

Charles Burgess's recollections of the separation from William & Mary

Well obviously in '62 -- we're going all the way back to '62 -- the break with William and Mary was an interesting one and you'll find as we get later into this I've got various things to say about Lewis Webb in different ways. In a sense, this was his finest hour because he really... he knew he had community support. He had built it carefully though, I mean he had his community board and all the power structure of Norfolk behind this. He had built it up. But he insisted that we were going to become an independent institution. And I remember Lewis saying at one point that Alvin Duke Chandler who was the president of William and Mary had said to him, "Well I don't know what's going to happen Lewis, but there's going to be a separation next year one way or another" [Laughter] meaning obviously that if they stayed in William and Mary Lewis would be fired. He stood up to them. Sometime in the '60s, and I'm not quite sure, sometime in the early '60s, the university discovered tenure. Up until that point, nobody had tenure. Somewhere in the early '60s we got letters from Lewis Webb saying, "Oh, by the way, you've got tenure." (pg.20)

Full interview at:

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