

WILLIAM ROE BREWSTER, Sr. 2nd President of GMA, was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas on August 15, 1896. He graduated from West Point in 1920 and married Mildred Woodward, Col Woodward's oldest daughter that year. He served in the U S Army serving tours of Duty at Ft. Benning, Georgia and at Ft. Clayton in the Panama Canal until 1926 when he resigned from the Army.

William Roe and Mildred came to GMA with their two young children Bill and Lucile in 1926 where he taught math, geometry, and history and later became the Commandant. The Board of Governors elected him to serve as the 2<sup>nd</sup> President on Dec 18, 1939. His brother-in law Douglas Woodward served 4 months as interim President after Col Woodward's death. Col Brewster was President 23 years until his retirement in 1961 due to health issues.

William Roe was an erect West Pointer and practiced his alma matter's motto "Duty, Honor and Country." He was a talented musician and famous for his beautiful tenor voice and his love for music. His booming voice echoed when he said "NO" and was an uncompromising disciplinarian. He believed in a strong body and mind and his philosophy was "Honor, Truth and Wisdom." Although he was a wonderful administrator at GMA, his true love was teaching. Education was his vocation with an educational philosophy founded on a desire to help others. He was an avid fisherman, an advocator of sports, and had a wonderful sense of humor. He was the ideal successor as President because he built on the Col Woodward's foundations. Col Woodward had built a great military school. William Roe ensured its healthy proper growth.

Under his leadership, GMA continued to increase its enrollment from 400 to 1000 cadets and added seven new buildings.

Col Brewster and a fellow classmate from West Point, General Trump Garvin, founded the West Point Annapolis Preparatory Post Graduate Course in 1940 in the newly constructed Junior College Building. This course operated until 1953 preparing high school graduates to compete for admission to the U S Service Academies. It was discontinued when the demand for officers dropped after the end of WWII.

Other constructions initiated by Col Brewster were a Junior Elementary School or Woodward Annex which was an expansion behind “The Retreat” Col Woodward’s Home and the Little Gym for the junior school in 1943. An additional Annex was built onto Rugby Hall. The Junior College building was converted into the New Junior Elementary School in 1953 when the Post Graduate courses were discontinued. In 1956, West Hall, the Administration Building was completed in front of the Old Gymnasium/Auditorium as well as the High school Gymnasium near the Football stadium.

In 1956, GMA purchased 108 acres in Palmetto, Ga. to serve as a summer camp for girls and boys, a preseason football camp, and a retreat for the faculty and students. The property came with a lodge, boathouse, barn, caretaker’s home, and a beautiful lake. A screened dorm with bathrooms and showers was built, a large swimming pool, and a large dining hall. It served as a camp until the early 70’s when it was sold.

As the enrollment grew and more day students were applying for entrance to GMA, Col Brewster saw a need to be able to transport these cadets. He purchased some buses and operated the school’s first transportation system which ran for several years.

William Roe Brewster was the image of a military man. He was tall, erect with a military crew cut, and presented with a stern military face. Those who got to know him personally saw the sweet, kind, fun loving and caring man that was inside that military shell. He was devoted to his family and this school and gave 35 years of his life to its success. He died on June 21, 1965. Of all the honors that he was given during his career, naming and dedicating Brewster Hall, the new academic building, in 1964 to him and his wife Mildred was the greatest reward for their life of service to GMA.

#### MILDRED WOODWARD BREWSTER

was Col Woodward’s oldest daughter and played a crucial role in the stability of the transitions of leadership with the first three presidents. Mildred and William Roe came to live with Col and Lucile Woodward after his retirement from the US Army. She served as First Lady for 40 years and had one of the greatest influences on the continued success of Woodward.

Mildred was a TRUE SOUTHERN LADY, gracious, hospitable, and charming with a knack for making any stranger feel welcomed. Her responsibility as the school's matriarch began early because of her Mother Lucile's failing health. She accepted her Mother's duties as the social hostess and the care of her younger sisters in addition to her own two children. She served as Col Woodward's chauffeur, driving him and attending events and meetings with him. Mildred was an unassuming person and considered the great conciliator who on many occasions helped to return order and harmony out of frequent chaos. She served on the Governing Board for 28 years working diligently to continue Col Woodward's work. She sponsored the cadet dances, ran the bookstore, and planned and ordered the food for the Dining Hall meals. As an individual she was one of the greatest influences for the success of GMA / Woodward Academy.