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."

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.

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."

"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 Catawbas." — [quotation from the Treaty of Lancaster]

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.

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.
The Smithfield Review publishes book reviews. The editors plan for each issue to carry one to three reviews of books dealing with all periods of trans-Appalachian history and culture. We enlist active scholars and professionals to write the reviews. Review copies, requests to review books, and other inquiries may be addressed to:

Tom Costa, Book Review Editor
The Smithfield Review
Department of History and Philosophy
The University of Virginia's College at Wise
Wise, VA 24293

The Smithfield Review is published annually by the Smithfield Preston Foundation. Subscriptions are $14.70 per year, including tax; please add $4.50 for shipping. Make checks payable to the Smithfield Museum Store.

Proposals or manuscripts to be considered for publication are welcome. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Texts may be of varying length, but should ordinarily not exceed 8,000 words. Annotations should be collected as endnotes. Please address all correspondence to:

The Smithfield Review
555 Edgewood Lane
Blackburg, VA 24060

This publication has been made possible through the generous contributions of

National Bank
Blacksburg, Virginia

Published in cooperation with the
Department of History
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
through funding from the
Frank L. Curtis Fund
The *Smithfield Review* is published annually, in the spring, by the Smithfield Preston Foundation, Blacksburg, Virginia, in cooperation with the Department of History, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Subscriptions are $14.70 per year: Individual copies or the entire set of sixteen volumes are available from:

Smithfield Museum Store  
1000 Smithfield Plantation Road  
Blacksburg, VA 24060

Or call 1/540-231-3947  
or email info@smithfieldplantation.org  
Please include $4.50 shipping/handling per copy.

Multiple copies are available at a discount.  
Complete sets are available at a further discount.

ISSN 1093-9652  
©2016 *Smithfield Review*

Printed in the United States of America