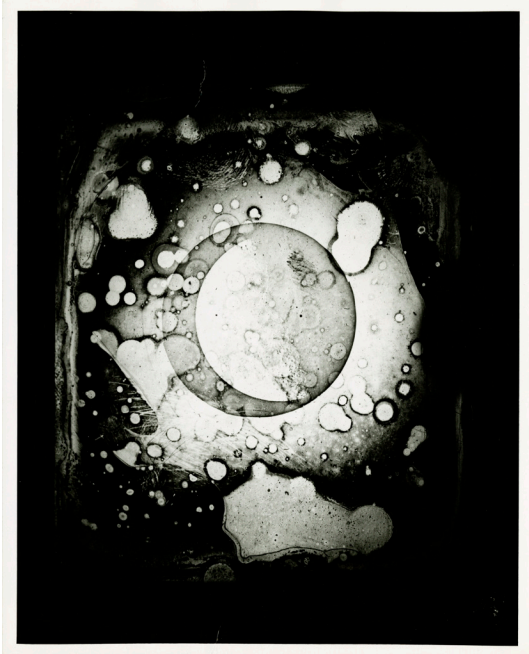


# Dr. Draper and the Moon

Angela Way



Source: New York University Archives

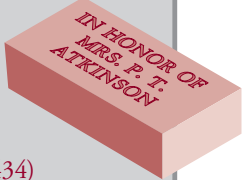
*The first clear image of the moon, taken by former H-SC Professor John William Draper, 1840.*

As early as 1837, John William Draper was experimenting with photography at Hampden-Sydney College. Draper constructed his own daguerreotype camera and during the winter of 1839-40, only a few months after he left Hampden-Sydney for the University of the City of New York, Draper took a series of daguerreotypes of the moon, focusing the moon's rays on the plate using a three-inch lens. This image is one of the surviving plates of that series.

In March of 1840, Draper displayed his photographs of the moon at a meeting of the Lyceum of Natural History in New York. "A portion of the figure was very distinct," declared the minutes of the meeting, "but owing to the motion of the Moon, the greater part was confused. The time occupied was twenty minutes, and the size of the figure was about one inch in diameter. Daguerre had attempted the same thing but did not succeed. This is the first time that anything like a distinct representation of the moon's surface has been obtained."

## Personalized Bricks *A Lasting Tribute*

**REMEMBER!** You can purchase inscribed memorial bricks to be placed in the Museum's front walk. They are an ideal way to recognize graduates, loved ones, beloved teachers, or classmates—even (as one of our students did) to propose.



To request a brick order form, call the Museum at (434) 223-6134, or download one from [www.hsc.edu/Museum/Personalized-Brick.html](http://www.hsc.edu/Museum/Personalized-Brick.html)

## HOW TO HELP THE MUSEUM

*Financial donations to the Atkinson Museum are welcome and help fund our special projects and exhibits, which are planned to complement the course offerings of Hampden-Sydney College and serve our students.*

*To make a monetary donation, please mail your check to the Atkinson Museum, Box 745, Hampden-Sydney College, 23943. Please be sure to write Atkinson Museum in the memo line of your check. You may also submit a donation online at [www.hsc.edu/Making-A-Gift.html](http://www.hsc.edu/Making-A-Gift.html). You may specify that your gift be used by the Museum. All gifts to the College are tax-deductable.*

*For donations of items, we are looking for Hampden-Sydney personal items from former students, faculty, and staff that depict the close relationship and influence the school has had on the people associated with it. Whether the item is a letter to home from a 1920s student on College life or an early version of the*




*Gilbert "Gil" Radun'69 presenting a wood plane discovered in the soffit of old Graham Hall (Admission Offices) from one of the building's early renovations.*



Photo Source: VPI Bugle, 1934

*William E. "Bill" Atkinson '48  
Remembering our friend, the son of Museum  
Founder, Mrs. P.T. Atkinson*

## IN MEMORIAM



# THE ESTHER THOMAS ATKINSON MUSEUM

OF HAMPDEN-SYDNEY COLLEGE

JUNE 2016

## Notes on the History of Eating at Hampden-Sydney: The First Fifty Years

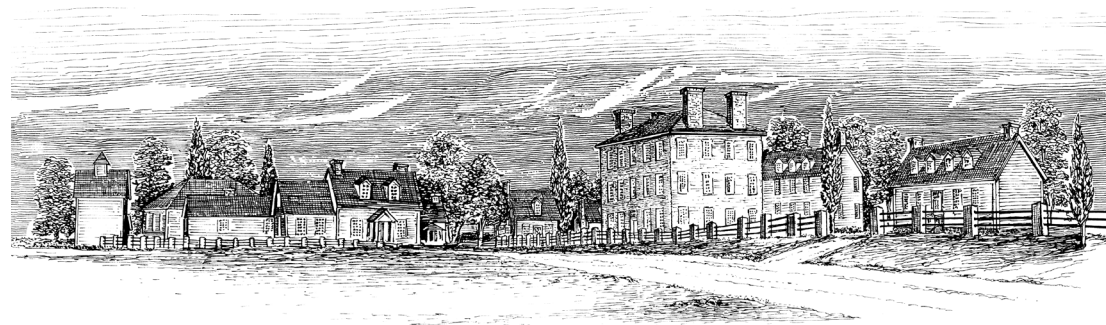
Dr. Richard McClintock

FOOD—from the war-restricted rations of the first stewards to the sumptuous tables of the famous boarding houses—has always played a very large role in the life of Hampden-Sydney. It was one of the major issues faced by the founders, causing them an inordinate amount of trouble when they did not need more troubles than they had already.

According to Alfred J. Morison, one of Hampden-Sydney's earliest historians, it was all a function—and, some might argue, it continues to be—of “the disregard for the laws of nature: eating in commons is no business for boys.”

The first students, about 100 of them, enrolled in November 1775 in the midst of a war that drained supplies from the countryside to the armies. There was not much left over for feeding hungry young men. But one of the earliest actions of the Board of Trustees was to appoint a steward, who was the equivalent of today's Food Service Director, although he was to be in charge of supplying firewood and beds as well as “victuals.” In his advertisement for the College in Williamsburg's *Virginia Gazette* of September 1, 1775, President Samuel Stanhope Smith announced that “the students will all board and study under the same roof, provided for by a common steward, except such as choose to take their boarding in the country. The rates, at the utmost, will not exceed £10 currency per annum to the steward, and £4 tuition money, 20 shillings of this being always paid at entrance.”

The trustees, either because they were eager to protect the health of the students or were fearful that the steward might short-change the students to his own profit, established guidelines for the menu. In his advertisement in the *Gazette* for November 23, 1775, Smith announced that Captain Philemon Holcombe had been elected steward and had been directed to furnish “wholesome diet to the students, one-half of the meat at least to be fresh, and one-half of the bread to be



LEFT: *The Hampden-Sydney Campus, ca. 1820. The 18th century buildings are at the center, with the steward's house at the left.*

made of the fine flour of wheat.” His rate was to be £8 per year, of which 40 shillings was payable in advance. (The alternative to fresh meat was salt meat, not spoiled meat!)

The next year the cost of board went up to £9. But by December 1776, Holcombe was already smarting under the burden of rising costs. He announced in the *Gazette* that in future he would not be able to furnish beds for the students and that he needed a cook with experience: “I will give good encouragement to a man who understands cooking, and managing the Business of a Kitchen and Table in such a large Family.” He petitioned “that the Board should consider his allowance for boarding the students, and moved that such further allowance may be made for the ensuing year as from the advanced price of provisions and other necessaries for their Diet they may think reasonable.” The Board refused to grant his request, and instead emphasized their prescriptions for the diet and called what he had been setting out “not suitable but very unfit for students.”

Holcombe was told that he needed “to find tea and coffee, chocolate, rice properly seasoned, or milk,” and that there was to be “sufficient quantity of either of these every day for breakfast and supper.” (In the eighteenth century, supper was a light meal; dinner, the mid-day repast, was the heaviest meal of the day). When milk was served, butter was not necessary. Salt meat was not to be served at dinner on two days in succession; fresh meats were to be

served “with proper sauces.” The students were to have “pudding or pie or some agreeable Diet extraordinary” three times a week, and half the bread was to be made from wheat flour, the other half from Indian corn. The tables were to be covered with clean linen.

Holcombe, not unexpectedly, gave his notice in February 1777. At a meeting of the Board on March 11, Captain William Bibb, the lowest bidder for the position, was appointed steward, effective “the 1st of July next.” On the 22nd of July the Board gave Bibb “leave to put two additional rooms to the house Capt. Holcombe resided in, and to add 16 ft. to the dining room. Work to be valued by arbitration.” The steward's house had been one of the original buildings ordered by the Board of Trustees, a story-and-a-half house to the left of the forecourt of the main College building, about where Hampden House is now. The students ate downstairs, and the steward and his family lived upstairs. The detached kitchen of the steward's house was the last surviving eighteenth-century building of the College; attached to Hampden House, as was an office for Dr. Lacy, the College physician, it was destroyed in 1965 when the house was remodeled for the occupancy of Dean and Mrs. Frank Simes.

But by December 11, Bibb had been let go: “the present Steward's refusal to comply with his agreement in every part,” said the Board, “makes it necessary to discontinue him in the midst of the year for which he had been engaged.” In light of the increased cost of provisions, the boarding fee was raised to £20 per scholar per annum; Henry Young, an innkeeper

FAR LEFT: *Capt. John Morton, a founding trustee, who took over the job of feeding students when private contractors failed at the job.*

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Senior Kevin Keena discusses works from his Senior Thesis, oil paintings explaining his enthusiasm for duck-hunting. (See article on page 2.)

THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from Kingsville, was hired as cook, under the supervision of a committee of trustees James Allen, Sr., Nathaniel Venable, and John Morton. Young agreed to provide milk for breakfast regularly along with meat or some “light dish.” For dinner “an ample quantity of meat and vegetables” was prescribed; supper was much like breakfast. The Board’s committee was to visit the dining room “once a month or oftener” to check on the quality of the service. Breakfast was set for 8 a.m., dinner for 1 p.m., and supper for 8 p.m.

It is of interest to note that Hampden-Sydney was not the only College in the Colonies which was experiencing difficulties with feeding students: Yale College had to be let out in 1776 and in 1777, “because the steward was quite unable to provide rations.” While Hampden-Sydney never closed during those troubled years, it is quite likely (although there is no record of it) that classes had to be delayed from time to time because of the strictures that the war placed on the food supply. So strong an influence the exigencies of life have over the exercise of the mind!

During 1779 there was no steward at all. The job was unprofitable enough when food supplies were relatively plentiful and cheap; it became impossible in 1779, when Virginia’s wheat crop had been decimated by rust, and wheat reserves were hoarded by commissaries who charged “extortionate prices.” Even in the country, next door to farmers, there was little food to be had at Hampden-Sydney. Students had to make their own arrangements with people in the neighborhood; some even employed their own cooks.

Official steward service may have begun again in 1780 or 1781; records are lacking for those years, but circumstantial evidence suggests that Henry Jones held the post. John Overstreet, we know, became steward in 1783.

Overton was succeeded by the redoubtable merchant-trustee John Morton, whose store was between Hampden-Sydney and Kingsville. His duties were set out in the 1784 *Laws and Ordinances of Hampden Sidney College*: “to furnish proper provisions to students three times

daily, at times to suit the hours of study, to have beds made up & to keep Houses in proper neatness; . . . [to have] the privilege of keeping a house of private entertainment & retailing such articles of merchandise as may not interfere with the discharge of his duty.” He was to be “allowed the exclusive boarding of students who cannot come from home, except those who ask to live with the President & he can take them.”

To John Morton we owe the tradition of drinking at College events: in 1786 he applied to the Prince Edward County Court for a license to “retail spirituous Liquors at Hampden Sidney College during the Exhibitions of the Students at Vacation Times.” (Exhibitions were the student oratorical displays that closed terms.) Morton cited the great convenience to visitors, since it saved them the half-hour trip to Kingsville or Worsham, and “relieved them of the burden of bringing their own jugs from home.”

Morton continued as steward until 1791, when complaints—particularly about the coffee—were substantiated by a teacher who ate in Commons, and Morton resigned. He was succeeded, for two years, by a man whose name we do not know.

It was not until 1795 that complaints broke out again. At the beginning of the session in October, when the price of board was still £20, steward Charles Jones was “given liberty . . . on account of the present high price of wheat, to furnish the students with only one-third of the bread of wheat, in lieu of the one-half mentioned in his agreement.” This seems not to have sat well with the students: on November 14 they lodged a complaint against Jones. The Board concluded that his “conduct . . . has not been agreeable to his contract, and that it will be for the benefit of the College that the said Charles Jones be removed from the office of steward.” The students were left on their own to contract with the neighbors of the College for their meals. Several of them roomed in the attic of the President’s house (presumably on their best behavior); it is tempting to think they boarded there during the crisis and used some of the artifacts excavated from the President’s kitchen, now in the Museum.

From about this time we have our only surviving record of what students ate between meals: the account books of Peyton Randolph for 1798 reveal purchases of ginger cake, “plumbs,” and “pignuts” (peanuts).

By 1804 the price of board was raised to £24; Moses Tredway was the steward—and apparently an acceptable one, since he was asked to return for the following session and did not resign until 1813. In 1806 the Board suggested building a “new dining room” should funds become available; apparently they did not, for no further mention is made of the project.

In 1816 board was set at “\$10 per month until further notice.” In 1817 (July 28) there is a hint of rebellion: Edward Dillon was suspended for “having entered into a combination with seven other students to resist the authority of the teachers by leaving the dining room during a meal contrary to an order of the teachers.” Was this a walk-out over the quality of the food? The other seven made their amends to the President, but Dillon persisted that he was right—“justified his conduct”—and suffered for his principles.

Col. Armistead Burwell was elected steward in 1821. Shortly thereafter (March 18, 1822) a committee was appointed to see what could be done about fixing up the steward’s house and enlarging the dining room; they reported to the Board that it would be cheaper to start over and build a new “brick house two stories high 60x22 feet in the clear for a kitchen and dining room.” This new house, later called the Alamo, became part of Jonathan Cushing’s grand scheme to renew Hampden-Sydney, the centerpiece of which is the New College, now Cushing Hall.

The first fifty years were hard ones for Hampden-Sydney, and the trying nature of the times showed up in the state of eating at the College. With the resurrection under Jonathan Cushing came a new spirit of liveliness which makes the culinary history of the place livelier too; we will look back on that gentler time in a future issue of the *Museum Newsletter*.

## Visual Arts Show 2016

The Visual Arts Student Show hung at the Atkinson Museum from April 28 until Commencement, May 8.

Senior thesis work formed a large part of the show, with collections of individual works creating a series of related images. Five seniors presented thesis work, ranging from relatively standard media like photography and oils to more esoteric art made with wax resist and rust.

Professor of Fine Arts Pam Fox, who assigned her Photography II students to work with primitive pinhole cameras, said that trying to

take pictures with such simple tools “encourages photographers to work intuitively,” and results in images with a “lovely vignette at the edges of the frame.” Later her students worked in more formal ways, using calculations and hand-held light meters, “carefully placing objects in the set and adjusting lighting.”

Barger Professor of Fine Arts David Lewis presented work by his Portraiture class. He said the students “studied cranial anatomy and [completed] drawings of various sitters in profile, head-on, and three-quarter poses.” The students

then proceeded to paint large self-portraits in oil, based on photographs and using special techniques of applying glazes of color over underpainting. Lighter areas were worked into the glazes while wet.

The show was viewed by over 100 people on graduation Sunday. The Visual Arts Show, a College tradition at the Museum, is always successful, thanks to the efforts of the professors and students, who not only produce the art, but arrange and hang the entire show.



Winner of the Visual Arts Student Show McClintock Award was senior Jacob Bowen, pictured here with Dr. Richard McClintock. Jacob’s work featured designs made by creating rust stains on cloth with scraps of old metal.



Joy Utzinger with Matthew Mood, discussing their student portrait paintings in the exhibit.



Winner of the Bortz Library Purchase Award was senior Logan Moore, who composed subtly-colored photographs depicting the intersection of technology and daily life.

## A Treasured Gift

Rev. Dr. Robert Bluford, Jr.

The following narrative is designed to assist those who gaze upon two literary volumes contained in the collection of memorabilia housed in the Atkinson Museum. Unavoidably the writer of this story makes frequent reference to himself, running the risk of distracting from one of Hampden-Sydney's professors who in the mind of a host of alumni earned and maintained the status of legendary—Dr. James Buckner Massey, teacher of Bible, affectionately known as “Snapper.” True stories about this man, his classroom expectations, his teaching methods, his humor, his seriousness, his faith, and his dedication could fill a book. Trusting that these words will convey respect for and appreciation of one of Hampden-Sydney's “greats,” I proceed.

I entered the College as a twenty-two-year-old freshman in September 1941 and at the time was older than anyone else in the senior class. Bible was a required course for all students; I soon learned from upperclassmen that there was no foolishness tolerated by Dr. Massey, particularly regarding his requirements having to do with course assignments, especially the ability to recite his “Memory Work.” The memory work was several eight-and-one-half by eleven-inch pages of Biblical passages from the Old and New Testaments. One other non-scriptural quotation that all students were required to know and recite reveals Dr. Massey's own personal faith. Written in the front of his classroom were the words of William Lyon Phelps, “He who knows the Bible and nothing else is better educated than he who knows everything else but does not know the Bible.”

World War II broke out three months following my entrance into Hampden-Sydney and I, along with many students, left school, volunteering for service to the nation. Two months after the Japanese surrender, I returned to the College on November 1, 1945. From then until February 1946, there were only twenty-five students on campus. Several of us who had left

for the duration of the war returned with wives and children, I among them.

Dr. Massey offered me work as an assistant. My frequent contact with him sometimes took the form of being his driver when he wished to venture into Cumberland County to buy buttermilk from a dairy. As I was no longer one of his students, I was able to relate to Dr. Massey in a much different way—that of being a younger friend who had chosen the ministry for his life's work, as he had. Many were the times when he and I took an afternoon walk on Rt. 15 to and from Worsham, Prince Edward's original county seat, providing good time for candid conversation.

In the course of completing my academic work, and now my family responsibilities, I had several campus jobs to make money to help meet my obligations. Jobs picking up trash on the college grounds, working as a part time clerk in Dean Wilson's office, and a variety of tasks in the old library that had been restored following the disastrous fire of 1941, and the work with Dr. Massey described above. One of the books, in addition to the Bible that was always on his desk, was entitled *A Harmony of the Gospels for Students of the Life of Christ* by A.T. Robertson. I noted one day that this book was falling apart, so I took it to the library and did some repair. Signs of my amateur effort at repair and printing on the cover clearly remain.

Several years passed following my graduation from Hampden-Sydney in 1947. Upon completing my seminary education at Union Seminary in Richmond in 1950, I became campus minister at Virginia Tech, followed by service as pastor of Western Boulevard Presbyterian Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. In the early 1950s I visited the College frequently in the course of creating and organizing the Parents and Friends of Hampden-Sydney. During one of those visits, I was a guest in the home of President Edgar Gammon. He asked me to consider joining the faculty, posing for me one of the great decisions of my life—whether to follow the calling to the ministry or to teach religion at the College I love. I discussed this with my friend,

Dr. Massey. One of his comments has remained with me since. “Bluford,” he said, “I have taught and helped about 4,000 students come to know Jesus better since I have been at Hampden-Sydney. I hope you will consider it.” I struggled for weeks over Dr. Gammon's invitation, but could not bring myself to leave the pastorate. I mention this because it indicates the love and dedication of one of Hampden-Sydney's “greats,” dear old “Snapper.”

On January 31, 1952, we were stunned by the news of Dr. Massey's sudden death and mourned his loss. Some weeks later I was on the College campus and went by the home of Dr. Massey to express my sorrow to Mrs. Massey. Before I left she told me she had something to give me. To my near disbelief she handed me Dr. Massey's classroom Bible and *Harmony of the Gospels*, saying she thought Dr. Massey would want me to have them. These treasured items have been in my possession for nearly sixty-five years, and now in 2016 when in my ninety-seventh year, I feel the Esther Thomas Atkinson Museum is the place they should permanently remain. God bless the College that introduced me to James Buckner “Snapper” Massey.



Dr. James Buckner “Snapper” Massey

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