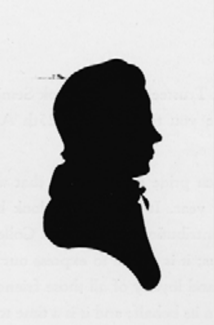

Rev. Samuel Brimblecom,
First Principal of
Westbrook Seminary,
1834–1836

1830, September 29
The Kennebec Association of Universalists resolves to establish a “Classical School” at Stevens Plains, Westbrook, Maine.

1830, October 27
The Universalist founders’ chartering act for Westbrook Seminary decrees that no sectarian doctrine will be taught and that students from all religions and creeds will be accepted for education “in such of the elementary and higher branches of learning as the Board of Trustees ... shall direct.”

1831, March 4
Governor Daniel E. Smith signs the charter for Westbrook Seminary.

1834, May 1
Westbrook Seminary trustees unanimously adopt “a system of rules and regulations for the government and instruction of the Seminary” and elect an 1817 Harvard graduate, Rev. Samuel Brimblecom, A.M., principal.

1834, June 9
The first Westbrook Seminary class is held in the newly constructed Seminary Building with “males and females admitted to equal privileges.”

Dr. James P. Weston,
President,
Westbrook Seminary,
1853-1859, 1878-1889

Julia S. Qui
Westbrook
Female Col
Class of 18

1842
A Stevens Plains fire destroys the home of the secretary of the Board of Trustees where Westbrook Seminary institutional records were kept.

1853
James P. Weston, D.D. becomes head of Westbrook Seminary, ushering in a period of prosperity and progress.

1857
Goddard Hall is built and named in honor of Thomas A. Goddard of Boston.

1863, March
Recognizing the lack of opportunities for higher education for women, the trustees are authorized by an act of the State Legislature to "prescribe a course of study for young ladies equivalent to that of any female college in New England."

1863, June
The first Westbrook Seminary "Lady of Liberal Learning" degrees are awarded to Ella M. Morrill and Julia S. Quinby.

1867
The Gothic church is built on land deeded by Westbrook Seminary to the First Universalist Society of Westbrook.

nby,
Seminary and
legiate Institute,
63

Teachers and students,
Westbrook Seminary,
1892

1869
Hersey Hall, named for General Samuel F. Hersey of Bangor, opens to house female students and faculty on its upper three floors.

1884
Deborah Morton, an 1879 Westbrook Seminary and Female College graduate and class valedictorian, begins her tenure at Westbrook Seminary.

1886
Westbrook Seminary women strike against the severe regulations that restrict their freedom, but not that of their male counterparts, even to the point of not being permitted to walk to Morrill's Corner without escort.

1892
The Athletic Association of Westbrook Seminary is re-organized, the old chapel is refitted as a gymnasium, and training in "Physical Culture" becomes a prominent feature.

1894
The Seminary Building is renamed Alumni Hall to honor alumni who contributed to its repair and renovation.

1900
Reflecting the popularity of all sports, McArthur Gymnasium, named for Biddeford/Saco businessman Robert McArthur, opens for the enjoyment of both men and women.

Principal Agnes Safford (center) and faculty, 1927

1914
Clarence P. Quimby becomes president and urges Westbrook Seminary to give up its co-educational function and concentrate on the education of young women.

1925
The last co-education class is graduated, and Westbrook Seminary, under the leadership of Agnes M. Safford, begins to offer two years of college for women in addition to its Preparatory Program.

1929
By a vote of the State Legislature, Westbrook Seminary becomes Westbrook Seminary and Junior College.

1933
Milton D. Proctor, Ph.D. is appointed president of Westbrook Seminary and Junior College and emphasis is placed upon the junior college function.

1934
Westbrook Junior College becomes the third junior college to be accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

1952
Proctor Hall is erected and dedicated to President Milton D. Proctor, who is credited with “restoring to usefulness this historic institution of learning.”

Students registering, September 1934

Dental Hygiene students, early 1960s

1958
Edward Y. Blewett becomes president of Westbrook Junior College.

1959
The Maine Women Writers Collection is founded by Grace Dow and Dorothy Healy.

1961
Westbrook Junior College becomes the first residential junior college in the U.S. to offer a dental hygiene degree, and a new structure, named after Grace A. Coleman in 1977, is built to house the program.

1961
The Deborah Morton Society is initiated to honor Maine women who have made outstanding contributions to their communities.

1962
Alexander Hall, named for Oakey Logan Alexander, opens.

1963
Linnell Residence Hall honors William S. Linnell, a former president of the Board of Trustees.

Nursing students, mid 1960s

1964
McDougall Residence Hall, named for Trustee H. Nelson McDougall, opens.

1964
Ginn Residence Hall remembers Edwin Ginn, Westbrook Seminary class of 1856, textbook publisher and philanthropist.

1965
The Department of Nursing Education is established.

1967
The Blewett Science Center, honoring President Edward Y. Blewett, is built to house the nursing department on its upper level.

1970, July 1
Granted by a special session of the 103rd Legislature, Westbrook Seminary and Junior College becomes Westbrook College and inaugurates James Franklin Dickinson as president of the College.

Health science students, mid 1970s

1971
The Gothic church reverts to Westbrook College and becomes the “Library-in-a-church.”

1973
Male students are once again enrolled.

1977
Thomas B. Courtice, Ph.D, becomes president of Westbrook College, ushering in a firm commitment to four-year programs.

1977
The Art Gallery opens.

1986
The Josephine S. Abplanalp ’45 Library and the Eleanor deWolfe Ludcke ’26 Auditorium are dedicated.

1987
William D. Andrews, Ph.D, becomes the 34th president of Westbrook College, guiding the College through its adoption of baccalaureate degree programs.

Men's basketball team in Finley Recreation Center, 1995

1988
The Beverly Burpee Finley '44 Recreation Center is built.

1994
Both the men's and women's basketball teams win the Mayflower Conference championships.

1996, July 31
Westbrook College and the University of New England merge under the original 1831 Westbrook Seminary charter.

1996, August 1
Westbrook College changes its name to the University of New England, and Sandra Featherman, Ph.D., becomes the president of the newly merged institution.

1999
The College of Health Professions moves to the Westbrook College Campus.

2000
Hersey Hall is renovated.

Clinical Simulation Laboratory, Blewett Science Center

2001
Parker Pavilion is built to connect the Blewett Science Center and Proctor Hall with a newly constructed College of Health Professions interactive classroom.

2004
The Clinical Simulation Laboratory opens in the Blewett Science Center.

2005
750 Stevens Avenue is renovated.

2006
The 175th anniversary of the founding of Westbrook Seminary is celebrated, and Danielle N. Ripich, Ph.D., is inaugurated as president of the University of New England.

2009, September 8
The College of Health Professions is re-named the Westbrook College of Health Professions.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

College of Pharmacy, Inaugural class, 2009

2009, October 1
The College of Pharmacy is dedicated and welcomes its inaugural class of doctoral students.

2010, May 22
175 years after graduating its first class of students from Westbrook Seminary, the University of New England holds its first University-wide commencement ceremony, incorporating all five of the University's colleges.

2011
Goddard Hall is renovated.