#107 Brigadier General Charles Coolidge, Class of 1863, Served in Five Major Conflicts

Brigadier General Charles Coolidge was a native of Boston, Massachusetts and a descendent of Revolutionary War patriots. He attended Norwich University from 1859 to 1861 before enlisting in the 16th U.S. Infantry as a humble private. This would be the first of five major conflicts in which Coolidge would serve his country: the Civil War, the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine-American War, and the Boxer Rebellion.

Full story:

Though he chose to enlist rather than complete his studies, Coolidge was later awarded an honorary degree naming him as a member of the Class of 1863. After the Civil War, now a first lieutenant, he received a medical degree from the University of Wooster Medical College (a now-defunct branch of Ohio's College of Wooster).

The 1870s and 1880s saw Coolidge serving out west in a number of different postings, including several key confrontations of the Indian Wars. In 1873, he participated in the Army's Yellowstone Expedition, an ostensible effort to survey a route for the Northern Pacific Railroad that resulted in multiple clashes with Sioux warriors. One such clash, the Battle of Pease Bottom, saw Sioux leader Sitting Bull facing then-Lieutenant Colonel George Custer for the first, though certainly not the last time.

From 1883-1884, Coolidge served on the staff of General Oliver Otis Howard, who would later serve on the Norwich University Board of Trustees.

Then, in the span of three years, Coolidge's service took him around the globe as the U.S. engaged in the Spanish-American War in Cuba 1898, the Philippine-American War in the Philippines in 1899, and the Boxer Rebellion in China 1900. In the latter two conflicts, Coolidge commanded a regiment, and he returned to the United States as a colonel in 1901.

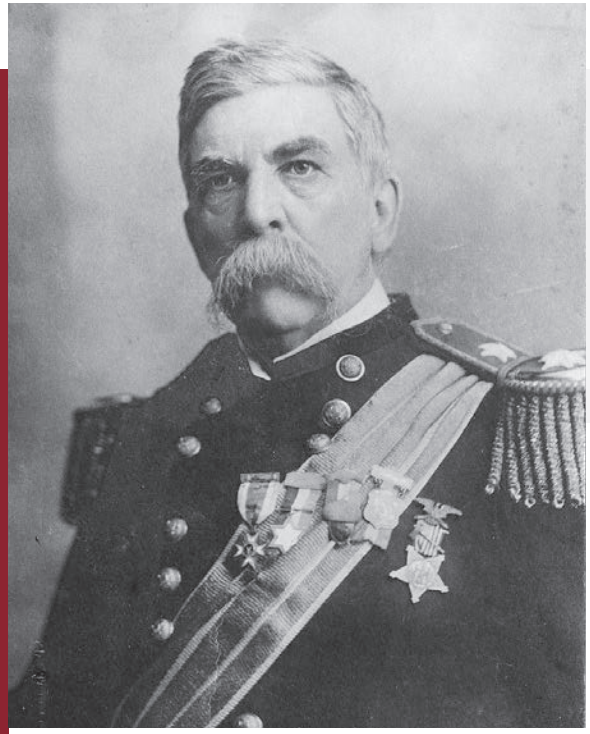
After serving in command posts at Vancouver, Washington and the Presidio in San Francisco, California, he was promoted to brigadier general and retired in 1903 after approximately 40 years of service. During those 40 years, Coolidge's experience truly spanned the breadth of American history.

Having finished his career at San Francisco's Presidio fortification, Coolidge settled in that city after his retirement, only to be displaced by the devastating earthquake of 1906. He made his final home in Detroit, Michigan, where he was actively involved in civic affairs and passed away in 1926 at the age of 82.

Read historical newspaper articles about Charles Coolidge in the Norwich University Archives.

Brigadier General Charles Coolidge, NU 1863

Image courtesy of the Norwich Universtiy Archives.



Top: Grenville Dodge

Bottom: The Carnegie Library

Learn more about the history of the library by visiting the Norwich University Archives. Resources include the historical records of the library dating back to the 1820s, and the Index to Norwich University Newspapers, which chronicles Carnegie's gift and the library's construction.

#108 A Friendship Between Industrialists Gave Us Norwich Carnegie Library

When General Grenville Dodge announced at an alumni banquet in 1905 that his friend Andrew Carnegie had pledged $50,000 for a new library building, it came as a complete surprise to the University community.

Full story:

Grenville Dodge became acquainted with Andrew Carnegie through the railroad business in the 1870s. Carnegie was involved in railroads before turning his attention to steel, where he made his fortune. They drifted apart over the years but ran into each other from time to time. Carnegie sold his steel company in 1901, making him one of the wealthiest men in the world, and he dedicated the latter decades of his life to philanthropy.

In March of 1905, the two acquaintances finally found an opportunity to sit down for a meal. Dodge was invited to dinner at Carnegie's home. Dodge recounted the meeting in a speech to the New York Association of Norwich University Alumni a month later. The conversation around the table turned to Norwich and its growing needs. Without hesitation, Carnegie asked Dodge what he thought was needed most.

Dodge responded that he thought a library building and electrical equipment were most urgently required; with the construction of Alumni Hall underway funded entirely by alumni, the donor pool was wearing thin. Carnegie did some back-of-the-napkin math and offered the sum of $50,000 on the spot for the project.

He made only one request—that the building be named in honor of his friend, General Dodge. This was not the first time that Carnegie had offered a gift to a college in recognition of a friend. The previous year, in 1904, he endowed a chair in economics at Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio in recognition of his friend Edwin Stanton, an alumnus of the school who had served as Lincoln's secretary of war.

Dodge quickly pointed out the difficulty in this scheme, as the university had dedicated Dodge Hall in his honor 12 years prior. Carnegie agreed to lend his name to the facility, with Dodge noting that it would both honor his friend and bring prestige to the university.

Construction on Carnegie Library began later that year. It opened its doors in the fall of 1908 as the university's first freestanding library.

In 1953, Carnegie Library underwent renovation, with funds donated by Henry Prescott Chaplin (1885-1962), a local businessman and a trustee of the university. It was reopened as the Henry Prescott Chaplin Library.

After several periods of renovations and expansions to accommodate a growing demand for information resources, before the opening of the Kreitzberg Lirbary in 1993. Chaplin Memorial Library became what is now known as Chaplin Hall and is the home to the School of Architecture and Art.

#109 Rudy Treml, Class of 1962, Was Among the First to Touch the Moon

When the United States took aviation into space, Norwich was there. Norwich-trained engineers served on crews designing the Apollo spacecraft as well as the Space Shuttles in later decades.

Contributed by Curtis Ostler and Jacque Day, adapted from The Sky's the Limit: NU's Aeronautics Pioneers *by Curtis Ostler with additional reporting by Jacque Day, from the Winter 2014* Norwich Record.

Full story:

In 1969, when Apollo 11 returned to Earth, a Norwich graduate was one of the first to handle the extraterrestrial rocks. Rudy Treml (formerly Rudolph E. Beinstein), Class of 1962, was an Army scientist on assignment at the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center in Clearlake City, Texas, near Houston. His team worked in the Lunar Receiving Laboratory that had been set up to quarantine and process the returning astronauts and the materials they recovered from the moon's surface.

Since no one knew quite what to expect once Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin returned from the lunar environment for the first time, strict isolation precautions were being taken. Samples of moon rocks and other material had been brought back in Return Sample Containers. The contents were passed from the astronauts to the NASA team in an isolation chamber between the crew quarters and the processing lab. Treml was part of that volunteer team that received the first objects brought to Earth from another celestial body as they were passed through the isolation chamber by astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin.

After his work at NASA, Treml went on to a career in the petroleum industry, and retired from Chevron/Texaco in 2002. Though an accomplished scientist, one of his fondest memories of Norwich was performing a Mendelssohn piano concerto with the regimental band in 1959. He told the story of his musical upbringing and that special moment in the Summer 2016 *Norwich Record.*

Treml met his wife, Judy, while working at NASA. While Rudy was handling moon rocks, Judy was working as a secretary to the astronauts' team of physicians. The two now live in Florida. In addition to volunteering for the Chevron Retirees Association Chapter, the American Legion, and the Florida FairTax Educational Association, Treml has found time to dress as George Washington in Eustis, Florida's annual GeorgeFest parade.

Treml has a habit of being in the right place at the right time, and sometimes, the wrong place and the wrong time. In addition to his involvement in the moon landing, he served as foreman of the jury in Ted Bundy's trial in 1979.

Rudy Treml '62, was the first scientist on Earth to handle Moon rocks brought back from space.

Image courtesy of the Norwich Record.

Major General Seth Williams '03

Image courtesy of Gary Appleby.

#110 Major General Seth Williams, Class of 1903, Helped Shape the Modern Marine Corps

On April 1, 1917, only five days before formally entering the war, the Commandant of the Marine Corps appointed a three-man board to "recommend a site in the Washington area for a temporary training camp and maneuver field for the Marine Corps." America was preparing to enter the war and needed freshly trained Marines, a place to train them, and it needed both fast. The location the board settled on was Quantico, VA and one of the men that helped make that decision was Captain Seth Williams, Norwich University Class of 1903.

Contributed by Gary Appleby '90

Full story:

Born January 19, 1880, in Foxboro, MA, Williams arrived at Norwich in the fall of 1899 and rose through the ranks his four years on the Hill, eventually leading the Corps of Cadets his senior year as the Cadet Major. Commissioned as a 2ndLt in the Marine Corps in June of 1903, Williams held multiple assignments as a junior officer, eventually serving in Quartermaster assignments at both the brigade and post level leading to his assignment as the Officer in Charge – Purchasing Division, Office of the Quartermaster of the Marine Corps. These assignments would give Williams the experience needed for the tasks that lie ahead.

After Quantico was chosen as the main training facility for the Marine Corps war effort, Captain Williams was put in charge of overseeing all construction and development at Camp Quantico and it's likely his Civil Engineering degree from Norwich aided in his duties a great deal. Over the next six weeks construction ran apace and Quantico opened its doors in mid-May 1917. Over the coming months, thousands of new Marines, both officer and enlisted, would eat, train and sleep in the buildings and ranges whose construction Williams supervised. Quantico wasn't his only assignment during this time. Williams was also the Marine Corps representative on the War Industries Board until October 1918 when the needs of the Marine Corps required his service as the Regimental Quartermaster for the 13th Marines in Tours, France.

Upon his return from the Great War, Williams held multiple quartermaster positions in the U.S. and overseas eventually being promoted to Colonel and serving as the Assistant Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps. In 1937, after only a year in that assignment, Williams was promoted to Brigadier General and to Quartermaster General of the Marine Corps. During this time, the Marine Corps

would see tremendous growth and Williams would lead the design and development of much needed training facilities to include New River, Cherry Point, Camp Pendleton, and El Toro. But it was his biggest assignment, tasked to him by the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Thomas Holcomb, that would make a lasting mark on the Corps. America's anticipated entry into WWII required a new training facility, one large enough to train tens of thousands of new Marines in amphibious warfare. What was the name of the new base that Williams was assigned to design and build? Camp Lejeune – the largest Marine Corps base on the east coast. If you ever visit Camp Lejeune you may notice one of the main roads on base is named Seth Williams Blvd.

There is one final mark Seth Williams left on the United States Marine Corps. Every time you see the Marine Corps flag, you're looking at the result of a design process carefully shepherded by Major General Seth Williams. That's right – today's Marine Corps flag exists as we know it in large part because of a Norwich Marine.

In early 1944, Major General Seth Williams reached mandatory retirement age. After 41 years of continuous service he was awarded the Legion of Merit by the Secretary of the Navy for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States as Quartermaster General of the United States Marine Corps from 1 December 1937 through 1 February 1944" and for "accomplishing tremendous tasks" to include "the establishment of new training camps, transportation of troops to combat zones, and the development of supply and distribution depots in the South and Central Pacific areas".

Major General Seth Williams died July 29, 1963, aged 83. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

#111 Two Campus Football Tragedies Sparked Major Change

In 1907 and 1913, the Norwich community experienced a pair of back-to-back tragedies that highlighted a national trend: the dangers of football.

Top: 1912 football team

Left: Leonard Clarkson

Right: Verner Stanley "Jim" Belyea

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Full story:

In September 1907, Norwich senior and team manager Leonard Clarkson was playing in a game against Dartmouth when he suffered a blow to the abdomen. It aggravated an existing intestinal condition and resulted in his death two days later at the hospital in Hanover. He had apparently been warned by his personal physician to give up football, but couldn't bear to sit out his senior year season.

His teammates, fraternity brothers, and the campus community were all deeply shaken by the loss. The following year, President Spooner saw to it that the university employed a physician for the first time, and in 1916, the original Ainsworth Infirmary opened as a direct result of Clarkson's death. His 1908 classmates saw to it that a room in the building was named in his memory.

Just six years after Clarkson's death, Verner Stanley "Jim" Belyea, a junior, was badly injured in the first football game of the season against Holy Cross and died the next day. In a twist of fate, Belyea had been one of the students who contracted smallpox, but survived, during a small outbreak the previous year. Numerous friends and colleagues made the trip to Greenfield, Massachusetts for his funeral. Among them were University President Charles Spooner and football captain Ray Kimball.

While he was alive, much was written in the Norwich newspapers about Belyea's prowess in football and baseball as a freshman and sophomore. The cover story in the September 1913 issue of the *Record*, published just before the fateful Holy Cross game, declared that "Belyea, all in all, in the writer's opinion, is probably the best football player that ever donned a Norwich uniform and will be a wonder this year." The November 1913 issue of the *Reveille* featured a moving tribute and account of the cadets' trip to Greenfield for the funeral.

As these episodes illustrate, football was a dangerous sport in the early 20th century. When Norwich formed a football team in 1892, the game was still similar to rugby, with almost no protective gear and no passing game, which meant a lot of tackles and injuries. In 1905, at the urging of President Theodore Roosevelt, 62 colleges and universities codified a set of safer rules of play, forming an association that would eventually become the NCAA. Unfortunately for Leonard Clarkson and Verner Belyea, the changes did not come soon enough.

To learn more about the history of Norwich football, contact the Norwich University Archives.

#112 Summer School Brought Engineers Closer to Partridge for 70 Years

For over 70 years, from approximately 1899 to 1970, summer school was a requirement for all civil engineering students at Norwich to gain practical experience in the field. It was a natural extension of Alden Partridge's "American system" of education. The sessions ranged in length from three to five weeks, and were at various times offered to rising sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Engineering summer school students, circa 1910.

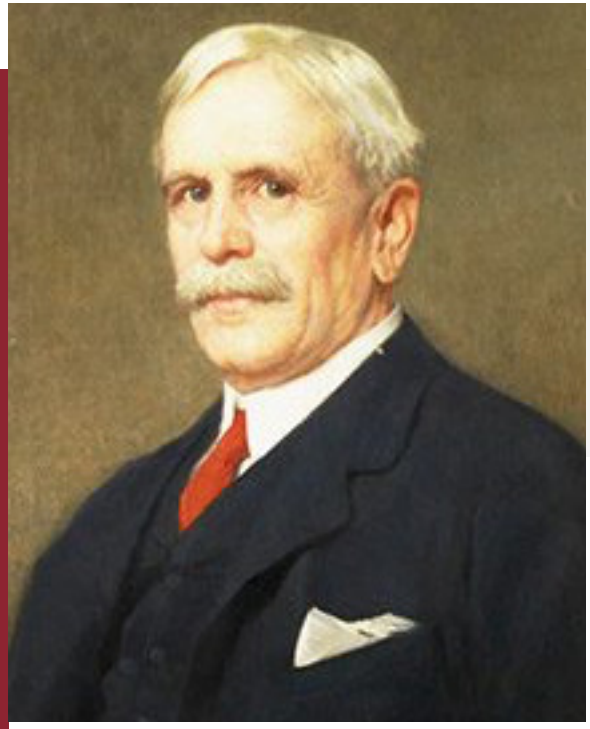
Images courtesy of the Norwich Universtiy Archives.

Full story:

For much of its existence, though, the engineering summer school program was most closely associated with the summer before a student's junior year, the halfway point of a Norwich education. Students often stayed in tent encampments for the summer. For this reason, the program is sometimes referred to in historical records as "the junior encampment."

Summer school was a key opportunity for students in the university's flagship civil engineering program to hone their surveying and drafting skills, essential components of their future careers as engineers. The curriculum was wide-ranging and intensive, designed to breathe life into the theories that were taught in the classroom during the traditional academic year. In the 1930s, for example, senior summer school students conducted a survey and drew up plans and cost estimates for a single large engineering project over the course of a four-week session.

Throughout the 70 years of the engineering summer school's existence, in addition to valuable experiential learning, many cadets' fondest memories were formed during the summer encampments. Memory books, photo albums, and memorabilia collections in the Norwich University Archives often depict the fun and good humor that was shared during those waning days of summer.



Top: William Rutherford Mead painting by William Henry Lippincott – image attributed to the Five Colleges and Historic Deerfield Museum Consortium
Bottom: New York City's Penn Station in 1910

#113 William Rutherford Mead Shaped the Landscape of New York City

William Rutherford Mead was born and raised in Brattleboro, Vermont. He attended Norwich from 1861 to 1863, after which he joined up with the 14th New Hampshire Volunteers to serve in the Civil War. Norwich would later grant him an honorary master's degree in 1910. Following his Civil War service, Mead completed his bachelor's degree at Amherst College and trained as an architect through apprenticeship in a New York City firm.

Full story:

In 1872, his training complete, he began what would be a lasting and influential partnership with fellow architect Charles McKim. Stanford White joined them in 1879 to form McKim, Mead & White. The firm would shape the Beaux-Arts era of American architecture.

Mead and his colleagues constructed the New York City of the Gilded Age. Some of their more noteworthy projects included the Washington Square Arch in Washington Square Park; the city's iconic main post office building on 8th Avenue, with its famed inscription about "snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night"; and 11 branches of the New York Public Library.

They also did extensive work outside the city, including the Boston Public Library and the Rhode Island State House. In 1895, they designed the transformer house for fellow Norwich alumnus Edward Dean Adams' groundbreaking power plant at Niagara Falls, and in 1902, the firm was tapped by Theodore Roosevelt to renovate the White House.

While a number of the McKim, Mead & White's creations have made way for more modern buildings, two stand out. In 1890, White designed a large indoor arena called Madison Square Garden, the second of what would become four different buildings to bear that name. White kept an apartment in the building, and was murdered in its rooftop garden theater in 1906. The building was razed in 1925 to make way for a new Madison Square Garden, which itself would be demolished and replaced in 1968.

The other missing McKim, Mead, White masterpiece is perhaps the most famous missing building in all of New York City: the original Pennsylvania Station. It was completed in 1910 and occupied two city blocks in midtown Manhattan. It was considered a masterpiece of Beaux-Arts architecture.

Due to declining train traffic, the controversial decision was made in 1963 to raze the above-ground portions of Penn Station. A new, entirely underground rail transit center remains in operation on the site to this day. In a twist of fate, the above-ground site is now occupied by another stand-in for a McKim, Mead & White building: the fourth Madison Square Garden.

Mead retired in 1920 and died in Paris in 1928. Following in his footsteps, Norwich University started its first architecture degree program in 1991. Today, the program is a hub of innovation on campus. In 2016, students in Professor Tolya Stonorov's design-build class won an award for designing and creating an energy efficient "tiny house". Just this year, Norwich hosted the inaugural Governor's Institute on Architecture, Design & Building for 36 Vermont high school students.

#114 An 88-Year-Old Rivalry Returns to Sabine Field

The "Little Army-Navy Game" was first contested between Norwich University and the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1929. That year, Norwich defeated Coast Guard, whose team name was then the Seamen, with a hard-won victory of 7 to 0. Though the game was tough, the cadets intermingled jovially after the game, with the Coast Guard cadets staying on campus for fraternity parties that weekend.

Full story:

Norwich won the following year, in 1930, as well. On the eve of the 1931 matchup, a New London, Conn. newspaper publisher presented Norwich with a trophy he provided, an antique pewter cup that would come to be known simply as "The Mug." Though Norwich was the first recipient of The Mug, they held onto it for less than 24 hours, as Coast Guard claimed their first victory of the series the next day.

The Mug passed between Northfield and New London repeatedly over the following years. The rivalry game was played in 71 of 77 seasons between 1929 and 2005, with Coast Guard holding a slim 38-32-1 all-time advantage. The longest continuous playing streak lasted from 1954 to 2005, when the two teams met every season for 52 years.

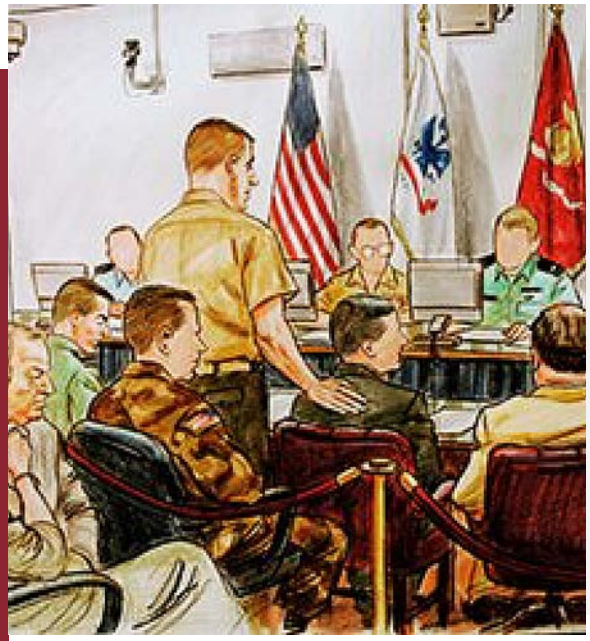
As for winning streaks, each school has had the distinction of winning five match-ups in a row. Coast Guard beat Norwich every year from 1971 to 1975. Norwich had two winning streaks bookending this time period: from 1966 to 1970 and from 1976 to 1980. In both 1979 and 1980, Norwich won by 43 points, a program record against Coast Guard.

Numerous highlights of classic Little Army Navy Games throughout history can be found in the pages of the *Guidon*. In 1940, a headline reading "Coast Guard Sunk" described a blowout game in which the Cadets picked off seven of the Bears' ten forward passes. The NU program record for rushing yards and total yards of offense in one game was set against Coast Guard in the 1979 season.

The last time the Cadets defeated the Bears was in 2004. The 2005 season saw the temporary conclusion of the rivalry when the two schools were separated by the reorganization of the football conferences. In 2013, it was announced that the storied rivalry would be renewed in the 2017 season. Hopefully The Mug will be making its way back to Northfield after the teams meet once more on September 23 during this year's Homecoming Weekend.

Norwich University versus Coast Guard football game, 1964.

Images courtesy of the Norwich Universtiy Archives.



In this courtroom illustration, David Hicks, center, as his defense council U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Michael Mori, standing, puts his hand on Hicks' shoulder before a military commission at Guantanamo Naval Base Aug. 25, 2004 in Guantanamo, Cuba. Hicks is charged with conspiracy to commit war crimes, aiding the enemy and attempted murder – for allegedly firing at coalition forces. Hicks' father Terry and stepmother Bev are seated at far left. (AP Photo/Art Lein, Pool)

#115 Michael Mori, Class of 1991, Defended an Innocent Guantanamo Detainee

When Major Michael Dante Mori '91 first learned he would be defending "Guantanamo Detainee Number 002," he was expecting what then U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld described as "among the most dangerous, best trained, vicious killers on the face of the Earth"—someone who likely had been involved in the 9/11 attacks. Then he met David Hicks: a 5-ft., 2-in. Aussie with an eighth-grade education, who alleges that the first time he heard the word "al-Qaeda" was while being interrogated by U.S. military personnel.

Contributed by Diana Weggler, adapted from an article entitled "Undue Process" that appeared in the Norwich Record *in 2012.*

Full story:

Hicks was a high school dropout from a rural, working-class suburb of Adelaide. After visiting a local mosque, he converted to Islam and traveled to Pakistan to study the Qur'an. While there, he joined 30 other foreigners being trained in mountain warfare by a group who were fighting the occupying Indian army in the Kashmir border region.

In August of 2001, he traveled to Afghanistan to learn about guerilla and urban warfare at a camp administered by the local Afghan government. After a few weeks, he was ready to return home, but unwisely made the two-hour journey back to Kandahar on September 12, 2001 to retrieve his passport from a hotel safe. The borders closed behind him and, following a horrific chain of events lasting several months, he was apprehended in Baglan and turned over to U.S. military personnel.

The second detainee to be processed in Bush's War on Terror and the first Guantanamo detainee to be given legal counsel, Hicks had already been incarcerated for two years when Major Mori was assigned to him. Having volunteered for the case because he thought it would be "an opportunity to do something different," Mori quickly found himself in uncharted waters. As the chief prosecutor at Marine Corps Base Hawaii, he was well versed in court-martial law; however, he admits, "International criminal law was something I never had training in, so I had to do a lot of reading."

Since Hicks was not guilty of any crime under the existing judicial system, the Pentagon had created (or more accurately, resurrected) a new system: military commissions. Under this alternate model—utilized in 1942 to try Nazi saboteurs—Hicks would be systematically denied any of the rights or protections normally granted to the accused by the Geneva conventions, and tried in secret by a government-appointed tribunal.

Nothing in Major Mori's experience had prepared him for what lay ahead. Besides pretty much guaranteeing that the accused wouldn't receive a fair trial, the military commissions system flew in the face of everything Mori stood for—as an American, as a member of the legal profession, and as a Marine. As he told Raymond Bonner of the *New York Times,* "It offends my understanding of what justice is that's been ingrained in me by the Marine Corps and by my legal training."

Faced with near impossible odds, Mori changed his strategy, abandoning his efforts to prove his client's innocence in an unfair system and instead focusing on exposing a rigged system that had no legal grounds on which to charge his client in the first place. Meanwhile, Hicks' incarceration continued for years. He was the only westerner left among 540 prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. U.S. authorities couldn't release Hicks uncharged, as it would have constituted an admission of human rights violations on their part.

In January 2007, in reaction to mounting pressure from the Australian media and public, then Australian Prime Minister John Howard gave the Bush administration an ultimatum: If Hicks wasn't charged by February, he would request his release. On February 2, Hicks was charged for the second time—with "Attempted Murder and Providing Material Support for Terrorism." This, despite the fact that the first Military Commission had been thrown out by the Supreme Court as violating the Geneva Conventions, and the new Manual for Military Commissions had not yet been drafted.

One month later the head legal adviser for the commissions offered Mori's client a deal: If Hicks would plead guilty to providing material support to terrorism, the attempted murder charge would be dropped, he would be released from Guantanamo in 60 days, and he would serve seven months of a nine-year sentence in an Australian prison. Given that his only other option was remaining at Guantanamo, facing illegal charges and possibly never seeing his family again, the offer was simply too good to refuse. At Mori's near insistence, and after much soul searching, Hicks reluctantly signed, effectively ending his five-and-a-half-year ordeal.

News of Hicks' impending release electrified the Australian media, garnering Mori celebrity status. Robyn Shelly, an Australian journalist covering the story for *Unknown News*, called him a "modern day Atticus Finch." Mori was presented with an honorary membership to the Australian Bar Association. The Australian Lawyer's Alliance (ALA) presented Mori with a civil justice award that recognizes "unsung heroes who, despite personal risk or sacrifice, have fought to preserve individual rights, human dignity or safety."

Back in the United States, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) had earlier presented Mori with the Roger N. Baldwin Medal of Liberty, the monetary portion of which Mori asked the ACLU to donate to a trust fund for David Hicks' three children.

Now retired from the Marines, Mori has turned the page on this somewhat surreal chapter of his life and is spending more time with his three sons, Dante, Enrico, and Antonio. But he won't soon forget his client and experiences and wrote a book detailing his time at Guantanamo and the Military Commission system titled, *In the Company of Cowards* which was published by Penguin Australia.

In 2014, Major Mori's complaint that the Material Support Charge was illegal was vindicated by U.S. Federal Court in D.C. They determined that the charge Hicks plead guilty to was invalid, which resulted in his conviction being was thrown out.

9/11 Memorial at Norwich University.

Image courtesy of the Norwich Universtiy.

#116 Student Organization Responsible for 9/11 Memorial

The initiative is spearheaded by the political science student organization POLITEIA, a decades-old club that has been sponsoring the planting of 9/11 remembrance flags since 2008. The club's mission is to promote interest in political affairs through research, professional opportunities, leadership, and current events.

Full story:

The first 9/11 remembrance ceremony to be held on campus was just days after the attacks, on September 14, 2001. A reeling community gathered in solemnity to honor the fallen and to hear remarks from President Schneider and Vermont Governor Howard Dean.

In 2008, POLITEIA faculty advisor and Associate Professor of Political Science Jason Jageman was approached by a student who wanted Norwich to participate in the Young America's Foundation's 9/11: Never Forget Project. This nationwide initiative brought tributes to over 180 campuses that year. Student leaders and volunteers of POLITEIA have continued the tradition at Norwich ever since.

This year, all members of the Norwich community are invited to observe and reflect on the thousands of flags that represent the tragedy's nearly 3,000 victims from over 90 countries. They will surround the flagpole on the Upper Parade Ground as our nation's flag flies at half mast.

As in past years, POLITEIA's flag display will be accompanied by remembrance observances conducted by the Corps of Cadets. The remembrance will include the marching of vigil tours beginning at midnight on September 11. Senior cadets each marched slowly around the Upper Parade Ground in a circuit lasting precisely 30 minutes apiece. At 10:00 PM, the campus will fall silent for the ceremonial playing of Echo Taps and Amazing Grace.

The Norwich University family especially remembers two of its own who were lost that day: George Morrell '76, and Thomas Palazzo '79. Both worked on the 104th floor of the World Trade Center. At least one other Norwich graduate narrowly escaped the disaster. Rob Colatarci '95, worked in the World Financial Center across the street from the World Trade Center. Lauren Musso '11 witnessed the events as a child in Queens, a formative experience that inspired her to join the military and become a nurse.

We also honor the contributions of alumni like Harold Shaw '88 who was in his FBI office just blocks from the World Trade Center at the time of the attacks. Shaw was part of the Joint Terrorism Task Force and spent two years assisting with the investigation into the September 11 attacks. He now heads the FBI office in Boston.

#117 Norwich Felt the Impact of the Great Depression but Remained Strong

As with many national events, Norwich remained both removed from and deeply affected by the depression. In large part, life on campus carried on as usual, with academics, athletic contests, cadet training, and social events at the forefront.

Full story:

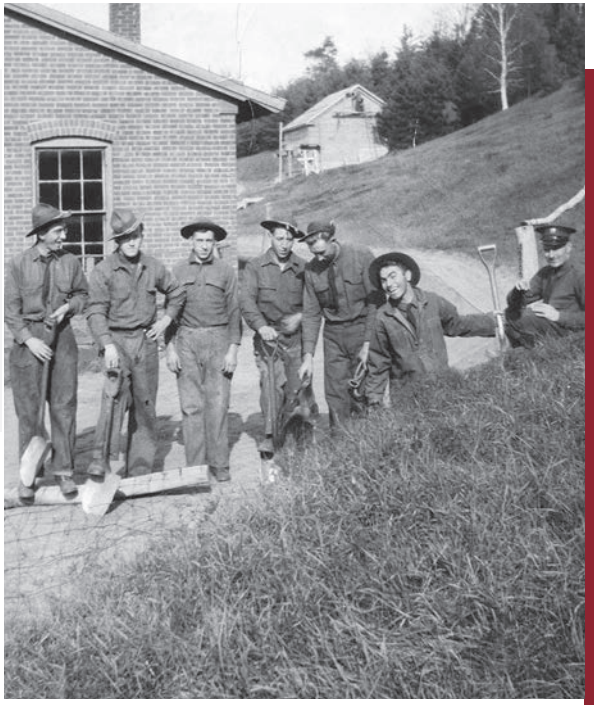
But national events have a way of seeping in. Enrollment began to decline. Seniors worried gravely about their employment prospects after graduation, with reports indicating that many recent graduates were out of work. The *Norwich Record* struggled to cover publication costs. Attendance at formal dances declined as students struggled to afford tickets (though reports indicate that attendance at fraternity parties remained robust).

In 1932, the freshman class was excused from purchasing dress uniforms, a cost savings of approximately $100 per student. In a letter to the affected students, the university's treasurer explained that the measure was taken "in an effort to eliminate all possible expense during the present financial condition." That same year, an editorial in the *Guidon* complained that the university's attempts to save on fuel costs were making the barracks unacceptably cold on winter mornings.

In a move that tied the university more closely to national events, President Porter Adams orchestrated the appropriation of New Deal funds to renovate Jackman and Alumni barracks in 1934. A $60,000 loan from the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, which would later be replaced by the Works Progress Administration, facilitated needed repairs to the two barracks, as well as upgrades to the heating system in Dodge Hall. Such programs were intended to improve the labor market by putting local men to work on construction projects. President Adams and the trustees also sought a loan for the construction of an entirely new building. While the plan didn't come to fruition at the time, it may have been the seed for the original Cabot Hall, which was completed in 1938.

Norwich students and faculty alike observed with interested as the depression changed the landscape of higher education across the country. In Virginia, a "Depression College" was proposed but never launched. The concept was that unemployed professors could teach in exchange for room and board, while impoverished students could pay tuition through work and other barter arrangements.

Throughout the decade, across the country and right here on the Hill, creative minds worked to find ways to stabilize the economy while lifting up struggling citizens. Norwich University remains resilient nearly 80 years after the Great Depression came to a close with the renewal of wartime industry. At a time of uncertainty in higher education, Norwich has received an A rating for financial solvency two years in a row from Forbes Magazine.



Norwich University stable sergeants, approximately 1930.

Image courtesy of the Norwich Universtiy Archives.

Learn more about Norwich University in the 1930s and the impact of the Great Depression by visiting the Norwich University Archives.

Norwich University Archives

Edwin Ferry Johnson

Image courtesy of the Sullivan Museum and History Center.

#118 Edwin Ferry Johnson Helped Engineer the American Landscape

Edwin Ferry Johnson was a native Vermonter and the son of a prominent civil engineer; his father was surveyor-general of Vermont for many years. In early life, Johnson learned the skill of surveying as an apprentice to his father. In 1818, at age 15, he assisted his father when he participated in the great Northeast Boundary Survey of the U.S.-Canada border, a project in which Johnson's future mentor Alden Partridge was also involved.

Full story:

Johnson attended Alden Partridge's American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy in its earliest years. He trained under Partridge from approximately 1823 to 1825. Though the academy was not granting degrees at that time, in 1836 he received an honorary Master of Arts in recognition of his work.

Only a short time after Johnson completed his time as a student with Captain Partridge, he became an instructor at the academy. He taught math, natural history, and civil engineering and accompanied Partridge when the academy moved to Middletown, Conn. in 1825.

When Partridge closed the academy at Middletown in 1829 in preparation to return to Norwich, Vt., Johnson stayed behind briefly to join the faculty of the newly established Wesleyan University. It wasn't long, though, until he turned from teaching to the profession for which he had been so extensively trained: engineering.

From 1829 until his death in 1872, Johnson worked tirelessly to build our nation's infrastructure. From the Erie and Champlain canals to the burgeoning railroad to bridges and waterworks, he held countless leadership positions as he and fellow Norwich engineers led the way in modernizing the landscape of America. He was an early visionary in the development of a nationwide railroad system, writing as early as 1828 that the railroad would become an essential component of American business once it was more fully understood and implemented.

In addition to his influential career as an engineer, Johnson wrote prolifically on engineering and surveying topics, held several patents for inventions, partnered in a variety of business ventures, and served terms as the mayor of Middletown, Conn. and as a state senator.

The final position that Johnson held in his long career was as chief engineer of the new Northern Pacific Railway from 1866 to 1870. Ever dedicated, he remained a consulting engineer for the company from his retirement in 1870 until his death two years later. In 1998, Norwich University acquired a beautiful oil portrait of this great engineer, which is now part of the collections of the Sullivan Museum and History Center.

#119 Henry Hancock, Class of 1843, Surveyed Los Angeles and Owned the La Brea Tar Pits

Henry Hancock was a native of Bath, N.H. who, before enrolling at Norwich University, attended Newbury Methodist Seminary in Newbury, Vt. This makes him a "double graduate" of Norwich. Newbury Methodist Seminary later moved to Montpelier, where it became Montpelier Seminary and then Vermont College, which merged with Norwich University in 1972.

Full story:

Hancock attended Norwich around the turbulent time of Alden Partridge's resignation from the presidency. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in 1843 and briefly worked as a civil engineer before enlisting to serve in the Mexican American War.

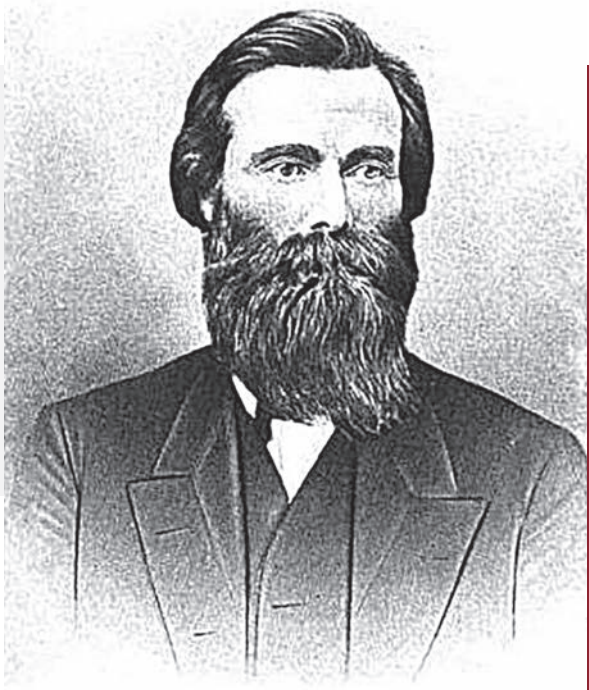
After the war, he attended Harvard Law School, but it wasn't long before he headed out west—this was, after all, the age of the California Gold Rush. He tried his hand at mining—before settling in Los Angeles, where he would reside from approximately 1853 until his death thirty years later.

When Hancock moved to Los Angeles, it was a small, recently incorporated town with fewer than 2,000 residents. Drawing upon his civil engineering training from Norwich University, he joined the efforts of Henry Washington, who in 1852 had begun a comprehensive land survey of Southern California on behalf of the U.S. Surveyor General's Office. Hancock served as city surveyor and conducted the second-ever official survey of the city of Los Angeles. He foresaw the city's future prominence in the region and urged the city council to widen the streets.

When the Civil War broke out, Hancock joined the 4th California Volunteers, serving at Benicia and Wilmington, Cal. After the war, Hancock turned his attention to his legal practice. He also began developing the commercial potential of a tract of land he had been deeded by a legal client, called Rancho La Brea. The nearly 5,000 acres of land contained extensive deposits of asphaltum, a newly discovered mineral that Hancock promoted for paving, fuel, and other uses. Later, the discovery of petroleum on the land led to the establishment of the Rancho La Brea Oil Company.

Hancock passed away in Santa Monica in 1883, but his legacy was only beginning. Throughout the history of Rancho La Brea, it was known that animal bones could be found among the tar-like asphalt deposits. It wasn't until 1901 that scientists realized the bones were fossils left behind by prehistoric creatures. Extensive excavation of the fossils took place beginning in 1905. In 1924, Henry Hancock's son George donated 23 acres to Los Angeles County, establishing Hancock Park. He stipulated that the land's natural features be preserved and that the excavated fossils be displayed for the public.

Today, Hancock Park and the La Brea Tar Pits are popular Los Angeles attractions, and scientists continue to uncover new fossils, adding to the rich history of which Henry Hancock and his family are a part.



Henry Hancock, Class of 1843.

Image courtesy of the Norwich Universtiy Archives.

Learn more about the La Brea Tar Pits & Museum at www.tarpits.org/.

Frank Liebel (#22).

1944 New York Giants – Frank Liebel standing in back row wearing #22.

Courtesy of Creative Commons.

#120 Frank Liebel, Class of 1943, was a Standout Player for the New York Giants

Frank Liebel hailed from Erie, Pa. According to newspaper reports, he was six feet tall in the seventh grade, destined for an athletic career. He entered Norwich in 1939 and played on two consecutive state championship teams. He was famous for catching long passes from teammate Walt Domina.

Full story:

Like so many Norwich students during the war years, Liebel entered the service before completing his degree. He joined the artillery in 1941, but was discharged in 1942 due to a punctured ear drum. Through the connections of his Norwich football coach, he received word to report to the New York Giants training camp that fall. Still a gifted receiver, he led the NFL in yards per reception and receiving touchdowns during the 1945 season. He was also selected for the All-NFL 2nd Team in 1946. It was in 1946, Liebel's fifth pro season, that he played in a championship game that would go down in history.

The day before the Giants were to play the Chicago Bears for the league title, two Giants players were accused of taking money to fix the game. Fullback Merle Hapes admitted to the scheme under questioning, but quarterback Frank Filchock maintained his innocence and was allowed to play. One of two touchdown passes that Filchock completed during that game was caught by Frank Liebel. In spite of Liebel's skill as a receiver, the Giants lost the game 24-14; Filchock later admitted under oath that he had taken bribes.

Liebel played one more season with the Giants and one with the Chicago Bears before retiring from professional sports in 1948. He went on to have a long career in law enforcement in Erie County, Pa. He passed away in 1996 and was inducted posthumously into the NU Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008.

#121 When the Civil War Came to Our Backyard

On October 19, 1864—the same day Norwich alumnus Major General Horatio Wright played a key role in the tide-turning victory against the Confederate Army at Cedar Creek—Norwich University cadets and faculty set out to defend the U.S.-Canada border in what became the northernmost conflict of the Civil War.

Contributed by COL Timothy H. Donovan, USA (Ret.) '62 adapted from an article in the Summer 2014 Norwich Record.

Full story:

Six hundred miles north of the raging battle at Cedar Creek, Va., 21 Confederate cavalrymen were planning a daring raid in sleepy St. Albans, Vt. In the days leading up to the 19th, they had crossed the border from Canada a few at a time to avoid arousing suspicion. Leading the attack was Lieutenant Bennett Young, who the year before had been captured by Union forces and held as a prisoner of war before escaping to neutral Canada and eventually returning to the South. Young conceived the idea of robbing banks near the Canadian border to divert Union troops away from southern military objectives.

The Confederacy was also desperate for supplies. The Union's naval seaport blockades along the southern and Gulf coasts had closed the Confederates' European supply lines, crippling the South. Young saw Canada as an access point to largely undefended parts of the Union.

Young's band robbed three banks, killing one Vermonter and holding several townspeople at gunpoint on the town common. He then ordered St. Albans burned to the ground, but the ensuing fire only destroyed one shed.

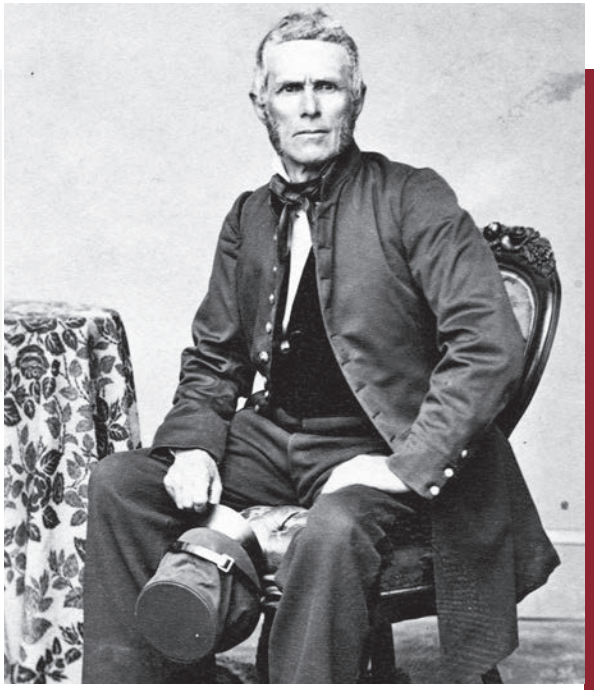
The Confederates had sorely underestimated the Vermont spirit. While the invaders escaped to Canada with more than $200,000 (an income value of more than $38 million in today's economy), Young's Rebels suffered one killed and several wounded.

The only organized military troops of any kind still left in Vermont were the Norwich University faculty and Corps of Cadets. Under the command of Brigadier General Alonzo Jackman, Class of 1836, and Captain Charles Kent, Class of 1864, nearly 50 cadets mobilized and headed north from Norwich, Vt., to Newport in an effort to intercept the Confederates before they could reach Canada. The Norwich contingent spent several days looking for the Rebels, but the raiders had already crossed the border.

Canadian authorities soon captured and arrested the Confederates. But the Canadian government would not turn the Confederates over to the U.S., because doing so would have been tantamount to siding with the Union. They did confiscate and return $88,000 that remained in Young's possession.

The cadets and their commanders returned to Norwich never knowing how close they might have come to encountering and capturing the Confederate raiders.

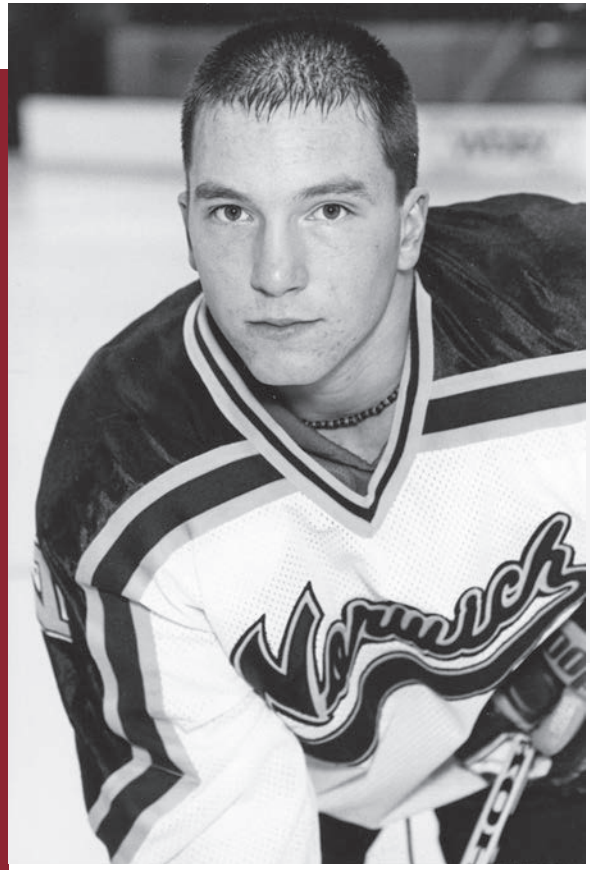
The Norwich University Archives houses Charles N. Kent's manuscript reminiscence of the St. Albans Raid.



Top: Alonzo Jackman

Bottom: Charles N. Kent

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives



Keith Aucoin '01 at Norwich.

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives

#122 Keith Aucoin, Class of 2001, Still Making His Mark on Professional Hockey

Keith Aucoin '01, is arguably the most decorated athlete in Norwich University athletics history. The four-year star for the men's ice hockey team holds the all-time point record with a remarkable 240 points in 116 games played. He scored 116 goals and notched 124 assists and was named an All-American all four seasons he played for the Maroon & Gold. He was a two-time league Player of the Year, as well as won the Sid Watson Award as the Division III National Player of the Year as a senior in 2001. He was a member of Norwich's inaugural national championship team in 2000, when the Cadets beat St. Thomas (Minn.) 2-1 in Superior, Wisconsin.

Full story:

Aucoin is a native of Chelmsford, Mass. After his remarkable career as a collegiate player, he went on to play professional hockey in seven leagues and four different countries. He began his career with the United Hockey League and then the American Hockey League, where he still ranks 7th all-time in career points.

Despite a small stature and humble beginnings, Aucoin went on to play 165 games in the National Hockey League. He skated for the New York Islanders, St. Louis Blues, Washington Capitals, and Carolina Hurricanes from He holds the distinction of being one of just 13 players who graduated from NCAA Division III hockey programs and went on to the NHL. Two others, Frank Simonetti and Kurtis McLean, are fellow Norwich alumni.

Aucoin's career has more recently taken him abroad. In 2016 and 2017, he won back-to-back German Hockey League championships with Red Bull München. This fall, he started his 17th professional hockey season with that team. He was inducted into the Norwich Athletic Hall of Fame in 2016.

The Norwich hockey franchise continues its tradition of excellence. In addition to winning the men's Division III NCAA championship in 2017, Norwich student-athletes swept the NCAA Elite 90 awards for Division III hockey this year. The award, named for the 90 championship contests that the NCAA oversees across all three divisions, is presented to the student-athlete competing in the championship with the highest GPA. The 2017 men's and women's Division III hockey awards were presented to Braeden Ostepchuk '18 and Carly Menges '19.

#123 Norwich Has Trained Chinese Leaders for Over 100 Years

In the wake of the Boxer Rebellion of 1899-1901, the Chinese government paid a significant damage settlement—or indemnity—to several countries, one of which was the United States. The U.S. returned a portion of its settlement to China to fund the Boxer Indemnity Scholarship and creation of Tsing Hua Imperial College, a preparatory school, for those students who were sent by the government to study in at American universities.

Contributed by Clarke Haywood '12, partially adapted from an article appearing in the Spring 2014 Norwich Record.

Full story:

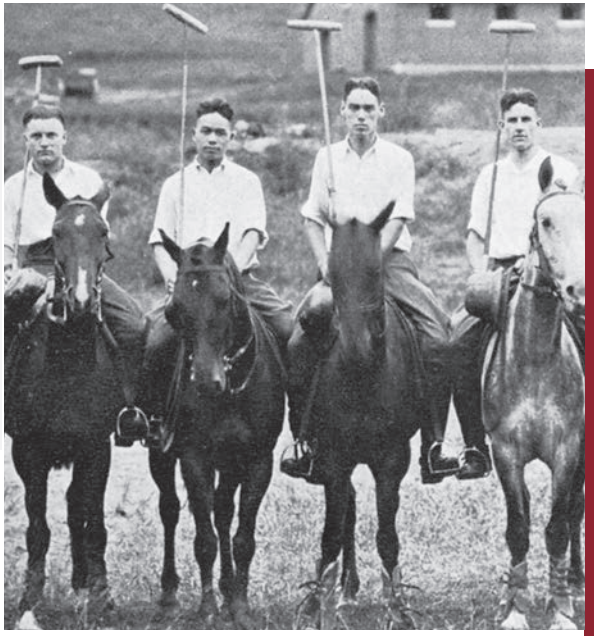
These extraordinary young men were hand-selected to study abroad to prepare for military or civil service. Although Norwich was not the only U.S. school to enroll Chinese students (prior to their arrival at Norwich, some Chinese cadets had attended Harvard, Cornell, Purdue, or MIT), Norwich students comprised fully half of those who came to the U.S. from China through this program to be instructed in Western military tactics. Their training at Norwich propelled them to leadership positions, and many of them rose to become generals in their own army.

Many of these students also studied at the Tsinghua Imperial College, now known as Tsinghua University in China. This world famous university recently mounted an exhibit honoring the accomplishments of its graduates who studied military science in the United States, particularly at Norwich. A delegation from Norwich, including Assistant Vice President for International Education Thy Yang and Dean Michael McGinnis, was invited to attend the exhibit opening and meet with descendants of the NU-Tsinghua graduates. Material from Norwich's historical collections is featured in the exhibit.

The first known student of Chinese descent to enter Norwich University was Woon Loy Chun, known in his home country as Chen Huan-lei. He attended Norwich with the class of 1910. Just a few years later, he was followed by one of our most famous Chinese graduates, George Bow of Grass Valley, CA, a member of the class of 1914. In the 1920s, Bow served as the chief bodyguard for Sun Yat-Sen, who had previously been the first president of the Republic of China.

Norwich University's relationship with China dates back to the 19th century. Frederick Townsend Ward—legendary for his military triumphs in 1860s Imperial China as the mercenary commander of the "Ever Victorious Army"—attended Norwich in the late 1840s. Working as a soldier-of-fortune, his travels took him to Shanghai, where was instrumental in introducing Western military tactics to the Chinese Army; and, although he didn't live to see the victory, his leadership helped bring about the end of the Taiping Rebellion.

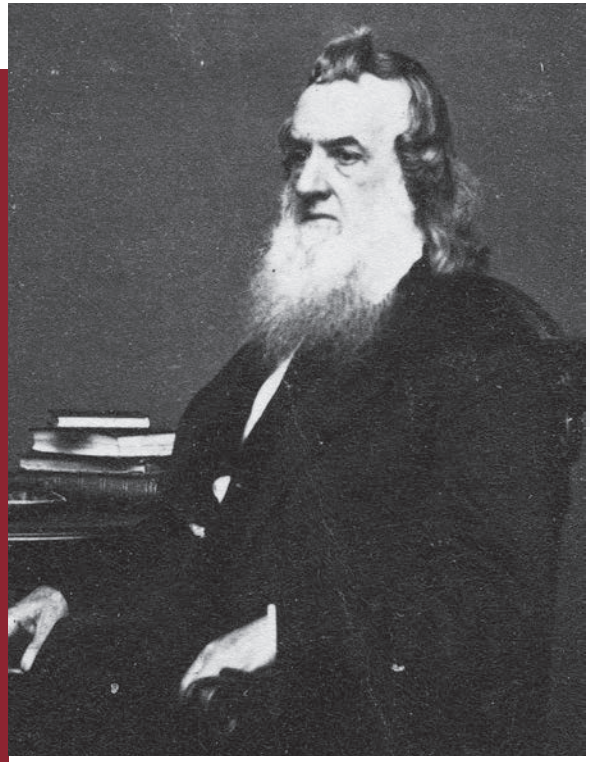
Today, China is one of the most popular study abroad destinations for Norwich students, and study there is required for Chinese language majors. You can learn more about Norwich's past, present, and future relationship with China from the Norwich University Archives and the International Center.



Top: Edward Eng Ting '25 (center) was renowned at Norwich for his love of polo.

Bottom: George Bow '14

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.



Guidion Welles

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives

#124 Gideon Welles: Lincoln's "Neptune"

Gideon Welles was a native of Glastonbury, Conn., a descendent of 17th century colonists who settled in the state. He attended the Episcopal Academy of Connecticut (now known as Cheshire Academy) before enrolling in Alden Partridge's American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy in 1823. The academy was only in its fourth year of operation in Norwich, Vt. The academy moved to Middletown, Conn., near Welles' ancestral home, after his first two years, and he continued studying for another year at the newly reopened school.

Full story:

Welles attended Partridge's academy at a time when the school was not yet a chartered, degree-granting institution. After Partridge moved back to Norwich and received a charter from the State of Vermont, Welles was among the first former students to receive honorary degrees. He was granted an honorary A.M. (a Master of Arts) in 1836, the same year that Alonzo Jackman became our first full-fledged graduate.

Following his time at Partridge's academy, Welles remained in Connecticut and became active in state politics, serving at various times as a state legislator, comptroller, postmaster of Hartford (then a coveted political appointment), and chief of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing in the Navy. He was also a newspaperman, serving as an editor and part owner of the *Hartford Times* for many years, and would later go on to establish the anti-slavery *Hartford Evening Times*.

Originally a Democrat, Welles joined the anti-slavery Republican Party when it was organized by fellow Norwich alumnus Alvan Bovay in 1855. He ran unsuccessfully for governor of Connecticut as a member of the new party in 1856. In 1860, he chaired the Connecticut delegation to the convention that selected Abraham Lincoln as its presidential nominee. When Lincoln was elected, he appointed Welles as his Secretary of the Navy. Welles held that post for nearly a decade, serving throughout Lincoln's term and that of his successor, Andrew Johnson.

During the Civil War, Welles dramatically expanded the Union Navy and played a pivotal role in Lincoln's cabinet. Lincoln supposedly referred to him as his "Neptune" after the Roman god of the sea. Welles helped create the nation's first and most distinguished military decoration, the Medal of Honor, which originated in the Navy in 1861. It has since been awarded to eight Norwich alumni, five of whom served in the Civil War.

The Welles and Lincoln families also became close during this time. Gideon Welles' wife Mary Jane was a dear friend of Mary Todd Lincoln's, and Gideon Welles was present when President Lincoln died at the hands of assassin John Wilkes Booth in 1865.

After his retirement from politics, Welles resided in Connecticut and wrote several books before dying of a streptococcal infection (strep throat) in 1878.

#125 Trustee Koziol Held a Top Intelligence Position at the Department of Defense

Lt. Gen. John "Craig" Koziol, Class of 1976, is a retired Air Force Lieutenant General and Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence), a career Airman who commanded at the detachment, squadron, center, group, wing, Air Force agency, and joint command levels.

Lt. Gen John Koziol '76

Image courtesy of U.S. Air Force

Full story:

Koziol earned his undergraduate degree from Norwich and commissioned through the university's Air Force ROTC program as a distinguished graduate in 1976. He holds a Master of Science in Business Administration and attended numerous senior leadership and international security courses at Harvard University, Syracuse University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

At the height of his career with the Department of Defense, Koziol served as Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence) for Joint and Coalition Warfighter Support. In this role, he acted as principal adviser to the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence on operational issues concerning departmental ISR programs and related ISR activities supporting the warfighter.

At the same time, Koziol also served as Director of the Department of Defense ISR Task Force and led a department-wide effort to assess and propose options for developing, producing and deploying ISR airborne and ground collection capabilities in support of operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Prior to his assignment to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, he was the Commander, Air Force ISR Agency, and the Commander, Joint Information Operations Warfare Command.

Koziol retired from the Air Force in 2012 after 36 years as an intelligence officer, and recently retired as Vice President, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Systems at L-3 Mission Integration in Greenville, Texas. He now serves his alma mater on the Board of Trustees.

Mountain Cold Weather (MCW), 1964

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives

#126 "Hilly Chilly" Has Offered Leadership Opportunities for 70 Years

"Climb to Conquer" is the motto of the Mountain Cold Weather (MCW) Company, established by the United States War Department in August 1947. The War Department saw the uniqueness of Norwich's location – near mountains with severe winter temperatures – and its mission to train cadets to be officers in the Army.

Contributed by Curtis Ostler, adapted from an article entitled "Climb to Conquer" in the Winter 2010 edition of the Norwich Record.

Full story:

The first instructor assigned to Norwich was MSG Leslie Hurley, a mountaineer and a member of the famed 10th Mountain Division during World War II. Realizing the need for officers with experience in mountain warfare, MSG Hurley and the Army started the Mountain Cold Weather Company at Norwich. Skills taught to these students included skiing, snowshoeing, wilderness survival, basic and advanced first aid, climbing and mountaineering, day and night land navigation, and cold weather injuries.

In 1960, SFC Don Jennings started the Mountain Cold Weather Rescue Team, the mission of which is to provide Northern New England with a rescue service capable of conducting search and rescue operations at any time of year under any climatic condition. The Rescue Team has gone on to provide this service on many occasions. Northern New England recognizes the MCW Rescue Team as the one to call when no one else can complete the rescue. An important first was accomplished in the fall of 2000 with the certification of 45 company members as National Search and Rescue Association Search and Rescue Technicians II.

Since 1947, Mountain Cold Weather Company has provided an experience that is unique in the landscape of higher education. Affectionately known as "Hilly Chilly," the Mountain (Hilly) and Cold Weather (Chilly) team advances the skills of mountaineering, ice climbing, orienteering, and hazardous terrain rescue for select Norwich students in the tradition of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division.

In the early days, the equipment was hardly what one would recognize as modern winter gear, with wooden skis and wool clothing. Although wool has given way to synthetics, and skis are now fashioned from fiberglass or carbon fiber, the lifelong lessons learned in MCW are much the same today as they were 50 years ago. Alumni recall how frigid hikes and nights spent on snowy mountaintops taught them about survival, navigation, and first aid, as well as the leadership skills that are the hallmark of a Norwich education.

Today, the cadets of the MCW specialty unit train three days a week, culminating in a January excursion that tests the skills they have learned. The program receives generous support from the Pritzker Foundation.

#127 Outing Club Sought to Build the Alden Partridge Trail

The NU Outing Club was founded in February 1922 with the goal of encouraging "healthy and instructive winter sport" in the spirit of our founder, Alden Partridge.

Ski slope at Norwich University, approximately 1929-1938

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives

Full story:

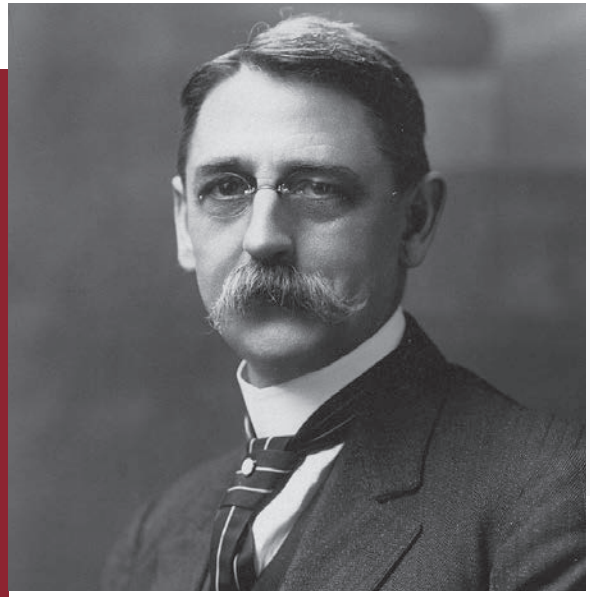
The establishment of the Outing Club at Norwich University in 1922 was part of a regional and national movement in favor of outdoor recreation and appreciation of our nation's natural beauty. Vermont's historic Long Trail was under construction and would be completed in 1930. The Outing Club soon became affiliated with the recently established New England Trails Conference, which counted among its members similar college clubs from Dartmouth, Amherst, and Williams.

Within their first few years of existence, the Outing Club's membership constructed multiple small cabins in the mountains surrounding Northfield to serve as stopping points for hiking and snowshoeing expeditions. They also began work on bold plans to clear a trail from Northfield to Norwich that they intended to call the Alden Partridge Trail. While it resulted in several popular scenic trails and shelters being cleared in the mountains around Northfield, it seems this vision never came to fruition.

Interest in the activities of the Outing Club was invigorated after the establishment of the Mountain and Cold Weather training program in 1947. The following year, in 1948, the university hired Benjamin Ferrier, an assistant professor of physical education and former professional mountain guide, to serve as the director of the Outing Club. For many years, the club served as the driving force behind Winter Carnival, the establishment of the ski team, and construction of campus skiing infrastructure.

In a spirit that makes Norwich University unique to this day, the efforts of the Outing Club married the benefits of physical activity with the natural beauty that surrounded them in the rolling terrain of Vermont. The Outing Club was active throughout much of the 20th century, fading out in the early 1990s. Today, the Shaw Outdoor Center continues the club's legacy, offering free equipment rentals and clinics in snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, mountain biking, and more.

Learn more about the early history of the Outing Club through resources in the Norwich University Archives.



Top: President Charles Spooner.

Bottom: John Johnson, Charles Spooner (center), and Eugene Carr, as cadets.

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives

Learn more about Charles Horace Spooner from his personal papers in the Norwich University Archives. His life and presidency are also documented.

#128 President Charles Spooner, Only Member of His Graduating Class, Doubled the Size of Norwich

Charles Horace Spooner was born in Charlestown, N.H. in 1858. He entered Norwich University when he was just 16 years old and completed a bachelor's degree with an A average in only three years. He gained experience in teaching and military training at different schools before being called home to lead his alma mater in 1904.

Full story:

Spooner's presidency followed the death in April 1904 of Allan Danvers Brown, a former naval officer and Episcopal priest who had served as president for eight years. The Norwich at which Charles Spooner arrived to take the helm looked very different from the university where he had been the only graduate in his class. During Spooner's 11-year presidency, he helped nearly double the size of the Corps of Cadets, from 104 to 185, despite strengthening the admissions requirements.

To deal with the burgeoning size of the student body, he also doubled the physical plant, which in 1904 consisted only of Jackman, Dodge, and Dewey Halls. Spooner oversaw the additional planning and construction of Alumni Hall, now our oldest barracks; Carnegie Hall, the university's first freestanding library and also home to the new electrical engineering department; and a new central heating plant.

In addition to leading us through a spectacular period of growth on campus, Spooner gained a reputation as a vocal advocate for Norwich in the outside world. He successfully convinced the U.S. Weather Bureau to build a station on university land in 1910. The university later acquired that building. We know it as Ainsworth Hall, and it is now undergoing extensive renovation as part of the bicentennial capital projects.

Spooner's advocacy was put to the test near the end of his term when, in 1914, a report commissioned by the Vermont Education Commission sparked a massive statewide debate over higher education funding known as the "College Wars." The report recommended that the state only provide scholarships and other funding to one university instead of the three (Norwich, Middlebury, and UVM). An outpouring of support from alumni and heartfelt testimony from President Spooner helped save Norwich's funding just before the outbreak of World War I made the university more indispensable than ever.

Charles Spooner resigned as president of Norwich in 1915. In retirement, he returned to his native New Hampshire. He spent some time teaching math at Dartmouth and published writings on education. He passed away in 1946. Heartfelt tributes in the *Norwich Record* speak to the great impact he had on the Norwich community.

#129 Norwich's First Ski Instructor was an Austrian Champion

Sepp Ruschp was the Norwich University ski coach from 1936 to 1943. After the Outing Club and the first skiing infrastructure on Paine Mountain were both established in the 1920s, cadets showed great interest in continuing to grow the university's ski program. At the urging of Outing Club members, the university hired Austrian ski coach Sepp Ruschp to establish a ski school in 1936.

1939 Ski Team

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Full story:

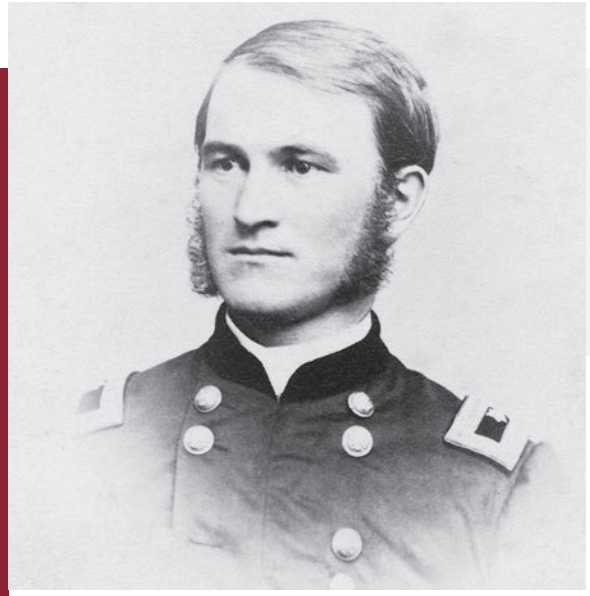
"Herr Ruschp," as he was referred to in the student newspaper, had just arrived in Vermont from Austria, where he had been a champion member of the national ski team. Skiing was just beginning to take off in the United States, and Ruschp was hired in 1936 as an instructor at the Mount Mansfield Ski Club in Stowe, Vt., a post he would hold for many years.

But it was not only on the slopes of Mount Mansfield where Ruschp made his mark. The same year he immigrated from Austria to work at Mount Mansfield, he became Norwich's first ski instructor. The program started with two group lessons each week for interested cadets. It became popular so quickly that two years later, in 1938, Ruschp was hired as the coach for the newly formed ski team (previously, members of the Outing Club participated in local competitions on an ad hoc basis).

Ruschp never returned to his post as coach and instructor after World War II disrupted normal university operations. After the war, his winter sport legacy could be clearly seen in the creation of the Mountain and Cold Weather company in 1947 and the growth of Paine Mountain's ski infrastructure throughout the 20th century.

Ruschp eventually became president of the Mt. Mansfield Company and is credited with popularizing skiing in the United States and transforming Stowe into a world-class skiing destination. He was inducted into the United States Ski Hall of Fame in 1978. He made his lifelong home in Stowe and passed away in 1990.

Learn more about the early history of the Outing Club through resources in the Norwich University Archives.



Top: Thomas Ransom

Bottom: The Ransom Family

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#130 The Ransom Family Legacy Extends Far Beyond Truman

All three of Truman Ransom's surviving sons attended Norwich University and served in the Civil War, one as a high-ranking Union general. They were 16, 14, and six years old when their father died.

Full story:

Truman Ransom's eldest son was Dunbar Richard Ransom. He was born in 1831 to Truman and his wife Margaretta, the first of their seven children. His birth took place in Fayetteville, North Carolina, where Truman Ransom was occupied in setting up a military academy in the style of his mentor, Alden Partridge. Dunbar Ransom attended West Point for a time but eventually graduated from Norwich in 1851. He received appointment as a second lieutenant in 1855 and served as an artillery officer during and after the Civil War. He died in Fort Worth, Texas, in 1897.

Thomas Edwin Greenfield Ransom was born back in Norwich, Vermont, in 1834, the same year that his father's alma mater, his future alma mater, received a charter from the State of Vermont and became known as Norwich University. He graduated in the same NU class as his older brother Dunbar, also completing his studies in 1851.

After graduating from Norwich, Thomas Ransom traveled west with his teenaged brother Frederick to work as a railroad engineer in Illinois. When the Civil War broke out, he raised a company of volunteers for the 11th Illinois Infantry. He was promoted—and wounded—many times during the war. When died of illness in Georgia in 1864, he was promoted posthumously to the rank of major general. A historical marker was erected at the site of his death in 2001, making him the only known Union Army general to be honored with an individual memorial in a Southern state.

After Thomas was born in 1834, Truman and Margaretta Ransom had a son, George, and a daughter, Mary, who both died as young children. Their youngest surviving son was Frederick Eugene Ransom, born in 1841, who as a teenager accompanied his older brother Thomas out west to Illinois. Though much younger than his brothers, he too joined the Union Army when the Civil War broke out, serving in his brother Thomas' unit.

Frederick was captured as a prisoner of war in Tennessee in 1862, paroled after eight months, and spent six months in the hospital before rejoining his regiment. After the war, he attended Norwich briefly from 1865 to 1866, but departed after the South Barracks fire in March 1866. Assisted by his late brother Thomas's classmate and friend Grenville Dodge, he secured employment with the Union Pacific Railroad and went on to a career as an engineer. His health suffered greatly throughout his life, and he passed away at a soldiers' home in Illinois around 1918.

Truman Ransom died tragically young fighting for his country, when he had only just begun to make his mark on his beloved Norwich University. Through his sons, the Ransom family continued his legacy at Norwich and in the world for decades after he was gone.

#131 For 110 Years, the *Record* has Connected Alumni with Their Norwich Family

During this festive season, we seek to connect with our loved ones near and far. That is precisely the spirit in which the *Norwich Record* was started 110 years ago.

Contributed by Robyn Greene, adapted from a two-part feature entitled "100 Years of the Record*" that appeared in the Winter and Summer 2007 editions of the* Norwich Record.

Full story:

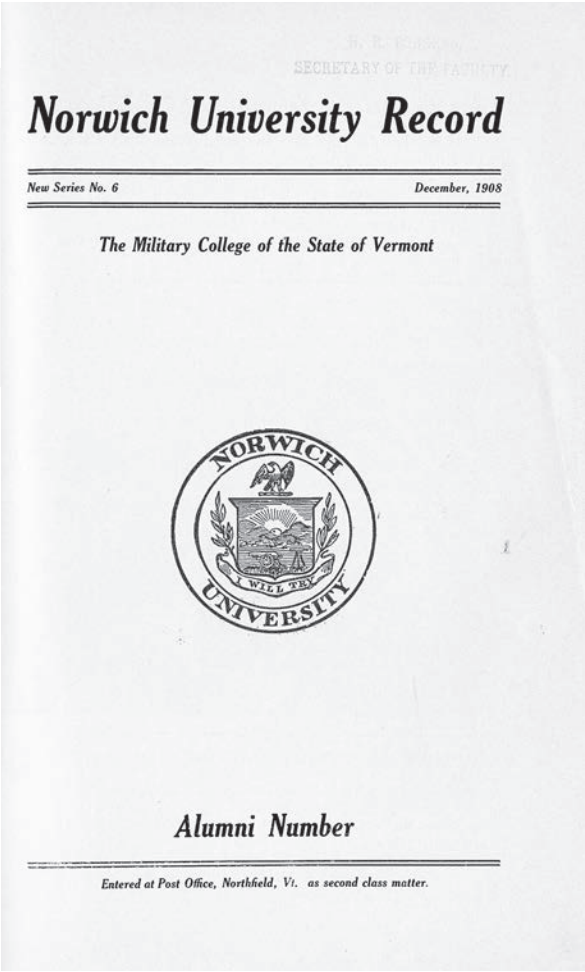
In 1907, the main publication regularly coming out of Norwich University was the *Reveille*. The *Reveille* was founded in 1860 by a student who owned a printing press and his friend who had been apprenticed to a printer before entering the university. This combination student newspaper, alumni magazine, and literary publication was issued sporadically from 1860 until the 1880s, and then more regularly until it was supplanted by the *Guidon* in the 1920s.

However, as the *Reveille* tried to be everything to everyone, alumni became frustrated that they did not have more of a voice on its board, nor a say in its content, which was trying to cater to both on- and off-campus audiences. They took matters into their own hands, and the *University Record* was founded in October 1907. Initially it was issued four times a year. The first few issues contained such items as a librarian's report, a report on gifts to the university, photographs of campus life, and information about the academic program at Norwich.

Beginning in 1909, the *Record* changed to a weekly and then a bi-weekly format that gave more detailed news reports about the goings-on in Northfield and on the Hill. Topics included athletic contests, Alumni Association meeting minutes, Corps promotions, and even the weather. The *Record* also published the university course catalog every year, and for many years issued a promotional pamphlet entitled "The Story of Norwich." A Commencement issue each June was dedicated to the activities that weekend, including speakers, board meetings, and annual reports of various committees.

The *Record* also bore the responsibility of reporting significant and often tragic campus events to the wider Norwich community, such as the 1909 and 1913 deaths of Norwich football players and the infamous 1927 flood. During World War I and World War II, it served as an essential source of news on alumni serving overseas, as well as friends and classmates who were injured or killed in combat.

The *Record* has continued to evolve in its format, frequency, and type of content over the century since it was founded by a group of alumni determined to stay connected to their Norwich family.



Norwich University Record

New Series No. 6 — December, 1908

The Military College of the State of Vermont

NORWICH UNIVERSITY

Alumni Number

Entered at Post Office, Northfield, Vt. as second class matter.

1908 edition of the Norwich Record.

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Samuel Wellman, NU 1866

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#132 Samuel Wellman, Class of 1866, Was a Steel Pioneer

Samuel T. Wellman may not be as memorable a name as Carnegie, Frick, or Morgan, but this Norwich alumnus was a deeply influential pioneer of the American steel industry.

Full story:

Wellman was born in Wareham, Mass. in 1847, a descendent of the state's early Puritan settlers. The family relocated to Nashua, N.H. when he was six years old, and for many years his father was a superintendent of the Nashua Iron Company. He attended Norwich for two years as a member of the Class of 1866, his education most likely interrupted by the call to serve in the Civil War. This time at Norwich would prove deeply influential, as it was the only formal engineering training for a young man who was destined to become a captain of industry.

After the war, Wellman went to work for his father at the Nashua Iron Company. Thus began a career that would see him invent approximately 80 new devices and methods for steel manufacturing. According to one story, in his early days at Nashua Iron, the company had sent for an engineer from England to set up a new furnace, and when the expert arrived from overseas, he found that young Wellman had installed the furnace himself.

Some of Wellman's notable innovations in steel production include the first commercially successful open-hearth furnace; an open-hearth charging machine; a hydraulic crane; and key improvements to the Hulett unloader, which was used to unload iron ore boats. It was estimated that during World War I, 75% of British steel production was handled by the charging machine this Norwich boy invented.

In 1873, Wellman moved to Cleveland, where he was put in charge of designing and constructing the plant for the new Otis Steel & Iron Co. In the 1890s, he, his brother, and a friend formed the Wellman Seaver Engineering Company, specializing in the design and manufacture of equipment for steel and associated industries. Wellman was company president upon his retirement. He also served as president of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers from 1901 to 1902, no doubt presiding over a brotherhood that included many of his fellow Norwich alumni.

Though he never completed his degree at Norwich, the university awarded him two honorary degrees in 1904. He passed away suddenly in 1919. According to legend, Charles Schwab of Bethlehem Steel once called him "the man who did more than any other living person in the development of steel."

Read Samuel Wellman's 1919 obituary in the Norwich Record *through the Norwich University Archives.*

#133 Winter Carnival Lit Up Norwich for More Than 80 Years

A brief notice in the November 11, 1916 *Norwich Record* first floated the idea of a winter carnival at NU:

"The ground is white with our first snow. The long winter's grind is almost upon us. But after all, there are a lot of things to do in the winter time. Why not have a winter carnival? We certainly have the location and the men interested in winter sports."

Full story:

Winter carnivals were a popular collegiate tradition at the time. They were designed to facilitate friendly competition in winter sports and spread cheer through social events at an otherwise dull time of the year between the football and baseball seasons (varsity hockey, though popular, was limited by the reliance on natural outdoor ice).

The creators of the NU Winter Carnival were primarily inspired by a similar event at nearby Dartmouth College. Plans quickly came together for a "winter tournament" in 1917 to include skating, snowshoeing, skiing, hockey, tobogganing, a baked bean supper, and a dance. "This tournament… should fill a big gap in life at Norwich," notes the *Record*. "Outdoor life is needed to keep mind and heart active and contented."

Unfortunately, a national coal shortage that winter stymied the plans for a 1917 carnival (University records show that Norwich's fuel costs had increased 85% compared to the previous year). It took a few years for momentum to rebuild, but the first Winter Carnival finally unfolded with great success in February of 1920.

Winter Carnival remained a staple of the long, dark winter season at Norwich for the next 80 years. The popular snow sculpture contest—initially held between fraternities, later between Corps units—was introduced in 1936.

Declining participation coupled with less reliable snowfall led to the end of Winter Carnival in the early 2000s, with a brief revival from 2008 to 2014. The spirit is alive and well in the new Rail Jam snowboarding competition, one of the most popular annual campus events. Hosted by the Ski & Snowboard Club and Campus Activities Board, it drew a crowd of over 500 students last year, though like the old Winter Carnival, it is dependent on sufficient snowfall.

Winter Carnival, 1938.

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Top: Married student housing, 1946

Bottom: Returning reservists, 1991

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#134 "Giving Returning Veterans the Best We Have" After WWII and Today

In August 1945, President Homer Dodge issued a statement in the *Norwich Record* about veterans seeking an education at Norwich. He articulated the diverse needs of the veteran student body and pledged the university's support for veterans of varied backgrounds and experiences. The president committed Norwich to "giving returning veterans the best we have."

Full story:

The policies he implemented included allowing any former Norwich student the opportunity to return and complete his degree, even if it meant teaching a required course to just one student; not requiring married veterans to live in the barracks; allowing veterans to opt out entirely from military training on a case-by-case basis; and adopting a rolling admissions policy for veterans so that they could begin their studies as soon as their schedule allowed. A special Veterans Cadet Corps was established for those students who wanted to participate in ROTC but live in a separate barracks under non-military discipline.

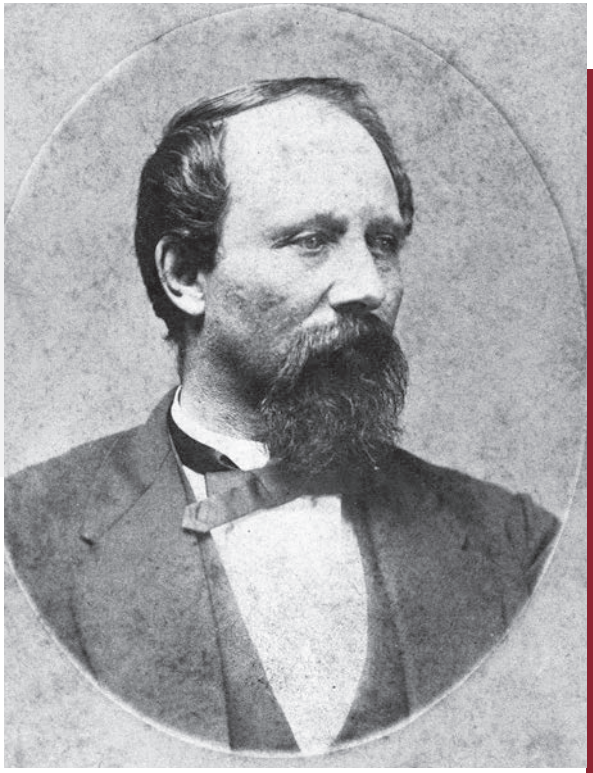
In early 1946, the university constructed a small village of trailer homes to accommodate the married veterans who would be bringing wives and children to campus with them. It was located south of the engineering complex, where the Kreitzberg Library and Sullivan Museum stand today. This expanded housing capacity meant that the university could take on more students than usual, and in the fall of 1946, approximately 500 World War II veterans were enrolled at Norwich—almost 75% of the student body.

Eventually, life at Norwich began to more closely resemble what it was like before the war. By the fall of 1949, most of the returning veterans had completed their degrees, and all four classes of students had returned to full participation in the Corps of Cadets military training.

Norwich's commitment to educating and supporting veterans continues to this day. The College of Graduate and Continuing Studies provides valuable opportunities for students to get a degree flexibly during or after their time in the service. Here on campus, an active Student Veterans Council provides advocacy and fellowship for military and veteran students, while a Veterans Affairs Team brings together support services from admissions to financial planning and student success. Norwich also participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program, which provides enhanced G.I. Bill benefits to post-9/11 veterans.

#135 Thomas Seaver, Class of 1859, Demonstrated Valor at Spotsylvania Court House

Thomas Orville Seaver was born just before Christmas in the small town of Cavendish, Vt., in 1833, the eldest of eight children. After a year at Tufts University, he attended Norwich from 1856 to 1858. He left the university after two years and finally graduated from Union College in 1859.



Thomas Seaver, NU 1859

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Full story:

Seaver was in training to become a lawyer when the Civil War broke out in 1861. He joined up with the Third Regiment Vermont Volunteer Infantry–one of 71 Norwich alumni to join Vermont volunteer units–and was made captain of Company F. Before going to the front, he traveled to Woodstock, Vt. to marry his sweetheart, Nancy Spaulding. The Third Regiment reached Washington in July of 1861, and Seaver was promoted through the ranks as he led his men through some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War, including Antietam, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Fredericksburg, and Spotsylvania.

It was at Spotsylvania Court House that Seaver demonstrated the particular valor that would later be recognized with the Medal of Honor. He and his men held the Union line even as their ammunition ran out and the order to retreat came down the chain of command. His Medal of Honor citation reads: "At the head of 3 regiments and under a most galling fire attacked and occupied the enemy's works." He received this highest distinction in 1892.

Then-Colonel Seaver mustered out of the Army in July of 1864 and returned to his intended legal profession and to his home state of Vermont. After completing the studies that were interrupted by the war, he was admitted to the Windsor County bar later in 1864. He became a Windsor County judge in 1886. Norwich granted him an honorary master's degree in 1910 in recognition of his military accomplishments as well as his career as a lawyer and judge in Vermont.

Harold Douglas "Doc" Martin, 1916

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#136 "Doc" Martin, First African-American Cadet, Led the Ground School at Tuskegee Air Field

Harold Douglas "Doc" Martin was a native of Roslindale, Mass., who entered Norwich University as a cadet in 1916, the first African-American to do so. While at Norwich, Martin studied electrical engineering and was heavily involved in student life. He was the star of the varsity football team in addition to playing baseball and hockey. He was also in Mandolin Club, Glee Club, and a member of the *War Whoop* staff–truly a well-rounded student.

Full story:

After graduating from Norwich in 1920, Martin was denied a job at Westinghouse Electric because of his race, but managed to find work at another small electric company in Pittsburgh. During his time in that city he pitched for the Homestead Grays and the Pittsburgh Keystones, two Negro League baseball teams.

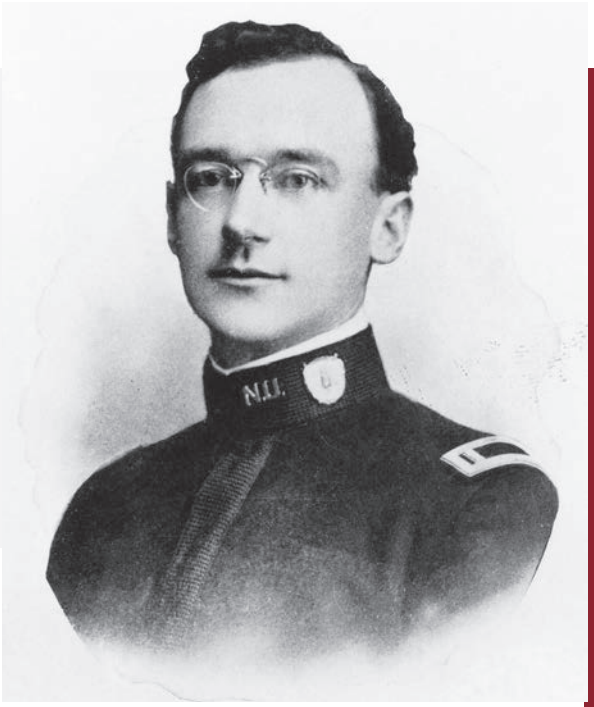
Martin went on to have a successful career in college athletics, coaching and administering thriving athletic programs at Virginia State College, Miner Teachers' College, and other institutions of higher learning. He earned a master's degree in physical education from New York University. He also served as a commissioner for the Colored Intercollegiate Athletic Association, and was heavily involved in local and regional athletic organizations.

During World War II, Martin was stationed at Tuskegee Army Airfield, where all African-American Army Air Force pilots were trained. He was able to begin his commission there with the rank of captain due to his education at Norwich; however, like many Tuskegee Airmen, despite his advanced training and status, he struggled to gain acceptance as a leader because of his race. He eventually became the Director of the Ground School at Tuskegee and was promoted to the rank of Major.

Martin died in an accident during a routine flight in 1945 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery. He is memorialized in the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. In 1984, he was inducted into the Norwich Athletics Hall of Fame. He is also the namesake of the Harold "Doc" Martin Society, a multicultural student group that promotes a community of acceptance, inclusiveness, and diversity on campus.

#137 Professor Arthur "Pop" Peach: Beloved Teacher, Proud Vermonter, Iconic Lyricist

Arthur Wallace "Pop" Peach was a native Vermonter to the bone, once describing himself as "hopelessly provincial." He was born and raised in southern Vermont, graduating from Brattleboro High School and then from Middlebury College in 1904. He earned his PhD from Columbia University and later received two honorary degrees from Norwich, a master's in 1933 and a doctorate in 1950.



Arthur "Pop" Peach

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Full story:

Peach joined the Norwich University faculty to teach literature in 1913, eventually serving as chair of the English department for many years. But his influence at Norwich extended far beyond his academic appointment. In 1915 and 1916, he penned the lyrics to "Norwich Forever," cementing a place in the memory of every cadet. A decade later, he also wrote the lyrics to a "Norwich Hymn," which was intended to replace the first song, but never became as popular.

Early in "Pop" Peach's career, he coached the Cadets football team. After leading them to win the state championship in 1918, his team presented him with an engraved trophy as a token of gratitude, and the 1918 *War Whoop* was dedicated in his honor. Professor Peach was also, at various times, active in the Musical Club Orchestra and the university's debate team.

In addition to teaching, coaching, and mentoring an estimated 5,000 Norwich students over his 37 years on the faculty, Peach maintained an active career as an author, poet, and participant in Vermont's civic life. He co-founded the Authors League of Vermont and was its first president; helped establish the 251 Club, which encourages its members to visit all 251 towns in Vermont; and served on the Vermont Historic Sites Commission and Vermont Sesquicentennial Commission, to name but a few of his civic accomplishments.

Peach retired from Norwich in 1950 to assume the position of director of the Vermont Historical Society. He was an avid hunter and fisherman. In 1956, he suffered a heart attack during a meeting of the board at the Pavilion Hotel in Montpelier and passed away at Heaton Hospital. More than 250 people attended his memorial service at the Unitarian church the following week.

NU's architecture students with Professor Matt Lutz.

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#138 The Only Accredited Architecture Program in Northern New England Follows in Alden Partridge's Footsteps

In the mid-1880s, Lewis College had just transitioned back to being called Norwich University. The school had been teetering on the brink of financial collapse just a few years prior, and had been rescued by alumnus Charles Lewis. It was during this period of recovery that Norwich offered, for the first time, a Bachelor of Architecture degree.

Full story:

Architectural drawing had appeared here and there in descriptions of the engineering curriculum earlier in the 19th century. But from approximately 1885 to 1890, Norwich offered a full course of study in architecture, leading to a bachelor's degree. It was a natural extension of Partridge's American System of practical education to produce useful citizens.

After just five years, however, the program ceased to be offered. Little is known about why it was introduced and then dissolved after such a short time. One hundred years later, a new generation of Norwich faculty and students took up the cause. A new architecture program was first proposed around 1988, and it launched in the fall of 1990.

The new program was housed in Vermont College's College Hall. The curriculum consisted of a five-year Bachelor of Architecture professional degree under the umbrella of the Division of Engineering, Architecture.

At the time, there were only three accredited baccalaureate architecture programs in New England, and none in the northern New England states. Norwich's program became a candidate in 1992 and received full accreditation in 1996. Ever seeking new horizons, in 1999 the program grew to its current structure: a five-year Master of Architecture, with the first four years leading to a Bachelor of Science in Architectural studies.

A 2012 reorganization saw the formation of the College of Professional Schools. This brought architecture under the same roof as engineering, nursing, and business in an echo of Alden Partridge's emphasis on the importance of practical, professional education.

In recent years, the architecture program has garnered a host of accolades as a hotbed of innovation in Vermont. Student design projects such as an outdoor classroom and an eco-friendly tiny house have won accolades from the American Institute of Architects. A student-faculty team won accolades at the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar Decathlon in 2013 for their Delta T-90 solar house design. In 2017, we hosted the inaugural Vermont Governor's Institute in architecture, design, and building.

#139 WWII Campus Training Program Produced Junior Officers with a Practical Norwich Education

In a previous post, we shared how the Norwich campus hosted over 1,700 trainees in the Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP) during World War II. Always one to rise to the occasion, the university was also one of over 200 schools that participated in the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) from 1943-1944.

Full story:

The ASTP curriculum was developed in 1942 in response to a need for junior military officers who also had technical skills—a need that Norwich, with its emphasis on combining practical education with officer training, couldn't have been better suited to fill. Following basic training, participants were assigned to a college campus and spent 6-9 months taking a highly accelerated curriculum in general academic fields as well as specialized courses in engineering, medicine, or foreign language.

Most of the 227 host schools were land-grant universities—a model of education whose roots can be traced to Alden Partridge's "American System"—because many of their charters include language about militia training. Norwich was an exception. We were also one of the few colleges that played host to the affiliated Army Specialized Training Reserve Program (ASTRP), which accepted 17-year-olds out of high school and helped them start their education and training before they were eligible for military service.

For approximately two years, ASTP and ASTRP students comingled with CPTP students at Norwich. On the surface, campus life was not so very different from the pre-war period. Students lived in the dorms, ate in the mess hall, studied academic subjects, and participated in clubs and activities. ASTP students even continued to publish issues of the *Guidon*, linking them with the traditions of Norwich students that came before and after them.

The Army Specialized Training Program was phased out in 1944 as the war reached its crescendo and more manpower was needed at the front. To this day, much like the CPTP trainees, many of its graduates consider themselves to have been Norwich students and look back fondly on that time.

Contact the Norwich University Archives to learn more about ASTP, ASTRP, and wartime life at Norwich.

LIBRARY OF NORWICH UNIVERSITY

GUIDON N.U.

ASTRP and ROTC TRAINING DETACHMENT, NORWICH UNIVERSITY

VOL. 1, NO. 2 NORTHFIELD, VERMONT NOVEMBER 21, 1945

Movies At Armory Continue Attraction

Near-Capacity Crowds See Top Films

The movies at the Armory have arrived, much to the enjoyment of all at the University. The student body takes this opportunity to express its sincere thanks to Colonel Chase, through whose efforts the program was brought to Norwich.

Through the facilities of the Army Special Services, the pictures are obtained here before, or coincidentally with, the time when they are released to the general public. Sugh was the case with "The Lost Weekend," which we saw at the Armory Tuesday night, November twentieth, and which made its public world premiere the next week.

The amateur detectives among us had their fling in such shows as "The House on 92nd Street," and "Fallen Angel."

Probably the most spectacular show presented to date was "The Spanish Main", a technicolor talkie of the buccaneering days when the Spanish fleet was still at large and all who traveled in the Indies did so only with the sanction of the Spanish Government. The adventures of a Dutch settler who lacked the sanction but had an overdose of the adventurous spirit made the show one of constant action and drama.

The schedule is so planned that pictures are presented to fit the tastes of everyone. In addition to the main features, each program includes short subjects: news, cartoons, or educational films. In the last-mentioned category fell a very interesting short on post-war opportunities in the field of radio and television, a masterful production of the Army News Magazine. We hereby submit a bid for more films of a similar nature.

The complete program has met with highest enthusiasm both from members of the Cadet Corps and

Continued on Page 3, Col. 4.

King Winter Arrives; Winter Sports Start

School To Supply Equipment Free

With winter here in all its frigidness, winter sports inevitably become the chief topic of conversation. This article is designed to give you the lowdown on the winter setup at Norwich.

Probably the most popular sport here in the winter is skiing, and there's little wonder that this is so. Norwich's open slope, known more familiarly and less popularly as the site of the weekly hill climbs, has been proclaimed by experts as one of the best in New England. It is illuminated for late-afternoon and evening skiing, and the rope tow, the only college-owned tow in the country, will whisk you to the top free of charge in nothing flat. Each winter Norwich obtains the services of one of the country's top professional skiers to give instruction to both beginners and advanced skiing enthusiasts. An intercollegiate ski team is being planned for this winter with competitions against Dartmouth, Middlebury, and other Eastern colleges. The expense of outfitting yourself for the sport is practically nothing here, because through the Army, the University has secured twenty or more pairs of skis for the free use of students, and has fitted high-grade boots in varying sizes for use with them.

For those of you who prefer to tramp up and down hills, snowshoes are also available for free use by the student body.

Hockey, too, is a popular winter sport at Norwich. For the past few years the hockey rink has been housed in the riding hall, but with the return of horses to the school the hall has reverted to its original use, and this year the hockey rink is back on Sabine Field where it used to be before the war. It will be flooded as soon as few more inches of snow fall to make a smooth, solid

Continued on Page 4, Col. 1.

Col. Chase Awarded Bronze Star in Armistice Day Ceremonies

Armistice Day saw at Norwich as high a ceremony as has occurred at the University in many years. The occasion was a battalion review in honor of Major General Wing, and the ceremony, the presentation of the Bronze Star to Norwich's Professor of Military Science and Tactics, Colonel Paul Chase. The award was made in recognition of Colonel Chase's "outstanding contribution to the efficiency of the 42nd Winged Victory division" in the Pacific.

Following the presentation the battalion was reviewed by the general and his party which included the general's son, Lt. Leonard Wing, Jr., a member of the class of 1945 at Norwich; Governor Mortimer Proctor, Major General Leon B. Kramer, former Norwich Commandant and head of U. S. Cavalry, and Colonel Elmer S. Watson, motor vehicle commissioner of Connecticut.

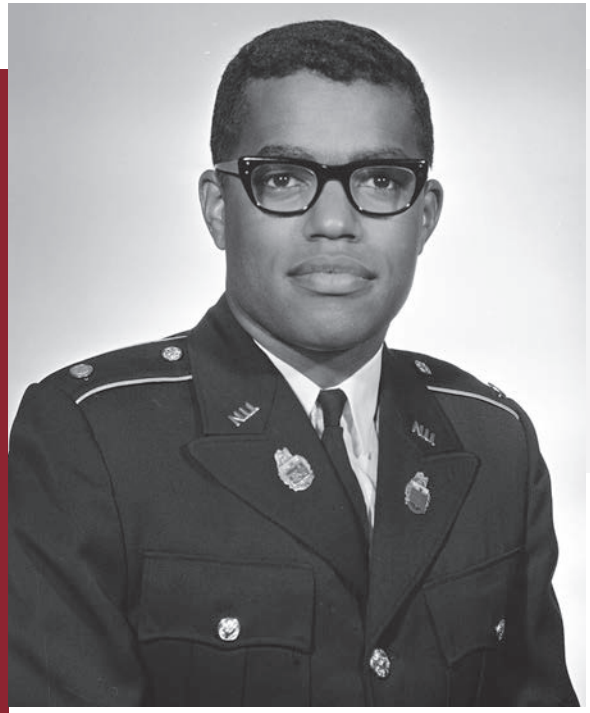
Following the review, General Wing addressed the battalion in exercises at the Armory. General Wing endorsed peacetime military training as the key to preventing a third world war and praised the century-old Norwich system of coupled collegiate and military education. He praised the conduct and ability of Norwich men on all the battle fronts, and paid tribute to the 78 Norwich men who gave their lives in World War II.

In the afternoon two convoys transported the battalion to Montpelier for the official parade to welcome Gen. Wing.

At the request of General Wing, all demerits previously charged against members of the battalion were removed completely from the records, and the demerit period was started again.

Cover of the Norwich Guidon, *November 21, 1945.*

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.



Francis Brooks '67

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#140 Still Going Strong: Senator Francis K. Brooks – Vermont Public Servant Extraordinaire

In September of 1963, just days after watching Martin Luther King, Jr. deliver his "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on television, Recruit Francis K. Brooks left his home outside of Washington, D.C., and arrived at Norwich for the start of his rook year.

Contributed by Diana L. Weggler

Full story:

The youngest of five children born to the businessman and Baptist minister Rev. Houston Brooks and his wife, Evelyn Lemon Brooks, Francis says his father "stressed to his children the value of education and 'the concept of doing the very best that you can.'" At Norwich, "Brooksie" did just that, majoring in education, joining the Society of American Military Engineers, and singing in the Glee Club all four years—serving as its president as a senior.

Following graduation, his teaching credentials in hand, Brooks taught science and coached football at Montpelier High School, forging a career which lasted more than three decades. In 1973 he earned a master's degree in chemistry from Thomas S. Clarkson Memorial College of Technology in Potsdam, N.Y. An outstanding civic leader, he sat on the boards of nonprofit organizations, taught at the Community College of Vermont, served as a church deacon, and volunteered as a firefighter. Embracing Vermont as his permanent home, he married and raised two children.

Running for Public Office

Brooks' father taught him that there are five things you must do to be happy: Let go of anger. Let go of worry. Live simply. Expect less. Give more. It was this last piece of advice that no doubt prompted Brooks to run for a seat in the Vermont House of Representatives in 1982. He won the election, and was subsequently reelected 11 times for a total of 24 years of service, including three terms as Vermont's first African-American Majority Leader. While in office, he helped sponsor the historic Equal Educational Opportunity Act of 1997, signed into law by Governor Howard Dean. "Act 60" ensured a fair balance of educational spending across all school districts, independent of the degree of prosperity within each district. And as a voice for any Vermonter who is perceived as being "different," in 2000 he offered measured and thoughtful testimony which helped influence the passage of H-847, the Civil Unions Bill.

After retiring from teaching in 1999, Brooks devoted himself fulltime to his legislative responsibilities while continuing to give even more. He served three terms on the Norwich University Board of Trustees and also sat on the boards of the Vermont Historical Society and Vermont Public Television. He sang in the Vermont Symphony Chorus.

In 2007, the position of sergeant-at-arms opened up in the Capitol building. Seeking a change in duties but not location, Brooks ran unopposed for the post. For eight years, this unlikely Virginia transplant donned the dark green jacket and employed his hospitable Southern roots as "the face" of the Statehouse, greeting visitors, directing tours, and managing staff and daily operations with uncommon dignity, compassion, and humor. Then, in 2015, in the wake of Governor Peter Shumlin's second inauguration speech—which was briefly disrupted by protestors demanding healthcare reform—the legislature failed to reelect Brooks.

You Can't Keep a Good Man Down

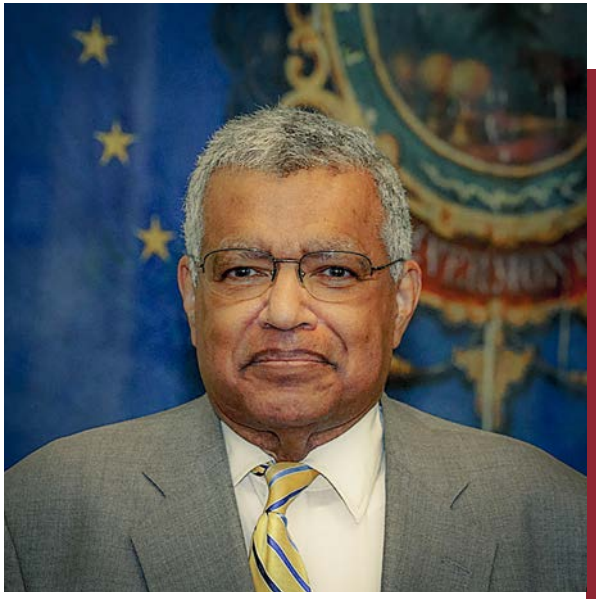
By age 72, most men would have welcomed the idea of retirement, but Brooks was not ready to abandon public service just yet. Less than two years after being ousted as sergeant-at-arms, and despite suffering a heart attack during a parade on July 4, 2016, Brooks made a stunning comeback, securing a spot on the ballot for a senate seat by a single vote in the August primary, and then unseating longstanding incumbent Bill Doyle (R-Washington) in the November election.

Brooks' triumphant reentry into the political arena underscores how deeply he is respected and beloved by the citizens of his adopted city and state. One voter wrote in an editorial, "He is the epitome of a statesman—a person of integrity, with the heart and the brain to represent us faithfully."

Brooks credits Norwich for nurturing his lifelong passion for public service. "Norwich teaches young people to understand how they can be involved as citizens in this society and how important this participation is to our nation. Individuals who possess a strong sense of self and confident leadership skills are in a better position to be active in the institutions that make our society function."

Francis Brooks '67

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.



Senator Francis Brooks

Image courtesy of the State of Vermont

Learn more about the remarkable life and career of Francis Brooks, read Brooks of Montpelier, *by Robert L. Walsh.*

Top: Sister St. Thomas

Bottom: Student training in nursing program.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#141 Sister St. Thomas: A Life Devoted to Nursing Education

"Sister St. Thomas' contribution to nursing was to turn generations of students into proficient nurses." – Ronnie Sylvester-Palache, RN, MSN, FNP

Full story:

In decade of the 1980s, while the AIDS epidemic loomed large, nursing programs nationwide faced dire enrollment challenges, forcing many to shut down. Although it too was affected by the mass exodus from the nursing profession, Vermont College kept its doors open, buckled down, and took a proactive stance, diversifying its offerings and methods of delivery.

Throughout this period of tribulation, one person largely responsible for the program's diversification, as well as for maintaining its already high standard of academic excellence, was Catholic nun Sister St. Thomas.

Born in Shelburne, Vermont, in 1923, Theresa Ann Thomas graduated from Shelburne High School and entered the Religious Hospitallers of St. Joseph (RHSJ) community in Winooski in June 1948, taking the name of Sister St. Thomas.

Sr. St. Thomas arrived at Vermont College in 1969 as nursing faculty and coordinator of the first-year curriculum. In 1973, she wrote an HEW grant that brought in $385,000, allowing VC to modernize its nursing curriculum and renovate Stone Science.

She was instrumental in creating the weekend nursing program and the baccalaureate program for RNs, helping to fill the niche left vacant by other programs in the state. "[Our] nursing program really focused on the needs of the people of Vermont," St. Thomas said.

According to a former student, "Her lectures … were outstanding. I will never forget her emphasis on the importance of self-knowledge and humility, and the critical responsibility of alert attention to the patient."

Besides being a stellar teacher, St. Thomas was a lifelong learner. While earning an EdD from Nova University in 1985, she did her doctoral study on computers and their implications for the nursing profession. As part of her research, she surveyed 1,000 hospitals and forecast the changes needed in the use of computers in nursing education.

Another student noted, "As a teacher, Sister introduced me and my fellow students to the most current theories and practices in nursing while also encouraging us to be independent thinkers."

A strong advocate for her fellow nurses, St. Thomas was a member of the Vermont State Nurses Association and the National League for Nursing. She also served as the Vermont representative to the International Council of Nursing, as a national accreditation visitor to schools of nursing, and as a consultant to schools of nursing in Maine, Minnesota, Oregon, and Ireland.

In 1987, in recognition of her work and the high esteem with which she was held by students and colleagues alike, Dr. Thomas received the Vermont College of Norwich University Alumna Award. When she retired in 2000, she was awarded the status of professor emerita.

In 2013, Sr. St. Thomas moved to Our Lady of Providence to join her RHSJ community. She passed away four years later at age 89.

#142 The Charlotte Nichols Greene Memorial Carillon

"Carillon music has the quality of floating between the earth and the sky, and a carillon is capable of effects far different than any other instrument. As body and mind accustom themselves to the new form of music, there are times when only this instrument will satisfy." – Professor Arthur Lynds Bigelow (1909–1967)

Full story:

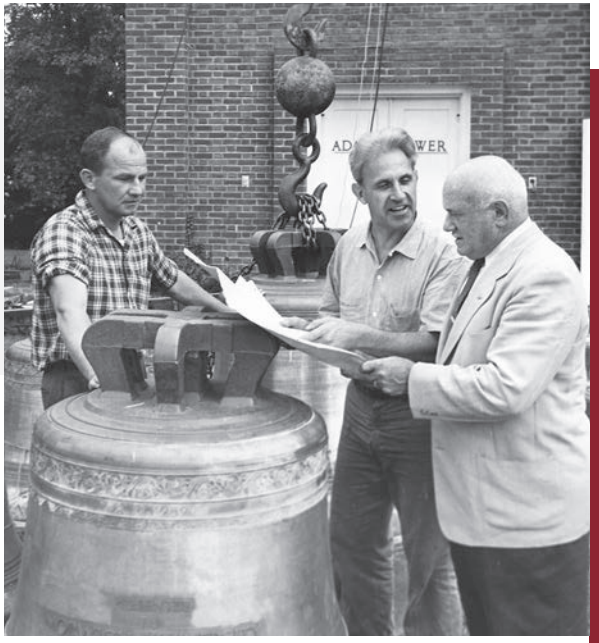
In 1934, Charlotte Nichols Greene of Boston purchased a carillon that had been part of the Belgian government's exhibit in the "Century of Progress" Exposition at the Chicago World's Fair. Shortly after acquiring the 36 bells and playing mechanism, Greene donated them to Harvard, where they lay in storage for 22 years. Following Greene's death in 1956, her son, Stephen Greene, and his wife, Janet, of Dover, Vermont, reclaimed Mrs. Greene's gift and donated it to Norwich.

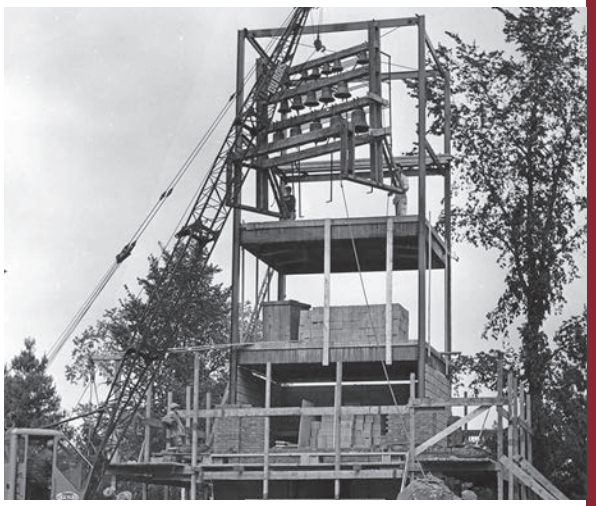
To house the carillon, President Harmon had a 50-foot tower built in a corner of the Upper Parade, next to the old Dodge Hall. The building was made possible by a gift from Sue Adams Boyer, a lover of music, generous patron of the arts, and one of the founders of the Vermont Philharmonic. Boyer named the tower in memory of the mother of her late husband, Dr. Porter Hartwell Adams, 16th president of Norwich. Construction began in fall 1956, and by December the Jeannie Porter Adams Memorial Tower was complete. The first concerts were performed that winter by Robert Donnell, resident carillonneur of the Peace Tower Carillon in Ottawa, Canada. Professor Arthur Lynds Bigelow of Princeton University, a world-renowned bell expert and this country's premier carillon designer at the time, played at the 1957 Commencement.

In 1958, based on Bigelow's recommendations, 27 of the original bells were sent to the Paccard Foundry France to be retuned (5) or recast (22). In addition, 11 new bells (5 lower basses and 6 higher trebles) were purchased, bringing the total to 47. The largest of these weighed 3500 lbs., while the smallest was a mere 10 lbs. At the same time, Bigelow built a new playing mechanism to accommodate the increased number of bells. Still in use today, it remains a supreme example of the master's work.

After the expansion, Norwich could claim proud ownership of a "grande" carillon, comprising four full octaves of perfectly matched, tuned, and blended bells (minus the lowest E3 and F#3). Unfortunately, a prolonged period of disuse followed, during which weather and air pollutants took their toll on the transmission hardware, rendering the instrument virtually unplayable. A complete overhaul in 1997, followed by regularly scheduled maintenance, now keep the mechanics of the instrument up to the finest standard in the world.

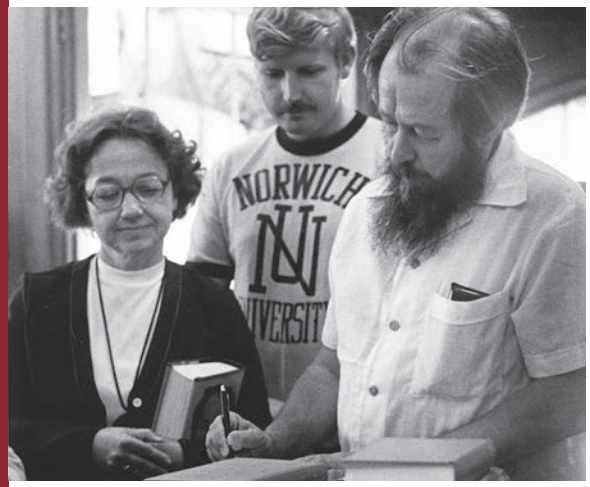
Today, thanks to an endowed fund created by late Board of Fellows' member George Garrison '42, and his late brother, longtime trustee Ritchie Garrison '37, the bells are played by resident carillonneur George Matthew Jr. for convocation, homecoming, parent-family weekend, open houses, Veterans Day, commencement, and other special occasions. The popular summer concert series, featuring guest carillonneurs from all over the world, draws audiences of 50 or more concert-goers each Saturday in July.





Construction of the Carillon tower, 1956.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.



Head Librarian Ann Turner, 1990

Head Librarian Ann Turner (left) with the late Dennis Ryan '76 (center) and exiled Russian novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who visited the Norwich campus in 1975.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives

#143 Ann Turner – More than a Librarian

When Norwich University Head Librarian Ann Turner announced she would retire at the end of the 1990 academic year, she told the Northfield News, "My first reward will be a trip to Greece." The intrepid Turner was learning Greek in preparation for the June trip, citing, "I want to be able to read the road signs."

Contributed by Jacque E. Day

Full story:

And on citing, she was unequaled.

Shortly after she joined the Norwich staff in 1961 as a reference librarian, Turner instituted a "program of bibliographic instruction for students—a new concept in the early 1960s," according to an article by Paul Heller in the April 1990 *Vermont Library Association News*. Heller continued that Turner had to fight to get that program instituted. She also insisted that rooks tour the library as part of their orientation week, saying, "It's so important to get the freshmen into the library early in their first semester. With the demands of the rook system they need to be reminded that a strong emphasis on academics is paramount for success at Norwich."

Originally from New York, Anna Josephine Bessarab graduated at age 19 from Skidmore College and went on to earn a Master of Library Science at Columbia University. She was working as a reference librarian at Dartmouth College when she met George Turner, a Navy veteran of World War II who was completing his studies in English literature at Dartmouth. The two married and began their honeymoon at Fenway Park. George went on to pursue advanced degrees in education; it was his professional path that brought their young family to Norwich University in 1959, when he joined the English department. Over the years, the two became in loco parentis to hundreds of Norwich students, inviting them into their home for food, conversation, and some much-appreciated nurturing.

In her early years at the library, located in today's Chaplin Hall, Turner recalled that the members of the small, dedicated staff wore many hats. Hired to do reference work, she also processed interlibrary loans, checked in government documents, and supervised circulation. "Research was her passion," read Turner's obituary, "and her ability to identify and acquire resources contributed significantly to academic life at the university."

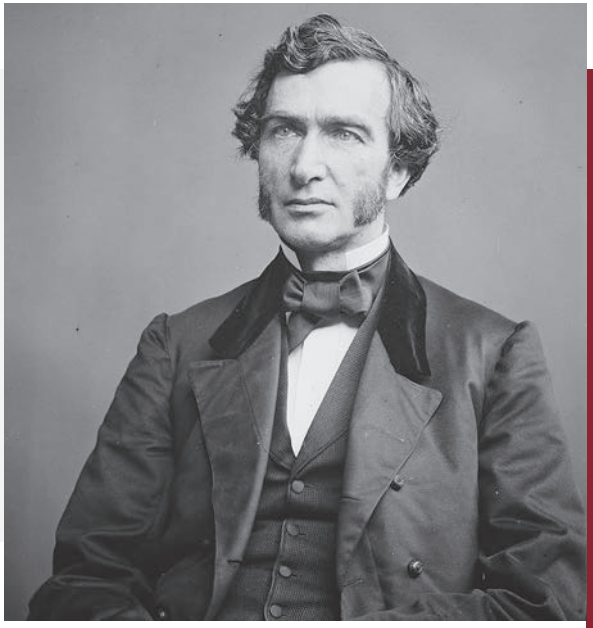
During her early tenure, she was a driving force behind the creation of the Friends of the Norwich University Library, and under her leadership the organization grew to more than 300 members. In 1974, she was promoted to head librarian. She wrote extensively and testified before Congress in advocacy of college libraries, writing in the *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, "In a state as small as Vermont, each college must develop its own special collections and share them with its neighbors. In that way, students can live on small campuses, in close contact with their teachers, and still have a wealth of research material available."

Together with her husband, Turner received nearly every honor and accolade available to Norwich staff, including the Board of Fellows medallion, an honorary doctorate, and honorary alumna. In 1990, when plans were under way for today's Kreitzberg Library, Turner sensed it would be a good time to retire, saying, "I really did not want to plan a library that others would have to live with." She became Librarian Emerita, a title she retained until her death at age 92.

#144 Capt. Partridge Inspired the Land-Grant Act that Shaped American Education

Some of our fellow military colleges like Texas A&M and Virginia Tech owe their existence to the Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862, which gave public land for the establishment of colleges focused on practical education. The author of that legislation, Vermont Congressman Justin Morrill, lived just up the road from our own Captain Alden Partridge, who very well may have planted the seed of practical education in Morrill's mind.

Contributed by Professor Emeritus Gary T. Lord, adapted from an article in the Winter/Spring 2000 edition of the Norwich Record.



Justin Smith Morrill

Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Full story:

The landmark Morrill Land-Grant Act created a national system of agricultural and technical colleges. Morrill would recall years later that the idea of founding colleges based on land grants had occurred to him no earlier than 1856, and that he alone conceived and formulated the measure. But the roots of the 1862 legislation reach well back into the nineteenth century.

Though Morrill never acknowledged Partridge's influence, the close correspondence in their thinking is remarkable and in all probability was not accidental. In the spring of 1835, Partridge outlined a bold new plan for higher education in a lecture at Charlottesville, Virginia. He proposed that Congress establish a "system of national education" (modeled, one imagines, on Partridge's "American System" of literary, scientific, and military education) and grant each state public land on which to build a college.

The most highly developed version of Alden Partridge's plan was presented in a petition to both houses of Congress in January of 1841. The plan requested land grants to support institutions, new or remodeled, that would offer a curriculum embracing both theoretical and practical learning. In effect, Partridge proposed an extension, on a national scale, of the system of education already in operation at Norwich University.

Alden Partridge's proposal for land grants to support colleges offering both liberal and practical learning was too bold a scheme, it seems, to attract significant support in Congress in 1841. Neither house of Congress moved to adopt either of Alden Partridge's proposals.

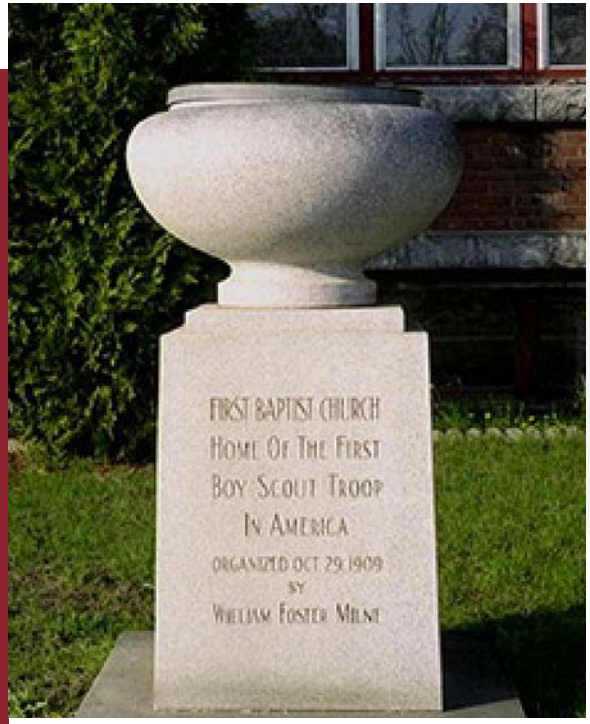
By the late 1850s, however, interest in science and vocational education produced a climate that was favorable for positive legislative action. In 1862, six years after Partridge's death, Congress enacted Morrill's legislation that supported higher education by means of land grants. Partridge's concept of a perpetual endowment and his scheme for land distribution were incorporated into Morrill's measure—as was the requirement that the land-grant colleges focus on "agricultural and mechanical" subjects, echoing Partridge's lifelong crusade for practical education.

Morrill never did explain how he formulated the plans for the legislation that bears his name. Circumstantial evidence strongly suggests that he was acquainted with Partridge's "American system of education" and the curriculum at Norwich University well before 1856, when he claimed to have come up with his idea.

Ironically, Norwich University repeatedly rejected opportunities to become a land-grant college in the 1860s and 1870s, despite offering a curriculum similar to the one prescribed by the Morrill Act. Perhaps the Board of Trustees resisted out of fear of losing Norwich's core identity as a military college.

While Justin Morrill deserves credit for his legislative success, the conceptual foundation for the land-grant legislation was laid over a long period of time and it was started well before 1856. Some of the earliest and most substantial elements of that foundation were set in place by Alden Partridge.

Norwich University Archives



This monument reads: "First Baptist Church. Home of the First Boy Scout Troop in America. Organized Oct. 29, 1909 by William Foster Milne."

Image courtesy of Diane Weggler.

#145 Stanton Burgess, NU 1917: a member of America's first Boy Scout Troop?

Norwich University is known for having many former Boy Scouts among its students, alumni, faculty, and staff. And scores of Norwich alumni were first introduced to the university through their attendance at Boy Scout camporees on the Hill in the late 1980s through the early 2000s. But it is a little-known fact that nearby Barre, Vermont, holds the distinction of being home to what was quite possibly the first Boy Scout troop ever formed in the United States. Even lesser known is that a member of that first troop attended Norwich University.

Contributed by Diana L. Weggler

Full story:

Dr. Stanton L. Burgess, '17, was a retired dentist living in Clearwater, Florida, when he was interviewed in 1980 by *Clearwater Times* editor Robert Henderson. Henderson had published two articles in his paper on the "oldest former Cub Scouts," and those earlier news items had caught the eye of Dr. Burgess. Burgess went to the *Times* office to tell the editor about what he believed to be the nation's first Boy Scout troop, of which he was a member.

This monument reads: "First Baptist Church. Home of the First Boy Scout Troop in America. Organized Oct. 29, 1909 by William Foster Milne."

Although there are conflicting claims as to who officially founded the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), there is little doubt that one of the first Boy Scout troops in the United States—if not THE first—was chartered in Burgess' hometown of Barre, Vt., by William Foster Milne, a year before the BSA was established. A scout in Scotland before emigrating to Barre to work in the granite quarries, Milne established a Boy Scout troop in the fall of 1909, only a year after the movement had taken hold in Britain.

The Barre troop met in the basement of the First Baptist Church and laid claim to the designation "Troop No. l."

There were 17 Scouts in that first cohort, among them, 14-year-old Stanton Burgess and his 12-year-old twin brothers, Earl and Carl. Burgess was a member of the troop for four years, and according to the *Clearwater Times* article, liked to "reminisce about the picnics, hikes and other good times." He also had in his possession a collection photographs from his time spent with the scouts.

At Norwich, Burgess was a classmate of Waterbury, Vt., native Harold Denny "Soup" Campbell, (see 200 Things #40). In 1914, the two became Phi Kappa Delta fraternity brothers together, and even though Burgess left Norwich the following year to enroll at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he maintained close ties with his former alma mater, attending alumni events in Boston and keeping in touch with classmates via the *Norwich Record*. After graduating from Harvard University Dental School in 1919, he set up a private practice. He died in 1984.