

= Samuel Merrill Woodbridge =

The Reverend Samuel Merrill Woodbridge , D.D. , LL.D. (April 5 , 1819 ? June 23 , 1905) was an American clergyman , theologian , author , and college professor . A graduate of New York University and the New Brunswick Theological Seminary , Woodbridge preached for sixteen years as a clergyman in the Reformed Church in America . After settling in New Brunswick , New Jersey , he taught for 44 years as professor of ecclesiastical history and church government at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary , and for seven years as professor of " metaphysics and philosophy of the human mind " at Rutgers College (now Rutgers , The State University of New Jersey) in New Brunswick . Woodbridge later led the New Brunswick seminary as Dean and President of the Faculty from 1883 to 1901 . He was the author of three books and several published sermons and addresses covering various aspects of Christian faith , theology , church history and government .

= = Biography = =

Samuel Merrill Woodbridge was born April 5 , 1819 in Greenfield , Massachusetts . He was the third of six children born to the Rev. Sylvester Woodbridge , D.D. (1790 ? 1863) and Elizabeth Gould (died in 1851) . According to a genealogical chart published in Munsey 's Magazine in 1907 , Woodbridge was in the eleventh generation of a family of clergymen dating back to the late 15th century . The earliest clergyman in this ancestral line , the Rev. John Woodbridge (born in 1493) , was a follower of John Wycliffe .

Woodbridge attended New York University , receiving a Bachelor of Arts (A.B.) degree in 1838 . As an undergraduate student , Woodbridge was a member of the university 's secretive , all @-@ male Eucleian Society and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa . He was awarded a Master of Arts (A.M.) from the New Brunswick Theological Seminary in 1841 and was installed as a minister by the Reformed Church 's Classis of New York , a governing body overseeing churches within the region . At this time , his alma mater , New York University , promoted his bachelor 's degree to a Master of Arts . After his graduation from seminary , he served as pastor at the South Reformed Dutch Church in South Brooklyn (1841 ? 49) , at the Second Reformed Church in Cocksackie , New York (1849 ? 52) , and at the Second Reformed Church in New Brunswick , New Jersey (1852 ? 57) .

In December 1857 , Woodbridge was appointed to the faculty of two schools in New Brunswick , New Jersey . He would serve 44 years as a professor of ecclesiastical history and church government at New Brunswick Theological Seminary (from 1857 to 1901) and for seven years as a professor of " Metaphysics and Philosophy of the Human Mind " at Rutgers College (from 1857 to 1864) . Both schools were then affiliated with the Protestant Dutch Reformed faith . He was appointed by the Synod to a vacancy in both professorates caused by the death of the Rev. John Ludlow , D.D. (1793 ? 1857) , on September 8 , 1857 . During his tenure at the seminary , Woodbridge also provided instruction in the areas of pastoral , didactic and polemic theology ? often when there were vacancies amongst the faculty .

In 1883 , the church 's General Synod decided that the " oldest professor in service in the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick be styled Dean of the Seminary , and to him shall be entrusted the discipline of the Institution , according to such regulations as may be agreed upon by the Faculty . " Woodbridge led the seminary as its first Dean of the Seminary , and subsequently as President of the Faculty until his retirement in 1901 . Both positions were predecessors to the present seminary president . During his career , Woodbridge received honorary degrees from Union College (D.D. 1858) and from Rutgers College (A.M. , 1841 ; D.D. , 1857 ; LL.D. 1883) . He retired from teaching in 1901 as an emeritus professor , at the age of 82 .

Woodbridge married twice . His first marriage was to Caroline Bergen (who died in 1861) in February 1845 ; the couple had one daughter , Caroline Woodbridge (born in 1845) . On December 20 , 1866 he married his second wife , Anna Wittaker Dayton (1823 ? 1920) , with whom he had two daughters , Anna Dayton Woodbridge (born in 1869) and Mary Elizabeth Woodbridge (born in 1872) .

Woodbridge died at the age of 86 on June 23 , 1905 in New Brunswick , New Jersey . He was interred in a family plot in the city 's Elmwood Cemetery . Church historian Charles Edward Corwin recorded that Woodbridge was described as having a strong personality that " made dry subjects to glow with life , " adding that he " was very firm in the faith but his loving heart made him kindly even toward those whose opinion he considered dangerous . "

= = Works = =

= = = Books = = =

1872 : Analysis of Systematic Theology (1st Edition)
1883 : Analysis of Systematic Theology (2nd Edition)
1895 : Manual of Church History
1896 : Synopsis of Church Government

= = = Sermons and discourses = = =

Various sermons , addresses , and discourses given in public by Rev. Woodbridge have been printed in newspapers and periodicals , as part of a collection of addresses in books , and as separately published pamphlets . These smaller works include :

1853 : " Principles of Our Government : A Thanksgiving Discourse "
1856 : " Sermon on Human Government " , printed in the New Brunswick Fredonian
1857 : " Inaugural Discourse as Professor of Ecclesiastical History "
1857 : " On the Family " , printed in The Christian Intelligencer
1865 : " Power of the Bible " , printed in The National Preacher and Village Pulpit
1867 : " Address " published in Richard Holloway Steele 's Historical Discourse delivered at the Celebration of the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the First Reformed Dutch Church
1869 : " Address " included in Proceedings at the Centennial Anniversary of the Dedication of the North Dutch Church , May 25 , 1869
1871 : " Discourse on Benevolence given before the General Synod at Albany " , printed in Christian Intelligencer
1875 : Faith : It 's True Position in the Life of Man : A Discourse , preached November 22d , 1874 , in the chapel of Rutgers College
1885 : " Historical Theology : An Address " , included in David Demarest 's Centennial of the Theological Seminary of the Reformed Church in America , formerly the Reformed Protestant Dutch Church , 1784 ? 1884
1894 : " Characteristics of Dr. Campbell " , included in A Memorial of Rev. William Henry Campbell , D.D. , LL.D. , Late President of Rutgers College
1897 : " Address by Professor Woodbridge " , included in Fortieth Anniversary of the Inauguration of the Rev. S. M. Woodbridge , D.D. , LL.D. , as Professor in the Theological Seminary of the Reformed (Dutch) Church in America at New Brunswick , 1857 ? 1897