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On 2 January 1869, Olin and Preston Institute officially became Preston and Olin Institute when Judge Robert M. Hudson of the 14th Circuit Court issued a charter for the school, designating the new name and giving it “collegiate powers.”
— page 1

On June 12, 1919, the VPI Board of Visitors unanimously elected Julian A. Burruss to succeed Joseph D. Eggleston as president of the Blacksburg, Virginia institution. As Burruss began his tenure, veterans were returning from World War I, and America had begun to move toward a post-war world. Federal programs for veterans gained wide support. The Nineteenth Amendment, giving women suffrage, gained ratification.
— page 27

According to Virginia Tech historian Duncan Lyle Kinnear, “he [Conrad] seemed to have entered upon his task with great enthusiasm. Possessed as he was with a flair for writing and a ‘tongue for speaking,’ this ex-confederate secret agent brought a new dimension of excitement to the school and to the town of Blacksburg.”
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“The Indian Road as agreed to at Lancaster, June the 30th, 1744. The present Waggon Road from Cohongoronto above Sherrando River, through the Counties of Frederick and Augusta . . . To Adam Harman’s at Tom’s Creek on New River, above the Blue-Ridge; shall be the established road, for the Indians our Brethren of the Six Nations, to pass to the Southward, when there is war between them and the Catawbias.” — [quotation from the Treaty of Lancaster]
— page 55

The estate named Cavan in Burke’s Garden, Tazewell County Virginia, was where Virginia’s First Lady Letitia Preston Floyd spent the last dozen years of her life as a widow. It was here [she] was baptized . . . in August 1852, and where she died in December of that year.
— page 69

During the second half of the 19th century the “My Dear Rush” letter was in the possession of Mrs. Floyd’s daughter Nickette Buchanan Floyd Johnston. After Mrs. Johnston’s death the letter remained in the possession of Floyd family members for about a hundred years until three great-great-granddaughters of Mrs. Floyd and their mother brought it and donated it to the Smithfield Plantation in October 2004.
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