

## Black History 1960s A Detailed Timeline

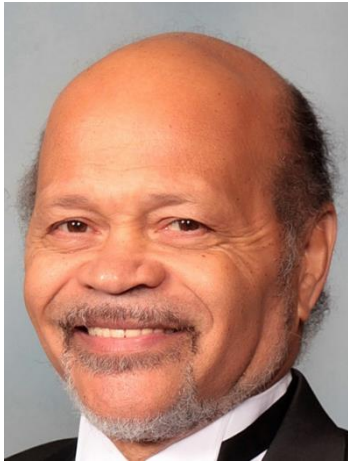
1960

President Paschall starts as president. He is a segregationist during desegregation. His prejudice inspires Karen Ely, Lynn Briley, and Janet Brown to stay enrolled.



1963

**Oscar Houser Blayton**, the son of the doctor who ran Williamsburg's single black clinic, Blayton Hospital, enrolls and attends classes for his freshmen and sophomore years, becoming William & Mary first black undergraduate. He is not allowed to live in on-campus housing. He is accepted on the same day that Governor George Wallace blocks the schoolhouse door to fight integration. Blayton receives no support during his time at W&M and transfers to UMD. He becomes a lawyer in desegregation cases.



In the spring, a "Statement of Interest" is circulated around campus and gathers around 800 signatures, stating that students "believe that admission to the College of William and Mary should be granted solely on the basis of academic excellence and personal character with no regard to the race, color, or creed of the applicant." President Paschall does not respond. (Bloom 9)

1964

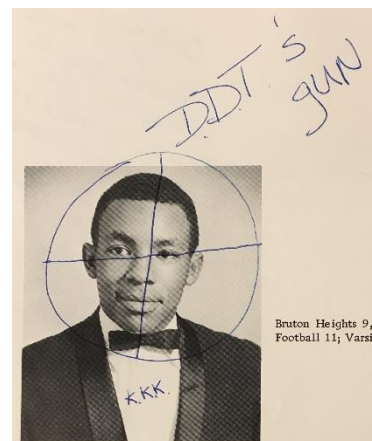
**Bernard Bailey** becomes the first Black transfer student.

1965

Students for Liberal Action (SLA) begins, which is William & Mary's less radical version of Students of a Democratic Society (SDS), which had chapters in a bunch of different institutions. They start out focused on civil rights but also extend to protesting the Vietnam War. (Hahamovitch 100)

1966

Integration starts in Williamsburg with African Americans moving from Bruton Heights (created in 1940) to James Blair High School and other white high schools. A James Blair yearbook in Swem Special Collections shows that the owner of the yearbook has drawn targets on almost every Black student in the senior class.



W&M is aware of what is happening. In a self-report, they

acknowledge that jobs are low-paying and based off of race. (Hahamovitch 26)



1967

**Karen Ely, Lynn Briley, and Janet Brown** arrive on campus and are William & Mary's first black female undergraduate students as well as its first black residential students. They are housed in the basement of Jefferson Hall. Reflecting on their experiences, they say that they are curious to see 'how the other half lived' [with one of them adding] 'I've been surprised at how little difference there is. I had expected a much more difficult transition from a completely segregated high school to a predominantly white college.'" Asked about what they didn't like, one of the women commented "I wish that people would feel freer about discussing race relations with us. They seem to shy away from the subject. Even some professors seem afraid of the word 'race'." (Bloom 26)



More about them here: <https://libraries.wm.edu/exhibits/brave-enough-be-first>,  
<https://lemonlab.wm.edu/exhibits/show/building-a-legacy>

Sam Sadler and other members of Admissions go to recruit African Americans from predominantly African American high schools with little success. Still, President Paschall brags that the school is fully integrated and against discrimination... even though there are no minority students. He even applauds that this is the first integrated institution in America, since the school started to admit Native Americans to the Brafferton School. "Paschall neglected to mention that many of those Native American students had been kidnapped by one local tribe from another, and then sold to the College."

(Hahamovitch 91)



William & Mary begins hiring young, liberal professors, but they are all still white professors. (Hahamovitch 105)

The Civil Rights and Anti-Vietnam movements pick up with students and professors organizing a "Free College at Williamsburg" open to the community. There are big teach-ins on the Sunken Gardens and demonstrations on campus with faculty and student participation. (Hahamovitch 106-107)

1968

**Warren Winston** becomes W&M's first African-American scholarship athlete, but he feels invisible on campus or like a



“curiosity” to those who actually acknowledge him.

5 black women enroll as freshmen. 3 drop out after the first semester. “At least one girl felt ‘burdened by a prejudice which was always present even if not always overt’.”

(<https://digitalarchive.wm.edu/handle/10288/4361>)

A Hampton Institute student proposes an exchange program between Hampton & William & Mary, which is supported by the Student Association. William & Mary is reluctant, hinting “that a degree from William and Mary might tend to be ‘cheapened’ by a formal bond with Hampton Institute.” Finally, after UVA already initiated a similar exchange with Hampton, William & Mary announces a list of courses offered at Hampton for W&M students. In the end, only two seniors attend classes at Hampton and no students from Hampton attend classes at William & Mary. The formal exchange program mostly dissolves, but once President Graves starts at William & Mary, one of his first acts as president is visiting Hampton Institute to explore ways of extending the exchange. (Bloom 22)

The assassination of Martin Luther King greatly changes campus. Notably, it leads to the Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund for “for a needy student ‘who gives promise of continuing the pursuit of racial justice in the spirit of Dr. King.’” It is almost solely funded by faculty and students. (Bloom 14-15)

1969-1970

“Course catalog includes the class ‘The Negro in the United States Since 1861.’”

1969

**Henry Tucker** becomes the first black student to pledge to a social fraternity, Theta Delta Chi.

(<https://digitalarchive.wm.edu/handle/10288/4506>)

On April 7, a black janitor, **James Langley**, is fired after he and his white supervisor, W.E. Jones, find themselves in a violent confrontation that led to Langley’s dismissal. (Bloom 108)

A week later, a custodial Grievance Committee is formed to investigate this incident. Maintenance employees expressed widespread dissatisfaction with working conditions in the

department. (Bloom 111)

It is up until this point that there is a long tradition of the band playing “Dixie,” the battle song of the confederate soldier, at football games. Finally, the *Flat Hat* spoke out in commentary and in a Letter to the Editor, stating that “We need to be reminded that DIXIE, although an innocent sounding song of the south, symbolized one of the worst periods in American history. It is also a slap in the face to every black and many whites within ear’s reach of it. . . . I appeal to you, Mr. Varner [the band’s leader], the band, and all students who stood, think a little about what you are doing before you endorse racism.” This is, of course, the same time as Vietnam War protests with a peace march and “Moratorium.” Students threatened to burned the Confederate flag to protest “Dixie” being played and Varner stated ‘We’re not about to play any song that may provoke an incident in front of ten to twelve thousand people,’” instead of acknowledging why people had a problem with it. (Bloom)

In December, William and Mary and the other state-supported colleges and universities in Virginia are instructed by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to end its “racially dual system of higher education.” Leon E. Panetta of HEW’s Office for Civil Rights asks for the first draft of a desegregation plan within 90 days. The directive can be enforced by cutting off federal aid funds and/or by suing the state in federal court for non-compliance with the Civil Rights Act. (Bloom 39)

## Sources:

The Lemon Project (<https://www.wm.edu/sites/lemonproject/>)

The Lemon Project Historical Timeline

(<https://www.wm.edu/sites/lemonproject/researchandresources/historicaltimeline/index.php>)

"Integration at Work: The First Labor History of the College of William and Mary" by Cindy Hahamovitch, Professor, Lyon G. Tyler Department of History

([https://www.wm.edu/sites/lemonproject/\\_documents/wm-labor-history-and-hahamovitch.pdf](https://www.wm.edu/sites/lemonproject/_documents/wm-labor-history-and-hahamovitch.pdf))

"Integrating the College of William and Mary" by Lois Bloom

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"Confederates on the Campus 'Dixie' and Secession" by Lois Bloom

([https://www.wm.edu/sites/lemonproject/\\_documents/FinalConfederatesonCampus10-23-2013.pdf](https://www.wm.edu/sites/lemonproject/_documents/FinalConfederatesonCampus10-23-2013.pdf))

"African American Students" from Swem Special Collections Wiki

([https://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/African\\_American\\_Students](https://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/African_American_Students))

"W&M celebrates football pioneer Warren Winston" by David Teel

(<https://www.dailypress.com/sports/dp-spt-warren-winston-tribe-20171016-story.html>)

"Exploring the Underrepresentation of Teachers of Color in the Williamsburg-James City County School System" by Marriya Schwarz

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*Thank you so much to the Lemon Project for doing this important research!*