
USMA LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Issue 3

Summer 2006

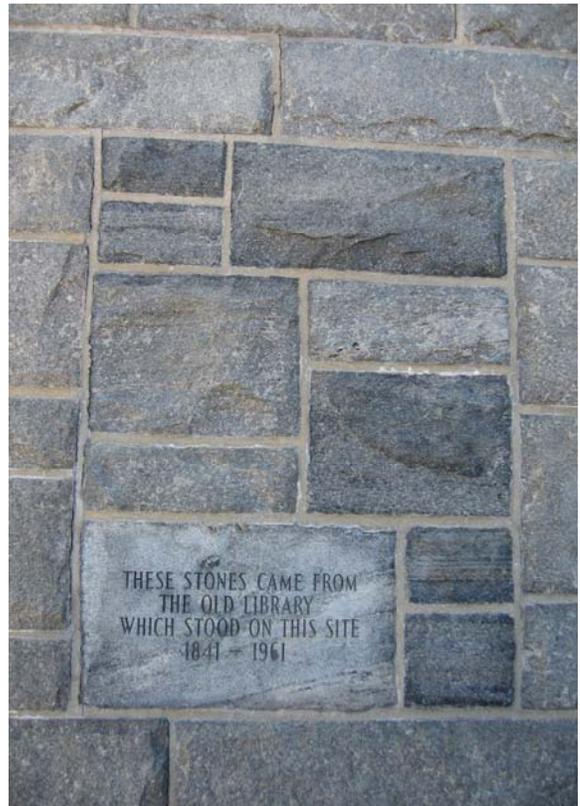
Graduation 2006

by Joseph Barth, Librarian USMA

Graduation week is unquestionably the high point of the year at West Point. Emotions of elation for having completed an arduous 4 years, anxiety about the future, and nostalgia about the past come together in a week of celebration. Families and graduates mingle and share their mutual appreciation for West Point.

The Library congratulates the Class of 2006 and we wish every one the best. Our goal is to reach every cadet in a positive way and to encourage a life long appreciation of books and learning. In this issue we highlight two graduates who have carried an appreciation of learning with them throughout their lives and careers.

As the summer approaches we will be planning for the fall semester and for the upcoming move into our new home in Jefferson Hall.



In This Issue:

- ✚ Grant Meets Lee in the West Point Room
- ✚ Patton, a Life Long Reader and Learner
- ✚ Scenes From the Central Area
- ✚ Off the Radar, web sites of interest
- ✚ Antique Military Manuals
- ✚ Portraits at West Point

Every day, hundreds of people pass this collection of granite stones that were taken from the “old” Library built in 1841. It’s a reminder that as the new replaces the old, there is a respect for history and tradition at West Point. The building material that shapes the exterior of Jefferson Hall will be the same material that was used in nineteenth century construction of West Point edifices. The buildings of the central academic area have an iconic and inspirational beauty.

Grant and Lee Meet in the West Point Room

By Joseph Barth

On 9 April 2006, General Grant strode into the West Point Room of the USMA Library to join a waiting General Robert E. Lee to discuss terms that would bring the War Between the States to a close. Grant, portrayed by Cadet Bobbie Ragsdale, began a dialogue with Lee, played by Cadet Brent Chapman, that was alternately heated, poignant, and provocative. Mark Weston's historically researched script conveyed what might have happened when these two great commanders met in his work titled The Ninth of April.



Cadets Bobbie Ragsdale and Brent Chapman with playwright Mark Weston

This dramatic reading was accompanied by Cadet Mathew Kalin's excellent piano playing and audience members were entertained at intermission by the all Cadet ensemble *The Army Strings*. The production, under the direction of George Plank, involved a dozen cadets from ten companies. Nothing of the quality or scale of this performance has been attempted before in the Library and it was a great success. Here's hoping that we have more events like this in the Library.



The Army Strings, Cadet Ensemble

General George S. Patton Jr., Class of 1909

A Life Long Learner

by Joseph Barth

The USMA Library is fortunate to be the home for the book collection of General George S. Patton Jr, USMA 1909. Roger Nye, class of 46 and General George S. Patton also of the Class of 46 arranged for this donation in 1988. Together they delivered the books, along with a substantial manuscript collection, to the Friends of the Library which, in turn handed the material over to the USMA Library. The story of how this happened is documented in the Friends of the West Point Library Newsletter of March 1988.

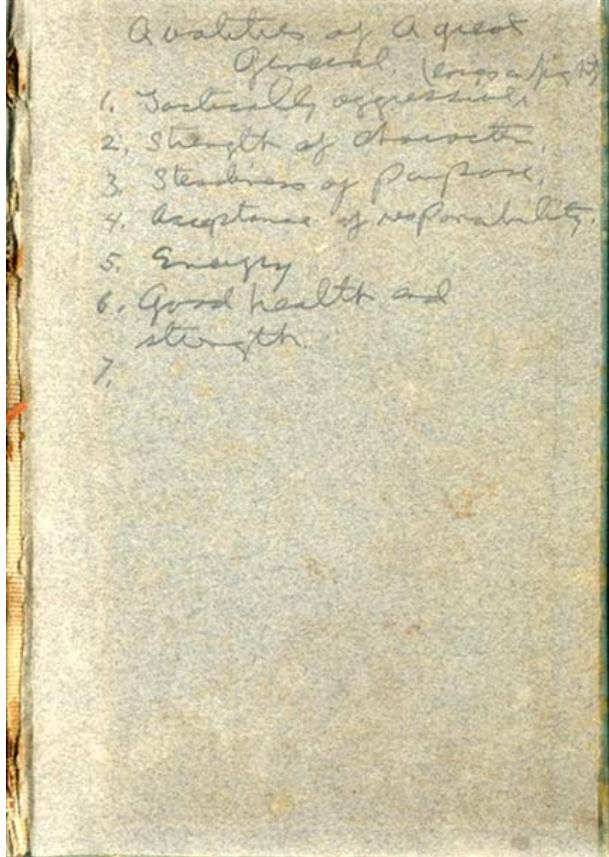
The list of books included in this collection is found in a publication that was prepared in honor of the 60th reunion of the Class of 1946 in May. It is said that a man's book collection reveals his mind. In this case, we get a more intimate picture of the General's thinking by virtue of the marginal notations that are inscribed in many of his books.

It is clear that books and reading were an important part of General Patton's development from the time he was a cadet throughout his career.

Roger Nye reports that Patton wrote this in an essay titled "The Necessity of a Good Library at West Point": "We are sorry to say that there are comparatively few men in the corps who realize the importance of military study which is, as Napoleon says, the only school of war."

What would the library that Patton visited during his cadet years of 1905 to 1909 have been like? The Library was included in the 1902 edition of Regulations of the U.S. Military Academy and stated that: "The library shall be open and books may be drawn as follows: Daily, except Sundays and holidays, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; on Saturday evenings and on evenings preceding holidays, until 9:30 p.m.; on Sundays and holidays from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m."

According to the Annual Report of the Superintendent for 1905, the library contained 62,000 volumes. It was about this time that electricity was being introduced at West Point to replace the gas lamps that had provided interior illumination up until then.



Notations made by Cadet George S. Patton Jr in his copy of a book titled Elements of Strategy

Scenes from the Central Academic Area 2005-2006



This photograph of the Library, building 757, was taken in August of 2005 and it is a view that will never be seen again. Classes graduating prior to 1962 will recall that the Patton statue kept vigil on the earlier Library building designed by Delafield and erected in 1841 in the same location as building 757 now stands. For the class of 2010, this photograph will be part of the history of the Academy that they have never experienced.

The US Military Academy Library as it looked in the summer of 2005. When architects from the firm Hardy Holzman Pfeiffer Associates were gathering ideas that would be used in the design of Jefferson Hall, they did a careful study of the details of existing buildings in the central area. Some architectural elements present in building 757 are evident in the Jefferson Hall design. The arch that is ubiquitous in the central area is prominent in the design of Jefferson Hall. Look also for the limestone window surrounds present in many central area buildings. Great care was taken to match to granite of existing buildings.





The Clock Tower viewed from the construction site. This photograph was made possible after using 10,000 pounds of blasting material to explode 10,536 cubic yards of rock and then to remove a total of 28,000 cubic yards of rock dirt. The blasting took place during the fall semester and it was not unusual to feel the shock wave in Thayer Hall. Although much of West Point is built on granite, it is necessary to use stone from a New Hampshire quarry operated by The Fletcher Granite Co. to produce the amount required to build Jefferson Hall.

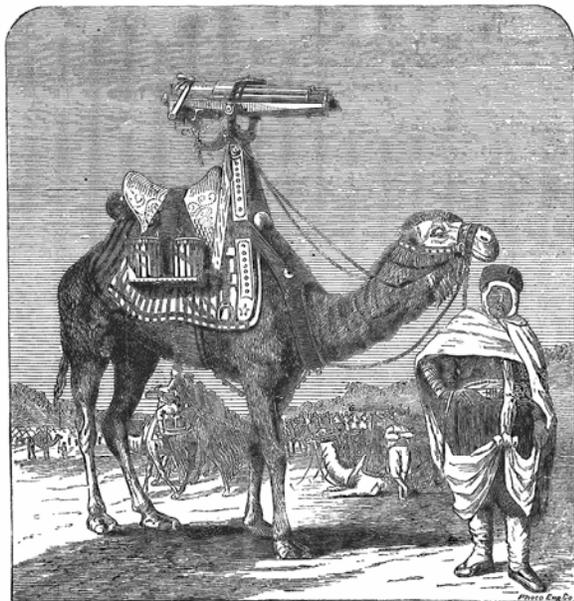


Central area buildings as viewed from across the construction site
February 2006

Antique Military Manuals

The Richard Johnson, USMA class of 46, Collection

Fig. 1.



GATLING CAMEL GUN.

Read the recently published account of the Revolutionary War by Steven Ambrose titled 1776 and you will come away astonished that Washington was able to hold the Continental Army together much less win the conflict with Great Britain. The American fighting force was mostly an army of men who had no exposure to the order and discipline that was present in the first class military establishment of the enemy.

In his Sentiments on a Peace Establishment, a letter written to Alexander Hamilton, Washington stresses the need for a well trained force. One of the specific needs that Washington cited was for: “Academies, one or more for the Instruction of the Art Military; particularly those Branches of it which respect Engineering and Artillery, which are highly essential, and the knowledge of which, is most difficult to obtain.”

Thus, in early 19th century America, there was a need for written sources that could be used to train the embryonic military force. With this in mind, we recognize the importance of a recently acquired collection of some 400 antique military manuals, most published in the 1800s, given to the Library by Richard Johnson, USMA Class of 1946. The books deal with subjects that have long since passed out of the library of military doctrine but were essential to creating the foundation of today’s Army.

Early literature relating to military topics came from Europe. Many of the best known French and German titles had been translated into English. A glance of the authors suggests that some individuals made a career of writing and revising manuals of rules and regulations for artillery, infantry, cavalry, and swordsmanship. William Duane is represented by more than a few titles in the list as are George William Patten and William Joseph Hardee. Names associated with West Point such as: Miner Knowlton, Albert Sully (Thomas Sully’s son), Alexander Macomb, and Dennis Hart Mahan are represented in the list of important military publications.

Collecting manuals devoted to military subjects is a highly specialized field of endeavor and there are few well know collections. With this exceptional gift from Mr. Johnson, the U.S. Military Academy Library has added a number of important titles to an already rich collection. It would be difficult to locate a more extensive or important collection of this literature anywhere else outside of the Library of Congress.

The illustration above is from Norton’s *American Inventions and Improvements in Breech Loading Small Arms, Heavy Ordnance, Machine Guns, Magazine Arms, Fixed Ammunition, Pistols, Projectiles, Explosives and Other Munitions of War Including a Chapter on Sporting Arms.*

Off the Radar

Interesting and Obscure Websites of Interest
Compiled and Reviewed by the staff of the USMA Library

A Sightseer's Guide to Engineering

<http://www.engineeringsights.org/>

This is a great website for travelers or people interested in learning about local marvels of civil engineering. Sponsored by the NSPE (National Society of Professional Engineers), the site includes a clickable map of the United States, leading to pages with links to monuments, places or buildings that are evidence of the influence of civil engineering on our lives.

Uncle Sam's Reference Shelf

<http://www.census.gov/statab/www/>

A simple but valuable website. Has links to pdfs of the current and most past editions of *The Statistical Abstract of the United States*, the classic *Bicentennial Edition: Historical Statistics of the United States Colonial Times to 1970*, key federal agency statistical reports (such as *The Uniform Crime Reports* of the Federal Bureau of Investigation), *The State and Metropolitan Area Data Book*, *The County and City Data Book*, and several other basic sources of U.S. social statistics.

Pritzker Military Library

<http://www.pritzkermilitarylibrary.org/aboutus.jsp>

The mission of the Pritzker Military Library is to acquire and maintain a collection of materials and develop appropriate programs focusing on the concept of the Citizen Soldier as an essential element for the preservation of democracy. Pritzker provides both a podcast and video of the MEDAL OF HONOR SERIES. An interview with 1965 USMA graduate and Medal of Honor recipient, Captain Paul William Bucha was very inspirational.

The Spanish-American War in Motion Pictures

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sawhtml/sawhome.html>

The Spanish-American War was the first U.S. war in which the motion picture camera played a role. This website features 68 films produced between 1898 and 1901 of the Spanish-American War and the subsequent Philippine Revolution. These pictures were made by the Edison Manufacturing Company and the American Mutoscope & Biography Company. Some depict actual events filmed in the U.S., Cuba, and the Philippines, showing troops, ships, notable figures, and parades; others are reenactments of battles and other war-time events.

Open Source Center

www.opensource.gov

Formerly known as FBIS (Foreign Broadcast Information Service), the Open Source Center provides translated access to worldwide media in all formats- textual, audio and video. Coverage: 1993 to present. This website is only open to U.S. military and government personnel, and requires registration. Besides sophisticated searching, the site offers prepackaged coverage of top intelligence issues and regional news and analysis. It also has a "My Pages" feature allowing users to create their own OSC page, emphasizing materials they find personally useful

Army Regulations

<http://www.hqda.army.mil/library/m.htm>

Sometimes it is important to know what an Army Regulation stated in the past. Posted on the Pentagon Library's website, this incomplete but nonetheless useful pdf collection of superseded Army Regulations from the 1960's through the 1990's meets that need. The regulations are arranged in nineteen major numerical series; within the series the regulations are arranged in ascending numeric order.

Civil Engineering Virtual Library

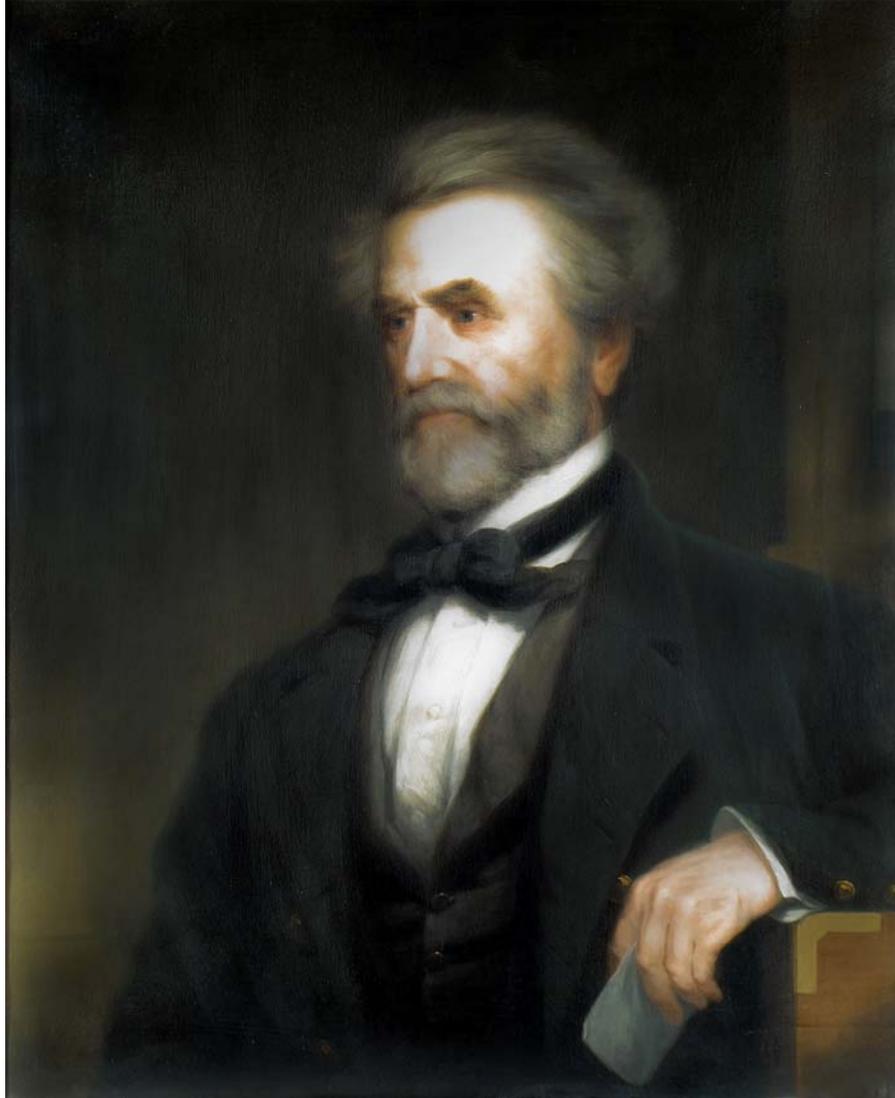
<http://www.ce.gatech.edu/WWW-CE/>

Hosted by Georgia Tech's School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, this site is a collection of links, categorized as Educational, Commercial, Journal, and Organization, to engineering sites of interest all over the web.

EurekaAlert! Breaking News

<http://www.eurekaalert.org/pubnews.php>

EurekaAlert! is an online, global news service operated by AAAS, publishers of the journal *Science*. EurekaAlert! provides a central place through which universities, medical centers, journals, government agencies, corporations and other organizations engaged in research can bring their news to the media. EurekaAlert! also offers its news and resources to the public. EurekaAlert! features news and resources focused on all areas of science, medicine and technology.



From the collection of the West Point Museum
Professor William H.C. Bartlett by Robert Walter Weir

Portraits at West Point

By David Reel,
Director, West Point Museum

Spread throughout the academic and memorial buildings at the Academy is an outstanding collection of portraits culled from the collection of the West Point Museum. The USMA Library currently houses outstanding examples of portraits depicting famous graduates and distinguished professors. The portrait of William Bartlett by Robert Weir is representative of the quality and historical importance of the collection. The portraits represent a window on the history of the Academy and are important as they capture personalities for future generations as well as illustrate changes in dress, uniform and style.

The collection of portraits by Robert W. Weir was created in the nineteenth century when Weir was a drawing instructor at the Academy. He taught cadets for forty-two (1834-1876) years and produced over a dozen portraits of his colleagues for the Academy. These include portraits from life of Bailey, Bartlett, Cullum, Mahan, Perry, Rodman, Scott, Thayer and Totten. Several of these portraits currently hang in the reference area of the USMA Library.