

in 1846, Viney became his personal servant as well, sometimes carrying the president in his arms, giving him massages, and—following his recovery—accompanying him on trips to New York.

With passage of the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, Viney was no longer safe in Schenectady. Nott dispatched his grandson, Clarkson N. Potter, to Maryland to inquire about the cost of buying Moses's freedom, rather than pay the \$1,900 demanded, however, Nott sent Viney to Canada. Moses returned to Nott's employ about April 1855 and in July of that year Nott purchased his freedom at the reduced price of \$120. Living with his wife, Diana, in a small house behind the present site of Silliman Hall, Viney then remained with Nott, in what was by all accounts a close and trusting relationship, until the latter's death in 1866. Nott bequeathed one thousand dollars to Viney.

The Vineys moved out of their house the following year, but Moses remained a servant to URANIA NOTT until her death in 1886. Purchasing from her estate the horse and three-wheeled carriage he had so long driven, Viney then set up a livery service in Schenectady; because he charged less than the flat rate of one dollar per ride then standard, he flourished until his retirement in 1901.

At the request of Mrs. Raymond and to the pleasure of returning alumni, Viney was made a part of Commencement week, serving annually as doorman at the president's reception until a year before his death at ninety-two.

During his later life and for several decades after his death, "Moses" ranked very high among objects of alumni sentimentality. The frequent accounts in College publications of his mutually satisfactory relations with Union, though apparently true, are faintly self-congratulatory, and compel one to record an unsurprising but discomfiting fact they omit: this man, whose character, intelligence and initiative would virtually have ensured his prosperity had he been white, worked for Dr. Nott for ten dollars a month.

VITA. Founded as "Volunteers for International Technical Assistance," but later known by its acronym, VITA is an organization of scientists, engineers and others who volunteer time and professional expertise to address technical problems in developing nations and (since 1969) in impoverished parts of the United States. From its origin in Schenectady in 1959 until it moved to Washington in 1973, the organization had many connections with the College.

First proposed in discussions of the technical consultation committee of the Mohawk Association of Scientists and Engineers in April 1959, VITA was incorporated as a separate organization on June 24, 1960. The founder, General Electric physicist Robert M. Walker '50, was succeeded as president (1965–72) by his Union classmate, Beno Sternlicht '50. The orig-

inal board consisted of professor Walter Lowen and public relations director Rowan Wakefield, both from Union, and GE scientist Robert G. Luce; many other Union faculty members and administrators later served on an expanded board.

Lowen's office in Union's mechanical engineering department was VITA's first address, succeeded by a series of offices in Schenectady. In 1965, grown to thirteen hundred volunteers, the organization hired its first permanent professional staff. Returning to the campus in 1967, VITA occupied the former MODERN LANGUAGE BUILDING, moving in 1970 to the former county library (WEBSTER HOUSE), recently purchased by the College. By then its volunteers had increased to six thousand from seventy-five countries.

VITA's best-known publication was the *Village technology handbook* (1963; rev. ed. 1970), which gave instructions for solving village-level technical problems in relatively primitive conditions. A Village Technology Center in the headquarters built and tested such proposed devices as pumps and solar-powered ovens. VITA long served, under grants from the U.S. Agency for International Development, as technical consultants to the Peace Corps, but it responded to requests for help from many other quarters and set up counterpart organizations in other countries.

In 1967 VITA absorbed DATA International Assistance Corps of Palo Alto, California. In March 1973 it moved its headquarters to the Washington, D.C. area to be closer to agencies and embassies with which it worked; it subsequently altered its name to Volunteers in Technical Assistance.

As part of the Comprehensive Education curriculum, physics professor Kenneth Schick created a course in 1968 ("VITA and the Developing Countries") which put Union students to work on VITA projects.

Voz de Union (La). In 1924 the Spanish Club (see STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS), under faculty advisor Angel Flores, published the first of seven issues of *La Voz de Union*, said to be the first Spanish literary magazine in a United States college. The contributions came from both inside and outside Union College; during the first year about half were in Spanish. The two issues of the second and final year, following Flores's departure, were entirely in Spanish.

Waddell, William Alfred (Feb. 5, 1862–Feb. 22, 1939). Class of 1882. Registrar. College president.

Born in Bethel, New York, Waddell graduated from Union as salutatorian with two BA's (classical and scientific courses) and a Civil Engineering degree, and worked briefly as an engineer with the New York State Geodetic Survey before enrolling at Princeton Theological Seminary. After graduating there in 1884, he returned to Union as registrar for the 1885/86 year, then became pastor of the Presbyterian Church of San

Pedro, California. In 1890, he left that position to become a missionary in Brazil.

From 1891 to 1898 he was occupied as dean in organizing Mackenzie College in Sao Paulo, a non-sectarian engineering college founded by Presbyterian missionaries. He later said that he had modeled it as much as possible on Union College. In 1898 he turned Mackenzie over to a colleague, took a furlough, and then spent the next fourteen years organizing churches and schools in Bahia and elsewhere in the interior of Brazil; he reckoned that in 1906 alone he rode 4,000 miles on horseback. In 1914 he returned to Mackenzie as president; the college had fallen on hard times as a result of the death of its first president and the Brazilian revolution and depression. He remained there until his retirement in 1927, after which he spent five years organizing and developing Jose Manuel Conceico College, a junior college in Jandyra.

Mackenzie College was anomalous both in being a Protestant college in a Catholic country and in having close ties with the United States. After a long struggle, the college was recognized by the Brazilian Congress, and eventually it was also recognized by the New York State Board of Regents as an independent college of the University of the State of New York. GEORGE ALEXANDER, president of Union's Board of Trustees, was for a time also president of Mackenzie's board; former Union president CHARLES ALEXANDER RICHMOND was also a member of the board.

Waddell once described himself as "a soldier of world-wide democracy." He saw "justifying American methods of higher education to Latin Americans" as part of his mission, and it was largely through his influence that Union enrolled many Brazilian students at that time. Around 1916 he set up a formal arrangement with Union whereby selected Mackenzie students could enter Union with full credit. Several early twentieth-century Mackenzie faculty members were Brazilians who had attended Union, as were Francisco de Salles Oliveira '15, Dean of Mackenzie's School of Engineering, and Antonio Luiz Ippolita '21, Dean of the University.

Union awarded Waddell an honorary PhD in 1894, and an honorary DD in 1910. Mackenzie College became Mackenzie University in 1952; it still exists as a large, private university.

Wainger, Bertrand Max (Feb. 1, 1902–Sept. 11, 1978). Professor of English, 1927–49; Professor of American Civilization, 1949–67.

Born in Vilna, Poland, Max Wainger (he used his first name only when writing) emigrated with his parents as a child and usually listed Barnesboro, Pennsylvania as his place of birth. He earned an AB and election to Phi Beta Kappa from Cornell after three years of study (1924), and an AM the next year. When he had taught English for two years at the University

of Missouri (1925–27), English department chairman EDWARD EVERETT HALE brought him to Union. He earned a PhD from Cornell in 1934 with work in eighteenth-century New England literature.

Although he remained a member of the English department, Wainger's interests so broadly covered American literature, history, politics, and economics that the College changed his title in 1949 to Professor of American Civilization. For many years, with several colleagues, he team-taught a senior course in American Civilization, required of all engineering majors. Initial vexation changed in most cases to enthusiasm as the students were challenged to discuss and integrate the great documents of American political philosophy.

Wainger's strong belief in interdisciplinary education was reflected in a semi-humorous piece he wrote for the *Concordensis* in 1932: in his version of an ideal college, he claimed, he might permit the curriculum to be divided "into schools, shoals, departments, phalanxes, or in any other way; but such division must never be mentioned before students on pain of death, for fear that they may get the ridiculous notion that the field of knowledge is divisible into insulated compartments."

Beyond his classroom duties, he actively pursued a career of editing and writing. As New York State director (1936–40) of the Depression-era Federal Writers' Project, he supervised more than two hundred writers who distilled some eight million words, produced by six thousand field workers, into a text of three hundred and fifty thousand words. The result, *New York: a guide to the Empire State*, was published in 1940 under the auspices of the New York State Historical Association. The book was sharply criticized by organizations on the far right, one of which charged that it had "a decidedly pinkish tinge" because public welfare legislation had been extensively described, along with detailed coverage of the career of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Wainger responded that his writers had merely told the historical truth; he also said that the book's greatest contribution had been its discoveries in the fields of folklore and native legend and culture.

Wainger wrote two well-known junior high school textbooks: *Exploring New York State* (co-authored with Edith Brooks Oagley, 1942) and *The American adventure* (1955). The former was especially successful, going through several editions and being widely adopted throughout the state as a standard text.

He was probably the second Jew on Union's faculty, following the brief service of physics instructor Samuel Robinson (1920–24). A small, active man (five feet, three inches, 135 lbs in 1935), he regularly won the faculty handball tournament in those years.

An ardent Democrat, he worked actively in the presidential campaigns of Alfred E. Smith (1928) and Franklin D. Roosevelt (1932), as well as in many later state and regional campaigns. With two other faculty

members and a dozen students, he was a founder of the Liberal Club in 1932. For many years, despite the stammer that sometimes afflicted him, his speeches were a feature of the party's annual Jefferson Day dinners in Schenectady County.

In 1930 Wainger married Elsa Benedikt in Berlin; a gynecologist and pediatrician, she conducted a medical practice from their home at 68 Union Avenue. They had two children. The marriage was dissolved about 1963, and Wainger's subsequent marriage to Anna Riley also ended in divorce.

In November 1951 he suffered a severe heart attack which effectively concluded his academic career; his status at Union became Research Professor in 1953 and he moved to the New York City area, where he worked for McGraw Hill as a part-time editor of social science textbooks from 1955 until 1967, spending the winters in the south. He retired to Arizona and died in San Diego, California.

One of Wainger's students, Robert Barat Keane '50, remembered his teaching:

He bubbled with energy, bouncing across the front of the room, scribbling furiously and almost indecipherably on the board, chuckling as he read his favorite passages aloud, joyously responding to a student's novel phrase or interpretation.... He never disparaged the inadequacies of students who found syntax a struggle or Emerson a bore. Nor was he unkind to those whose limping gait betrayed an attempt to mix athletics with academics; he could often be seen on the sidelines at twilight as football practice went on and on.... It was his way, not only to see but also to embrace the world, awed by its foibles and amused by its blunders, to marvel at its achievements, and to rejoice at the efforts of those who tried. That was the gift, the main talent of this genial and sharply intellectual man.... It's what made him so good at what he was: a teacher.

—Vincent C. De Baun

Waldron, Charles Newman (Aug. 25, 1883–Jan. 25, 1975). Class of 1906. Secretary of the Graduate Council (1910–46); part-time professor of history (1912–33); editor of the *Union Alumni Monthly* (1913–39); acting Dean of Students, 1925/26; director of admissions (1932–41); Secretary of the College (1933–42); alumnus trustee (1950–54).

Born in Detroit, the elder of the two children of William Augustus Waldron '79, a grain merchant, and Lydia Gail King Waldron, "Charlie" Waldron grew up with family stories, photographs and songs of Union College. His grandfather, the Rev. Charles Newman Waldron '46, his uncle, Henry A. Waldron '74, and his father were all alumni. Charlie had fixed his affections on the institution long before he first saw it in 1900, and by the time he enrolled in 1902, his enthusiasm was so contagious that four of his friends from Detroit entered Union the next year.

As an undergraduate, Waldron was already hindered by the poor eyesight that would plague him all his life; he became entirely blind in the mid-1930s.

Compelled by his dependence on readers to take a reduced schedule, he graduated, a year late, with the Class of 1907 (though he considered himself a member of the Class of 1906, and served all his life as class secretary). Somehow he earned a BS while avoiding most of the required science courses and taking all the history and English courses available.

"Undergraduate life was all that I had anticipated," he later wrote, "and I loved every minute of it." His extra-curricular pursuits included service as captain of the track team and president of the Christian Association, as well as membership on the Student Council and the debating team. Always a social man, Waldron was one of the founders of the TERRACE COUNCIL and a member of the freshman Tiger's Eye Society and ALPHA DELTA PHI. As a senior, he won the DAGGETT PRIZE for "conduct and character."

After graduating in 1907, Waldron made a very brief foray into the commercial world, probably to please his father; then, through the intercession of ANDREW VAN VRANKEN RAYMOND, who had just left Union's presidency to become pastor of a Buffalo church, he landed a teaching job at the Nichols Country Day School in that city. Three years later, President CHARLES ALEXANDER RICHMOND brought him back to Union as the first secretary of the Graduate Council. Waldron was so glad to return to the College that he took a substantial salary cut.

Alumni Work. The first president in thirty-eight years who was not an alumnus of the College, Richmond frequently looked for inspiration to his alma mater, Princeton University. He quickly saw that Union needed a much stronger ALUMNI ORGANIZATION, and determined to create one on the Princeton model. Thus was born the Graduate Council (since 1952 called the Alumni Council) and the position of secretary (after 1946, Director of Alumni Relations.)

When the president sent Waldron to talk with Princeton's alumni secretary, that gentleman warned that the job's most important requirement would be a strong stomach for liquor and banquets. Then he reported to Richmond that the new appointee would never do as Union's alumni secretary.

The mistake was understandable. Though Waldron had a marked talent for friendship and a contagious enthusiasm for the College, and was nearly always cheerful, he was never the kind of hearty hail-fellow-well-met that alumni work was often thought to require. Lanky, puffy-cheeked and wearing thick glasses, he did not even look the part, although he smoked a pipe. Rather, his great success in the job stemmed from his manifest sincerity and from the fact that people trusted him because he rarely allowed his great love for the College to subvert his critical intelligence.

Tireless in his attempts to sustain and reform student traditions, a faithful supporter of Union's athletics

(for many years he not only attended games but watched practice sessions almost daily), he could be as sentimental as the most nostalgia-besotted old grad; yet he always insisted that such concerns were less important than the College's academic work, and he never believed that the academic work was as good as it ought to be. Thus both the alumni who had put childish things away permanently, and those who welcomed an excuse to get them out again, respected and eventually revered Charlie Waldron.

He earned his unique place in Union's history by setting a nearly perfect example, in the highly visible roles of alumni secretary and editor of the *Union Alumni Monthly*, of the kind of devotion the College so badly needed in those decades—a devotion always yoked to integrity and intelligence. Affection for the Union of his student days occasionally led him, in later years, to take positions that exasperated other administrators and trustees, and that now seem unsupported, but it is noteworthy that he sometimes reconsidered those positions and always insisted that, on the whole, the College had made great progress since he had first known it.

The task before the new alumni secretary was not only to build an effective alumni organization, but to regenerate the loyalty of graduates who had long despaired of the College's future. The majority of living alumni had watched the institution floundering, sometimes wracked by dissension, between the death of Eliphalet Nott in 1866 and the arrival of A.V.V. Raymond in 1894. The most tangible indicator of alumni morale, the level of their financial contributions and bequests, suggested that Union lagged well behind other old Eastern colleges in alumni support.

Waldron began by creating a modern office, with card files for all known alumni and folders to hold correspondence and other collected material. The heart of his work, however, lay in forming personal relationships with hundreds of alumni and building a strong Graduate Council. Reflecting the force of his character, his voluminous correspondence was simple, direct, and personal, with nothing stilted or bureaucratic. Even before his deteriorating vision forced him to dictate all his letters, they had an appealing conversational quality.

Although Waldron understood that ultimately the alumni association's most important function was to raise money for the College—he started the annual fund in 1912—he always stressed the other useful roles alumni could play, such as encouraging applicants, employing graduates, and generally promoting the institution's reputation. He insisted that no one should be asked for money at alumni social gatherings. The role of the alumni office, he frequently had to insist near the end of his tenure, was to cultivate good relations with alumni; fund-raising should be handled by

a separate office, reporting directly to the president or to the Board of Trustees.

The *Union Alumni Monthly*. Richmond and Waldron knew the College needed an alumni magazine, but the *Union University Quarterly*, edited by classics professor JOHN IRA BENNETT, had died in 1908 for lack of support. One of Waldron's first acts as graduate secretary was to persuade the *CONCORDIENSIS* editors to give him space for a weekly column of alumni news. In the first issue he appealed to alumni to help him "get out such a page that there will be a demand for a whole alumni magazine in 1911."

The *Union Alumni Monthly* was indeed launched, under Bennett's editorship and with Waldron's assistance, in the fall of 1911. Waldron took over in 1914 and edited the magazine until 1939. (A full description of the journal Bennett and Waldron created will be found in the article on ALUMNI MAGAZINES.)

Many of the *Monthly's* features, ranging from frank obituaries to the full text of addresses on education, indirectly reflected Waldron's view of the proper relation of the College to its graduates, but his editorial comments made it apparent that he saw himself as, in some ways, independent of both parties. He manifested this stance even before the *Monthly* was launched, explaining in his 1910 *Concordiensis* column that the Rochester Alumni Association had become inactive several years earlier "because of the failure of the college to follow up their suggestions." He became quite adept at slipping profoundly critical matter-of-fact statements into the *Monthly*:

[Richmond's successor] will have to face immediately this situation, for the College in the last few years has moved steadily towards an expansion involving cheapening of instruction and loss of some of the finest qualities that characterized our past. Such a course is the line of least resistance always difficult to avoid. The road we would see the College follow is a hard one and is at variance with this machine-made age of ours in which quantity production, the lure of numbers, and high visibility, are the modern measures of success. (1928)

Sometimes he spoke even more directly as an advocate. In the May 1921 *Monthly*, after reporting on a resolution of the national Interfraternity Council that would have the effect of requiring Union's IFC to admit to membership the two chapters of Jewish fraternities on campus, he wrote:

It seems to us a mockery that Union, the first of American colleges to stand for religious liberty, should not have taken such action long ago. It is a duty we owe to those who have established our most cherished traditions....

He felt equally free to criticize the alumni, writing in the 1915 President's Midwinter Report:

Union alumni as a whole gave the college little support at the very time she most needed such support. Legacies have been with us an unusual event. Large contributions on the

part of rich alumni and small contributions from the bulk of the alumni have been equally infrequent, and enthusiasm for the college, or even pride in its distinguished history were not characteristic qualities among Union graduates, while the reverse was true in the case of those Eastern colleges which we think of as most successful today.

He was valuable to Union as an ambassador to alumni who felt alienated by the changes in the College and by the implicit attitude of the administration that the institution they remembered fondly had been an inferior place. He himself had been a student when standards were lower, Waldron would say—though not as low as those prevailing in his ancestors' day—and while some things of value had been lost, the changes were on the whole necessary and good. He was effective because his voice was independent.

The faculty was not exempt from his strictures:

We feel that teachers often have little knowledge or sympathy for the kind of lives a great majority of their students are to live and, as a result, fail to make any vital connection with them. . . . We must get away in our undergraduate teaching from the graduate school viewpoint which too often makes of scholarship for its own sake a beginning and an end . . . [but] we hope none of our readers have gotten the idea that we stand for what is commonly called "practical education," meaning by that the teaching of subjects to which a student can attach a dollar sign. We do not value highly such education . . . We think a better college is possible and will come into being as the *teaching* profession grows stronger. (1923)

When boys take the trouble to revolt against what they consider inefficient or barren teaching, the College should be thankful. (1932)

Nor did he spare himself, in post-Commencement musings on how he might have done a better job as a part-time professor in the history department:

This is the period when we wish that long ago we had given up our job as third assistant janitor to the whole college, and become a real teacher. (1927)

Waldron's continuing critique of the College was of course only a small part of his output; he devoted far more space to praise and to objective news, and was never in danger of becoming a common scold. But to him, criticism was an inevitable concomitant of his love for the College and an integral part of his duty as editor. He prefaced a 1923 article on the recent high rate of student failures (which he blamed in part on the low quality of instruction consequent on low salaries) with a claim some readers must have found remarkable in that context: "We confess we love Union so much that we would be unwilling to print anything we believed to be a serious reflection on her."

When he complained in 1935 that the MOHAWK DRAMA FESTIVAL, a favorite project of President Fox's, had dragged the College into the depravity of modern publicity, he precipitated a crisis:

Our only criticism [of the first season of the Mohawk Drama Festival] has to do with what we believe a necessary element in the entertainment business. We refer, of course, to publicity. Commercial entertainment apparently must float on extravagant ballyhoo. The "builder-up" is inflating everybody and everything related to the enterprise, without regard to critical standards. We distrust this and should regret to see the name of Union College associated in the public mind with this sort of thing.

That was too much for trustee WALTER BAKER, who wrote to Fox, "I am sick over Charlie's outbreak in the *Monthly*." Baker had remonstrated with Waldron in the past about various issues, and now he, FRANK BAILEY, and board chairman HIRAM TODD held a special meeting to decide what should be done. They apparently settled for further remonstrance administered by Todd. A year-and-a-half later, Waldron editorially defended his alleged indiscretions:

All colleges have their weaknesses, and we have felt for many years that Union is strong enough to warrant admitting publicly her own. We have been criticized for doing this but have been encouraged by [Cromwell's "warts and all" injunction]. The deeper justification in our mind is the fact that a college deals with the most precious of all material—the lives of young people. No partisan loyalty justifies an educator in misrepresentation nor even in hiding important weaknesses from those who plan to enter his institution. In fact, we have found that frankness wins respect.

On the last point, he was certainly correct; the respect he had earned from alumni both stemmed from his independence and protected it. But few would now agree that everything he saw as a weakness in the College deserved that label. He continued in conversation, in meetings, in his warm and extensive decades-long personal correspondence with Bailey, Baker and Todd, and in the *Monthly*, to sound certain favorite themes until Fox and Baker, who simply did not always agree with him, began to find him tiresome. Enrollment, he insisted too often, should be rolled back to six hundred, the ideal size for a college, and at least a quarter of Union's faculty should be made up of its own graduates. ("They are needed very much as yeast is in bread, and the college has suffered very definitely for lack of this leaven of devotion.")

Although he had been instrumental in bringing Fox to Union, Waldron continued to deplore, both privately and publicly, Fox's penchant for involving the College in "side-shows," as Waldron called the drama festival, radio broadcasts, and other initiatives intended to make Union better known. He frequently complained of the public relations director's work ("a college, like a gentleman, should practice restraint in speaking of itself"). Fox should spend more time on the campus, Waldron thought (he had made the same complaint of presidents Richmond and Day), and the College should devote virtually all its resources to educating undergraduates.

Nevertheless, Waldron and Fox, whose offices were across the hall from each other, enjoyed generally good relations, and Waldron was always glad that he had made a point, shortly before Fox's sudden death in 1945, of telling the president what a good job he thought he was doing. The chapter on Fox in Waldron's memoirs presents a shrewd, even-handed appraisal.

Other Positions. At various times, Waldron served Union in several other capacities. He taught courses in American history from 1912 until becoming SECRETARY OF THE COLLEGE in 1932. Little is known of Waldron as a teacher, but his First World War talks to ROTC cadets, emphasizing that America had historically won wars in the same way that other nations did, and not through some "mystic property," suggest that in the classroom, as in the *Monthly*, he was prone to surprise his audience with realism.

Although the Secretary of the College had charge of admissions, the post was considered part-time, and Waldron held it for nine years in addition to his work as Graduate Secretary. The admissions position gave him more ability to affect the nature of the College, but it is impossible to say what practical effect this had; during those Depression years, colleges generally had little latitude in trying to fill their classes. He did make greater use of alumni in recruiting than had his predecessor.

Waldron, who always preferred alumni work, asked the trustees in the fall of 1937 to relieve him of the Secretaryship and admissions work, but the board was apparently unwilling to incur the added salary expense this change would entail. He shed one of his burdens in 1939 by turning the editorship of the *Monthly* over to professor DANIEL WEEKS '28.

By 1940, however, Frank Bailey and other trustees evidently began to feel that Waldron was not doing enough to fill Union's classes. In response to Bailey's concern that an admissions shortfall caused an income shortfall, he defended the College's quota on Jewish students (about ten percent). The only qualified students he was now rejecting, he wrote Bailey, were "Jewish applicants we have over the quota."

Taking boys who are not prepared to do our work, and also—taking in an unlimited number of Jewish students... would damage us seriously.... It very definitely lowers the respect the undergraduates have for the College. It affects school principals and teachers in the same way and keeps them from recommending us to their good students. Also, it weakens the alumni body.

Although Waldron probably did not intend to attribute these consequences equally to accepting unqualified applicants and to accepting more Jewish applicants, his position is plainly an instance where his love for the relatively homogeneous College of his student days clouded his judgment.

A Jewish quota (nearly ubiquitous in Eastern private colleges) probably preceded Waldron's service in admissions, and certainly outlasted it by about a quarter-century. Waldron stated that he would waive the quota if the president told him to, but Fox had also defended the practice. (It should be noted that Waldron, alone among Union's administrators in his time, publicly criticized inequitable treatment of Jewish students who were admitted.)

Though they supported the admissions criteria Waldron was using, Bailey, Baker, Todd and Fox decided that a change was necessary. In early 1941 they made Waldron's graduate secretaryship a full-time position, replacing him in admissions with a full-time director. He relinquished the now-separate position of Secretary of the College in 1942.

Waldron also served during the academic year 1925/26 as acting dean of students, filling in for CHARLES GARIS, who was recuperating from a nervous breakdown. When the placement service was started in 1935, Waldron was initially in charge of it.

Waldron's role in the College was not limited by the titles he held. It is hard now to imagine a director of alumni relations or of admissions influencing student affairs, but Waldron, who was more certain than anyone else of what constituted a healthy state of student morale and more convinced of its importance, found ways to do so. Counseling the president and dealing directly with student leaders, he labored to keep the good traditions alive and reform the vicious ones.

During the FIRST WORLD WAR, he feared that if Union continued too long under a military regime the continuity of College traditions would be irreparably broken. Two weeks after the Armistice, he organized a chapel meeting at which he spoke on Union's traditions.

He played an active role in, and probably instigated, TRADITION NIGHT (1922–28). After the traditional class fights died out in the 1930s, believing that they had promoted class solidarity and led to lasting friendships, Waldron summoned freshman and sophomore class officers to discuss ways of reviving the fights as less dangerous rivalries (see HAZING AND CLASS FIGHTS). In 1932 he was a founder of the student-faculty HALE CLUB.

Historian. Waldron's active interest in the College's history dated from his student days, when, as president of the Christian Association, he retrieved old portraits from the Silliman Hall attic and hung them on the first floor. As graduate secretary, he solicited many reminiscences from elderly alumni, publishing some of them, along with other historical articles, in the *Monthly*, and after he ceased to edit the magazine in 1939, he continued for five years to write a historical column entitled "'Twas Here the Old Alumni Sat." From 1943 to

1945, he also wrote a *Concordiensis* column entitled "Our Union Inheritance."

His alumni magazine column made frequent use of the then little-known diary of Jonathan Pearson '35 (see PEARSON DIARY). Waldron was the first (1928) to point out that the evidence disproved the hoary claim that Union's decline after the Civil War was caused by the loss of SOUTHERN STUDENTS; he had already aired, in a 1935 article for the *Journal of Engineering Education*, the heretical opinion that the fault was really Eliphalet Nott's:

Dr. Nott's great error was to keep all authority in his own hands and rely entirely on his own efforts. As he grew old, the college grew feeble and...he left Union in no condition to meet the competition which younger and better-organized institutions offered.

In a *Monthly* article in 1940, he broached the even more sensitive subject of Nott's fiscal chicanery and the results of the legislative investigation into it; this was probably the first time modern alumni had heard of the issue, and five years later Dixon Ryan Fox chose to ignore it in his short history of the College.

Although his blindness was an obstacle to historical research, Waldron's limited work—together with his memoir, discussed below—did much to set the stage for intellectually respectable historical writing about the College. Codman Hislop acknowledged the debt in his monumental biography of Eliphalet Nott:

There is one man, beyond all others, to whom this book owes its origin: Charles Newman Waldron.... He taught me to seek out the life and drama which is also the history of this college, and, in doing so, he introduced me to a source of knowledge in the field of American studies which would enrich the curriculum of any college or university which would make use of its own institutional and regional records.

Retirement. About 1943, Waldron began to speak of his desire to retire when the Second World War ended, although he would not be sixty-five until 1948. "Even had I been able to see," he wrote in his memoirs, "I no longer had the energy required, especially as we were moving into times bound to be strenuous, and changes that would be painful to a man whose hopes for the College might well be outmoded." Indeed, he felt outmoded already, and doubtless judged that this war, unlike the previous one, had disrupted the College long enough to kill off all the traditions he prized so highly.

When the war ended during the acting presidency of BENJAMIN WHITAKER, Waldron was no longer certain that he should, or could afford to, retire entirely, and various alternatives were discussed. However, a place needed to be found for Waldron's former assistant, Frederick Wyatt '32, returning from service in the Navy; with the encouragement of trustees Bailey and Baker, incoming president CARTER DAVIDSON offered

Waldron a settlement involving the latter's complete resignation. On May 11, 1946, the eve of Davidson's inauguration, with some hurt feelings, Waldron submitted his resignation, effective July 1.

That action by no means ended his work for the College, however. In 1950 he was elected to a four-year term as alumnus trustee, where he distinguished himself as the only board member to object to Frank Bailey's "American Way" resolution (see ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND CIVIL LIBERTIES).

Between 1947 and 1951, with the encouragement of the Graduate Council, he wrote his memoirs, but when the committeemen read the manuscript they had second thoughts about publishing it. Although it presented a wonderfully evocative and on the whole, loving, picture of the College and some of its people in the first four decades of the century, and contained nothing as controversial as many of Waldron's editorial comments in the *Monthly* (for the most part, the author simply omitted to discuss the people of whom he disapproved), it was too frank for the committee.

In their decision not to publish, they were encouraged by Davidson, who was as blind to the value of candor in writing about the College as Waldron was clear-sighted. Davidson warned Baker that Waldron's private publication of the book "is going to be an embarrassing situation for all of us," but *The Union College I remember* has proved since its 1954 publication to be the most satisfying book ever written about the College. Just as young Waldron's enthusiasm for the College brought four of his Detroit schoolmates in his wake, his *envoi* strengthened the affection for alma mater of countless alumni. Reading it for the first time as an undergraduate, the editor of the present volume found its evocation of the past so vivid that he has rarely since been able to see exclusively the College of the moment.

Waldron continued well into old age corresponding with alumni, urging them to support the College, and receiving visitors at his Rensselaerville home. Carter Davidson's successor, President HAROLD C. MARTIN, who had a summer home in Rensselaerville, established warm relations with him.

Personal Life. In 1912 Waldron married his second cousin, the former Dorothy Waterman (1888–1987) of Albany; they had three children. Both of their sons, William Augustus Waldron '35 and T. Van Antwerp Waldron '36, graduated from Union, as have five members of the subsequent generation. William A. Waldron served as a trustee of the College, 1959–75.

The family occupied Eliphalet Nott's former house on the north end of South College from 1925 until 1944, when they moved to Niskayuna. In 1951 they purchased and moved to the Rensselaerville house they had long rented in the summer.

Waldron's vision problems began as progressive myopia, inherited from his mother; even with thick glasses, sustained reading was impossible, and he had to depend on student and other readers as his vision gradually worsened. After his marriage, his wife was his principal reader.

In the summer of 1930, cataract surgery on one eye resulted in much improved vision for a time, but Waldron then suffered a detached retina. Surgery to repair it in 1933 was unsuccessful. At about this time, glaucoma in the other eye left him essentially blind, a condition he faced with great fortitude.

He acquired Heidi, a German shepherd Seeing Eye dog, in 1937. Guide dogs were still uncommon, and Heidi attracted much attention from students and others. Robert P. Tristram Coffin was the best-known of four poets who wrote poems about her, and students and faculty members commissioned Alexander James to paint a portrait of Heidi and her master (1937) which hung for many years in the Hale House student lounge. Following her death in 1948, Heidi's ashes were buried in Hale House Close. Her successor, a boxer named Ginger, served Waldron until her death in 1958. After that, he did not use a guide dog.

Waldron was raised in the Dutch Reformed Church and served while a student as president of the Christian Association, but he later became an Episcopalian. Writing about Sundays on the campus in the December 1929 *Monthly*, he remarked: "The religious training of our youth we have never found sufficient to make church going a fixed habit, and there have been times when nothing but our contributions marked our support of that vital institution."

In politics, Waldron was a Democrat, possibly the only one in the administration in his time. He supported Al Smith in 1928, worked to secure a city manager government for Schenectady, and in 1935 ran an unsuccessful, but high-minded and intellectual, campaign for city councilman.

The College honored Waldron four times, bestowing honorary degrees in 1930 (MA) and 1934 (LHD), the first ALUMNI GOLD MEDAL (jointly with Frank Bailey) in 1935, and the FOUNDERS MEDAL, posthumously, in 1980.

Walls Tell a Story. President DIXON RYAN FOX was always eager to explore the educational and public relations potentials of radio. At his instigation, beginning January 29, 1942, and continuing for at least a year, Schenectady station WGY broadcast a series of weekly talks on historic buildings in the eastern United States, titled *Walls Tell a Story*.

The College arranged the talks in conjunction with the Albany chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and Fox introduced the speakers, several of whom were from the Union faculty: HAROLD LARRABEE (on RAMÉE and Union College), MORTIMER

SAYRE (on Squire Whipple), Harold Blodgett, FREDERICK BRONNER, Gordon Silber, Harold Sylvester, and WARREN TAYLOR. Giles Y. Van der Bogert spoke on Edward Tuckerman Potter '53. The Union's archives has copies of the scripts for many of the first fifty-two talks.

War Information Center. Union College's War Information Center was one of about one hundred established in the spring of 1942 under the auspices of the U.S. Office of Education. Chaired by Professor Gordon Silber and later by Professor HARRISON C. COFFIN, the center principally produced radio programs relating to the SECOND WORLD WAR: a fifteen-minute Sunday evening program on WSNY, roundtable discussions on the TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR, and a thirteen-week series in the summer of 1942, devoted to "The Post-War World."

War of 1812. Fifty Union alumni are known to have been in military service during the War of 1812. Serving in the American army and navy were one major, five captains, nine lieutenants, three quartermasters, three judge advocates, two sergeants, one adjutant, one orderly, six privates, four midshipmen, eight surgeons, and three chaplains. Two died in service: Capt. Ambrose Spencer Jr. '13 and Second Lt. Robert N. Yates '11.

Four alumni, descendants of Mohawk Valley Loyalists, served in the British army as lieutenants; one, Daniel T. Claus '11, a great grandson of Sir William Johnson, died of wounds received in the Battle of Chrysler's Farm.

Warner Prize. Established in December 1859 by Horatio Gates Warner '26, the Warner Prize has since been awarded annually to the senior who (in the original wording, since simplified) "shall reach the highest standing in the performance of collegiate duties, & also sustain the best character for moral rectitude & deportment, without regard to religious practice or profession." It has been limited to students in the Classical (later, AB) course.

Unlike most prizes, which were endowed with cash or securities, the Warner Prize was originally funded with the income from land in Watervliet.

Washburn Hall. Built in 1883 and razed in 1963, Washburn Hall, a distinctive semi-circular building centered where the library plaza now lies, saw more uses in its eighty years than any other major campus building. At various times it housed classrooms, administrative offices, faculty offices, student publications offices and radio studios, the library, the theatre, and the bookstore. Its basement contained an electrical engineering laboratory and the headquarters of the maintenance department.

Washburn Hall was built during the controversial administration of President ELIPHALET NOTT POTTER, to the designs of his half-brother, architect William Appleton Potter '64. The NOTT MEMORIAL, designed by a third brother, architect Edward Tuckerman Potter '53, had been more or less completed in 1877: though it housed the library, it had proved almost unusable owing to the difficulty of heating it in winter. The president had been severely criticized for the cost and uselessness of the building.

When a donor came forward to fund a new building, the Potter brothers, while continuing the campaign to complete the Ramée campus begun by their grandfather, ELIPHALET NOTT, had also a strong incentive to come up with something useful. Like the Nott Memorial, Washburn Hall mimicked buildings on the Ramée plan, but in a Victorian style entirely different from the French architect's. Washburn Hall was to be the centerpiece of a much larger complex of five Gothic buildings projected by W. A. Potter.

The first building at Union to be named for a donor, Washburn Hall was eventually named for three donors. It was first named for Thomas Henry Powers, a Philadelphian who, though not an alumnus, had given the College \$3,000 for a lecture series and promised much more. He died suddenly without making provision to carry out his intention, but his widow, Anna M. Powers, honored his wish by giving about \$45,000 more, in his name and that of his namesake, their son.

The Powers gift was augmented by donations from the parishioners of New York City's Calvary Episcopal Church in memory of their late priest, the Rev. Edward Abiel Washburn (April 16, 1819–Feb. 2, 1881). Washburn, a Harvard graduate, had only a tenuous connection with Union: in the 1870s, probably owing to an acquaintance with his fellow Episcopal clergyman, President Potter, Washburn gave occasional lectures at Union on Old English literature and on art.

The central section of the building was officially called Washburn Memorial Hall; the wings, the Powers Memorial Building. Most people soon abandoned this confusing distinction and called the whole structure first the Powers-Washburn Building, and later, simply Washburn Hall. It was also sometimes called "Memorial Hall." Though mindful of the scant justice done the honorable Mrs. Powers, we have used the most popular name, Washburn Hall, throughout this book.

A third donor's name was added in 1917 when the building's central section was remodeled as a hall (described below) and named for H. Melville Hanna '60.

Construction of Washburn Hall by the New York City firm of Frank Lyons Jr. began in 1881. The cornerstone was laid on Alumni Day of that year (though not, as had been hoped, by General Ulysses Grant), and the building was in use by January 1883, but the

library did not move into the center section until mid-1884.

Built of red brick with molded brick ornamentation, Washburn Hall bore some architectural carving done by James Whitehouse of New York City; one historian described them as "marvelous, fantastic carved balls which perch precariously above the peaks of the brick facades."

Though it was aesthetically incompatible with the Ramée buildings, most people found Washburn Hall a much easier building to like. The arcade in front of the rooms enabled one to be inside it and outside it at the same time, giving it an intimacy the other buildings lacked. After the Nott Memorial, it was the most memorable building on the campus; especially when ivy had climbed the walls, innumerable photographs were taken of classes and clubs on the steps at the ends of Washburn Hall, and of the campus through the arches.

In contrast to the recitation rooms in other buildings in 1883, those in Washburn Hall were large, well-ventilated, well-lighted and steam-heated. The building had many doors to the outside, however, and with the rise in standards of comfort, Washburn Hall came to be regarded as cold. In the winter of 1959 the dean of students had an orange fiberglass entryway constructed outside his office door; the *Concordiensis*, whose office doors were buffeted by the same wind, mocked it, and it was soon removed.

During the summer of 1907 the walls of every room were covered with burlap, an interior decorating innovation about which nothing further is recorded. More seriously, in the spring of 1923 a section of the roof on the south end collapsed, and workmen found that the roof beams had been laid with no fastening.

Occupants of Washburn Hall. Washburn Hall was originally used for the library, classrooms, and offices. The library occupied the central section for two decades until the Nott Memorial was made usable in 1903. The north section was used as a civil engineering drafting room, and the south end housed the president's office. Other classrooms and faculty offices filled the space between them.

Presidents Potter, Webster and Raymond used the Washburn Hall office, but President Richmond, who came in 1909, did not, and it was probably taken over at that time by the Secretary of the Faculty and/or the Graduate Council; both remained in Washburn Hall until the Administration Building opened in 1919.

The *Concordiensis* office was somewhere in Washburn Hall from at least 1912 until moving to Geological Hall by 1922. It moved to Washburn's south end in the fall of 1928, to the second floor of Silliman Hall five years later in 1933, and back to the south end of Washburn in 1943, remaining there until the building was razed.

Academic departments and individual professors came and went. CHARLES STEINMETZ had his office there even after completion of the first electrical engineering building in 1907. The history department was there in 1900, and classics occupied part of the central section until that was remodeled in 1917, and later returned to the north wing where it remained until moving to Bailey Hall in 1938. Economics had its offices there from 1927 until it moved to Bailey Hall in 1935. Philosophy was housed in the building for some years and moved to Bailey Hall in 1935. JOHN MARCH'S psychology classes, at least, were still there in 1939. BURGESS JOHNSON'S office was at the south end circa 1935-44.

Following a 1938 fire in the central and north section, the north end was rebuilt, and in the spring of 1939 much of that space was given to the BOOKSTORE, which had been in the Administration Building.

During the period of the Navy V-12 program in the Second World War, a naval issues store did business in the central section, and a snack-bar, called "the Scuttle-Butt," operated north of the central section from the fall of 1943. The gift of trustee John Vanneck, it remained until the summer of 1947, and a student activities office was then created in the space; from 1959 until the building was razed, the dean of students' office occupied the space.

After the war, Washburn Hall was entirely devoted to student activities and to the bookstore. Studios were fitted for the student radio station, shortly to become WRUC, in the spring of 1946. The short wave station was also there briefly, before moving to Dewey Hall. The student publications offices filled the south end.

Hanna Hall. The most urgent intended purpose of Washburn Hall was to house the library, and the central section was so used from the summer of 1884. It was an attractive long room, sixty-six by thirty-three feet, with large balconies north and south. The senior ball was held there in 1883 and 1884, and at one time there were plans to put the book stacks on rollers so that dances could continue to be held in the room. For the first decade, the library section of Washburn Hall was unheated, and librarian WENDELL LAMOROUX sometimes had to wear a shawl and keep his feet on a hot brick when working. As one of his first acts, President Raymond installed heat and electric lights in the library in the fall of 1894.

When the Nott Memorial was finally made usable, the library returned to that building in 1903, and the space it had occupied in Washburn Hall was divided into two stories, accommodating classrooms, laboratories and offices for the civil engineering department. That department moved out when the General Engineering Building opened in 1910, but others, including classics and the Press Club—"squatters," President Richmond called them—used the space until 1917.

In that year the central section was entirely remodeled through a \$10,000 gift from H. Melville Hanna '60. Guttled, it reverted to a single high-ceiling room, fitted with oak wainscoting, a teakwood floor, built-in benches along the walls, and a chandelier. The fireplace was restored and a kitchen and toilet were installed in an adjoining room to the north. Architect for the restoration was George B. Post & Sons, and the builder was the Amsterdam Construction Co., New York City.

Re-named Hanna Hall, the room was used for dances, banquets, entertainments and other social gatherings; on at least two occasions, President Richmond gave ballad and harp recitals there. It was considered much more suitable for receptions than the cramped Silliman Hall, and from 1923 to 1941 it was also used for art exhibits.

The Mountebanks had existed since 1911, but because the College had no theatre they had been forced to stage their plays in high schools and in downtown theatres, or make do with Alumni Gymnasium. In 1929, the club borrowed \$5,000 from the Board of Trustees to construct a theatre in Hanna Hall. They bought a prefabricated stage, did much of the work of erecting it themselves, and paid off the debt in a little over three years.

The Hanna Hall theatre was renovated and a new stage built in the summer of 1936. After suffering severe fire damage on November 27, 1938, the theatre served as a naval ships store during the Second World War, and was again completely renovated in 1949/50.

The Basement. From 1904 until the heating plant was built in 1906, a furnace in the basement heated not only Washburn Hall but also Philosophical Hall and North Colonnade. A tall chimney erected behind Washburn Hall in 1904 was pulled down in the spring of 1911 because it was believed dangerous.

The first use of the basement for other than incidental purposes seems to have been by the electrical engineering department. From about 1904-13, the Lightning Arrester Laboratory of General Electric was housed in the Washburn basement and supervised by Elmer Creighton. A basement fire in 1906 destroyed the 500 volt campus switchboard and the "thesis laboratory" of two senior electrical engineering majors. In 1913 another laboratory, "for graduate E.E. students," was installed in the basement, and in 1915 a campus electrical show was partly held in the basement of Washburn Hall. It may be that electrical engineering did not entirely leave until the new electrical engineering building was opened in 1930.

The "grounds crew" or maintenance department—the ancestor of the present Maintenance and Operations Department—had its headquarters in the basement by 1936, where it remained until the Campus Operations Center was opened in 1961.