

#24 Partridge's Academy at Middletown

Within a decade of its founding, the American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy took a sojourn south. For four years, from 1825 to 1829, the Academy was located in Middletown, Conn. Unsuccessful at obtaining a charter from the State of Connecticut, it reopened in Norwich, Vt., in 1831 and was chartered as Norwich University just three years later.

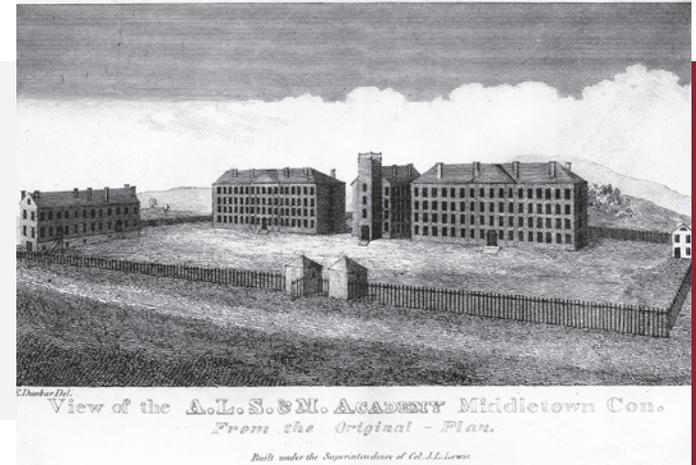
Full story:

When Alden Partridge first founded his academy, it bore more resemblance to a preparatory school than a degree-granting college. Parents would send their sons, ranging in age from nine to over 20, for whatever period of time they deemed necessary to prepare for employment or a formal academic career.

We do not entirely understand the reasons that, in 1824, Partridge began making arrangements to move his academy to Middletown, Conn. Some speculate that he was influenced by a desire to be closer to the coast and establish a naval department; there may also have been pressure from parents who hesitated to send their sons all the way to Vermont from the southern states. Conditions were ripened when, that same year, Middletown lost out on the opportunity to host the newly established Washington University, now known as Trinity.

Partridge arranged for the construction of two buildings: a barracks, and an all-purpose building that housed classrooms and a chapel-cum-drill hall. The term concluded in Norwich in April of 1825 and the school reopened in Middletown that August. Almost immediately, Partridge began seeking a charter from the State of Connecticut so that his institution could grant degrees. After multiple unsuccessful petitions to the legislature, Partridge sold his buildings to the Methodist Church—which would soon use them to establish Wesleyan University—in 1829. He reopened the Academy in his hometown of Norwich in 1831, and it resumed on the path to becoming the Norwich University we know today.

You can learn more about the Middletown move through Alden Partridge's personal papers, housed in the Norwich University Archives and partially available online.



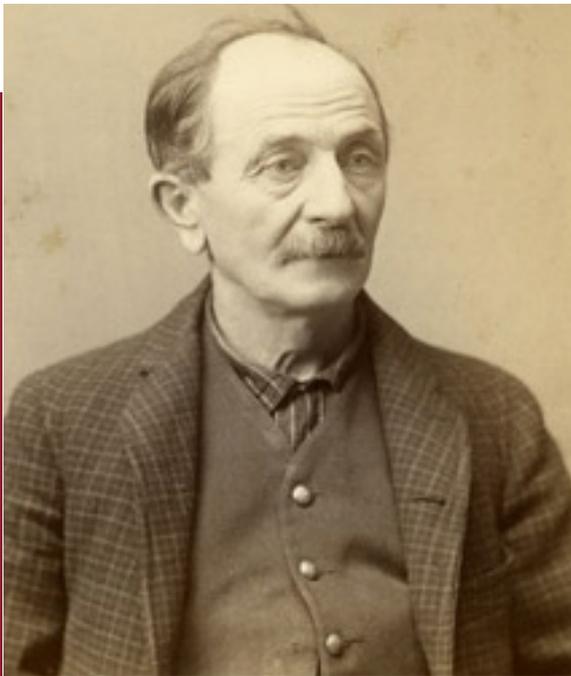
Top: Rendering of the American Literary, Scientific and Military Academy in Middletown, Conn.

Bottom: Wesleyan at Middletown today.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#25 James “Jimmie” Evans: POW, Janitor, Cadet’s Best Friend

James “Jimmie” Evans was a fixture and a beloved figure on the Norwich University campus for over 30 years. After serving in the Civil War under future Norwich president Charles Curtis and spending 15 months as a POW, Evans took a post as armorer and janitor at Norwich in 1869. He came to be a friend, father figure, and indispensable part of everyday life to an entire generation of Norwich cadets.



Full story:

Jimmie Evans was born in Wales in 1833, migrated to the United States in 1860, and volunteered to fight for the Union just one year later. He was captured by the Confederates on the front lines while trying to rescue a wounded soldier at the Battle of Chickamauga in 1863. He was a POW for 15 months. This experience is recounted in a memoir he wrote entitled *Jimmie Evans’s Camp-Fire, or 15 Months in Rebel Prisons*.

He was released as part of a prisoner exchange in Charleston, South Carolina in 1864 and re-enlisted just months later with the 5th U.S. Infantry. It was then that he came under the command of Captain Charles A. Curtis, an 1861 graduate of Norwich University. After the war, Curtis would become

a professor of military science and tactics and eventually president of his alma mater. He convinced Jimmie Evans to take a post as armorer and janitor of NU in 1869.

It quickly became clear that Norwich was where Jimmie belonged. The cadets referred to him fondly as “Uncle Jimmie” or “Janitor Jim.” They loved to hear his stories around campfires and his heavily accented greeting of “mornin’ me b’y” in the barracks every day. When he passed away in 1904, he was given a seven-page obituary in the student newspaper. In it, George D. Thomas ’76 wrote that “another has come to perform the manifold tasks that fell to his lot, but his place will forever be vacant except in sweet memory.”

Top: James Evans.

Bottom: Norwich alumni with James Evans.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

James Evans’ memoir of his time as a POW can be read in the Norwich University Archives reading room.

#26 Linda Eastman VC '61 Married Paul McCartney

Linda Eastman came to Vermont College in 1959 from Scarsdale High School in suburban New York. At that time, Vermont College was a junior college, offering two-year programs in subjects like secretarial science. Eight years later, in March of 1969, Eastman did what she is perhaps best known for: In the midst of the Beatlemania craze, she married Paul McCartney.

Full story:

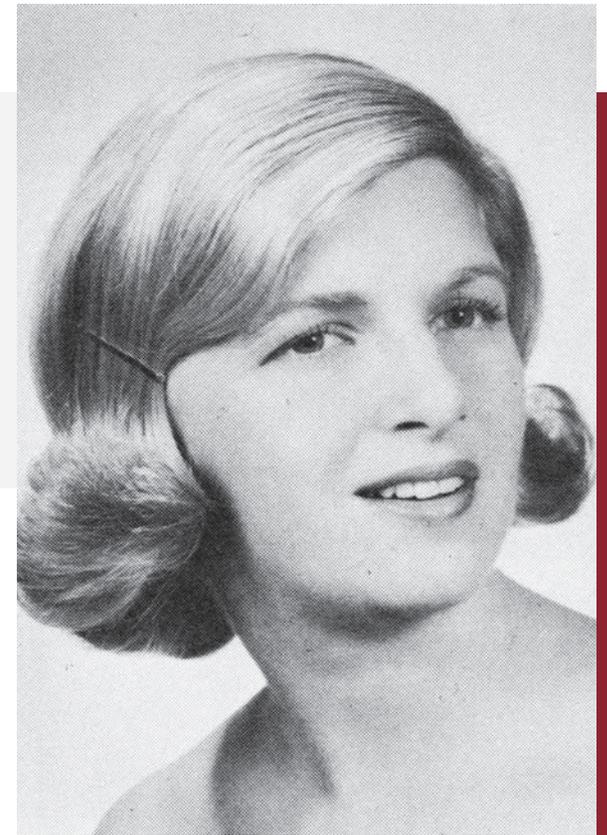
While Vermont College was not yet a part of Norwich University in 1959, the two neighboring schools had a close relationship, with VC girls regularly attending dances and other social events at Norwich. Eastman received her Associate of Arts degree in 1961, then transferred to the University of Arizona. She first met McCartney while on a photography assignment in England in 1967.

An announcement of the Eastman-McCartney wedding appeared in the Vermont College News after an administrator recognized the bride's picture in the paper. A quotation from a VC freshman encapsulated the popular view of the marriage: "Wow, like that's wild. It's unreal. Paul's my favorite Beatle."

While attending Vermont College, Linda Eastman resided in Howland Hall (which still stands) with

about 20 other young women. She was said to be a "happy spirit," and belonged to the modern dance club and the Women's Athletic Association. Alongside her picture in the 1961 Promethean, Vermont College's yearbook, she quoted Ovid: "To beguile with talk the slow moving hours..."

In addition to her famous marriage, Linda Eastman was a photographer, cookbook author, and singer in Paul McCartney's post-Beatles band, Wings. She died of breast cancer in 1998. The fact that she attended Vermont College is not often cited in biographies and online sources. Some attribute her early education to other schools, while other sources have her retreating to Vermont following her mother's death in 1962. We are proud to consider her a daughter of Norwich, who ties our university to the music that shaped a generation and a world.

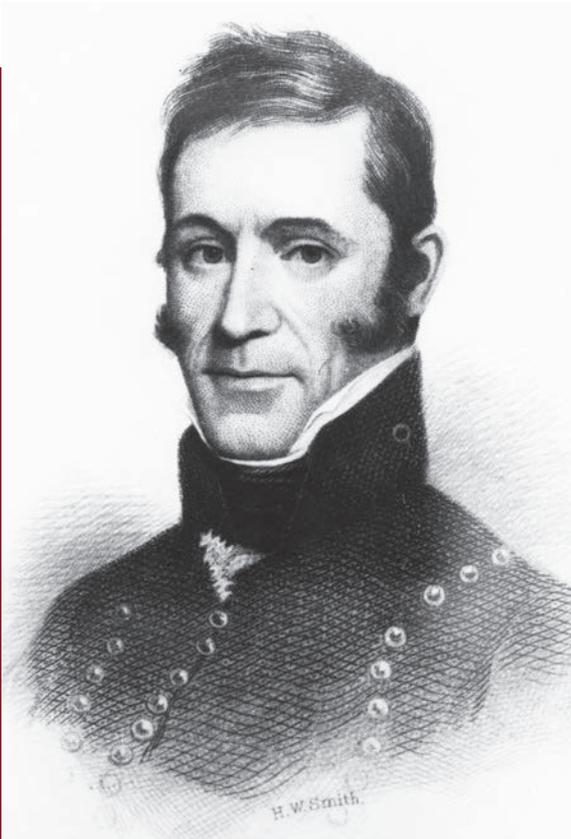


Linda Eastman, VC '59

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#27 Alden Partridge at West Point

Though Alden Partridge's departure from the United States Military Academy at West Point was controversial, his 15-year affiliation with that institution was a crucial formative period during which he developed many of the ideas and values that would guide him upon founding Norwich University.



Alden Partridge portrait, courtesy of Norwich University Archives.

Full story:

Partridge entered Dartmouth College in 1802, but left at the beginning of his senior year when he received appointment to West Point. At that time, in late 1805, the academy was a mere three years old, and anecdotes indicate that it was very much still in the process of coalescing as an institution.

Cadet Partridge received his commission in 1807, becoming a first lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers, and began teaching mathematics at West Point. Although the Chief of Engineers was officially the superintendent, he turned daily operations over to Partridge in 1808. Partridge earned a promotion to the rank of captain in 1811 and a professorship in engineering in 1813. He continued to serve as acting superintendent until 1815, when he became superintendent in his own right.

During his time at the helm of West Point, Partridge oversaw a major reorganization of the fledgling

academy and penned several versions of the emerging rules and regulations. It was here that he developed his vision for a model of education that seamlessly combined military discipline with the academic preparation of a generation of “citizen soldiers.”

Discontent began brewing between Partridge and the other West Point faculty around 1815. There was disagreement over proper discipline of the cadets, the finances of the institution, and the appropriate balance between military and academic aspects of a West Point education. Partridge was ultimately court martialed and relieved of his duties in 1817. He began almost immediately to make plans for his own military academy—the seeds of Norwich University had been planted.

You can learn more about the Middletown move through Alden Partridge's personal papers, housed in the Norwich University Archives and partially available online. Notably included in the collection, though not digitized, is the original transcript for Partridge's court martial.

#28 Two Schools Forever Changed: The Merger of Norwich University and Vermont College

On January 7, 1972, the agreement was signed to merge Norwich University with Vermont College, then a two-year women's college located in Montpelier, Vt. The result was Norwich's dramatic transformation into a co-educational institution, with civilian students learning alongside the traditional Corps of Cadets.



Top: Vermont College.

Bottom: The signing of the merger of Norwich University and Vermont College.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Full story:

As they entered the 1970s, Norwich University and Vermont College both faced declining student populations. Vermont College was being undercut by the emergence of community colleges, and Norwich was facing anti-military sentiment from the Vietnam era and a national trend toward coeducation. The merger was first proposed as a way to create efficiency, improve academic programs, and extend the existing cooperation between the schools.

Feelings on campus about the merger were mixed, to say the least. *Guidon* editorials and letters to the editor indicate that some of the concerns included the disruption of the military atmosphere on campus, Norwich taking on Vermont College's financial debts, and the fact that students and alumni did not feel that they were consulted in the decision process.

Nonetheless, in October 1971, the Norwich board of trustees passed a merger resolution. Vermont College was to retain its name and operate as a civilian division of Norwich. The agreement was signed just after the first of the year in 1972, and plans began working immediately so that the merger could take effect on June 30th of that year.

The original plan to keep male cadets and female civilians living on separate campuses quickly evolved. Since Vermont College women were eligible to enroll in Norwich's four-year degree programs, they began commuting between the campuses, and by the fall of 1973, they had successfully petitioned President Hart to allow them to reside in Gerard Hall. The following year, women seeking the same opportunities as their NU classmates were admitted to the Corps of Cadets.

Many resources are available in the Norwich University Archives if you are interested in learning more about the merger, including Board of Trustees records, Vermont College records, and the papers of Presidents Hamlett and Hart.



Taraknath Das '11

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#29 Taraknath Das, Class of 1911, Fought for Indian Independence

Taraknath Das was an Indian intellectual and reformer who fought tirelessly for the independence of his country. He attended Norwich University from 1908 to 1909 and advocated for more people from India to seek higher education so that they could bring about liberation from the British Empire. In spite of his commitment to a peaceful political process, the British and American governments had concerns about providing military training to such an “agitator,” and he was honorably discharged from Norwich in 1909.

Full story:

We do not know how Taraknath Das learned about Norwich or why he decided to apply. He corresponded with President Spooner and was admitted in 1908 under the condition that he cease his political activities while he was a cadet.

When he arrived, Das disregarded this request and continued to be vocal in advocating for India's independence. He published essays and gave talks to any group that would listen. While he was politically outspoken, there was little evidence that he was readying himself for military action against the British government.

Das was well liked at Norwich, and both students and administrators supported his right to an education here. However, the War Department began making inquiries as to his intentions in seeking military training, and concern grew that this could sour the university's important relationship with the U.S. military.

In the fall of 1909, President Spooner reluctantly asked Das to accept an honorable discharge and leave Norwich after the term's examinations. He went on to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees at American universities, with letters of recommendation from more than one Norwich trustee, and wrote prolifically on international relations, law, religion, and ethics. He and his wife established a foundation to support Indian graduate students studying in the United States.

Taraknath Das lived to see his country gain independence in 1947. He would always remember Norwich fondly, and Norwich in turn remembers with pride that he embodied the university's values by fighting with unwavering integrity for what he believed in.

You can learn more about Taraknath Das in the University Archives. Resources include an extensive biographical file that includes copies of correspondence between Norwich administrators and the War Department regarding Das. There are also articles written by and about Das in the Record and Reveille, some of which can be found in the Serials Index of the University Archives.

#30 Leonard F. Wing '45, POW and Hometown Hero

Leonard F. Wing, Jr. distinguished himself as a leader in the military, in his civilian career, and in his community. He escaped from a German POW camp, served in the Vermont National Guard for over 30 years and was a prominent attorney and father of nine in Rutland, Vt.



*Wing was decorated for his sacrifice during World War II.
Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.*

Full story:

Wing grew up in Rutland and entered Norwich with the class of 1945. He entered military service in the spring of 1943, when the entire Corps of Cadets was sent to serve in World War II. On Thanksgiving Day, 1944, Wing was captured in Germany. He spent time in several POW camps before staging an escape into Allied territory.

Wing reported that he and the other POWs were treated well in the camps, although food was in short supply. They depended on Red Cross rations, but made the most of it by cooking creative recipes with the rations. Wing was also cheered to meet fellow Norwich men in the camps.

After the war, he completed his junior year at Norwich before enrolling in Boston University's law school. No sooner had he completed his law degree than he was called back to active duty and spent two more years overseas in Korea. He subsequently served in the reserves for over 30 years, retiring with the rank of Brigadier General.

Following his active military service, Wing returned to Rutland, where he joined a law firm started by his father, Leonard F. Wing, Sr., who was a trustee and honorary degree recipient of Norwich. Back in Rutland, Wing, Jr. served as president of the Vermont Bar Association and was a member of the Rutland Chamber of Commerce and the School Board as well as the Elks, Moose, American Legion, VFW, and Knights of Columbus. He was also a longtime member of the Norwich Board of Fellows, receiving a Distinguished Service Award in 1986 and endowing a scholarship for Rutland-area students.

Leonard Wing passed away in 2005. He exemplified the Norwich values of service to country, community, and alma mater. From the front lines in Germany to his beloved Vermont community, he left a mark of Norwich pride wherever he went.

Learn more about the life and legacy of Leonard Wing in the Norwich University Archives.

#31 Making International Connections with the Russian School

The Russian School of Norwich University was a prestigious summer intensive program that ran for 33 years, from 1968 to 2000. Peak enrollment reached nearly 300 students as interest in Russian flourished during the Cold War years. Each summer, the campus became a hotbed of culture and activity as students from all over the country came together to learn about and celebrate the unique Russian language and culture. The program had a national reputation, attracting Russian luminaries and scholars to come spend the summer in the mountains of Vermont.

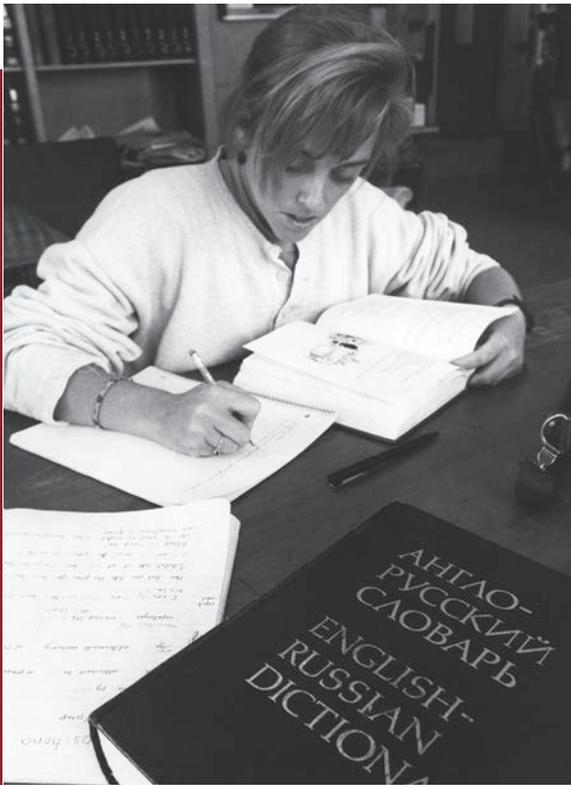
Full story:

The Russian School program began as the Institute for Critical Languages at Windham College in Putney, Vermont in 1960 and moved to Norwich in 1968. For six to eight weeks each summer, the Norwich campus was flooded with students and faculty who took an oath to speak only Russian, 24 hours a day. When not in the classroom, participants enjoyed exposure to many aspects of Russian and Soviet culture, including film screenings, lecture series, and an annual Slavic Festival consisting of traditional music, dance, and other performances.

The academic program consisted of five hours a day of immersive language instruction, inspired by the successful approach of the Army Language School (now called the Defense Language Institute). Nearly all of the instructors were native Russian speakers.

In the idyllic setting that is summer in Northfield, an entire year of college Russian was condensed into just weeks. Many students returned to the program for multiple years, and could earn a master's degree after three summers.

Declining enrollment, likely tied to the decline of the Soviet Union, led to the closure of the Russian School after the 2000 summer session. With the support of the International Center, students interested in Russian language and culture still have opportunities to enrich their Norwich education by studying abroad in places like Estonia or participating in ProjectGO, an initiative of the Defense Language and National Security Education Office.



Top: Russian School student studying.

Bottom: Russian School dancing

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Records of the Russian School can be found in the Norwich University Archives if you would like to learn more about its history and programs. You can also find photographs of Russian School activities in the Archives and on their website.

#32 Edward Dean Adams, Class of 1864, Pioneered Hydroelectric Power at Niagara Falls

Edward Dean Adams is one of the 40 honorees on Norwich's iconic Centennial Stairs. As a student in the class of 1864, he served as drill sergeant, adjutant of the Corps, and president of the cricket club. After graduating, he became one of the nation's most influential electrical engineers.



Edward Dean Adams

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Contributed by Professor Emeritus Gary T. Lord adapted from an article titled "Edward Dean Adams, Class of 1864: Financier, Engineer, Industrialist" originally appearing in the Summer/Fall 2000 edition of the Norwich Record.

Full story:

Adams worked in a wide variety of industries before becoming president of the Cataract Construction Company in 1890. The company's mission was to harness hydroelectric power from the immense volume of water that cascaded over Niagara Falls. The scope of the project was gargantuan, and Adams personally supervised the engineering work.

Thomas Edison and other leading experts insisted that the facility should produce direct electrical current (DC), but Adams determined that alternating current (AC) was preferable, a decision that would have enormous influence upon the evolution of the electric power industry in the United States. The Niagara Falls plant, which was later named after Adams, was completed in 1895, the same year electric lights were installed on the Norwich campus. That station was capable of generating 37.5 megawatts of electricity, an astonishing amount of power by the standards of the time.

The Niagara Falls hydroelectric project was one of the greatest engineering feats of the 19th century and was pivotal in the development of modern industry, from petroleum to consumer appliances. In recognition of his engineering achievements, Edward Adams received the John Fritz Medal in 1926, a prestigious award that had previously been presented to such notables as George Westinghouse, Thomas Edison, and Alexander Graham Bell.

Adams served on Norwich's Board of Trustees for over ten years and provided key financial support for construction projects like Alumni Hall and Plumley Armory. We now remember him as an alumnus who truly used his Norwich education to transform the world.



Top: The Norwich Red Socks, 1909

Bottom: Sabine Hockey Rink

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#33 The Norwich Red Socks Take the Ice

Norwich's hockey team was started in February 1909 by a group of restless cadets who were looking for something to do during the winter months. The eight skaters called themselves the "Norwich Red Socks," and won two out of the three games they played that year before the ice began to melt.

Full story:

With no indoor athletic facility existing on campus at the time, opportunities for exercise and entertainment were very limited. However, an obvious opportunity was presented by the abundance of ice, particularly the natural rink that formed on the Upper Parade Ground.

The modern game of ice hockey developed in Montreal in the 1870s, so it's no surprise that Norwich students in nearby Vermont were eager to join the game. There was talk in the student newspaper of wanting to get a team together as early as 1890, but it didn't come to pass until nearly 20 years later.

In those early days of outdoor hockey, the season was more or less limited to the month of February,

since time was needed for sufficient ice to form and then for the team to practice before competition could get underway. About five games constituted a typical season, and the Norwich skaters would play against anyone willing to accept the challenge, from high school teams to local Canadian clubs.

Unsurprisingly, hockey gained popularity quickly, and the 1913 season saw the construction of a temporary outdoor rink over top of the tennis courts, complete with electric lights. When the university sold its horses in 1948, the former Taylor Riding Hall became Taylor Hockey Arena, which was modernized in 1956 to include artificial ice—gone were the days of waiting for the natural freeze before the season could begin!

Visit the Norwich University Archives on campus or on the web to learn more about the history of Norwich hockey. Sources on the subject include old campus newspapers, yearbooks, and the records of the athletic department.

#34 Norwich on the Cutting Edge of Computing Technology

In January 1962, Norwich entered the digital age when an IBM Model 1620 computer was installed in Norwich University's new Computer Center. It was purchased to "provide Norwich students with the most up-to-date apparatus for solving the complex problems of space-age science and engineering education."

Full story:

The IBM 1620 was about the size of an upright piano, and was run using an accompanying paper tape reader. This model represented the transition away from room-sized mainframes toward computers of a more manageable size. The first director of the Computer Center was Jane Bonnette. When she was hired to run the center in 1962, she became the first female faculty member and the first woman to wear a Norwich uniform.

Students and faculty were invited to visit the Computer Center and use the machine to make calculations required for their coursework and research. The electrical engineering department was the first to offer computer-specific courses, with mathematics and business following in short order. Computer Center staff also gave non-credit lecture series so that the entire university community could become more informed about the budding technology. Since computers were still relatively uncommon, private firms and local schools were also encouraged to make use of the new equipment.

Technology marches ever onward, and the IBM 1620 was replaced with a newer model in 1970. Norwich added an interdepartmental computer science studies minor in 1978, which expanded to a full bachelor's degree program in 1982. In 1983 and 1984, significant effort was made to further advance campus computing power by installing clusters of "microcomputers" across campus, including the iconic Apple Macintoshes the year they were released.

Norwich continues to lead the way when it comes to technology and education. You can learn more about the history of computer science at Norwich by visiting the University Archives. Available resources include the records of the Information Technology and Academic Affairs departments, as well as course catalogs and other university publications.



*Jane Bonnette with the IBM Model 1620 computer.
Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.*

#35 Homer Smith Captured 30 Years of Norwich Images

Homer Smith served as Norwich's official photographer for 30 years. He was a constant presence on campus during his tenure, and is remembered fondly by many alumni. His beautiful photographs, mostly black-and-white, capture the story of Norwich from approximately 1961 to 1991, a rich and fascinating time in our history.

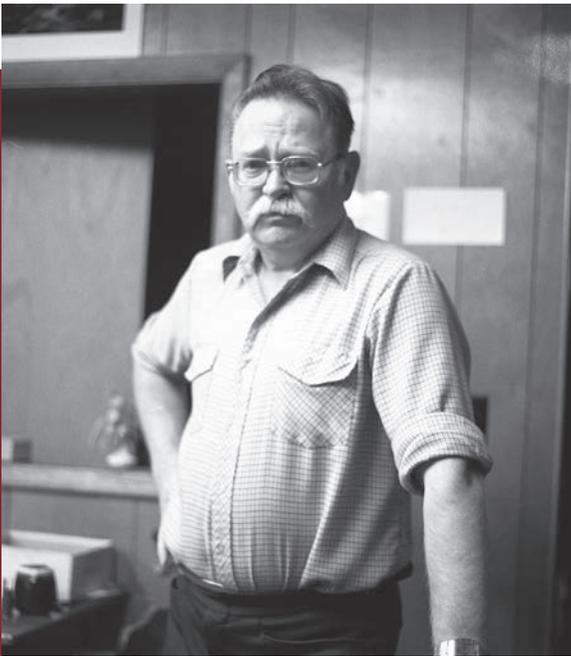
Full story:

Smith was a lifelong resident of Northfield, a veteran of the Korean War, and a model airplane enthusiast. During his time as Director of Photo Services, he and his assistants seemingly attended every event from Rook Arrival to Commencement to athletic contests. In addition to capturing these important milestones, Smith's many candid shots give us a wonderful sense of the personality of the students and the rhythms of life on campus. They could be found in a variety of publications, from the yearbook to the *Record* and the *Guidon*, and continue to be used to this day.

Smith photographed luminaries like comedian Bob Hope, author Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, and former

Chief Justice Earl Warren, along with countless military dignitaries when they visited Norwich. His career spanned four Norwich presidents—Ernest Harmon, Barksdale Hamlett, Loring Hart, and Russell Todd—and in many ways, his photographs have shaped these men in our imaginations.

Homer Smith's meticulously cataloged photographs form the centerpiece of the university's photograph collection, housed in the Norwich Archives. Hundreds of his images are available to view on the University Archives website, and thousands more can be accessed in their reading room in the Kreitzberg Library.



Top: Homer Smith

Bottom: Junior Week Picnic 1968, photo taken by Homer Smith.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#36 Henry Clay Wood, Class of 1856, Civil War Medal of Honor Recipient

Brigadier General Henry Clay Wood is one of the distinguished alumni of Norwich University who has received our nation's highest military award, the Medal of Honor, for his service in the Civil War. Following pre-war Army service on the frontiers of Texas, he was wounded in the head at the Battle of Wilson Creek in Missouri. His valor was recognized with a Medal of Honor in 1893.

Full story:

General Wood was born in Winthrop, Maine in 1832 and earned his first bachelor's degree at nearby Bowdoin College in 1854. After dabbling first in medicine and then in law, he took an interest in military life and in 1856 became an aide-de-camp for his father, who was in command of the Maine state militia.

It was that same year that Wood decided to enhance his military knowledge by spending a short time at Norwich University. He would later receive an honorary bachelor's degree from Norwich in 1874. Shortly after his time at Norwich, he received a commission as 2nd lieutenant in the 1st U.S. Infantry and served "among the Indians" in Texas, according to one newspaper report.

When the Civil War broke out, he served under General Nathaniel Lyon in Missouri. In the Battle of Wilson Creek, sometimes called "The Bull Run of the West," Lieutenant Wood lost fully half of his men

to injury or death. He himself was badly wounded in the head. In 1893, President Cleveland presented him with the Medal of Honor for "distinguished gallantry" in this conflict.

Wood continued his army career after the war, eventually serving as assistant adjutant general and retiring with the rank of colonel in 1896. He would later be promoted in retirement to the rank of brigadier general. He was a long-time friend and colleague of General Oliver Otis Howard, who also had a connection to Norwich through the Board of Trustees.

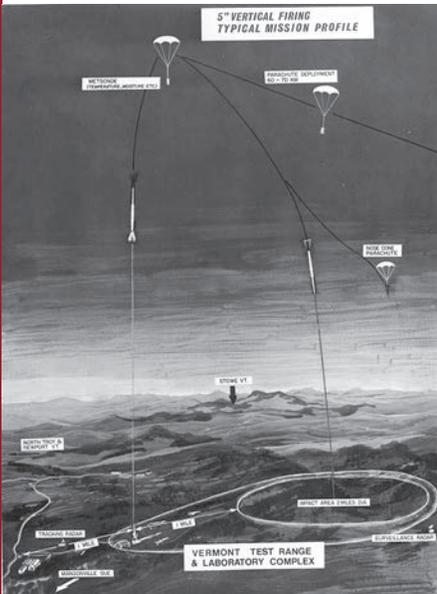
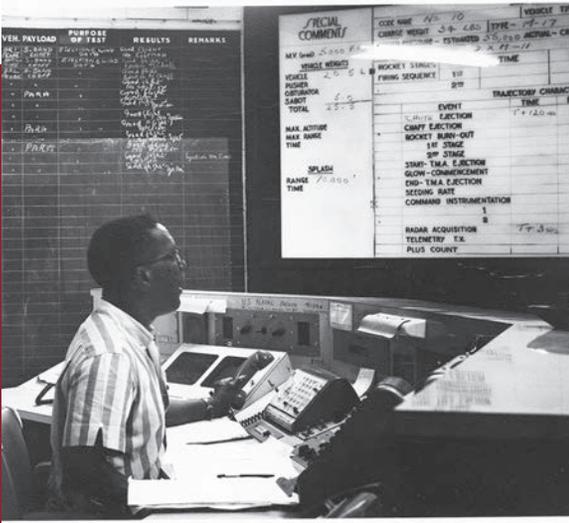
Wood died in 1918 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery alongside many of his fellow Norwich heroes who served their country in the Civil War. You can learn more about him by requesting his biographical file in the Norwich University Archives, or by checking his entry in the Index to Norwich University Newspapers.



Brigadier General Henry Clay Wood

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#37 The Space Research Institute Brought Space-Age Innovation to Vermont



Full story:

The Space Research Corporation was the first aerospace research firm to be headquartered in Vermont. It moved to the border town of North Troy and sought a partnership with a Vermont university after the withdrawal of Canadian government funds ended their partnership with McGill University. They devised a plan to offer hands-on experience and cutting-edge classroom instruction both at its North Troy facility and on the Norwich campus.

The coursework consisted primarily of math, physics, and aerospace engineering covering topics like thermodynamics, propulsion systems, and aerospace electronics. These areas of study were seamlessly integrated with the ability for students to research, design, construct, and launch space vehicles using on-site equipment and facilities.

Courses in aerospace studies were taught from 1968 to 1972. Apparent lagging interest and funding challenges led to the closure of the program in 1972, with no degrees ever being issued.

In a shocking twist, the founder of the Space Research Corporation, Gerald Bull, was later found to be involved in illegal arms deals, and was assassinated in 1990. You can learn more about the Space Research Institute, including Gerald Bull's shadowy career, by reviewing files in President Barksdale Hamlett and Loring Hart's papers, as well as the Media Relations records in the University Archives.

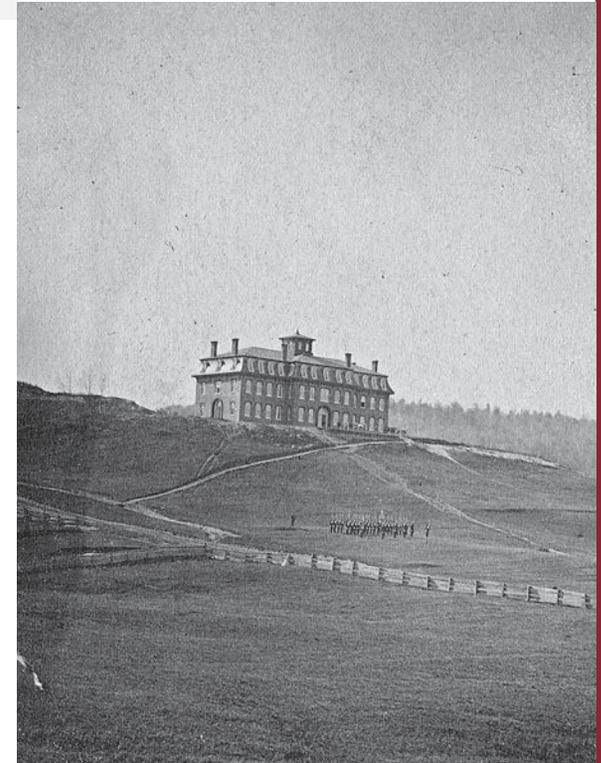
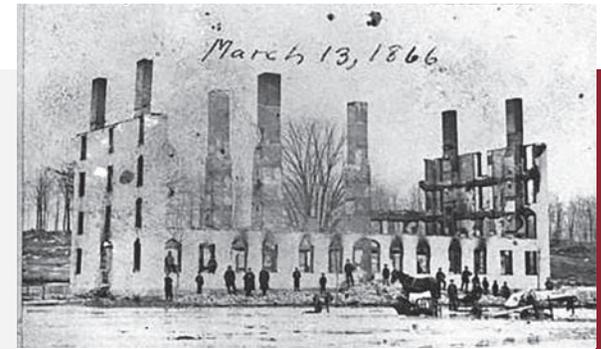
Top: Space Research Institute.

Bottom: Missile Firing Range Profile

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#38 The Move to Northfield

The South Barracks, Norwich University's principal building at the original Norwich, Vt. campus, burned nearly to the ground on March 13th, 1866. No historical records mention deaths or injuries associated with the fire. In an April board meeting that year, the trustees resolved that they would endeavor to keep the university in Norwich if possible, but if not, they would seek accommodation in another town.



Top: The charred remains of South Barracks, Norwich, Vt.

Bottom: The Barracks, later named Jackman Hall in Northfield, Vt.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Full story:

When the board convened again in August, it had been determined that a move was the prudent choice. The trustees heard a proposal from the citizens of Northfield, and within hours voted to accept the proposal and go forward with the move. Many Northfield citizens made pledges toward covering the cost of the move and the building construction. The Norwich parade ground and bricks from the burned South Barracks were sold for \$900 (some bricks survive and are set into the entryway floor of the Kreitzberg Library).

The move itself took place between August and October of 1866. A building committee was appointed and empowered to select and purchase land, prepare the site, and contract for construction materials and labor. Deeds were executed for the land the following month.

As far as we can tell, instruction continued in its regular course in spite of the lack of a permanent facility during this time. Degrees were granted to single-digit graduating classes in 1866, 1867, and

1868, and new faculty were recruited. A catalog printed in March 1867 indicates total enrollment of 40 cadets. The old Paine Block in downtown Northfield was used as an interim space for university operations.

The new building in Northfield—simply referred to as “the barracks” until it was christened Jackman Hall in 1907—was completed sometime in 1868 or 1869 (1868 is the usually cited date, but evidence is mixed). The university struggled to complete payment for the building for the remainder of the century, leading in one case to a humorous incident where a citizen who was owed a substantial sum “reclaimed” the parade ground and planted potatoes on it.

Norwich was under financial strain throughout this time period, struggling to assemble funds for the salaries of the president and the very small faculty. Thanks to the tenacity and goodwill of the faculty, trustees, townspeople, and students, the university persevered and put down deep roots in the town we now know as our home—Northfield, Vt.

Learn more about the Northfield move by visiting the Norwich Archives to look at Board of Trustees minutes, citizen pledge documents, course catalogs from the 1860s, and more.



Frank Simonetti '84

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#39 Frank Simonetti, Class of 1984, Boston Bruin and Award-Winning Student-Athlete

Frank Simonetti was a 1984 graduate, an All-American hockey player while at Norwich, and a player for the Boston Bruins from 1984 to 1988. In 1985 he received the prestigious Olympia Award in recognition of his outstanding achievements as an amateur athlete during his time at Norwich.

Full story:

While at Norwich, Simonetti shone on both the soccer and hockey teams. As team captain, he led the soccer team to a playoff run during his senior season of 1983. The Cadets hockey squad also went to the playoffs that same year under his leadership as assistant captain. He was named All-East as a junior and All-American during his senior year, and upon graduation was Norwich's leading defensive scorer. In addition to his accomplishments on the ice and the soccer field, Simonetti regularly appeared on the Dean's List as a mechanical engineering major, served as vice president of his class and on the Honor Committee, and was the 1984 recipient of the Garrity Award for outstanding student-athletes.

After graduating from Norwich, Simonetti joined the Bruins' AHL farm team before being called up mid-season. He impressed as a staple of the Bruins' defense that season, skating regularly in the 1985 Stanley Cup Playoffs.

At the conclusion of the season in 1985, Simonetti returned to Norwich to be honored with the presentation of the prestigious Olympia Award, recognizing the Olympic ideals of amateur athleticism. The award was presented by the Southland Corporation, a sponsor of the 1984 Olympics. The ceremony was held at Norwich in recognition of Simonetti's achievements as a Norwich student-athlete. Gymnast Mary Lou Retton and "Dream Team" basketball player Patrick Ewing were among the Olympia honorees around the same time.

Simonetti's professional career would unfortunately be plagued by injury, and he retired in 1988. He was inducted into the Norwich University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1994.

Visit the Norwich Archives to learn more about Frank Simonetti's career with Cadets Hockey and his Olympia Award through the Athletics Department Records.

#40 Harold Denny “Soup” Campbell, Class of 1917, World’s Safest Flyer

In 1926, President Coolidge presented Harold Denny “Soup” Campbell, class of 1917, with the Schiff Trophy for nearly 900 hours of flight time without an accident. Newspaper headlines across the country touted him as the “world’s safest flyer.” Charles Lindbergh’s historic flight took place just one year after Campbell’s award, in 1927.

Full story:

“Soup” Campbell was born and raised in Waterbury, Vt., and graduated from Norwich in 1917, just months before joining the Marine Corps and heading to the front lines of World War I. He fought in the historic Battle of Belleau Wood, thought to be battle where the Marine nickname “Devil Dog” originated. Campbell was wounded in October of 1918 just before the Armistice, and was in Paris to witness the massive celebrations when the Armistice was signed.

Following the war, Campbell became a Marine aviator in 1921. During the 12-month period that earned him the Schiff Trophy, he was stationed in San Diego, and would subsequently serve in Nicaragua, Guam, and Cuba before the start of World War II.

After rising to the spotlight, Campbell continued to impress the country with his aviation prowess.

In 1929, he was invited to pilot a test flight of the largest airplane ever to take off from American soil. He did so in Washington, D.C. with 35 distinguished passengers. He was fond of taking detours to fly over his family home in Waterbury, Vt., and his alma mater. During World War II, he continued to distinguish himself, serving in both the European and Pacific theaters as well as on the staffs of General Eisenhower, General Patton, and Lord Louis Mountbatten.

Campbell retired from the Marines with the rank of major general in 1946 and enjoyed a career as a school teacher and principal in Waterbury. His son, Harold Denny Campbell III, graduated from Norwich in 1951.



Harold Denny “Soup” Campbell ‘17

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Learn more about “Soup” Campbell from his extensive biographical file in the University Archives.

#41 Memories of Dodge and Jackman

In the late 1800s, Norwich University consisted of two imposing structures on “The Hill”—Jackman and Dodge Halls. Today, with 53 buildings and counting, the campus evokes pride in all graduates. The buildings of Norwich, both past and present, have generated a lot of memories over the years.

Full story:

Much has changed about both the buildings and the landscape. For instance, the maple trees, now very mature, that line the Upper Parade Ground were planted in 1965 on what was then a bare, flat-topped hill. That same year, two historic structures, Old Jackman Hall and Old Dodge Hall were demolished to provide space for the new Jackman Hall at the north end of The Hill. Classes that followed after 1969 would have no memory of those great old buildings.

Old Jackman (the barracks), erected around 1868, was the first Northfield campus building, after the University moved from its original location in Norwich, Vermont. Jackman was named for Alonzo Jackman, an 1836 graduate of Norwich, teacher, Civil War veteran, and proponent of the Transatlantic telegraph cable.

Old Dodge, erected in 1892, was the second building. It was named for its donor, Grenville Dodge, a Norwich graduate, general in the Civil and Indian Wars, and leader of the enterprise creating the Transcontinental Railroad. During the early 1960’s Dodge housed the Military Science classrooms and faculty offices.

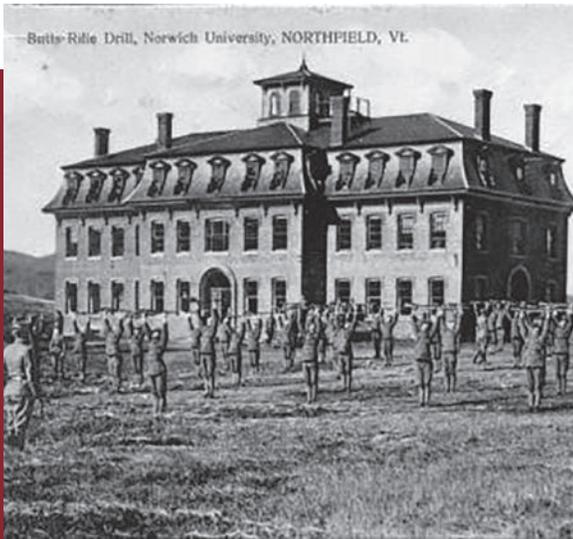
Both Old Dodge and Old Jackman were Second Empire architectural style buildings, with a four-sided roof that provides the advantages of a sloped roof while maximizing headroom on the top floor. All rooms had high ceilings and large windows, before the era of air conditioning, so were very comfortable. Winter cold was an altogether different situation! All that glass and the volume of air in the rooms required lots of heat to keep warm.

Buildings are mute, but stories about them and their occupants are not. When reminiscing during my 50th reunion weekend with old friends, many stories surfaced about Old Jackman and Old Dodge.

Many former cadets associate Old Jackman and Old Dodge with the tradition of disciplinary tours—one tour meant marching around the Upper Parade Ground with a rifle for 50 minutes. One classmate of mine walked over 186 miles of tours (to Boston and back) in front of those long ago demolished buildings. That must be a record. Added to the penalty of marching his tours was that they were done alone in freezing rain, sleet, and snow. His name will be anonymous, but he is clearly distinguished in the minds of his classmates – clever and truthful to the honor code of Norwich. He was a master of the creative prank but a truthful young man, and despite his antics and being a Senior Private (a cadet with no rank), he was selected as a member of the Honor Committee and Skull and Swords.

He recalled recently that after several hours of marching in the sleet and snow, bundled up with scarf, jacket, and flaps pulled down on his mountain military hat, the Major had the Officer of the Day bring him inside in order the “chew him out.” However, he was brought in so fast, he had no time to unplug the earphones he had plugged in to a small radio blasting music inside the hat. He could hear nothing from the flapping mouth of the Major.

Learn more about the history of Old Jackman and Old Dodge, check out the Serial Publications Index or visit the Norwich Archive.



Top: Butts Rifle Drill on the UP.

Bottom: Old Jackman and Dodge Hall.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#42 The Gibson Political Dynasty

In the first half of the 20th century, there were two Ernest W. Gibsons who served as U.S. senators from Vermont—a father-son team, both of whom were graduates of Norwich University. Both also served as trustees of Norwich University and received honorary degrees from their alma mater.

Contributed by Professor Emeritus Gary T. Lord adapted from an article by Gary Lord published in the Summer 2001 Norwich Record.

Gibson the Elder

Ernest W. Gibson, Sr. studied science and literature at Norwich University and held the rank of 2nd lieutenant in the Corps of Cadets. While at Norwich, he honed his speaking and writing skills, publishing polished and provocative essays in the student-published *Reveille*. In 1893, he defeated future Congressman and Norwich President Charles Plumley in the Sheldon speaking contest.

After his graduation from Norwich, Gibson, Sr. studied law at the University of Michigan. In 1899 he formed a law partnership in Brattleboro, Vermont, and was elected to the state senate in 1906. By 1912, he had joined the insurgent wing of the Republican Party led by Theodore Roosevelt. He went to the Republican presidential nominating convention in 1912 as a supporter of Roosevelt's "Bull Moose" faction. When Roosevelt walked out of the convention, Gibson, Sr. accompanied him.

Throughout this time, Gibson, Sr. also served in the Vermont National Guard. He was activated for military service in 1915 during the Mexican border crisis, and when the U.S. joined the Allies during World War I, Gibson was sent to France with the American Expeditionary Force.

After he returned to Vermont as a war hero, Gibson ran for the U.S. Congress in 1923, winning the

election and serving in Congress until his death in 1940, first in the House and later in the Senate. He was politically aligned with Vermont Governor George Aiken, a vigorous champion of farmers and blue collar workers, who contested the business interests that had long been dominant in Vermont politics.

Gibson the Younger

The younger Ernest Gibson, Norwich Class of 1923, was a highly competitive pole vaulter on the Norwich varsity track team. After graduation, Gibson, Jr. followed in his father's footsteps with a law degree and a practice in Brattleboro. When Gibson, Sr. died in 1940, his son was appointed by Governor George Aiken to serve the remainder of his father's term in Washington, though he declined to run for additional terms. It was after World War II, as governor of Vermont, that he would make his political mark.

During World War II, Gibson, Jr. deployed with the 43rd Infantry Division to the South Pacific. The war wounds he received there became a matter of national attention when the media circulated a photograph showing him swathed in bloodstained bandages. Gibson attained the rank of colonel and was cited for meritorious conduct, receiving the



Ernest W. Gibson Sr.

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.



Ernest Gibson Jr. '23

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Silver Star and the Legion of Merit among other military awards. While serving as an intelligence officer in New Georgia, he received a green coconut containing the note from Navy Lieutenant John F. Kennedy pleading for the rescue of the survivors of PT 109.

Ernest Gibson, Jr. returned from the war a hero and ready to assume his father's political mantle. He successfully challenged incumbent Republican Governor Mortimer Proctor in 1946, thumbing his nose at the "corporate kingmakers" who had been choosing governors from a back room.

Gibson, Jr. energized and transformed Vermont government. The liberal agenda of the Gibson administration generated constant conflict with conservative Republicans, but he remained popular in spite of these tensions. Near the end of his second term, in 1950, Gibson resigned to accept an appointment from Harry Truman to the Federal District Court bench.

Both Ernest Gibsons made their alma mater proud. Both served their community and their country with distinction, and each left an indelible mark on Vermont politics.

#43 Norwich is the Birthplace of ROTC

Norwich is hosted a symposium commemorating the 100th anniversary of the nation's ROTC program. While it is commonplace today to regard Captain Partridge as the “father” of the concept of ROTC and Norwich University as the “birthplace” of that concept, there is a more direct connection that has not been previously recognized.



Raising the flag on the UP.

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Contributed by Professor Emeritus Gary T. Lord adapted from an article first published in the Norwich Record.

Full story:

Cavalry instruction first offered at Norwich University in 1908. Under the direction of Captain Frank Tompkins, Professor of Military Science & Tactics and a superb horseman, the equestrian program improved markedly. Another very capable cavalry officer, Captain Ralph Parker, replaced Tompkins in 1913. Parker was highly regarded by Major General Leonard Wood, U.S. Army Chief of Staff, 1910-1914.

General Wood, a leading figure of the military preparedness movement, was keenly interested in offering military training to college students in summer camps. Wood was also very interested in what was happening in the Norwich Corps of Cadets, which by 1914 was organized exclusively as a cavalry unit in the Vermont National Guard. Captain Parker demonstrated to General Wood, through the example of Norwich cadets, the feasibility of a program of effective military training for college students and that such training could contribute significantly to national defense.

In a commencement speech at Norwich University in the spring of 1915, General Wood acknowledged the “excellent” quality of the work of the military

department at the school and indicated his wish that a “similar course of instruction was in force in every High School and College in the Country.” Wood’s strong interest in Norwich led him to accept membership on its Board of Trustees in 1916, an affiliation he maintained until his death in 1928.

In 1916, the wish that General Wood expressed the previous year was realized with the creation of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. Norwich University proved to be a critical testing ground for Wood’s thinking about military training for college students. A letter written in 1938 by then Colonel Ralph M. Parker to Colonel Frank Tompkins confirms this. Parker observed to his old comrade in arms: “We would not have ROTC today if I had not demonstrated to General Wood the practicability of real military training and its real value to National Defense. Then, too, if I had not had General Wood with his wonderful broad-minded attitude toward civilian training, I would not have been heeded in the least. There was no other General officer in the Army that would have lent a sympathetic ear to my proposals.”

The documents quoted here as evidence of the Norwich-ROTC connection can be accessed in the Norwich University Archives.

#44 Alden Partridge's Model for the Morrill Land-Grant Act

The landmark legislation passed by the United States Congress in 1862 supporting a national system of agricultural and technical colleges is commonly known as the Morrill Land-Grant Act. Vermont congressman Justin Smith Morrill prepared the bill, and its successful passage was in large measure the result of his persistence and political acumen. The legislation would eventually be widely acclaimed for the transforming influence it had upon higher education.

Contributed by Professor Emeritus Gary T. Lord adapted from an article appearing in the Winter/Spring 2000 edition of the Norwich Record. A longer version originally appeared in The History of Higher Education Annual (1998).

Full story:

Morrill would recollect 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. Nevertheless, it is apparent that the roots of the 1862 legislation reach well back into the nineteenth century and that many reformers interested in education helped to prepare the way for Justin Morrill's inspiration.

Historians have given little attention to another Vermonter who was actually the first to offer Congress a comprehensive plan for land-grant colleges: Alden Partridge. Though Morrill never acknowledged Partridge's influence, the close correspondence in their thinking is remarkable and in all probability was not accidental. The Land-Grant Act of 1862 bears a strange resemblance to a proposal Partridge advanced to Congress in 1841.

Partridge's plan was "the first definite proposal made to Congress to provide large-scale aid to each state for new education." Though he presented it to Congress in 1841, he gave lectures about a similar plan as early as 1835. The plan requested land grants to support state institutions, new or remodeled, that would offer a curriculum embracing practical learning alongside traditional academics—in effect, a national extension of the curriculum already in operation at Norwich University.

Neither house of Congress moved to adopt Alden Partridge's 1841 proposal. By the late 1850s, however, interest in science and vocational education produced a climate that was favorable for positive legislative action. While Justin Morrill deserves credit for his legislative success, some of the earliest and most substantial elements of the act's conceptual foundation were set in place by Alden Partridge.

The Morrill Act was similar to Partridge's plan in both general and specific ways, down to the scheme for the distribution of the land. Some evidence strongly suggests that Morrill, well before 1856, was acquainted with Partridge's proposed national curriculum and the operation of that curriculum at Norwich University.

It is no small irony that Norwich University subsequently rejected multiple opportunities to become a land-grant college in the 1860s and 1870s. Moreover, it is perplexing that Justin Morrill could not, or would not, explain how he formulated the plans for the 1862 legislation that bears his name. Though the details remain a mystery, there can be no question that Alden Partridge and his curriculum at Norwich University were decades ahead of the curve when it came to a national system of practical education.



Alden Partridge portrait, courtesy of Norwich University Archives.

#45 The “College Wars” of 1914 Highlighted What We Love About Norwich

In 1914, the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching completed an extensive study and report on the state of primary, secondary, and higher education in Vermont. Commissioned by the Vermont Education Commission, the recommendation of the “Carnegie Report” shocked the Norwich community.

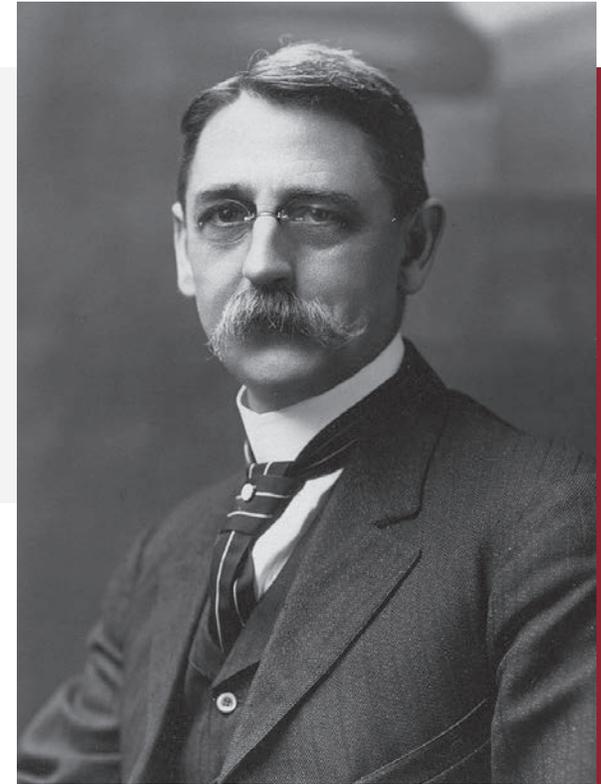
Full story:

One of the report’s key conclusions was that the state was putting too much funding—a total of approximately \$100,000 per year, or \$2.4 million in today’s dollars—into three competing colleges, namely Norwich, Middlebury, and the University of Vermont (St. Michael’s College had been founded in 1904 but was not receiving state funding). The report pointed out in particular that this state funding was supporting the education of a large proportion of non-Vermonters. The ultimate recommendation was to withdraw all state funding from higher education and focus on badly needed improvements to the public primary school system.

This recommendation shocked the community and provoked outcry among those who believed in the value of Vermont’s colleges, especially those who

recognized Norwich’s unique value. Letters poured into the university and the legislature from Norwich alumni, particularly those who had received state scholarships, describing how irreversibly Norwich had changed their lives for the better. President Spooner testified before the Educational Commission, as did future Norwich president John Thomas, who was then the president of Middlebury.

Following much public debate, the Vermont Legislature voted the following spring to appropriate funds to Norwich, UVM, and Middlebury as usual. Though the “College Wars” were a harrowing period in Norwich history, the outpouring of support from the university community truly demonstrated the love that this community has always had for Norwich University.national



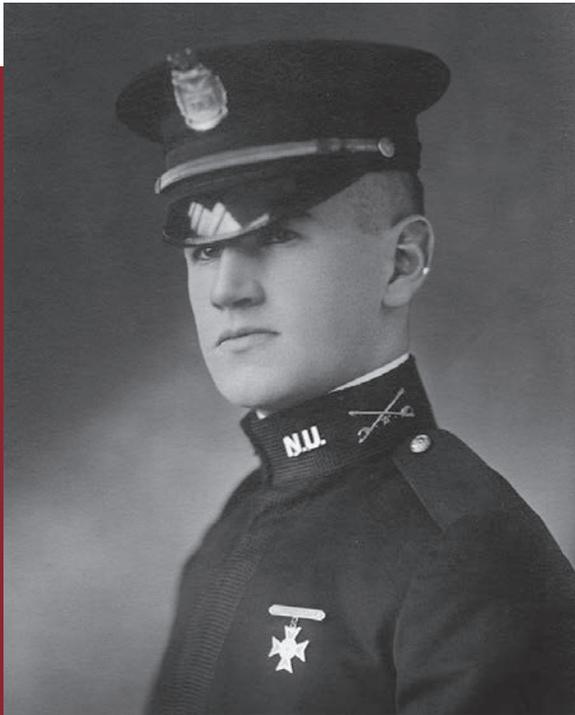
President Charles Spooner

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

You can read the so-called Carnegie Report online here. The full text of President Spooner’s extensive testimony rebutting the report’s recommendation is printed in the Norwich Record and is available online. Numerous news clippings and letters of support can be found in the papers of President Spooner and President Thomas in the University Archives.

#46 Isaac Davis White, Class of 1922, A Hero Descended from Heroes

Isaac Davis White '22, embodied the Norwich spirit from a young age. A highly decorated four-star general, White descended from a long line of war heroes stretching back to the Revolutionary War.



Full story:

White was born in 1901 and raised in Peterboro, N.H. His father, Major General Daniel Mansfield White, was a Civil War veteran and career Army officer. As a boy, White was known to march proudly in town parades wearing his father's Union Army cap. The family was descended from Isaac Davis, a Revolutionary War hero from Acton, Mass., who was among the first to be killed in the Battle of Concord.

White was so inspired by his father's war stories that he departed high school after his junior year in order to enroll at Norwich University and pursue a career in the military. At Norwich he was an excellent horseman and captain of the polo team. He graduated in 1922 and commissioned as a second lieutenant in the cavalry in January 1923.

As his career advanced, it became clear that tanks were replacing horses in modern warfare, and White rose to the occasion. Throughout the 1930s, first as

part of the 7th Cavalry Brigade and then the Armored Car Troop of the 1st Cavalry Regiment, he was on the front lines in the development of early modern armor.

In 1940 he was promoted to major and joined the "Hell on Wheels" 2nd Armored Division, which would be commanded by two Norwich men during World War II, Ernest Harmon and Edward Brooks. White held every rank in the division over the course of the war, and took command of it himself in January 1945, earning the nickname "Mr. Armor."

After thus distinguishing himself through service in World War II, White went on to serve in the Korean War as well. He retired in 1961 as a four-star general with numerous decorations including the Army Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, and Bronze Star. The impact of his legacy is clear, both for the nation he served and for Norwich University.

Top: Isaac Davis White '22

Bottom: Norwich University Polo Team.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

The Norwich University Archives is home to an extensive collection of I.D. White's personal papers. The collection includes 60 boxes of letters, photographs, speeches, commendations, records of military service, and other donated materials.

#47 Peace Corps Preparatory Program Pioneered a New Concept of National Service

In the summer of 1986, Carol Todd returned to Norwich from a volunteerism conference with an idea for her husband, Norwich President Russell Todd. She had just heard Loret Miller Ruppe, the director of the Peace Corps, present the idea of an ROTC-like training program to recruit new volunteers for the Peace Corps. The timing was serendipitous.

Full story:

President Todd had been searching for a way to bring a more expansive notion of volunteerism to Norwich's tradition of national service. In the fall of 1987, a pilot Peace Corps Preparatory Program launched with the participation of a dozen students. The idea was that cadets could elect to undertake a Peace Corps training curriculum in lieu of the ROTC requirement during their junior and senior years. Any civilian could also add the program to his or her course load.

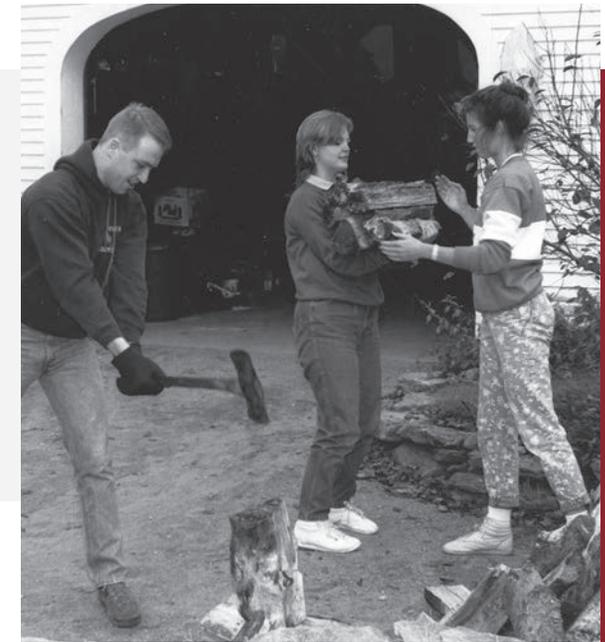
The curriculum included local community service, coursework on the economics and history of developing nations, and summer internships. Soon after the program launched, a student-loan-forgiveness program was added in exchange for a Peace Corps service commitment. With the Peace Corps seeking to double the size of its volunteer force and reduce turnover, the program sought to prepare educated volunteers who could provide leadership in needed areas like nursing and engineering.

Norwich took the initiative to fund and launch this program on its own, establishing a model that

could be used to seed programs at other colleges and universities. The Peace Corps was thrilled by Norwich's leadership; the director wrote to President Todd offering "congratulations on this bold and exciting innovation."

In the wake of new ROTC requirements that made it difficult for cadets to participate, the Peace Corps Preparatory Program phased out around 2002. However, the dream of being a model for a national program was realized, as the Peace Corps now officially sponsors a preparatory curricula at nearly 50 partner schools.

The Norwich tradition of service to community and country also remains stronger than ever. In addition to our students who serve in the military before, during, and after their time at Norwich, the Center for Civic Engagement connects cadets and civilians alike with myriad opportunities to be of service to the Vermont community and the world beyond.



*Community service was a Peace Corps initiative.
Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.*

Information about the former Peace Corps Preparatory Program and its curriculum can be found in the Norwich University Archives, particularly in Media Relations, Academic Affairs, and International Student Office records.

#48 "I Will Try" & "Essayons": A Tale of Two Mottos and the Chapultepec Myth

The origins of both Norwich University's mottos and the relationship between the two are commonly misunderstood. "Essayons" is French for "let us try," and has been the motto of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers since before Norwich was founded in 1819. Conventional wisdom erroneously attributes the phrase "I Will Try" to Colonel Truman Bishop Ransom, our second university president.



Colonel Truman Bishop Ransom
Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Contributed by Professor Emeritus Gary T. Lord adapted from an article appearing in the Spring 2004 Norwich Record

Full story:

Ransom commanded the 9th New England regiment at the Battle of Chapultepec near Mexico City in 1847. As the story goes, Ransom was asked by General Winfield Scott if he could take the fortress at Chapultepec. Supposedly Ransom's reply was "I will try." He died trying.

However, available evidence does not support the claim that Ransom said either "I will try" or "essayons" at Chapultepec (and it's worth noting that he would have been unlikely to rally his troops in the heat of battle in a foreign language). In fact, the "I Will Try" motto was in use at Norwich well before the Mexican War. It appears on an 1839 diploma and an 1844 flag. An 1848 eulogy claims that Ransom's actual words in that fateful moment were "I pledge my word to you, to lead my regiment into that castle or die."

So who did coin the Norwich motto? The likely author is Colonel James Miller of New Hampshire, who during the Battle of Lundy's Lane in the War of 1812 was asked by his commanding general, "Colonel Miller, can you take that battery?" Miller's response was reportedly "I'll try, sir."

This source for the Norwich motto is confirmed by the lyrics to "Hurrah for Old N.U.," written by Henry Oakes Kent, Class of 1854: "She saw her bright escutcheon / For which her sons had died / Bearing the words that Miller said / 'I'LL TRY!" Kent affirmed in an 1899 speech that James Miller was the inspiration for this line, indicating that he was likely the inspiration for the motto itself.

We may never know where the Truman Ransom origin story came from. Evidence clearly indicates that as recently as 1931, the true origin of the phrase was commonly understood. Just 20 years later, though, a 1951 cadet handbook contains the first known written reference to the Chapultepec myth. It was repeated in Darius Guinn's 1965 update to William Ellis' university history, and has taken on a life of its own in the last 50 years.

"I Will Try" and "Essayons" have been used alternately and sometimes simultaneously throughout our history. While "I Will Try" appears as early as 1839, "Essayons" surfaces in an 1877 broadside advertisement for the university, and both appeared variously on seals and official publications well into the 20th century.

In 1970, the Board voted to formally adopt "Essayons" as the university's motto, though diplomas continued to be issued with the "I Will Try" seal. A similar vote in 2003 reverted the official motto to "I Will Try," which it remains today.

It could be said that Norwich's two mottos represent two important aspects of the university's history and culture: "Essayons" connotes a communal spirit and refers to Alden Partridge's roots as an Army Engineer, while "I Will Try" references a New England spirit of personal fortitude, which Norwich has represented for nearly 200 years.

#49 Charles Lewis and the Lewis College Years

In 1880, Norwich University was in dire financial straits. At a meeting of alumni, some believed the university could not be saved, and that the best course of action would be to let it pass with dignity into the annals of history.

Full story:

We are grateful indeed that this was far from a unanimous belief. Late in that year, a successful alumnus and businessman who sat on the Board of Trustees offered the university substantial financial support in order for it to remain open. That man's name was Charles Hildreth Lewis, and in grateful recognition of his support, the trustees and the Vermont legislature voted to change the name on our charter to Lewis College. Lewis also officially served as president from 1880 to 1892, though the title was largely honorary.

Lewis was a graduate of the Class of 1855 who had made a name—and a fortune—for himself in the mining business. Among the terms of his financial contribution to the university were agreements to pay faculty salaries for a number of years; finance new buildings, including a second barracks and

a mineral museum (in keeping with his mining interests); and donate \$25,000 outright when enrollment reached 50 cadets. With a student body of 51 in the 1885-1886 academic year, Lewis College—by then renamed back to Norwich University—just barely met that goal.

Unfortunately, little is known about the conclusion of the Lewis College period. We know that Lewis' proposed barracks and museum were not built—the next building to be erected was Dodge Hall, an academic and administration building completed in 1892. Though the university continued to face challenges as the 19th century came to a close, we can rest assured that it would not have survived and ultimately thrived without the aid of Charles Lewis.



Top: Charles Lewis, Class of 1855

Bottom: "Old" Jackman Hall, 1895

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Learn more by visiting the Norwich University Archives.

#50 Memories of Dewey Hall

The cornerstone of Dewey Hall, named after Norwich University cadet and hero of Manila Bay Admiral George Dewey, was laid on September 14, 1899.



Top: Dewey Hall, 1925

Bottom: Reconstructed Dewey from the UP

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Contributed by Martin Suydam '65

Full story:

The building was completed in 1902 and was the third building on the campus. It housed administrative offices, an assembly hall, the library and museum, the chapel, and space for the U.S. Weather Bureau. The original structure had a distinctive sloped roof and dormer architecture. A fire in 1925 destroyed the third level. When the building was rebuilt, a full third floor was added with a flat roof.

While I was a cadet in the 1960s, Dewey was the administration building, housing the president, commandant, and many of the university's operational support staff. As the cadet regimental commander my senior year, I spent the first hour of every day in Dewey with the commandant and deputy commandant, reviewing issues and actions of the Corps for the day. Their offices were on the first floor facing the parade ground and had large windows with a view of everything on "The Hill."

The backside of Dewey Hall was a focus of activity, where the most indicated uniform of day. It also housed the Officer of Day (OD) room, where the OD could view the parade and cadets doing disciplinary tours. It is where the Commandant stood with hands behind his back, looking out his large window.

Cadets rarely entered the areas of the second and third floors that housed President Harmon's offices and the boardroom. Cadets rarely saw General Harmon, other than to see him at official ceremonies or when he appeared in the "Crows' Nest" in the dining hall.

On one occasion, I sat with General Harmon and Lieu-

tenant Colonel Rodgers Gregory in Harmon's office, for a rambling discussion as they reminisced about the days of WWII. As someone who was about to begin my Army career, one part of that conversation was indelible. It was when Harmon said to Gregory, "Greg, you know one thing about being in the Army, no matter how bad things get, it will change. You'll either be reassigned, or the son-of-a-bitch will get killed." Another comment was "...you know, this modern Army has too damn much paperwork. In our day we just did it and someone would write about it later."

What nearly no cadet knew of was the existence of a basement. During the summer of 1963, I was a Resident Assistant (RA) for summer school. One day, another RA and I decided to go down into the Dewey basement. It was dark and dusty, and had boarded up areas that looked as though they had not been visited since the building was erected. After we pried open one of the doors, we were amazed to discover stacks of boxes with hundreds of mint condition copies of the three-volume Norwich history that had likely been there since they were published in 1911.

Although certain we would be disciplined for "trespassing," we decided it was best to report the discovery to the Colonel Gregory. Fortunately, we were lucky when the value of the find overwhelmed any transgression we had committed. The discovery led to a renewed interest in Norwich history, and in 1965, the new History of Norwich University was published with the same maroon and gold binding as the books we discovered.

#51 James Burt, Class of 1939, Received the Medal of Honor for Heroism in WWII

James Montross Burt is one of the proud NU alumni to have received the Medal of Honor, our country's highest military award. Out of the over 16 million Americans who served in World War II, only 464 received this honor.

Full story:

Burt hailed from South Lee, Massachusetts and graduated from Norwich in the Class of 1939. While at Norwich, James Burt belonged to Theta Chi fraternity and participated in the glee club, football, and track, as well as serving on the staff of both the *War Whoop* and the *Guidon*.

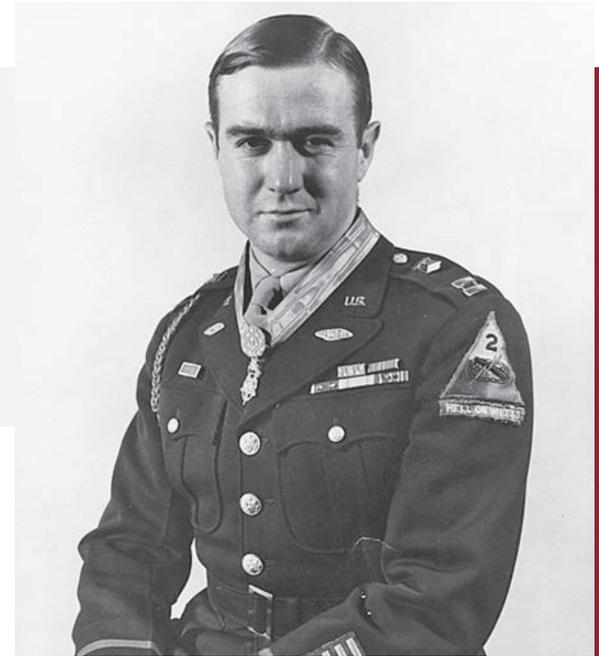
During World War II, he served in the 2nd Armored Division under General Ernest Harmon, one of several Norwich men who commanded that division. Burt participated in the invasion of Normandy (D-Day), the occupation of Berlin, and many other significant engagements. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his extraordinary heroism during the Battle of Aachen in October 1944. The following is an excerpt from his award citation:

...[T]hrough rainy miserable weather and under constant, heavy shelling, Captain Burt held the combined forces together, dominating and controlling the critical situation through the sheer force of his heroic example ... He took great risks to rescue wounded comrades and inflicted prodigious destruction on enemy personnel and materiel, even though suffering from the wounds he received in the battle's opening phase.

You can read James Burt's full Medal of Honor citation in addition to other service records and personal memorabilia in his collection of papers in the Norwich University Archives.

Burt's brother Thomas was sadly killed in action during the war. Later in life, Burt was an active member of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and a good friend to his beloved alma mater, serving on Norwich's Board of Fellows and the Friends of the Kreitzberg Library. He gave the keynote address at the dedication of Sabine Sally in 1958. James M. Burt Drive near Plumley Armory was dedicated in his honor in 1990. He passed away in 2006. His classmates wrote the following about him in his senior *War Whoop*:

It is hard to say goodbye, but we are certain that you will succeed; let us assure you that we are proud to call you a brother cadet.



Top: James Burt '39

Bottom: James M. Burt giving the keynote address at the dedication of Sabin Sally in 1958.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#52 Grenville Dodge, Class of 1851: Soldier, Congressman, Civil Engineer

It is not extravagant to suggest that among Norwich alumni of the 19th century, Grenville M. Dodge was the most significant. He contributed substantially to the development of the American West and influenced the evolution of the University in its first century of growth.

Contributed by Professor Emeritus Gary T. Lord adapted from an article appearing in the Winter 2000 Norwich Record.

Full story:

Entering Norwich in 1848, Dodge found the faculty filled with “enthusiasm for expansion of railroads from the Atlantic to the Pacific.” Upon completion of his studies, he set out with classmates Thomas and Dunbar Ransom for Illinois, where he took a position as a land surveyor.

Before long, Dodge was drawn to the exciting opportunities available in the expanding railroad industry. In 1859, Abraham Lincoln, then an Illinois railroad attorney, asked Grenville Dodge about the best route for a railroad to the Pacific Ocean. Dodge’s recommendation was to follow the Platte River Valley to the Rocky Mountains—essentially the path that would be followed by the Union Pacific Railroad.

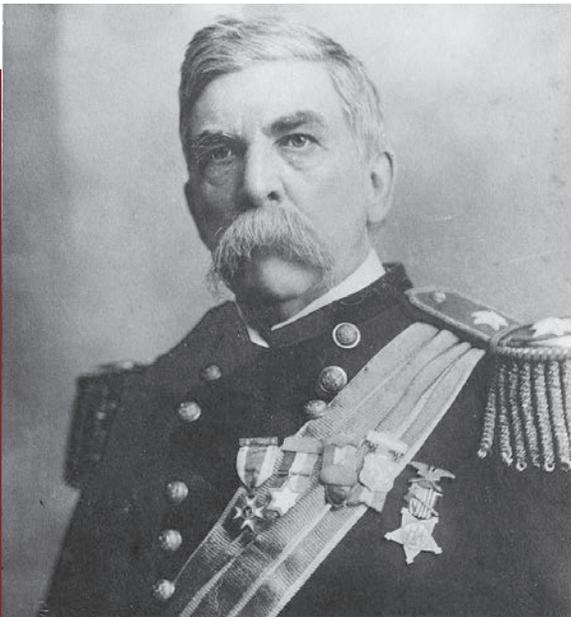
During the Civil War, Dodge rose to prominence as a soldier, moving from the rank of colonel to major general. He commanded not only fighting troops, but construction crews that became extraordinarily efficient in rebuilding railroads—reconstruction work of vital importance to the Union war effort.

In 1866, Dodge resigned from the Army to take the position of chief engineer of the Union Pacific Railroad. He was largely responsible for the successful construction of the line from a location just west of Council Bluffs to Promontory Summit, Utah, where the “Golden Spike” ceremony was held in May 1869, joining the Union Pacific with other lines to form a route all the way to the California coast.

In order to complete the Union Pacific, Dodge engaged in a three-year struggle with manipulative investors, hostile Indians, some of the worst weather of the century, and seemingly impassable terrain. He performed a stupendous engineering feat involving the construction of more than 1,000 miles of track. His work was based upon 15,000 miles of instrument surveys and 25,000 miles of reconnaissance work. The success of the Union Pacific Railroad, and by extension the First Transcontinental Railroad, required Dodge’s organizational genius as well as his technical expertise and leadership skills.

Resigning from his position with the Union Pacific in 1870, Dodge plunged into the work of building many other railroads. Ultimately, Dodge built more railroad mileage than any other American. He served as president of seven railroads and thirteen railroad construction companies, retiring in 1903.

Dodge served as a trustee of Norwich University from 1882 until his death in 1916. During that time, he worked energetically to promote its interests. It was not until he took the initiative to make a large financial commitment to the University in 1890 that the University started a permanent endowment fund. Dodge’s recognition of the importance of institutional history led him to fund the costs of researching, compiling and publishing the three-volume History of Norwich University, 1819-1911.



Top: Brigadier General Grenville Dodge

Bottom: Brigadier General Grenville Mellen Dodge and staff.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#53 Trustee Leonard Wood and the Rough Riders Association

The Rough Riders was a nickname given to the First U.S. Volunteer Cavalry regiment, which distinguished itself in Cuba during the Spanish-American War. The regiment was commanded by future Norwich trustee Leonard Wood and future U.S. president Theodore Roosevelt, and Norwich alumnus Henry Hersey was counted among their ranks. After the war was fought, the Rough Riders Association had an important relationship with Norwich University.

Full story:

When the Spanish-American War broke out in 1898, the United States Army was a shadow of its Civil War-era size. President McKinley raised three cavalry units, of which the First Regiment was the only to see action after shipping off to Cuba. They fought in three major battles and played a key role in the U.S. victory in the Spanish-American conflict.

The Rough Riders were immortalized in large part due to “Buffalo Bill” Cody’s “Wild West” performances featuring a dramatization of their accomplishments. A Rough Riders Association (sometimes called the Rough Riders Preparedness Association) was formed by the survivors of the regiment. At the time, Norwich University was the only exclusive cavalry training school in the country, and a connection between the two was a perfect fit. In 1917, the Association arranged for a Norwich cavalry troop to appear in a show at the Hippodrome in New York City, a theater with twice the seating capacity of the Metropolitan Opera and a massive stage that could accommodate a most impressive cavalry showcase.

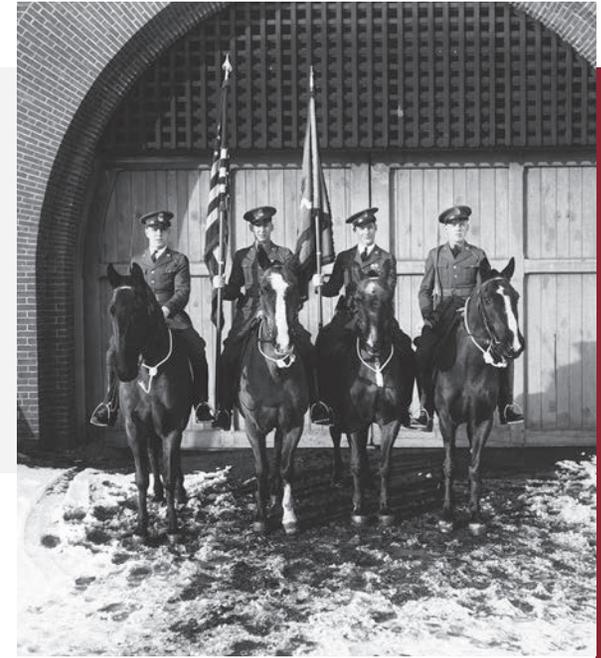
The Association also sensed the significance of

Learn more by visiting the Norwich University Archives. There are also documents related to the Association's fundraising efforts for the university in development and financial records from the late 1910s.

Norwich’s role in the future of the U.S. Cavalry, and offered in 1916 to raise \$150,000 for a new riding hall, stables, and commons hall. We know that at least \$50,000 was raised toward this goal, and some of it was indeed remitted to the university. However, the United States’ entrance into World War I shifted priorities around the world, and when Norwich did build a new riding hall in 1920, it was dedicated to former cadet Moses Taylor, who was killed in France.

After World War I, Norwich’s records make little mention of the Rough Riders Association, indicating that the organizations may have gone their separate ways. However, the impact was lasting, as it was Leonard Wood’s connection with the university that led him to advocate for the creation of the national ROTC program. Wood served on the Board of Trustees from 1916 until his death in 1927.

Henry Blanchard “Daredevil” Hersey, Norwich class of 1885, led a colorful and adventure-filled life in which he played many roles, including as a meteorologist, balloonist and member of the Rough Riders.



The Rough Riders

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#54 Jack Lee, Class of 1942, and the “Last Battle”

Jack Lee '42, commanded U.S. troops during the Battle for Castle Itter, a battle fought in the Austrian Alps in May 1945 just days after Hitler's suicide and before the German surrender. The mission was to rescue French prisoners who were being held by S.S. troops in the remote and imposing Castle Itter. It has been called the “strangest” battle of World War II because Jack Lee's American troops were joined in the fighting by German troops who, as the war waned, had thrown in their lot with the local Austrian resistance movement.

Full story:

This story resembles that of a modern movie thriller. Its plot has the thrill-packed drama of modern fiction. Imagine the mad dash of two tanks 17 miles behind enemy lines to effect the rescue of some of France's most prominent people who at one time were regarded as the backbone of the French government! G.I. and Wehrmacht fighting shoulder to shoulder against the most deadly, hated foe of the age, the S.S. troops!

Lee attended Norwich during the tense period of 1938-1942, and was a star of the football team. By the

time he graduated, nearly all of his classmates were headed off to war. Lee received the Distinguished Service Cross, Purple Heart, and Bronze Star for his service in the European Theater and his leading role in this astonishing battle.

Still a young man, he went on to play for the New York Giants football team in the late 1940s, and also coached the Sidney Cardinals, a now-defunct team in upstate New York.



Top: Jack Lee '42

Bottom: Jack on the football field.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Learn about Jack Lee's unique experience from the book *The Last Battle: When U.S. and German Soldiers Joined Forces in the Waning Hours of World War II in Europe* by Stephen Harding. Ask to read his biographical file in the University Archives or look up his name in the Archives' Serial Publications Index.

#55 Jane Bonnette, First Woman to Wear the Norwich Uniform

Jane Bonnette was Norwich University's first female faculty member, and the first woman ever to don a Norwich uniform.

Full story:

Bonnette was born and raised in Louisiana and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from Louisiana State University. She worked for a time at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, a major federal research facility that grew out of the Manhattan Project. In 1962, she was hired to run Norwich University's brand-new computer center and to teach as an Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Her title would change to Assistant Professor of Computer Science in 1969 as she helped lead the university into the already rapidly evolving information age.

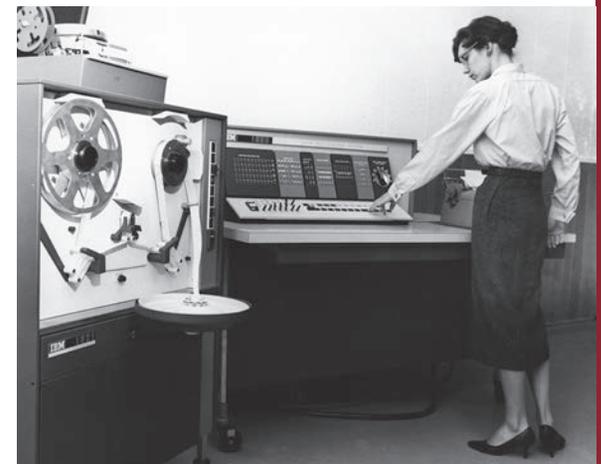
In 1965, Professor Bonnette received permission to wear a Women's Army Corps uniform with captain's insignia, reflecting her academic rank. She thus became the first woman to don a uniform at Norwich University and to garner salutes from the Corps of Cadets.

A groundbreaker in many ways, Professor Bonnette was instrumental in establishing Norwich as a hub

of technological innovation—the university's IBM 1620 computer was one of the few in Vermont, and supported teaching, learning, and research across the state. Today, Norwich's highly ranked cybersecurity program continues this tradition. Norwich University is recognized as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Education by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and has received designation as a Center of Digital Forensics Academic Excellence (CDFAE) by the Defense Cyber Crime Center (DC3).

Professor Bonnette received tenure in 1969, marking another milestone as the first woman to receive tenure at Norwich. She departed just a few years later, and went on to have a long career as a computer analyst for the State of Vermont.

The second female faculty member was Ann Turner, a long-serving librarian who was granted faculty status in 1968.



Top: Jane Bonnette

Bottom: Jane at the IBM Super Computer.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Learn more about the history of women at Norwich by contacting the Norwich University Archives.

#56 Edward Bancroft Williston, Class of 1856, Gallant at Trevilian Station

Like many of his Norwich brethren, Edward Williston served in the Civil War. He is part of the small group of Norwich graduates who have been granted the Medal of Honor, our nation's highest military award.



Full story:

Williston was born in Norwich, Vt. in 1836. He attended NU from 1851 to 1855, leaving without completing his course (he received his degree retroactively in 1865). In 1856, he left for San Diego, Calif., to work on the ranch of his half-brother until the breaking out of the Civil War. He served with the 2nd U.S. Artillery throughout the Civil War and was awarded the Medal of Honor in 1892 for distinguished gallantry at Trevilian Station, Va.

The Battle of Trevilian Station was fought in June 1864 between the cavalry corps of the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia. It was the most significant all-cavalry battle of the Civil War. Alongside his trusty horse "Pony," Williston distinguished himself in the following way, according to his Medal of Honor citation:

"In a crisis of action when our lines were being pressed by an overwhelming force of the enemy, Lieutenant Williston planted three guns of his battery in an exposed but favorable position for effective work, and then personally moved the fourth gun onto the skirmish line. Using double charges of the canister he, by his individual efforts, greatly aided in resisting successfully the charges of the enemy on our front."

Following the Civil War, Williston continued a long career in military service. He served all across the country and the world, including in the Philippines during the Spanish American War. He retired with the rank of brigadier general in 1900.

Edward Bancroft Williston during the Civil War.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Learn more about Edward Williston, by visiting the Norwich University Archives to look at Williston's manuscript memoir of his time in service during the Civil War.

#57 From “Dry” to “Wet”: Norwich President Ira Reeves and Prohibition

Ira Reeves was president of Norwich University from 1915-1917, resigning in order to serve in World War I. But it was his career in the 1920s and 1930s, first as a prohibition administrator and later as an anti-prohibition advocate, that make him a truly fascinating figure.

Full story:

Reeves was born and educated in Missouri. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1893 and served until 1902 when he retired due to wounds received in action during the Philippine Insurrection. Reeves became president of Norwich in November 1915 and submitted his resignation in August 1917. He returned to active duty that same month and served in France until he was wounded on November 11th, 1918—Armistice Day.

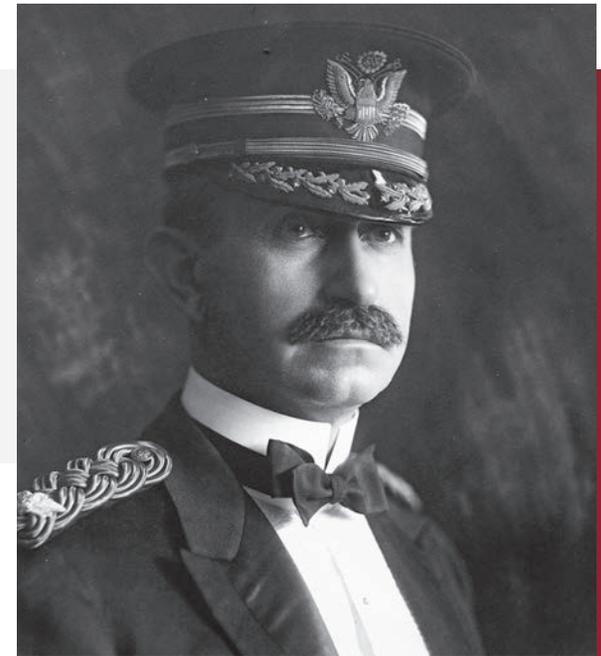
After the war, Reeves settled in New Jersey and became a prominent businessman in Newark. In 1926, he was appointed Deputy Prohibition Administrator for the New Jersey districts, reportedly one of the “wettest” districts in the country, with massive industrial alcohol operations feeding the bootleg market. Reeves was a teetotaler who believed firmly in temperance, and he was picked for the job in large part due to his military background.

During his time as a prohibition administrator, Reeves directed or personally led over 400 raids

on stills, speakeasies, and safe houses. However, he quickly became disillusioned with prohibition. Though he worked day and night and believed passionately in the cause of temperance, he witnessed firsthand how prohibition was unenforceable and bred more crime and corruption than it curtailed.

After resigning his post, Reeves became a vocal advocate of repealing prohibition, joining the leadership of the Crusaders, an anti-prohibition organization based in Chicago. The ratification of the 21st Amendment in 1933 had the effect of ending the failed experiment that was prohibition.

Ira Reeves was appointed a prohibition administrator because it was felt that his military background, including his time as president of Norwich, would make him an aggressive enforcer of prohibition. But it took a Norwich spirit to stand up to the status quo and do what he believed to be right for his community.



Top: Norwich President Ira Reeves

Bottom: Reeves on NU Campus.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Visit the [Norwich University Archives](#) to read Ira Reeves' extensive writings, newspaper clippings, and more on his career at Norwich and during prohibition.

#58 Cadets Saved the Day in the 1927 Flood

The 1927 flood is considered the greatest natural disaster in Vermont history, rivaled only by Tropical Storm Irene in 2011. Three days of devastating rain from November 2 to 4 led to the loss of 84 lives and significant destruction of the state's infrastructure. As they have so often, the cadets of Norwich University rose to the occasion.



*Destruction from the 1927 flood.
Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.*

Full story:

Almost immediately as the Dog River began rising—its high point would be 15 feet above average—the Corps of Cadets flew into relief and rescue efforts. University-wide, it was all hands on deck, from fraternity house mothers pouring coffee for tired workers, to engineers surveying the damage to roads and power lines, to cadets loading trucks with sand and rocks to shore up buildings and bridges.

The damage was ultimately minimal compared to that suffered in nearby Montpelier and Barre, though property loss was estimated at \$300,000 (over \$4 million in today's terms). You can read detailed accounts of the flood's impact on Northfield and how the Norwich cadets answered the call of duty in issues of the *Record* and *Guidon* released shortly after the flood.

Meanwhile, the university had suffered its own impacts. The campus itself was drenched with rain but spared from any serious damage by its hilltop location. But the cadets had abandoned their studies

for several days in order to provide relief to the town, and there was talk of when to make up the lost classroom time. It became difficult to transport food and other supplies to Norwich through the waterlogged state.

Rumors also circulated that there would be no Thanksgiving break—the train to White River Junction, which many cadets needed to return home to points south, was out of service while 800 men descended on Central Vermont to repair the railroads. President Plumley assured the students that, assuming the roads were safe, he would charter buses and cars in order to transport them to working rail lines (some cadets who lived nearby wound up simply hiking home).

Life at Norwich more or less returned to normal as Vermont communities started on the long road to reconstruction. The people of Northfield surely never forgot the heroic cadets who worked so hard to keep them safe on those dark and stormy nights.

Learn more about the flood's impact on Norwich University. Many articles about the flood are listed in the University Archives' Serials Publication Index.

#59 Our Legacy in Norwich, Vermont

On August 6, 1819, the first bricks were laid on the Norwich, Vt. town green for the American Military, Scientific, and Literary Academy. As we celebrate Founders Day, we take a look at the legacy that Norwich University left behind in its hometown.

Full story:

The Partridges were a large and prominent family in the town of Norwich. Alden Partridge was born in 1785 to Samuel and Elizabeth Partridge on their family farm. Later, cousins John Milton and Isaac Partridge would take active roles in the operations of Alden's academy. It was for John Milton Partridge that the still-standing Partridge House was originally constructed in 1820. It was designed by the same local architect, Joseph Emerson, who was commissioned to build the South Barracks and many other structures in the town of Norwich. John later sold it to Alden, who lived there throughout his presidency.

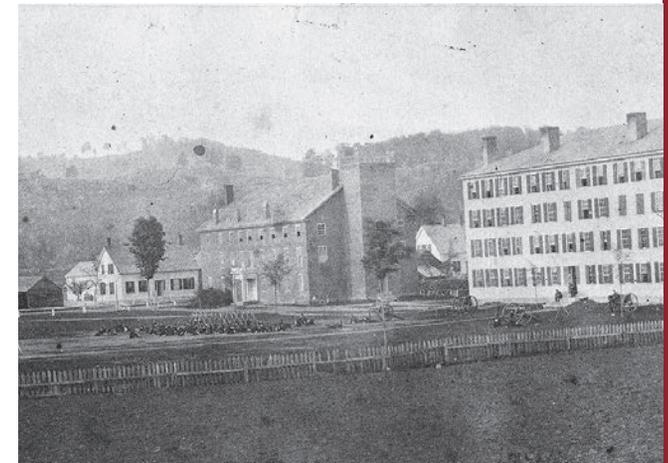
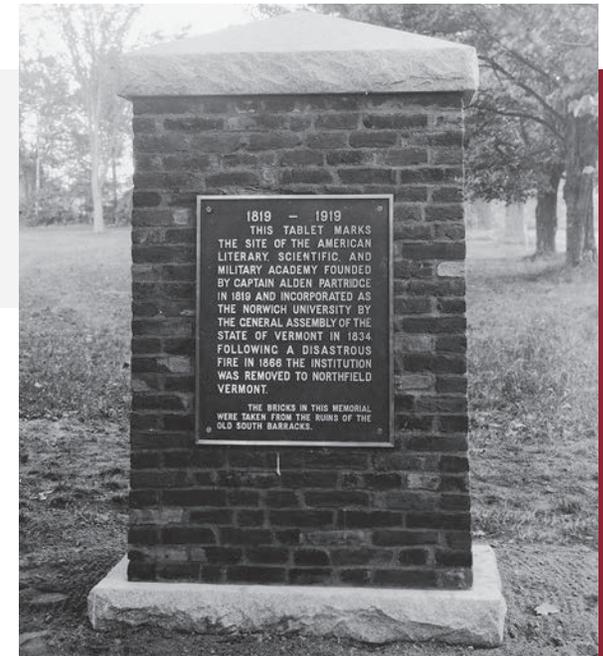
The original Norwich University campus consisted of first one and eventually two buildings, the North and South Barracks. They stood in very close proximity to the Congregational Church (which has since moved locations), and rumor has it that cadets used to cause trouble by stringing a rope from the church bell clapper to the barracks window and ringing it at all hours of the night.

After the South Barracks burned and the university vacated the campus in 1866, the remaining North Barracks building was used as a school until it, too, was destroyed by fire in 1897. The site is now occupied by the original 1898 portion of the Marion Cross School building.

Although neither original building remains standing, the Norwich town green holds a brick marker erected in honor of the 1919 centennial of Norwich's founding, as well as a marker recognizing the 1856 founding of Theta Chi fraternity at the university.

Also worth mentioning is the historic Fairview Cemetery, which is the final resting place of Alden Partridge, our second president Truman Bishop Ransom, and many other friends and affiliates of Norwich University.

While we are proud to call Northfield our home today, our history helps us remember that Norwich has made a lasting impact wherever it goes.

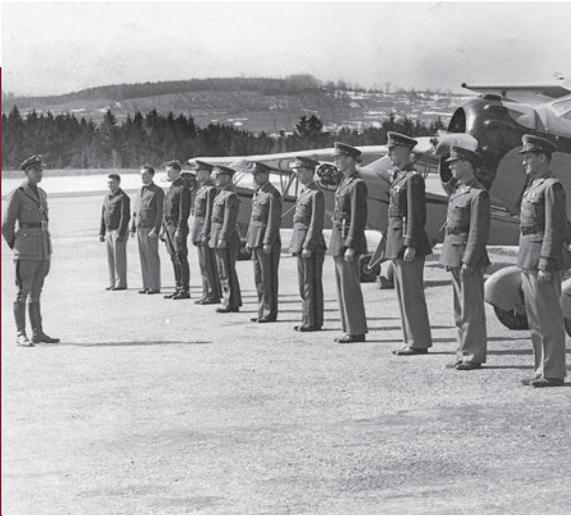


Top: Legacy marker on the Northfield, Vt., Norwich University campus.

Bottom: The first Norwich campus in Norwich, Vt., prior to the fire in 1962.

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Visit the Norwich University Archives or the Norwich Historical Society to learn more about the impact that Norwich University had on the town of Norwich, Vermont.



Flight Training Center at Norwich.

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

#60 Norwich Became a Flight Training Center During World War II

In 1939, the United States needed to quickly expand the number of U.S. aviators. In June of that year, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Civilian Pilot Training Act into law. The law not only strengthened our national defense prior to entering World War II, but opened up pilot training to many who would never have had an opportunity to fly. It enabled the expansion of an experimental program to train civilian pilots through educational institutions.

Contributed by George H. Kabel '70 with support from the Norwich Record and Peter Ballard, son of Norwich flight instructor Horace Ballard.

Full story:

The 1938 prototype program had involved 330 pilots and 13 colleges. The new Civilian Pilot Training Program (CPTP) called for training 11,000 pilots during the 1939-1940 school year. The Civilian Aviation Authority (CAA) contracted with many universities, including Norwich University, which collectively trained over 9,000 men and women in every state of the union. Once the United States entered the war, the CPTP was transformed into a wartime program.

The first students in New England to graduate from the program were Norwich students. By 1941, Norwich had graduated more than 100 licensed pilots from the program. As a result, prior to the formation of a distinct Air Force branch, Norwich alumni served in all major aviation units in World War II, including the Army Air Force, Navy, and Marines.

In 1943, after the United States had joined the war, the entire Corps of Cadets deployed for active duty, and Norwich was designated a regional training center for future airmen. Known as the 56th College Training Detachment and administered by the Army

Air Corps, the center provided pre-flight training to 1,772 men destined to serve their country from the skies as bombardiers, pilots, and navigators. Every month, 120 cadets received flight training in Cubs and Aeroncas at the Barre-Montpelier Airport in Berlin. Though their time at Norwich was often just a matter of months, many graduates of the program felt an affinity for the campus that lasted throughout their lives.

In all, some 300,000 pilots were trained in the War Training Service phase of the program, which lasted until June 30, 1944, for the Army and August 4, 1944 for the Navy. By the time the Civilian Pilot Training Program/War Training Service ended in 1944, the program had operated at 1,132 colleges and universities and 1,460 flight schools, and had trained over 435,000 pilots. In the end, the program successfully accomplished its goal of strengthening our national defense by increasing the number of pilots. At the same time, it attracted talent that went on to become fabled aviators and provided new opportunities for Americans from a variety of backgrounds.

Learn more about Norwich in the war by visiting the Norwich University Archives.

#61 A Surprising Student Club Invented the Rook Book

The first cadet handbook, commonly known today as the Rook Book, was published in 1908. Rather than an official training document issued by the commandant's office, it was conceived and produced by a group of students as a code of conduct and source of advice for incoming freshmen.

Full story:

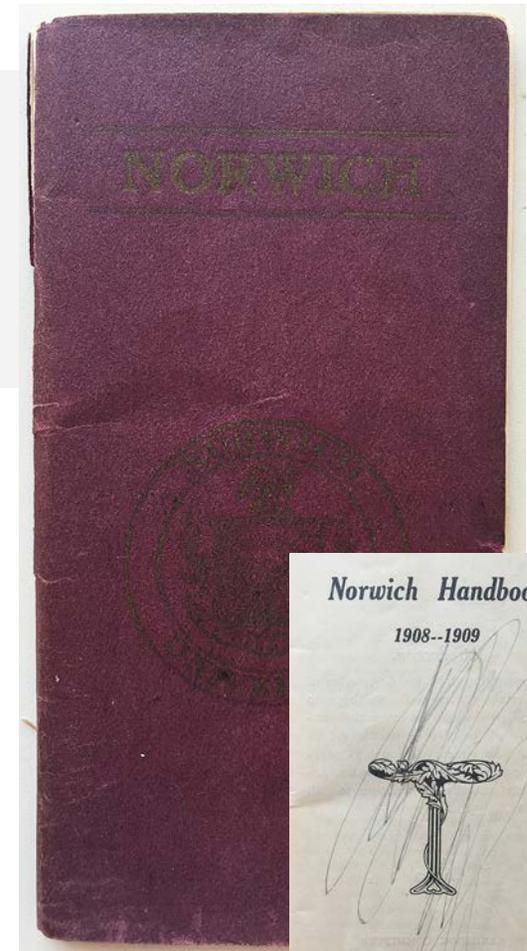
The handbook for the 1908-1909 academic year was a slim maroon volume with a Norwich seal on the cover—heavily faded on the two surviving copies housed in the University Archives. It was 72 pages long, in contrast with this year's 185, and included among other things a message from President Spooner, the lyrics to Norwich songs and cheers, a listing of clubs and activities, and "Pointers for Freshmen" from the Professor of Military Science and Tactics.

Little is known about the motivation behind creating the handbook for the first time, but we do know that it was created by the Young Men's Christian Association of Norwich University, also known as the YMCA. The YMCA was founded in 1844 as a Christian social organization with an emphasis on physical fitness and health. While a local chapter existed as early as the 1880s, Norwich's campus-

affiliated chapter didn't start up until 1908—the same year that the first cadet handbook was issued under the organization's auspices.

The fact that the organization was new to campus might explain why they wanted to distinguish themselves by sponsoring the first cadet handbook. Indeed, the introduction implies that the handbook is their way of extending a welcoming hand to Northfield's newest residents. They did so with the support of many local businesses to cover the cost of printing—nearly half of the book's pages consist of advertising, and in fact the Rook Book continued to include advertisements until the 1950s.

The university administration appears to have taken over printing of the Rook Book in the 1920s. Over the decades, it expanded into the hefty primer on Norwich life that we know today.



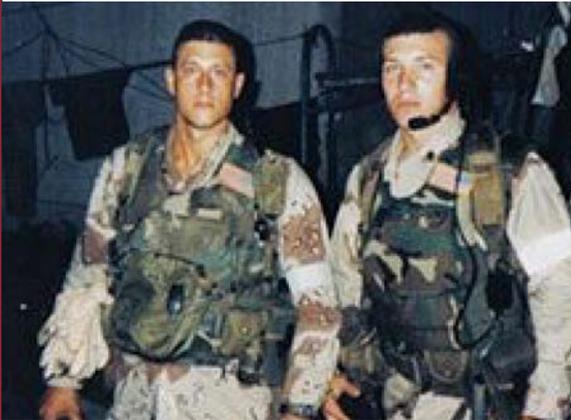
Cover and first page of the first "Rook Book."

Images courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

The two surviving copies of the first rook book, as well as a near-complete run of the publication throughout its lifetime, can be viewed in the Norwich University Archives.

#62 “Black Hawk Down”: Norwich at the Battle of Mogadishu

Thomas DiTomasso '89, played a leadership role in the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu, fighting alongside Michael Goodale '09. DiTomasso says that there's a lot missing from its depiction in the book and film *Black Hawk Down*—most importantly the values of trust, friendship, and selfless service that he learned as a Norwich cadet.



Top Left: Thomas DiTomasso '89, courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Top Right: Mike Goodale '93

Bottoml: left, Thomas DiTomasso, courtesy of DiTomasso

Full story:

Thomas DiTomasso '89, played a leadership role in the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu, fighting alongside Michael Goodale '09. DiTomasso says that there's a lot missing from its depiction in the book and film *Black Hawk Down*—most importantly the values of trust, friendship, and selfless service that he learned as a Norwich cadet.

In 1993, Somalia was entrenched in a civil war that resulted in an urgent humanitarian crisis. The United Nations intervened in order to secure the region so that food and supplies could be brought to the starving population. The situation escalated when militia leaders challenged the presence of the U.S.-led U.N. troops.

At 26 years old, Lieutenant Tom DiTomasso had been leader of his Army Ranger platoon for a year and a half. When they deployed to the Somali capital of Mogadishu, they were given little information about the mission. Feelings of excitement and fear comingled as they prepared for their first combat experience. Through it all, DiTomasso thought of his time at Norwich University, holding it up as the gold standard for selfless leadership that would be essential in the days to come.

The mission was to capture two leaders of the Somali National Alliance militia from a compound in the middle of bustling Mogadishu. DiTomasso's platoon was responsible for descending on ropes from helicopters to secure the building, while the targets were located and extracted safely.

Goodale was a member of another platoon with the same mission. He was serving as a non-commissioned officer at the time. His role as a forward operator was to communicate with attack aircraft and direct the men to their targets.

DiTomasso was about 400 meters away when the first Black Hawk helicopter was shot down. He and his team raced a Somali crowd to the crash site and stopped them from beating the injured soldiers inside the fallen helicopter. Trapped under heavy fire, they would defend the crash site until 5:00 the next morning, ensuring that the wounded could receive medical attention and the dead could be returned home with dignity.

Reflecting on the battle 23 years later, DiTomasso says that his experience that night can be summed up by the Norwich motto: “I Will Try.” He credits the lessons of leadership that he learned as a cadet—how to be an example, how to take care of your people—as the reason he is alive today.

Goodale left the service in 1996 and embarked on a career as an educator that ultimately led him to the Master of Arts in Military History program at Norwich. After completing his degree in 2009, he now works in information security. He and DiTomasso have reconnected at Norwich alumni events, and we are very proud of the role that our two graduates played in this historic battle.

#63 President Schneider Becomes Our Longest Serving President

Alden Partridge served as president of Norwich University for 24 years, 3 months, and 5 days. On September 7, 2016, Richard Schneider surpassed this record to become our university's longest serving president.

Full story:

Alden Partridge's presidency began when the cornerstone was laid for the founding of the American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy on August 6, 1819, the day we celebrate as Founder's Day. His term ended when the board of trustees accepted his resignation on November 11, 1843. During those 24 years of service, Partridge created a lasting legacy for his students, his community, and his country. He established an innovative new model for education and grew this institution into a cornerstone of the American landscape.

President Schneider took office in 1992 and has led Norwich University through 26 years of rapid growth and change. The historic developments

he has overseen include combining the civilian and military campuses, growing the College of Graduate and Continuing Studies to be a pioneer in distance education, adding numerous state-of-the-art facilities to the campus's historic landscape, and ushering the university into the 21st century with programs such as cybersecurity that prepare students for leadership in a post-9/11 world.

Schneider's and Partridge's long presidencies form bookends around the first 200 years of Norwich University's legacy. As we look to the next 200 years, their leadership is sure to inspire many generations of Norwich leaders to come.



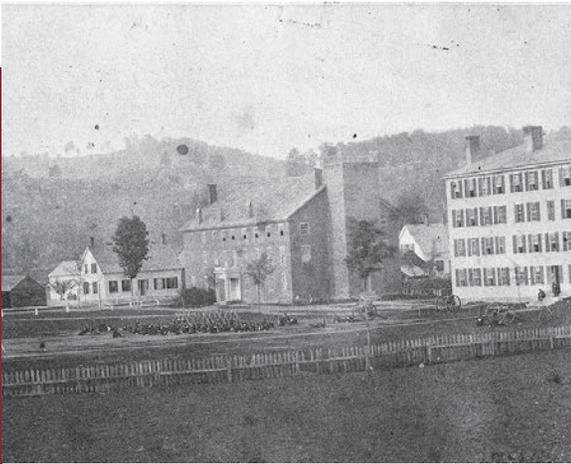
President Richard Schneider

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Visit the Norwich University Archives to read Alden Partridge's papers and the early records of Norwich University, or to look back at the last 26 years of Norwich through campus newspapers and more.

#64 Southern Families Flocked to Partridge's Academy

At a time when transportation infrastructure was scarce and Vermont winters unforgiving, nearly 15 percent of Alden Partridge's earliest academy students came from the Southeastern United States.



Partridge's Academy, Norwich, Vt.

Image courtesy of the Norwich University Archives.

Full story:

They came from North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Virginia, Louisiana, and Mississippi, but predominantly from South Carolina. In droves they traveled from larger towns like Columbia and Charleston, as well as little coastal islands like Edisto, St. Helena, and Wadmalaw. They averaged 15 years of age. Sometimes they arrived alone, sometimes alongside brothers or cousins, as with Henry and Isaac Alexander, ages 12 and 13, who arrived in Norwich, Vt., from Camden, S.C. in April of 1824.

Relatively little is known about who most of these young men were and why they came to attend Partridge's academy. Some were sons of prominent families, such as Joseph Alston, a likely relative of the former governor of South Carolina. Others we can only assume had the means to pursue an education far away from home. There is some evidence that Partridge advertised in the Charleston newspapers, but word of mouth clearly played a significant role as multiple students from the same small towns continued to make the thousand-mile journey north.

This striking trend waned over the years, though by no means did Southern students stop making the trek to Norwich and later Northfield. In 1835, there were three students from Charleston, while 1845 saw one student from Louisiana and one from Alabama.

The opening of The Citadel in Charleston 1842 likely influenced the number of prospective military cadets traveling to New England—and perhaps also speaks to the interest in military education that drove that city to send so many of its boys off to Captain Partridge. Later in the century, 56 Norwich alumni are thought to have fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War.

Though firmly Yankee in origin, Norwich has always been “global in perspective,” inviting diverse voices to join the narrative of our history. Today, we welcome students from over 45 states and 20 countries around the world.

The Norwich University Archives houses handwritten cadet rosters, letters to Alden Partridge, early course catalogs, and other documents for you to learn about the earliest students of the American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy.