University of the South, 1907; president of Tulane University in New Orleans from 1904-1912; president of University of Montana from 1912-1915 [Source: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918; <http://www.umt.edu/president/gopp/craighead.htm>]

**John R. Cunningham** (WC class of 1914) served as president of Davidson College. [*Westminster College: An Informal History*, pp. 229-230]



**John Robert Dobyys** (received A.B. degree in 1874) later received M.A. and LL.D. from Westminster College; teacher Missouri School for the Deaf (1877); Superintendent of Mississippi School for the Deaf at Jackson (1881); President of Southwestern Presbyterian University (now Rhodes College) (1914); President of Stonewall Jackson College in Abingdon, VA (1917); Superintendent of Arkansas Deaf Mute Institute in Little Rock (1919) [Source: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918]

**Henry C. Evans** (WC class of 1881) one-time professor of Greek resigned to assume presidency of Synodical College [*A Great Small College*, p. 156, 226] also, president of Texas Presbyterian College for Women and president of Queens College in Milford, Texas [Source: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918; *Westminster College: An Informal History*, pp. 67-68]

**G. David Gearhart** (WC class of 1974) selected to serve as 5<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of the University of Arkansas, effective July 1, 2008. Gearhart served as Assistant to the President and Director of Development at Westminster from 1976-1978. He then served as a vice president at Hendrix College from 1978-1982. He received the Westminster Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1992.



**Hugh G. Glascock** (WC in 1882) president of Culver Military Academy in Culver, Indiana [Source: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918]

**S. Stewart Gordon**, received his BA from WC and his MA and PhD from the University of Chicago. He was a faculty member and the first Harpur College dean, serving until 1967, and a former vice president for academic affairs who helped shape the fundamental nature of Binghamton University. He served as vice president for academic affairs and twice as interim president from 1964 to 1965 between the terms of Glenn Bartle and G. Bruce Dearing and again from 1971 to 1972 between the terms of Dearing and C. Peter Macgrath. He retired in 1976 and then served as acting president of SUNY Cortland, acting director of the Binghamton University Foundation and interim director of the Roberson Center for the Arts and Sciences.

**Charles C. Hersman**, valedictorian in 1860, became professor of Greek in 1864, served WC for twenty-three years, the last ten as president [Source: *A Great Small College*, p. 69, 163, 187; *Westminster College: An Informal History*, p. 67]

**Frederick William Hinitt** graduated from WC in 1889. He received the A.M. degree from WC in 1891, and graduated from McCormick Theological Seminary in 1892. He would eventually earn two more degrees, a doctor of philosophy in 1896 and a doctor of divinity in 1902, both from Wooster College.



Hinitt served pastorates in Missouri and Iowa, and in 1900 became president of Parsons College. Within four years, however, Hinitt was elected president of Centre College in 1904. He resigned from Centre on January 1, 1915, and left to become the president of Washington and Jefferson College, Pennsylvania.

**John C. Jones** (WC class of 1879) WC's first Ph.D.; served as professor of Latin at WC and later at the University of Missouri; served as interim president of the University of Missouri 1905-06 [Source: *A Great Small College*, p. 156, 197; *Westminster College: An Informal History*, p. 164]

**Rev. John A. McAfee** (WC 1859) was co-founder and first president of Park College [*A Great Small College*, p. 68]; principal of Watson Seminary in Pike County [Source: *A Great Small College*, p. 100]

**Frances Lewis McCluer** (WC class of 1916) was the 4<sup>th</sup> alum to serve as president (1933-1947). He left WC to serve as president of Lindenwood College until 1967. [*Westminster College: An Informal History*, p. 216]

**Colin A. McPheeters** (WC class of 1890) president of Synodical College in Fulton from 1909-1910; later a dean and acting President of Olivet College [Source: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918]

**William Hoge Marquess** (WC 1871-72, A.B. 1873) president of Westminster College, 1888-1894 [Sources: *A Great Small College*, p. 217; *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918]

**Charles C. Millar**, (WC 1887-88, A.B. 1889) president of Mexican Theological Seminary in Tamaqua, Mexico [Source: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918]

**James A. Quarles** (WC 1857, A.B. 1858) president Elizabeth Aull Seminary, professor Washington and Lee University [Sources: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918; *Westminster College: An Informal History*, p. 57.]

**Matthew H. Reaser** of Brookfield College (WC class of 1887) was awarded a Ph.D. *pro merito* by WC in 1891 [Source: *A Great Small College*, p. 271] president of Wilson College for Women; president of Beechwood School for Young Women in Jenkintown, PA [Source: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918]

**James O. Reavis** (WC class of 1896) president of Columbia Theological Seminary in Columbia, SC [Source: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918]

**Michael W. Robinson** (WC in 1853) professor from 1857-1860 and acting president of William Jewell College from 1859-60 [Source: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918]

**George L. Washburn** (WC class of 1884) president of School of the Ozarks in Hollister [Source: *Bulletin of Westminster College*, 1918]

## **Westminster College Faculty or Administrators Who Served as Presidents of Other Colleges and Universities**

**Michael Montgomery Fisher** served WC from 1867-1868 and later from 1874-1877. He was a professor of Latin and also served as acting president. He graduated from Hanover College, Indiana, in 1855. In 1870 he founded Independence Female College (MO). He was also the founder of Bellewood Female College, near Louisville, Kentucky. After leaving WC, he became professor of Latin in the University of Missouri. Fisher also authored several books and textbooks. [Source: <http://www.famousamericans.net/michaelmontgomeryfisher/>; see also, *A Great Small College*, p. 142]

**William Webster Hall**, president of WC from 1948-1955 had previously served as president of the College of Idaho from 1939-1947. He left WC to become president of Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. [Source: *Westminster College: An Informal History*, pp. 216, 233.]

**C.C. Hersman**, served WC as president from 1877-1887. He left to join the faculty of Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Columbia, SC for one year and then served as Chancellor of Southwestern Presbyterian University in Clarksville, TN from 1888-1891.

**John H. Keiser** taught history at WC from 1963 to 1965. He went on to become president of Boise State University and Southwest Missouri State University (now, Missouri State University). [Source: e-mail correspondence with William E. Parrish, May 2006]

**F.T. Kemper** served as professor of Greek at WC from 1856-1860; he previously taught in Boonville, MO from 1845 through 1856 at it was known as the "New Boonville Academy," "The Boonville Boarding School and Teacher's Seminary," and the "Male Collegiate Institute." In 1861, he returned to Boonville and reopened a school in partnership with his wife's brother, Edwin H. Taylor, the "Kemper and Taylor Institute." This was one of the only schools in the state to remain open throughout the Civil War, due to Professor Kemper's willingness to accept female students for the first time. Additionally, he opened his classrooms to day students. [Source: <http://www.kemper1844.org/history.html>]

**Rev. David Ramsey Kerr**, served fifteen years as president of Bellevue College in Omaha before joining WC as president in June, 1904 and served until June, 1911. In 1912 he served as associate president of Beechwood School for Women in Jenkintown, PA. In 1916 he returned to Bellevue College as president, serving two years. [*Westminster College: An Informal History*, pp. 114, 130]

**Samuel S. Laws**, served WC as a faculty member and president (1855-1861). He graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1851 and served for three years as a Presbyterian minister in St. Louis before moving to Fulton. After the Civil War, Laws studied law and medicine. He was admitted to the New York bar in 1869, awarded a law degree from Columbia College in 1870, and a M.D. from Bellevue Hospital Medical College in 1875. In 1876 he was selected president of the University of Missouri, where he served for thirteen years. In 1893 he became professor at Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina. [Sources: *Westminster College: An Informal History*, p. 27; <http://www.lib.muohio.edu/my/miamiyearsXX.html>]

**John Henry MacCracken** served as president of WC from 1899-1903. He attended New York University's College of Arts and Pure Science graduating with an A.B. in 1894, and an A.M. in 1897. He briefly attended Union Theological Seminary in 1894-1895 and received his Ph.D. from the University of Halle-Wittenburg, Germany in 1899, and his LL.D. from WC in 1903. After leaving WC he returned to NYU as a professor of politics from 1903-1915 and also served one year as acting Chancellor of the university. He became president of Lafayette College (PA), from 1915-1926. He later served as president of the American Institute of Christian Philosophy, president of the Phi Beta Kappa Alumni of New York, president of the Board at Alborz College in

Teheran, Iran and served as a trustee to the American University, Cairo, Egypt and the Masters School at Dobbs Ferry, New York. [*Westminster College: An Informal History*, p. 110]

**Rev. J.G. Reaser** served as a faculty member at WC from 1885-1887. He also served as the second president of Carthage (MO) Collegiate Institute from 1887-1890. He had previously served as president of Harrodsburg Female College, KY, from 1857-1859. His B.A. and M.A. were from Jefferson College (PA) and his D.D. from Centre College. [Source: *Presbyterianism in the Ozarks*, pp. 227-8]

**Elmer Reed**, served WC as president from 1915-1926. He had previously served 6 years as president of Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, IA and 9 years as president of Lenox College also in Iowa. [*Westminster College: An Informal History*, p. 140]

**Walter Roettger** became sixteenth president of Lyon College (Arkansas) in October 1998. Before joining Lyon, he served as vice president of the college and dean of faculty at Westminster College. [*Westminster College: An Informal History*, p. 333]

**Donald Spencer** taught history at WC from 1973 to 1975. He later became president of Western Illinois University. [Source: e-mail correspondence with William E. Parrish, May 2006]

**Dr. James Traer** served as President of Westminster College in Fulton, MO for six years and as Interim President of Kendall College, a small Methodist-affiliated college in Evanston, IL. He previously spent eight years as Dean of the College at Lynchburg College. He was Vice President for Academic Affairs at Adrian College (MI) and Associate Dean/Assistant Professor at Hamilton College. He holds his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor in European History. He earned his J.D. from Michigan Law School and his B.A. is from the College of Wooster.

### **List of Books**

Hall, William Webster. The Small College Talks Back: an intimate appraisal. New York, R. R. Smith, 1951.

Lamkin, Charles F. A Great Small College: a narrative history of Westminster College. St. Louis: Horace Barks Press, 1946.

Parrish, William E. Westminster College: an informal history, 1851-1999. Fulton, MO: Westminster College, 2000.

Stringfield, E. E. Presbyterianism in the Ozarks : a history of the work of the various branches of the Presbyterian Church in Southwest Missouri, 1834-1907. 1909.