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The following article was prepared for the purpose of initiating a history file pertaining to the previous accomplishments of the Gaines Guard. Future information relative to the Gaines Guard will be maintained in this file.

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The traditional Christmas parade in Lexington in 1951 was the first appearance of Washington & Lee's precision drill team, now known as the "Gaines Guard" has grown from an idea in a student's mind, throughout a period of eight years, to a well-trained, well known drill team which participates in events throughout the Virginia area.

When the Reserve Officer's Training Corps was established at Washington and Lee in 1951, commanded by Lt Col Richard W. Jones, Norm Dobbins, a student at that time conceived the idea of organizing a precision drill team. The team was formed in the fall of 1951 and participated in the Lexington parade that year. Although there was always some interest in the team, the real beginning of the present Gaines Guard did not come until 1953. The team was virtually non-existent in 1952, but in 1953 Bob Bradford stirred up new interest and the present drill team was established.

On October 26, 1953, Washington and Lee's distinguished president was meeting with alumni in Memphis when a long distance phone call informed him that the W&L drill team had been designated the Gaines Guard in his honor. Under the command of Bob Bradford, The Guard developed rapidly after this date.

Constant training, drilling and diligence paid off for the Guard a few months later when the Gaines Guard formed one of two honor guards for Governor Thomas B. Stanley at his inauguration in Richmond 20 January 1954. The thirty-six members of the team displayed such skill in precision marching in the spectacular Richmond parade that the name of the Gaines Guard soon became well known throughout Virginia.

In the Spring of 1954, the Guard began a tradition which still continues at the present time. After its superior showing in Richmond, the Guard was invited to participate in the annual Apple Blossom Festival parade in Winchester. Each Spring the Guard travels to Winchester and each Spring the Guard has won acclaim for its excellence in marching. In competition with drill teams from other schools, including military schools and military prep institutions, the Guard has still maintained a record of several awards and prizes.

One of the most unusual awards for the Guard came in the fall of 1954 when it, participated in the Veterans Day parade in Harrisonburg. After viewing the Guard, the American Legion in Harrisonburg awarded the W&L Cadets a first prize savings bond--the first time the Legion has ever awarded such a prize to a marching unit.

The Fall Veterans Day parade and the Apple Blossom Festival have become traditional events for the Guard, but the cadets also participate in other activities. The Guard has marched for Homecoming at W&L. marched several times in the Lexington

Christmas parade, and has marched in the Lexington Armed Forces Day parade.

Perhaps the most distinguished invitation the Gains Guard has ever received was a bid in 1956 to march in the Inauguration parade of President Eisenhower in Washington. Because of examinations and financial reasons, however, the Guard was unable to march in that parade.

Since the beginning of the Guard, cadets have commanded the drill team with the advice of Army Drill Masters. At the first establishment of the Guard, M/Sgt William E. Watson was drillmaster. and he was succeeded by M/Sgt Joseph Gurganus. In 1956, M/Sgt Ralph Duffie became drillmaster and is presently supervising the team.

Bob Bradford, who commanded the Guard in 1953, contributed in the same post in 1954 and he was succeeded by Ted Kerr in 1955. Also in 1955, Lt Col G. E. Coates replaced Lt Col Jones as Professor of Military Science and Tactics. In 1956, Burt Tyler served as commander of the Guard. He was followed by Peyton Middleton in 1957. Last year Bill Scheafer was commander and this year the Guard is under command of Jack Lemon. Also in 1958, Major Edward J Roxbury succeeded Lt Col Coates as PMS&T.

In September 1958 the Gaines Guard went into the new Army Green Uniform. It was decided to improve the appearance of the uniform, which up to this time was rather simple in nature. The improvements included black boots, procured through supply channels. In addition, the following accessories were added:

White leather slings in lieu of web slings, white waist belt, white scarves and gloves and white helmet liners. A majority of the new accessories were purchased through American Military Supply Company for approximately \$200.00. The source of funds was from the University in the amount of \$125.00 and \$75.00 worth of Defense Bonds awarded as prizes in competition. Members of the Guard were personally assessed \$1.00 each for shoe laces and trouser blousing accessories. Their first appearance in the new uniform will be the Lexington Christmas parade in December.

The Gaines Guard drills as a separate company of Washington and Lee's ROTC Regiment, but also participates in several other drill periods throughout the week. For compensation, the Guard receives several merits at the end of the semester, aiding their military science grade. However, the guard attracts recruits not by promising merits, but by offering an opportunity to excell in precision drill and to participate in a "crack" military unit. It is this pride in superior performance and esprit de corps that forms the basis for the Gaines Guard and produces highly trained cadet officers.