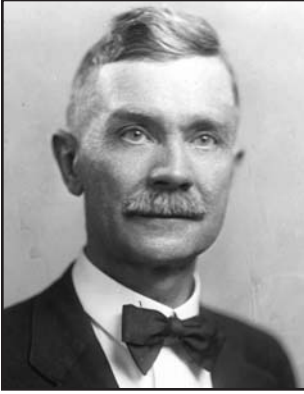


Lee



Lee Hall is named for **Claudius Lee**. Born in 1872, he was a graduate of Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College and Polytechnic Institute in 1896 and, upon his graduation, joined the faculty. He served as an electrical engineering faculty member from 1896 to 1959. He was professor emeritus in electrical engineering from 1956 to 1962.

Lee is known for his service to the University and Blacksburg. As a student, he named *The Bugle* in a contest. *The Bugle* was twice dedicated to him during his career at his alma mater. As a faculty member, he helped to develop the Electric Light Department and Power Plant with Sam Pritchard. He also helped to install the first telephone switchboard in Blacksburg. He was a longtime member of the Blacksburg Methodist Church. In addition, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army in World War I. He died in 1962 at the age of 90.

Residence hall built: Construction began on Lee Hall in 1965 and was completed by fall 1966.

Construction firm: Carneal & Johnston

Dedication Date: May 30, 1968

During the 125th anniversary of Virginia Tech, students in a history class came across a page in the 1896 Bugle listing Lee as a leader in the campus chapter of the KKK. After a thorough investigation in 1997, it was determined that there was the potential that the organization was a hoax and that the hall name would not be changed. It was recognized that Lee's potential participation was reprehensible. The issue resurfaced in October 2004. The Commission on Equal Opportunity and Diversity was asked to look into the situation and develop a set of recommendations. This set of recommendations was approved in February 2005 and subsequently adopted by the University. The recommendations called for broader education on the subject of Claudius Lee and also for strengthening diversity efforts across the University.

Lee Hall Today

Community: Prairie

Type: Co-ed, traditional-style

Theme Housing Programs: Biological and Life Sciences Learning Community
Galileo (first-year men in engineering)

Number of residents: 811

Staff: Complex director: 1

Graduate hall director: 1

Resident advisors: 20

Reference:

University Archives of Virginia Tech, *Historical Data Book*, Section 6.5.

Photo Credits:

"Lee, Claudius." University Archives of Virginia Tech.

Residence Hall photograph courtesy Visual and Broadcast Communications.

