

Hampton University

Chronology of Events

1863-1899

1863

- The Emancipation Oak is the site of the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation to former slaves within the City of Hampton. It was under this oak tree that Mrs. Mary Peake, daughter of a “free colored woman and an Englishman” conducted some of the first lessons for newly freed African American men and women.
- When the need of the freed people became too extensive, General B. F. Butler, chief in command at Fortress Monroe, used government funds and erected a large wooden building known as “The Butler School.”

1865

- The “Butler” school-house was turned over by the government in 1865 to the American Missionary Association that supplied it with teachers until it became the property of the trustees of Hampton Institute upon whose grounds it stood.

1866

- The overcrowding at The Butler School was eventually relieved by the erection of another school at “slabtown” (an impromptu suburb of Hampton), and by the building of the “Lincoln School” in 1866 by General Samuel Armstrong.

1867

- A 160 acre Wood Farm was purchased for \$9,000 by General Samuel Chapman Armstrong as site of Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute. The Southern Colonial style Mansion House on the property was built before 1867 at a cost of \$3,766.

1868

- April 1, 1868, Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute was founded by General Samuel Chapman Armstrong with two teachers and fifteen students. General Armstrong solicited first objects to establish a museum collection.
- Commonwealth of Virginia grants charter to Hampton Institute.

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1869

- Cornerstone laid for Academic Hall, the first permanent classroom building.

1870

- Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute was incorporated.
- Original Academy Building was erected.

1871

- First class graduated with five women and 14 men.

1872

- First issue of Southern Workman was published. Virginia Governor approved awarding of one-third of the state's Morrill Act land grant funds to Hampton.

1874

- The book *Hampton and Its Students*, published in 1874, was written by two Hampton Institute teachers: Mrs. M. F. Armstrong and Helen W. Ludlow. The book was sold to raise funds as the Hampton Singers travelled throughout the North.
- Virginia Hall was dedicated. It was partly sung up by the Hampton Singers at a cost of \$98,000. It was built by students and outside labor.

1875

- First official seal of the Institute was accepted by Board of Trustees.
- June 9, 1875 Booker T. Washington graduated.

1877

- First meeting of the National Hampton Alumni Association was held in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

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1878

- First American Indian students arrived.
- First Alumni Reunion was held.
- Ground was broken for Wigwam, the dormitory for male American Indian students. It was planned by the staff and built by Hampton Institute students. Construction cost was \$14,700.

1879

- First Academic Hall was destroyed by fire.

1880

- "Shellbanks," a stock and grain farm, was purchased to provide an agricultural laboratory for students and to supply the school.

1881

- Academy Building, was constructed on the foundations of the Academic Hall, was dedicated.

1882

- Winona Lodge, a residence for Native American females was constructed. This building was demolished in the 1950's and replaced by Twitchell and Davidson Halls.
- Stone Manor was completed. Marshall Hall (The Administration Building) was completed to house the library and offices of the principal and treasurer.

1886

- Memorial Church was built at the original cost of \$65,000 is an Italian Romanesque structure. The original and current yellow pine pews were built by Hampton Trade School students.

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1891

- Faculty member Alice Bacon began the Hampton Training School for Nurses on the campus.

1893

- General Samuel Chapman Armstrong died. Hollis Burke Frissell was appointed second principal.

1894

- Hampton acquired Henry O. Tanner's painting, "The Banjo Lesson."

1896

- Armstrong-Slater Memorial Trade School was dedicated.

1898

- Business Department, the forerunner of the School of Business, was established.