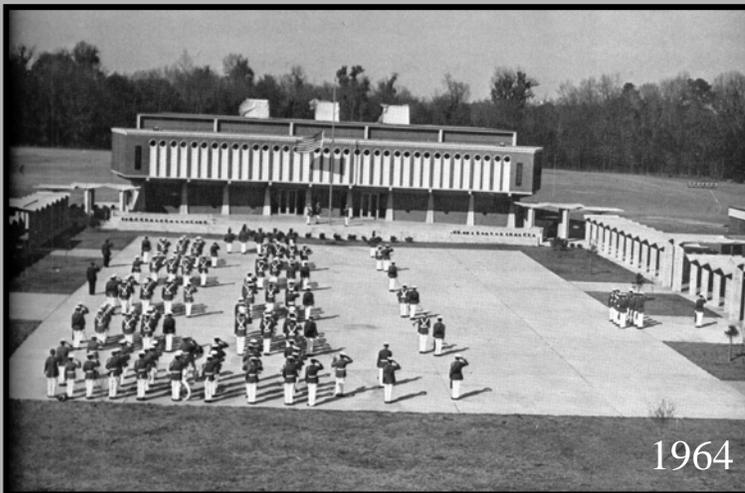
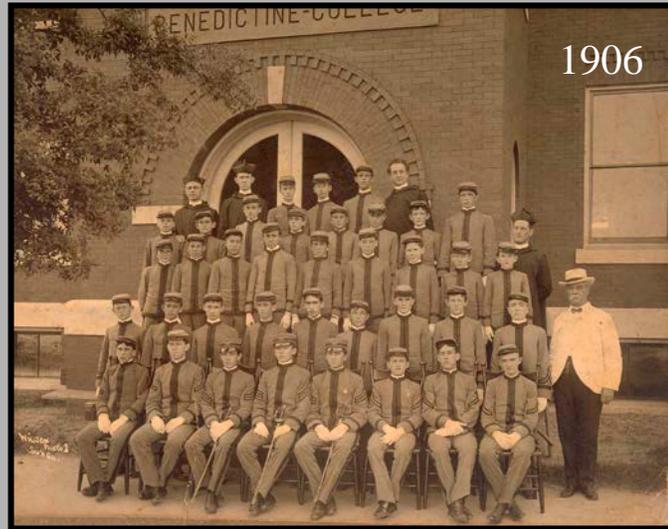


Benedictine Military School c1902

History – Begun as a boy’s preparatory school, Benedictine College – as it was originally called – was organized on a military basis in the Southern military tradition of VMI and the Citadel. The school opened in 1902 with 21 cadets and was an immediate success. The “BC” cadets were highly visible in the community and often acted as a color guard or escort for civic occasions as well as marching annually in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade, an enduring tradition begun in 1903. Before long the Savannah community as a whole embraced the school, regarding it as its’ own version of the Citadel. In 1936 Benedictine became the first “day” military school in the nation to become an honor unit of distinction, prompting the monks to change the name of the school to Benedictine Military School. By the 1950s it became a tradition among Savannah’s



Catholic families for sons to attend the alma mater of their fathers and grandfathers. The existing Modernist campus – completed in 1964, was designed to reflect the military heritage of the then 60 year old school as well as uphold the monastic traditions of the nearly 1500 year old Order of St. Benedict.

The Corps of Cadets - The Benedictine Corps of Cadets has been assisting in the preparation of students to become competent and responsible citizens for over 100 years. In designing his educational program for Benedictine in 1902, Abbot Leo Haid, OSB, included a military program as he believed that a cadet corps provided *“the environment that would best encourage the thorough type of training necessary for the proper enrichment of youth.”* In the Abbot’s view, *“a military program would develop the boy physically and mentally”* and *“create habits of promptitude and order, foster self reliance, and inculcate in the student – as part of his nature – manly ideas of obedience, loyalty, discipline, and courtesy.”* In adopting the prestigious military academy model for Benedictine, the Savannah monks created an ordered and structured environment for their students that promoted a disciplined approach to studies and virtue – an approach that complimented their own monastic lifestyle and aided in their overall goal of forming young men in *body, mind and soul*. The purpose of the Corps of Cadets – then as now, is to form men of integrity and virtue; to form the leaders of tomorrow who are prepared for life-long learning and service to their faith and civic communities. Through the tradition and challenges of the Corps of Cadets there exists a camaraderie and loyalty – to Benedictine and to one another – that links each generation of Cadets and make our alumni a proud band of brothers in the Savannah community and beyond.

