



From the MixCache.com library

SAMPLE COPY

Princeton

MixCache.com

SAMPLE COPY

Table of Contents

- **Introduction**
- **Chapter 1** The Seeds of Learning: The Log College and Colonial Roots
- **Chapter 2** Founding the College of New Jersey
- **Chapter 3** Early Challenges: Schism, Theology, and Identity
- **Chapter 4** Migration and Settlement in Princeton
- **Chapter 5** Nassau Hall: Symbol and Sanctuary
- **Chapter 6** The Collegiate Revolution: Princeton and the American War of Independence
- **Chapter 7** After the Storm: Survival and Renewal in the 19th Century
- **Chapter 8** Curriculum, Community, and the McCosh Presidency
- **Chapter 9** Expanding Horizons: Science, Art, and Infrastructure
- **Chapter 10** Towards a Modern University: The Name Change and Graduate Education
- **Chapter 11** Woodrow Wilson's Vision: Reform, Conflict, and Controversy
- **Chapter 12** "In the Nation's Service": Princeton and the World Wars
- **Chapter 13** Mathematics, Physics, and the Institute for Advanced Study
- **Chapter 14** Building the Physical Campus: From Gothic to Modern
- **Chapter 15** The Honor Code and Academic Traditions
- **Chapter 16** Social Change and Coeducation
- **Chapter 17** Diversifying Princeton: Students, Faculty, and Community
- **Chapter 18** The Rise of Global Research and Interdisciplinarity
- **Chapter 19** The Residential College System and Student Life
- **Chapter 20** Athletics, Mascots, and School Spirit
- **Chapter 21** Governance, Endowment, and the Economics of Academia
- **Chapter 22** Public Service: The Informal Motto in Practice
- **Chapter 23** Architectural Landmarks and Campus Beauty
- **Chapter 24** Tigers Who Roared: Distinguished Alumni and Their Legacies
- **Chapter 25** Looking Forward: Princeton in the 21st Century and Beyond

Introduction

Princeton University stands among the most storied educational institutions in the world—a place where tradition and innovation intersect. Its history, stretching back to the mid-eighteenth century, traces the evolution not just of a college, but of American higher education itself. What began as the humble College of New Jersey, created in the wake of a religious revival, has become a global leader in scholarship, research, and public service, with far-reaching influence that stretches beyond the borders of its lush New Jersey campus.

Founded in 1746 amid spiritual and intellectual ferment, Princeton emerged from the ambitions and religious commitments of its early Presbyterian founders. Their vision of a college devoted to both faith and rational inquiry set the stage for Princeton's distinctive ethos—a blend of reverence for tradition and a commitment to progress. The college's move to Princeton and the construction of the mighty Nassau Hall were more than logistical milestones; they marked the institution's coming-of-age as a fixture of American intellectual life.

Throughout the years, Princeton's trajectory has mirrored the changing tides of American history. The campus witnessed the tumult of the Revolution, served as a meeting place for the nation's founders, and endured the economic hardships of war and depression. The university has grown in the wake of adversity, always remaking itself to meet the challenges and opportunities of new eras—expanding its curriculum, diversifying its student body, modernizing its facilities, and reaffirming its commitment to discovery and service.

At its core, Princeton is defined by its people: the presidents who guided it through uncertainty; the scholars and scientists whose work reshaped their fields; the students who built lifelong friendships and traditions within its quads; and the alumni whose achievements have left indelible marks on society. From James Madison to Michelle Obama, from the architects of Nassau Hall to the Nobel Prize-winning physicists of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton's community has helped shape the course of America, and, indeed, the world.

As the university moves forward into the twenty-first century, it faces new questions and responsibilities. How can it balance openness with exclusivity, tradition with innovation, local impact with global reach? Sustained by an unparalleled endowment and a legacy of academic excellence, Princeton continues to cultivate leaders in every sphere, remaining faithful to its motto "Dei Sub Numine Viget"—Under God's Power She Flourishes.

This book, "Princeton: The Story of an American University," traces the journey from those earliest days to the present, exploring the transformative episodes, enduring values, and memorable personalities that have made Princeton unique. It is a chronicle of both continuity and change, written for anyone interested in the enduring power of higher learning to shape individuals and societies alike.

SAMPLE COPY

CHAPTER ONE: The Seeds of Learning: The Log College and Colonial Roots

The story of Princeton University, like many great American institutions, begins not with grand designs or royal decrees, but with a humble log cabin and a fervent religious awakening. Before the stately stone of Nassau Hall graced the landscape of central New Jersey, before the College of New Jersey was even a glimmer in the eyes of its founders, there was the "Log College," a small seminary in colonial Pennsylvania. This unpretentious school, founded by the Reverend William Tennent around 1726, served as a vital precursor, laying the groundwork for the educational ideals that would eventually coalesce into Princeton.

Tennent, an Irish-born Presbyterian minister, established his Log College near Neshaminy, Pennsylvania, out of a pressing need. The burgeoning American colonies, particularly the Middle Colonies, were experiencing a period of intense religious fervor known as the Great Awakening, a series of revivals that swept through the colonies from the 1720s to the 1740s. This movement, characterized by impassioned preaching and a call for personal conversion, created a demand for new ministers—ministers who embraced the revivalist spirit and were willing to challenge the more staid, established religious order. Existing institutions were often seen as too formal or too slow to adapt to the changing spiritual landscape.

The Log College was, in essence, a response to this spiritual vacuum. Tennent and his four sons, all of whom became ministers, sought to provide a practical education rooted in a deep commitment to evangelical Presbyterianism. They focused on training young men for the ministry, emphasizing biblical knowledge, theological discourse, and the art of impassioned preaching. The curriculum, though informal by later university standards, was rigorous for its time, encompassing classical languages, logic, ethics, and theology. The atmosphere was one of intense study and spiritual discipline, attracting students who were not only intellectually curious but also deeply committed to their faith.

The success of the Log College, however, inadvertently contributed to a growing schism within the Presbyterian church. The "Old Side" Presbyterians, largely educated in Scotland and Ireland, adhered to a more traditional, formal approach to ministry and education. They viewed the Log College and its graduates with suspicion, criticizing their less formal training and their emotional preaching style. The "New Side" Presbyterians, on the other hand, championed the revivalist movement and the experiential faith it promoted. They saw the Log College as a vital institution for nurturing a new generation of ministers equipped to lead the awakening.

This theological and educational divide came to a head in the Synod of Philadelphia, the governing body of American Presbyterianism. Debates raged over the proper qualifications for ministers, the role of emotion in religious experience, and the authority of established institutions versus the spontaneous movements of revival. The Old Side accused the New Side of promoting disorder and lacking proper academic rigor. The New Side countered that the Old Side was spiritually dead and resistant to God's work.

Ultimately, this profound disagreement led to a formal split in the Presbyterian church in 1741, with the New Side forming its own Synod of New York. This schism, while initially disruptive, proved to be a critical turning point for American higher education, and specifically for the future of Princeton. The New Side Presbyterians, now without a seminary that fully aligned with their principles and met their growing need for trained clergy, recognized the necessity of establishing their own institution of higher learning. They sought a college that would not only provide a rigorous academic education but also uphold the revivalist tenets and foster a deeply spiritual environment.

It was out of this urgent need and theological conviction that the idea for the College of New Jersey, the direct predecessor of Princeton University, began to take shape. The lessons learned from the Log College—its commitment to training ministers, its emphasis on practical piety, and its role in fostering a distinct theological identity—would deeply influence the founding principles and early direction of this new colonial college. While the Log College itself eventually faded, its spirit and its graduates, many of whom became prominent figures in the New Side Presbyterian church, carried its legacy forward, ensuring that the seeds of learning planted in that humble cabin would ultimately blossom into one of America's most enduring universities. The stage was now set for the formal establishment of a college that would leave an indelible mark on the intellectual and religious landscape of the emerging nation.

This is a sample preview. Purchase the book to read the full content.

Visit MixCache.com to purchase the complete book.

SAMPLE COPY