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FROM Henry Dearborn*

K. 3244-44
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War Department
February 25. 1808

Sir

You are hereby notified that on the 23d Instant the President of the United States by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof, appointed you a Second Lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers.

You will on receipt hereof, please to communicate to me your acceptance or non acceptance of said appointment. I am Sir very respectfully Your Obedt Servt. H(ENRY) DEARBORN
Lieut Sylvanus Thayer

*See Index

FROM Jonathan Wild*

Dartn College April 3d 1808

Dear cousin

nothing gave me more uneasiness when I heard that you had not recd any letter from me. The situation of your business here must have caused you much anxiety and solicitude, and to have delayed writing you would imply unpardonable negligence - I recd your letter by Lieut Pattrige* last Decr, soon after that I wrote to you by mail ---- I will now proceed to give some account of your affairs here Uncle _____ has not paid a cent of the order he wrote to me the latter part of last term wished me to send the note and he would send on a part of the money - but being absent I did not get the letter till lately - I shall write to Nathaniel (Thayer)* the particulars of the business that he may do as he thinks proper - With the money you left me I paid Fitch and Wright whose account was nearly 20 dollars. Langs acct is 70 dolls Poole's 69.95 and Rowleys 23.00 Lang is very impatient. Poole in vacation time made a demand on your father, but has agreed to wait a little longer. Rowley is not so uneasy as the others. How matters stand with the Authority I do not know - A Mr. Pattrige (Isaac Partridge*) from W. Point is expected here soon and as some money is now necessary to silence the clamor of those most impatient you can, if it is convenient, send by him or by mail I shall go to Washington if I do not hear from Uncle soon, and see what can be done --- You have heard from Chadbourn (Ichabod)* the circumstance of Hutchinsons demand on the (society) he appeared to take every possible advantage of your absence as there was a charge of 14 dolls delivered to you by Bartlett, the society paid it - There is likewise a note of 3 dolls 98 cents given the treasurer - With respect to these I shall wait for information from you - In your letter of Novr. you wished me to write particulars respecting your friends at Braintree I Recd a letter from Nathaniel in March in which he informed that all were in health and prosperity - I was there in fall vacation - had an agreable visit - but as you undoubtedly have recd letters from your brother it will be unnecessary for me to write farther in regard to College affairs I have nothing new - In society, Field is (Praeses) Grennell orator for commencement - Would now conclude with a few words of myself. Last winter I was in a school at Oxford, have been here about 3 weeks to live- Here the one thing needfull is cash of that I have a scanty supply but have this reflection that respectability in Science does not wholly depend on pecuniary circumstances. I thank you for the good wishes you express toward me in your letter. be assured of my constant endeavours to serve you ---be so good as to write me soon how you prosper and what prospects you have I shall write again in a short time -- yours affectionately J WILD

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift*

Boston 13th Nov. 1808

Sire,

Yours of 7th came to hand yesterday and am glad to find you so near a close with the Fort. - On Examination of Capt. (Fitche), *Rolls,* Autr etc, you will give him officially (or them) such certificate as the nature of (the) case will admit - I have adopted the plan of writing the word "Approved" & signing my name. That is sufficient and includes the extent of your knowledge, for so I define the word to Govt. - I did not comprehend before your meaning about fastening (the)gate, I thought you alluded to (the) hinges - As the gates meet in the centre it will do to have a Bar with a Strong Staple at the end fastened to one side of (the)gate & (the)staple to go through a Plate of iron in the other gate & fastened as it comes through with a Pad lock thus.

outside view

inside view

I am yours with much esteem J. G. SWIFT Maj. Engr.
Lieut. S. Thayer Corps of Engr. New Bedford

* See Index

FROM Jonathan Wild*

Hanover July 15th 1810-

Dear Cousin,

It is rather late I acknowledge now to set about performing a promise made nine months ago - such inattention I am sensible, demands some good excuse rather than a formal apology - I must request you to ascribe it to indolence, to anything rather than any intentional disrespect - I continued in school at Braintree till the middle of March. Since that time I have completed the last term of College confinement and now begin to think of some employment which will afford the necessary means of entering the study of a profession as well as enable me to discharge the load of debt I have incurred in this place My present object is to obtain a lucrative situation as an instructor but as yet have no particular place in contemplation. Do you think of attending next commencement? I entertain hopes of seeing you at that time, - perhaps you intend to take the degree of A.M. --

I was highly gratified to hear from Lieut. Partridge* of your pleasant situation at W Point - that you may continue to enjoy every advantage which can render your situation agreeable and useful is, and ever will be the ardent desire of Sir your sincere friend and cousin JOHN WILD

P.A. our relations at Braintree (Fairlee) and Washington a short time since were in good health

*See Index

FROM Josiah Moulton*

Oxford August 14th 1810

Brother Thayer, I received your letter of (31th) March, Not long after its date, But particular circumstances and considerations, and especially indolence and inexcusable neglect have prevented my answering it till this time. Information of your agreeable circumstances and the notice you have received from the public, gives us pleasure - Probably before this time, you have come to a conclusion respecting Mr. _____ proposals If his demands will not be too high, I should think his proposals eligible. But I should advise you by all means to the study of a profession. A soldiers life is a life of fluctuation, dependance, servitude and uncertainty and especially in the United States. The practice of law affords an opportunity for the (sweet) enjoyment of a peaceful domestic life. It introduces you to the (public) view, and opens the widest doors for advancement to the public offices of state: in which offices the knowledge of law is indispensesibly requisite - It also as a general thing affords a handsome support to a family. But there is one painful consideration attached to it, and that is, that a great preportion of the Lawyers support comes from families of poverty and distress. A lawyer however may be a peacemaker an honest and a useful man - I would rather be a lawyer and statesman, than a soldier. A soldiers life tends to introduce instability and tormenting ambition of mind, together with prodigality and dissipation in practice. You will consider and act for yourself - It is time to act - Your Sister enjoys better health - She was presented with a fine son (Jonathan B. Moulton) 26 July She and the babe are both doing well - I am building a large house this summer and expect to move into it the latter part of October. it stand about 10 rods south of the metg house The Goddess of Honey (Milora Moulton) is at Braintree & has been ever since last thanksgiving. We expect to go & fetch her home this fall. She can read finely & speak long peices of Poetry & proose _____ and _____. She will be four years old next October. We have lately heard from braintree; all well. The man of perfection at Washington has proved himself a rascal. Nathaniel (Thayer) resides there & has undoubtedly informed you. He refuses to pay Lue (Lue M. Thayer) the money She lent him & Nathaniel was obliged to sue for his. Has left his mother in your father's family & does all he can to injure the families character. Lue Opened her school in Sutton the last spring. has closed the first and commenced the 2nd quarter_____ succeed very well and is making Money _____ for a girl. Abigail is with her this quarter She ^{Lue} went home in vacation -- There has been unusual attention to religion in this town the winter and spring past and forty one persons added to the (chch). No minister except Mr _____ in braintree A party are building a new meeting house down at the Ironworks - Do improve the first opportunity in writing and making us a visit. Your Sister sends ardent love, mine with hers, we earnestly recommend to you the Christian religion as that which is in every respect, infinitely worthy your highest and first attention --- Your sincere friend ---

JOSIAH MOULTON

Sylvanus Thayer Genltn.

*See Index

FROM Nathaniel Thayer*

Oxford Massachusetts
February 21 1813

Dear Brother

I am now at oxford and am out of business, I have left Washington and it is probable I shall return there no more. I want to see you very much. you wrote my sister that you should be down, this winter if you do I shall See you at Braintree, if you do not, I wish you to write me and give me your advice in finding a Situation for my profession it appears to me there may be places in new york that would be agreeable to me. your means of information are larger than mine and perhaps you could recommend to some, I should like to take a commision in the army in my profesion if there could be any chance if the vacancies are not filled. if you could possibly get a Chance for me in that Situation. the means of information that I have, had with my previous attentions to Study and my own exertions, I have reason to hope that it would be an addvantage to me and Service to my country at any rate if you cannot get a furlough to come down, I wish you would write freely and give me your opinion and advice on the subject You may Direct your letters to Sister Lue* at Braintree, She will know where I am and will Direct them immediately to me, perhaps I never was in more need of advice than I am at this time if I could see you I could you information as to my exact Situation, Lue has written you and perhaps has informed you. don't think that my Spirits are cast down on the other hand they are awakened from that Dormont State that has too long poseded them, If I meet not the favour of fortune with the apathy of a _____, I shall endeavor to meet them with the perseverance of a Soldier.

Your Most Affectionate Brother NATHANIEL THAYER

P.S. I shall be much obliged if you would write me immediately if this should find you. Remember to Direct them to Lue M Thayer Braintree

*See Index

FROM Josiah Moulton*

(22 February 1813)

Dear Brother I am anxious to see you. At least to hear from you. I directed a letter to you at New York - in answer to one, which I received from you (dated) at that place, but have had no return. My family are in health. Sister Livia has been with us about a year, but expects soon to go to East Hampton. We had a daughter born last June a healthy brilliant babe. A section of my hearers have fallen off to the methodists and universalists, which leaves my society very weak and I shall probably leave this place before long perhaps this spring. Should you know of an inviting place for me in my profession, I would thank you to inform me by letter or otherwise. I hope you will not fail of making us a visit before the spring campaigns - Congratulating you in all your good fortune and wishing you future prosperity ever the best of heavens blessings, I remain yours in fraternity

JOSIAH MOULTON

Captn. S. Thayer
Oxford 22. February

P.S. We shall be extremely anxious to hear from you often while you are in the army. we hope to be gratified-

*See Index

FROM John Morton*

Ordnance Department
Washington, 27 feb. 1813

Capt. Thayer
of the Ordnance
N. York

Sir

I believe you have not yet had the new Forms for Returns of Ordnance adopted for this Department--They were transmitted to the Commanding Officer & to the Mil. Store Keeper; but at the time I overlooked the Laboratory. I believe I can make out with your last Return, but it is proper you should have by you these Papers, & I accordingly now transmit them. Lieut. Jn. deWinter* writes to me he (or rather, Genl. B. (rent)* concluded it would be difficult to Compress all the Accts. of Ordn. Etc at the different Forts into our form; not adverting it is presumable to what might be done, & which was at Norfolk, Charleston etc.; fill up one Paper for each Fort. It was not offered as a perfect thing of its kind, it being a first Essay towards remedying the numerous Defects of the old Returns recd. at this Dept. & to establish an uniformity therein: and has already produced much of the Desired Effect.

On the 15. currl. I addressed a Letter to you^l to act/ in the Case of the Absence of Major Bomford* in suspending the Supplies intended for the South(--). --but no Answer is recd. either from Major B. (omford) or yourself, tho your Letter of the 22. to Col. W. (adsworth) is come to hand. Col. W. (adsworth) has but just returned. I am Sir very respectfully Your Mo:Ob: Serv JN. MORTON Capt of Ordnance

^l by order of the Sec: of War. The Comg Gen being absent

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FROM Decius Wadsworth*

Ordnance Dept.

Washington March 11. 1813

Capt. Thayer

D Sir

Major Bomford* writes me he expects Gen. Dearborn* will order him to quit Albany to go and Serve in the Army. This Step will materially derange my Plans. I shall have no other Resource for Supplying his Place but to send you to Albany to take Charge of the Work carrying on there. It will be necessary your Place at New York should be supplied by an officer. When you shall be advised of Major Bomford's having left Albany for the Army, you will please repair to that Place, and take Charge of the Business there, you had better send Lieut. Tyler* to New York to supply the Vacancy occasioned by your Departure. With Esteem & Respect
(I am Sir your Obedt Servt) DECIUS WADSWORTH

* See Index

TO Joseph Bloomfield*

Military Department N^o 4.
June 19..1813.

Sir,

Agreeably to your order I attended the adjutant general to the pea patch where we made such surveys & soundings as circumstances would admit.

The subjoined sketch exhibits a view of said island and the Delaware river from New Castle to Reedy's point. You will observe that the main channel makes so near to the Delaware shore that an enemy might pass up the river without approaching nearer the Pea Patch than the distance of one mile

The Eastern channel is sufficiently deep for vessels of any size as far as the northern extremity of the island thence it becomes intricate and dangerous to navigate and its depth diminishes to 18 feet at high water mark. The surface of the Pea Patch is nearly on a level with the common high water mark and consists of a stratum of mud several feet deep - hence the necessity of ditching and banking in that part of the island which is to form the site of a Fortification. The Ditch would answer as a fosse and the bank as a cover-force to the work. In the estimates for the fort proposed to be erected on the pea patch and the plan of which accompanies this report, I have included only the materials and work absolutely necessary, the actual expence may however Considerably vary from the estimate as much will depend on the Management of the agent for Fortifications. Signed/ S. THAYER
Brig. Genl. Bloomfield Commanding 4 Military Dept.

The Pea Patch is situated seven miles below new Castle, is about 2/3 of a mile long and 600 yards wide, its bottom is similar to mud Island which forms the site of Fort Mifflin - the distance across the west or main channel from the Pea patch to the Delaware shore is two thousand two hundred yards, the water is shallow near the pea patch.

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TO Moses Porter*

Norfolk May 17th 1814

Sir

In compliance with your orders, I have the honor to submit the following opinions, drawn up however, under circumstances, which necessarily render them imperfect.

Craney Island.

Is the key to the harbour of Norfolk, which the enemy dare not pass, while it remains in our possession, and by obliging him to land at a considerable distance from the town, we gain time to prepare for his reception. Too much attention cannot therefore be bestowed to secure this Island. It does not follow however, that it ought to be occupied, by an extensive work, requiring for its defence a numerous garrison. It would be highly Umilitary, to hazard on an Island, a large force which would be necessary to oppose the enemy on the mainland, and which should be kept free to manovre, and operate according to circumstances.

The original plan for the defence of Craney Island consisted; first, of a circular Redoubt, erected on the south East extremity of the Island and mounting eighteen pieces of heavy cannon. Secondly, of a line of entrenchments surrounding the whole Island, and flanked by numerous (redous) and square redoubts.

The principal defects of this plan appear to be, First. The too greate extent of the works which would require a garrison, nearly as numerous as the whole force destined for the defence of Norfolk. Secondly, The circular shape given to the redoubt, which admits of no flank defence, and allows but a small proportion of its guns, to bear upon any single object is within the channel.

The following description of works is deemed preferable either for offence or defence. - An open Battery of a Semi-octagonal form, placed on the sites of the present Redoubt, each side of sufficient extent to admit six pieces of Cannon. Three sides only to be furnished with artillery, as the fourth might readily be supplied from one of the others not engaged - Thus twelve pieces, could be directed on any point of the channel, within the reach of cannon shot, and would form a Battery, which, from its enfiladering position, no shipping could withstand. To secure this Battery it becomes necessary to erect as a Citadel to it, a detached work, so constructed, as to render it secure from assault. This object might be attained by a Redoubt of any number of sides, from a square to an octagon, and of a size which would admit a platform for Guns, and of a building in the centre, which should answer the double purpose, of a Blockhouse and a Barrack. This Redoubt should further be protected by having a wide ditch, and a glacis sufficiently elevated to cover a fraise. Some field peices should be mounted on the platforms and its garrison should principally consist of artillerists, destined for the management of the guns in the open Battery. A Similar Redoubt erected upon the opposite extremity of the Island, would prevent the landing and the lodgement of the enemy in that quarter. These two Redoubts and Battery, would require a garrison of three hundred and fifty men, at most and the expence of their construction, would be much less than the sum already expended upon Craney Island. But the execution of the original plan being so far advanced, the expediency of adopting a new one, is at least Questionable; I therefore propose the following im-

provements only. First: As the present redoubt is not susceptible of any flank defence, or without great expence of a ditch or a glacis to protect a row of pallisades or Fraises, an interior defence becomes indispensible, This defence may consist of a building so contrived as to answer the purposes of a Block-house and a Suitable Barrack for the garrison. Secondly a Redou on the opposite extremity of the Island, to be converted into a redoubt by seperating it from the line of entrenchments and enclosing it in the rear by pallisades. - The expence of these improvements together with a magazine, and some additional platforms is estimated at \$4,500. dollars. The work's so improved, will require a garrison of four hundred men.

Lambert.s Point

Is the next-advantageous, position, for the annoyance of a fleet in its approach to Norfolk. It is twenty five hundred yards from Craney Island, on the one hand, and Fort Norfolk on the other, and presents a good cross fire with both. The channel by making a bend round it; would compel the enemy to remain a long time exposed to its fire. The occupation of this point would moreover, connect the line of Batteries, and leave the enemy no shelter from Craney Island to Norfolk. But notwithstanding the natural advantages of this position it is not deemed advisable to maintain here a permanent battery, because among other considerations, the enemy will not venture to attack norfolk water, after, the works on Craney Island are Completed. The existing work at Lamberts Point, is situated not at the extremity of the point, but at the Gorge and near the mouth of Creek, it does not command the channel and appears to be intended only to cover the right flank of the line of Gun boats proposed to be arranged, across the channel, and opposite the Craney Island in case of an attack. The water however is so very shallow, in this Quarter, as renders it doubtfull whether our squadron of Gun boats, would be subject to the inconvenience of being turned even by the enemys row galleys, and barges, but on the contrary supposition, the station and direction of our gun boats would depend upon the nature of the enemys attack, and be governed by the circumstances, which might transpire during the action. If therefore any battery should be deemed necessary upon this point, a moveable one would answer the intended object-better than any other. In accordance with these views, I beg leave to recommend that the battery at Lamberts Point be dismantled.

That the four thirty-two pounders mounted there be removed to Craney Island and that four eighteen pounders be mounted on travelling carriages, two of which to be posted, at the cross-roads near Lamberts point, and the other two at Fort Norfolk, all to be kept in constant readiness, to move to Lamberts point or any other position as occasion may require.

Fort Norfolk

Is an excellent position, as it completely commands and enfilades the channel, and can prevent the enemys fleet from acting in conjunction with his land forces, in an attack upon the town. This work was intended only as an enclosed ^{water} battery and not calculated to resist a regular seige. It is however susceptible of great improvements, at a very trifling expence, as the curtain in the rear consists of Barrack-wall two & an half feet only in thickness, it is necessary to cover it with an earthen Raveline and to affix an Iron grate to the lower

tier of windows. The parapet of the north wing is too narrow, to resist a battery of a larger calibre, than six pounders. As this is the most exposed and the most vulnerable part of the Fort, I would propose to increase the width of the parapet, and build a rampart, on which some pieces of artillery should be mounted. The left face of the North East Bastion, has no flank defence to remedy this defect, by the addition of a new flank would be very expensive. It is therefore advisable to increase the width of the ditch opposite to this place and to plant therein a row of pallasades. the expence of these, and some interior improvements is estimated at twenty five hundred dollars.

Extensive lines of entrenchments, for the defence of a tower, are considered very defective, and inefficient, they prove but a feeble Barrier unless well flanked by artillery. and completely maned by Infantry. If penetrated at any point or turned upon either flank, the whole line must in all probality be abandoned by creating a full security, they suppress the spirit of offensive enterprise, - they serve to induce you to wait an attack, whereas, a successfull defence frequently requires you to act on the offensive. The principal field works, about Norfolk are those of Fort Barbour, and those at the peach orchard, in advance of Fort Norfolk. both are badly flanked, and liable to all the preceeding objections. The lines at the peach orchard, are of no use in defence of the Fort, and consequently of the town. Because the enemy cannot pass the former, while it remains our possession, the line on the contrary is favourable to the approach of an enemy who might avail himself of the cover it affords to erect his first Batteries and might use it as a parallel from which to advance his trenches.

The town of Norfolk, is peninsulated by Smiths Creek, upon the one hand, and Newtons creek upon the other. The heads of these creeks are distant, about six hundred yards, and the intermediate space is partly occupied by a line of entrenchments, called Fort Barbour. Three Redoubts of a construction similar to those proposed for the defence of Craney Island and placed, one upon the head of each creek, and the third at the Salient angle formed by the ravine, connecting these two creeks, would with the force of three hundred men, more efectually command and secure this pass, than can now be done with an Army of three thousand.

It may not be improper here to remark, that the safety of Norfolk should not depend upon the efficacy of any field work. the country thro which alone, an enemy can pass, presents a succession of narrow defiles and thick woods, which by the aid of ax-men, Virginia Riflemen, some light artillery and a few regulars, will constitute the most formidable species of Fortification good and short communications between the several positions of the line of defence-Such a disposition of the Troops, as will ensure a rapid concentration of them at any assailable point- Corps of observation to repel marauding parties, and Videtts to watch the movements of the enemy, are obvious means of defence, and will it is presumed, be adopted by every Commanding General.

Fort Nelson

Is badly designed and executed still worse but not having had leisure to examine it with sufficient attention I am unprepared to state what corrections and improvements are necessary, and shall therefore make it hereafter the subject of a special report at present only observing that the work is

of little military importance except as a Water Battery. The enemy may approach Portsmouth by land- carry the navy yard, and command the Town of Norfolk, without much annoyance from Fort Nelson

I will close the present communication by the following recapitulation, in reply to the several Queries, proposed by the Hon. the Secretary of War.

1^t That the works on Craney Island are constructed on a scale too large, and that they may be reduced to a size requiring a garrison of four hundred men at the expence of four thousand five hundred dollars.

2^d That a permanent Battery on Lamberts Point is Unnecessary

3^d That, the prominent defects of Fort Norfolk may be corrected at an expence, not exceeding twenty five hundred dollars & that those of Fort Nelson cannot be remedied without a very Considerable expence.

4. That the lines of entrenchments in advance of Fort Norfolk are from their position and Construction, useless or worse than useless and that the other field works, owing to their Construction, cannot render any essential service. I am

Respt Signed/ S. THAYER Capt. Engineers
Brig. Genl. Porter

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TO Moses Porter*

Norfolk July 4. 1814-

Sir

The present exposed situation of Fort Nelson renders it highly expedient either to demolish that work and remove the vast quantity of ordnance and Military Stores now deposited there to some place of greater security or to strengthen it by additional works.

The principal defects to be remedied are 1st. the weakness of the rear wall which cannot resist the slightest battering and 2^d. the want of a good flank defence, I therefore propose with your approbation to cover the rear of Fort Nelson with a Horn-work of earth. The front to consist of a side of a regular fortification viz a Curtain and two Demi-Bastions whose flanked angles will extend nearly to the waters edge. This front to be connected with the Fort by two branches or wings extending from the flanked angles of the demi-bastions to the Ditch in front of the present rear wall and flanked by guns mounted on the extremities of that wall. The Profile of this work exhibits a Ditch fifty feet wide at top, forty at bottom and six in depth, a Rampart four and an half feet high, a Parapet sixteen feet wide at top and including the Banquette 5½ feet above the rampart making the total elevation sixteen feet above the bottom of the ditch. Platforms to be erected for seven guns in each demi-bastion a row of Palisades to be planted in the centre of the Ditch and extending around the work until joined to the palisades already planted in the ditch before the rear wall.

It is believed that the proposed Horn-work will not only remedy the above mentioned defects but will secure other essential advantages. I need not mention the important and well known maxim in fortification that "provided the line is not too extensive the more inward space there is better" It may be seen from the sketch accompanying this report that, owing to the Peninsula form of the land on which Fort Nelson is situated, the new line is not more extensive than the original one nor will it require an additional garrison for its defence. The preceding maxim is deemed here peculiarly important from the following consideration because the enemy, unless able to penetrate with his ships into the harbour which is deemed wholly impracticable would be compelled to land at the distance of twenty miles from Fort Nelson and would therefore probably not venture and attack except with his undivided land forces. In such case our land operations would be transferred to that side of the river and Fort Nelson will become our only fortified depot and support of those operations and being also the only work to cover our retreat, should a retreat become necessary absolutely requires more interior capacity than it now possesses. Should this plan be deemed too extensive for our means I propose to substitute therefor a Ravelin with some additional improvements the details of which I will have the honor to communicate verbally.-- I am Sir Respectfully signed/ S. THAYER Capt. Engineers
Brig. Genl. Porter.--

*See Index

FROM Jared Mansfield* to Joseph G. Swift*

West Point Augst 26th 1814

Dear Sir,

We arrived here yesterday after a passage of about 12 hours. On my arrival, after Capt. (Alden) Partridge* had ordered teams to convey my furniture to the Quarters you were pleased to assign me, Viz. the South part of the House occupied by Dr. (Samuel A.) Walsh*, He came on board, & told me & my wife, that he was sorry he could not admit us at present, as he had company, & could not spare any part of the house. I asked him what we were to do. He answered go to some tavern. I asked what tavern for, I knew of none. He said I might go to Mr. Partridge's* or Mr North's (Esquire North)*. I told him this was impossible, & besides, that I considered it as most insulting, that one half at least of the house was assigned me by your orders. & that I must have it. He left us in a passion, & I proceeded to convey my furniture to the House; when arrived there, they would not permit my Servant, at first to put the furniture into the house. When I came up they were very insulting, & sometimes tendered me the North instead of the South part, sometimes declared I should have none at present. Lieut. (John)Wright* however by order of Capt. Partridge, told them that the South part of the House should be cleared, if not by them, by such men as he should order. After this considering me as the Author of the whole which happened, they were very liberal of their abuses, to me & family; & excepting that Dr. Walsh had received me into his home when I was here before; I certainly would have made a formal complaint of his conduct. I am of opinion, that I still must do it, for every insult is constantly thrown out to me, or my family; they are stripping the South part of the house of every thing which they may have placed or put to it, & perhaps more. If this be the end of it, I am very willing, but they seem determined to pursue their malevolence still farther, & it would seem, that the matter is brought to a test to know, whether he who is only a Surgeon, or I who have a superior rank, am to be foiled. It appears difficult if not impossible, that in my present health, I should live under the same roof with so much malevolence, & that too without any cause; for I told them expressly that I was not, the Dispenser of Quarters, but that it belonged to my superiors, & that all were under the necessity of complying with their injunctions. The idea of orders, or commands from you had not the least effect; they considered themselves as being the sole proprietors of the house, & adjacent property. I did not ask for Garden, or indeed any improvement, which the Dr. may have made. But he talks to me in lofty strains, & in fact treats me as if I were a mere common Soldier; He complains, or rather falsifies in saying, that he had no notice of my coming on at this time. Our situation is made very unpleasant by the conduct of this man, & his childish wife, & I do not see how we can ever be at peace, since they are determined to sneer, scoff at & insult us. Fortunately for me they have no Friends here or at least supporters of such conduct - Conduct the most ungentlemanly imaginable. I am pretty sure he must be arrested before long, as he has not one idea of military Subordination. What audacity for him to endeavor to turn me off to North's in the rain, without furniture, (cloathing), or any of the comforts requisite for my health? All this forsooth because he happened to have company,

or because he foolishly supposed, he might trifle & sport with me his superior in rank, age, & I hope in moral, & intellectual requirements. My son Edward is here without the means of education unless he be admitted into some of the classes of the Cadets. You doubtless recollect, that the sons of Col. Williams & Joseph Totten, though at first not cadets were admitted among them. If this proposal meet your approval I will thank you to give directions for the purpose We should think ourselves very happy, were it not for the treatment, we have received, & are receiving from an ignorant, vain, & immoral man, at least as it respects the treatment due to mankind & above all to officers his Superiors in rank. It will be the more disadvantageous to me, as I require medical aid, & I could have, after what has passed, no confidence in his good intentions, & all know his skill is nothing. Please to give Mine & Mrs Mansfield's respects to Mrs. Swift & believe me to be with the greatest regard - Your
Ob. Humbl Servt. JARED MANSFIELD

*See Index

FROM John Wright* to Alden Partridge*

West Point September 27th 1814.

Sir,

In compliance with your request I now give you as correct a Statement of Conduct of Doct. Samuel A. Walsh* towards Lieut Col Jared Mansfield* on or about the 24th of August last as I can possibly recollect. On the 24th of August last, agreeable to your Orders, I proceeded to the House occupied by the said Doct. Walsh, to inform him that Col. Mansfield had arrived at the Dock and that he must immediately clear the South half of the House for him. I found the Doct. absent. Mrs. Walsh, informed he had gone to Washington's Valley I sent Cadet (Heburn) (James S. Hepburne?)* to tell him that Col. Mansfield had arrived and that he would occupy the South half of the House, and that the Doct. must have it cleared as soon as possible, I then went to the Sloop where I found you and Col. Mansfield and reported to you what I had done I left the Sloop immediately, & in about half an hour returned and found Doct. Walsh on board the Sloop with Col. Mansfield. they were both in the Cabin I was standing on the Deck and heard Col. Mansfield Say he could not move all his furniture to Esqr. Norths. Doct. Walsh replied you may find room to store it near here for a few days. for I have Company and every room in the House is full and it is impossible for you to move in under two or three days at any rate.

he then left the Sloop. I then mentioned to Col Mansfield that my orders were to clear the South half of the House and that Doct Walsh, knew it although it did not appear so by his conversation. the furniture was immediately sent to the House the men returned and reported that Doct. Walsh would not let them put the things into the House. Col Mansfield road up to the House I arrived there myself about the same time, and went in to the House and found the South part Still occupied by Doct Walsh, I expressly told him he must remove his things out of the South half of the House or I should order the men to do it after some hesitation he went to removeing his things into the North part of the House, Some conversation passed between Doct Walsh & Col Mansfield, at the House, (which as near as I can recollect) was this. Col. Mansfield Said: that Gen. Swift informed him the House was or would be ready for him when ever he should come. Doct Walsh Said if Col Mansfield had been a Gentleman he would have given him some notice of his coming and not come in that rude vulgar manner.

This is in substance all I can recollect at this time of what took place between Doct. Walsh and Col Mansfield, there are no doubt some things which were they mentioned to _____ I should plainly remember. I am Sir verry Respectfully Yours etc

JOHN WRIGHT Lieut of Engrs

Capt S Partridge Commdg.

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift*

New York, 28 Nov. '14

My Dear Sir,

Yesterday I had the pleasure to receive your letter of 22 inst. & enclosures.- from my recollection of Norfolk & its vicinity I think your Plan of Defence very good, & that you have made the most of Forts Nelson* & Norfolk*.-

When the Death of our friend & Brother (Eleazer D.) Wood* was officially announced, Lt Gadsen*/my aid/ forwarded orders to Col. Armistead* & other Chiefs of (Districts), to wear Crape one month, this order, conveying in few Words a testimony/ 'tho not necessary as such/ of his Worth & Valour, was all in my power.- His Character & Deeds recorded in our Society, would serve as an incentive to our rising Youths, & I wish you would (portray) Woods Character, for this purpose,-Any other plan that may occur to you will be received by me with satisfaction, -I am mortified that Col. Armistead did not forward you the order.-----Lt. Col. McRee* has acquired glory & is talked of for a B. Genl: Do you not think that Govt. have neglected the worthies of Plattsburgh*? The Sec. War has recommended the following increase in numbers to our Corps, & further that we shall all have Brevet Rank when on Duty & the whole Corps to have the Pay & Emolts. of Dragoons-

- 1 Lieut: Colonel
- 2 Majors
- 4 Captains
- 10 Lieutenants

Have asked for about 350 Guards, Sappers & Miners & Workmen. Also given some Rules for the Govt. of Engr. Officers in the Armies, Districts or Garrisons, prescribing Duties & assigning them their Posts in Camp or on the March,- You know we have never had any Plan, been very improperly hanging on the Army during a Campaign, without known Stations or acknowledged Rights,- I wish you to give me your ideas of such Rules & formations for our Corps as may suggest themselves, & give them to me as soon as you can, that I may speedily act on your Council.-

My family are now tolerably well, I have a 5th Son Julius. Mrs. Swift (desires) her regard to you & to Genl. Porter* in which I join.

I shall do what I can to have you (from) the "(Antwerp Dominions)"* this Winter, when you "say the Word"----Yr.

Affectionate friend J. G. SWIFT

Capt. Thayer

*See Index

FROM Andrew Ellicott* to Joseph G. Swift*

West point Feby. 10th 1815.

Dear Sir

Your favour of the 2d. has been just received. The regulations to which you allude were never seen by me till sunday last : the 7th article appeared so objectionable both to Col. (Jared) Mansfield* and myself that we immediately forwarded to the Secretary of war (William H. Crawford) a substitute for it. - The other articles not interfering with the duties or prerogatives of the academic staff, we leave them to the consideration of the officers of the corps --

You must come and reside here. -- in my opinion it is necessary both for the reputation of this institution, and the welfare of our country. - Captn. (Alden) Partridge* is almost unrivalled in the management of Cadets, and if his duty was confined to that object he would be one of the most useful men connected with the institution; but you know my dear sir he has no idea of ornamenting, and beautifying a place, and rendering it agreeable and comfortable. This situation with little expense and labor might be converted into a terrestrial paradise by a person of taste; instead of which it not only retains its primitive rudeness, but the principle of destruction is constantly making inroads upon the old publick buildings without an attempt either to stop his progress, or knock out his teeth. For this I do not blame the standing superintendent - I have already observed that he has no taste for improvements - The care of the public property, the general police of the place, and the necessary and convenient improvements ought to be under your immediate direction, and the care of the Cadets left to Captn Partridge for which duty he is eminently qualified --

I have kept together about 80 Cadets during the vacation, to whom I attend daily, not even omitting sunday, - they have made great progress, - these classes are in Conic sections, one of which will be in fluxions before the end of next month.

The following young gentlemen are farther advanced than any others in the academy, and can work with facility all the questions in gunnery depending on the parabolic theory (Viz) Evelyth (William S. Eveleth)*, (Benjamin L. G.) Bonneville*, Rigel (William F. Rigal)*, (James R.) Stubbs*, Berrier (Francis N. Berrier)*, (William W.) Gordon* and (Henry W.) Griswold*. - Bonneville is too young to be commissioned, and Rigel has such an impediment in his speech as would render him almost unfit for any military situation except in the ordnance department, in which he would be eminently useful - To the other five I know of no objection. - Stubbs however in my candid opinion has some advantages over the others; - he is equal, if not superior to either of them as a scholar, independent of his mathematical acquirements, to which may be added that he is a good practical surveyor. Berrier is probably better qualified for the artillery than the corps of engineers. - If (Henry) Middleton* had remained here during the winter, he would in all probability, have been as far advanced as either of the young gentlemen already mentioned. - I think him well calculated for the corps of engineers, which in my opinion ought to consist of mathematical and scientific acquirements combined with mechanical ingenuity; appointments therefore into that corps ought to be made with great caution, otherwise its respect-

ability and usefulness must be greatly diminished.

For the artillery I should recommend (George) Blaney*, (Simon) Willard*, Berrier, H(enry) Smith*, (Henry R.) Dulaney*, (James) Monroe*, and George Cooper*, - these will all be excellent, - if more should be wanted they will be found in Captn. Partirdge's list sent on some time ago -

For the ordnance, John Symington*, Rigel (Rigal), (Thomas W.) Lendrum* and Bonneville. I have already observed that I thought Bonneville too young for a commission in the corps of engineers, yet from his talents and ingenuity he would be very useful in the department where I have placed him.

For the infantry, (Abraham) Wendell*, (Aaron G.) Gano* and Milo Johnson*.

Altho I have complied with pleasure in making out the foregoing list from the best of my judgment, yet I would much rather that no commissions would be issued till after the return of the Cadets next April, when the academic staff would have an opportunity of deciding on the merits of those proposed to be commissioned better, and perhaps with more impartiality than either of us can do singly - You will please to recollect that I consider Evelyth, Stubbs, and Gordon, the best scholars in the first class -

As it is absolutely necessary for your permanent residence to be at this place, I wish you to be on early in the season. - much wants doing about the house and garden which will require your own particular attention. You will easily percieve this hasty scrawl is intended for yourself only. I am my dear sir your sincere friend and hbl servt.

ANDW. ELLICOTT

Genl. Jos. G. Swift

*See Index

TO (Joseph G. Swift)*

Washington 23^d March 1815

Dear General

I hastened my departure from Norfolk as soon as the state of my health would admit in the expectation of meeting you here but having arrived too late I am under the necessity of troubling you with a letter in order to obtain your consent & aid in bringing about a scheme which I have long cherished in my mind & for the accomplishment of which I deem the present a most favorable moment. This scheme is no other than a furlough to visit France for my professional improvement. I need not dwell on the advantages which the Corps or the Government would derive by sending abroad, in time of peace, a portion of its officers. I know that you view the subject in its proper light & it only remains to select those individuals who by their endowments, natural and acquired, are the best calculated to collect, in their travels, useful information & afterwards to employ their acquisitions most usefully in the services of Government. Should I be happy enough to be ranked among this class by your partiality, I am persuaded that you will most cheerfully promote my wishes. A letter from you (under cover to me at this place) to the Sec'y of War (James Monroe)* approbating my object & stating your opinion of me as an officer, will I have no doubt, have the desired effect.

Altho my health is not completely restored my convalescence is as rapid as could be reasonably expected. I beg you to excuse the haste and negligence with which I have written & believe me with great respect and friendship
Your most obt
Servant S. THAYER

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift(?)¹

New York, 30 March, 1815

My dear Sir:

By your favor of the 23d, I am glad to learn that you are recovering your health.

It is not easy to decide who of the Corps shall have the advantage of an European tour when only two can go. However, I decided in favor of Col. McRee and yourself as the enclosed letter will show. seal and hand it to the Sec'y.--I have had some conversation with Col. _____ on this subject, including myself as one of the party, and explained to him my view of the direction which should be given to the researches of the Officers, -- an "examination of the military establishments", "Fortifications," "Schools," "Work-shops," and Libraries in France, Germany & England - particularly the first and last named nations, - to collect Books, Maps and Instruments

In order to bring these things our Gov't must introduce you to our Minister in Fr., Holland & England & give you power to draw on the U. S. War Dept. for 6 or 8000 Dollars, to pay for your collections. I will in a short time have a Catalogue of such works as we have some knowledge of & that are wanted. --You must have a Brevet both for Rank and means of travel, you must have pay & hash? Double rations, you must have the means of travelling as a gentleman, & of seeing the best company, - on Uniform Military Dress is acceptable in all companies, & Col. Monroe informed me that an American Officer properly introduced, would see more and learn more, than any private individual; as to travelling incognito, its no good plan & you can gain no real advantage by it, -- I learn from Bomford*, that arrangements can be made if the Engineers are not wanted in the Fleet, that they may have leave to travel through Spain & France. I see no great object in going through Spain; without a knowledge of the Sp. language. You can learn but few particulars of the plans and dispositions on the Battle grounds. However, a passage through Spain is not amiss -- provided you keep clear of the Inquisition!! Make your arrangements as soon as you can, & if the Sec'y (Alexander Dallas) opposes your drawing on the Dept. for other funds than your own emoluments, I will _____ to make some arrangements that will meet the plan.

As soon as you have seen the Sec'y on the subject, write me. Excuse the haste in which I write, and if you see any blunders in my letter to the Sec'y amend them. -- tell Bomford I shall write him tomorrow. Yours affectionately
Capt. Thayer

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM Joseph G. Swift* to Alexander Dallas*¹

New York 30 March, 1815

Sir:

I am greatly rejoiced to learn that a few officers of Engineers will be permitted to go to the Mediterranean in some of our armed ships, & if their professional duties are not required in the expedition, that the officers will be allowed to visit Spain, France & England.

I take the liberty to recommend Col. McRee & Capt. Thayer as worthy the above mentioned indulgence, their characters are well known, particularly that of the former, --Col. Thayer is an officer of distinguished talents & has for eight years discharged his duties with much usefulness to the Nation.

I take the liberty to mention the valuable services of Capt. Thayer during the Northern Campaigns of 1812 & 1813 & his Scientific Defenceable Works at Norfolk during the past year---with a view to request a Brevet for him.

It is important that our officers should gain a knowledge of the European Military Establishments, their fortifications, Mil'y. Schools & Military work shops, to those objects I presume the enquiries of Col. McRee & Capt. Thayer would be diverted, & also to the collection of rare books, maps, plans and instruments for the Military Academy. The latter are important objects & I hope the gentlemen mentioned may be allowed to draw on the government for funds to meet the requisite expenditure, -- I am now preparing a list of books known in this Country & that are much wanted; I shall have the honor to lay it before you in a short time.

I will take the liberty to mention that the gentlemen would derive advantage by being introduced to the American Ministers in France, Holland & England. I have the honor to be Most respectfully your obt. hum. sv't J. C. SWIFT, B. G.
To the Hon'l Secretary of War.

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Washington 10th April, 1815

Dear General:

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ult., & to return you my warmest thanks for the very flattering & obliging manner in which you were pleased to comply with my request. -- Your application in my behalf for a Brevet was the more gratifying as it was entirely unexpected. -- Col. B(omford)* waited on Sec'y Monroe* with your letter addressed to the Sec'y of War (James Monroe) and reports favorably of Col. M(onroe)'s disposition to grant all our requirements. I understand that my commission has been forwarded to the President (James Madison)* for his signature & that Col. M(onroe) is preparing our letters, instructions, etc. (whenever these papers shall have been made out) & Col. B(omford) shall have had an interview on this subject with Mr. (Darios)* who has now arrived in the city. I shall then wait on both the Secretaries & learn their decisions on all the points relating to our expedition. I was delighted to learn that my old friend Long* has become a member of our Corps. There is no worthier man, & his science and ingenuity are a great acquisition. Have the goodness to give him my best respects. -- Generals Wilkinson*, Bissell*, Scott* & Thos. Smith* are here. The latter has resigned. No measures are known to have been adopted for the reduction of the Army. - I am Very respectfully & truly Your friend & most obt. servant.

S. THAYER

Brig. Gen. Jos. G. Swift

*See Index

FROM A. J. Dallas* to Gen. Joseph G. Swift*

Department of War, April 12th, 1815.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ulto. recommending Col. McRee and Captn. Thayer of the engineer corps, as the officers having the best pretensions to be sent as engineers with the squadron about to sail for the Mediterranean. In consequence of your recommendation, these officers have been selected for that service, and the commission of brevet Major has been conferred on Captain Thayer. The officers of the army who may on this occasion be attached to the fleet, will have permission to visit any part of Europe, that they may wish, whenever their services can, with the approbation of the Commander of the Squadron, be dispensed with. How far this department would be authorised to give them orders to that effect, for the purpose designated in your letter is very questionable, and I am therefore induced to believe that no allowance for transportation could be made, to them, they will be allowed their pay and emoluments agreeably to their brevet commissions, and double rations, which is believed to be the greatest extent to which this department can, consistently with the existing laws, afford its aid, to enable these Gentlemen to prosecute those important, and very desirable, objects which you have pointed out. Five thousand dollars out of the money appropriated for that purpose, can be placed at the disposal of these Gentlemen, to enable them to purchase such books, Maps and plans, as may be necessary for the Military Academy at West Point.

The Secretary of State (James Monroe), will give to Col. McRee and Major Thayer, letters of introduction to our Ministers in Europe, and also to some of the most distinguished Military officers in France; to these I will add with great pleasure such others as may be deemed necessary. I have the honor to be, with great respect, Your obt Servt A. J. DALLAS.
Brigadier General Joseph G. Swift New York

*See Index

FROM Alexander Dallas (?) *1

Department of War 20 Apr, 1815

Sir:

In consideration of the advantages which the United States may derive, by the increased experience and scientific improvement, of its officers -- the President is pleased to afford you, an opportunity for professional improvement, You will report yourself to the Hon'ble, - the Secretary of the Navy for orders to embark on board the Squadron which is about to sail for the Mediterranean.

When your services shall no longer be required with the Squadron, you will proceed to the Continent and prosecute enquiries and examination, calculated for your improvement in the military art.

The military schools and work-shops, and arsenals, the canals and harbours, the fortifications, especially those for maritime defence will claim your particular attention.

You will be provided with funds, for the collection of such books, maps, and instruments, for the Military Academy as may be hereafter directed by the War Department, or the Commander of the Corps of Engineers.

To enable the Government to communicate its orders with a certainty and dispatch, you will occasionally advise the American Minister in France of your place of residence.

To defray extra expense you will be allowed double ration, during the period of your tour, and will receive from the date of your commission, the pay and emoluments of that rank to which your brevet entitles you.

Major S. Thayer

U. States, Corps of Engineers

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

(22 April 1815)

UNITED STATES
E. PLURIBUS UNUM

To all to whom these Presents shall come, GREETING:

THE bearer hereof, Major Sylvanus Thayer of the United States Corps of Engineers aged twenty six years, or thereabout, of the height of five feet, ten - inches, sallow - complexion, dark -- hair, dark hazel eyes, and has a scar on the right ankle. - - - - -

(whose name is here repeated in his own hand writing, viz.)

SYLVANUS THAYER

a citizen of the United States of America, having occasion to pass into foreign countries about his lawful affairs, these are to pray all whom it may concern, to permit the said Major Sylvanus Thayer -

(he demeaning himself well and peaceably) to pass wheresoever his lawful pursuits may call him, freely and without let, or molestation, in going, staying, or returning, and to give to him all friendly aid and protection, as these United States would do in like cases.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, I have caused the Seal of the Department of State, for the said United States, to be hereunto affixed. Done at the City of Washington, this twenty second day of April - in the year of our Lord, 1815 and of the Independence of these States the thirty ninth.

(Gratis)

JAS MONROE

SECRETARY OF STATE.

FROM James Monroe* to Lafayette,*Marquis de.

Washington, April 24, 1815

Dear Sir,

The restoration of peace between the United States and Great Britain will facilitate the communication between old friends on each side of the water, which has been some time interrupted.

I shall have other opportunities of writing, and of assuring you of the interest which I never cease to take in your welfare, as well as of entering into other subjects of a general nature; the object of this is to introduce to you Col. McRee, of the Corps of Engineers, and Major Thayer, of the same corps, two officers of distinguished merit, who have rendered essential service, and advanced their fame, in the late war. They visit France to push their researches, and improve their knowledge in their profession. The fortifications and schools of France will open to them mines of great wealth in this respect, which they are very solicitous to explore and profit of. Will you have the goodness to procure them the means of doing this, by introducing them to those who can facilitate it? They will explain their objects more in detail, and you will be the best judge in what mode you can most aid them.

On the concerns of this country, which are always highly interesting to you, these gentlemen can give much information.

With great respect and esteem, be assured that I always am, Dear Sir, very sincerely yours, JAS. MONROE

* See Index

FROM James Monroe* to M.Mardi de Marbois* (?)
Washington, April 24, 1815.

Dear Sir,

Among the advantages resulting from the peace with which the world is now happily blessed, the opportunity which it affords for a more easy and frequent communication with our friends beyond the Atlantic, I deem by no means an inconsiderable one. My inquiries have constantly followed, through all the revolutions and changes which have occurred in France, many friends there, in whose welfare I have long taken a deep interest, solicitous to know where the last had left them. Towards yourself, I have indulged, with peculiar force, this feeling, confident, that whatever might be the course of events, your conduct in them would be such as would afford new proof of your integrity and real worth. By Mr. Crawford*, whose return is soon expected, I hope to receive much information on these interesting topics.

My object in this is to make known, and to interest you, in favor of Lt. Col. McRee, and Major Thayer, of our Corps of Engineers, who visit France to improve themselves in their profession. They are young officers who have distinguished themselves in the late war, and who wish to take advantage of the present moment of general repose, to gather from your school some portion of the knowledge in which it abounds. A view of your public works of defence, of your public institutions, and a communication with your men of Science and experience, will be highly gratifying, and equally useful, to them. By this I ask nothing which it may be the policy of your Government to withhold. I wish your kind interposition in their favor in cases only where it may be afforded in strict conformity with established rules, smoothing difficulties within that limit, which might, otherwise, be very embarrassing to strangers.

To these gentlemen I refer you for information on all subjects relating to this country in which you desire it. Accept the assurance of my sincere and constant regard. JAS MONROE

* See Index

FROM John Morton* to David Rankin*

Washington City, 25. Apl. 1815.

My dear Sir,

I have the great Pleasure in introducing to your acquaintance my friend, Major Sylvanus Thayer, of the U. States', Corps of Engineers.

Major Thayer accompanies a squadron of the U.S. Navy, destined for Service in the Mediterranean; and will no doubt make some stoppage at your Port. I beg leave to recommend him as a Gentleman in every Respect deserving of your attention; and any Services & Civilities in your power to render him, I shall esteem as a particular favor rendered to myself. I am, Sir, respectfully & truly, Yr. mo: Ob: Servt: JNO: MORTON
David Rankin Esqr (Gibraltar)

* See Index

FROM John Morton* to David Rankin*

Washington City
25 Apl. 1815

Dear Sir

It will, no doubt, be with some surprise that you receive this Communication.

Having taken the Liberty of giving a Letter of Introduction to my friend Major Thayer of the U. S. Engineers, I cannot permit so good an opportunity to pass without accompanying it with some account of myself.

For a considerable time after I left you at Gibraltar I continued under that deep Depression of Mind which assailed me whilst under your hospitable roof. I finally retired to a quiet, but pleasant Village, in the Neighbourhood of Philadelphia where in the Society of a few worthy friends I succeeded in acquiring a tolerably composed mind, & much better health.

In this State, and about the Commencement of the late unhappy war with your Country, a Situation in one of the Public Departments at this Place, of considerable trust, & responsibility, was tendered to me. I accepted it; & have now been in Service 2 yrs. & 7. months; and in which, it is probable, I shall be continued.

To Major Thayer I refer you for more particulars. We have resided some time under the same roof. You will find him an officer of much Intelligence & Merit; &, tho' young, he already stands high in the Army. He goes out in the Squadron, on Service for the Mediterranean.

With best Regards to the Gentlemen of your Household, & best wishes for your happiness & welfare, I remain, D. Sir,
Your friend & Obt. Serv. JNO. MORTON
D; Rankin Esqr. Gibraltar

*See Index

FROM John Morton* to Messrs. Shephard* and Hyde, merchants,
Cagliari, Sardinia.

Washington City
25 Apl. 1815

Gentn.

Allow me the pleasure of introducing to your Acquain-
tance my friend Major Sylvanus Thayer of the U. States Corps
of Engineers.

Major T. accompanied a Squadron going out on Service in
the Meditteran, etc.

As it is probable that in the Course of his tarrying in
that quarter, he may visit your Island, I beg leave to rec-
ommend him to your Services & Civilities; as a Gentleman
whom you will find in every respect very deserving. I am
Gentn. respectfully Your mo: Ob. Serv JN: MORTON.

You will recollect me as being with you in the Armed Brig
Fox- of N. York.

Messrs. Shephard & Hyde Cagliari

*See Index

FROM Jacob Brown* to Marquis of Tweeddale* (Scotland)
Washington City, April 26th 1815

My Lord:

This will be handed to you by a friend of mine,
Major Thayer of the Corps of Engrs. of the United
States, an officer of worth and talents- Believe me
my Lord yours respectfully JACOB BROWN M.G.U.S.ARMY
The most noble Marquis of Tweeddale

* See Index

FROM M. Aspinwall* to Augustus Aspinwall*

Washington, April 27. 1815

My dear brother

My friend Capt Sylvanus Thayer of the Engineers of the U.S. Army will give you this & I hope you will both become well acquainted with each other. Your affectionate brother MOT_____

Augustus Aspinwall (of Boston) Amsterdam

* See Index

FROM Charles. Biddle* to Capt. Jacob Jones, U.S.Navy.
Philadelphia, April 30. 1815

Dear Sir

I beg leave to introduce to your acquaintance Capt. Thayer of the U.S. Engineers, who goes out with the Squadron to the Mediterranean. Tho' I have not the pleasure of knowing Capt. Thayer personally, yet he is well known to some of my family, and from their sentiments of him as well as his high reputation as an officer and a gentleman, I recommend him particularly to your attentions. I am D. Sir yr. ob. serv. CHAS BIDDLE
Capt. Jones U.S.Navy

* See Index

FROM John Biddle* to Capt. James Biddle,* U.S.N.

Philadelphia, April 31st 1815.

Dr Brother,

Capt. Thayer, the Bearer of this has been selected for his extensive professional & general information & military character to accompany the fleet to the Mediterranean as an Engineer - Should you meet there I shall have the pleasure of introducing to you an enlightened & amiable Gentleman - Any attention or services you may be enabled to offer him will be very gratefull to me.

Very affly your Brother JOHN BIDDLE

Capt. J. Biddle U.S.Navy

* See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb* to Sir Thomas Brisbane*

City of Washington N. America
May 1, 1815

Sir,

I have the honor to introduce to you Major Thayer of the army of the United States. Major T. will make the tour of Europe & in case he arrives near your residence I have given him this Letter. He is an officer of merit, who has particularly distinguished himself.

With sentiments of profound respect, I beg leave _____
myself. _____ your most obt & faithful humble Servant

A. MACOMB

Sir Thomas Brisbane

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb* to Robert Kennedy*

City of Washington N.A., May 1st. 1815

My dear Sir,

Major Thayer of the Army of the United States, being on a tour through Europe for the purpose of gaining military Knowledge, I have given him this Letter in case he should pass by your residence either in England or France. Major Thayer is a young friend of mine who has distinguished him during the late War & is a gentleman entitled to the highest consideration.- And thus I have the pleasure of introducing him to you. He will be able to give you some accounts of my situation etc.

With Sentiments of great respect & Esteem, I remain
Dear Sir most faithfully yours ALEXR. MACOMB
The Honorable Robert Kennedy.

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Boston May 13th 1815

Dear General

I arrived here on the 11th inst & this morning waited on Commodore Bainbridge* to whom I presented my letters of instructions. To my surprise he appeared extremely indignant that the Sec'y of the Navy (B. W. Crowninshield) should presume to order him to provide accommodations for Officers of the Army on board his ships & observed that the apartments of the officers on board a vessel were their private property of which they could not be deprived & that he should not hesitate to disobey any order to that effect from the Sec'y of the Navy. He assured me, however, of his disposition to cultivate my acquaintance & was very civil to me personally. He requested me to introduce Col. McRee to him on his arrival & that he would then determine what accommodations could be made for us. He appeared willing to grant as a favor - what was refused as a right. But you will, I am confident, perceive the impropriety of our begging a passage. It appears that either the Sec'y of the Navy or ourselves have been trifled with & I am desirous of having no further connection with the Navy Department, if any other mode of conveyance than the one now contemplated can be procured. Perhaps we might obtain an order to proceed in the (USS) congress which is fitting out for the conveyance of Doctor Eustis* & others. From the preceeding statement you will be enabled to decide what course we had better adopt.-- On the arrival of Col. McRee I will write you further. -- Dr. Swift & family are in good health as is that of Capt. Fitch* who is now here on his way to New Bedford where he intends to establish his future residence. I am Sir with the highest respect & esteem Your obt Servant S. THAYER
Brig. Gen. J. G. Swift

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift* to Alexander Dallas*¹

New York, 17 May, 1815

Sir:

I have been unsuccessful in my endeavors to procure Bills on Paris, -- Yesterday I purchased an undoubled Bill on the Willinks at Amsterdam for \$5,000 at 45 cents p guiden, the price on the preceding day was 42½, in Exchange in Amsterdam on Paris was, by the last accounts, in favor of the former city. Will you be pleased to direct a remittance to me of \$5375, to pay for the Bill of Exchange.

Col. McRee & Major Thayer will sail from Boston, - if convenient, I will thank you for any introduction of the Col. & Major to your European friends, whose acquaintance you may deem beneficial to the object these officers have in view.--Colonel Monroe was so good as to say he would give letters of introduction to the American Ministers in England & Holland. I have the honor to be Your most respectfully
humble servant
To the Hon'l Alexander J. Dallas Secretary of War

J. G. SWIFT

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM William Bainbridge*

(18 May 1815?)

Dear Sir.

The weather and multiplicity of business, have deprived me of the pleasure of calling on you. I pray you to wave Ceremony, and to call over about 1, O.C. this day, at my House, to take pot luck and to accompany me in the afternoon to Fort Independence, to see some experiments made from a thirteen & a ten Inch-Mortar.

Yours very respectfully

WM BAINBRIDGE

Thursday 18 May

Major Thayer

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift* to Alexander Dallas*¹

New York, 19 May 1815

Sir:

I regret that you should again be troubled about the expedition of Col. McRee & Major Thayer--The Squadron now sailing from this Harbour could not accomodate these gentlemen - because it was crowded; - In consequence of which, Major Thayer proceed to Boston from which place he writes that Comm'd (William) Bainbridge* is not disposed to furnish accomodations upon any order, that he appears disposed to grant them as a personal favor -- Col. McRee & Major Thayer cannot be placed under personal obligations for a passage, I therefore take the liberty to request, that these gentlemen may have an order for "accomodations" on board the Congress, in which ship the Hon Mr. (William) Eustis* departs for Holland; - should this plan fail, a passage can easily be procured in a private ship going direct to France. I have the honor to be Sir, your most respectful humble servant J. G. SWIFT
To the Hon Alexander Dallas

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM B. W. Crowninshield* to Alexander Dallas*¹

Navy Department, May 23, 1815

Sir:

I return you herewith the letter of Gen. Swift* with a copy of the order issued this day to Captain Chas. Morris to receive on board the U. S. S. Congress Col. McRee & Major Thayer. I am very respectfully, Sir Your obedient servant

R. W. CROWNINSHIELD

Hon. A. I. Dallas

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM B.W.Crowninshield* to Capt.Charles Morris*

Copy

Navy Department

May 23d. 1815

Sir,

You will receive on board the U.S.Ship Congress, Colonel McRee & Major Thayer and accomodate them for the passage to Europe as far as the convenience of the minister and family will permit, and without prejudice to the public service-if you cannot accomodate those Gentlemen, you will inform this Department in order that they may be provided for in one of the Ships. of Como. Bainbridge's* Squadron. I am respectfully Your obt Serv-

B.W. CROWNINSHIELD

Capt. Chs. Morris U.S.S. Congress Boston

* See Index

FROM Frederick Kinloch* to Monsieur Prevost*

New Haven. May 23: 1815.

Permit me to recommend, my dear Sir to your particular attention & hospitality, Major Thayer, of the United States Corps of Engineers. - This Gentleman goes to Europe with a view of acquiring as much information as possible relative to the art of War, & in particular that part of it which embraces the science of Fortifications. It will, I am sure, afford you pleasure to be of service to any of my Friends, & you may rest assured that this Gentleman is fully entitled from his personal merit to every attention it may be in your power to shew him. - I am now on my way home from paying a visit to my Boston friends, & intend continuing in service as long as possible. As nothing now is impossible, Do not be surprized if you see me 8 or 10 months hence in Geneva.- Remember me very particularly to Mme. Prevost & all your Family. I shall write to you more fully soon. Yours, with the greatest respect & esteem FRED: KINLOCH
(M. Prevost, prof of philosophy, Geneva)

*See Index

FROM Andrew Ellicott* to Alexander Dallas*

U.S. Military academy
West Point May 25th 1815.

Dr. Sir

I have enclosed a plan, or system for three military academies for the U. S. The plan has been agreed to by the staff of this academy after much consideration, and reflection, arising from our own experience in this institution. The plan no doubt has its defects, but by endeavouring to remove them others of greater magnitude appeared to be introduced.

You will readily observe that we have two important objects in view, first, the dissemination of correct military knowledge thro the nation, and secondly, that the students may have all the advantages of a collegiate, or university education; and this becomes the more necessary as it does not appear that the U. S. constitutional have the power to establish either colleges, or universities. - Experience has now convinced me that students make much greater progress in their studies when confined to strict military regulations, and discipline, than in our very best colleges and universities. We have now a number of young gentlemen in the academy, who for their mathematical and scientific acquirements would do credit to any seminary of learning in the United States; but whose merit appears to have been strangely neglected in the late appointments. - If you will please to turn to the last law establishing the military academy, you will see there is a regular mode prescribed by which merit and acquirements are to be rewarded with commissions. - This salutary, and highly important provision of the law has to this period been wholly disregarded. - The academick staff are the only persons capable and qualified by that law to judge of the respective merits, and acquirements of the Cadets, who are necessarily under their immediate inspection and tuition; notwithstanding this, the opinion of the staff has never been taken with regard to the talents, acquirements or merit of a single Cadet who has been commissioned; on the contrary, the names of those intended to be commissioned have never been communicated to the staff. - About the beginning of last January the drawing master Mr. (Christian E.) Zoeller (Zoeller)*, informed Col. (Jared) Mansfield*, and myself the professor of natural and experimental philosophy, and myself, the only members of the staff then at the academy, that a number of the Cadets were to be immediately commissioned. to prevent this irregular proceeding, and to give to merit, talents, and acquirements their just reward, Col. Mansfield, Mr. Zoeller and myself forwarded to the secretary of war a remonstrance against any Cadets being commissioned who were not examined, and recommended by the staff agreeably to the intent, and meaning of the law before mentioned. - This remonstrance we intended to be filed in the office of the secretary of war, and kept as a record of our opinion on a subject highly interesting to the reputation, and success of this institution. To this remonstrance the Secretary of War replied on the 25th. of the same month, agreeing perfectly in opinion with the staff - but notwithstanding this coincidence of opinion, a number of cadets have been since that time commissioned, without any regard to either their mathematical, or scientific acquirements, or the

opinion, approbation or knowledge of the staff. - The most accomplished scholars in the institution have either not been taken notice of, or placed in so low a grade in the ordnance department; that their continuance in the service would have been degradation. - One of them, a Mr. (James R.) Stubbs* from Kentucky, the first scholar in the academy, declined accepting, the other, a Mr. (William W.) Gordon* from Georgia, a young gentleman of brilliant talents who held a distinguished place in the first class in the mathematical school, has accepted that he may be stricken off the roll of cadets, and thereby be enabled to resign and quit the service, for we do not admit that a cadet has a right to resign at his own whim and pleasure. - The engineer corps ought to consist of the first mathematical and scientific characters in the country: Those qualifications have been wholly disregarded in the late appointments, three lieutenants, two from Boston, and one from Philadelphia have been added to that corps, and several brevetted into it, one of them little more than a child, when neither the lieutenants, nor those brevetted are even masters of the elements of trigonometry! - That those young gentlemen would make good officers in either the artillery, or infantry I have no doubt; but why place them in a corps appropriated to talents, and scientific acquirements? - Every judicious gardner will be careful not to set a plant in a soil, or situation where it will not flourish. - Those appointments were announced in the publick prints as having been made in pursuance of the recommendation of the academical staff, which is not true, and would have been contradicted had it not have been for our respect for the young gentlemen. - By whose recommendations or advice those irregular appointments were made we know not; but we do know they are extremely injurious to the character, and prosperity of this growing and important national seminary. By denying to merit, talents, and acquirements their just reward, we shall check that emulation which brings genius into action, and qualifies the industrious student to become an ornament to his country.

Our friend (Thomas) Cooper*, would be a great acquisition to this institution, and his uncommon scientific acquirements are of such a class, that in my opinion our obtaining him ought to be considered a national object of no small importance, but unfortunately, no salary given to the professors in this academy will enable even a small family to live decently, - of this I have had practical experience. - Under the idea of extra duty, in teaching the use of the surveying compass, the drawing master has been allowed extra pay - Now is there any reason why I should not be allowed extra pay for teaching the use of the various instruments used both in astronomy, and navigation? Exclusive of this, I have actually done eight months' extra duty since last November was a year. - Until I came here, the academy was abandoned by all the professors, and great part of the students from the first of December, till the first of April following every year. This practice I immediately put a stop to, and kept academy open two winters not even excluding sundays without the aid of any other professor or regular assistant. - The winter before last I kept together more than twenty students, sixteen of whom were commissioned last July, and last winter

more than eighty, some of whom would do credit to any country or nation, and will be found among our future rulers. -These extra services are not ideal, - they are substantial.

My removal from Lancaster to this place by land (the enemy prevented my coming by water) cost more than four hundred dollars, the one half part of which was for the transportation of my apparatus and library: the former has been constantly made use of for the information of the students, the publick not being yet provided with the necessary instruments - In such a case, upon the principles of common justice ought not the publick to bear part of the expense?

Since the first day I entered on the duties of my professorship, I have not been out of the mathematical chair one minute during my hours of attendance, nor absent from the institution except at a short vacation of a few days in March. - Captn. (Alden) Partridge* deserves great credit for his uniform attention to his duty, and to his exertions the nation is not a little indebted for a full share of the present flourishing situation of this seminary. Col. Mansfield's state of health has not permitted him to do any duty since his appointment, - had his health permitted, he would have been a great acquisition to this institution.

Col. William Edgar Esq. of Rahway, in the State of New Jersey, is desirous of obtaining a Cadet's warrant for his son William. - If there should be a vacancy, both Captn. Partridge and myself are anxious for his appointment. - From his regular conduct, good education, and respectable connections he would be an acquisition.

I observe by the new army list, that a quartermaster for this post is omitted, this I presume must have been a mistake, as it will be almost impossible to do without one. Our present Quarter-master Capn. Perkins, an old revolutionary officer, and an honest man, has performed that duty to our satisfaction, I hope he may be continued.

I am sir, with great respect and esteem your friend &
Hbl servt. ANDW. ELLICOTT
Honble A. J. Dallas Esq.

*See Index

FROM Andrew Ellicott* to Alexander Dallas*

(25 May 1815)

1stIn addition to the Military Academy at West Point, let there be established two others; one either at, or in the vicinity of the city of Washington and the other in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, or such other place as shall be deemed most convenient for the Western States.

2nd....At each of these Academies (including the one at West Point) let there be educated, at the expence of government 150 Cadets, this number to be composed of young men whose parents or guardians are willing and who are themselves desirous of entering the military service of their country.

3rd....In addition to the 150 cadets just mentioned, let it be allowable to receive at each academy 250 others; this number to consist of young gentlemen desirous of receiving a military education, but who are not disposed to join the service; these to be under the same regulations and discipline with those in the service of government, and to pay the government a stated sum pr. annum, as a compensation for their education.

4th....No pay or subsistence to be allowed those cadets in the service of government, but they should be provided with board, an uniform, swords, books, stationary & the requisite furniture for their rooms, in short with everything necessary for their convenience, or the completion of their education at the expence of government. Those Cadets not in the service of government (that is those who pay for their education) to be primarily furnished with every thing at the expence of government, in the same manner as the others, for which, and for their education they will afterwards pay a stated sum as mentioned in article 3rd.

5th....Let there be allowed at each of the Academies, the following Professors & Teachers (viz.) a professor of Natural and experimental Philosophy including astronomy, a professor of Mathematics, a professor of Engineering in all its branches, a professor of Chemistry and Mineralogy, a professor of History & Geography, a professor of Natural History including Botany, a professor of Languages, a professor of Belle-Lettres, and a chaplain who should be professor of Ethics, a Teacher of Drawing & practical Geometry, a Teacher of the French Language, a Sword-Master & a Riding-Master, each of the foregoing professors & Teachers to have one assistant.

6th....Let the Professors receive the pay and emoluments of Lieut. Colo. of Engineers, and their assistants the pay and emoluments of captains. The Teachers the pay and emoluments of Majors of Engineers, and their assistants the pay and emoluments of Lieutenants. The Sword-Master and Riding-Master the pay and emoluments of captains of Engineers, and their assistants that of 2d. Lieutenants.

7th....Let there be to each Academy a permanent Superintendent (who must be a Military officer) with the rank, pay and emoluments of a Colonel of Engineers, and who will also discharge the duties of professor of Tactics, The Superintendent to have an assistant with the rank, pay and emoluments of a captain of Engineers, and who in the absence of the Superintendent should discharge his duties.

8th....Those Cadets in the service of government who should prefer the Naval service, could (should they be judged qualified for that service, after arriving at a certain stage of their education) have their studies directed accordingly; when they had completed their course of studies, they should be put on board their Ships as Midshipmen, where they would in a short time learn the practical part of their duty and become qualified for commissions. By this means the Army & Navy would both be supplied from the Academies with scientific officers. -

9th....Let there be an Inspector General of Military Academies, with the rank, pay and emoluments of a Brig. Genl. whose duties as well as those of the Superintendent, and all other Academic officers should be defined by regulation.

10th....Let the President of the United States be authorized to establish all the necessary regulations both for the external & internal organization and arrangement of the Academy.

11th....Let the candidates for admission into the Academies be not under the age of thirteen, nor above the age of eighteen years; the rules of admission as well as the necessary acquirements & qualifications of the candidates to be prescribed by the President.

12th....Let the President be authorized to appoint a stated number of Scientific Military gentlemen, who should constitute a board of visitors; of which board, the Inspector General should be President, the duties to be prescribed by and performed under the direction of the President.

13th....Let such number of musicians be allowed to each Academy as the President shall direct.

14th....Let a Treasurer be authorized to each Academy who shall discharge his duties under such rules & regulations as the President shall direct and be subject to such penalties in case of default, as shall be prescribed by law.

15th....Let the Academies be entirely disconnected with any corps of the Army.

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Boston 29th May 1815

Dear General:

On my departure from New York, Col. McRee assured me that he should follow on the succeeding Friday - Why he has failed to do so I am at a loss to conjecture - The Squadron is ready for sea and if we are to go with it, Col. McRee must be here without delay- If circumstances should delay him at New York, it is important that he should send me the orders of the Secretary of the Navy directing us to report to Com'dore Bainbridge* as that paper is necessary to draw from the Com'dore his determination & in case we go with him to have time to make preparations accordingly - If you will have the goodness to mention this to Col. McRee you will save me the trouble of writing especially therefor - Com'dore B. (ainbridge) has been very civil to me & has said to others that we are to go out with him but I have not changed my desire to go out in a private vessel if that mode is practicable and will not cause delay - I am very desirous of being off soon as possible. That we may not lose the advantages which the present state of Europe offers for military improvement - To hear from yourself and Col. McRee as soon as convenient after the receipt of this will give me great satisfaction- I dined with Dr. Swift yesterday when the family were all well. Have the goodness to remember me respectfully to Mrs. Swift & Mrs. Adams. Believe me sincerely & respectfully yours S. THAYER
Brig Gen Swift

* See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift* to Alexander Dallas*¹

New York 31st May, 1815

Sir:

I have had the honor to receive your letter of 23d instant. No inconvenience has resulted from the purchase of the Bill on Amsterdam, as the price is advancing, & the Bill has been returned to the Drawer. I have made every effort in my power ('tho unsuccessful) to procure a letter of credit. The Merchants are unwilling to grant letters of Credit, even at the price of Bills of Exchange.

It would be a convenience to Col. McRee & Major Thayer, to know before their departure how and where they are to draw in Europe the requisite funds to purchase books, etc. I have the honor to be your very respectfully hum. sev't

J. G. SWIFT B. Gl.

To the Hon. Alexander J. Dallas

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM George Parkman* to Monsieur Michaux*

Boston June (4) -15 (1815)

Dear Michaux,

I present to you, Major Sylvanus Thayer, attached to the corps of engineers, of our Military Academy.

He means to collect in Paris etc, a military library for that Institution, any aid you may afford him will be much valued by Your Friend GEO. PARKMAN

* See Index

Michaux, place St. Michel no. 8 _____ Paris

FROM Lewis E. (Carné) to Opperman, Mandrot & Co.¹

Boston, 9 June 1815

Messrs Oppermann Mandrot & Co
Paris

Gentlemen:

At the request of the Honorable Wm Gray of this city, I am taking the liberty of introducing, with the highest recommendation possible, Colonel Macree and Major Thayer, Engineers in the American Army who are going to tour Europe for purposes related to their profession. Persuaded as I am of the pleasure that you will have in receiving these two officers, I shall limit my letter at this point to requesting, on their behalf, the usual courtesies and attention, and referring you to my letter of the 8th inst. dispatched by "The Panther".

Cordially, LEWIS E. (CARNE)

PS I should greatly appreciate your providing these gentlemen with letters for your friends in the provinces, in case they are interested in traveling about.

*See Index

¹ Original in French

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Boston, 9th June 1815

Dear General

Col. McRee arrived here last evening & just in season to save our passage in the (USS) Congress which will sail from this Port tomorrow-morning. I regret exceedingly his remissness in not calling for the Bill on Paris which I understand you held in readiness for him & which under our present circumstances would be of material importance to us. I have recently learned that it is extremely problematical whether Purser Badgers will be enabled to pay us as the order which he rec'd, to that effect was predicated on a belief that we should proceed to the Mediterranean where alone he would have funds at his disposal. Unluckily too Major Freeman* is absent from home so that I cannot avail myself of your kind assistance to procure for me my pay up to the expiration of this month. It is not, therefore, altogether improbable that we shall be placed in the very awkward situation of being pennyless in an foreign country. Col McRee is determined, however, to proceed at all hazards & rather than lose the present favorable opportunity I reluctantly consent to share his luck & therefore, we embark at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning. I hope to have the pleasure of finding a letter from you on my arrival at Paris or soon after. & I need not say how much I shall be gratified by being informed of all military occurrences here & particularly all the dispositions & arrangements which may be made or projected relative to our Corps. --

Have the goodness to remember me to Mrs. Swift & Mrs. Adams & believe me in true friendship Yours ever

S. THAYER

Major Gen'l Swift

*See Index

FROM William H. Crawford* to Geo. W. Erving*

On board the ship Neptune
at Sea 27th June 1815

My dear Sir

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance Col. McKrea (McRee) & Major Thayer of the army of the United States who intend to visit France in the course of the Summer with the view of Perfecting themselves in their Profession. Your acquaintance with the officers of the artillery and corps of Engineers, will enable you to be of great use, to these gentlemen, and I am too well acquainted with your disposition to forward the views of the government under whose auspices they act, to offer any other inducement to engage your good offices in their favor.

Mr. Jackson* will with pleasure (second) your efforts to procure them all the advantages which the excellent institutions and numerous fortified plans of France every where present. I am dear Sir with sincere Regard your most obt & very humble Servt. WM. H. CRAWFORD
(Erving - U.S. MINISTER, PARIS)

* See Index

(25 July 1815)

AUTHORIZATION to go to Paris, not stopping for longer than one night at any fortification, the bearer, upon arriving, will report within twenty-four hours to the Office of General Police.¹

25 July 1815

(signature illegible)
Commandant d'Armes
Camp Marshal

¹ Original in French

FROM Andrew Ellicott* to Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy West point
July 31st. 1815

Dear Sir/

On my return home from New York on Saturday last, to my great surprize I found the camp broken up, and understood that an order was issued by the commandant directing the professors, and assistants to attend the different schools - To this proceeding I object; because the law establishing the military academy prescribes at least three months for the Cadets to remain in camp, instead of which they were but twenty days! In this case the law is imperative, it leaves no discretion either to the commanding officer, or any other officer of government. - If the law has defects it can only be remedied by the law-making power, which consists of the house of representatives, the senate, and the President of the U. S. - It is an established maxim in legislation, that a law can only be altered, amended or repealed by the power by which it was enacted, that is, by the law-making power. - it therefore follows, that every section of the law establishing the military academy is obligatory upon every officer connected with the institution until the said law is either amended, altered or repealed. - Any individual who either alters, or changes the provisions of a law, assumes to himself the soveriegn authority of the nation, which is vested exclusively in the law-making power.

If the law establishing the military academy is found by experience to have defects, let it be amended; but until that is done, I consider myself bound not only to aid in carrying it into effect, but to support every provision contained in it. - As a member of the military academy, I wish this for the reasons above stated, to be considered my dissent to the measure of breaking up the Cadets camp in twenty days, when the law imperatively calls for ninety. - I likewise enter my dissent to winter vacations, and for the following reasons. - First, they do not appear to be established by law, and secondly the winter being found by experience to be best time in the year for study, and academic exercises, and therefore the season beyond all others when we should have no vacations. Under this impression, I have not only had no winter vacations myself in the mathematical department, but kept together as many students as I could prevail upon to stay, whose progress in their studies during that time has been at least equal to the other part of the year. -

I am anxious to see you, - be here as soon as possible.

yours sincerely ANDREW ELLICOTT

P. S.

Genl. Swift

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Paris, 10 October 1815

Dear General,

I have delayed writing you until now, as well, from not having anything of importance to communicate, as, from a daily expectation of hearing from you, if you did not intend to be here, shortly, in person, as we were somewhat induced to hope, at the time of our departure from the United States.

Your letters of the 10th August were received about a week since, thro' Mr. Jackson* our charge des affaires. After consulting Mr. Jackson, Mr. Warden* & all those from whom we were likely to derive correct information; I am sorry to be obliged to inform you that it will be impracticable to negotiate any bill, drawn by us, on the government. The principal difficulty arises from our not possessing any direct authority from the government; but on a contrary supposition, the discount would be enormous & much greater than you would be obliged to pay in the United States for a bill of exchange on a Banker here. Mr. Hottinguer,* the U.S. Banker at Paris, recommended, as the most feasible plan, and one which will save the cost of discount, that the Secretary of the Treasury (Alexander J Dallas)* should give an order for the specified sum on our Banker at Amsterdam. But whatever method you may choose to adopt, your letters should be directed under cover to Mr. Jackson. We regret exceedingly this unexpected difficulty as otherwise we could forward to you immediately an excellent collection of books & maps. Since our arrival we have (overhauled) the several military bookstores & have acquired a sufficient knowledge of their contents to make readily a good selection of mil. works. - We had an agreeable passage to Flushing where we landed on the 12th July and pursued our route thro' Burges Ghent & Lille to this capital where we arrived the 29th. The situation of this country, so different from our expectations, at the time of our departure from the United States must, for some time, oppose insurmountable obstacles to the pursuit of the principal objects of our tour. France is in every respect a conquered country & rigorously so treated. The Military Schools are suspended & their buildings occupied as Barracks. The Allies possess all the depots, arsenals & military workshops which have not been destroyed & occupy all the fortresses not in a state of siege or blockade. Excessive requisitions & contributions are levied on all the towns and departments. They seize all arms and munitions, public and private, and are stripping France of all future means of resistance. We fortunately arrived at Paris before the work of destruction & dispersion commenced & had the satisfaction to behold those splendid monuments of art, the united labor of so many ages & nations. Of the many thousand paintings which decorated the gallery of the Louvre, not more than 400 remain, and those most likely not deemed worthy of transpor-

tation. All the rest are dispersed thro Europe to ornament individual palaces & be lost to the arts. The celebrated Corinthian horses attached to the car of victory were a weeks' since removed from the Arch of Triumph in order to be transported to Venice or Vienna. The bas reliefs representing french victories have been effaced from the numerous monuments erected by Napoleon and every day witnesses some new act of robbery or destruction. You will ask what is the state of public feeling under these accumulated injuries but of this we have few means of judging beyond our own visual circle: It is said, however, that even the King's partizans begin to be alarmed at the conduct of their guests and openly to manifest dissatisfaction.

During many weeks after our arrival, serious disturbances occurred daily and not a night passed but the gardens of the Thuilleries (Tuileries) & vicinity of the Palace resounded with the cry of "Vivi l'Empereur". The wise and vigorous measures of the experienced Fouché* suppressed in a degree these disorders but even now the King rarely appears without being insulted notwithstanding the almost certain apprehension of offenders & the exemplary punishments daily inflicted. Not longer ago than last Sunday week when the King condescended to shew his royal person to the longing eyes of (as he thought) his loving subjects who had assembled under his windows, at the moment when he presented himself for the gratefull sounds of love & loyalty, the royal ears were most unmercifully outraged by the general shout of "Vivi Napoleon" A squabble ensued between the Buonapartists and some few royalists & the latter driven from the field before a detachment of English troops could arrive to their assistance. He was greeted in similar manner on the 6th instant as he passed the Place de Carousal (Carrousel) on his way to the Metropolitan Church to celebrate mass with his Peers & Deputies. These facts will tend to shew the spirit which reigns here & which if not checked by foreign force would, I am persuaded, again compell the King to seek refuge in Great Britain & to finish his reign where he commenced it. Everybody is waiting in painfull suspense to know the terms of the treaty which the king has promised to communicate as soon as it shall have received its last form. In the meantime public opinion agrees in attributing to it the most humiliating conditions for France - before quitting the subject of politics I will relate anecdote which has recently occasioned both indignation & sport among the Parissioners. It seems that my grace the Duke of Wellington* on going to the theatre a few nights since & finding all the private boxes engaged ordered the female box keeper to admit him into the Kings box. No sooner had my grace made his entrance than he caught the regards of all who feeling the insult as offered to the Nation, made the house ring with tumultinous cries of "a bas les Anglais" "Vivi le roi" "a bas les Anglais" which ceased not or abated until the hero of Waterloo made his retreat & sneaked home. Since our arrival at Paris we have had few other opportunities for military observation than those afforded by the several reviews of

Russian, Prussian, English, Austrian & other Allied troops in this Vicinity. Ill health prevented me from accompanying Col. McRee to the Grand Russian Review at Vertus where more than 100,000 troops maneuvered before the Emperor. The number of Allied troops which have entered France cannot be calculated with accuracy but they certainly amount to more than 700 thousand. General Scott* has been here some days.- Col. Drayton* is also here. America's old friend, Gen. LaFayette* has shared the fate of all those patriots & men of principle who are not either imprisoned or banished & has once more retired from the political world. His department were desirous of reelecting him to the present house of Deputies but the Electoral Colledge were duly informed that in such case 40,000 additional prussian troops would be quartered among them. ---

Our money affaires are by no means flourishing altho we received at Flushing our advanced pay up to the 1^t July 1816 - Our expenses whether traveling or stationary far exceed all our previous calculations & a stranger cannot avoid being cheated let him be so vigilant. We have at length fixed ourselves in a way to live with some economy but not untill having reduced our cash to from 1/2 to 1/3 its original amount. My health not being entirely reestablished I have been obliged to recur to medical aid and this again has made considerable demands on my purse. All our hopes rest now on the chance of obtaining in the Spring another years pay in advance - Should you adopt the mode advised by Mr. Hottinguer to supply us with funds for the Academy; would it be practicable to have our next years pay included say 3000 dollars to be paid to our order after the 1^t July 1816? On the subject of Military Academies we can give you at present no valuable information. When those establishments shall again renew their operations, we shall not delay to visit them & to communicate our observations. We have not been able to find a single practical treatise on permanent fortifications other than the Science of Engineers of which there has been published a new edition, reviewed and augmented with notes, but little improved as to practical utility - I trust that a future acquaintance with some of the Corps will procure us important information on this head. I believe Col. McRee is now engaged in writing to you - I shall write again shortly & availing myself of the indulgence or rather encouragement you have always given me to express freely my opinions however crude, I shall present some ideas on the future improvement of our Corps.

Have the goodness to make my best respects to Mrs. Swift & the rest of your family present. I am Dear Sir with great respect & attachment Yours S. THAYER
Brig. Genl. Joseph G. Swift

N.B. Will you do me the favor to direct some enquiries to me made of a Trunk which I deposited at West head battery under the charge of Lieut. Bartlett* who promised to deliver it at Campbell's Bookstore whence Capt. (Alden) Partridge* was to remove it to West Point for safe keeping -- This trunk contains some valuable books & papers S. T.

This letter I enclose in a package containing Two reports of Fouché to the King (Louis XVIII)* & a military catalogue. The whole under cover directed to the Adjut. & Insp. Genl. & left with Mr. Jackson for him to forward.

FROM Christopher Van Deventer* to Alden Partridge*

Head Qrs Engr Department.
New York March 19th 1816

Sir,

Enclosed you will find a General order which prescribes the duties of the officers of the corps of Engineers for the year 1816. Very respectfully I have the honor to be Sir,
your mos obt Servt By order CH. VAN DEVENTER A.D.camp -
Capt. A. Partridge West Point

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift* to Alden Partridge*

West Point 8th April 1816

Sir,

Cadet Geo. W. Fairfax* has by permission of the Sec. War resigned his appt. - Wilson M. C. Fairfax* has been appointed a Cadet & will join the Academy immediately after the next Vacation.

Cadet Ringold* has resigned by permission of the Sec. War. I enclose Mr. Berrymans letter, Cadet Berryman* can be furlough'd for the purposes you have intimated to his Father - You will please advise him upon the subject soon. -

Lieut. G. W. Gardiner* of the Artillery will report himself to you by order of the Sec. War Lt. G. Wishes to study at this place - I am very Respectfully J. G. SWIFT Insp.
Capt. A. Partridge

*See Index

FROM David B. Douglass* and John Wright* to Alden Partridge*

West Point May 13th 1816

Sir

Pursuant to your order of the 11th inst. we proceeded this afternoon to investigate the circumstances of the insult complained of by Dr. Walsh in his note to you of the 6th Instant. the result of our inquiries are given at as follows --

Doct. Walsh being present states. -- that on 6th Inst. he was passing by the West End of the new Barracks when he heard something apparently thrown from the window above pass his head. (it was a round of a chair) which struck the Earth within a few feet of him - he looked up and saw a Gentr-Cadet whose name he did not know in the act of retreating from the Window & whose motion gave the idea he was the one who threw the stick. The room was that of Cadets Ragland* Washington* Talcott* & Wallace*. and both windows were open. He (the Doct) took up the Stick and inquired who quartered in the room. whence it was thrown upon calling the 2nd or 3d time the same gentleman looked out and answered he knew nothing about the Stick - it was neither of the gentlemen who quartered in the room that gave this answer. He (the Doct) then went up to the room but on knocking was not admitted the gentleman within calling "busy" it was during study hours--- Questions to Doct Walsh by Cadet Ragland,
Quest. 1st. Do you believe that I have ever been inimical to you
Ans. I do not

Quest 2nd Did no persons belonging to the room answer you when you addressed us. -

Ans. A Gentleman in the room gave the answer as I mentioned before in a very unbecoming manner - It is my impression that it was neither of the Gentr whom I have since discovered as belonging to the room --

Quest. 3d Did only one answer you -

Ans. I believe only one --

Quest 4th Did you ask your question when you addressed the Gentr in room in an Officer like manner

Ansd. (volunturily) I addressed the room in a Gentlemanly and polite manner -

Quest. 5th. how long have you known me

Ans. I have no acquaintance with you

Quest. 6th Have I ever treated you improperly

Ans. never,

Quest. 7th Did you see Mr. Talcott in the window

Ans. I think I did,

Cadet Lagnell* was then called at the request of Doctor Walsh. recollects seeing the Stick fall near the Doct. at the time mentioned it appeared to come from the room of Cadets Ragland Washington Wallace & Talcott. but cannot Say --- saw the Doct take up the Stick and address the gentlemen in the room heard no answer. articles are frequently thrown out the windows of the Barracks and this may have been thrown by accident ---

Statement of Cadet Ragland --

I admit having thrown the Stick mentioned in the complaint of Dr. Walsh but I did not see Doct Walsh at the time ---

Statement of Cadet Wallace --

I went to the window when Dr Walsh called

I do not recollect the words made use of by him --

Quest by Doctor Walsh) Did my manner evidence ungentlemanlike deportment?

Ans. I cannot say - you appeared to be in a passion. Cadet
Talcott states he was not in the room at the time, -----
All which is Respy. Submitted D B DOUGLASS Bvt. Capt.
JNO WRIGHT Lieut Engr.

*See Index

FROM John Wright* to Alden Partridge*

West Point, May 14th 1815 ¹/₂ i.e. 1816

Sir

Enclosed is the proceeding of the Inquiry into the complaint of Doct Walsh no opinion is given, the Statements are barely submitted - JNO WRIGHT Lt Engrs
P.S. my accompanying letter will explain why I gave no opinion upon the Case J WRIGHT

*See Index

FROM Daniel Parker*

Adj. & Insp-Genl's Office
May 22nd. 1816

Sir:

If the opportunities to accomplish the objects which carried you to Europe, are less favourable than had been anticipated - you will return and report yourself at this Office. By Order. I have the honor to be Sir your Obt Servt. D. PARKER Adj & Insp Genl
Major S. Thayer U. States Army

* See Index

FROM Christopher VanDeventer (?) *1

H. Qrs. Eng's Department
New York June 4th, 1816

Dear Friends:

By the Peacock, Capt. Rogers, I send you a letter from Gen'l (Joseph G.) Swift* covering bills of Exchange for nearly \$8000 - one from Major (John J.) Abert*, a number of newspapers and a packet from Mr. (Ferdinand) Hassler*.

Herewith, you will receive a copy of a letter from the Department of War deciding the postponement of any new and important Fortification until the arrival from France of a distinguished Engineer who shall revise and alter the plans already approved by the Government, and, to execute them. Appropriations have been made by Congress, General Swift's answer is enclosed. The letter from the War Department contains views and principles insulting to the General Swift and ruinous to the Corps he commands. To gentlemen of your nice feelings of honor & propriety, I need say but little to expose the evils to the service and the wrongs to Engineer Officers which will flow from the system of withdrawing confidence from American talent and exposing it exclusively in the presumption of adventurers. Nor need I detain you to portray the injuries, such a course will inflict on the Mil'y reputation of our Academy and particularly on those who have sprung from that institution. The truth is, the Government is hostile to an Army - and the Corps of Engineers having done more and deserved more both from its achievements and abilities, it becomes necessary for their purpose, to degrade it. The nation have uniformly made this corps an exception from the censure bestowed on the Army; and all parties seemed to unite in acknowledging the necessity of educating the most promising youths in the country to the higher grade of the Military profession. Whenever the Army has been assailed for ignorance and deficiency in Science, the Corps of Engineers have always been excepted. To it the friends of a respectable Army have constantly pointed as a proof of the usefulness of well educated officers. The Government will no longer exempt it from the degradation and disgrace awarded the American Soldier by its ungrateful policy. One would suppose our Government would profit by experience - and recurring to the events of the Revolutionary War would determine against the employment of exotic talent. At that period it naturally looked to our allies for means to supply the deficiency - and what with a sense of our weakness and gratitude to France for her profer of aid, we were amost frantic in our _____ for & admiration of French Eng's. and French soldiery, - how greivously were they disappointed! The confidence of Congress, the liberality of the Nations was requited by intrigue and _____ against the immortal Washington. What were the great achievements of Conway, the principal of French Engineers? He lately leagued with foreigners & discontented natives to supplant the commander in chief and thereby defeat the object of our glorious struggle, Independence! Can we expect anything more favourable from adventurers of this day - adventurers raised in the School of Ambition, and practiced in the ways of overturning order and system in the country where they serve - Their ambition was to enslave, not to make free the oppressed. - their object was power and aggrandisement - & this is the aim of all adventurers - exalt themselves by supplanting native worth. How long shall we be exempt from the _____ which will inevitably accompany the

encouragement of men who, far from being grateful that we notice them at all, will immediately conspire to obtain full control in the department in which they shall be employed? American officers will then have no weight - because French opinions will be all in all with our rulers, and we know enough of French or irish modesty in America to guess the result - Our Government seems pre nay determined to prefer Frenchmen! They are already the idols of our War Minister - and with such a disposition with employer, the employed must be novices indeed if they do not become "Lords of the Ascendant"!

Gen'l Swift has begun to oppose it as you will preceive by his letter to the Secretary. As far as we have heard, all the officers will oppose it - a remonstrance will be made in form against it - should the government persist, the General will resign. He has engaged with Gen'l (Robert) Swartwout* & others in a foundry for cannons, etc. which now bids fair to be a profitable business - if it succeeds as is now expected - he will make a good exchange from the Mil'y to the Civil life. Will others of you obtain the best works on foundries, castings, etc. and forward it as early as possible to the Gen'l.

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM Harvey Brown* to Alden Partridge*.

West Point July 2^d. 1816

Sir

I was, this morning, under the necessity of putting Mr Pickens* (one of the Guard) under guard for threatening the officer of the day. whilst in the discharge of his duty.

The particulars, as near as I can find out are, as follows. Mr. Wooley (off. of the day) ordered Mr. P. then on post to let, the two police officers, pass to their breakfast, the centinel told him he had a good mind not to let them pass. and that the officer of the day did not know his duty;

After he came off post Mr W. said something to him about it; when he answered that if he (Mr W) was not on duty he would give him a threshing, and that had a good mind to do it as it was. I just then came to the guard tent. and ordered Mr Pickens under guard.

The Adj't & Mr Keppele* were present at the time, and they probably know the circumstance more particularly than I have related them. I have the honour to be Sir, your most obt. H. BROWN off. Gd.
A. Partridge Capt S.M.A.

*See Index

FROM Alden Partridge* to the Corps of Cadets

United States Military Academy, West Point
July 4th 1816

Orders

This being the anniversary of American Independence, the following order and arrangements for the duties and exercises of the day will be adopted.

1st National Salutes will be fired at Sunrise at Meridian & at Sunset. A federal salute will be fired at 10 O'clock A M.

2d The Procession will be formed on the Parade ground, in front of the Cadets Camp at 11 o'clock A M in the following order.

1st The Military Band

2d The Drums & fifes

3d The 2d Company of Cadets (in files) preceded by the Company officers with side Arms.

4th The 1st. Company of Cadets in the same order as the 2d.

5th The committee of Arrangement.

6th Officers of the Corps of Engineers & also Officers of the Line attached to the Military Academy.

7th The Chaplain of the Military Academy attended by Cadet Benjn Vining*, bearing the declaration of Independence.

8th The Academic Staff.

9th Gentlemen attending by Invitation

The Procession (thus formed) will move from the Parade ground to the Cadets Hall, where the Declaration of Independence will be read by Cadet Vining, & a discourse delivered by the Chaplain. The whole preceded & concluded with appropriate airs performed by the Band. The exercises being completed, the procession will return to the Parade Ground (the Companies of Cadets in reverse order) when they will be dismissed.

3d The Procession will be again formed at 3 o'clock, P M, on the Ground and in the order already specified, when it will proceed to the Bowery erected for Dining, where the whole will be seated agreeably to such orders as shall have been prescribed by the committee of arrangement. In the evening there will be an exhibition of Rockets. Cadet Harvey Brown* is appointed to superintend this exercise, & will be assisted by Cadets Roumfort* & Kepple*. It is confidently expected that the utmost order & regularity will prevail amongst the young gentlemen of the Military Academy during the celebration of this Day, so dear to the feelings of every American & so important in its consequences to the interests of mankind. A PARTRIDGE Capn S M A

(Copy)

*See Index

FROM Christopher Van Deventer* to Alden Partridge*

(July 10th. 1816)

Sir,

I enclose you the regulations defining the course of education etc at West Point also an order from the Adjut & In Genl. respecting cadets etc.

Mr. Halsey will deliver the packet to you.

I have the honor to be Sir, with respect your obt Servt.

C VAN DE VENTER A.D. Camp

July 10th 1816

Capt. A Partridge

*See Index

FROM David B. Douglass* to Col. Thomas Aspinwall*
W. A. Trimble* to Col. Thomas Aspinwall

Mil. Acad. West Point
July 29 1816

My Dear Sir:

I send you herewith two copies of the "Siege and Defence of Fort Erie", which I have held myself responsible for ever since you parted from me at Williamsville-- I regret that I could not send them to you before you left this country but with all my exertions to hasten the engraving I could not get it done in season for that purpose.-- I flatter myself however that they will not be much less interesting to you on that account, for I think no man who bore any part in that memorable struggle could easily forget it; I am sure you could not, time and space to the contrary notwithstanding.

I beg leave to introduce to your acquaintance my friend Mr. Thomas Barlow* (nephew to our late minister of Paris) who hands you this. He visits London in his way from France to this country and any attentions which it may be in your power to pay him during his stay there will be particularly gratifying to me-- It will be unnecessary for me to say more in his behalf as his amiable manners will immediately recommend him to your friendship and kind offices.

I need not say how much I should be pleased to hear from you by him and by any conveyance which from time to time may fall in your way.

I have very little in the way of hearing news lately; I believe there is not much stirring & the little there is will probably be an old story with you before this reaches you. I remain Yours Truly D. B. DOUGLASS
Col. T. Aspinwall

Trimble is here and in good health but he shall speak for himself DBD

It affords me great pleasure to have an opportunity of adding a few words to this letter.

Had it been in my power to communicate any thing which would entertainment or information I would have placed in the form of a letter. With the most sincere wishes for your prosperity & hapiness. I remain your friend W. A. TRIMBLE

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Paris, 12 August 1816

Sir:

I have the pleasure to introduce to you Mr. Theobald Wolf Tone* late an officer of light Cavalry & aid de camp in the French Army. He goes to the United States with a view of becoming our fellow citizen & as he will arrive at your port I beg leave to recommend him most cordially to your friendly attentions.

I will not speak of the estimable qualities of Captain Tone as you will not fail to discover them on a short acquaintance. His intelligence on Military subjects will particularly interest you because altho' young, he is already a veteran soldier & has served with distinction in the last campaigns of the Grand Army.

You will obtain from him all the information you can desire relative to the Military Schools of France with which he is perfectly well acquainted. I am Dear General with great respect & esteem Yours etc. S. THAYER
Brig Genl. J. G. Swift, Comm^{dt}. U. S. Corps Engrs.

*See Index

TO (Joseph G. Swift)*

Paris 12th August 1816

Dear General:

I have an opportunity of writing a few lines by General Bernard* who leaves Paris to-morrow for the United States. The information contained in your letters by the Peacock relative to the proceedings of Congress & of the Secretary of War could not but excite our astonishment in the highest degree. A similar treatment was least of all to be expected immediately after a War in which the Corps has never lost an occasion to distinguish itself. And I believe uniformly merited and received the approbation, & in many instances the applause of the army & government. Had we, on the contrary, rendered no services, had our conduct even cast a stigma on the Academy & nation, we could not have merited a more ignominious treatment. I am consoled however, by the belief that is beyond the power of that hon'ble Secretary to disgrace us, and that our standing must depend entirely on ourselves. The spirit of the Corps together with its unanimity will bid defiance to his malice. Major Van Deventer* intimated that you intended to resign. Such an event would, I fear, be an irretrievable blow to the prospects of the Corps. It would be considered by the Sec'y as incitory and induce him to persevere. I should despair of success unless by the momentum of our united forces. If resignation becomes necessary it will be as the last resort and should be done by the whole corps in a body. As to General Bernard I believe him a most worthy gentleman, at least his appearance corresponds with his character which is that of a most amiable man and an officer of distinguished talents. I am disposed to believe that his conduct will be extremely conciliating & that he will avoid any interference with the Corps, but it is difficult to say what changes the Sec'y may produce in his present dispositions.

We have nearly completed the purchase of books & maps for the Academy. The former are now at the bookbinders & all will be ready for transportation the beginning of next month. The books which you have commanded for yourself will be found among this number. For want of sufficient funds we are obliged to postpone the purchase of many articles which would be eminently useful. Such as models of the most difficult parts of the coupe des pierres at Charpente exhibiting the details of the workmanship & construction of (_____hes), roofs, domes, etc. There is deposited at the several arsenals of construction in France a work drawn up under the direction of the celebrated Gribauval* called tables of construction for the artillery. It consists of three large quarto volumes of tables accompanied with designs so that there is not a dimension in all the Artillery constructions from the handle of the wheel-barrow to the nail of gun carriages which is not to be found in the tables and represented in the plates. You will readily conceive of what utility a similar work would be in our country. The price of it is the expense of having it copied which is estimated at two thousand francs for the tables & about a like sum for the plates. If you desire us to procure these objects it will be necessary to forward us an additional sum of two or three thousand dollars in bills of exchange on London. I say in Bills of Exchange on London

because in that case we would appropriate the ballance of what we now have for the above objects & reserve the additional draft for the books, instruments, etc, which we are to procure in England. Should this remittance be effected, I desire permission to reserve the sum of three hundred dollars for myself which will not be more than the just claims which I shall have on the government. We shall shortly apply for permission to (visit) such of the military establishments as may be worthy of our attention & shall probably leave Paris again sending off the books - It is our intention to pass into England early in the Spring & be ready to embark for the United States by the month of May unless we receive further instructions. Col. McRee (after) various attempts is I believe at length _____ engaged in writing you & will I presume give you details for which I have not time by the present opportunity. Be pleased to remember me very affectionately to Mrs. Swift & the rest of your family. I am
Very respectfully & Sincerely yours S. THAYER
N.B. Enclosed is the receipt for last bill of exchange.
Major Fanning* is here & desires to be remembered to you.
To Gen'l. Swift from Paris on 12 Aug 1816

*See Index

FROM Louise Pranjué*

Paris 16 August 1816

My dear Sir,

With deepest of regret and after mature reflection only, upon the subject of your most recent entreatie, I transmit herewith my firmest, albeit tardy, regrets.

I am yours with due regards and esteem, LOUISE PRANJUÉ

*See Index

FROM Alden Partridge*

West Point Sept. 7th 1816

Orders

The french* Classes will meet at 11 o'clock to day in Mr. Ellicotts recitation-room - bringing their Books with them- Every one must attend. The practice of going to the meals without marching must cease. Every one must be on the ground in time to fall in with his Squad. The squads must not be formed until the drum has done beating at the New- Barracks. The practice amongst some of the Cadets of going about the Mess-house before the flag is put out and looking in at the windows must immediately cease. After meals the squads must all be marched (in order) back to the Parade ground (where they were formed, - and there be dismissed. A. PARTRIDGE Capt. S.M.A.

*See Index

FROM William H. Crawford* to Joseph G. Swift*

Department of War
Sept. 9th. 1816.

Sir,

The consideration of the opinion of the court of enquiry lately instituted for the investigation of certain charges exhibited to this department against Capt. (Alden) Patridge*, has led to a strict examination of the laws regulating the military academy. This examination has produced the conviction, that the principal officer of the corps of Engineers, and, in his absence, the next in rank, can alone exercise the office of superintendent of that institution. The injunctions of the law, and the interest of the Academy, equally require that this superintendence shall be exercised by an officer residing permanently at the place. This view of the subject seems to have influenced the person who framed the late regulations which created the office of inspector of the academy, and conferred the superintendence upon an officer not qualified by law, to discharge the duties of that station. By these regulations, the superintendence was to be exercised immediately, and in person, by the officer upon whom it was conferred; but his conduct was subjected to the controul of a power not known to the law, by interposing between him and the War department, the authority of the inspector. In changing the practice under the existing laws, no censure is intended against the officers under whose administration that practice had been sanctioned, either directly or indirectly. The triple violation of the law contained in those regulations, ought to be excused, and possibly justified by the public exigencies during the war, which required from the corps of Engineers services which could not be performed by the small number of officers of which it was composed. When the country was invaded at the same time, in different directions, by powerful and well appointed armies, it is manifest, that the principal officers of ~~that~~ corps could be more usefully employed than in superintending the military academy: But the departure from the requirements of the law should cease with the emergency which produced it. Upon the return of peace, it is the duty of an enlightened and patriotic government to review the measures for the purpose of correcting abuses which may have been introduced, either unintentionally, or under the plea of imperious necessity; and to endeavor, as far as practicable, to reduce them, if not within the letter, at least within the intention of the law.

The opinion of the court of enquiry furnishes additional reasons for their review in the affairs of the academy, independent of those of a general nature, which have just been enumerated. In this review, it is not necessary to enquire into the wisdom or expediency of the existing laws. It is their execution which must now occupy the attention of the executive government. Where the law is explicit, its injunctions must be obeyed. The Academy must therefore be superintended by the principal officer of the Corps of Engineers, or by the next in rank.

The prosperity of the institution requires that the superintendence should be as permanent as the provisions of the law, liberally construed with a view to effect that object, will permit. The Superintendent, whether in the person

of the principal officer, or in that of the next in rank, will be permanently stationed at West point, and will be superceded in his command only by the immediate orders of this department. It is an indulgence which appears to be reasonable, that the principal officer of that corps should have the power of electing whether he will superintend the Academy, or devote himself wholly to the more appropriate duties of the Corps. This election is therefore tendered to you. Should you decline the Superintendence, Colo. McRea (William McRee)*, the next in rank, will be ordered upon that service. The terms of the law, if confined to lineal rank, would exclude Colo. McRea; but it is believed, that the construction of the law may properly embrace brevet rank, especially in relationship to the corps of Engineers, where brevet rank, pay and emoluments, are almost invariably operative. In the event of your declining the permanent superintendence, I would suggest the expediency of your assuming the temporary charge of the Academy, for the purpose of introducing the most perfect order, as well as to enable you to communicate to Colo. McRea, on his arrival, all the information necessary to the discharge of the duties of Superintendent, with the highest degree of usefulness to the institution, and of honor to the nation.

In either event, the time when it will be convenient for you to repair to the Academy, must be communicated to this department.

I have the honor to be, Your most Obedt. & very humble servant,
WM H CRAWFORD
Brig General Joseph G. Swift, New York.

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift* to Alden Partridge*

Brooklyn 10 Sept. 1816

Sir,

I enclose you the orders which came to hand yesterday relative to Cadets Uniform. The Sec. War (William Crawford) has made complaints of seeing Cadets in Staff Dresses etc. the young men must have them altered to Citizens cloths & the order must be rigidly enforced, - You will perceive that no undress is allowed. - I enclose (McKessons's)* resignation.

I am with much respect Your hum. Svt. J. G. SWIFT
Capt. Partridge

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift* from William McRee

Paris 14 September 1816

My dear Sir:

A letter that should have no object than to introduce General Bernard* to your acquaintance, would perhaps appear altogether useless; and to request of you those attentions in his behalf that I know you will certainly render without, - would be misplaced. - But I cannot forgo the satisfaction of adding to those claims upon your esteem, that you will find in the general; and to inform you how much the American Officers in Paris (any myself most) are indebted to his obliging politeness and friendly-offices in aiding our enquiries and facilitating the means of acquiring a portion of the information that we seek for.

General Bernard has promised me to explain to you the nature and value of some models, that you will most probably deem proper to have procured for the Academy; and concerning which I shall be glad to receive your instructions. I allude to the models of Carpentry and Stonecuttings with the designs, and legends and explanations that accompany them; and which constitute the system that is, (or was) taught at the École Polytechnique on constructions in wood and stone. These models are in wood and plaster and the designs and legends are in manuscript. General Bernard has been so obliging as to make me acquainted with the Professor of descriptive Geometry at the Ecole, by whose aid a complete set can be obtained. But six months are required to execute them.

I shall have the satisfaction before long, of writing to you at large upon our proceedings, and expectations. In the meanwhile I must request you to preserve the absent in your remembrance - whose friendship and esteem are not less, for not being oftener tendered - I have the honor to be your most obt svt. W. MCREE

*See Index

FROM Mr. & Mme. Gallatin*

(October 8 1816)

Mr. & Mme. Gallatin, prient Major Thayer de leur faire l'honneur de venir diner chez eux le Mercredi 16 du courant à 6 heures.

R.S.V.P.

The favor of an answer is requested

Rue de l'Université, No. 21.

Mardi 8 Octobre 1816

* See Index

FROM William H. Crawford* to Joseph G. Swift*

Department of War, Oct. 21. 1816.

Sir,

You have not yet elected to reside permanently at West-Point, or to devote yourself wholly to the more appropriate duties of your profession.

Whether that election is made before the return of Colonel (William) McRee* or not, I have been charged by the President to direct, that the Professors of the Academy be confined exclusively to their duties as Professors, and restrained from interfering in any manner with the military exercises of the Academy.

This direction must be considered as imperative. I have the honor to be, yr. mo: obt. & very humb. Servant,

WM. H. CRAWFORD

Joseph G. Swift, Brig. Genl. by Bvt.

*See Index

FROM: Alden Partridge* to USCC*

West Point October 27th 1816

Orders:

It is with the deepest regret that my duty compels me at this time to come forward, and publicly to notice, and publicly expose the recent conduct of Cadet John C. Pickens,* and also of some other - Cadets belonging to the Military Academy. Cadet Pickens, it appears, went on the Evening of the 21st Instant, without permission, to Esquire Norths*- that while there he engaged in a quarrel with one of the Mechanics employed on the publick Buildings at this Place, by the name of Clarke, whom he struck with a stick which he had in his hand and against whom he also threatened to draw his stick - it also appears that the quarrel was prevented from becoming more serious by the intervention of some third Persons who put a Stop to it. When Cadet Pickens was asked by me on the following day, whether he had been at Esquire Norths the preceding Evening, he utterly denied the fact declaring he had not been there, at that time, ~~and that he had not had any difficulty~~ and this he continued to deny until the fact was proved against him, when he acknowledged. That a young man bearing the honorable title of Cadet, and wearing the Uniform of the United States Military Academy, should be guilty of conduct so unbecoming his Station - of Conduct so dishonorable, is truly astonishing, and what I should not have believed without the clearest Proof. Had Cadet Pickens been merely gone to Esquire North's without leave, or had he even quarrelled in consequence of his going there for this conduct there might perhaps have been some palliation, though there could be no excuse; but for asserting a downright falsehood there can be ~~none~~ neither palliation nor excuse. I cannot believe that a young man guilty of such Conduct as that of which Cadet Pickens has been convicted, can be considered as a fit member of the Military Academy and but I am fully convinced that justice and the reputation of the Institution require that he should be immediately sent therefrom. One consideration and one alone prevents this from being immediately done. I know Cadet Pickens to be at a great distance from his Parents and relatives, and have reason to believe that he is destitute of the means of bearing his expences home, were he at this time ordered away. To (turn) him in this situation into the world might appear to indicate a want of humanity, and is what I cannot consistent with my feelings perform. Cadet Pickens will therefore remain at this Place, suspended from the academy until some further arrangements shall be made relative to him-- The other case which I shall notice at present is that of Cadet F. A. Underhill.* Cadet Underhill it appears went to Esquire Norths on the same Evening that Cadet Pickens was there, for the purpose of a purchasing some Brandy to carry to his room in the Barracks, and that while there he was engaged in a quarrel

with a Citizen whom he struck or by other means injured, with his Sword. The cases of Cadets Underhill and Pickens, are very similar, except that Cadet Underhill has not been guilty of asserting any falsehood - he also appears to be very Sensible of his Errors, and although I can see no sufficient excuse for his conduct, in this instance, yet I feel a confidence that he will not be guilty of the like again, and that his future conduct will be such as to completely eradicate any unfavourable impression which may have been made concerning him. Before I conclude I would repeat to the young Gentlemen of the Military Academy what I have before often observed - That no species of immoral or ungentlemanlike conduct will in any case ever be countenanced by me - With the foibles incident to youth, I will bear as much as any Person, but with vicious actions I will make no compromise. A. PARTRIDGE Capt S.M.A.

* See Index

FROM Daniel Parker* to Alden Partridge*

Adj. & Insp. Genl. office,
28th October 1816.

Sir,

I have shown your letter relative to uniform to the Secretary of War (William H. Crawford) - There appears to be no difficulty relative to the Jeans & Russia duck pantaloons, the former it is presumed will only be worn on particular occasions the common summer pantaloons will be the Russia sheeting.

As the Cadets when attached to companies will have the uniform of officers, there can be no advantage in their wearing capes at the Academy - Convenience & economy are the principal objects of their uniform - I have the honour to be
Sir Your obdt Servt

D. PARKER

A & I Genl

Capt. A. Partridge Corps of Engineers West Point, N. Y.

*See Index

FROM George Graham* to Joseph G. Swift*

(Copy)

Department of War, 29th October, 1816.

Sir,

Your letter of the inst. has been received. The mode of punishing the Cadets at the military academy for misconduct, has hitherto been left to the discretion of the superintendent, and this department has expressed no opinion by which, that discretion has been limited; and if, as has been represented, a great relaxation has taken place in the discipline and police of the Academy, it cannot be attributable to the interference, in that respect, of this department. This subject, however, will, on your arrival at West Point, call for the prompt exercise of your best judgment, and whatever may be the modes of punishment adopted, the punishment itself, should be prompt, and apportioned to the offence. All punishment must necessarily partake of disgrace; but in such an institution as the military academy, composed of the sons of the most respectable families of the country, and many of whom are destined to fill the highest military stations in the army, they should not be degrading: as partaking of this nature, the officers of the court of Enquiry, which lately sat at West Point, have properly censured the mode of punishment, "by confinement in the black hole." Cashiering should be resorted to; and it is probable that, in order to restore promptly, that discipline and subordination which are indispensable for the preservation and honor of the institution, you will find it necessary, in the commencement of your administration, to have frequent recourse to this mode of punishment.

Among other things, the situation and preservation of the public property, will call for your early attention, on your arrival at West Point, and particularly the preservation and proper application of the timber on the public lands, which, it is understood, has been much pillaged by the neighbours, and used without proper restraints, by persons attached to the military academy. How far the timber on the public lands could be resorted to, for the present or future supply of fuel for the Academy, should be a subject of Enquiry and of strict regulation. An effort will be made during the next session of Congress, to obtain an authority to appoint an assistant quarter master, to be permanently stationed at the Point; in the meantime, could not the public property be placed under the immediate charge of some officer, for its preservation.

To enable the Cadets to make such an advance to the Steward, as may be necessary to procure in proper season, a sufficient supply of provisions for a winter session, I have requested Mr. Brent*, to furnish Lieut. Leslie* with a sum equal to the amount of rations, to which each cadet would be entitled, for three months; and I have to request, that you will take care, that this sum be advanced under such regulations, as will secure its proper application, to the object contemplated.

I have the honor to be etc. etc. (Signed) GEORGE GRAHAM
B. Genl. Joseph G. Swift. New York.

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift* to William H. Crawford*¹

6 Nov 1816

Sir:

I have lately rec'd from Col. McRee & Major Thayer they had on 14 Sept. nearly completed the purchase, etc. which they were to make in France. They propose visiting Engl'd where they wish to procure a few rare books & maps - They do not expect to reach the U. S. before May next. I have rec'd reports (receipts) from Col. McRee & Major Thayer bills remitted them amt'g to _____\$7526.65. The balance of the \$8888 rec'd last Feb'y has been expended in premiums or Bills purchased, books already. Five dollars in my hands as will appear upon the account when rendered.

Col. McRee & Major Thayer are very desirous of procuring the models of stone cutting & Carpentry as used at the Polytechnique School - Also they wish to have copied in France the great work of Gribeauval called tables and designs of construction for the Artillery in 3 Vol. 4 to. - I think it highly advisable to procure the above & if approved I _____ must request that \$3000 be remitted to Col. McRee and Major Thayer to enable them to procure this work in addition some valuable books, also maps from England.

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing

FROM William McRee* to Joseph G. Swift*

Paris, 18. December 1816

Dear Sir,

Major Thayer and myself have placed in the hands of Mr. Carnes*, Mercht. of Boston, Seven boxes of books, charts marked U.S. and numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7,; to be shipped on board the Minerva-Smith, for New York, to your address. - Mr. Carnes will have the bills of lading forwarded to you from Havre.

These boxes contain between nine & ten hundred volumes besides the charts. In each box will be found a list of the books contained in it. As they were sent off rather in a hurry, it is possible that some books, noted to be in one box, may have been packed up, and will be found some other. A copy of these lists are inclosed herewith.

Our disbursements on account of the Academy amount to near 19,000, francs, including expenses; viz: about 10,500 for the purchase of books; - 3,500 for the charts; and 4,500, for the binding stamping &c. But in this amount is included the value of some 60, or a 100, volumes, that could not be got ready time enough to be sent off with the rest; and remain on hand.

It appears then, that the price of these books one with another is ten francs a vol. and the binding -- five. This statement however, is of course merely approximative; and is only intended to give an idea, until we can obtain the proper accounts from the bookseller a set of which will immediately be sent on.

It is proper that I should say give some explanation about the binding. In the above estimate, I have supposed the number of volumes, that have been bought ready-bound, not to exceed two hundred; and that eight hundred were purchased un-bound, in Pamphlet-form; which gives the result of five francs for the binding. - We thought it preferable to purchase them stitched in this manner, in order to have them bound afterwards, according to instructions. This plan has not been an economical one as to the prices. But as most of the works forming the collection, contained a large number of plates on the proper arrangement of which, would depend in a great measure their preservation, & in part, their utility; we conceived the advantages to be gained fully worth the additional expence. - These advantages, consist chiefly in having the plates, uniformly placed at the end of the volume, - each plate pasted on a blank sheet, and unfolding entirely out of the book: by which means you read with the whole plate constantly before you, and the vol. is bound full, and as compactly as if it contained none. - We did not succeed however, in having them all arranged in this manner. Our directions, were contrary to the practice of the workmen, and therefore badly attended to in the beginning; and a number of volumes were bound in the usual manner, before it was discovered, and are much inferior to the rest.

We have run into another expence that does not appear quite so justifiable. - After a good deal of grave consideration we decided upon having the name of the Academy &c, marked upon the back of each volume. two stamps were necessary: and cost sixty francs. this was a trifle: But we forgot to make a separate bargain with the binder, for the extra labour of stamping; and were made to pay handsomely for our negligence. This is all according to rule. A little fair dealing in a mechanic would be treason towards the craft in Paris. - Each impression cost 15 sous for the large, and ten sous for the small form.

I must beg that will think more charitably of our taste, than to charge us, with the frippery, that you will discover in tolerable

plenty, about the backs and edges of the binding. - the vol. that we gave as a model was altogether chaste - and would ~~not~~ discredit no two republicans that have resided twelve months in Paris. - In other respects, this circumstance is of no consequence, for the gold is chiefly Copper - & as it is the custom here to plaster it alike on all work - it is not estimated in the expence any more than the paste. -

You will find in the collection several works of which we have procured, ten or a dozen copies. They are ~~chiefly~~ properly textbooks, of which a copy, should be in the possession of each officer of the Corps, -- or at least each field officer and Captaine besides two copies, to remain in the library. - It is upon this last idea that we have acted; and I hope it will meet your approbation. -

A number of works have doubtless, been purchased, that are to be found in the library; and of which perhaps, one copy is sufficient. In truth we could not recollect, sufficiently, to avoid mistakes of this kind. - In several instances however, we conceived, one or more copies to be necessary, in additon to the one, that is at the Academy. - Such as Vauban* & Bousinard;* - or, Belidor*, in the case of a later or improved edition. -

On the score of the charts that are sent; and such others, as also books, that remain to be procured -- I shall give some details when we forward to you the accounts &c of the present shipment. -

You perceive that I merely intend to give some observations that appeared necessary to accompany the books &c. - There are as you are well aware, several subjects that I am anxious to write you concerning; - but which it is absolutely necessary for me to postpone, or to loose the present opportunity of sending this letter. Accompanying this, is also the account of Books purchased for you by Major Thayer. They will be found as is noted at the bottom of the acct in the box no. 5.-

All hands here are well and desire their respects to be conveyed to you. I need not add the assurances of mine. Yrs sincerely.

W. McREE

* See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift* to George Graham*¹

West Point 29th Dec 1816

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the three thousand two hundred dollars, remitted to me for the purpose of supplying Col. McRee and Major Thayer with funds to procure models of cuttings in wood and stone from the Polytechnique School in Paris, and to procure some more Books in England were last November applied to the purchase of a Bill of Exchange on London drawn by Peter Remsen at 3-1/2 per cents advance for (675 Sterling) - \$3105. having a balance in my hands of \$95. Three of the bills have been remitted as follows:

1st pr. Ship, Matilda. Bordeaux

2d pr. Ship, Virginia. Naata(?)

3d pr. Brig. Amelia Harve

the fourth is on a stamp and is in my possession I have the honor to be sir Your obedient servant J. G. SWIFT B.G.
To: George Graham, Esq. Acting Secretary of War

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

TO Joseph G. Swift*

(1817?)

Sir,

Enclosed herewith are your private accounts amounting to 300 francs & Ten pounds-2 s...6 d...which were paid out of the public money in our hands.

Instead of transmitting these accounts to the Government as our vouchers Col McRee & myself deem it preferable to forward your receipt for amount & we have made out our account current accordingly where your receipt is called Voucher No. 8. I enclose herewith such a receipt as we deem sufficient. If it meets your approbation we beg you to sign it & file it with the other vouchers. Very respectfully S. THAYER
Brig. Gen'l J.G.Swift.

* See Index

FROM Alden Partridge*

(January 1, 1817)

Memoranda relative to the Accident which took place at West Point on the first of January 1817, when Cadet Vincent M. Lowe* of the Military Academy was unfortunately killed by the accidental discharge of an Eighteen Pounder, while engaged in firing a salute.

.....
January 1st 1817 - At about 10 o'clock P. M. spoke to Genl. Swift* relative to the Propriety of firing a Salute (it being New Years) at twelve, to which he consented. At about half past ten o'clock assembled the 1st Company of Cadets on the parade ground and detailed four Squads to execute the firing- Cadet Lowe by lot was first (Aid) on the right of the Squads attached to the 18 Pounder. Dismissed the Squads from the Parade with orders to get the Drag-Ropes from the Ammunition Waggon and move the guns to the front of where they were then Standing and to be ready to fall in again at the beating of the drum. Went myself with four of the Cadets to the laboratory to fill some Cartridges. Returned from the laboratory at about half past Eleven O'clock, saw the Sponges standing by the guns observed some of them wet- supposed them all wet-- Ordered the drum to be beat and the Squads took their positions at their respective guns. Enquired if the guns were clean. They were all reported clean. I immediately ordered the guns loaded. In attempting to point the 18 and 24 Pounder, it was ascertained they were not clean. I drew out the Cartridges myself. The guns were then cleared and Sponged out anew, the 18 Pounder appeared to be and was reported perfectly clean, - there appeared to be something remaining in the 24 Pounder. that could not be completely removed by the Sponge or ladles. This I thought might be some loose Powder which remained from the Cartridges that was drawn out. Ordered the guns reloaded and primed, which was done - I then directed each one attached to the guns to pay particular attention to the correct performance of his duty. At a few minutes after twelve ordered the firing to commence. The two twelves and the Eighteen Pounder were fired - I at this time was passing in the rear of the twenty four Pounder to the right of it in order to give the word for the piece to be fired, when hearing some talking towards the left, I repeated my order for each one to pay particular attention to his own duty. I then passed to the right of the twenty four Pounder, and was upon the verge of giving the word fire. when the eighteen pounder went off prematurely - I immediately went towards, and as soon as the Smoke cleared away saw Cadet Lowe lying on the ground apparently lifeless. I went to him and found his left arm very much Shattered - his face burnt, and his Breast and right arm injured - I immediately directed the Surgeon to be sent for - and assisted to get off his Clothes which were on fire - he did not move or Shew any signs of life except by a Slight motion of the Breast. He was taken to the hospital when he appeared to be entirely lifeless - I presume he was killed instantaneously.

*See Index

FROM Alden Partridge*

West Point Jany 2nd 1817

Orders

In execution of the order of Brigadier Genl. Joseph G. Swift* issued on the first Inst. the following arrangements for the funeral of Cadet Vincent M. Lowe* of the United States Military Academy will be adopted -- the Procession will be formed in front of the New Academy precisely at four oclock this afternoon in the following order

- 1st The Military Band
- 2nd The Drums and fifes - (drums muffled)
- 3d the firing Party with reversed Arms under the immediate Command of acting Lt. Hartman Bache*.
- 4th The Corpse accompanied by the Pall Bearers - preceded by the Chaplain(
- 5th The Members of the (Amosopic) Society -
- 6th ~~The Supt. of the Military Academy and Acting Chaplain.~~
Superdt. & other
- 7th The/ Members of the Academic Staff.
- 8th The officers of Engineers not members of the Staff - with Swords reversed.
- 9th Officers of the line of the Army-with Swords reversed.
- 10th ~~6th~~ The Company of Cadets without Arms, ^{preceded} followed by the Company officers with Swords reversed -
- 11th Citizens

The Procession when thus formed will move in Slow time (the Band playing a (dead) March, to the Place of Interment, where the Service will be performed by the acting Chaplain of the Military Academy. After the Body is deposited in the Earth three vollies will be fired over the grave by the firing Party -

The Procession will then return at a quick time to the Parade ground where it will be dismissed. Minute guns will be fired during the time the Procession is moving to the Grave. Acting Lieut. Frederick L. Griffith* is appointed to Superintend this firing

A PARTRIDGE
Capt. Comdg. the Corps of Cadets

*See Index

FROM Alden Partridge* to the Corps of Cadets

West Point Jany. 2nd. 1817

To the Gentlemen Cadets of the Mily Academy

Gentlemen

In communicating to you yesterday the mournful intelligence of the death of your Brother, Cadet Vincent M. Lowe*, you may perhaps be surpris'd that I made so few observations upon an occasion so interesting. I can assure you however that this apparent neglect was not occasioned by any indifference on my part to so melancholy an occurrence. The subject was so intimately connected with my feelings as almost to forbid expression. I trust my young friends you will not impute this to weakness. With the common misfortunes of life I think I have fortitude to contend. but the impulses of nature I cannot, I ought not to controul. In the present state of my mind I find it almost impossible to collect my Ideas sufficient to reason upon any Subject. I deem it my duty however to communicate to you a few remarks upon the late mournful Event. You late Brother Cadet, Vincent M. Lowe now Sleeps in death. The King of terrors has been commissioned - the fatal dart has been launched and our friend is no more. A lifeless mass is all that now remains of this amiable youth who (while living) to be beloved need but be known. his sun, which rose so bright and which shown with so much lustre, is now set forever. his mortal Part remains, but his spirit has flown to God who gave it. His career though short was brilliant. He was not destined to fall like Wood, in gallantly storming the works of the Enemy, Nor like Williams in nobly repelling the attacks of the foe, but yet his fall was honorable. He fell at his Post. he fell where duty called him, and he fell while engaged in the active and zealous discharge of his duty. To do justice to the merits of Cadet Lowe would require a Pen far abler than mine, and time, more than I can command. The general gloom however which his untimely fate has inspired, and the sorrow which I see depicted in the countenances of you all bespeak more clearly and more forcibly his worth, than would the most elaborate Eulogism. My young friends, to express to you my own feelings upon this occasion would be utterly impossible. Grief in success is silent, Cadet Lowe was dear to me for many reasons. he had ^{unequivocally} ~~unquestionably~~ manifested towards me a friendship as fervent, as I believe it was sincere. I never expected to have it in my power to compensate him for this, for friendship cannot be bought, but I did anticipate the pleasure of manifesting to him that I was not insensible of it, by offering him all the aid in my power in the completion of his education. But a wise Providence has ordained that my expectations in this instance should not be realized, and it becomes my duty to submit with reverence & adoration. The last mark of respect which we can exhibit to our departed friend, is to consign his remains to their kindred earth with all those honors to which his character and Station so justly entitle him. But in depositing his Body in the grave, let us not forget his example while living. let us cherish his memory and his virtues, and as often as we pass the mound that covers him and reflect upon his untimely end, may we have more fully impressed upon our minds the value and importance of those words of our blessed Saviour "be ye also ready"

*See Index

FROM George Graham* to Joseph G. Swift*

War Department Washington
January 8th 1817

Sir.

I have perused your two despatches of the 24th Decr last - and find that no objections can be made to the proposals contained in them, except those which relate to the leasing of the two farms in the vicinity of West Point - and the appointment of a QuarterMaster, both of which it is deemed proper to defer until your arrival in this city.- indeed the latter cannot be carried into effect at all events until the national legislature shall have passed a law appropriate to the object -

As you exercise discretion in your selection of officers for such temporary appointments as belong to your Command, and as it is presumed that the dispositions you have already made, and now propose for the consideration of this office, are founded in necessity; they are confirmed, with the exceptions I have just mentioned.

The resignation of Captⁿ (Alden) Partridge* of the Professorship of Engineering as well as that of Lieut (John) Wright* of the assistant professorship in the same branch are accepted - the former to take effect Dec: 31.-- and the latter Nov^r: 30. 1816 --

Capt Claude Crozet* will enter on the duties relinquished by Captⁿ Partridge and the vacancy occasioned by the withdrawing of Lieut Wright, will be supplied by the services of Lieut Charles Davies*.

The conduct of Cadet (Granville?) Cooper* has it is presumed merited and received just reprehension - you will be pleased therefore to exercise your judgment in regard to his future behaviour.

I have to observe on the subject of your contemplated visit to Washington, that, at the time you removed to West Point the (Government) had been applied to by the Parents and relatives of a number of the cadets for permission to take them to their respective homes for the winter, under the impression that should they remain at the Academy, without a proper Superintendent, they would suffer many privations and exposures - On being informed that the Executive would request you to assume the direction of the Institution, and to bestow proper attentions to the wants of the young students their Parents in a measure became reconciled to their detention, and withdrew their applications in the confidence that you would remove every cause of anxiety: - With a view therefore to put your mind at rest on the subject of your accounts, I shall remark that on enquiry at the proper office I can discover no cause for your apprehension as to the final adjustment of them: Should you notwithstanding still be anxious to proceed hither you may fix your departure for the end of February or the beginning of March. I am Sir with much Respect Your Obt H Servt. GEO. GRAHAM

Brig Gen J. G. Swift U. S. Engineers

*See Index

TO: Joseph G. Swift* from William McRee
Book purchases, and opinions on proposal to hire foreign
Engineer.

Paris 8 January 1817

Dear Sir,

Seven boxes of books and charts were shipped to your address in the month of December from Havre on board the Minerva-Smith for New York -Lists of the books, etc. contained in each box, were enclosed with a letter and forwarded by the same conveyance. The accounts which were not then made out are enclosed herewith, viz:

	francs	
Relian's.....	14, 235.30	of which 10,143.70 for books and 4,190.40 for binding
Auvary's.....	390.00	for charts
Tessier's.....	400.00	for Binding
Picquet's.....	3, 466.85	Books and charts
Total.....	18,492. 15	

In making our purchases, we adopted the simplest plan we could think of as the best. The bookseller engaged to furnish, agreeably to a list given him, such works as were in the regular market (" Livres de fonds") at a discount of 12% from the catalogue prices; and was left to charge as he thought proper for such as were rare, or had no fixed price, reserving to ourselves the right of refusing them, if upon examination they did not suit. This is the cause of the two columns of prices that you will observe upon the bills of Relian.

In all cases where a work or a particular edition of it has become rare, or, the republication of it difficult, from any cause, the price is exorbitant. Such are Gassendi*, LaMartilliere* - St. Paul,* etc. - Templehoff* -Rosch* and several others, cost exceedingly high from another cause. They were not to be procured in Paris and Picquet was commissioned to import them from Berlin. A few of the charts furnished by him are in the same situation.

You will find charged in the accounts, a number of works that have not been sent on. They are on hand and are mostly those mentioned in my former letter that we could not get ready, time enough to be packed up with the rest.

I know not if you will be pleased with so large and expensive a collection of charts. They are chiefly topographical and among them are comprised nearly all the chef d'oeuvres of the art on the most interesting parts of Europe. We thought it prudent to have them bound in Atlases not only to secure them on their way to West Point but to preserve them after their arrival until you should determine the manner in which they ought finally to be arranged. It was from this last consideration also, that they were bound at large, without folds. Two of these charts, Baeler D'Albe's* - Italy and Ferraris*, Peys-Bas cost more

than the catalogue prices on account of the difficulty in procuring an original impression. The plates of these charts and of several others have been so worn, that the impressions now struck off and sold by the Depot de guerre are certainly pale and in some instances absolutely defective. The copy that we have purchased of Farraris, is an original impression although the paper is not in the best of preservation. Baeler d'Albe is the best that could be procured but it has the fault of having ONE of the sheets, different paper from the rest. - This evil is common in a more or less degree to all the charts now published and sold by the Depot, of such districts of country as has been the seat of late and frequent military operations - The publication of several of the best charts is not yet terminated. - Suabia of Bohenberg - Duchy of Lower Austria by the Austrian Etat Major - The Rivers of Bavaria by Reidl* are among the number; and have been bound in atlases notwithstanding the circumstances. The charts of Hennert* Petri,* Beckenberg,*etc. although coarsely executed are not the least valuable. They are the best works that exist on those parts of Saxony and the neighborhood, which formed the seat of the most active portions of the Seven Years' War. We have not purchased Cassinis'* chart of France for several reasons. An original copy cannot be procured without paying an extravagant price; and the plates have been worn out and retouched until the impressions now struck off by the Depot are hardly good for anything. Besides, it is only for the frontiers of France that the chart would be valuable to a military reader. The charts called " de chasses " exhibits the topography of the country, ten or twelve leagues around Versailles. It is unquestionably the first production of the kind in the world both on account of its accuracy and admirable execution. But it is a thing of mere luxury and seems to have been principally intended for the King to hunt by. We have therefore not bought it. The price is 50 francs a sheet. There exist some fine charts of Hungary - Gallicia, etc. that we conceived however to be not sufficiently interesting in a Military way to be included among the first purchases that were made. As to the great work upon Egypt, it is entirely beyond our reach. It costs from 2 or 3, to 5,000 francs according to the paper.

Among the military books there must inevitably be found a considerable portion of trash. We were indeed too little acquainted with them to determine from our own knowledge their individual worth. Their general character or that of the author was, in most cases, the only rule by which we could regulate our choice. We were frequently, however, governed by other considerations. Thus, we were anxious to make the collection complete of the principal works written upon these subjects that had formerly excited great interest and continued to divide opinions. - Such for instance are the discussions that took place upon artillery. About the period of its reform in this country by

Gribauvales* and the disputes upon tactics, etc. between Guibert,*** Menil* - Durand,* and others after the conclusion of the Seven Years' War. It was with a view to have all the evidence upon questions that concern us, and that we shall have to decide on in our turn.

You will observe a good deal of incongruity in the binding and arrangement of the volumes. It is easier to assign the cause than a good reason for mistakes and negligences of this kind, and some other that will be discovered.

Upon the whole, we are too little pleased with our work to ask for it, entire approbation. - But, we have one consolation in common with all that have no excuse (and the Lord help them that are without it) - We might have done worse. We wish to have your instructions before purchasing several works that are of a class somewhat out of our line but which perhaps ought to form a portion of the Library. The Encyclopedia Methodique for instance. - The works of Buffon,* and other classic authors - they come high.

Are there any English productions that you desire to have in case we return by the way of England? I have seen Egerton's Catalogue. It is a meagre thing - there is hardly half a dozen works in it that are worth having. Always, excepting (be it understood) those upon the drill and inspection and reviews, etc. of a battalion or a light company. Upon all which subject our friends, the English, are equally fecund and profound.

If we retain the whole amount of our pay, etc., out of the ~~money~~ sent to us which in fact we shall be compelled to do - the remainder will be less than five thousand dollars for the use of the Academy so that deducting from this sum, the 18, 492fr^{cs} already expended, there will be left at our disposal not more than six thousand francs for further purchases.

I have not yet written any thing to you concerning the Resolution of Congress. Perhaps I differ with you in some respects upon the question "whether the government can employ foreign engineers without materially injuring or destroying the Corps?" It appears to me that more must depend upon the circumstances of the case that may occur, than upon the fact itself, that the corps may be ruined by the practice is evident. - But at the same time I also think that foreign engineers might be employed without producing this effect. - Provided that they are placed under the immediate orders of the Commanding Officer of the Corps, without suffering them to command, or be commanded by any other officer in it - or, that they may be employed independent of all connection with it whatever, some inconveniences might result from this last mode - they would concern the government alone. But I do not see in either case, how the honor or interest of the Corps would be compromised. The quantity of labor to be performed requires the services

of an additional number of Engineers - wherefore should the Corps object to the employment of them? This is the ostensible motive of the resolution and no other can be argued from it. Why then, should we - force upon it, a construction dishonorable to us. Let the government employ whom they please; it is the mode, the manner of doing it, that can alone affect us, and to which we should oppose resistance. Above all, let the Corps avoid the appearance of shrinking from competition. It is not the law then, but the purposes to which Mr. Crawford* seems bent upon applying it that constitutes the evil; and the natural consequence of which (if he succeeds) must be the dissolution of the Corps. There is (I can find no other term for it) a degree of extravagance in his letter that has almost made me doubt upon his real meaning. Yet he writes perfectly plain, and says in nearly so many words, that A foreign Engineer - he does not know who - is expected from Europe to command the Corps, that it must wait for his instructions and to this end he suspends its functions until the arrival of this individual of whose name he is even ignorant. It would border upon the ridiculous to enter gravely into a discussion of this letter. There can exist but one opinion and one feeling upon the subject of it. If the government persists in accomplishing the projects of Mr. C (rawford) we shall owe to him at least a sentiment of gratitude for having so broadly marked out to us the only course that we can pursue. He has indeed most happily simplified our case; and deprived us of the power of continuing to serve without clearly justifying his conduct by proving that we were fairly estimated.

Whatever may be the termination of this affair, with the governm't, I am glad that General Bernard is the individual that has been engaged. With him personally, no difficulty can occur. His opinions and wishes upon this subject are every way those of a soldier in his situation; and of course conformable to our own. He expressed to me previous to his departure, his desire and determination of acting in no case but under the orders of the Commanding Officer of the Corps: and I am convinced you will be pleased in proportion as you become acquainted with him.

Majors Archer* and Fanning* are now in Paris; and very unpleasantly situated. They are nearly without funds, and have no means of getting any, without making considerable sacrifices. Both have pay due to them. Maj. Fanning has eight or ten months. You would render them a very essential service if you could procure for them, a remittance from the War Dept. - Why could not, someone here, - the Banker at Hamburgh or any other public agent, be authorised to advance them a certain sum, taking their receipts, accountable at Washington? This would avoid the difficulty of the accounts, etc. But any way would answer so that they are supplied.

We have been several months without receiving any news direct from the US - Some rumors have reached us in different shapes, about a misunderstanding between gov't and the Russian Ambassador . True or false, I can attach but little importance to it. Another has been afloat concerning an outrage committed by a Spanish Squadron on one of our National Vessels. - Something may grow out of this; altho' I can hardly suppose that the poor Spaniard acted otherwise than thro' mistake.

If Mr. Gallatin* can afford the necessary assistance, I am desirous of visiting next Spring - Metz - Strasbourg and Lille on the land side; and Brest and Cherbourg on the sea Coast: from whence I propose embarking for New York - This is narrowing the original prospect - but it suits with my finances; and is perhaps quite sufficient if properly improved; at all events, it will furnish full enough to gratify a Blunted Curiosity. In whatever we may say on our return - the pumpkins do not grow one whit bigger in France, than at home (but this between us, recollect, for I neither design to wave my priviledges as traveller nor to prejudice those of other people).

Thayer I believe has a similar plan in view for the spring - He is entirely recovered of his old complaint - He is now breaking his teeth upon the German; and already reads it with tolerable facility.

I have fatigued you sufficiently for one time - if you have had the patience to read this letter to the end: but by the way of amend, I will engage to be not quite so unreasonable in my next. yrs. sincerely W. MCREE

P.S. Your acct is enclosed among the rest. Thayer has had the books packed up with the Academy's; I know not in which of the boxes. I wish that the books in each of these boxes may be examined at West Point & compared with the Lists. I know of one or two errors myself. WM

* See Index

FROM Andrew Jackson* to Joseph G. Swift*

Nashville Janry. 12th. 1817.

Sir

Without preface or apology for the want of a personal acquaintance with you, with the frankness of a soldier, I present to your acquaintance and friendly attention, My Nephew Andrew J. Donelson* who will hand you this.

He has obtained a warrant to enter the Military academy at West Point. I have furnished him with funds for necessary expence, which when exhausted I have authorised him to draw on me for such sums, as may be necessary to meet his wants. I have recommended him to practice occonomy - but to draw a proper distinction, between that and parsimony.

This youth is young & inexperienced, but possessing an amiable disposition from which I trust & hope he will conduct himself with such propriety as will not only merit your Esteem & friendship, but that of his professors & fellow students - he was fortunate at the college here at which he graduated, to obtain the the good will & friendship of all, I hope he may be equally fortunate with you - and I ask for him your friendly care and attention so far as he merits it - I much wish that he may deserve it.

I cannot forego, this opportunity by my nephew of making you a tender of my gratefull thanks for your friendly attention to my ward Edward - Butler* who has lately entered the military academy and request your further attention to him - he is the son of a meritorious officer & good man - The Virtues of the father creates in me, a great solicitude for the respectability of his son - he has also authority to draw on me for necessary funds - I want Edward & Andrew both, if in need, supplied, But it is necessary that there wants should be confined within proper bounds, & to your care I ask permission to recommend them. I am with due regard & Esteem yr mo. ob. Servt.

ANDREW JACKSON

P.S. I take the liberty to ask a line from you when leisure will permit, informing me with the frankness of a soldier, how these youths conduct themselves.

Genl Swift Engineer Corps

*See Index

FROM John Gough* to Alden Partridge*

Marlborough,
1st month 16th 1817.

To Capt. Partridge

Having written to thee a number of times concerning my resignation and understanding thou hast received none of my letters, I deem it expedient to write to thee again and inform thee of my reasons for quitting the Academy. Last summer vacation when I left West Point, I had no intention of returning if I could in any manner avoid it, but thou being absent at that time I could not see thee. I wrote to thee, as well as I recollect, at Newburgh, but do not know whether thou received it or not.

I have been brought up in the society of Friends commonly called Quakers, but through my my wanderings I forfeited my right of membership & the esteem of my relations, which am now in the way of recovering it.

This is to inform thee that I wish to be released from the appointment, which I now hold as soon as possible, which as I understand can only be done through thy means. Believe me, thine, truly, JOHN GOUGH

*See Index

FROM David B. Warden* to Mr Chantereyne¹

Paris, 17 January 1817

Sir -

I am taking the liberty of reintroducing myself to you, and presenting two most distinguished officers from the United States, Colonel McCree and Major Thayer, who wish to observe the work going on at your port. I should greatly appreciate your presenting them to one of the officers having the means of showing them anything of interest to them.

In obtaining this authorization for them, you will be rendering a great service to our Government, for these officers were sent to Europe to study all such projects as might be advisable to institute in the United States.

Respectfully, D B WARDEN

Mr Chantereyne American COUNSUL Cherbourg

*See Index

¹ Original in French

FROM George Graham* to Joseph G. Swift*

Department of War,
21: Jany. 1817.

Sir,

A letter from you of the 4th: November 1816, requesting the Concurrence of this department in a temporary assignment, which you propose to make, of Capt. Partridge* to the office of instructor of military tactics, has hitherto remained unanswered, because it was concluded that the communication made to you on the 21st: October, by the late secretary of War, had sufficiently indicated the opinion of the government, on the employment of professors as instructors of military exercises, and because the resignation of Capt. Partridge has been accepted under the impression, that his connection with the Academy was to cease. Should you, however, judge it greatly important to the students, to employ an instructor in Tactics, you may attach any other officer to that department, for the time being, whom you esteem capable of discharging its duties.

I have the honor to be, etc. etc. (signed,) GEORGE GRAHAM.
B. Genl. J. G. Swift West Point

*See Index

FROM Albert Gallatin* to the Duke de Richelieu*

Paris 29th January 1817.

The Same (His Excellency the Duke de Richelieu etc),

Monsieur le Duc

Two American officers belonging to the Corps of Engineers, Colonel McRee and Major Thayer, have been sent to Europe by the government of the United States, for the purpose of prosecuting enquiries and examinations calculated for their improvement in military science. With that view, they are desirous of obtaining permission to visit and examine in all their details the school of application for the Artillery and Engineers at Metz, and also the fortifications of Metz, Lille, Cherbourg and Brest.

Having received special instructions to promote the object of their voyage, I beg leave to apply to your Excellency for the permission asked by those officers, as far as may not be deemed improper or inconvenient. Their time being limited, they wish to be able to leave Paris on that intended excursion in about ten days.

I request Your Excellency to accept the assurance of the distinguished consideration with which I have the honor to be Monsieur le Duc, your most obedient servant
A. G.

* See Index

FROM Richelieu* to Albert Gallatin*¹

Paris, 8 February 1817

Copy

Sir -

I hastened to transmit to the Minister/Secretary of State for War, your request on behalf of Messrs McCree and Thayer, American officers who wished to be able to visit the training schools of Metz and some of our fortifications.

The Duke of Feltre has just replied, stating that these two officers may proceed to Metz whenever they find it convenient; they will find the Commandant of the school, Marechal de Camp Berger, informed as to the purpose of their trip, and ready to take any measure necessary to assist them in acquiring complete familiarity with the various subjects which might interest them in this establishment.

As to the visit to the fortifications, the Minister of War informs me that regulations relative to policing the fortifications expressly prohibit this; he would have liked to be able to make an exception in favor of Messrs McCree and Thayer, but feared that in so doing he would be paving the way for other requests of the same kind which the Government could not conveniently honor.

However, the Duke of Feltre, anxious to offer proof of his Majesty's good will toward the subjects of the Government which you represent, has authorized the Depot Director of the fortifications to receive Messrs McCree and Thayer and to permit them to examine the plans (in relief) of these four designated fortifications, on display in the Galerie des Invalides. This Director lives at 94 rue de l'Universite. Your very humble and obedient servant, RICHELIEU*

*See Index

¹ Original in French

PASSPORT

AMERICAN LEGATION¹

No 180

Description:

Age - 27 yrs
Ht - 5 ft 10 in
(AngloSaxon
measurement)
Hair - Chestnut
Eyebrows - "
Eyes - "
Nose - ordinary
Mouth - medium
Chin - round
Face - oval
Complexion - fair

We, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to His Most Christian Majesty, King of France and Navarre, invite the Civil and Military Authorities of the Kingdom of France and others as applicable, to allow passage and free movement from Paris to the Low Countries and England and return to France, for Mayor Thayer (Sylvanus) of the United States Army, Citizen of the United States, and to render to him aid and protection, the need arising, offering reciprocal action in like circumstance.

Signature of bearer:
/s/ S. THAYER

Given at Paris under our signature and the seal of this Legation, this eighth day of February 1817, in the 41st year of the Independence of the United States

ALBERT GALLATIN*

Seen by the Minister of Foreign Affairs
Paris, the eighth day of February 1817
By authorization of the Minister
Director of the Chancelleries
(signature illegible)
By the Minister
Chief of Passport Office

No 3

Seen, upon departure, at the Prefecture of Police
going by way of Metz or Valenciennes
Paris, 19 February 1817

(signature illegible)

Appeared at the Atun Office
31 March 1817
BPC

No 1201

Seen at Southern Brabant
Governmental Office.
Valid for Calais
Brussels, 5 March 1817
By authorization of the Governor
C. CARION

Seen at the office of the Maritime Bailiff, upon embarking for England. London, 31 March 1817
Ostend, 18 March 1817. Approved to embark for France.
For the Bailiff J. ADAMS SMITH
(Signature illegible) Secy of Legn.
Inspector Seen at the Embassy

6321

France to London, 31 March 1817

Valid for Calais

Secretary of the Embassy
(Signature illegible)

Seen and registered with the Commissariat General
of Police, for travel to New York aboard the
"Maria Theresa".

Le Havre, 10 April 1817

For the Commissioner
(signature illegible)

Seen and registered at the office -
2nd Class, embarking on the American
ship, "Maria Theresa", going to New York.

Le Havre, 24 April 1817
Maritime Commissioner
(signature illegible)

¹ Original in French

*See Index

FROM A. G. (Albert Gallatin)*
Col. McRee & Maj. Thayer
Paris

Paris 9th February 1817

Gentlemen.

On receipt of your letter of 25th January, I immediately applied to the Duke of Richelieu* for the permission you requested, to visit the school of Metz and the fortifications of certain places. You will perceive by his answer, copy of which I have the honor to enclose, that the first only has been obtained, although I am apt to think that once at Metz, you may also examine to a certain extent, the fortifications of that place. I am told that the reliefs in the gallery of Invalids, which the Director has been instructed to show you, and particularly that of Brest, are well worth seeing. I have the honor etc A. G.

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Paris 12 Feb 1815 (i.e., 1817)

Dear General,

I have not answered your last letter because Col. McRee charged himself with that duty to inform you of our proceedings in regard to the books of the Academy of which a part will probably have arrived before the receipt of this -- You will find in one of the boxes, the books which were ordered for yourself & of which I handed the bill to Col. McRee to be forwarded with his letter - We have rec'd the letter of Messers (Tinkin) & Co. inclosing a bill to the amount of 675£ sterling & also yours in answer to mine by Genl. Bernard* --- We have made a contract with one of the professors of the Polytechnic School for the execution of the models of (Charpente), - de pierres, etc but have found some difficulty to procure a set of the tables of Gribeauval* - It will probably be necessary that Mr. Gallatin* should procure these tables by an application to the Minister of War or at least to borrow them for the purpose of having them copied. Orders to return to the United States by the 1st of May reached us some weeks since & we are now on the point of leaving Paris with a view of making a small tour before we embark. We have applied to the French Gov'tment for permission to examine the Mil'y School of Metz & the fortifications of Metz, Lille, Cherbourg & Brest. A very polite answer was yesterday received offering every facility to examine the Mil't'y School but refusing our further request as being contrary to the standing regulations. It is the opinion, however, of Mr. Gallatin (& this opinion is confirmed by several French officers) that, altho' the gov't will not give a formal permission, we shall find no difficulty to see whatever we wish on our arrival at those places - accordingly we shall leave Paris next Monday for Metz & after a stop there of some days direct our course to England by way of Brussels, Lille & Calais, it is our present calculation to pass from Portsmouth to Cherbourg & finally embark from Havre about the 1st of April with our own books, & the remainder of those of the Academy - We have been expecting your instructions in regard to our purchases in England but hope to receive such before or on our arrival there, lest McRee thinks it hazardous to purchase books at discretion believing that you have already many English books--- You will hear from me again on my arrival at London. Have the kindness to remember me to Mrs. Swift & family. Most respectfully I remain Yours S. THAYER
Gen. J. G. Swift Col. Commdr. Corps Engineers

*See Index

FROM George Graham* to Joseph G. Swift*

Department of war
14: Feby. 1817

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th inst. together with the report accompanying it, which has been communicated to the House of Representatives.

It having been represented by the principal professor, that the services of Capt. (David B.) Douglass*, as an assistant teacher, are essentially necessary, his request for leave of absence cannot, under those circumstances, be complied with. I regret, also, to find that complaints are made, relative to the nomination of Mr. (Charles) Davies*, as assistant professor of Mathematics; in consequence of which, I have been directed by the President (James Madison)* to inform you that applicants for an appointment as assistant professor, should be examined by the Academic staff, and that the certificate of the staff, relative to his qualifications, should accompany the recommendation. I have etc. etc. (Signed) GEORGE GRAHAM
Br. Gen. Jos: G. Swift, W. Point

*See Index

FROM A. G. (Albert Gallatin)* to the Secretary of State (James Monroe)*

Paris 16th February 1817

The Secretary of State
Washington. Sir,

Col. (William) McRee* and Maj. Thayer having applied to me for the purpose of obtaining leave from this government to examine the school of Metz and the fortifications of that city as well as of Brest, Cherbourg, and Lille, I accordingly wrote to the Duke of Richelieu* and have the honor to enclose his answer.

I also enclose the copy of an answer given by the commanding officer at Toulon to an application made by our squadron to refit at that place. Mr. (George W.) Erying* writes also to me on the 23d ultimo that similar difficulties are experienced at Port Mahon. I have the honor to be etc

A. G.

*See Index

FROM W. P. Roberts* to Mrs. Roberts, (Penryn) near Falmouth

Paris Febry. 17th 1817

My dear Mother,

This letter will be delivered to you by my friend Major Thayer of the United States Army, who leaves this place in a few days for England, and as it is very possible he may embark for America at Falmouth, I take this opportunity of recommending him to your most particular attention. That in event of his being detained, or wishing to make any stay in our neighbourhood, you will instroduce him to our numerous friends and contribute by your usual hospitality to render his residence agreeable-- Should he wish to visit the Mines, you will doubtless procure some friend to accompany him. I remain My dear Mother Your most affectionate Son W. P. ROBERTS

*See Index

TO (Treasurer, United States of America?)

(18 February 1817)

Major Saml. Archer* & Alex W. Fanning* on 18 Feb. 1817
Recd. from McRee & Thayer 15798 Francs = \$3000 nearly
5.30 fr.=\$1. ~~£~~85 S (tanding) with B. B. & Co. = \$377.77

*See Index

FROM: Thomas Egerton, bookseller to Joseph G. Swift
London March 26th 1817

Received of Genl. Josh. G. Swift the sum of Seventeen
Pounds 4/6 as pr. acct. annexed. for T. EGERTON
£ 17.4.6

FROM: Thomas Egerton, bookseller, to Joseph G. Swift*
 (26 Mar 1817)

Bo't of Thos Egerton
 (BOOKSELLER)
 (SUCCESSOR TO MR. MILLAN)

_____ the MILITARY ACADEMY near Whitehall

1817

Mar. 26*	2	Lloyd,s*	Rhapsody, bds		15		
		Jackson*	on Armies		12		
		Lloyd,s	German War 3 v. bds	7	7		
	*	do	do 3 v. bds	6	10		
			Spirit of Modern War*		10	6	
			Bauick's Memoirs 2 v.		12		
			Ben Barrick*	16	6	6	
			Packing case.....		18		
				17	4	6	

* of the above is charged to the account of the United states as follows. viz.

1	Lloyd's	History of the 7 Years War	6	10	0
1	Lloyd's	Rhapsody	0	7	6
		In part for the packing case.....		4	6
			L 7	2	8

Bal. due from Gen,l Swift L 10 2 6 of which
 Major Thayer is to pay 6/9 in part for the cases

* See Index

FROM Jared Mansfield* to Joseph G. Swift*

West Point March 27th 1817

Sir,

I have a number of complaints to make, which if you had been on the spot, would never have passed the limits of W. Point, & would have been made to you exclusively, it is the rectification of such abuses, which renders it necessary for a Commander to reside here, I therefore regret your absence, but never as a servant of the U. States can I consistently with my duty, observe in silence, transgressions, which even in civil Society are radically destructive of its existence.

1 - The depredations on the Public Woodlands, since your absence have not ceased, many loads of fine poles have been carried in Open day, to those, who are not in the service of the U. States, or if so, have had their allowance of wood dealt to them. This if not done by the permits, must be done by the countenance of the Acting officer. I interrogated 3 Carters, who said they were permitted by some of the Mil. officers

2 - Classes have been formed & publicly instructed by Capt. Partridge*, who, we supposed had long since resigned his professorship. These consist of different individuals from those assigned by the judgment of yourself & Staff at the time of the Examination. They are principally taken from the lower classes, Capt. Partridge has established a Philosophical Class of these tyros, & teaches publicly that branch. He has taken for this purpose the best room of the Academy, where the Instruments were placed. I will not comment on this procedure, you quietted me, last Fall, on this subject by saying that it should never occur again.

3 - West Point is comparatively a Desert a camp of Arabs, we want a police more than even other important things This is one of the advantages, we expected from your residence here. But on whatever side we (turn) our eyes, hogs, Dogs, Cattle, & Horses are spreading their litter, even into our houses. But the most dangerous & ruinous are the animals of our own species, who depredate all the poultry, wood, etc. which they can find. I could detail other instances, where cupidity, private interest, or the gratification of favourites have (surpassed) Law, justice, & that honourable system of management, which are indispensable, not only for this institution, but even for civil society.

Rule or command without law, against which we have so long struggled, is an abject system of tyranny, but a similar authority contrary to law, involves the double guilt of tyranny, & an infl__tion of the most sacred obligations of man.

It must & soon will be known, whether this noble Institution, & its ample means are to be directed in the channels of the Law, & for public uses only, or whether it is to be made an instrument in the hands of an individual to be directed by his Arbitrary will, for private purposes, the gratification of favourites, or any other sinister object.

If a public Institution, which ought to have before it the noblest sacrifices, & always be kept pure & uncontaminated, be thus _____, it will become odious to the nation, & will soon be prostrated, as it cannot bear the light of inves-

tigation. Permit me to speak thus freely, as it is probably the last time of my writing on the subject of the Academy & you always requested me to speak freely on that subject. You have my views, nearly as I have them myself - I have the honor to be, Your Ob. Hmbt Sevt JARED MANSFIELD

PS A report is spread, that the staff & among them myself are implicated in having said or written some things in favour of Cadet (Harvey?) Brown dismissed. I never said, or wrote a line in his favour, more than stating his scholarship, knowing that, & feeling under obligations to him for his Assistance, last Summer, when my wife was desperately sick. At his request I stated my opinion of his improvement merely as an Individual. Capt. Partridge may bring millions of such straws. they will avail him nothing.

To Gen Swift

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

London 30th March 1817

Dear General,

I write a few lines by Col. Talmadge* as he will probably arrive some days before us in the United States - We reached London the 21st instant after visiting Metz, Brussels, Antwerp, etc. & shall depart tomorrow for Harve (Havre) whence we shall embark about the 10th if the wind is favorable - I have purchased the books designated in your last letter which with some books of my own are directed to the Military Academy & will be forwarded by Colonel (Thomas) Aspinwall* -- You will doubtless be surprised at the high price of Lloyd's works but as the work is scarce and valuable I have ventured to send it with a second copy for the Academy - For the reasons stated in a former letter we have made no other purchases for the Mil'y Academy - A man named James Pardoe* has taken his passage for the United States with a view to seek employment in the Ordnance Department - he quit voluntarily the workshops of Woolwich where he has been employed for the last ten years - from the good character which respectable men have given him as an ingenious & honest man, I have held out to him the prospect of finding employ - Should he arrive before me I have directed him to call on you for your advice - Soon after my arrival here I had a misfortune which was near causing me serious embarrassment - My pocketbook has become a prey to the notorious gang of Pickpockets which infest the streets of London & to which Unguarded strangers are so often the victims - it contained 200 dollars in bank notes & some valuable papers - I have been obliged to resort to the public money to reestablish my funds. Most respectfully & sincerely Yours, S. THAYER
Gen. Joseph G. Swift

*See Index

FROM Daniel Parker*

(May 1817?)

My dear Sir,

Although I have not heard from you even by an official report still I must remind you of your promise to write. Genl. Scott* informs me that your health is nearly restored & when I gave this information to Miss B.* she seemed to resign all hopes of being remembered by you- She has kept her lovers at a distance waiting to hear from you. She is as lovely as ever & improving daily, but you will never detain her until your return if you do not write. Yours D. PARKER
nous Thayer (Paris) May 1st

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift* to George Graham*¹

Headquarters Engineer Department
New York May 14, 1817

Sir:

I have the honor to report to you the arrival of Col. McRee and Major Thayer of the Corps of Engineers, in this Country from France. I have the honor to be Your obed and Hum Sev. (Signed) JOSEPH G. SWIFT, G. B.

By Order, Geo. Blaney Aid-de-Camp

To: George Grahm, Esquire Acting Secretary of War.

*See Index

¹ Original not available for proofing.

FROM George Graham* to Joseph G.Swift*

Department of War, 20. May, 1817

Sir,

I am instructed by the President (James Monroe) to request, that Major Thayer may be ordered to West Point, for the purpose of superintending the Military Academy during your absence. The President intending himself to visit the academy in his proposed tour to the Eastward, for the purpose of inspecting its present state, and making such arrangements as may be proper for its future government, no other alterations will be made in relation to it, for the present. I have &c. &c

(signed) GEORGE GRAHAM

Br. Genl

J.G.Swift N. York

I certify that the above is a correct extract from the original. JAS. D. GRAHAM Lieut. & adj Post.

* See Index

FROM George Graham* to Joseph G.Swift*

(Note at top of page of this manuscript in Joseph G.Swift's handwriting: "This letter was sent to me by Col. Thayer in the year 1855 It had never been sent to me by that very (imbecile) man Geo. Graham.")

Department of War, 20: May, 1817

Sir,

I am instructed by the President (James Monroe) to request, that Major Thayer may be ordered to West Point, for the purpose of superintending the military academy during your absence. The President intending himself to visit that academy in his proposed tour to the Eastward, for the purpose of inspecting its present state, and making such arrangements as may be proper for its future government, no other alterations will be made in relation to it, for the present." It is the President's desire, that you attend him at certain principal points along our coast, in his proposed tour; for which purpose, it will be proper that you should meet him at Baltimore, where he expects to be early in the next week. I have etc. etc. (signed)
GEORGE GRAHAM.

B. Genl. J.G.Swift. New York.

* See Index

TO: (Treasurer, United States of America)

(20 June 1817)

We acknowledge to have received in Paris from Tucker & Carter of New York, on the part of Gen'l Jos. G. Swift*; six hundred - seventy-five francs sterling. In a Bill of Exchange of Peter Rimsen & Co. of the 26th Nov. 1816 at sixty days sight, drawn in favor of, and endorsed by, Wm. Chadwick, upon John Woolet & Son, London.

£675. And for which sum, we have credited the U.S: in our account of 20, June, 1817.

W. MCREE, Maj. Eng's & B't Col.

S. THAYER, Major Brevet

*See Index

FROM: William McRee* to Joseph G. Swift*

Brooklyn 22 June 1817

Dear Sir,

Enclosed herewith is the account current of Major Thayer and myself with the U. States. Accompanying the vouchers, are two acct's current of Hottinguer* & Co. & a letter of advice from him, showing the sales, - charges and expenses of the bills of exchange placed in his hands for negotiation. We have made out the acct. current in Francs, and £ at the same time in order to avoid objections to any incorrectness that might occur in reducing one currency into the other.

Major Thayer lost the account of Carnes, for the transportation etc of the 7 cases of books from Paris to Harve. He has made out this () in his own name and included in it, those books that he purchased for the Academy at Metz and London, some of which were confounded by Egerton in the same acct. with those that were purchased for yourself.

I presume that Thayer has explained to you the reason why we thought it best to charge the government for the amount of books purchased for you by him, as so much advanced on your account, and to take your acknowledgement as voucher, in preference to charging for & sending on the bills of Kilian* and Egerton. There was no other mode left; for it was necessary to dissect Egerton's account; and Kilian's had no receipt to it.

Under the same cover but in special enclosure are our respective private accounts. I have nothing to say in explanation of them. Unless I should undertake to expound the law "on servants", and as it is altogether possible that my arguments would convince no one besides myself I shall not act unwisely to economize () in law-knowledge. However, if the object of the Act of Congress is - whether it refuses any allowance for servants as an emolument to defray the reasonable expenses of their services when actually rendered - Our charges on this head are just, legal or not.

A word about your instruments. I received a message from Capt, Evans this evening saying that the instruments I had sent to be put on board the Enterprise, were still at his house; and that the Enterprise had gone off without them.--He means to say, I suppose that he intends to go off without them also. - I shall take them with me when I start or if you have any directions to give concerning them, write me word.

You will find enclose herein the acknowledgement you requested of the (description) of the last bill of exchange for £ 675 used by Thayer & myself in Paris.
I have the honor to be etc yrs W. MCREE
Swift

* See Index

FROM Alden Partridge* to Joseph G. Swift*

West Point June 29th 1817

Dear Sir

I have the honor herewith to return you the Papers you put into my hands the morning you left this Place. I have taken Copies of them all. Although the base (insidious) Manner in which these Papers were drawn up and endeavoured to put into the hands of the President (James Monroe) may justly excite our indignation, yet they are so vague and so informal (having no dates, and one of them no signature) that I do not think it would comport with the dignity of our Stations to make any reply to them or even to notice them in a formal way. I therefore (on my) part shall make none at present - but shall at a proper time give the President a full statement of the conduct of those Personages since they have had to do with the Military Academy. This Statement shall not be prefaced Private nor Confidential nor shall names be omitted. I had a serious talk with Col. (Jared) M. (ansfield)* yesterday relative to those Papers but, could come to no definite conclusions upon any point. Some of the Allegations I ascertained, however, were intended to be applied to yourself. Some to myself, - and some to others. I know not whom. I hope you will visit us soon after your return to N. york. In haste - yours with the greatest Respect - A PARTRIDGE Capt of Engrs
Genl. Swift

*See Index

FROM George Graham* to Jared Mansfield*

Department of War,
1st July, 1817.

Sir,

Your letter of the 23d ultimo, has been received. In order to obtain payment for the books purchased and delivered by you for the use of the military Academy, it will be necessary that the account should be approved by Major Thayer, who, it is presumed, is now performing the duties of superintendent of the military Academy, in pursuance of instructions from this department, given thro' Genl. Swift on the 19th of May last. When the account is thus approved, you will forward it to this department. As to the mode of procuring the books which may be necessary for the use of your class, I presume there can be no difficulty in future; as, on the representation, and consultation of the several professors with the superintendent, the proper class books for the respective classes, will be decided upon, and they will be procured on the order of the superintendent, either thro' the professors, or otherwise, as he may deem most eligible.

I have the honor to be, With With great respect, Your
obedt Servt. GEO: GRAHAM

Jared Mansfield,
Prof. nat: & Expl. Philosophy
Military Academy
West Point, N.Y.

*See Index

FROM: SWIFT, Joseph G* to (Treasurer, United States of
America) Salem Mass
10 July 1817

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose to you the Public and Private accounts of Col. McRee and Major Thayer- By which it will appear that I had remitted to these gentlemen £2361, - 14.6 Sterling equalling Dollars 10,496.55 - This sum is a part of Dollars 11200 rec. by me in Feby & Nov. 1816 from the Gov't U.S. to purchase Bills of Exchange to remit to the above mentioned gentlemen--of the difference- Dollars 703.45 - nearly Dollars 603 were expended in premium for Bills of Exchange as will appear on the settlement of my accounts.

* See Index

Brig General J.G.Swift to the United States-----DR.

	Francs
To Cash paid for his books bo't of Messrs Killian as par account enclosed herewith.....	300
To cash paid for his books bought of Thos. Egerton of London as per account enclosed herewith.....	
	L S D
	10 2 6

£ 500.
500.
341. 14 6
675.
175.
170

£ 2361 14 6 sterling

remitted by G't to McRee & Thayer

2361. 14 6
40

94440
25

9/94443

10493 - 55

94469

\$10496 - 55

\$8000
3200

11200
10493

707

FROM: Joseph G. Swift*

Portland 17, July 1817

My dear Sir,

After mature reflection the President (James Monroe) has concluded that all the complaints and accusations in relation to West Point shall undergo a thorough investigation by a Court Martial. I believe it the only mode whereby to give general satisfaction. As soon as you can conveniently, I wish you to go to the Point and take charge of everything there. You will soon discover a disposition for talking upon staff and other duties and rights. All the rights that any possess at West Point is the right of doing their duty and in the exercise of your authority at that place depend upon my cordial support. In your talents and zeal I have the fullest confidence. Your friend and Servant J.G. SWIFT
P.S. The President and Secretary (George Graham) leave this today for Burlington via Concord, Hanover. This Evening Comm. Bainbridge* and myself go to Penobscot Bay, Castine, and thence return hither and on to Portsmouth, Boston, Newport etc. I feel somewhat depressed in spirits at taking leave of Mr. Monroe.* He has now my entire respect for his greatness and my heart for his virtues. I am sorry that my duty requires a separation which has afforded much gratification- to the true interest of our Dear Country be assured Mr. M(onroe) will give his faithful and unwearied service.

* See Index

FROM Claude Crozet* to whom it may concern
(23 July 1817)

I do hereby Certify that Mr. John C. Russell* a
Cadet in the U.S. Military academy has passed through
his Course of engineering with Credit to himself and
to my satisfaction. C. CROZET. professor of Engineer-
ing.
West-Point 23d July 1817

* See Index

FROM: C.E.Zoeller* to whom it may concern
(23 July 1817)

I certify herewith that Cadet John C. Russell*
attended with much zeal the United States military
& topographical Drawing- academy West Point July
23d 1817 C. E. ZOELLER
Teacher in the Academy

* See Index

FROM: Alden Partridge*

West Point. July 24th 1817

I hereby certify that the bearer Cadet John C. Russell* has been under my command at the Military Academy at this place more than - three years - during which period he has been very attentive to his Studies, and all his other duties, correct in his deportment, - and his whole conduct that of the gentleman and the Soldier- As such therefore I confidently recommend him to all - to whom it may concern----- A PARTRIDGE Capt of Engr. Commanding

* See Index

FROM Alden Partridge* to Joseph G. Swift*

West Point July 24th 1817

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day arrested Professors (Jared) Mansfield* and (Andrew) Ellicott*, and also Mr. (Jonathan) Snowden* the military Storekeeper at this Place. The enclosed Copy of my order upon this occasion will exhibit to you generally the grounds upon which I have gone - I shall, as soon as circumstances will permit make out in due and detailed form, the Charges against them, with the Specifications. I should have arrested Mr. (Claudius) Berard* upon the Charges of disobedience of orders, and of unmilitary, and ungetlemanlike Conduct but he is now absent. It is also my intention to prefer Charges against Capt (John M.) O.Connor*. I do believe, Sir, you have been much deceived relative to this man - it is my candid opinion that he has done as much or more injury to the Military Academy, by spreading false and Slanderous reports concerning it and its Members, as any Individual whatever, I know that he has endeavoured to injure me by every means in his power - he has lately (I am informed) (disclosed) to Mrs. Swift, that I was cheating the public every day and that he should rejoice in my downfall. In the steps which I have taken in this Business, I can assure you I have been actuated by no other motives than those of duty. I am fully sensible of, and deeply deplore the evils which already have, and still must result to the Military Academy from those Evils and deprecations amongst its numbers. I feel conscious however that I have not been instrumental in producing them. I feel that more than two years I have been an object of the most base and underhanded persecution, and that because I have eneavoured faithfully and independently to discharge my duty. I feel also that I have borne with this as long as forbearance can be considered a virtue. yet notwithstanding every thing which has happened, if those Persons who, without any reason, have been so assiduous in their endeavors to injure me, and the Military Academy, will now cease their attempts, and unite with me in endeavoring to promote the Interests of the Institution I hereby pledge myself to bury every thing that has been in oblivion. But if they will not do this, I cannot consider myself answerable for any of the evils which may arise to the Academy, from bringing them to justice. I feel confident the course I have taken will meet your approbation, and I rely on your support in carrying it through. I request Sir, you will make report of my procedings to the President, and also to the Secretary of War. I also request you will send me a Copy of Professor Ellicotts letter to you dated (I believe, July 31 1815) relative to my breaking up the Camp of the Cadets prematurely - and also a Copy of Mr. Crawfords letter to you relative to Messrs Berard and (Christian E.) Zoeller* attending the Mess House as Inspectors, in case they did not board there - this letter I believe was written to you in consequence of one written to the Secretary (Mr. Crawford) by Messrs. Berard and Zoeller remonstrating against that section of the Regulations requiring them to (board) in (Communion). I broke up Camp and commenced the vacation yesterday and am now awaiting the arrival of Major Thayer, when it is my intention to go to Norwich State of Vermont, where I shall expect to hear from you - with the greatest Respect yours Sincerely A PARTRIDGE
Capt of Engrs

Genl Swift

TO: George Graham*

West Point July 27th 1817

Sir

In obedience to your order of May 20th communicated thro' Brig-Genl Swift & recd by me on the 22d instant I have, this day, assumed the command of West-Point & the superintendance of the Mil-Academy. I have the honor to be &c S. THAYER
G Graham Esquire
Actg. Secy of War

* See Index

FROM Alden Partridge* to Joseph G. Swift*

West Point July 28th 1817

Dear Sir,

I have the honor herewith to enclose you the Charges and Specifications preferred by me against Professors (Jared) Mansfield* and (Andrew) Ellicott*, and also against Mr. (Jonathan) Snowden*. I also enclose you Charges and Specifications against Mr. (Claudius) Berard* teacher of french. Mr. Berard is not here at present and therefore has not been arrested. I request that the Charges against all those Persons may be attended to in a proper manner. As to the mode of Proceeding my opinion is the same as I expressed to you in a former letter. I think facts relative to those Charges and Specifications ought to be investigated by means of a Court of Enquiry and when the President (James Monroe) has the facts all before him he can decide accordingly. this mode of Proceeding I think more consonant to the organization of the Military Academy than that by Court Martial. the fact is, there are many points in a Military Academy concerning which a Court Martial composed of officers unacquainted with the organization of such an Institution, would be very incompetent to decide. It may be said, perhaps, that the Proceedings of a Court of Enquiry may be kept secret as has been the case with those relative to my conduct. The same power however that can conceal the Proceedings of a Court of Enquiry can also conceal those of a Court Martial. I now intend to ask an investigation of my conduct as Comdg officer here from the time the the Proceedings of the former Court of Enquiry closed up to the present time. But I do not at this time feel disposed to answer a second time to the same allegations, unless I am obliged to. It is in the power of the President to do me justice without driving me to those Extremities by ordering the Proceedings of the former Court to be made known, and furnishing me with a Copy of them. but if he will not do me this justice, I must put up with wrong until right can be obtained. I have made up charges against Capt. (John M.) O.Connor* which I have just enclosed to Genl. (Winfield) Scott*, and requested him to order the arrest of O.Connor. I hope, Sir, you will ere long be undeceived respecting this man. In patronizing him you have nourished a viper in your Bosom, but I wish you to beware of him in future - Lt. (George) Blaney* will give you my Ideas more fully than I can (for want of time) express them in writing. I leave here in a day or two for Norwich, Vermont -- In great haste - yours with the greatest Respect -- A PARTRIDGE

Capt of Engrs

Genl Swift

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

West Point 28th July 1817

Sir,

In obedience to your order dated Portland 17th inst. & rec^d. by me at Brooklyn on the 22^d I repaired ~~to this Post~~ here on the 25th & have, this day, assumed the command of West - Point & the superintendance of the Mil^y Academy. I found on my arrival C^{ol}. Mansfield* & M^r. Elicott* in arrest the causes of which have, doubtless, been made known to you by my predecessor. I hope these gentlemen will be either released from arrest or their places supplied by other instructors before the end of the actual vacation in order that the academical courses may suffer no interruption. I have the honor to be Sir, very respectfully S. THAYER
Sup^{dt}. of the Mil Academy

*See Index

TO Academic Staff, USMA

(To the Professors on the organization of the studies)

August 1817

Sir,

The Regulations establishing the course of studies for the Mil. Academy prescribe that, the studies of the 3d year or 2d class shall be divided between your Department & that of Engineering but do not determine when the one shall terminate & the other commence whether the year shall be equally divided between the two or what portion of it shall be devoted to each. The Regulations fail also in this that they do not determine to what extent or during what time each of the branches of Philosophy shall be taught according to their relative importance. I believe these questions to be worthy of the attention of the academical Staff---- I am of the opinion that it would be useful to transfer the branch of Engineering to the 1st Class & that the 3d year should be principally if not wholly devoted to your - department of instruction. This would enable your class to acquire a more complete knowledge of astronomy, mechanics, hydrostatics & other important branches of Philosophy The most usefull to the military profession. To enable the Academical Staff to form a general Program of instruction comprehending all the studies to be taught during the four years of education, I recommend that each Professor should make out a particular program for his own department, specifying the branches to be taught, the time required for each, & the books which shall serve as guides. I suppose always that the progress of the studies shall be calculated on the data that the pupil possesses an ordinary capacity & devotes the forenoons to the principal course of studies. That is to say generally from 8 o'clock to $\frac{1}{2}$ past 12 or 1 o'clock -- In order to regulate the 2d recitations or lessons consisting of French, drawing, & practical lessons & which will generally continue from 2 to 4 o'clock P.M., it will be ^{desirable} ~~necessary~~ that the Professors specify in their particular programs what portion of those lessons will be necessary for the practical instruction of their classes & what season of the year most proper therefore - With those materials before them it will be easy for the academical staff to form the general Program. - The arrangement of the Cadets into regular classes as prescribed by the regulations must be rigidly observed for otherwise there can be no good system of instruction- & no Cadet must be relieved hereafter except during the regular period of admission. Should any cadet manifest an (uncommoned) capacity & desire to advance before the rest of his class, I (doubt) not but the professors would readily encourage ambition so laudable & afford him the requisite aid - but no such Cadet can pass to the next higher class

unless regularly admitted thereto at the general examinations---- I have thus given you the outlines of my hasty & desultory reflection on some of the means of better organizing the instruction at this institution not with an idea that the opinions here advanced are the most correct, but with a view to invite a discussion of the subject & to elicit your opinion thereon. The business is new to me & I rely with pleasure on the superior judgement of the learned professors---

* See Index

TO: George Graham*

West Point 1st August 1817

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a copy of my report recommending that certain officers be attached to the Military Academy for purposes therein specified. I addressed it thro' Brig-General Swift* not knowing whether it was expected that I should correspond directly with the War Depart. on the concerns of this institution. But as General Swift is now absent from his Head-Quarters & apprehending that my report will not reach in due season I have deemed it expedient to transmit a copy to your office.

The want of a Quarter-Master & of funds for that Department are extremely urgent. I understand that an estimate of the arrears due for the Quarter ending the 30th June has been already forwarded to the War-department. In regard to the following quarter I have not leisure to ascertain the expenditures already made & to estimate those which may still be wanting. We shall need considerable supplies of instruments, stationary etc for the ensuing term. The buildings will require some repairing & there are many other objects which altho' calling but for small expenditures are of indispensable necessity. & here Sir I request particular instructions which may inform me how far I am authorized to order expenditures; to what objects; & to what amount my powers are limited. I am, Sir, very respectfully Your obedient & humble servant. S. THAYER
Bt. Major & Superintendant US Mil Academy
Geo. Graham Esquire
Acting Secretary of War

* See Index

TO George Graham* (a draft)

(1 August 1817)

Sir,

On assuming the Superintendance of the United States Mil. Academy I have deemed it a solemn duty to report to you whatever imperfections I might discover either in its organization or its management & to suggest those means which should appear to me the best calculated for its advancement. In accordance with these views & on the most mature deliberation of the subject I am of opinion that the following officers are indispensible to the prosperity of this institution.

(1) a Captain of infantry (or an officer of such other grade as the Secy. of War may deem most suitable) as Instructor of Tackticks His duty will be to superintend the infantry drills, the practice at the Target, to teach the Theory of Tackticks to have immediate charge of the police of the Cadets etc etc

(2) a Lieutenant of Artillery, to take charge of the Material of that arm, to Superintend the artillery drills, The Laboratory, the practice at the canon, howitzer, & mortar & teach the nomenclature of the pieces, the (), the carriages, & machines of artillery etc

(3) A Quarter-Master who in addition to his ordinary duties shall be charged with the details relative to the clothing & subsistence of the Cadets etc

(4) A Subaltern to aid the superintendant in his inspections & other labors

The duties to be assigned to each of these officers are as much as one man can attend to & I have proposed officers of the army in order that additional expenses may be avoided & that a special legal provision for these plans may be rendered unnecessary--I hope the Government will perceive the importance of relieving the Superintendant of details which he could perform but very imperfectly were he to undertake them & which would necessarily abstract his attention from more essential duties. To watch over the general interests of the institution, To inspect its operations, to see that the Professors & other officers properly perform the duties assigned to them, to regulate & harmonize the whole machine of instruction, would be sufficient, in addition to his other duties as Commandant of a Military Post, to call for all the vigilance & assiduity of the Superintendant.- It must be recollected moreover that this Academy is yet in its infancy & that much labor is requisite to bring it to that state of perfection demanded by the public interest & corresponding to the views of the Government as the Superintendant must ever be the principal instrument in this great work, it is the more necessary that his mind should be so relieved from details that he can suitably devote himself to it. Should

to the Government determine to grant the officers required I have only to say in regard to their designation that I believe it would be useful to select such as have been educated at this Academy & have since done duty in the line of the army--I beg, Sir, that you will lay this subject before the war Department as soon as convenient in order that the Honble. Secy. may have time to decide thereon before the end of the present vacation--I shall resume my report on the deficiencies & wants of the Military Academy on my return from New York, where I am obliged to repair on necessary business & where I shall be detained for several days. I have the honor to be Sir, very resp your obedt servt. S. THAYER

*See Index

TO: George Graham*

West Point 1st Augt. 1817

Geo. Graham Esquire
Acting Secy of War

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose a copy of my Report recommending that certain officers be attached to the Mil Acdy for purposes therein specified. I addressed it thro Genl. Swift*, not knowing whether the Superintendent was authorised to correspond directly with the War Department but apprehending that my Report will not reach him in due season owing to his absence from Head Quarters at Brooklyn I take the liberty to transmit a copy herewith.

X X X X X

I am respectfully etc S. THAYER Bt. Mjr Esq
Supndt Mil Acady

* See Index

TO Messrs. Mansfield,* Ellicott,* Berard,* Zoeller,* and
Crozet*.

Circular
West Point August 1st 1817.

Sir,

You will please make out soon as practicable a Program of your Course of Instruction specifying the particular branches in minute detail & the time which should be devoted to each also the text books you would wish to have placed in the hands of the students. The program to be accompanied by a Memoir describing the methods of instruction to be pursued as well with respect to the practical as to the theoretical parts of the Course.

From these particular programs the Staff will form a general one embracing the entire Course the amount of which will be equal to that which a student of ordinary capacity may be supposed capable of acquiring during a period of Four years. I am respectfully etc S. THAYER
Bt. Major Supndt. Mil Acady

To Prof Mansfield
Prof. Ellicott
Mr. Berard
Mr. Zoeller
Prof. Crozet

* See Index

FROM Daniel Parker*

Adj. & Insp. Genl. Office
2d August 1817

Sir,

It appears that Capt. Partridge* has arrested several gentlemen of the Academic Staff and confined them to West Point. The papers forwarded by the Captn. are not in my possession, but I am directed by the acting Secretary of War (George Graham), to require you to remove all restriction on the officers so arrested, & should no further measures be adopted by the War Dept., in the meantime, they will resume their respective duties as usual, at the academy, when the vacation has expired.

I have the honour to be Sir Your Obt Serv D PARKER

Adj & Insp Genl

Major S. Thayer

U.S. Corps of Engineers

Superintendent Military Academy

P.S. Deliver the enclosed to (Col) Mansfield.* D.P.

* See Index

TO George Graham*

Newyork 4th August 1817

Sir,

On my arrival to take the command of the Military Academy the vacation had already commenced & the Cadets had generally left the Post. I have ascertained to my satisfaction that the young gentlemen departed under a belief that the vacation was unlimited & that they were to be recalled by a general order. As the regulations designate the day on which the vacation shall expire it will doubtless appear unaccountable that any misapprehension should have existed in that respect. I state, however, the fact without undertaking to explain the cause of it.

I submit therefore very respectfully whether it be not expedient for the Adjutant & Inspector General to issue an order directing the return of the Cadets to the Mily. Academy on the last day of August or at an after period as the War Department may deem most advisable. I believe that many Cadets have gone to visit their friends at the southern extremity of the Union whence they will not be able to return in season unless directed so to do by an early order to that effect. I have thought it my duty to make this representation as otherwise the consequences might be very injurious to the Academical studies. Altho' the regulations limit the period of admittance to the month of September; this article has been, hitherto, disregarded & Candidates have been examined & admitted at all times of the year. This proceeding is highly injurious as, during its continuance, the Cadets cannot be arranged into the regular classes prescribed by the War-Department and indispensable to a proper system of instruction. I am induced to believe that the regulations have not been sufficiently made known to the public & that the irregularity above mentioned is, in part, due to that circumstance.

On the receipt of my orders I felt the necessity of repairing immediately to my Post whence I have returned to transact some business as well of a public as of a private nature which I was compelled to leave unfinished. I shall repair again to West-Point in 4 or 5 days to resume the duties of Superintendent altho' I cannot say under the most favorable auspices. I enter upon them, however, with alacrity & with a zeal which shall know no bounds in full confidence that the Government will grant me every necessary aid & that I shall be permitted a free & direct correspondence with the War-Department on all the the concerns of the Military academy. I am, Sir, very respectfully your obedt. & humble servant S. THAYER
G. Graham Esquire
Actg. Secretary of War

* See Index

TO George Graham*

Newyork 4th August 1817

G. Graham Esquire
Actg. Secy. of War

Sir,

On my arrival at West Point to assume the superintendence of the Mily Acady. I found to my surprise & regret that the professor of Nat. Philisophy & his Assistant, the professor of Mathematics & the Teacher of French including all the instructors attached to the Institution except two (viz Lt. Davies* asst. prof. of Math & Zoeller* teacher of Drawing who were absent) were under arrest. It being vacation few Cadets were present. Those who had gone away left, as is believed, under the impression that the vacation was unlimited & that they were not to return until they recd. a special order to that effect. I have therefore to request that the Adjutant Genl. be directed to issue a general Order commanding the absent Cadets to return to West Point on or before the 1st of Sept. next.

The Regulation limiting the admission of Cadets to the month of Sept. has hitherto been disregarded. It has been the practice to admit them at all times of the year & in no instance, if am correctly informed, have cadets been examined for admission. This practice must cease else there can be no regular classification for instruction. Having come to this city on necessary business I shall return without delay to devote myself to the important duties assigned to me by direction of the President (James Monroe) I enter upon them with diffidence & trusting that the Government will grant me every necessary aid & that I shall be permitted a free & direct correspondence with the War Dept. on all matters that concern the Military Academy.
X X X I am respectfully S. THAYER Bt. Major of
Engs. Supndt Mil. Acady

* See Index

FROM George Graham*
copy

Department of War
August 6th 1817

Sir:

I am happy to find from your communications of the 28th ulto, and of the 1st instant, that you have assumed the command of West Point, and the superintendence of the military academy; and I flatter myself, that under your auspices, those feuds and dissensions which have so materially injured the institution, and harassed the government, will cease; and that the military academy will be brought to a degree of perfection corresponding with the views of the government, and the expectations of the public.

With respect to the execution of your duties, and as to the extent of your duties, and as to the extent of your powers as superintendent, I must refer you to the several laws establishing the military academy and to the "regulations adopted in relation to the military academy at West Point," a copy of which is inclosed. I also forward, for your further guidance and information, a copy of a letter addressed by the late Secretary of War (William Crawford?) to General Swift,*dated the 9th of September, 1816, together with copies of several other letters addressed to him from this department, in relation to the academy. As superintendent of the Military Academy, you are amenable to, and subject only to the orders of the President (James Monroe), thro' this department; and all communications in relation to the Academy, are to be made thro' you. The duties and privileges of the academic staff, are defined by the laws and regulations, and while they are kept strictly within those limits, it is expected that they will be treated with courtesy, and advised and consulted with, either jointly, or severally, on the general concerns of the institution, or those relating to their respective provinces, as you may deem expedient.

Your report to General Swift of the 1st instant, shall be submitted to the President. In the mean time, you will nominate to this department, such officers of the Army, as have been cadets, and whom you may think peculiarly well qualified for the respective stations which you have pointed out in that report. The instructor of tactics will be an important auxiliary, and indispensably necessary; he should be an officer on whom you could place great confidence. Are there any officers of the corps of Engineers attached to the company of Bombardiers? If so, could they not perform some of the duties required by your report? They would be subject to be assigned to other duties by the Chief of the Corps; but this might be regulated. Members of the academic staff, who are officers of the corps

of Engineers, are not considered as subject to be assigned to other duties, except with the express approbation of the President.

Congress having, at the last session, declined to appoint an assistant quarter master for West Point, some difficulty has arisen in relation to the disbursements necessary for that institution. I have ordered a remittance to be made to you, of three thousand dollars; the unexpended balance of the appropriation for buildings; the repairs of buildings, and books, plans, maps, etc. for the military academy, is about seventy thousand dollars; from which you will be furnished with such sums as may be deemed necessary to put in good repair, the quarters for the Academic staff and cadets, relative to which there has been some complaints; and provision should be immediately made for laying in the proper quantity of fuel for the winter.

The preservation of the public property, and the mode of supplying the cadets with clothing, etc., are subjects that will call for your early attention, and on which I should wish you to report specially to this department. The first seems to have produced great dissension at the point; and the latter much discontent among the friends and parents of the cadets.

The division of the cadets into classes, the assignment of the academical studies which each class will pursue during each year; the particular hours of attendance on the respective professors, the assignment and designation of the necessary number of assistant professors, and the selection of the proper class books, are subjects that will require much of your attention, and the exercise of your best judgment; and when, in conjunction with the academic staff, the necessary arrangements in relation to these subjects have been settled, and agreed upon, a special and detailed report, signed by yourself, as superintendent and by the academical staff should be made to this department; and if approved, should be embodied, and made a part of the permanent regulations for the military academy, and should be strictly adhered to, until ample experience shall point out their defects. I have the honor to be, etc. (Sgd) GEO. GRAHAM
Major Sylvanus Thayer West Point New York

* See Index

FROM George Graham*

Department of War,
8th August, 1817

Sir,

Your letter of the 4th instant has been received, and I will direct the Adjutant general to issue a general order, requiring the Cadets to repair to West Point on the 1st of September.

The examination of Candidates, and their admission as Cadets at any period, except during the month of September annually, is irregular. I enclose you a printed form of the letter of notification to Cadets. No warrant is issued until the Cadet has passed an examination, and the pay commences only from the date of the warrant.

I enclose for your information a statement of the specific appropriation for the military academy. The advance to Captain O. Connor* was made on account of the book which he has translated, for the use of the Academy.

I will enclose you a particular statement of the balances, of the appropriations on account of the buildings, and military Academy, at West Point, which remained unexpended on the 1st of January last, so soon as it can be procured from the Auditor. I have the honor to be, With great respect, Your obt. Servt. GEO: GRAHAM

P.S. Mr. Bernard* and Mr. Crozet*, have presented accounts for books, etc. purchased for the military academy; those accounts when approved by you, as superintendent, will be paid.

Major Sylvanus Thayer
Supt. Mily Academy
West Point.

* See Index

FROM George Graham*
copy

War Dept.
8th Augt. 1817

Sir,

Your letter of the 4th instant is read. & I will direct the Adjt. Genl. to issue a Genl Order requiring the Cadets to repair to West Point on the 1st of September.

The examination & admission of Candidates at any period except during the month of September, annually, is irregular.

I enclose you a copy of the notification to Cadets. No Warrant will be issued until the Cadet has passed an examination & pay will commence only from date of Warrant. I have the honor to be etc etc GEO. GRAHAM
Major Sylvanus Thayer
Superdt Mil Acady.

* See Index

FROM George Graham*

Department of War,
18th August, 1817

Sir,

I enclose you a letter from Cadet Vining,* covering several certificates from the academical staff, on which he founds an application for promotion. I have hitherto declined to take any notice of applications from Cadets for promotion, unless accompanied by the recommendation of the Superintendent; but as this seems to be a peculiar case, I have referred the papers to you, and request that you will ascertain the standing of Cadet Vining at the military academy, and report to this department on the propriety of complying with his request.

I enclose a communication from Capt, Partridge,* dated the 6th of July, relative to depredations on the public property at the point, with a request that you order prosecutions to be instituted, if you deem it necessary. I have the honor to be, with great respect
Your Obedt. Servant. GEO. GRAHAM
Major Sylvanus Thayer
Supt. Mily. Acady.

*See Index

TO George Graham*

Mil. Acady West Point
19 Augt. 1817

Sir,

In my letter of the 17th inst. I had the honor to inform you that many Cadets had contracted debts to a large amount which they had neglected or were unable to discharge. & with the latter I had the honor to submit for your approbation such regulations as then seemed to me best calculated to correct the evil.

Since then it has come to my knowledge that Cadets have sold their pay accounts in Newyork & other cities. I would therefore suggest the adoption of a Regulation prohibiting Cadets from receiving pay except from the paymaster on signing the Bill at West Point. I am respectfully etc S. THAYER Bt. Major Engs. Superd Mil Acady

* See Index

TO George Graham*
Draft

19th August 1817

Sir,

In my letter of the 17th inst I had the honor to inform you that the members of this institution had contracted debts to ^{a very large} an enormous amount, & had habitually neglected to discharge them. I had the honor also of communicating to your approbation such regulations as were deemed necessary to correct that evil. I have since obtained knowledge of some facts which lead me to believe that the measures there proposed will not prove completely efficient. Many of the cadets have recently sold their pay accounts at New York & elsewhere in order to raise money to support their extravagance in the cities. I request therefore that a regulation should be adopted prohibiting the cadets from receiving pay except from the Paymaster of the Corps on signing the rolls at West Point.

Cadet Jackson* will repair to the quarters of the commdg officer.

* See Index

TO George Graham*

West-Point 20th August 1817

Sir,

In compliance with the instructions contained in your communication of the 6th instant in answer to my report of the 1st in which I had the honor to request that certain officers should be attached to this institution; I proceed to nominate

Lieutenant G.W.Gardner* of the Artillery for the Department of Artillery

Lieutenant James D. Graham* of the Artillery for Adjutant

From my limited knowledge of the officers who have been educated at this school I am unable at present to recommend a suitable person as instructor of Tactics. In case no such person is known to the War Department I would trust Lieut. Gardner in whom I have much confidence to perform that duty until a permanent instructor of tactics shall be appointed.

I am respectfully S. THAYER Bvt.Major Engr Superdt. Mil Acady

Geo. Graham Esqr.Actg.-Secy.of War

* See Index

TO George Graham*

(20 August 1817)

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt 1st of your communication of 6th inst accompanied by the laws & regulations relative to the Mil. Acdy & copies of several letters acknowledged by the late Secy of War to Brig Genl Swift* 2d of your letters dated the 2d July & 8th inst advising me that resignations of cadets Emmett*, Ward* and Wright* had been accepted 3d of your letter dated the 9th inst. accompanied by the copy of the agreement entered into with Capt, O'Connor* for a number of copies of this translation of Gay de Vernon's* works.

I am, Sir, very respectfully your most obedt servt

S. THAYER

20 Augt 1817.

* See Index

FROM George Graham*

Department of War
August 25th 1817

Sir,

Your letter of the 16th inst. covering a statement of the debts due by the Cadets to the Store keeper was recd by this days mail, and shall be submitted together with the regulations accompanying it to the President (James Monroe) immediately after his return to this place. Instructions had been given to the Pay Master General (Robert Brent) to make no payments to Cadets except thro' the Pay Master of the Corps of Engineers, and I understand that the instructions have been adhered to except in a few cases of payments made by myself. Where Cadets have assigned their pay accounts without the knowledge of the Superintendent, payments ought not to be made on such assignment.

The Adjutant & Inspector General (Daniel Parker) has been directed to issue an order to the Cammanding General at New York, to direct Lieut Gardiner* to report himself to you. Lieut (James D) Graham* having never visited his friends since he first joined the Academy has a furlough for that purpose, until the 1st of October at which time he was directed to report to Major Abert*, but he is desirous of a situation at the Academy and I promised him, that if you should recommend him for one he should be assigned to it. Until his furlough has expired Lieut Monroe*, who has permission to remain at the Academy this winter for improvement, can do the duties of Adjutant of the Post. I have the honor to be With great respect Your Obed Servant GEO. GRAHAM
Major S. Thayer
West Point

*See Index

TO John M. O'Connor*

West Point Augt 27 1817

Dr Sir,

Will you do me the favor to engage your book-binder of
(Pearl) Street to bind immediately thirty copies of the 1st
Volume of your translation & also thirty copies of the 1st
part of your plates (in boards). In great haste yours

Major O'Connor

S. THAYER

*See Index

TO Samuel H. Eakin*

West-Point 28th August 1817

Sir,

I have this day recommended your son (Constantine M. Eakin)* as a suitable person to fill the place of Assistant Professor of Engineering now vacant & I flatter myself that he will be appointed accordingly. It is desirable that your son should repair as soon as practicable to this Post as his services will be immediately required. I am Sir with great respect & esteem Your most obedt Servant S. THAYER

* See Index

TO George Graham*

West Point 28th Augt 1817

Sir,

Altho' the French language constitutes a part of the course of studies of this institution it has been hitherto but imperfectly taught & never considered as a sine quo non now at the yearly examinations for appointments. Hence, the greatest portion even of those who were appointed into the Corps of Engineers left the Academy totally unacquainted with that language which may be considered as the sole repository of Military science. This neglect of a study so very important proceeds from the want of instructors to teach it. That it is highly expedient either to expunge it from the the course of study or to provide adequate means to teach it properly cannot admit of a doubt & it is the unanimous opinion of the academical staff that two additional teachers are indispensably & immediately necessary for that branch of instruction - The legal provision for one teacher was made at a time when the number of cadets did not exceed Thirty. The 3d & 4th classes which are daily instructed in the French will usually amount from 120 to 140 & will exceed the latter number the ensuing year. - The assistant professorship of Engineering is now vacant & I recommend Lt. Aiken* as a suitable person to fill that vacancy.

S. THAYER

* See Index

TO (George Graham)*

(29 August 1817)

Sir,

On assuming the command of the Mil. Academy my first act so far anticipated your instructions of the 6th inst as to call a meeting of the Staff of which the proceedings are herewith enclosed. I thereon directed the principal of each Department of instruction to draw up a programme of the studies to be taught here and to designate therein the for his department in which will be designated the particular branches ~~to be taught~~, of study, to what extent they shall be taught, the time necessary for each & the books which shall serve as guides---From these particular programmes the staff will form a general one to comprehend the whole course studies of which the amount will be equal to that which a pupil of ordinary capacity is supposed capable of learning ^{during} in a period of four years. When this labor shall have been completed it will be forwarded for the approbation of the War Department. You will perceive by the enclosed proceedings that we have transferred Engineering and the branches connected from the 3d to the 4th Years course because it was found that one year (of which only 9 months are devoted to study) is not sufficient for the instruction of that branch and of Philosophy. This transfer will ~~permit the~~ enable ~~the~~ philosophical department to the Philosophical class to extend their knowledge in astronomy, mechanics, hydraulics and other branches the most useful to military men-- The whole of the present 4th years course (except Chemistry & Mineralogy of which an elementary course will be taught in the 3d year by the Professor of Philosophy) has been included. We are nevertheless aware of the utility of those branches but we believe that those substituted are still more useful ~~cannot be too advantageously taught~~ especially to military men--A knowledge of general history, ethics & can be equally well acquired after leaving the institution but the reverse is the case with Philosophy, Engineering, Topography & which require the aid of instruments, apparatus & instructors ~~will however therefore be conquered unless at this by the young men be~~ It is not intended however to neglect entirely Geography & the ~~same~~ other branches necessary to form the accomplished scholars. They will on the contrary constitute a part of the collateral course according to their relative importance so soon as we shall be furnished with the means of teaching them - - Drawing & French have been extremely neglected, the one from the want of instruments & the other from the want of teachers. A supply of instruments should be procured from France & furnished to the Cadets (on) stopping the amount from their pay. In regard to the French I refer you to my letter of yesterday & ----- I am respectfully S. THAYER
Augt 29 1817

*See Index

TO George Graham*

U.S. Military Academy
West Point August 29th 1817

Sir,

In anticipation of your instructions of August 6th instant on assuming command I lost no time in calling a meeting of the Academic Staff with a view to a new arrangement of the studies & to the classification of the Cadets. These proceedings are herewith enclosed. Each professor or other head of a Department is charged to draw up a programme specifying in minute detail all that is to be taught in his Course. From these particular programmes there will be formed a general one embracing the entire four years course of studies which when completed will be submitted for the approbation of the War Department.

X X X X X X X X X X X X
S. THAYER Bt. Maj. Eng, Supt. Mil Academy

* See Index

TO George Graham*

West Point August 30th 1817

Sir

I have the honor to inform you that Captain A. Part-
ridge* of the Corps of Engineers has returned to this Post
& has, this day, forcibly assumed the command & the Super-
intendance of the Military Academy. I shall therefore pro-
ceed to New York & wait your orders. I am, Sir, most res-
pectfully your most Obed Servt S. THAYER

* See Index

FROM Alden Partridge*

(31 August 1817)

Charges preferred against Brevet Major Sylvanus Thayer of the corps of Engineers, by Capt. Alden Partridge of the aforesaid Corps Augst 31st 1817

Charge 1st

Violation of the established Regulations of the War Department relative to the distribution of quarters. Specification. In refusing whilst Commanding Officer at West-point, to Capt. Alden Partridge, of the corps of Engineers his choice of quarters - though the aforesaid Capt. Partridge was the Senior Officer of Engineers at West-Point, his proper Head Quarters-in direct violation of the Regulations of the War-Department, which, imperatively require that the Senior Officer at a Post shall in every case be entitled to his choice of Quarters. This occurred on or about the 29th and 30th of August 1817.

Charge 2nd

Conduct Unjust & Arbitrary.

Specification. In attempting to deprive, as aforesaid, Capt. Alden Partridge of the Corps of Engineers, of an important right (his choice of Quarters) secured to him by the imperative Regulations of the War Department, for the purpose of accommodating a Junior Officer Brevet Capt. David B. Douglass* of the corps of Engineers, thereby oblidging the aforesaid Capt. Alden Partridge, either tamely to Surrender his undoubted right and submit to degradation, or resort to a measure for maintaining it, which, under the existing circumstances was verry disagreeable to him. This occurred at West Point on or about the 29th & 30th Augst 1817

Charge 3rd

Conduct unbecoming an Officer & a Gentleman.

Specification 1st. In ordering, (while comdg. officer at West Point) the Quarters which had been occupied by Capt Alden Partridge of the corps of Engineers for about nine years, to be opened while he (Capt. Partridge) was absent from West Point during the vacation of the Military Academy, and all his furniture, Books, Papers & other articles to be removed therefrom. This was done to accommodate Brevet Capt. David B. Douglass of the corps of Engineers, and after he (Major Thayer) had promised Capt. Partridge that his Furniture & other articles should remain in the quarters aforesaid & the quarters be locked up (if not occupied by two of the Cadets who had been quartering with Capt. Partridge for a considerable length of time) untill he (Capt Partridge) returned to West Point, or untill he gave further notice relative to them - unless an Officer Senior to Capt. Partridge, should require them. This occurred on or about the 17th of August 1817.

Specification 2nd. In ordering a closet in the quarters, aforesaid, containing a number of papers & other articles belonging to Capt. Alden Partridge of the Corps of Engineers, to be forcibly broken open, while Capt. Partridge was absent, as stated in Specification 1st, & all the articles to be removed therefrom. This was done to accommodate the views of Brevet Capt. David B. Douglass aforesaid, when it was evident from the situation of his wife that he could not occupy the aforesaid Quarters before Capt. Partridge would probably return to West Point, and also after he (Major Thayer) had made to Capt. Partridge the promise stated in Specification

first. This second on or about the 18th of Augst. 1817
Specification 3rd In allowing the furniture & other articles
belonging to Capt. Alden Partridge of the Corps of Engineers,
after they were removed from his quarters as already stated
in Specifications 1st & 2nd to remain exposed for several
days in a room occupied by two Cadets, without any proper
measures being taken to preserve them - A PARTRIDGE
Capt of Engineers

Witnesses

Major Isaac Roberdeau*	Topographical Engineers
Capt. Alden Partridge	Corps of Engineers
Lieut. John Wright*	Do Do

*See Index

FROM Alden Partridge* to Joseph G. Swift*.

West Point August 31st 1817

Dear Sir

I have the honor to inform you that I arrived at this Place on Friday the 29th Inst. Immediately on my arrival I reported myself to Major Thayer (the Comdg officer) and requested of him the occupancy of my former quarters from which I found my furniture had all been removed during my absence, and the quarters assigned to Brevet Capt. (David B.) Douglass*. Major Thayer declined giving me the quarters. I formally requested them as being the Senior officer to the one to whom they were assigned, and that consequently I had a right to them by the express regulation of the War Department - he however declined granting them to me. I next morning called upon Major Thayer and formally demanded the quarters as my right - he however refused them to me. I then told him that I (undoubtedly) had a right to them and that my personal rights could not be yielded - that I had a legal right to the Superintendance of the Academy as being the Senior officer of Engineers present, and that I should be under the necessity of exercising this right (and consequently take possession of my quarters if I could not obtain them without. He observed that by law I was the Superintendent but that he could not consistent with his orders resign the Superintendancy, but that if I assumed it he should consider the responsibility as taken from himself. ~~That he preferred I should occupy my quarters in this way rather than he assigned them to me himself.~~ I observed to him that it was not my wish under existing circumstances to have any thing to do with the Superintendance of the Academy but merely to reside here enjoying such privileges as my rank entitled me to. But as he still declined granting me the quarters of my choice, I felt myself bound to take upon myself the Command and Superintendancy of the Academy, as belonging to me by law, for the purpose of maintaining my rights. this I accordingly did. In taking this course I wish you to be assured, Sir, that I have been actuated by no other motives than those of duty to myself and to my Profession. I know, Sir, my Enemies will endeavor to make a great Scandle of what I have done - but I consider I have acted as my duty required under the existing circumstances. Injustice may be done me and in my public capacity I may suffer in consequence of it, but the personal Prerogatives that belong to my station as an officer are too precious ever to be wrested from me but with my life. In making these observations I wish you not to believe that I intend to attribute to Major Thayer any improper motives in his conduct in this case. You know the opinion I have always expressed to you concerning him - and it will require the most cogent reasons to induce me to alter it. I would now observe, Sir, that I consider it of the greatest importance both to yourself - to myself and to the Military Academy, that you should come up and take upon yourself the Superintendance of the Institution until difficulties here are all adjusted. This is also the opinion (decidedly) of Major (Isaac) Roberdeau*, and of every other friend you have here - I beg Sir you will not neglect it - In haste - yours with the greatest Respect

A PARTRIDGE

Genl. Swift

Capt of Engrs

P.S. Do not fail to urge a general and full investigation into

my conduct, as well as into the conduct of all those against whom I have preferred charges - this ought to be done immediately. your etc A PARTRIDGE
Genl Swift

*See Index

FROM Gen. Joseph G. Swift*

Brooklyn 1 Sept. 1817 -

Dear Sir,

I learn that Capt. Partridge* has taken command etc of West Point- This act is totally unauthorised & I learn that it has been accompanied by some riotous if not mutinous proceedings. I have ordered my Ad Camp to call on you to ascertain the fact & if the command be taken by Capt. Partridge to arrest that officer immediately & to deliver you the order from me. The Engineer order is sent that in case of any refractory conduct the Cadets may know the consequences - Should you think that this order interferes with any official right of yours, you need not issue it until my arrival at W.P. - I hope you may not have left the Point as your right of command by Brevet Rank is in my opinion just. W.Pt. is a detachment, were it not I should deem your right of command good, both by Brevet & my orders.- Capt. Partridge was at my quarters a few days since & informed me of his intention of going to Washington & to West Point. I advised him not to go to either place & I am astonished at the folly & error of his conduct-- By this days mail I shall advise the War Dept. of my proceedings. Why did you not drop me a line by Col. Mansfield* to meet me here in case of my having arrived here from the East? Col. McRee & myself will be with you tomorrow. I shall remain til matters are fixed to your satisfaction so far as relates to what I can do. With much regard Yours

J.G.SWIFT

Major Syl. Thayer Commg. West Point & Superintending
Mily. Academy West Point

* See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift*

Head Quarters Engineer Department
New York, 1st September 1817

Sir,

I am informed, that under pretense of ranking you, Capt. Partridge* has assumed the Command of West Point, and the Superintendence of the Military Academy. This unauthorized conduct has induced me to arrest Capt. Partridge.

You will consider yourself as continued in the Command of West Point and the Superintendence of the Military Academy and you will act accordingly. I am Sir, Respectfully; Your Obedient Humble Svnt. SWIFT
TO Major Sylvanus Thayer
Commanding West Point & Superintendent of the Mily Acady

* See Index

Distribution of the Daily Exercises at the Mil Academy

(Sept. 1, 1817)

Summer

Revellie - at the dawn of the day
(the intervall between revellie & the drill will
(be employed in arranging & inspecting the rooms
Drill of the Squad - 20 Minutes after revellie
Breakfast - 7 o'Clock A.M.
Academy - 8 o'Clock A.M. to 1 o'Clock P.M.
Dinner - 1 o'Clock P.M.
Academy - 2 o'Clock to 4 o'Clock
Drills $\frac{1}{4}$ past 4 o'Clock to Evening Parade
Company drills, Mond. Tuesd. Thursd. Frid.
Battalion Do. Wednesdays & $\frac{1}{2}$ past 2 o'C. Sundays
Saturday afternoons devoted to the cleaning of arms
& recreations
Inspections - 9 o'Clock Sunday Mornings
Supper after parade
Candles extinguished at 9 o'Clock P.M.
Sword Exercise=during the Squad exercise & Compy. drills

Winter

Breakfast - 8 o'Clock No squad drill in the morning from
lt. Nov. to lt. Mar
Academy - 9 o'Clock to 1 o'Clock
Dinner 1 o'Clock
Academy from 2 to 4 oClock
Drills - (No afternoon drills from lt. Nov. to lt. March
(except on Wednesdays & Saturdays from 2 o'Clock P.M.
(to Parade. Battalion drills & Inspections on
(Sundays as during the summer

The Sword exercise will commence with the 2d class
commencing alphabetically The Squad shall be divided into
two divisions which shall be taught alternately every other
day during the Squad drills - a squad of the lt. Class shall
practice every afternoon during the compy. drills under the
eye of the swordmaster

TO John M.O'Connor*

West Point lt. of Sept. 1817

Sir,

I have contracted with Mr. Olmstead to bind twelve hundred copies of your translation of Gay de Vernons* Treatise on the following terms

The text at 33 Cents per volume bound in sheep in the most solid manner agreeably to the models in your possession

The plates quarto size half bound in the same solid manner; the corners to be secured by leather at 33 Cents per volume (the edges not cut)

The amount for binding twelve hundred copies will be therefore \$1188 of which you will be furnished with such portions as you shall require for the payment of the binder.

S. THAYER Bt Major Superintendent Mil Acady
John M O'Connor Capt. of Artillery

* See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift*

Head Quarters Engineer Department
New York 1st September 1817

Orders,

Brig General Swift has been informed that Capt Partridge* has assumed the Command of West Point-- This un-military & unauthorised act, has caused the arrest of Capt Partridge.

An implicit obedience of the orders of Major Thayer is expected from every Cadet- disobedience will be punished by immediate dismissal J.G. SWIFT B.G.

* See Index

FROM George W. Gardiner*

Bedlows Island
N.Y. Harbor Sept. 2 1817

Dear Major

By a Department order dated August 28th 1817, issued without doubt by your knowledge and by authority from the War Department, I am ordered to proceed to W. Point to report to you, and receive your orders.

To account for my delay, I beg leave to state that an order of Colonel Hindman Commg the Harbor of New York, and of a later date, requires my detention for a few days, in consequence of the unavoidable absence of a Subaltern from this Post. With the highest respect & esteem I am Sir
Your very obedt Servt G. W. GARDINER Lieut Arty
Major Thayer
Commg etc etc

* See Index

FROM Jared Mansfield* to John O'Connor*

West Point Sept. (3rd) 1817

My Dear Sir,

Col. McRee* will, if Major Thayer has not already informed you of many particulars of the late Mutiny, which had not come to my knowledge. I understand the Cadets are about contradicting the Statement in the papers, as far as it respects, the mutinous intentions of themselves. In case they, or any lying advocates of (Alden) Partridge* contradict the statements already made, I substitute one of their own; I wish you to publish the statement first made out by you, & presented I believe, to Mr. (Callender) Irvine*. I find it to be most accurate & true, Partridge did employ (Charles) Davies* to return his thanks to the Cadets, but it was not after he seized the Command through them but before, while at Breakfast, for their attachment & expressions of satisfaction in the mutinous indiscretions of (Huzz)as, shouts, etc., the preceding day. I have no doubt you will know how to manage the Scoundrels, & that you will do it with lashes which they will remember. At present however, it may be proper only to contradict their lies.

The Accessary Cadets, think they can be exculpated, by the orders of P____ge (Partridge), surrendering his command in July to Thayer, which they say are to this effect, that he take command till he P____ge should return. I know not what the fellow may have contrived even in the first instance. But if this be the case his own guilt must be aggravated, & I should suppose if orders read, or published in parade, were the test; that Orders from Major Thayer for Partridge to command would be also necessary. The Quibbling Jesuit will try to escape by some such acts; I hope the Government, however, will crush the fellow, who has by force resisted their express Orders.

The family are well & desire to be remembered to you with the sincerest regard - I am with the highest esteem Yours,

JARED MANSFIELD

P. S. Since writing the above Major Thayer has arrived, & it would appear, that Partridge's case is even blacker than I had represented. He had contrived by his orders & the verbal information he gave the Cadets, on his leaving here in July, to make them believe, that it was he himself, who had sent for Major Thayer, ~~while~~ to take his place for a short time, while he could go to Vermont. The orders of Genl. (Joseph G.) Swift* & the Government, he contrived to conceal from them. This may exonerate the Cadets generally; but I do know, that several of them had better means of information. What an audacious, lying fellow P--ge proves to be! He is ordered to N. York, I am of opinion, however, he will not stay there. He was about arresting, as it appears, Major Thayer. Matters have worked of themselves to that pitch, that I am of opinion, that we had better let Newspaper publications alone, unless they should publish some arrant falsehood.

*See Index

FROM Alden Partridge* to Joseph G. Swift*

West Point Sept. 3d 1817

Dear Sir,

Notwithstanding what has recently happened I deem it my duty to make to you a summary Statement of the facts relative to my taking upon myself the Command and Superintendance - (temporarily) of the Military Academy. I arrived at this Place from New York on Friday the 29th of August. Immediately after my arrival I reported myself to the Comdg Officer Brevet Major Thayer - informed him I had come here to remain for the purpose of being ready for the general investigation of my Conduct and of the Conduct of others against whom I had preferred Charges, and requested of him the occupancy of my former quarters from which I found my furniture had all been removed, and the quarters assigned to Brevet Capt. (David B.) Douglass*. Though at the time occupied by no one. With this request Major Thayer declined complying. I stated to him that as a senior officer to the one to whom they were assigned, I had an undoubted right to them. The regulations of the War Dept on that head being imperative - and further that they were the quarters which I had occupied nearly the whole time I had (served) at West Point - He however declined granting them to me. The next morning I called upon Major Thayer and made a formal demand of those quarters as my right being the senior officer to the one to whom they were assigned and also the Senior officer of Engineers at the Post. He however refused to comply with my demand. I then told him that my personal rights I could not consent to yield - That as Senior officer of Engineers present I had a legal right to the Command and Superintendance of the Military Academy. Which however it was not my wish to exercise under existing circumstances. that I wished merely to reside here with out any interference whatever in the Command or Superintendance of the Institution enjoying such Privileges only (except that of Command) as my rank entitled me to. - But that if I could not obtain those privileges without an exercise of the right of Command, I should be under the necessity (though contrary to my wishes) of resorting to that mode of obtaining them. Major Thayer observed that by law I was the Superintendant, but that he could not consistent with his orders resign the Superintendance - if however I assumed it he should consider the responsibility as taken from himself. I again observed to him that I did not wish under existing circumstances to have any concern with the Command - that I had much rather receive my quarters in another way, and was perfectly willing to accept them from him though my junior officer. He however still declined granting them to me. I then found myself reduced to this dilemma - either I must yield up an important right secured to me by imperative regulation and which my situation rendered necessary for me to enjoy, or I must exercise another right vested in me by law. I preferred the latter as most consistent with my duty as an officer. I took upon myself the Command and Superintendance (temporarily) of the Military Academy, and as Comdg officer took possession of my quarters. The order for this purpose was written with the knowledge of Major Thayer and read to him previously to its being published - it was afterwards (in a regular way) published on Parade, and obeyed accordingly. In doing what I have done I wish you to be assured, Sir, that I have been actuated by no other motives

than those of duty. Had I consented tamely to surrender what was _____ my right or rather had I not made use of such means as were placed in my power for the purpose of maintaining it, I Should (considered) myself as justly entitled to the contempt of the Members of the Honourable Corps to which I belong, and also to the contempt and derision of the young Gentlemen of the Military Academy whom I have had the honor to command. I know, Sir, that my Enemies will endeavor to make a great Scandle of what I have done for the purpose of effecting my injury, but this shall not deter me from pursuing such a course as my duty points out. The rights and Prerogatives which attach to my Station as an officer, are a sacred deposit committed to me by My God and My Country - and can be wrested from me only with my life. In making these observations, I wish not to be understood as intending to _____ the motives which have actuated Major Thayer in his conduct towards me - you know the opinion which I have always expressed concerning him, and it will require the most cogent reasons to induce me to alter it. - I have the honor to be very respectfully, Sir, your obedient Servant
A PARTRIDGE Capt of Engrs
Brigadier Genl. J. G. Swift Comdt of Engrs.

*See Index

FROM Daniel Parker* to Joseph G. Swift*

Adj. & Insp Genl's Office
Sept 3rd 1817.

Sir

Major Thayer, Commandant & Superintendent of the Military Academy, at West Point, has reported to the War Department, that Captain (Alden) Partridge* has returned to that place, & forceably assumed the Command & the Superintendence of the Military Academy. It is also reported, that Brevt Lieut Charles Davis (Davies)* was aiding in the measures which produced this outrage on the orders of the Executive - you will therefore without loss of time, arrest Cap. Partridge & Lieut. Davis, & have them repair to Governors Island, in the harbour of New York, there to remain until further orders from the government.

You will also direct Major Thayer, forthwith to resume the command & Superintendence of the Military School at West point. I have the honor to be Sir yr. obd. Servt.

By order D. PARKER A&IGenl

P.S. The enclosed copies will show you what correspondence has been had thro this office - D.P.

*See Index

FROM George Graham* to Joseph G. Swift*

Department of War,
3d. Septembr. 1817.

Sir,

I enclose a copy of a letter from Brevt. Major Thayer, superintendent of the military academy. In consequence of which an order has been issued for the arrest of Capt. (Alden) Partridge*, which order, it is expected, will be promptly and strictly executed. So soon as the present intruder is removed, you will order Brevet Major Thayer to return to the Point, -- reassume the superintendence of the military academy, and report himself to this department.

The extraordinary conduct of Capt. Partridge, has made it necessary to call on you for a copy of the orders given by you to Bt. Major Thayer and Capt. Partridge, in consequence of the instructions which were issued to you from this department on the 19th of May last. I have the honor to be, with great respt. your obt. Servant GEO: GRAHAM
Br. Genl. Joseph G. Swift New York

*See Index

FROM Alden Partridge* to Joseph G. Swift*

West Point Sept 5th 1817

Sir,

I have the honor herewith to enclose you the Charges and Specifications in detail upon which I have arrested Brevet Capt David B. Douglass* of the Corps of Engineers. I would also request the Arrest of Claudius Berard* Esqr Teacher of french at the Military Academy on the Charges preferred by me against him on the 24th or 25th of July last. I also enclose some additional Specifications to the Charges which I preferred against Professors (Jared) Mansfield* and (Andrew) Ellicott* on the 24th of July last which I wish to be (considered) as making part of those Charges. I further enclose Charges against Brevet Major Sylvanus Thayer* of the Corps of Engineers, and would request his immediate Arrest, agreeably to the Requisitions contained in 77th Article of the Rules and Articles of War. In doing this, Sir, I wish not to be understood as being actuated by any personal animosity whatever towards Major Thayer. His conduct I view officially, and conceive it to have been highly incorrect - It has been the means of forcing me to the adoption of a measure which has involved me (at least for the present) in some difficulty. I conceive therefore that justice can fully take place only by bringing the Conduct of us both to a fair investigation. As the Arrests of the other Persons at this Place are without any prescription of limits I think it just that I should be put upon a (par) with them in this and all other Respects. this I would accordingly request. pledging myself that I will neither desert, nor make any improper use of any privilege granted me. I would also request from you, Sir, as my Comg officer, an order for the occupancy of my quarters - for as I find by experience that the regulations of the War Department are not of sufficient force to protect me in my just rights - and that in case I should be temporarily absent from the place, that the quarters should remain vacant, unless I leave them in the care of some person, and my things not be disturbed, unless they were claimed by an officer of Engineers Superior to me in rank. This privilege I believe, Sir, has been granted to other officers, and particularly to Capt. Douglass, for several months in succession. I have the honor to be very respectfully Sir your obdt Sevt A PARTRIDGE Capt of Engrs. Brigadier Genl. J. G. Swift Comdt. of Engrs.

*See Index

FROM Alden Partridge* to Joseph G. Swift*

West Point Sept. 6th 1817.

Sir,

I had the honor duly to receive from the hand of Lieut. (George) Blaney* the Charges which you have deemed it your duty to exhibit against me. As to the Charges I have nothing to say at present as the proper tribunal will decide upon them. I would take the liberty however to request the _____ of that part of your order which requires me to repair to New York - there to remain -- I have been unwell for several days, and even when in good health a residence for any length of time in New York as a General Rule provides sickness. I wish the privilege of remaining at this place until my trial shall come on. I ask this favor on account of my health, and also for the purpose of being better prepared for making my defense against the Charges which have been exhibited against me. I will give such security as may be perfectly Satisfactory both to yourself and to the Comdg. officer that I will not in any respect either directly or indirectly interfere or meddle with the concerns of the Post or of the Academy or of any one connected therewith. By granting this request you will confer on me an important favour. I would also request to see you in the course of the day on some Business which concerns yourself Personally - and which I wish to communicate to you verbally. I have the honor to be very respectfully, Sir, your obedt. Svt.

A. PARTRIDGE
Capt of Engrs

Genl. Swift Comdt of Engrs.

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift*

New York 8th Sept. 1817-

Dear Sir,

Cadet Bache* is somewhat anxious lest he should be obliged to review a large portion of the studies through which he has already passed.- He was good in the Philo-
sophical Dept. in French he was also good, in Drawing very good. - Without making any inroad upon your Plans, I could say to you that Bache is as worthy of a Commission as almost any who have recd. one.- The object of this letter is to request, that you would give to him the grade of Class which he deserves & that may be in your power.- You can't have a better Q. Master than Bache would make. - I need say no more, for I believe you know somewhat of his worth. Affcty. Yours

J. G. SWIFT

Major Thayer

I have orders from the War Dept. to arrest Capt. Partridge* & Lt. Davies* & to order them to Govr. Island- With respect to Davies I enclose his arrest - But have stated to the War Dept. that neither you or myself deem him to have acted with base intentions, & I have suspended ordering him to Govr. Island til I can hear from Washington & have requested that Davies may be released from arrest. - I wish you to write me how things go on. Yours JGS

When you present Lt. Davies' arrest you can say to him as much of the foregoing as you may think proper. I wish to save the Youth from too much mortification - Mention my name to him. Yours J. G. SWIFT

*See Index

TO George Graham*

(9 September 1817)

Sir,

On being informed of the late conduct of Capt Part-
ridge,* Genl Swift* repaired to this post after I had
left it, caused that officer to be arrested, directed
me to return & resume the command, & issued the order of
which I enclose a copy. These prompt & decisive meas-
ures on the part of Genl Swift have (perfectly) re-
stored order at this Post & the operations of the
Academy have resumed their ordinary course. I have
reason to believe that the bad spirit which has been
excited among the Cadets will subside by the exercise
of prudent & vigorous measures & that no serious con-
sequences are to be apprehended for the future. I
enclose herewith the certificate required by your
letter of 3d inst. & also a certificate in favor of
21 new cadets who have been admitted into the Mil.
Academy--

* See Index

TO John M. O'Connor*

West Point 10th Sept. 1817

Dear Sir,

I have to request that you will direct 30 (1st) volumes to be finished as soon as possible & all the plates which may be struck off to be bound in boards. The lt. class are now idle & will be so until these books are received - all is well here & I do not apprehend much difficulty for the future. Yours sincerely S. THAYER
Maj. O'Connor

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

West-Point Sept. 11th 1817

Sir,

You will undoubtedly recollect our opinion on the necessity of removing Lieut. Wright* from this post & the event has but too well justified that opinion.-- last evening some Cadets with the adjutant asked permission to be out aftertattoo for the purpose of waiting the arrival of some of their comrades expected by the Steam-boat. I knew that the real motive was to take leave of Capt. Partridge* & as I did not choose to oppose that impression of their affection towards him I gave accordingly the permission required. A short time after the adjutant came to ask leave for the band to play on the wharf & with the same pretence as before. I did not hesitate to refuse the demand as altogether improper. It was only this morning that I learned with surprise that the band had escorted Capt Partridge to the wharf by the express order of Lieut Wright who I am well persuaded was not unacquainted with my previous refusal. Thus Capt. Partridge deprived of his sword for defying the orders of his general & the government has by this unmilitary & unauthorized act left the Post with all the honors of musick due only to an officer high in command. My first intention was to have arrested Lieut. Wright but on further consideration I have thought best to send him from the Post immediately & leave him to be disposed of as you may think proper. I have accordingly directed him to report himself to you agreeably to the order herewith enclosed-----

The operations of the academy have resumed their regular course & I do not apprehend any serious difficulties hereafter. I am Sir with high respect & esteem your most obedt. servt. S. THAYER Bvt Major Eng.
Superintendent Mil Acady
Brig General Swift
Chief Engineer

* See Index

FROM George Blaney*

Head Quarters Engineer Department
September 13 1817

Sir,

General Swift* has directed me to inform You that he does not consider the authority which arrested Capt Douglas(s)* legal, & that he will govern himself by the General Order of this date. I am Very Respectfully Your Obedient Humble Svt. GEORGE BLANEY Aid de Camp

To)

Major Sylvanus Thayer
Comdg. Supt. Mily Academy
West Point

* See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift*

Brooklyn 13th Sept. 1817-

Dear Sir,

I enclose a letter recd. from some Cadets & also my reply - this last be pleased to have given to them. - The order for Capt. Douglass* to sit on a Ct. Martial may be deemed contrary to Rules & Regulations, if so, & any objection be made to the Service, let me be advised.

The Secy. War (George Graham) declines reinstating Harvey Brown* except on my special recommendation. That youth should call on me if he wishes my interference. I stated to Capt. Douglass the mild course I wished to pursue in relation to Brown.- Brown states to the Secy. War that the Certificates of the Professors, which he sent to the Secy.- related to his conduct! & progress,-- I expect to hear from you very soon. How does Mr. Davies* come on & if you think my requesting his release will be beneficial to the Academy?

Lt Story* will be with you as soon as he can leave Boston. With respect & Esteem J.G.SWIFT
Major Thayer

* See Index

FROM Alden Partridge* to Joseph G. Swift*

Tammany-Hall (N.y)
Sept. (13th) 1817

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I left West Point last Evening in the Steam Boat, and arrived in the New York this morning. I would request an extension of the limits of my arrest. I wish to make a number of Barometrical observations at Staten Island and at other places in the vicinity of New York. I p(resume) that Scientific operations are not inconsistent with my duty -- I have the honor to be very respectfully Sir your obedt Servt A PARTRIDGE Capt of Engrs Brigadier Genl. J. G. Swift Comdt. of Engrs.

*See Index

Note on cover of letter: Wants an extension of his arrest ---
Ansd. Can't have it & ordered to Governors Island

TO John M. O'Connor*

West-Point 17th Sept 1817

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure to receive, last evening, by Mr. Hitchcock* your letter & thirty 1st volumes of your work. I regret not to have recd. also such plates as were completed because without them, the text cannot be studied. I have to request, therefore, that you will have bound, immediately, in boards, the plates now completed & that you will inform me when I may send for them. as to Partridge* let him write & catch at straws as drowning men are wont to do. unfortunately he has need of daubing over his conduct with false alarms - It is Genl. Swift who has preferred charges against him. -

My best respects to Col. McRee. Yours with great esteem
Major. O'Connor

S. THAYER

*See Index

FROM DeWitt Clinton*

Albany 19 Septr. 1817

Sir,

Mr. Trenor* who will hand you this is a candidate for admission into the Academy under the Auspices of the Secretary of War (George Graham) and on my recommendation. I take the liberty, Sir, of recommending him to your particular attention with an assurance that it will always afford me great satisfaction to reciprocate your kindnesses to him. I am yours very respectfully
DEWITT CLINTON

Major Thayer

Since writing the above I learn that Mr. Trenor Senior intends to accompany his Son - I recommend him to your particular attention.

* See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift*

Brooklyn 20th Sept. 1817

Dear Major,

I yesterday recd. your letters of 10th, 11th, and 12th that of 11th informs me of Lieut. Wrights* improper and un-military conduct. Unless you can prove that he knew your refusal to allow the Band to Play, I somewhat think his command of the Bombardiers would be a cover to his allowing a part of that Corps, the Band, to play for Cadets, unless orders exist which place the Band under the immediate orders of the Commt. of the Post. If it can be proven that Lt. W(right) allowed the Band to salute Partridge* I will arrest him. While ignorant of his conduct I allowed him to go to Vermont on 15th.

If Lt. Leslie* can do the Company duty and his Paymaster-ship also, I shall be pleased, as the Corps is so small that we have not officers enough for Engineer duty. This fact would render it inconvenient for Story* to remain with you longer than til April next - ad interim Major W. A. Barron or some other Quarter M. would be designated for your Command--Barron wants to be with you. How would you like him, He is honest and industrious.

It is matter of some surprise to me that Cadets Bache*, Giles* and some others were not promoted at the last Promotion; do me the favour to enquire the cause and let me know as well in relation to them as any others in similar case. Giles is mortified and makes to resign, He is a capable Youth, - Upon your information I shall report to the War Dept. as upon a matter that occurred before you took command. Yourself Lt. Davies*, Cadet Ragland*, Wright will be witnesses on Partridges trial, inform me of any others by the next Mail.

I enclose you a letter from ___ Swartr___ and shall reply to him that I have referred the letter to the Supt. of the M. A.

Your Books shall be disposed of agreeably to your wishes. Do you think it would be desirous to print any correction of the half way statement of Partridge. Yours with respect and friendship. J. G. SWIFT
Maj. Syl. Thayer
Commd. etc. etc.
West Point

*See Index

TO John M. O'Connor*

West-Point- 23d Sept 1817

Dear Sir,

I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 22nd inst together with Twenty eight copies of Plates each consisting of thirteen plates - I do not think it best to send for the first volumes untill the whole work shall have been completed when I will send an officer to receive them & have them inspected. of the 30 volumes which you sent me, some were very indifferently bound, the leather being bad & in no respect equal to the model. It will be well to give the binder a hint that a severe inspection will be made. You request me to remit \$600 by the person whom I shall send to receive the books. That sum with the 600 dollars which I gave you at New York would amount to \$12 more than the whole cost of the binding for 1200 copies - I have recd no orders to pay for the work itself nor have I the funds for it - If it be your wish I will write to the War Dept on that subject -

Col. Mansfield*, Madame & Miss are well desire to be remembered to you. Yours sincerely S. THAYER
Maj. John O'Connor

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

West Point Sept. 24th 1817

Dear General,

It was not my expectation or wish that Lieut (John) Wright* should have been arrested but I thought it desirous & proper to state the reasons which induced me to remove an officer from a command to which he had been assigned by yourself. As to Major (William A.) Barron* he has certainly many excellent qualities for a Quarter-Master. His only fault perhaps is his unbounded & indiscriminate benevolence which draws around him, & makes him the protector of, a host of worthless beings provided they are poor. Nevertheless I should like to have him -- As to the promotion of Cadet (Hartman) Bache* he tells me that he does not wish it unless the rest of his class shall be likewise promoted but this class has just commenced the fourth years course & cannot, consistently with the regulations be promoted untill that shall have been completed. Should you wish me to examine into & report on their merits I will act accordingly - As I understand that you are about to leave N. Y. for the South would it not be well to transfer to me the ball. of the public money which was left by Col McRee & myself in the hands of (Samuel B.) Archer* & (Alexander C. W.) Fanning* - I have many things to send for from France & I could then procure them with more ease & dispatch I am Sir very respectfully & sincerely yours S. THAYER

*See Index

FROM George Graham*

Department of War, 25 Sept 1817

Sir,

A court martial will be convened at West Point on the 20th of October for the trial of Captain Partridge* on all the charges which have been brought against him. A court of inquiry will be convened at the same time and place, to inquire into the charges made against the academical staff, and generally in relation to the manner in which the affairs of the institution have been managed; and also the conduct of Lt. Davies* and the Cadets, in relation to the late mutiny. General Scott* will be the President of both courts.

I am informed by Col. Jesup*, that Captain Watson*, a Brevet Major of the 6th infantry, now at Plattsburg, is one of the best Tacticians belonging to the Army, and at my request he has written to him to know whether it would be agreeable to him to be stationed at the Point to do the duties of professor of Tactics etc; if he consents, I shall immediately order him there; if he does not, I shall find it very difficult to get an officer qualified for that station.

It has been stated to me, that there have been some further disturbances lately among the Cadets; if so, it will be necessary to make use of vigorous and prompt measures: the most turbulent must be discharged.

You will, as soon as convenient, make the reports required by the two last paragraphs of my letter of the 6 of August.

Lieut. Graham* is now here, and prefers the station for which you have recommended him; he will therefore be directed to report himself to you, without delay. I have the honor to be, With very great respect, Your
Obt. Servant. GEO. GRAHAM
Maj Sylvanus Thayer
West Point

* See Index

FROM Daniel Parker*

Adjt. and Insptr. Generals Office
25 September 1817

General Orders,

A general Court Martial will assemble at West Point in the State of New York, on Monday 20th of October next, for the trial of such prisoners as may be brought before it. The Court will be composed as follows viz:

Major General Scott President*

Col. J.R.Fenwick* L. Arty (members) Col. H.Atkinson*6th Infy
Col. G.E.Mitchell* Corps Arty Col.T.S.Jessup* 3d Infy
Col.H.Leavenworth*2d Infy Lt.Col.J.G.Totten*Engrs

Supernumeraries

Major B.Birdsall* Rifle
Major A.S.Brooks* L.Arty
R.H.Winder* Esq.Judge Advocate

By Order.

* See Index

FROM George Graham* to Joseph G. Swift*

Department of War,
25th Septembr. 1817.

Sir,

Your communication enclosing the orders given by you to Captain Partridge* and Major Thayer, in consequence of the instructions received from this department in May last, and also that covering the charges made by some of the members of the academic staff against Capt. Partridge, and his charges against them, have been duly received.

I have delayed an answer until the Communications were submitted to the President (James Monroe) for his instructions; and have now the honor to inform you, that it is his pleasure that a court martial be convened at West Point on the 20th of October for the trial of Captain Partridge on all the Charges made against him. And that a Court of Inquiry be convened at the same time and place, to inquire into the Charges made against the Academic staff, and also into the conduct of Lt. (Charles) Davies* and the Cadets, in relation to the late mutiny at the Point. The adjutant and inspector general has instructions to furnish you with copies of the orders.

Major Genl. (Winfield) Scott* will be the President of both Courts.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obt.
Servant

GEO. GRAHAM

Br. Genl. Joseph G. Swift
New York

*See Index

FROM Daniel Parker*

Adj. and Inspr. Genl. Office
26 Sept. 1817

General Order.

A court of Inquiry will assemble at West Point in the state of New York, on Tuesday the 21st of October next, to inquire into the nature and extent of the complaints and charges against Jared Mansfield* and Andrew Ellicott* esquires Professors. and Claudius Berard* teacher of French at the military academy, and Jonathan Snowden* Mily Store keeper, at West Point, and generally, to investigate the conduct of the officers, Cadets and agents of the Military School. The Court will report an opinion in the several cases except that of Captain Partridge* which will be investigated by a Genl. Court Martial. The Court will be composed as follows viz.

Major Gen. Scott* President

Colo: J.R.Fenwick* L.Arty Colo:T.S.Jesup* 3d Infy
Colo: H Leavenworth* (members) 2d Infy Recorder
By Order D. PARKER A.I.Genl.

* See Index

TO George Graham*

Mil. Acady-
West Point Sept. 27th 1817

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith two rolls containing the names of 43 Cadets who were found deficient in the general Examination held during the present month with a view to the classification of the Cadets. Those on Roll no.1 amounting to twenty-one, having been at the Acdy from 2 to 4 years without having made any progress are recommended by Mil Academic Staff to be discharged. Those on roll no 2 amounting to twenty-two have been at the Academy from 3 to 4 years without having completed the first years course yet as their cases are not regarded as entirely hopeless it is recommended that they be allowed to remain for further trial.

X X X X X X X X X X X X X X
I am respectfully &c S THAYER Bg Major Eng Superd Mil
Acdy

Geo Graham Esq
Asst Secy of War

* See Index

TO George Graham*

West Point 27th. Sept. 1817

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith a Roll of 43 Cadets who have remained at the Mil. Academy during a longer period than that contemplated by the regulations. Twenty two of these gentlemen have been here more than three years & some of them much longer without having advanced beyond the first years course. The remaining Twenty one have been here more than two years & some of them 3 & 4 years without having made any progress whatever in the course of studies, & have accordingly again recommenced the 1st years course. The Academic Staff have deliberately considered the cases of all & have recommended, to remain on trial, all such as give any proofs of their future progress but we have unan- imously thought it our duty to recommed that Twenty one other Cadets be immediately removed as their longer stay is deemed injurious to the institution. Most of them are defigent in natural abilities & all are destitute of those qualities which would encourage a belief that they can ever advance thro the four years course of studies. The public money would be wasted, therefore, by retaining them here any longer. In addition to these twenty one forlorn hopes we have two boys M. & L. Blanco* who, as I learn, were bro't from South America by Commo- dore Porter*. These lads are extremely deficient in the first rudiments of education, reading, writing & ortho- graphy. They manifest no desire to learn & accordingly make no progress. They are besides extremely troublesome as they cannot be made to observe any of the police re- gulations. They have been advised, admonished & punish- ed but entirely without effect. They are real nuisances & should be removed.

* See Index

Report to the War Department (Copy)

West Point, Sept: 28th 1817.

We, the subscribers, members of the Academic Staff of the Military Academy of the United States, as in duty bound, have been led to the consideration of those cadets, members of the institution, who having enjoyed pay and emoluments from the public, for two, three or four years, have scarcely made any progress in the acquisition of those branches of science which we conceived to be the principal object of this establishment. It is painful to us, on examination to find, that the number of such is very considerable. Some whose natural and acquired abilities, and other circumstances, afford indications of their being able to complete their education in a reasonable time, we are of opinion, should be left in the Academy for a longer trial. But the cadets whose names are annexed, we consider as wholly incompetent to finish their education at this Academy, in the time, and to the extent prescribed by our regulations. In fact, no rational hope or expectation can be entertained, that they would ever be able to complete the entire course of our Academic studies, or that we could afford them diplomas consistently with our duty to the public, or with reputation to ourselves.

We, therefore, do not hesitate to suggest to the government, the propriety of their being immediately dismissed from the Academy.

JARED MANSFIELD,* prof: of N.&E. Phil: M: Academy
ANDW. ELLICOTT,* PROF: of Mats. in U.S.Mily Academy
C. CROZET,* prof: of Eng:
CLAUDIUS BERARD,* Teacher of French.
C.E.ZOELLER,* Teacher of mil: drawing.
D.B.DOUGLASS,* asst. Prof: Nat. philosy.
CONST. M EAKIN,* asst. Prof: Engineering.
CHAS. DAVIES,* asst. prof: Maths.

Approved,

S: THAYER, bt. major Engs.
Superintdt. Mil. Acady.

W.G.Hall*

John Schanotze,*

Titus T: Jamison,*

Edward Alexander,*

Geo: Brewerton,*

Samuel W: Hunt,*

Thos. Symington,*

Bloomfield Webb*
Eli W: Kerr*
Andrew Ramsay,*
Jas. Williams,*
Chas. Simmons,*
John C: Jones,*
Geo: W. Swift,*
Ming Valleau,*
Thos. I: Bailey*
Richard Nixon,*
Edwd. Pinckney,*
Wilson Armistead*
Benedict Maul.*
20. Alexander Antill.*
Word Marston*

* See Index

(Copied by order of J.D.Graham* for the use of Cadet Delafield* in the government of his Class - as assistant Professor of Engineering)

ORDERS issued by Superintendent Thayer dated Sept.29 & Oct. 11, 1817.

Sept. 29th 1817.

All class books, stationary, wanted for the use of the Cadets, will be issued hereafter by the Q:Master.- and librarian on the requisitions of the Professors teachers, and assistant Profs. after having been countersigned by the Superintendant

The Instructors will be responsible for the articles thus delivered, and will issue them to the cadets and taking the necessary vouchers. - The Instructor will inspect every muster Day, the Books, Instruments etc of their Classes or Section, and will make a return of all such as shall have been lost or damaged by design, or carelessness. - in order, that they may be charged, to the account of the proper persons. -

- These inspections returns will be accompanied by a requisition, to supply existing deficiencies and by estimates of the articles which may be wanted for the use of the classes or sections, before the next ensuing muster. By order of the Major comg. (signed) T RAGLAND
Post Adj.-

West Point Oct 11th. 1817.-

Orders

The Professors. assistant professors., & Teachers of the Military Academy. will hand in every Sunday to the Superintendant, a written report of the progress of their classes.or sections. during the preceeding week.

The report will designate those Cadets who shall have neglected their lessons, or shall not have made suitable progress in their studies. and also those who shall have conducted improperly in the recitation rooms or Academics. These reports will be consolidated and forwarded with the Police Reports for the information of the War Department.- When it shall appear that any Cadet has been habitually inattentive to his studies, he will be struck from the Rolls. of the Military Academy - (signed) S THAYER
Major Comng

* See Index

TO George Graham*

Mily Acady West Point Sept 30th 1817

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day dismissed from the service of the United States Cadet Charles Floyd* of Georgia for refusing to obey an order of the day of the 26th instant. I am respectfully your obedt. Servt S THAYER Bvt Major Eng Super. Mil Acady Geo. Graham Esq.
Acty. Secy of War

* See Index

TO (George Graham)*

(Sept 30 1817)

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have this day dismissed from this institution Cadet Charles Floyd* of Georgia for obstinately refusing to obey an order of the day of the 26th ultimo. I am happy however that the academy has sustained no loss in this young man he has been an habitual offender & not less inattentive to his studies than to the police regulations of the Post. I am sir &c.-----

*See Index

TO George Graham*

West-Point October 1^t 1817

Sir,

I had the honor to receive today your communication of the 25th ultimo by which I am advised that a Court Martial & a court of Inquiry will be convened at this Post on the 20th inst. I am not a little surprised to learn that a statement has been made to the War Department that there have been further disharmonies among the Cadets as I am not acquainted with any single occurrence from which such a report could be originated. Since I resumed the command on the 5th ultimo. all the operations of the academy & the several Departments of instruction have been coordinated with the most perfect order & tranquility.

If bad dispositions do exist. they have not been manifested to the prejudice of good order & I believe the Cadets are generally aware of the consequences which would follow in such cases. My attention has been so much occupied with the organization of the studies & with other duties (ensuing) from the peculiar state of this institution that I have not been able to make out the reports required by your instructions of the 6th of August. On the arrival of my adjutant they will be prepared & forwarded with all possible dispatch. In respect to the appointment of an professor of Tacticks I find Maj. Watson* as Professor of Tacticks I apprehend that there exists an objection which was not anticipated. He is my senior in rank. His Brevet dating from the -- 1814 Capt. Clark* of the same regiment has been highly recommended to me. but as I am not personally acquainted with him I should desire further information which I can probably attain from the members of the Court Martial about to assemble at this Post. The practical military instruction will (principally cease) on the 1^t of November. A Prof. of Tacticks can be dispensed with until March next.

(To:) Sect of War
Oct 1 1817

* See Index

FROM Josiah Moulton* and Dorcas Thayer Moulton*

(Oct. 2, 1817)

Dear Brother, Feeling very doubtful whether this ever reaches you, I shall write but a few lines, the object of which is to solicit a letter from you and also a visit. For we long to see you and to know your affairs We earnestly intreat you not to deny us this favor. If we have no place in your affections Pray let us know the reason, And all endeavors on our part shall be used to restore reconciliation. It has cost your Dear Sister many sorrowful and sleepless hours, that you appear wholly to have forsaken her. And I do intreat you, to contribute one sheet of paper, and a little ink from your pen to relieve her constant and increasing pain. We contemplate Visiting Braintree, and calculate to be there about the last of Novembr. And we most fondly hope and earnestly desire to meet you there. But, if we should be disappointed, we shall wait with earnest longings to see you here after our return which will be not till the latter part of Decem. We live in Hamilton, Madison County, 100 Miles west of Albany and 30 south of Utica Follow the great western Turn Pike from Albany to Sangerfield. at the center Meeting-House. There leave the stage and call on Rev Mr Beardsley who will lend you a horse and direct you on the way to my house, about eleven Miles south. We lately saw a short account in N. york Spectator, of an unhappy mess at West Point and have waited with great anxiety to hear more, but nothing more has yet appeared - I must cloose. In hast(e), I shall only request you to accept assurance of our undiminished affections and benevolence towards you JOSIAH & D. MOULTON

Major: S. Thayer

Hamilton October 2nd 1817

P.S. we have buried Three two children, and have three living whom we calculate to carry with us to Braintree ---

*See Index

TO: George Graham*

(2 Oct 1817)

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith
1st The certificates in favor of 24 Cadets who have been
found qualified & admitted into the Mil. Academy
2d a list of all the Cadets amounting to 45 who have
been admitted in the course of the last month----
3d a Roll exhibiting the classification of the Cadets
4th a monthly report for September by which it appears
that 175 Cadets were present on the 1st day of the month
since which 12 Cadets have been admitted so that the
whole number present on the 1st of October amounted to
187 - 30 Cadets who were absent in consequence of the
Vacation have not rejoined the Academy & are reported
absent without leave. 7 Cadets have been for a long
time noted on the rolls as absent with leave but it is
supposed that most of them have tendered their resignations
& that none of them intend to return. I request your in-
structions in regard to those gentlemen--You will perceive
by the classrolls that the number of the 3d & 4th classes
who by the regulations, should be daily instructed in the
french language amounts to 152 for whom one teacher is
altogether insufficient. It is deemed by the whole
staff of the highest consequence that there should be
adequate means of instruction for that branch as other-
wise a knowledge of it cannot be required at the exam-
inations but experience has proved that unless it shall
be absolutely required & made a sine qua non to advance-
ment sufficient attention will not be given to it. I
therefore request permission to engage an additional
french teacher until such time as provision shall be made
for one by law. I make this request with so much the more
confidence as there is now attached to the Mil. Acady.
in the same way a sword Master who cannot be considered
more necessary at the present than an additional teacher
of French. I am etc S. THAYER

* See Index

TO George Graham*

Mil. Acady. West Point 2d Oct 1817

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith
1st. A list of the Cadets admitted during the month of
September ult. 2d Class Rolls shewing the arrangement of
the Cadets into four annual classes according to proficiency
as ascertained at a General Examination held for that special
purpose in September 3d. A Monthly Report for September
from which it will be seen that on the last day of the month
the number of Cadets present was 187 & that Thirty were ab-
sent without leave. It is believed that few if any of the
absent intend to return.

From the Class rolls it will be seen that the Cadets
comprising the 3d & 4th classes who according to the new
arrangement of the studies are to receive daily instruction
in the French language* amount to 132, which is evidently a
much greater number than can be properly taught by one
teacher. I have therefore to request that the Superintendent
be authorised to engage an additional Teacher of French on
such terms & conditions as you may deem proper.

I am respectfully etc S. THAYER Bt Maj. Engr.

Supndt M Acady

Geo. Graham Esq. Actg. Secy. of War

*See Index

FROM George Graham*

(3 Oct 1817)

Dear Sir

This will be delivered to you by Lt. Monroe* who is a nephew to the President and who has obtained a furlough with the view of spending some time at the Military Academy for the purpose of improvement. Any facilities which you may be able to afford to him in the attainment of his object will be thankfully acknowledged, as well by the President (James Monroe) as myself- He probably will be able to perform the duties of these officers whom you have required.

With very great respect Yr obt Svt GEO: GRAHAM Oct 3d
1817

Major S. Thayer

* See Index

Joseph G.Swift* TO Thomas Aspinwall*
Duplicate

New York

October 7 1817

Dear Sir,

Major Thayer informs me that You would have the goodness to procure for the Military Academy such Books etc as we wanted that were to be found in London. I therefore take the liberty to enclose a list of Books which please to have shipped to me at this place. May I ask, as a personal favour, You to procure for me the following Books of the latest Editions. 1st Jarry on the March & movement of armies 2d James Military Dictionary. 3d Journal of sieges in Spain etc by Col. J.T.Jones. 4th Armstrongs observations on the errors of Generals etc. 5th Robins Gunnery. 6th Adyes Bombarding by Major W.G.Elliott. 7th James Regimental Companion. 8th Essay on the construction of military Bridges by Col. Sir H. Douglass. 9th Treatise on Mining & Mines by Landman. 10th The last Court Calendar. 11th an Historic Account of the battle of Waterloo by James Rouse. 12th Samuels Historical Account of British Army & of Law Martial.

To meet these expenses I enclose a Bill of Exchange upon Baring Brothers & Co. Inc. for £ 85.= \$388.88 being the amount lodged in their hands by Col. McRee & Major Thayer subject to my orders as pr. advice received by me from Baring & Co. Should the amount sent not equal the cost of the books please omit, as far as may be necessary from the Academic Catalogue, the least important works---With much respect Dear Sir Your Obedient Humble
Servant J G SWIFT
To/Col. Aspinwall Consul U.S. London

* See Index

FROM Daniel Parker* to Joseph G. Swift*

Adj. & Insp. Gen. office
10th October 1817 -

Sir,

In consequence of the application of Captain (Alden) Partridge*, the War Department directs that you order him to West Point, the better to prepare for his trial by General court martial on the 20th instant - You will please to give orders to Major Thayer to furnish quarters for the Captain, if it can be done without interfering with the arrangements & accommodations necessary for the academy & the Court ordered to convene at that place. I have the honour to be Sir Your obt Serv D. PARKER A&IGenl
Gen. J. G. Swift U. S. Army

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift*

Brooklyn 14 Oct. 1817-

Dear Major

Genl. Pinckney* of S.C. writes me that, Cadet E(dward) Pinckney*his son is detained in S.C. by reason of the unhealthy season & dangerous travelling in that climate til 15th of this month,- When Edward Pinckney arrives at the Point I hope his excuse may be deemed good, - No one can expect any variations from the Regulations.- As the cadets have from misapprehension etc, delay'd their return, will it not be well for some future Day (Say 15th Decr.) to be fixed on to allow all to return & notifying that those who do not return by that day will be considered our of service. Perhaps a later day would be better to fix on - I mention this for your consideration. Genl. Scott* talks of going to West Point next Saturday. Majors Archer* & Fanning* have arrived from Havre in fine health. Mrs. Swift left me yesterday at 11 for Carolina -
Yours J. G. SWIFT

* See Index

FROM George Graham*

(October 25, 1817)

Extract of a letter from George Graham, acting Secretary of War, to Brevet Major Sylvanus Thayer, Superintendent of the Military Academy at West-Point, dated October 25th 1817.-

"You will inform Commodore Porter,* of the Necessity of his removing the two Blanco's*. Their expenses will be paid to any place in the United States, that he may designate."---

A true extract C. VANDEVENTER

* See Index

From Daniel Parker*

Adj. & Insp. Gen. Office
4th November 1817.

Sir,

You will detail as many Cadets as Major General Scott* may require to copy for the Judge Advocate & Recorder of the Courts of which he is president.-

The War Dept. believes that this work may be done without taking any of the young gentlemen more than a day or two each from their regular studies & without injury to the service. - I have the honour to be Sir Your obt Serv. D. PARKER Adj & Insp Genl

Major S. Thayer
Supt. Mily Academy
West Point, N.Y.

* See Index

TO Thomas Pinckney*

Military Academy
West-Point Nov. 8th 1817

Sir,

The period fixed by the Regulations for the education of Cadets at this institution is Four years & the students are accordingly divided into that number of classes.

In case a Cadet is put back to a lower class more than once he is to be reported to the War-Department.

Agreeably to that provision it has been the duty of the Superintendent in conjunction with the Academic Staff to make a report of all those who have been at the Academy longer than the period contemplated by the Regulations. Among the number thus reported is your son (Cadet Edward Pinckney) & the report having been submitted to the President & approved I am instructed by the War-Department to advise you that the resignation of your son will be accepted to take effect from the date of this letter.

In communicating this advice I have the satisfaction to state that the personal deportment & moral conduct of your son, while a member of this institution, has always been very commendable. I have the honor to be Sir with the highest respect your obedient & humble servant

S. THAYER

Major Genl. Thomas Pinckney

* See Index

Joseph G.Swift* to Alden Partridge*

New York 15 Nov. 1817

Sir,

I have recd. your application for the Quarters at West Point now occupied by the Assistant Profr. Philosophy and his family -- It is my intention to order you from West Point on duty -- Therefore I deem it inadvisable to incommode the family of the Asst. Professor by ordering him to leave the quarters he now occupies, I am Sir respectfully Your obt. humb. Svt. J.G.SWIFT, B. Gl.
Capt. Alden Partridge
Corps Engineers

* See Index

FROM George Blaney*

Head Quarters
Washington Dec. 1st 1817

Sir,

I enclose, by direction of Brig. General Swift*, "The National Intelligencer" containing the decision of the President; together with the sentence of the Court Martial, upon Capt. Partridge,* which is considered official - being signed by the Adjt and Inspr. General.

The General has directed me also to inform you that he has received your letter and will answer it in a few days. I am Sir Very Respectfully Your Most Obedt Svnt.
GEORGE BLANEY Aid de Camp

* See Index

1 December 1817

Estimate,

Of appropriations necessary for the U. S. Military Academy at West-Point, for the year 1818.

1st
Buildings

1st. House for the Superintendent, 34 feet by 48 feet, two stories high, of Brick-----	7,000.00
2d. Three houses, for the Chaplain, Surgeon, and Teachers, 28 by 40 feet, of brick, each to cost 4,000 Dollars-----	12,000.00
3d. Hospital-----	7,000.00
4th. Gun-house, 20 by 60 feet, of Stone-----	500.00
5th. Laboratory, 21 by 50 feet, one Story, of brick -----	1,000.00
6th. Observatory, for the instruction of practical Astronomy -----	1,000.00
7th. An addition to the Mess-house -----	4,000.00
	<hr/>
	\$32,500.00

Quarter-master's Department

	Dollars	Cents
1st. 1500 Cords of Wood, at 5 Dolls. pr. Cord	7,500.00	
2d. For the distribution of --Do.-----		375.00
3d. Class-books, Stationary etc.	1,500.00	
4th. Transportation -----	800.00	
5th. Repairs of Barracks, fitting up of lecture-rooms, library-room, etc. -----	1,500.00	
6th. Contingent expences -----		500.00
	<hr/>	
	\$12,175.00	

3d

Books, Maps, Instruments, & Philosophical Apparatus.

	Dolls.	Cents
1st. Books & Maps as pr Catalogue A.-----	6,800.00	
2d. Mathematical, Drawing & Surveying Instruments, as pr Catalogue B.-----		,585.10
3d. Philosophical and Astronomical apparatus, as pr Catalogue C.-----	11,536.00	
	<hr/>	
	\$18,921.10	

Recapitulation

1st. For Publick buildings-----	32,500.00
2d. Quarter-master's Department -----	12,175.00
3d. Books, Maps, Apparatus, etc.-----	18,921.10
	<hr/>
Amt. of estimate for Mily. Acady. for the year 1818-----	\$63,596.10

Respectfully Submitted

West Point 1st Decr. 1817

FROM Joseph G. Swift*

Washington, 11 Decr. 1817-

Dear Major,

Van DeVenter* wrote you a line a few days since to inform you that Capt. Partridge* has reported himself to me & that he wished to prefer Charges against you. - He has presented Charges to me & I have them now before the Secy. War. I presume an arrest upon them will not be granted. - By 77th article of War there is in my opinion no discretion to be used by a Commg. Officer when Charges are regularly preferred - But, as you have been detailed from the Corps by an especial order of the Executive, I shall not act 'til they decide - I do not however intend to countenance a principle which shall remove any officer of Engr. entirely from my control - Such a principle would inevitably injure the Service. - Capt. P. has this day applied for a Furlough 'til April, it will be granted, as there is no duty that can well be done in the Winter.- I have this day granted a Furlough to Lt. Wright* till 1st April. - I shall upon the whole advise M. Calhoun* to form a Board to repair to W. Point for the purpose of _____ a System for the organization of the Mily. Academy & a School of Practice. - - ad interim to have appropriated for Stationery Instruments & Books \$5670 - Fuel \$7000, Transportation \$2000 repairs \$2000 (^{Gun}Greenhouse) 1000 laboratory \$1000 - this amt \$ 18670 for the current wants of the Engineers & Academy. I expect to leave this for Norfolk in a few days. Van deVenter is installed 1st Clerk at the War Dept. very good on all sides -
Yours J.G. SWIFT

* See Index

TO John M. O'Connor*

West-Point Decr. 11th 1817

Dr Sir,

The first class of Cadets having finished the 1st. Volume of your translation I have to request that you will have bound Twenty five copies of the 2d Volume & forwarded to me by the first opportunity should the work not be already (completed) you can send it as it is but bound in boards. It is all important that the studies of the class should not be interrupted & a little extra expence must not be regarded. What think you of the sentence of the court in the case of Capt Partridge*? how exceedingly charitable & clement this world has become of late Yours sincerely S. THAYER
Maj. O'Connor

*See Index