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FROM John C. Calhoun*

Department of War, January 8th. 1818

Sir,

I am requested by the Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means to furnish "a plan of the buildings at West-Point, designating the number and size of the apartments assigned to the officers at West Point, or occupied by them; together with information as to the number of rooms which according to your opinion or to military regulations, should be assigned to officers stationed there!"

To enable me to answer the request, you will make and transmit to me as early as practicable a report of the number and size of the apartments, comprised in the buildings at West Point, designating the number occupied, and the number of officers attached to the Academy entitled to rooms, and the quantity of accommodation granted to each.

You will also report the state of the Library and Philosophical apparatus of the Academy. I have the honor to be, With great respect, Your Obedt. Servt. J.C.CALHOUN
Major Sylvanus Thayer, Supt. Mily Academy West Point, N.Y.

* See Index

TO John C. Calhoun*

Military Academy
West-Point January 19th 1818

Sir,

In compliance with your instructions of the 8th Instant (received only on the 13th) I have the honor to enclose herewith a report of the Public Quarters at West-Point. From this Report it appears that the officers of the army attached to the Military Academy do not occupy more Quarters than they are entitled to by the Regulations; that the other officers of the Academic-Staff occupy only such as are sufficient and have heretofore been assigned to them; that three officers rooms only remain unoccupied that most of the old Quarters are in a ruinous state & cannot be repaired without expenditures disproportionate to the value of the buildings or without an absolute waste of the public money. A reference to past expenditures for the repair of those Quarters will prove the expediency of replacing them by new & permanent buildings. As it is believed that Congress may, in the course of the present session, provide for such additional Professors, Assistant-Professors & Teachers as shall be deemed suitable to the wants of the Mil. Academy I will take this occasion to state the Quantity of accomodation which, in my opinion, should be provided for each of those officers; as follows for each Professor a house 40 by 27 feet; 2 stories; cost \$4,000 similar to those which have been assigned to the present Professors & a house of equal diminsions for every two teachers or assistant-Professors having families. Assistant Professors & Teachers not having families may be accommodated in the present buildings.

The Quarters of the Cadets are good & sufficient for the number now authorized by law. I have the honor to be etc

* See Index

TO John C. Calhoun

West-Point January 20th 1818

We the members of the Academic Staff of the UStates Military Academy do hereby certify, that in our opinions, A Quarter-master, Two additional Teachers of the french language, & Four additional Assistant Professors of Mathematics are absolutely necessary to that Institution; & that the addition of (a) Professor of Chemistry & Mineralogy, a Professor of Ethics, (Geography) & History, (being also Chaplain) a Professor of the Languages & Oratory, another Ass^t. Professor of Philosophy & a Teacher of Military Drawing would be highly advantageous.

JARED MANSFIELD*

Prof. of N. & E. Phil. M. Acad^y

G. W GARDINER Lieut Corps Arty & Inst^f of Arts

AND^w ELLICOTT*

Prof. of Mat. in U. S. Mil. Academy

C. CROZET*

Prof. of Engineering

CLAUDIUS BERARD*, Teacher of French

C. E. ZOELLER*, Teacher of Drawing.

D. B. DOUGLASS* Bvt. Capt. Ast Prof Phil

CHAS. DAVIES* Bt Lt. & Asst. Prof^f Math

CONST. M. Eakin* Lt. & As^t Prof^f Eng.

*See Index

A List of additional Professors, Assistant Professors,
Teachers & other Officers deemed necessary for the United
States Mil. Academy

Definition
& Number

- 1 Four additional
Assistant Professors
of
Mathematics

Remarks

The actual number of Cadets on the Class-Rolls of the Academy amounts to 181 of which 24 are of the 1^t Class, 41 of the 2^d Class, 54 of the 3^d Class & 63 of the 4th or lowest Class. In supposing the whole number of Cadets present to be 200 it is calculated that the 1^t Class will generally consist of from 30 to 40, The 2^d Class from 40 to 50, the 3^d Class from 50 to 60 & the 4th Class from 60 to 70.

The numerical inferiority of the higher Classes will proceed from resignations & other casualties & from the number (who will be retained in the) lower Classes in consequence of not passing their examinations. Mathematics constitute the principal course & the French language the Collateral course for the 3^d & 4th or the two lower classes. The average number of those two Classes is estimated at 120 who are to be taught mathematics every day at the same hours. Experience has proved that one teacher cannot instruct a greater number than 20 or 25 in pursuing the practical method of instruction which has been adopted at the Mil. Academy & which differs essentially from the method pursued at most of the Colleges & Universities in the United States. It is believed therefore that third Class will never be divided into less than Two Sections & the 4th Class into Three Sections for mathematical instruction. Each Section requiring an Assistant Professor. I do not speak of the Professor because it is supposed to be understood that his duties as Professor and Lecturer embrace the whole Department of Mathematics & should not be limited to the instruction of any particular Section.

The present practice of employing Cadets as Assistant Professors is very objectionable. --

1^t Because it is extremely difficult to find a sufficient number who are capable

2^d Because, they perform with great reluctance a duty for which they receive no compensation & which deprives them, in a great measure, of the benefits of instruction in their own Classes

3^d Because, being the equals & familiar companions of those whom they instruct, they are unable to inspire the respect so necessary to their duties.

4th From the frequent changes which it induces as a Cadet no sooner acquires the experience which is so valuable in the art of instructing than he receives a commission & quits the unprofitable part of a Teacher without pay.

2^d Two additional
Teachers of French

Remarks

The 3^d & 4th Classes estimated at 120 are, by the Regulations, to be taught french daily. In regard to our present deficiency of Teachers in that Department & to the necessity of supplying it I beg leave to refer to my communication to the War-Department dated the 2^d of October 1817. In case ~~that~~ a suitable number of Teachers shall be allowed I believe that a competent knowledge of the french language can be acquired by a daily attendance during the first year & an attendance every other day during the 2^d year. This arrangement would require Two Teachers of french for the 4th Class & one Teacher (who would be the principal) for the 3^d Class. This Class would then be divided for the Collateral course into two divisions which would recite alternately to the principal Teachers of French & to a Professor of the languages & oratory or, to a Professor of Ethics Geography & History should one or the other or both of those Professors be hereafter provided by Congress.

An additional
Assistant Professor
of Nat. & Exper.
Philosophy

Remarks

The Third Class is taught philosophy for the principal & Elementary Drawing for the collateral Course of studies & as it will usually consist of from 40 to 50 Cadets it should always be divided, as it actually is, into Two Sections for philosophical instruction requiring as many Teachers or Assistant Professors. The Professor is now compelled to act the part of an assistant himself by teaching one of the Sections. He is therefore unable to deliver lectures & thus to extend to the whole Class the benefit of his talents as Professor. It is important to relieve him from the duty of an ordinary teacher by allowing him another Assistant

A Professor of Chemistry
& Mineralogy

Remarks

Chemistry & Mineralogy have not heretofore constituted a part of the instruction at the Mil. Academy. They are however a necessary supplement to the course of sciences now taught & when a Professor shall be provided he will give lectures to the Two senior Classes of the Institution

A Chaplain to be also
Professor of Ethics
Geography & History

A Professor of
the Languages
and of Oratory

Remarks

To the foregoing it would be desirable to add a Professor of the Languages & of Oratory to instruct those Cadets who may be deficient in the knowledge of their own language or who may be desirous of extending their knowledge in the () languages. There now is & must ever be a number of Cadets more capable & more advanced than the rest who can devote a part of their time, without neglecting their classical studies, to other branches of science & literature. To afford all such the aid of suitable instructors would increase the usefulness & enhance the reputation of the Institution. --

A Teacher of
Mily. Drawing

Remarks

Elementary Drawing with its applications constitutes the collateral course for the Two senior Classes for which one Teacher of drawing is not sufficient numerous models of drawing are wanting to that Department & cannot be supplied untill another Teacher shall be employed.

A Quarter-Master

Remarks

The purchasing & issuing of the books, stationary Instruments, Wood & other supplies. The protection of the public lands from depredation. The repairing of the public buildings & the preservation of other public property at this Post are duties requiring the immediate & exclusive attention of an officer to whom no other duties should be assigned with the exception of such as relate to the Subsistence Clothing & Equipment of the Cadets.

Respectfully submitted To the Hon.ble Secretary of War by his
most obedient & humble servant

S. THAYER B^t Maj^r
Superintend^t. Mil Acdy.

TO John M. O'Connor*

West-Point 27 Jany 1818

Dear Sir,

Enclosed you will receive herewith duplicate receipts for the 2d volumes & plates of your work. I thank you for putting a stop to the shamefull manner in which the binder had _____anged the plates. If it were not for the reputation of honest man which Mr. Olmstead sustains I should certainly suspect him of being at least a speculator. Thus far he has not adhered to his contract & promises from which he deviated more & more. I have recd Twenty five copies of the 2d volumes & plates & in every volume of the plates the 2d plate of the 2d volume is missing. Your ideas in regard to the folding of the plates are certainly correct. It is extremely necessary moreover that the binding should project beyond the edges of the plates at least three fourths of an inch. That was a "Sine qua non" in the contract but has been totally disregarded. Yours in true friendship
S. THAYER

* See Index

TO John C. Calhoun *

Military Academy
West Point Jany 31st 1818

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith a class-roll of the Cadets of the Military Academy. On which the Cadets are arranged in their respective Sections in the order of their relative merits as determined by the academic-staff at the general examination which commenced on the 15th of December & continued seven hours each Day untill the 3d of January. The Cadets were examined by Sections in order that the academical exercises might suffer no interruption. The instruction being conducted by acting assistant professors selected from Cadets. The Examination was highly satisfactory except that many were found deficient in the french language a Deficiency which is mainly to be ascribed to the want of a suitable number of Teachers in that Department.

In addition to a rigid examination (in which the demonstrations & operations were performed on the Black-Board) The Class-Reports (of which one is herewith enclosed) have contributed not a little to make known individual merit by recording the degree of knowledge which each Cadet evinces of his lesson at his daily recitations. The emulation excited by the Class-Reports & by the merit-rolls has produced a degree of application to study which is believed to be unexampled at this Institution. This emulation is still increased by the expectation which has been encouraged that the Merit-Rolls will be printed & perhaps published in the Army Register from & after the next general examination. I am, Sir very respectfully your obedient & humble servant S. THAYER Bt Major
Engrs Superintendent Mil Acady
Honorable John C. Calhoun
Secretary of War

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Proposition for the re-organization of the Military Academy
Feb. 1818

Propositions in Relation to the U. S. Military Academy at
West Point

Propositions

1st

The Academy to consist of the Academic Staff, and other Officers and Cadets doing duty therewith, and to be under the Superintendance of an Officer of the Army specially designated for that purpose by the President of the U. S.

Remarks

By the laws of 1802 and 1812 the Military Academy is made to consist in part of the Corps of Engineers, and the senior officer of that Corps present at West Point is ipso facto the Superintendant of the Institution. This provision which appears to have been originally made with a view of economizing officers has latterly been rendered in a great measure nugatory by the great increase of duties in the Engineer Department. The officers of that Corps comparatively few in number have for some years past been principally engrossed with the performance of their own proper duties, and the Academy though not entirely deprived of their services has generally been able to derive but casual and uncertain advantages from them. The Superintendance also according to the rule on that subject is evidently exposed to all the contingencies of an ordinary command and it has not unfrequently happened that a subaltern officer of very low grade has been called upon to discharge the duties of that important station.

The inconvenience arising to the Academy from these circumstances has suggested the necessity of adopting an organization (~~for this Institution~~) distinct from that of the Corps of Engineers, and such is the object of the 1st Proposition. It is contemplated however as will be seen, by a future Proposition to secure to the officers of Engineers all the advantages of study and Instruction at the Academy which they now enjoy and also to constitute the Chief Engineer, Inspector of the Institution.

2nd

The Academic Staff to be so increased as to consist of the following officers, viz.

1 Professor and 2 Assistant Professors
of Nat and Exp^r Philosophy
1 Professor and 4 Assistant Professors
of Mathematics
1 Prof^r and 1 Assist^t Prof^r of Engineer^g
1 Prof^r of Geography History and Elements
of Civil Law, to be also Chaplain
1 Prof^r of Languages Oratory & Belles

Lettres

1 Principal and 2 Assistant Teachers of
the French Language
1 Teacher of Elementary Drawing
1 Teacher of Military Drawing
1 Riding & Sword Master

Remarks

The reasons which have suggested the increase of the Staff as contemplated in this proposition are given at large in a separate project, relative to that particular subject

3^d.

The additional Professors, Assistant Professors and Teachers above mentioned to be appointed from the army or otherwise and all future vacancies in the Academic Staff to be supplied in the same way -

Remarks

By the present Law the Assistant Professors must be taken from the Corps of Engineers or Cadets. The appointment from Cadets for reasons given in the project above referred to is considered as generally exceptionable, and the selection of Officers of Engineers in the present numerical state of that Corps is even now attended with considerable inconvenience, and still more would this be the case should the Staff be increased to the extent contemplated in the second Proposition. On these accounts therefore as well as for the sake of the Institution itself it is desirable that the field for selection should be extended, & that in as great a degree as possible -

4th.

An Instructor of Tactics &
Instructor of Artillery to be selected
from the Army & attached to the Academic Staff -

Remarks

These officers are proposed to be selected from the Army for the purpose of acting not only as Instructors, but as subordinate officers in the Command of the Cadets. An arrangement which will obviate the necessity of appointing or selecting other officers for this particular purpose

5th.

The other officers attached to the

Academy to be the following

- 1 Surgeon
- 1 Pay Master and Treasurer
- 1 Quarter Master and
- 1 Adj. The three last to be allowed
a clerk each with the pay and emoluments
of an Artificer

Remarks

There is a Post Surgeon already attached - The duties of Pay Master and Treasurer are at present performed by the Pay Master of Engineers - Should the Academy be separated from the Corps however it would be advisable to transfer the paymastership to the former as in the event of such a separation there would be little or no duty for a Pay Master to the Corps. The establishment of a Quarter Masters Department at the Academy may be considered as absolutely indispensable, in proof of which it would only be necessary to refer to the extent of the Public Lands and Public Buildings, the amount of Public Property of various kinds at the place and the quantity of Fuel Stationary and Books necessary to be supplied. The present Adj. is provisionally attached

th
6..

The compensation of the several officers of the Academy to be as follows, viz, To each professor, the pay and Emolument of a Lt Col of Engin^rs To the Principal Teacher of French The Instructor of Tactics, and the Surgeon the pay and Emoluments of a Maj^r of Eng^rs To the Instructor of Artillery. To each Assistant Professor and Assistant Teacher. To the two Teachers of Drawing and to the Sword & Riding Master the pay and Emoluments of a Captain of Engineers. To the Pay Master & Quarter Master each the pay and Emoluments of a Regt^l Pay Master & to the Adj. the pay and Emoluments of a Regt^l Adj. Provided that to each of the Professors be permanently assigned a good and sufficient Dwelling House & garden and in like manner suitable Quarters to the other instructors severally.

Remarks

The pay and emoluments of a Lt Col are at present allowed to the professor of Natural Philosophy, and those of a Maj. to the Professors of Mathematics & Engineering a distinction which does not appear to rest upon just and equitable grounds - The relative importance of the several Professorships as part of the Institution is considered to be so nearly equal as not to justify any difference of endowment on that account, and the proportion of labour if taken into consideration would be found to give at least as great () to the chairs of Mathematics and Engineering as

to that of Natural Philosophy. It is therefore proposed to allow to the former the same compensation that is at present allowed to the latter and the same also to the additional Professors recommended in the 2nd Proposition - The Pay and Emoluments of a Lt Col of Engineers together with the consideration of a house and garden is calculated to be about equal to the compensation usually allowed to the Professors of our Colleges and Universities and it believed that a lower Salary for the Professors of this Institution would not enable it to command such a degree of talent as would be desirable for the supply of vacancies - The compensation of the other officers mentioned in the proposition is conceived to be in a suitable ratio with that of the professors -

7th
7..

The number of Cadets, to continue at 250 the same as heretofore and the pay and emoluments to continue also the same, viz sixteen Dollars per month Pay, and two rations per day subsistence-

Remarks

Two hundred and Fifty Cadets when properly organized into Classes as hereafter proposed is judged sufficient and even more than sufficient for supplying the vacancies in the present military establishment, and it is not recommended that a greater number should ever be kept in service than can be provided with commissions at the conclusion of their studies - At present the greatest excitement to diligence and application, and probably the greatest which could be employed is the prospect of being promoted into the army; the field of their future exertions, according to merit. But should the number of Cadets be increased so as to exclude any considerable proportion of them from promotion, that ambition which is now the peculiar spirit of this Institution would in all probability be checked; and even the obligation to remain in service which is now felt, would it is feared, be in a great measure done away.

8th
8..

The Cadets to be subject to the established regulations of the Academy: to be organized into companies for police and (Military) Instruction at the discretion of the Superintendant and to be taught and exercised in all the various field and garrison duties of an officer, non commissioned officer and Private

Remarks

The provisions of this Proposition are in effect nearly the same as those of the present law, such alterations only

having been made as were rendered necessary by the new organization suggested in the former proposition. By the law of 1812 for example the Cadets are arranged into Companies according to the directions of the Com^{dt} of Engineers and officer'd from that Corps. By the proposition here offered however the Companies of Cadets are to be organized at the discretion of the Superintendant. With respect to military Instruction it has been thought advisable to comprehend it under the general expression of Field and Garrison Duty and to leave the time and Period of Encampment which at present is fixed by law, to be made rather a subject of regulation -

9th

The Professors of the Institution the Principal Teacher of French the Instructor of Tactics and the Instructor of Artillery to constitute an Academic Board or Council, of which the Superintendant should always be presid^t and whose duty it should be to fix and improve the System of Studies and Instruction, to conduct and decide upon all examinations and to specify in detail the duties of the several instructors -

Remarks

This Board or Council is intended to be equivalent to the Conscil de Perfectionnement of the French Polytechnic School and in some respects similar to the Faculty of arts of our Colleges - The heads of the Departments of Instruction are selected as its members in order that its meetings may interfere as little as possible with the ordinary recitations of the Cadets, which if it were constituted of the whole staff would generally have to be suspended for that purpose - A selection also is desirable, an account of the greater facility and dispatch with which business may be transacted by a small number of persons

10th

The course of study at the Academy to embrace a period of four years and the Cadets to be kept by gradations of one year in four corresponding annual classes ---

Remarks

The System here proposed differs in no respect from that which has been adopted and is now acted upon at the Academy. It is suggested however in this place as a proper subject of law or of permanent regulation.

11th.

No Cadet hereafter to be appointed who shall be under sixteen or over twenty years of age nor until he shall have been examined and found well versed in Reading Writing orthography English=grammar and Arithmetic which are to be considered as the prerequisites for commencing with the fourth or lowest Class

Remarks

The principal Study of the Cadets during the two first (____) years of their course is Mathematics, and the experience of the Professors has proved that most young men at the age of fourteen are neither sufficiently matured in mind nor sufficiently grounded in the previous studies to proceed to the higher and more abstruse parts of that science. The consequence therefore generally is that at the second or third examination they are liable to be turned back and though by the help of good natural talents they may ultimately accomplish their course they seldom acquire an adequate knowledge of Mathematics or of the Sciences connected with it. To obviate this evil it is proposed to alter the minimum age of the Cadets from 14 to 16 years, an alteration the more to be desired as it will enable the Candidates to acquire a previous knowledge of English grammar which is therefore inserted among the prerequisites

12th,

Cadets who pass a satisfactory examination, after having gone regularly through all the classes to receive a degree from the Academic Council; designating the Corps in which they are respectively judged qualified for promotion.

Remarks

This proposition is offered nearly in the language of the present law, a slight variation having been admitted with a view of establishing the final examination of the Cadets and the manner of designating the corps in which they are recommended for Promotion.

13th.

When any Cadets not exceeding two in a class shall be distinguished in a remarkable degree for their scientific attainments, the fact to be particularly set forth in their diplomas and such Cadets and such only to be recommended for promotion in the Corps of Engineers

Remarks

The provision here proposed is calculated not only for the purpose of supplying the Corps of Engineers with scientific and meritorious officers but as a stimulus to the exertions of the Cadets, both of which are objects of such obvious importance as not to require a very lengthy remark. The care with which it is proposed to guard the Corps of Engineers against the admission of any member not duly qualified is thought to be not inconsistent with the scientific character of that Corps and the importance of its duties and at the same time it is not forgotten that the competition thus offered to the Cadets must of course be attended with the greatest (advantage) to every Corps of the army into which they may be promoted--

14th.

Every Cadet receiving the degree of the Academy to be considered a candidate for promotion in the Corps therein designated and in case there shall not be a vacancy in such corps at the time, he may be attached to it at the discretion of the Pres^t. of the U. S. by Brevet of the lowest grade as a supernumerary officer, with the usual pay and emoluments of that grade until a vacancy shall happen Provided that there shall not be more than one supernumerary officer attached to a Company at one time.

Remarks

This proposition is given in the language of the present law, and is attended with only one objection as a member of the present series-- The Corps of Engineers in its present organization being liable to fewer vacancies than any other corps of the army; the graduates who are assigned to it will more generally be attached by Brevet than those assigned to other corps-- Hence it will not unfrequently happen that the contest for personal distinction contemplated in the preceding proposition will be attended with a sacrifice of rank on the part of the successful candidate -- As this is a result to be guarded against if possible, I would here suggest the propriety of making such an additional number of vacancies in the Corps of Engineers as would always admit of its graduates being commissioned I am the more ready to make such a suggestion from a belief that an increase of the Corps in question is loudly called for by the present state of the service. The following plan to that effect is respectfully submitted viz the addition of 2 Maj^rs 4 Capts., First Lieutenants and 8 Second Lieutenants. The higher grades to be filled by selections made in the present Corps and the lower, by the gradual promotion of Cadets as already proposed

15th.

Cadets upon the recommendation of the Academic Council to be attached as such to Regiments or Corps, but not in this case to be promoted until the class to which they belonged shall have been promoted

Remarks

There have sometimes been cadets at the Academy who though unable to go through with the course of studies to advantage have nevertheless exhibited a prospect of their becoming useful and active officers with proper cultivation in the field. The present proposition is intended to provide the means of promotion to such; and at the same time to guard against a facility in this respect which might interfere with the promotion of their companions.

16th.

No Cadet to be promoted from the Academy until he shall have completed his course and been graduated in the manner above specified

Remarks

The object of this and the following proposition as will be seen, is to guard carefully the point of rank in favour of those who persevere in their studies.

17th.

Cadets who resign, to be ineligible to any office in the army until after the Class from which they resign shall have been promoted

18th.

Persons who shall have been dismissed from the Academy to be ineligible to any office in the army for five years thereafter, and forever if dismissed for any act in itself dishonorable --

19th.

A number of waiters for the Cadets not exceeding one for every 20, to be employed by the Quarter Master.

20th

Such a number of musicians to be enlisted for the use of the Academy as the Pres^t shall direct

21st.

The Chief Engineer to be inspector of the Academy to visit it as often in that capacity as the President of the U. S. shall direct --

Remarks

As the Dept of War has always appointed an officer to perform the duty of Inspector the necessity of such an officer appears to have been admitted and the proposition to confer it upon the Chief Engineer arises not only from his claim as chief of a scientific corps, but from his being the officer already designated for that duty. It was proposed also in the remarks to the 1st Proposition to offer this as an equivalent in part for the separation of the Academy from the Corps

22nd.

Four scientific men to be selected by the president of the U. S. and constituted a Board of Visitors of which the Inspector shall always be chairman and whose duty it shall be to attend at the general examinations and to inquire into and report accurately to the War Department the state of progress of the Institution. Such compensation being them while so acting as the Pres^t shall direct

23^d

Officers of Engineers residing at the Academy by permission of the Chief of that Corps, to be allowed quarters not interfering with the officers on duty at the Academy and access the Library and Lectures of the Professors, under such restrictions only as are applicable to the officers of the Academy

Remarks

This proposition is anticipated in the remarks to the 1st, being intended like the 21st as an equivalent for the separation of the Academy from the Corps of Engineers.

So much of the law fixing the Military Peace establishment passed in 1802 as relates to the Military Academy, also the 2nd Section of an act passed on the 28th of Feb^y (1803) (or 1808), and the 2nd, 3^d and 4th Sections of an act making further provision for the Corps of Engineers passed in 1812 to be repealed

Remarks

All the provisions of the laws, here proposed to be repealed are embraced in the present series of propositions except that requiring the Cadets to sign articles of obligation to remain five years in service; which as it has never been carried into effect and is not calculated to produce an equal effect is not recommended for renewal

Respectfully submitted S. THAYER B^t Major
Superintendent Mil. Acady.

FROM Christopher VanDeventer*

Dept of War
Feb 2d 1818

Dear Major,

I have the pleasure to assure you, in reply to your favour of the 25th ult., that Captain (Benjamin?) Watson* had not been appointed "Teacher of Tactics at the Myly Academy." and I am confident no officer will be appointed who shall not be in all respects qualified and in every respect agreeable to you. Do you know of an officer who would Suit in all respects? If you do I presume that your recommendation would prevail.

I should have answered your late favour, but not having anything to communicate to explain the restoration of Cadet Pinckney*, of course was silent--whenever I can communicate any thing useful to you or the institution I shall certainly do it; and shall especially be careful to prevent as far as representation can do it, the introduction of any measure which may be injurious to our Military "alma mater". I feel great pleasure in assuring you of the entire Satisfaction which your plans and your proceedings affords to every one who feel an interest in the Academy. I know the disposition of the Government to encourage the institution-- and I am convinced you will be able to restore the hopes of its friends which were a little put back by Capt Partridge's* crooked course.

I have not heard from Genl Swift* for more than a month: He is now I presume in North Carolina & well I hope:

Make my regards to Maj Roberdeaus* family, and believe me your faithful friend
C. VANDEVENTER
Put your letters under cover to the Secretary
Maj. S. Thayer

* See Index

To John C. Calhoun*

Military Academy
West-Point Feby. 14th 1818

Sir,

The drills & other military exercises of the Academy will resume their activity in the course of next month when an Instructor of Tactics will become of the highest importance to this Institution. Should you be pleased to attach to the Mil. Academy an officer of the Army to perform the duty of Instructor of Tactics I would beg leave to nominate Captain Bliss* of the 6th Regiment of Infy as an officer peculiarly well qualified to fill that important station. I am further induced to nominate that gentleman from a knowledge that the situation would be acceptable to him & that his appointment thereto would be agreeable to the Colonel of his Regiment. I have the honor to be respectfully your obedient & humble servant S. THAYER Bt.Maj. Superintend. Mil Acdy
Honorable John C. Calhoun
Secretary of War

* See Index

TO John C. Calhoun*

Military Academy
West-Point Feby. 18th 1818

Sir

In compliance with your instructions of the 11th instant I have the honor to report the circumstances which caused the dismissal of the late Cadet Charles Floyd* from the Military Academy.

To enable me to complete the Descriptive-Roll of the Cadets they were directed to report in writing to the Adj. of the Post the names & places of residence of their Parents or Guardians. To this order Cadet Floyd refused obedience & having persisted in that refusal without assigning any reasons therefor as evidently none could be assigned was therefore dismissed. As this offense tho criminal in a military point of view is not of a disgraceful nature I am of the opinion that he may be restored without injury to the Academy after he shall have complied with the order above mentioned & shall have made suitable acknowledgements for his offense.

Should he comply with those conditions & be reinstated I hope it may not be with a view to his return here. It is believed that he professes good abilities & honorable intentions but he was so inattentive to his studies while at the Mil. Academy & the general tenor of his conduct evinced a spirit so intractable & so repugnant to subordination & good discipline that his dismissal was hailed generally as a fortunate occurrence for the Institution. I am Sir etc S. THAYER

* See Index

FROM Daniel Parker*

Adj. & Insp. Genl. office 19 Febry 1818.-

Sir,

I have received your letter of the 4th instant & have laid it before the Secretary of War - He directs me to inform you that all Cadets who are within the provisions of the Genl. order of 1st December 1817 and do not comply with it will be dropped from the rolls and advised accordingly, by letter from you, directed to their respective places of residence. I have understood that Mr. Ashton* & Mr. Whetcroft* are Lieuts. in the Marine Corps - I advised Mr. Ashton to report his appointment to you. I am just informed that the resignation of Mr. Karrick* has been sent to you. An extract from the letter of Mr. Graham* relative to the Blancos* will be sent to you. - They are considered out of Service. I have the honour to be Sir, Your
obt Serv D. PARKER Adj & I Genl
Major S. Thayer U S Army Sup. M Academy West Point N.Y.

* See Index

FROM Henry Atkinson*

Plattsburgh Feby. 24. 1818

Dear Major----I have to request of you to order my three musicians home from W. Point.

I enclose twenty dollars which I wish to be given to Mr. Lane to bear their expenses, with instructions to use it economically - They can set-out with eight days rations which together with the money will be sufficient to bring them home. I will thank you to order that they bring with them the French Horn which I receipted to you for, & what music Mr. Willis has finished for me - The blank music paper that may remain, I want Mr. Willis to fill out with such select music as he may think will best suit us, & when he finishes this music to send it to me by mail with his charges for his trouble of writing the whole of it, and I will enclose the money for him - I must beg of you my dear Sir, to excuse me for the trouble I have put you to in diverting your attention to this business - which, when an oppy. offers I shall with much pleasure repay.

I offer my best respects to my acquaintnaces at the point, & to you the same, With my best wishes, with assurances of being very sincerely Yr. Mo. Ob. Serv.
H. ATKINSON, Col. 6th Inf.
Major Thayer Corps of Engineers. West Point

* See Index

FROM Charles Carré*

Philadelphia february 25 1818

Sir,

I have been informed by a young gentleman by the name of Alexander Hamilton Morton*, who is in your academy that you are now in want of a person qualified to teach the French: I have taught that elegant language ever since I lost my fortune and all my hopes of one in the destruction of the Island of St. Do.(mingo) This city being now so full of New Comers and expecially fraught with enthousiasm for the extraordinary talents of a Mr. Hamilton who promised to teach to perfection the french language in 48 lessons, that those who have employed themselves in teaching it in a regular and rational Course, are set a part as worn out tools untill, no doubt the wonders of Hamilton are performed or vanished into smoke. I am one of the forlorn french professors who is looking our for a refuge from a cruel enemy; I am in hopes to find it in your arms. This is my sincere wish; if you will be so kind as to realize it, please to send me a line with some particulars upon the duty a french teacher has to fulfill in your academy, also his salaries.

As to my character, Mr. Robert Smith, Merchant in this City, who knows me since 40 years, will inform you of it. I am respectfully Sir your very humble servant CHARLES CARRE No. 6 Chester Street near Rau St. Philadelphia
Major Sylvanus T.hair
Superintendent of U.S.M.A.
West Point

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

West Point March 2d 1818

Dear General,

Your several letters from Washington & Baltimore were duly received but have remained unanswered because I knew not where to address you I have enclosed to Major (Christopher) Van De Venter* a receipt for the thirty thousand dollars paid by you to Mr. Woodruff In respect to the swords I can give you no favorable information as you will see by the statement herewith enclosed. 164 are on hand, 31 others are charged to Cadets who have left the Academy. I have given a list of their names to your Aid de Camp who is at West-Point & shall moreover direct the adjutant to write to them altho it will, I fear, be of little use. 105 amounting to 1156 dollars either have been paid for or will be so in 6 or 8 days when that sum will be remitted to Taylor & Richards. The remainder of the swords shall be disposed of as you shall hereafter direct.

I have in the course of last Winter, communicated to the Secy of War (John C. Calhoun) my views of the alterations which should be made in laws relating to the Mil. Acady & I am waiting the result with much anxiety. As I have not leisure to copy my communications on that subject I must request you to ask them of Maj. Van de Venter. I hope they will meet your approbation. should they not I shall readily submit to your better opinion. My plans so far as they relate to the Corps of Engineers have for object 1st. To seperate the Corps of Engrs from the Acady. 2d. To make the chief Engineer Inspector of the Academy ex officio; 3d To allow to the officers of the Corps who shall be permitted to reside at the Academy for their improvement, the same quarters & privileges to which they are entitled except the right of command 4th. To provide for the gradual increase of the Corps by Selection from the most distinguished Cadets not exceeding Two each year. This last proposition was offered solely with a view to reward those Cadets who shall most distinguish themselves & thus to excite an usefull emulation but however advantageous it may be to the Acady, I hope you will percieve in it still greater advantages to the Corps of Engineers to which it would ensure an accession of talent which, in the course of a few years would give it a decided superiority over any other similar Corps as none has had the advantages here proposed for the selection of its officers. - for myself I should deprecate an augmentation of the Corps were it to be effected in any other manner.

hoping to hear from you on your arrival at Washington I remain with perfect respect Your sincere friend S. THAYER
Brig General Joseph G. Swift Chief Engineer

*See Index

Cadets who have left the Mil. Acady & who have not paid for their swords

Ashton	= \$12	Andrew Ramsey	= \$23
A. Antill	= 12	Schwartz	= 11
Alexander	11	Thos. Symington	= 11
Lt. Adams	- 11	Simmons	= 12
Bailley	- 11	Vanderburg	= 11
M. Blanco	= 11	Williams	= 11
L. Blanco	= 11	Whitcroft	= 10
Lt. F. L. Griffith	= 11	Z Johnson	= 11
Lt. Hitchcock	= 11	Giles	= 12
Hunt	--- 11	Berryman	= 11
T. Jamison	--- 11		
E. W. Kerr	= 11		
Lagnell	--- 10		
W. O'Neale	= 11		
C. Marshall	= 11		
James Newton	= 11		
R. W. Nixon	= 11		
Thos. Rodney	= 11		
James Spencer	11		

The Swords procured by directions of Genl Swift for the Cadets of the Mil. Acady & placed in the hands of Major Burton* for sale are accounted for as follows.

On hand-----	164
Sold & charged to Cadets who have left the Mil. Academy & whose names are hereto annexed -----	31
Sold & the amount recd. by Maj. Burton	29
Sold to Cadets present at the Mil. Academy & from whose pay the amount will be stoppd. at the present payment 1t March	76
	<hr/>
	300

*See Index

FROM Christopher VanDeventer*

War Dept
March 9th 1818

Sir,

I am directed to inform you that the Secretary of War has granted a furlough to Cadet Floyd* until the 1st of June next. I have the honor to be Your mt obt
hu. sevt C. VANDEVENTER

Maj S. Thayer
Commandg
West Point

* See Index

FROM Josiah Snelling*

Plattsburgh March 15th 1818

Sir

Having been requested by Mr. Francis D. Nichols,* who is desirous of obtaining the appointment of sword master, at the military academy, to state my knowledge of his character, and qualifications; I beg leave to inform you, that Mr. Nichols is a native of Massachusetts, and I have known him from a very early period of life; when I was taking lessons in the science of defence of a french master, about nine years ago, he was also a scholar, and was distinguished for his skill; he afterwards commenced teacher, and followed the profession with success, and to the satisfaction of his employers for some time; at the commencement of the war, at the instance of the officers of the 45th regt, he was tempted to abandon his school, and join that regiment as sword master, and in that situation I knew him in the year 1813; since that time I am informed he has been engaged in mercantile business, which has not succeeded to his expectations, and he has returned to his old profession; he has been for some time employed by several officers of this regiment, and has given them entire satisfaction, & should he obtain the appointment he solicits, I have no doubt but that he will be an acquisition to the institution; so far as my observation has extended, I believe Mr N to be a gentleman of good sense, manners, & habits, and a person whose intercourse with the young gentlemen at the academy would do them no injury, but on the contrary would be to their advantage. With sentiments of the highest respect I am Sir Your Obt st J SNELLING
Lt Col USA

Maj. S Thayer US Corps of Engineers

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy West-Point
17th March 1818

Dear General,

I enclose herewith a copy of my estimate of the appropriations deemed necessary for the Mil. Academy for the year 1818 That for the Quarter Masters Department has been granted accordingly & I hope that you will use your influence to have the others granted also. The estimate for Books, Instruments & Apparatus amounts to nearly 19,000 Dollars. The Catalogues of those objects referred to in the estimate may be seen at the War-Office - The estimate for buildings is the same as agreed upon between us at West-Point but should a Prof. of Chem. & Min. & a Prof. of the languages be added to the Institution it will be necessary to build two other houses & of course to add 8,000 dollars to my estimate. The additional appropriations necessary for the present year for permanent objects will then stand as follows.

For buildings -	\$40,500
For Books, Maps, Math. Instruments & Phil. Apparatus	<u>\$18,921 10/100</u>
Whole amount for permanent objects	\$59,421 10/100

I hope at all events that the additional french teachers, Asst Professors of Mathematics & the Quarter-Master will be allowed as they are absolutely indispensable I am very respectfully Your affectionate friend
S. THAYER
Brig. Genl Swift

*See Index

FROM Dr. Foster Swift*

New York 17 March 1818

Dear Sir,

I understand by Lt. Blaney,* that the ungrateful Alden Partridge,* has published a blackguard note in one of the Newspapers in Vermont, reflecting upon General Swift* and yourself, in language becoming no one but the base and vulgar-- he requested those Printers who published his expose, to publish his last stuff. he has not been very fortunate in his request. if the Fellow ever had a strong friend, it was Gen'l S. (wift) For he would most unquestionably have been removed, but for the friendship of Genl. S (wift) years ago.

Perhaps you have seen the publication. I was thinking if it claimed notice, whether it would not humble him, to have a reply signed by all the Cadets, and sent to the same printer who published for Partridge, if he is not under P.'s influence, with a request, that those /if any/ who published P.'s would publish that. I learn, that he is seeking for a Professorship in Dartmouth College - it is true /in part/ what he has said, that a certain great Gen'l has speculated in steam Boats and Furnaces, to support a numerous family, and entertain his numerous visitors, among whom were the ungrateful wretch himself, who from starvation and meanness amassed wealth-- while no Gentleman could live upon his pay. his great Prototype. Gov. Tompkins,* does not think himself above speculating in steam Boats. But those things show what a mean mind can resort to. Feeling so indignant towards the fellow, that I cannot suffer myself to dwell any longer upon the subject, but I thought it proper to intimate the thing to you, least you might not have heard of it.

Please to say to William* (Swift) that we are all well, and the family send their love to him, at the same time, join me in adding their Regards to you.
Your Friend, FOSTER SWIFT

* See Index

TO John C. Calhoun*

Military Academy
West Point 25th March 1818

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith the application of Cadet Richard Delafield* for an unlimited furlough to enable him to accept of an advantageous situation which has been offered to him on the part of the Board of Commissioners employed to settle the boundary line between the United States & the British provinces. It is believed that the situation presents to him a favorable opportunity of acquiring that species of practical knowledge which would be greatly beneficial to him in his future military service & very particularly so should he be appointed into the Corps of Engineers for which he is eminently well qualified. Cadet Delafield has passed thro' all the studies taught at the Military Academy & has been pronounced by the Academical Staff, to be the first scholar of his Class. In consideration of his superior qualifications & of his uniformly correct & moral conduct he was selected, at the commencement of the present term, to perform the duty of Assistant Professor of Engineering & he has continued to fill that station in a manner which does him great honor. I do not hesitate therefore, to recommend Cadet Delafield as highly deserving of the indulgence which he now solicits & am with the highest respect your obedient & humble servant

S. THAYER

Bt Major Engrs

Hon'ble J. C. Calhoun Secretary of War

*See Index

TO John C. Calhoun*

Military Academy
West-Point 1st April 1818

Sir,

I have had it in contemplation to submit to the War-Department a revised copy of the present Regulations of the Academy embracing such additions & alterations as experience has indicated to be necessary but on further consideration it has been deemed most advisable to delay that measure until it can be ascertained whether the principle amendments contemplated will meet your approbation.

The views of the Academic Staff in relation to the Academy are chiefly embraced in the series of propositions which were transmitted the War Department in January last; but no mention was therein made of the times deemed most proper for Encampments, Vacations, general examinations & admittance of Cadets; because those were considered more proper subjects for regulation than for law & did not therefore come within the object of that communication.

By the act of the 19th of April 1812, it is enacted that the Cadets shall be encamped at least three months of each year; but as an encampment of that duration would be very injurious to the studies & was deemed unnecessary to the attainment of the end proposed by it, that provision of the law has never been carried into effect, & is indeed incompatible with the present Regulations of the Academy. It is believed that a period of Two Months at the close of each academical year would be amply sufficient for the purpose of Encampment, & that an interruption of the studies for a longer period is inexpedient.

The law is silent with respect to Vacations; but the 5th article of the Regulations provides an annual vacation which is to take place immediately after the general examination in July & to end on the 31st. of August. The general examinations, however (remainder of letter lacking).

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy
West-Point 14th April 1818

Sir,

It is with extreme regret that I am reduced to the necessity of representing to you my pecuniary embarrassments. While receiving Brevet pay & double rations I found my expenditures altho regulated by the most rigid economy of which I was capable, to exceed my means of payment. The paymaster of the Corps has recently been instructed not to pay Brevet-compensation or double rations to the commanding officer of this Post. To you who are perfectly well acquainted with the extraordinary private expenses to which the Superintendent of the Military Academy is necessarily subjected unless he would consent to live in a style which would degrade the station which he holds I need say nothing more than to request you will have the goodness to inform me whether any additional compensation will be allowed. I have the honor to be very respectfully your obedient & humble servant S THAYER

Bt Major Engr Superintendent Mil. Acady
Brigr. General Joseph G. Swift Chief Engineer Inspector Mil. Acady

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift (?)

Military Academy
West-Point 14th April 1818

Dear Sir

Your communications of the 7th instant were this day received. I am truly happy to learn that your Head Quarters are established at Washington & the more so as it will enable you to give efficient support to the Military Academy in the prosperity of which we are all so deeply interested. With respect to the new regulations proposed on the 1st. of April I regret extremely that, in the opinion of the Secretary (of War, John C. Calhoun) it is too late in the season to adopt them before the next general examination. I have no doubt but the Secretary had the best of reasons for that opinion altho I am unable to concieve them. I had hoped that the considerations which induced the resolutions of the Academic Staff & which were expressed in my letter of the same date to the Secretary would have appeared satisfactory & I still entertain the hope that the unanimous wishes of all the officers of this Institution supported as they are by your approbation will induce the Secretary to consent to the proposed regulations being carried into effect the present year. An Encampment is required by law & is evidently necessary. Can a better time be chosen for it than the one proposed? The necessity of abolishing the vacation is acknowledged on all sides. Should that be done it becomes expedient to fix on a time when a portion of the Cadets shall be permitted to visit their homes. Is not the period of Encampment the most suitable time for that purpose? The Examination must necessarily precede the Encampment that is to say must take place in the month of June. Should the proposed regulations be consented to it is desirable that I may be advised of it as soon as practicable.

I am Sir with the greatest respect & esteem your obedt. & humble servant
S. THAYER Bt Major Engrs.
N.B. Should it be deemed inconvenient to order the new Cadets to join the Academy in the month of June of the present year it is concurred that no injury will arise from defering untill next year that arrangement but I am of opinion that no Cadet should be admitted after the 1st. day of September.....

.....in consequence of the present mode of conducting them must generally continue at least Three weeks leaving for the Vacations a like period of three weeks which is evidently insufficient to allow the majority of the Cadets to go home & return. That circumstance alone would indicate the necessity of altering the article above cited. It is the unanimous opinion of the Academic Staff, however, that a general vacation is not only unnecessary but highly injurious to the Cadets & to the Institution. The Cadets being supplied at the Academy with every thing necessary to them have no occasion to go home for supplies of cloathing & money as is the case with Students at our Colleges. Accordingly I am well assured that much the greatest portion of the Cadets did not visit their homes during the last Vacation but flocked, as usual, to New-york & other cities there to indulge in dissipation & to contract disease, vices & debts. Many were there detained some months, either by disease or on account of debts, others were put in jail, & several of the young gentlemen I have not heard of since & among the number a son of the late Accountant Mr

Simmons of Washington City. Without considering these & other pernicious consequences of a general vacation to the Academy itself parents have certainly a right to expect that their children shall not be thus let loose to their almost certain ruin & the disgrace of their families. I am, therefore, fully of opinion that the annual vacation ought to be abolished & that in lieu thereof furloughs may be granted to Cadets during the period of encampment. In that case the term for study in each year would be Ten Months commencing on the 1st. of September & ending on the 30th of June. The Summer Examination would of course take place in the month of June & it is proposed to commence it on the 1st. of that month in order to ensure its completion previously to the Encampment. It is supposed to be understood that the instruction of the Classes are to suffer no interruption during the continuance of the general examinations with the exception of the Class or Section which may be actually under examination.

By the 6th section of the Regulations Cadets are permitted to join the Academy at any time between the 1st. of September & October of each year. The consequence is that the 4th Class consisting of the newly appointed Cadets cannot be organized for regular instruction during that month which is therefore lost or nearly so in regard to them. It is believed that, should the Cadets be ordered to join the Academy in the month of June, several important advantages would be derived from it. It would enable the War-Department before the 1st. of the ensuing September to fill the places of those who may be rejected for deficiency of qualifications & thus to maintain the number of Cadets at the full complement allowed by law. It would afford to the newly appointed Cadets the advantages of military instruction at the ensuing Encampment at a time too when they would stand in most need of devoting their undivided attention to that instruction. Having passed thro the school of the soldier & entered into line before the commencement of the following term, they would have more time for study, from which their attention would no longer be attracted by the novelty of military parade & exercise. The drills necessarily cease by the 1st. of November & but little time can be devoted to them in the short days of October without interfering with the academical studies. Cadets who join the Academy in the course of September remain, therefore, imperfectly drilled & unable to enter into line untill the ensuing Summer. I can think of but one plausible objection to the admittance of Cadets at the time here proposed viz. that the number of Cadets who can receive pay as such being limited to two hundred & Fifty the places of the Class of graduates cannot be supplied untill that class shall be commissioned. But that objection will be obviated by dating the warrants of the Cadets & the commissions of the graduates....

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy
West Point 15th April 1818

Sir,

Having been informed that no further provision for the mil. Academy will be recommended to Congress during its present session I have to request that four additional assistant professors of Mathematics may be provisionally appointed with the same pay & emoluments as are allowed by law to the other assistant professors. It cannot be expected that Cadets who are directed to perform the Duties of assistants contrary to their wishes will, generally, Discharge them in a manner advantageous to the Institution & it is believed that no cadet of the Mil. Academy who is competent to the duty would willingly perform it without a reasonable compensation for his services.

The Cadets who are, at present, acting as assistant professors have heretofore performed the Duty voluntarily but only from an expectation that they would finally receive the reward due to their unremitted zeal & fidelity. Their long experience as teachers is highly valuable to the Institution & it is therefore very desirable that they should be retained. I have the honor to be very respectfully your obedt. & humble sevt. S. THAYER Bt
Major Engr. Superintendent Mil. Academy
Brig. General Swift
Chief Engineer

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Mil Academy
West-Point 18th April 1818

Sir,

I have forborn untill now to represent to the War-Department the expediency of appointing provisionally a Quarter-Master at this Post from the expectation that one would have been provided for by law during the late Session of Congress. That expectation not having been realized I deem it my duty to state that unless an officer shall be attached to the Mil. Academy to perform the duty of Quarter-Master it will be impossible for me to take effectual measures for the due preservation & care of the public property at this place or for the prevention of depre-dations on the public land. That the repairing of the buildings the procuring of supplies for the institution will be attended with increased expense, and with much in-convenience & vexation to myself.

It is well known to the Inspector of the Mil Academy that with exception of some buildings West Point is liter-ally a desert altho' susceptible of great local improve-ment & embellishment at no very considerate expense pro-vided suitable attention shall be given to that object which for the site of a national institution is not deem-ed unworthy of the patronage of the Government. Those local improvements, however, are impracticable in a great degree without the aid of a Quarter-Master.

I have long been of opinion that a public agent should be charged with supplying the principal articles of the Cadets cloathing & equipments agreeably to a plan which if required will be submitted to the Department of War & by which it will be made to appear that, in addition to its other advantages, those articles may be furnished at about Twenty five per Cent cheaper than by the present mode. To discharge these various duties in a proper manner will undoubtedly require a person of uncommon qual-ifications. He should therefore be allowed a liberal com-pensation for which, however, the Government would be amply remunerated by the savings & improvement which could not fail to result.

* See Index

TO John C Calhoun*

Mil. Academy
West-Point 20th April 1818

Sir,

Twelve hundred copies of a work entitled "a treatise on the Science of War & Fortifications" translated from the french by Captain O'Connor* & purchased of him by the War Department for the use of the Military Academy have been bound & deposited at West Point. Believing the aforesaid number of copies to be far greater than will ever be wanted for the purpose of instruction at the Academy I respectfully suggest the utility of permitting each Cadet who shall receive a diploma & be commissioned from the institution to retain the copy which shall have been issued to him as a class-book. This to be continued until the number of copies shall be reduced to six hundred.* I have the honor to be Very respectfully, Your obedient & humble servt S. THAYER Bt Maj. Engs Superintendent Mil. Acady.

Honorable John C. Calhoun
Secretary of War

* By this means the work instead of laying useless on the shelves of the Library will in time be widely distributed among the officers of the Army.

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Mil Academy
West-Point 30th April 1818

Sir,

The uniform coats now worn by the band of Musick at West Point were issued to it about two years ago & have become unfit for wear. I have endeavored to engage the Commissary to have made for the band new coats by offering to pay him the difference of cost between those & ordinary musicians coats. This is objected to by Mr. (Callender) Irvine* because musicians coats for the year have already been forwarded to West-Point. It is not proper however that the band should wear those coats not only because they are of an inferior quality & badly made but also because it is deemed necessary, in order to maintain the pride of the band, to give them a different uniform from that of drummers & fifers. I have therefore to request that you will write to Mr Irvine on the subject in order that suitable coats may be procured for the band with the least possible delay. I enclose herewith Maj. (Darby) Noon's* letter to me in answer to my application.

I have the honor to be very respectfully your obedt & humble servt
S. THAYER Bt Major Superintendent Mil Acady
Brig General Joseph G. Swift Inspt. Mil Acady

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

(1 May 1818)

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith a Class Roll of the Cadets of the Mil Academy agreeably to merit in their respective Sections as determined by a general examination in December last with remarks shewing the state of each class on the 1st May 1818. From this roll you will perceive that the aggregate number of Cadets in the four classes amounts to 173. Of this number twenty four will be qualified for commissions after the next general examination & about 12 or 15 others of the two lower classes having no hopes of completing the course of studies at the Institution will probably think it advisable to resign their warrants. The number of vacancies to be filled previously to the 1st of Sept. next will thus amount to at least $250 - 173 - 36 = 113$. I have to request that you will inform me whether the new Cadets will be ordered to repair to West Point by the time recommended in the Regulations of the Staff or should that measure not be adopted whether I shall be authorized to admit to examination such as shall report themselves by that time. Having already represented to the government the advantages which would result to the academy & to the newly appointed Cadets by admitting them previously to the encampment I have only to wait the decision of the War Dept on that subject. I am &c S. THAYER
Brig. Genl Swift
1t May 1818

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

(3 May 1818)

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith a return of the troops stationed at W. Point for the month of April 1818. Of the four Cadets reported absent without leave Wm Whetcroft & Oliver Wolcott* are believed to have been transferred to the Navy altho' I have not been officially advised of it.

Cadets O'Neall* & Vandenburg* have been absent without leave since last November. I enclose herewith a letter from Cadet O'Neall & request that his resignation be accepted. Cadet Vandenburg having informed his friends at this place that he shall not return & having neglected to report the cause of his absence or to tender his resignation I recommend that he be discharged. From the 1st of Sept. last untill the 1st of March the number of Cadets reported absent without leave amounted at no time to less than twelve. To prevent a similar evil in future I respectfully suggest to the War Dept the expediency of issuing a order to the following effect. The pay & subsistence of all Cadets who neglect to join the Mil Academy on the expiration of their furloughs will be stopped nor will the pay & subsistence so respited be issued to them unless they can assign the most satisfactory reasons for their absence. Cadets who shall be absent without leave for a longer period than two months will be discharged from the service of the United States. S. THAYER
Brig Genl Swift
3d May 1818

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

West Point 12th May 1818

Sir,

Believing that I shall not have it in my power, hereafter, to be usefull, in any considerable degree, to the Mil Academy I request the War-Department will be pleased to have me relieved in the command of this Post & in the Superintendance of the Institution.

In case this request shall be granted I would wish to obtain a furlough for the purpose of visiting my relations whom I have not seen for many years. I am Sir very respectfully Your obedt & humble servant S. THAYER Bt Major Engrs.
Brig Genl Swift Chief Engineer

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Mil Academy
West Point 22^d May 1818

Sir,

Of the 40 Cadets mentioned in your communication of the 16th instant Cadets Horace Bliss,* James A. Wilkin* David Moniac,* B. C. Cross* John L. Craig,* & W^m. Stith,* were reported to the War Dept. as having been admitted & have accordingly received their warrants. You will find their names on the roll of the 1^t of May. W^m. T. Bourne* was found qualified & admitted & notice thereof given to the War- Dept but he has not rec^d his warrant. James Wood, Laurence B. Lewis & Thos. J. Do ——— not being found qualified on examination were not admitted. J.J.ALston* has resigned. Of those Cadets on the list who were ordered to Join the Mil Acdy previous-ly to the 1^t of Oct. last Cadets J. Wheelock,* G.W.Giles,* Putnam Ewing* & (Moras) Grayson* have not reported to me either in person or by letter & I therefore recommend that their places may be considered as vacant. The number of vacancies therefore which remain to be filled amounts to seventeen including the places vacated by the resignations of Cadets Baker* & Boardley,* recently forwarded to your office.

* See Index

FROM Abigail Thayer*

Sutton May 24th 1818

Dear Brother,

I rec'd your letter dated last Febr. relative to Mr. Waters entering the Military Academy. Since that time a young gentleman from Warwick, Rhode island, is extremely anxious to be admitted. he is about seventeen years of age, has been fitted for college, & is said to be a young man of very brilliant talents & good habits - Capt. Green, his father wishes to know what recommendations are necessary & from whom. when he shall apply to the war department, whether he shall apply himself, or you apply for him, whether you would be willing to interest yourself for him in obtaining a Cadets Commission, when he would receive it, etc. it would be gratifying to his friends to know what his duties would be after his arrival there - Please to write whatever you think necessary for him to be acquainted with, the young man is ex(tremely) solicitous his parents have been unwilling to gratify untill of late. I am but little acquainted with him. his sister attends my school It is said to be a noble family, and is thought you will not be disappointed in him --

You will perceive by the date of my letter I have moved from Milford to Sutton, am here instructing an agreeable school of about forty young Ladies. Am boarding with Col. Waters who still contemplates sending his brother (George W. Waters)* to West Point - Sister Livia* instructs ye Academy in Needham, and gives great satisfaction - Our Parents are in good health, Sister Marsh, Mehitable* also - Please to write me as long a letter as is convenient in return, anything _____ respecting yourself will be interesting it is a long time since I heard particularly from you. When will you give us leave to hope for the pleasure of seeing you once more? We all anticipate the time with great anxiety your affectionate sister,
ABIGAIL THAYER

P.S. Col. Waters has just been up stairs and requests me to write something more about his brother. he wishes to know if it is possible he may not obtain a commission, & if he should not, what his expences would be, how long he would stay at West P. when he would receive his commission he is anxious to hear from you soon as is convenient, from whom must he bring recommendations? he has no friends in this part of the Country but Col. Waters he is anxious to send him on immediately, could he enter before September? I suppose if Col. Waters could not obtain a commission for his Brother he would not think he could afford to board and assist him there a long time as it must be entirely at his expence, he would not value seventy or an hundred dollars - - -

*See Index

FROM Horace C. Story*

Westpoint June 22d 1818

Sir,

In reference to the order from the chief Engineer (Joseph G. Swift) of the 21st ult. directing the detail of an orderly for his office from the Company of Bombardiers, Sappers & Miners, I would state, that no person possessing the requisites of character therein described & the necessary qualifications for that duty, is to be found in that Company, with the exception of Quarter Master Sergeant D_____ Brewster (now on furlough) whose various & important duties at this post render his presence so indispensable (as no other competent person can be found to fulfil them) that I presume Genl Swift would not deem it advisable to remove him. I am Sir, with much respect Yr obt Svt

HORACE C. STORY

Lieut Engrs

Major Thayer U. S. Engineers Supt. Mil. Acad.

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Mil. Academy West Point
28th June 1818

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith Lieut (Horace C.) Storys* report made in consequence of your order of the 21st Ultimo. The company of Bombardiers is undoubtedly the worst of the whole Army being principally composed of fugitives from justice & the refuse of society. To prevent this company from becoming a disgrace to the Corps & a nuisance to this Post, I have to request that Cadets Harvey Brown* & George Webb* when appointed be attached to the Company & that Lieut Story be provided with the necessary instructions & means to recruit
I am Sir very respectfully your obedient humble servt

S. THAYER Bt Major
Supdt Mil Academy

Brig Genl. Swift Chief Engineer

*See Index

TO John C. Calhoun

Military Academy
West Point June 28th 1818

To the Hon Secretary of War

Sir

The undersigned, Officers of the Military Academy at West Point having just completed a laborious examination of the Cadets, and being about to recommend certain of them for promotion in the different Corps of the Army beg leave to call the attention of the Secty of War (John C. Calhoun) to a subject in which the feelings of these young gentlemen and the welfare of the Academy are most deeply interested. They have learned with extreme regret that the names of two young gentlemen, (Edward) Polk* and (Wilson C. N.) Armistead*, not long since discharged from the lower classes of the Institution under circumstances more or less disreputable, have been placed upon the Register of the Army as Commissioned officers of the same, and they feel that they should be wanting in respect for the just claims of the Cadets, the reputation of the Academy and the interests of the Army at large, were they not to represent the evils which they perceive are likely to flow from this measure.

The necessity which all military experience has so fully demonstrated of a strict adherence to the rules of Discipline and Subordination in an Army, they conceive it unnecessary to dwell upon at this time; they look upon the maintenance of Discipline as a first principle in Military Economy, and it must be obvious to every one that the observance of its rules is at least as essential to the prosperity of the Military Academy as to the well being of the Army. Indeed it is here that Candidates for the army should be established in habits of obedience before entering upon the Theatre of Military Life. Associated with the idea of subordination the undersigned are led also to appreciate certain moral principles which are considered as the basis and support of it and which on that account should be embraced as fundamental points in every system of Military Education. Among these they would name as the most important an ardent attachment to the Military Profession, a reasonable desire for preferment, a delicate regard for personal reputation, (and) a strong and dignified sense of Justice. These principles are not only of vital importance to the Military Academy itself, but of the utmost consequence to be established in the bosoms of its pupils, since being once established they secure ever after to the public the full value of their talents and abilities.

Upon views of this kind, which it is believed are consistent with the best interests of the service, the system of instruction and discipline now perfecting at the Academy has been predicated and thus far enforced. That it would be successful, with the mass of the Cadets there could be no doubt - so long as the approbation of their officers and the honors of the Institution are looked upon as the only certain passport to preferment & public confidence. But should it appear in any instance that Idleness Misconduct, habits of low and ungentlemanlike Behaviour or of disregard for the Rules of Discipline, are to be overlooked; that those who have been expelled from the society of Cadets on account of these vices, or rejected for gross and notorious incapacity, are nevertheless

admitted to the confidence of the Government & clothed with Military rank: it is not to be wondered at, if the military ardour of the Cadets should be entirely subdued, and the spirit of obedience give way that of disaffection and disgust. How far these remarks are applicable to the cases in question, will easily be seen by reverting to the circumstances under which these young gentlemen were severed from the Institution. The 1st of them Mr. Polk having after a course of inattention, evinced an utter disregard for the Rules of Subordination, by absenting himself from the Academy in 1816 after repeated orders to return, was at length at the end of that year, publicly stricken from the Roll of Cadets for the crime of Desertion. The second was an unfortunate but well established case of gross incapacity joined to want of attention; taken notice of after an ample trial of four years by the unanimous vote of the staff -- Mr. A. was permitted by the war dept. to resign.

In consequence of the appointment of such persons under such circumstances, a distaste for the service with all its attendant evils is beginning to be generated among the Cadets which the officers of the Academy know not in what manner to counteract or repress and unless a remedy can be found in higher authority the consequences to the Institution must be injurious ⁱⁿ the highest degree --

There is yet another point of view in which the promotion of these young^{men} as well as that of many cadets who resign from the Academy, is calculated to wound the sensibility and discourage the exertions of the meritorious and deserving. Less disgusting perhaps in some instances, it still involves the same consequences and if not checked must inevitably sap the very foundations of this Establishment. The undersigned have reference to certain cases of Cadets who have left the Academy at various times, and obtained ~~the~~ appointments in ~~the~~ Army before the regular time for the promotion of the Class to which they belonged, by which means, some years of rank is not infrequently gained by these, to the exclusion of those who remain and persevere in their studies. It is well known that resignations of the Cadets are frequent; and that the principal motives for obtaining them are a consciousness of incapacity, or an unwillingness to submit to the rigid discipline of the Academy for the regular period, while any hopes or expectations exist of obtaining the ultimate object of their ambition by a shorter and easier course. The patronage of men of Influence and power and the illusive idea of rendering useful in the army, more than in civil life the idle, careless, and incapable, it is to be feared will too often favour such premature and unmerited appointments; not less afflicting to the feelings of the honorable and deserving than subversive of the specific objects of this noble Institution. The honor of our country, and above all of the army which it is expected must receive its tone and character from the initial formation of its officers in this Institution, is deeply concerned in repelling all such attempts as would substitute dulness for genius, or idleness and vice for energy and a faithful discharge of duty.

It is not for the officers of the Academy to point out the means of redressing the evils which they have there represented. They submit them to the Hon Secretary of War in the fullest confidence that they will receive from him every

attention which their urgency requires We have the honor to
be Very Respectfully your Obt Hbl Servts

D B DOUGLASS* Bvt Capt
Assist^t Prof^r Nat Phil

GEO. W. GARDINER*
Lt. Corps Arty & Instr Arty
C. DAVIES* Ass P.h

Approved

S. THAYER B Major Eng^r
Super^{dt} Mil Acady

JARED MANSFIELD.*

Prof^r of N. & E. Phil^{os}

AND^w ELLICOTT*

Prof. Mat^s in U.S. Mil^y
Academy

C. CROZET* prof^r of Eng^r

J. BLISS* Instruct. Tact^s
Comdt. Cadets

C. BERARD* Teacher of French

C. E. ZOELLER*, Teach. of Drawg.

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Mil Academy

West-Point 19th July 1818

Sir,

I had the honor to transmit to you by the last Mail a requisition for Two hundred stands of small arms of the New-haven Manufacture for the use of the Mil. Academy.

I have since been informed that a large supply of Muskets of the new pattern manufactured at Springfield & Pittsfield are in store at the arsenal near Albany.

These muskets being two inches shorter & more solidly mounted are deemed more suitable for the Cadets than those of the old pattern I have therefore to request, if it be not too late, that you will order Muskets of the new pattern to be furnished me, accordingly. I am Sir very respectfully your obed & humble Servt. S. THAYER Bt Major Superdt Mil Acady
Brigadier General Joseph G. Swift Chief Engineer

*See Index

FROM Abigail Thayer*

Sutton July 25th 1818

Dear Brother,

I wrote you some time since respecting the Mr. Green and (George W.) Waters* entering the Military Academy. Mr. Green from Rhode Island is very anxious & impatient to hear from you. he is said to be a person of very splendid abilities. about seventeen and has fitted for College. you would probably be more pleased with him than Waters _ould you use your influence in procuring them a Cadets commission it would be very gratifying they would bring such recommendations as you desire. A state of suspense is very unpleasant would it be possible for either or both to enter please to inform us soon as possible. nothing can exceed Mr. Greens solicitude - Your affectionate sister ABIGAIL THAYER

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Mil. Academy West Point 6 Augt. 1818

Sir

I have the honor to enclose herewith the Resignation of Cadet Thos. O Bruff* & request that it may be accepted. Cadet Bruff has been at the Mil. Acady. about four years during which he has been uniformly inattentive to his studies & duties. For the last two years he has occupied a room by himself as no Cadet was willing to room with him in consequence of his filthy & other disagreeable habits. His disposition, propensities & habits are all averse to the Military profession & no rational hope can be entertained that he will ever be qualified for a diploma at this Institution. He is however by no means deficient in capacity & is said to possess great ingenuity in practical mechanics. To enable him to procure decent cloaths to go home, & to bear his travelling expenses as well as to pay some necessary debts I have advanced him his pay to the 31st of October next on which day I request his resignation may take effect. I am Sir very respectfully Your

obedt. Servt.

S. THAYER Bt Major

Brig. General Joseph G. Swift Chief Engineer

*See Index

Mil. Academy
West Point 8 August 1818

Lieut. John C. Russell* of the Light Artillery having completed his education at the Mil Academy & being about to join his regiment I have the great pleasure in being able to state for the satisfaction of his friends that his conduct while a member of the Institution was uniformly correct & officerlike. He has been equally conspicuous for his devoted attention to study & strict observance of all his duties as a Cadet. S. THAYER Bt. Maj. Engr.
Superdt. Mil Acady

* See Index

FROM Claudius Berard* to John C. Calhoun*

West Point August 14th 1818

Sir,

On the 8th of April 1816, General (Joseph G.) Swift* did me the honour of appointing me the Librarian of this Institution. At that time, the Library was in its infancy, and consisted of very few volumes. Since it has received large additions, and my labour has, of course, increased in proportion. I have cheerfully devoted, and am still disposed to devote to it the greatest part of the time which is not taken up by my Academical duty, without being remunerated for my trouble. But as there is a great responsibility attached to the office, it seems to me so just that there should be also some compensation connected with it, that I believe I need but mention it to your Excellency to obtain it. I take the liberty of referring your Excellency to General Swift and Major Thayer for the justice of my application, and I have the honour to be, Sir, your most respectful servant, C. BERARD Teacher of French and Librarian

The Honourable Secretary of War

*See Index

FROM Joseph G. Swift*

Engineer Department Washington 17th August 1818

Sir

Some time since, I informed you that Major General Jacob Brown* had requested me to erect, at his expense, near the Military Academy, a Monument, to the memory of the gallant Colonel (Eleazer D.) Wood. In compliance with a request so honourable to General Brown, I have caused an Obelisk to be made of five pieces of white Marble; it is now ready to be transported to West Point, to be erected. The site upon which I wish the Obelisk to be placed, is at the intersection of two lines, one, drawn perpendicularly from the center of the North front of the Academy, and the other, from the center of the West front of the new Stone Barracks.

At this point, I will thank you to cause a foundation, of granite, to be laid, immediately, by a Mason, aided by the Bombadiers, with care, and of large stone; of form, and dimensions indicated upon the enclosed sketch. About the time when the foundation will be finished, I will thank you to advise me thereof, that I may order the monument to be transported to West Point, accompanied by a Workman to put it together.

Upon the occasion of the erection of this Monument, I wish you to say, to the Gentlemen under your superintendence, something to pourtray the character of our deceased Brother Officer; Let the enclosed letter of General Brown to me, together with my reply, be read, and also, let such marks of military respect be exhibited on the day, as you may judge proper, and let the transactions of the day be recorded in the orderly Book of the Post.

I am your respectful humble Servant J.G. SWIFT Ch: Engr:
Major Sylvanus Thayer Supert. of the Military Academy
West Point

* See Index

FROM Roswell Lee*

U.S. Armory Springfield Aug. 22d 1818

Dear Sir,

Pursuant to Instructions from Col. Decius Wadsworth* of the Ordnance Department, I have this day forwarded to your Station 200 Muskets with Bayonets Ten Arm Chests, 200 Screw drivers & 20 Ball Screws. They are directed to the care of W. A. Barron Esq. A.D. Quar. Mas. Genl. New York. When they arrive, please forward your Duplicate Receipts for the same.

Very respectfully Sir I remain your Obt. Svt. ROSWELL LEE
Maj. S. Thayer
Supt. Miliy. Academy
Westpoint New York

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy
West Point 23d August 1818

Sir

At the request of Mr (Claudius) Berard* I have the honor to enclose two communications from him the one addressed to yourself & the other to the Honble Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun). His object is to obtain a future allowance for the care which he bestows on the library of the Mil Academy. His duties as Librarian will not be less arduous than his duties as teacher of french. I hope therefore that his application will not be considered unreasonable & will be granted accordingly.

I have the honor to be very respectfully your Obedt & humble servt
S. THAYER Bt Major Superdt Mil Acady
Brigr General Joseph G. Swift Chief Engineer

*See Index

FROM Thomas Picton*

(24 August 1818)

Sir,

I have received notice, from the Secretary of War, (John C. Calhoun) of my appointment as chaplain and professor at the military school, West Point, with directions to report myself to you. In a private letter, from a friend, which accompanied the notice of the appointment, I was informed that the Secretary wished me to be at West Point, by the first of Septr. The letter declaring my acceptance of the appointment was accompanied by another to my friend, requesting the indulgence of another month, as I had several little matters to settle here, before I could conveniently leave the place. I hope to be favoured with an answer, this week. In the mean time, I should be happy to receive your concurrence, and permission to remain here until the middle of Septr. I think that I shall be able, by that time, to arrange my affairs here to my entire satisfaction.

Very respectfully, I am Yours etc THOMAS PICTON

Westfield, New Jersey

Augst. 24 1818

To

Major Thayer, superintendent
of the Military Academy, West Pt.

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Mil Academy West Point 21st Sept. 1818

Sir,

During your late visit at the Mil Academy you took occasion to express your satisfactions at the fine military appearance & high state of discipline of the Corps of Cadets & you will recollect that I acknowledgd myself under great obligations therefor to the talents & zeal of Captain (John) Bliss* Instructor of Tactics & Commander of the Corps. During a period of seven months Capt. Bliss has devoted unremittingly his whole time & attention to the discharge of his laborious duties. His services have been eminently usefull & are, in my opinion, deserving of some mark of approbation from the Secy. of War (John C. Calhoun). I would further remark that the duties of Capt Bliss as Instructor of Tactics & Commandant of Cadets are infinitely more arduous than those of a Captain in the line. From the foregoing considerations I beg leave to request that double rations or an equivalent sum from the Contingent fund may be allowed to Captain Bliss I have also to request that Lieutenants (Horace) Webster* & (Samuel S.) Smith* who are performing the duties of asst. Professors of Mathematics at the Mil Academy may be allowed the same pay & emoluments as are allowd by law to the Assistant Professor of Mathematics. Two Cadets have been detailed as Assistant Teachers of drawing. It appears to me reasonable that they should receive the same compensation for their extra services _____ allowed to the Cadets - _____ asst. Professors of Mathematics. I am Sir very respectfully

S. THAYER Bt Major
Superdt. Mil Acady

Brig General Joseph G. Swift Chief Engineer

*See Index

FROM James Dalaby.*

U.S. Arsenal Watervliet N.Y.
Sept. 25, 1818.

Dear Sir,

The bearer, Mr. E. A. Clary* has been introduced to me by a very respectable friend & solicits an introduction to you on account of having a son (Erasmus D. Clary)* who is appointed a Cadet, & whom he accompanies to the Point in order to place him at the Military Academy. With much respect & esteem I am, Sir, your obt. Sevt. JAMES DALABY
Major of Ordnance

Major Sylvanus Thayer
U.S. Eng' & Super. Mil. Academy

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy
West Point 4th October 1818

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 29th ultimo came to hand yesterday. I had partly anticipated your wishes in forwarding on Friday last the rules with respect to appointments. I am happy to find that they agree substantially with those you have proposed but they contain an additional clause which I believe to be more important than all the others. I refer to the 1st. Rule which provides that the relative ranks of Cadets when commissioned shall be determined by the role of merit. If that rule is not to be acted upon in every case all our determinations of merit would be useless & ridiculous & the greatest of all motives which stimulate the minds of youth to industry & exertions would have no existence at this Academy as the certainty of a moderate reward will always have more influence on the conduct of mankind than the possibility or even probability of a much greater one I wish an order may be issued which shall remove all doubt with respect to the manner in which appointments are to be made for the future. - I regret beyond expression the removal of Capt. (Henry) Stanton*. He is peculiarly well fitted for his situation & I know not of any person who can supply his place. All my plans for supplying the Cadets in a better & more economical manner & the advantages which I calculated to derive from the public lands must at least be postponed. The Quarter-Master at this Post should be permanent but in order to be so he should not belong to the Q. Master generals Department & liable to be removed at the whim of an officer who feels no interest in the Institution. The public service must suffer greatly from the want of a Quarter-Master at this Post but I had rather have none than one of the ordinary mould & temporarily attached - to Invite distinguished officers & citizens to attend at the general examinations & to carry into effect the article of the regulations with respect to a Board of visitors have always been considered with me of primary importance to the institution. Should not the invitations proceed from the Inspector? With the highest of respect & regard yours sincerely
S. THAYER

Brig General Joseph G. Swift Chief Engineer

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Mil Academy West Point 10th Oct 1818

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith a letter from Lt
(James D.) Graham* my adjutant who is desirous of being em-
ployed with Major (Stephen H.) Long* on his expedition of
discovery. Lt. Graham is competent to the station which he
solicits & I hope he may be gratified. With great respect
etc I am your obed servt. S. THAYER Bvt. Major

Superdt. Mil Acady

Brigr. General Joseph G. Swift Chief Engineer

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy West Point
10th October 1818

Sir

Enclosed herewith you will receive my estimate of Appropriations required for the Mil. Academy for 1819. In this estimate it is taken for granted 1st. That the Mil Academy will be completely endowed 2^d That none of the officers will be officers of the army with the exception of the Superintendent, Instructor & Assistant Instructor of Tactics, The Instructor of Artillery, Surgeon & Adjutant of the Post. 3^d. That the Corps of Engineers will be seperated from the Mil Academy but that the company of Bombardiers or a Company of Artillery will always be stationed at W Point. I have not time at present to give in detail the reasons of the several items of the estimate but will do it hereafter if you will have the goodness to inform me which of them stand in need of explanation.

I am Sir, very respectfully your obedt. & humble servt

S. THAYER Bt Major
Superdt. Mil Acady

Brigr. General Swift Chief Engineer

*See Index

FROM George Blaney* to Thomas S. Jessup*

Engineer Department October 21. 1818

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose by direction of General Swift* an Estimate of funds required for the Quarter Masters Department at West Point; and to request that You will cause \$.3000 to be remitted to Major Thayer, on account of the Estimate, out of the Military Academy fund which was turned over to Your Department. I have the honor to be Very Respectfully Your Most Obedt St. GEO. BLANEY, Lieut. Engr.

Brig General Jessup Quar. Masr. General U.S. Army

* See Index

FROM George W. Gardiner*

(21 October 1818)

Estimate of Funds required for the Quarter Masters Department at West Point, New York, for the Quarter ending 31st December 1818

Books & Instruments -----	\$600.00
Stationary-----	400.00
For repairs & mounting maps due on last Quarter-----	150.00
Lumber & Materials for re- pairs of Public buildings.-----	700.00
Forage & Straw-----	300.00
Transportation-----	500.00
One large Pyramid Stove-----	80.00
This amount for Mr Jno. Youles account dated Decr. 31st 1816 for Two box stoves, pipes etc-----	54.50
This amount due on Contract for Fuel with Mr Benjn. Havens* for last year-----	205.56
This amount on account of Contract for Fuel with O.G.Burton for present year -----	4500.00
Incidental Expences-----	509.94

\$8000.00

G W GARDINER. Lt Arty & Actg Qr. Mr.

Approved

S. THAYER Bt Major Superdt. Mil. Acady

(attached to letter of Oct 21 (1818) of Geo Blaney)

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy
West Point 26 October 1818

Dear General

As Congress is soon to assemble I am somewhat anxious to know what alterations in the laws relating to the Mil. Academy are contemplated the present session & you will greatly oblige me by giving me such information as can be communicated with propriety. Among the alterations proposed by me last winter was one to fix the minimum of the age of Cadets when admitted at sixteen & to require of them, in addition to the present requisites, a knowledge of the English grammar. This alteration is considered here to be of greater importance than any other & particularly so far as relates to the age. Should the Secy. not be impressed with the necessity of this alteration - I would beg leave to make in conjunction with the Academic Staff a special representation on the subject. -- My estimate for the year ensuing will probably be considered very large & would justly be so considered if it were intended to ask only for such appropriations as are absolutely necessary. Should you think the estimate too great or be of the opinion that it will be so considered by Congress would it not be advisable to prepare another estimate founded on the indispensable wants of the Institution, because if Congress are to retrench at pleasure the most necessary items might be thrown out. - Altho' at your last visit you appeared satisfied with the state of the Academy still it was the commencement of the term during the examinations of the new Cadets when the greatest regularity would not be expected. I have now the pleasure to inform you that the situation of the Institution with respect to instruction discipline & police was never more satisfactory nor raised higher hopes for the future. Your friend & obed^t servant S. THAYER
Brig General Joseph G. Swift

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Mil Academy
West Point 26 October 1818

Dear General

As Congress is soon to assemble I feel great solicitude to know what alterations in the laws relating to the Mil Acady. are contemplated the present session & you will confer on me a great favor by informing me if it is not deemed improper. Among the alterations proposed by me last winter is one to fix the minimum of the age of Cadets when admitted at sixteen & requiring in addition to the present requisite a knowledge of the English grammar. This alteration is considered here of greater importance than any others & particularly so far as relates to the age. Should there exist any doubts in the Secretarys mind I propose to make in conjunction with the Academic Staff a particular representation on the subject. My estimate for the ensuing year will probably be considered very large & would justly be so considered if it were intended to make only such appropriations as are absolutely necessary. Should you think the estimate too great or should you be of opinion that it will be so considered by Congress will it not be advisable to prepare another estimate founded on the indispensable wants of the Institution because if Congress are allowed to entrench at pleasure they might reject the most necessary items. Altho' you appeared to be satisfied with the state of the Academy during your late visit, still it was the commencement of the term during the examination of the new Cadets when great regularity could not be expected. I have now the pleasure to inform you that the situation of the Institution with regard to instruction, discipline & police has never been more satisfactory nor raised higher hopes for the future. Very respectfully & sincerely your friend & obed^t servant S. THAYER
Brig General Joseph G. Swift Chief Engineer

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Military Academy West Point
27th October 1818

Dear General,

From the conversation which I had with you when you were last at W Point I was led to believe that no objections would be made to the appointment of an Assistant Instructor of Tactics. In consequence of that belief I have been making the necessary inquiries in order to ascertain the most suitable person to fill the station & have finally determined to recommend Lieut. (William G.) Belknap* who is attached to Capt (William J.) Worths* company 2d Infty. But previously to making any communication to the War Dept. on the subject I thought it advisable to ascertain whether Lt. Belknap would like the appointment. Lt. (Horace C.) Story* who is acquainted with him wrote to him at my request & recd. the answer which is entered herewith. Lt. Belknap was given to understand that, in case he should be appointed, he would receive the same pay as is now allowed to the Asst. Professors - Should you approve what has been done & feel disposed to recommend this appointment to the War Department I will, if necessary, address you officially on the subject. It is, doubtless, unwise to impose more duties on an officer than he is able to perform well. This however has been done in the case of Capt (John) Bliss* His duty as Instructor might, perhaps, be suitably performed without any aid but he also commands the Cadets & is charged with their interior police & economy duties which are by far more arduous than that of drilling the Cadets. Altho' no man can be more active & devoted than he has been still many things must necessarily be neglected or imperfectly done -- There is another consideration which should not be overlooked. In case Capt Bliss shall, from whatever cause, be removed from his present situation, an event which must occur sooner or later, His valuable experience & any good system he might establish would, unless he had an assistant, be lost to his successor -- The Govt. has already attached several officers to the Mil Acady. on my recommendation & I fear I shall weary the Secy. by any further applications of the kind. This fear has induced me to delay the present request much longer than I otherwise should have done but after all is it not evident that a Lieut. of the army cannot be more usefully or more honorably employed in a time of Peace than in improving the nursery which is to supply that army with its most scientific & accomplished officers? With great respect & esteem your obed
Servant
S. THAYER

Brig General Joseph G. Swift Chief Engineer

*See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Mil Academy
West Point 9 Nov. 1818

Sir

Of the Cadets who reported themselves to me in the Months of Sept & October last but have not been admitted The Fourteen below mentioned have appeared to me particularly deserving & I beg leave to recommend that their names be entered on the list of Cadets who will be ordered to join the Mil Academy in June next viz.

C.A.F.Allen* of Massachusetts, H.B.Hoffman* of New York, W. Warne* of New York, W.H.Fennimore* of Pennsylvania, G. Tilton* of Maryland, D.S. Miles* of Maryland, H.E.Bell* of North Carolina, P. Trezevant* of South Carolina, W.B.Orr of Kentucky, J.P.Moore of Kentucky, M. Satterwhite* of Kentucky, C.Gooding* of Michigan Territory, H.S. Chambers* of the D. Columbia, H.H.Gird* of New York

By the remarks on the list herewith enclosed it will appear that since the first of Sept. last

there have been admitted-----	105
rejected-----	8
have reported themselves but not exd.	9
have not reported themselves-----	43

165

I am Sir respectfully your obedt Servant S.THAYER
Bt Major Superdt. Mil Acady

* See Index

FROM George Blaney

Engineer Department, November 14th 1818

Sir,

Your letters of the 5th & 6th November have been received. The Warrants of the Cadets who were examined and admitted will be made out and dated agreeably to your request - The Military Academy fund has been overdrawn by transfers from the accounts by 12000 Dollars. A transfer will be made however from it so as to Send you Some money to enable you to get along until a new appropriation is made.

Mr. I. Milbert* formerly Teacher of drawing at the School of mines in France has applied for the Drawing Masters appointment at West Point. - The Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) has directed him to go to West Point upon trial, and if he Should give satisfaction he will be appointed - He is to have the Same pay as is now given to Mr. Zoeller* during the time he may remain at West Point as Teacher - You will report to the Department whether he is capable to fill the place he Solicits. I have the honor to be Your Most Obed Serv. By Order Secy War GEO BLANEY Lieut Engr.
To Major S. Thayer Superintendent etc etc West Point, N.Y.

* See Index

TO Joseph G. Swift*

Mil. Academy West Point
15th Nov. 1818

Dr: Sir,

By your letter of the 20th ultimo I am informed that Lieut. (James D.) Graham* will be detached to accompany Major (Stephen H.) Long* on his voyage of discovery up the Missouri & I am directed to nominate an officer to succeed him as Adjutant of this Post. Lieut. G(eorge) W. Gardiner* is desirous of that situation & I shall recommend him for it believing that he will perform the duty to my satisfaction. The object of this letter is to request you to make the necessary enquiries in order to obtain a suitable person to succeed Lieut Gardiner as Instructor of Artillery. That Department of Instruction at the Mil Acady is much in (rear) of the others & requires an efficient, intelligent & experienced officer to place it on that respectable footing which its great importance demands.

Perhaps you can obtain the necessary information from the members of the Board of Ordnance which I understand is now sitting at Washington. I am Sir with great respect your
obedt. servant

S. THAYER

Brig Genl. Joseph G. Swift Chief Engineer

*See Index

TO Walker K. Armistead*

Military Academy West Point
Nov. 30th 1818

Sir,

I have to inform you of some transactions of a very disagreeable nature which have taken place during the last week at the Mil. Academy.

After stating the facts such as they have come to my knowledge I will endeavor to trace some of the principal causes which have led thereto.

On Sunday the 22d Instant a Cadet by the name of (Edward L.) Nicholson* was ordered from the ranks for disorderly conduct but neglecting to obey the order Capt (John) Bliss* commanding the parade seized him by the shoulder & forced him to retire. This occurrence appeared favorable to the views of certain Cadets who were old offenders having been the instigators of the disturbances which took place the last year & they availed themselves of it to excite the passions of the more youthful & inconsiderate portion of their companions. Papers were circulated, committees organized & a regular combination formed of which the first object was to remove Capt. Bliss their immediate commanding officer. Five Cadets calling themselves the committee of 150 others waited on me to demand the arrest of that officer & even dared to threaten me with rebellion in case of a non-compliance with their wishes.

In this state of things an order was read to the Cadets calculated to bring them back to the path of duty & five of the principal Ring-leaders were instantly ordered from the Acady. to their respective homes there to wait the decision of the government with respect to them. The persons referred to are Cadets (Thomas) Ragland*, (Nathaniel H.) Loring* (Charles R.) Holmes*, (Charles R.) Vining* & (Wilson M. C.) Fairfax*. It is with pain that I am obliged to name Cadet Fairfax with others as his previous conduct had uniformly been very commendable. The pretty general dislike of the young gentlemen to Capt Bliss arises in part from his strict discipline forming as it does a complete contrast to that of former times & is in part incident to the unpleasant situation which he fills he being the person charged to watch over & report their conduct & to inflict the punishments for all minor delinquencies. but the radical cause of the disturbances to which the Mil. Acady is liable is the erroneous & unmilitary impressions of the Cadets (imbibed) at an inauspicious period of the Institution when they were allowed to act as tho' they had rights to defend as a Corps of the Army & to intrude their voice & opinions with respect to the concerns of the Acady. so long as these impressions shall remain the Acady will be liable to combinations & convulsions & the reputation of the Institution & of the officers connected with it be put in jeopardy. Notwithstanding these proceedings which I have been compelled to describe in great haste [I am happy in being able to assure you that there has been no positive act of mutiny disorder & that the operations of the Institution have not been interrupted for a moment.] But as reports may be spread calculated to injure all concerned I hope the Secretary of War will think proper to direct one of the principal officers of the Corps of Engineers to repair to this place as soon as practicable in the capacity of Inspector with orders to examine into the State & management

of the Institution & authorised to take such measures as circumstances may require.

I am Sir very respectfully Your obedt servant

S. THAYER Bt Major
Superdt Mil Acady

Lt. Col. W. K. Armistead Comdt. Corps of Engineers

*See Index

TO Paymaster

(4th December 1818)

Stoppages

to be made

From the pay of Cadet (William) Turnbull*

En---for one foil broken \$ 75/100

from the pay of Cadet Wooley*

En---for one foil broken \$ 75/100

The paymaster will make stoppages agreeably to
the foregoing statement S. THAYER

Dec. 4th 1818

* See Index

FROM Rene E. DeRussy*

New York 4th Decr 1818

My dear Sir,

I have been told by Colonel McRee, that the Military Works purchased in Europe by yourself and him for the Officers of the Corps generally, are now under your immediate Care, and that they would be distributed whenever the Officers made proper application for their relative proportion of them - knowing neither the number of Works, nor the Title of some of them - I request you will be so kind as to send me a list of the Works to which the Captains are Entitled - With Respect and Esteem, I have the honor to be, my dear Sir, Your Obt Servt
R E. DERUSSY Capt. U.S. Engrs
To Major S. Thayer Commanding Mily. Academy, West Point

* See Index

FROM Walker K. Armistead.*

Engineer Department
9 December 1818

Sir,

Your letter of 20 Nov. relative to the admission of Cadets into the Academy has been received and referred to the Secretary of War, who decides that the regulations of 1st April (approved by him 23 July) are to be continued in force; and that Cadets who do not join the Academy at the time prescribed by the Regulations, will not be admitted, except under the provisions of those regulations.

Your letters of 30th have been received---The list of Cadets forwarded by you for insertion in the Army Register has been handed to the Adjutant & Inspector General who has received orders from the Secretary of War to publish them in that Register which is now preparing--The Secretary accedes to your proposition of adding to the number who distinguish themselves for application etc--to be inserted the Register--You will therefore report accordingly in November of each year----

A Court of Inquiry is ordered to investigate the late proceedings at West Point--- It was deemed a point of too much delicacy to send one officer only to investigate those transactions

I have the honor to be Your most obdt. Servt. W.K.ARMISTEAD
Lt. Col. C. Engr.
Major S. Thayer
etc etc etc

* See Index

TO Walker K. Armistead*

Military Academy
West Point 29th Dec 1818

Copy

Sir,

In conformity to the instructions of the Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) dated the 24th instant I have the honor to report as follows

It having been reported to me about the 18th ultimo that certain inscriptions disrespectful to Capt. Bliss* had been made on the wall of the room in which Delinquent Cadets are sometimes confined I ordered a Court of Inquiry with a view to ascertain the facts & detect the authors. From the proceedings of this court it appeared that Cadet (John) Denny* has been guilty of ungentlemanly & unsoldierlike conduct in having written the name of another Cadet under an improper inscription with a view to implicate & injure said Cadet. I thereon directed this Court to inquire into the general conduct of Cadet Denny from the time of his admittance into this Institution in Sept. 1818. The last proceedings of the Court so far as they relate to Cadet Denny are transmitted herewith but will give only a faint idea of his character. He is confirmed in Low & ungentlemanly habits & is, therefore, unfit to associate with Cadets of this Institution. Considering him; however, as rather unfortunate than criminal instead of dismissing him I accepted his resignation intending to have transmitted a statement of the case with the next monthly return. I am, Sir, very respectfully your humble servant

S. THAYER Bt Major Supt Mil

Lieut Col W K. Armistead

*See Index

FROM Abigail Thayer*

(January 8, 1819)

My Dear Brother,

I am again requested to solicit information of you respecting ye admission of a young gentleman as member of ye Military Academy. The Rev'd Mr. Dagget, ye gentleman with whom Gen. (Joseph G.) Swift* received his education, is desirous to have one or more of his sons go to West Point. no doubt they are amply qualified with regard to education. he wishes to know how long they must continue there? Whether they will belong to ye War Department? when they can honourably be discharged. & what obligations they will be under to government etc. Any information respecting their situation there or ye institution would be very interesting to him. If there are printed regulations will you please to send them.

I have lately visited Braintree our parents are well & would be more gratified to see or hear from you, than, perhaps, you have an idea of. Livia*, instructs ye academy in Southboro' this winter, is well & pleasantly situated. Mehitable* also, other friends I have not heard from recently. ---Will you please to return an answer to this, soon as convenient Many more things Mr. Daggett wished to know which I cannot recollect Presume you will write all that is necessary - Your affectionate sister ABIGAIL THAYER

Milford January 8th 1819

Maj. S. Thayer

*See Index

FROM Daniel Parker* to Moses Porter*

Adj. & Insp. Gen office
14 Jany 1819

Sir,

The Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) directs that you order Capt. (John R.) Bell of the Light Arty to repair forthwith to West Point & report for duty to Major Thayer to be attached to the Military Academy. I have the honor to be Sir, Your obd Servt. (sigd) D. PARKER Adj. & Insp Genl. Brig. Genl. Porter Commng. 2 Dep Boston Mass. For the information of the Superintendent of the Mily Academy D. Parker Adj. Genl

P.S.¹ Turn over

N. B. Capt. Bell was appointed Instructor of Tactics & Commandant of the Corps of Cadets by Major Thayer, not by the War Dept. S. THAYER

*See Index

1. Post script added at some later date by Thayer.

FROM Daniel Parker*

Adj. & Insp. Gen. Office
14th January 1819

Sir,

The Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) directs that you relieve Capt. (John) Bliss* of the 6th Infantry from duty within your command and that you order him to repair to Plattsburgh and report to the Commanding officer of his regiment.

I have the honor to be Sir, Your Ob't Servt. D. PARKER

Adjt & Insp Genl.

Major S. Thayer

Commanding at West Point

& Supt of the Military Academy

* See Index

FROM John C. Calhoun*

War Department, 15th January 1819.

Sir.

The proceedings & report of the Court of Enquiry which convened at West Point, under the order of this department of the 9th of December last have been examined by the President (James Monroe) & I have the pleasure to state that your conduct as Superintendent of the Military Academy in the unpleasant occurrences which induced that investigation has been satisfactory and is approved.

As Capt. Bliss* does not appear to possess sufficient command of his temper, an order will be transmitted to you relieving him as Instructor of Tactics at the Academy. ~~(and a copy of the order detaching Capt. Bell* of the Light Artillery, for that duty)~~

The Course pursued by the Cadets is highly reprehensible throughout the whole transaction, and particularly objectionable, on the part of the young gentlemen who composed their committee - The redress of Military grievances must never be extorted, or obtained by combinations, which are alike mutinous. -

If Capt. Bliss acted unjustifiably, or oppressively his conduct was a proper subject of complaint, to the superintendent, from the Cadet who was personally aggrieved: and the youth & inexperience of the gentlemen, alone, induce the President to overlook the insubordinate course pursued through their committee - But however, as that youth & inexperience were probably the cause of their irregular conduct, you will restore the young gentlemen, who were sent from the academy by your order of the 27. of November last, whenever, in your opinion, it can be done without injury to the discipline of the institution. I have the honour to be, Very respectfully Your Obt

Serv J.C. CALHOUN

Major S. Thayer Superintendent of the Military Academy
West Point, N.Y.

* See Index

In the House of Representatives of the United States
February 26. 1819.

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be instructed to report to this House, at an early period of the next session of Congress, a copy of such rules and regulations, as shall have been adopted for the government of the Military Academy: together with a list of the Cadets which were attached to said Academy, on the 1st. day of January 1815, and of such as shall have been appointed between the said 1st of January and 30th of September 1819: exhibiting the date of their several appointments, with the States and territories from whence they come. - A list of such as shall have resigned, or have been dismissed, and at what period: also a list of such as shall have been commissioned in the army, with the date of their commissions: and of such as shall have resigned, with the date of their resignations.

Resolved, That the said Secretary be instructed to report as aforesaid, whether any, and if any, what Legislative provisions are necessary, for the more convenient organization and government of said Academy; the better to secure a strict obedience to all proper orders, and a suitable respect for the rights of those, whose duty it may be to yield obedience.

Attest (Signed) THO. DOUGHERTY C.H.R.

A true Copy

J.L.SMITH*

Lt. Engr

* See Index

FROM Daniel Parker* to John R. Fenwick et al
Adj. & Insp Genl Office
30th April 1819

Sir,

Conformably to the regulations for the government of the Military Academy, directing that a board of visitors be convened annually (of which board the Superintendant of the Academy is, exofficio, President) to attend to the general examination of the Students & for other purposes stated in the regulations, a copy of which is in the possession of Major Thayer, President of the board, of which you are appointed a member, and will repair to West Point by the 23d of May next to attend to the duty required by the regulations.

I have the honor to be Sir, Your Obt. Servt. D. PARKER
Adj and I Gen

John R. Fenwick*

John E. Wool*

Jos: G. Totten*

Saml B. Archer Esqrs*

P.S.¹ Genl. Brown* was subsequently appointed a Visitor & was Presid. of the Bd. some others were also appointed but I am unable to recall their names

* See Index

1. Post script added at some later date by Thayer

FROM John L. Smith*
No. 193

Engineer Department 1 May 1819

Sir,

Your letter of Ultimo has been received and submitted to the War Department, whence will issue to the "other literary gentlemen" the invitations which had the Chief Engineer been present, would have been sent from this Department.

The Officers detailed as visitors are Col. Fenwick,* Light Artillery - Col. Wool* Staff - Lieut. Col. Totten* Engineer, and Major Archer* Corps of Artillery. -

The order to Lieut Col. Totten will authorise his attendance as a Visitor, provided his Services as a member of the Board of Engineers can be dispensed with. -
By order, I have the honor to be Very Respectfully Yours
Most Obedt Serv. J.L. SMITH Lt Corps of Engr
Major S. Thayer Supt. Mily. Acady. West Point

* See Index

FROM Abigail Thayer*

Westborough May 22d 1819

Dear Brother

I have just received your letter requesting information respecting George W. Waters*. I have been in Boston a number of weeks past studying ye French language & your letter was not handed untill now, having arrived in Westboro'. I should be happy to answer your every question with decision some, I can, others, not, Mr. Waters is under twenty, I believe eighteen. he is addicted to no bad habit whatever. I have reason to believe he will be attentive to his duties & studies. With regard to his manners & education I cannot speak so positively. I should think him neither a clown nor a gentleman he has liv'd in a good family. his employment has been in a store two or three years past untill the last five or months he has been studying with the Revd. Mr. Whipple. I can inform you of nothing more at present. I can ascertain what his education is in a few days & will write soon as possible. was it Mr. Green I am sure you would be satisfied in every respect, being one of the most brilliant & accomplish'd young gentlemen I ever became acquainted with - I shall probably write you again next week your sister A. T.

*See Index

FROM Daniel D. Tompkins, Governor*

Staten Island 8th June 1819

Dear Sir,

The bearer hereof has been appointed a Cadet and repairs to West Point tomorrow. I beg leave to say that he is the son of a revolutionary officer, whose widow is one of the most patriotic intelligent & respectable inhabitants of Bergen County (N. Jersey). Govr. Dickinson of the Senate, Governor Bloomfield of the House of Representatives & other public characters of New Jersey united in procuring the appointment for this young gentleman. I beg leave to commend him to your favorable notice & although his opportunities in a Dutch neighbourhood may have been limited I feel confident if he be admitted, on examination, that he will make a faithful, capable & obedient student & sincerely hope he may receive all the indulgence which may be practicable and proper on his examination for entrance as he has no friend to accompany or countenance him in his Debut. Your sincere friend & Humble Servt. DANIEL D. TOMPKINS
Lt. Col. Thayer

*See Index

TO John C. Calhoun*

Military Academy
West Point 23^d July 1819

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant (requiring the opinion of the Academic Staff as to the standing of Cadet W.^m Swift* and the Corps for which he is qualified, and) instructing me to explain the manner in which the General Merit of Cadets is obtained from the Examinations (With respect to the Standing &c of Cadet Swift I hope my letter to you of the 19th instant will be deemed satisfactory)----

The relative merit of the Cadets in each department of Instruction is obtained from 1st frequent Inspections of the Schools. 2^d the daily record of progress of each individual as reported at the end of every week by the Instructors. 3^d but principally from rigid Examination, of which notes are taken by all the members of the Academic Staff. Rolls of General Merit are then formed in the following manner. Each branch of study pursued at the Institution is represented by a Multiplier or number corresponding with the importance of the branch and the time bestowed in its acquisition -- The numbers which were originally adopted, and are still employed for this purpose, are

For the course of Mathematics	.2
Nat. & Exp. Philosophy	.2
Engineering	.2
Mil. Exercise & Conduct	.2
French Language	.1
Drawing	.1
Whole course of Studies -	1.

Each Individual's knowledge, in any one of the above mentioned branches, is expressed by a fraction of the number representing the value of that branch & his total or "General Merit", by the sum of all the fractions which express his knowledge in the several branches in which he is examined.

To render this explanation more clear, I will take for an Example Cadets (John C.) Holland,* (Clark) Burdine* & (David) Wallace* who are the 3^d, 4th & 5th on the Roll of General Merit of the 3^d Class. Their relative knowledge in Mathematics was expressed by the following fractions viz.- that of Cadet Holland by .80 Cadet Burdine .90---Cadet Wallace .85 These Decimals being multiplied by .2 the representing of the value of Math^{CS}. in the course gives for Cadet Holland .160- Cadet Burdine .180 - Cadet Wallace .170 - again the relative knowledge of these Gentlemen in the French Language was expressed as follows, that of Cadet Holland by .95, Cadet Burdine .70 & Cadet Wallace .50- which being multiplied by .1 the number representing the value of the French Language in the course and added to the

former products become Cadet Holland .160 + .95 = .255
 " Burdine .180 + .85 = .250
 " Wallace .170 + .50 = .220

Thus Cadet Holland who is below Cadets Burdine & Wallace in Mathematics, is placed above them on the Roll of Genl. Merit in consequence of his much Superior knowledge of the french language - On the merit Rolls which have been transmitted to the War Department these fractions were omitted & in lieu thereof were substituted numbers showing simply the order of merit. For instance Cadet Holland is marked the 5th of his Class in Math^{Cs}. the 2d in the French & the 3^d in General Merit-----Cadet (William A.) Eliason* of the 1st Class is ranked the 2^d in Math. 3^d in Philosophy 3^d in Engineering, 2^d in Descrip. Geom. 15th in Drawing - among the 4 first in Mil. Exercises, among the 13 first in Conduct and the first of his Class in General Merit -

I am Sir, very respectfully your most obed^t serv^t
S. THAYER Super^{dt}. Mil Acady

The words with in brackets to be omitted

* See Index

FROM John C. Calhoun*

Department of War, 14: August, 1819

Sir,

I Enclose an extract of a letter from Governor (Thomas) Worthington,* which will acquaint you with his wishes relative to his son (James F. Worthington).*

If you can grant the furlough dsired, conformably to the regulations, I wish it to be done; otherwise, you will permit Cadet Worthington to resign. I am, Very respectfully, your obedt. Servant: J.C.CALHOUN
Major Sylvanus Thayer. Supt.Mily Acady.

* See Index

FROM John C. Calhoun*

Depmt of War 18th August 1819

Sir.

I do not lend a willing ear to vague reports, but as the incidents referred to in the enclosed communications appear to be unknown to you I send the papers for your examination. It seems advisable in the first instance that you satisfy yourself how far the complaints are supported by facts, when, you will return the letters with your report, on which, I may decide what further measures should be adopted. I am your Ob'd Servt. J.C CALHOUN

Major S Thayer
Superintendent Mil: Academy
West Point -

* See Index

TO (John C. Calhoun)*

(Sept 1819)

Sir,

I had the honor last winter to transmit to the Department of War Prof. Pictons* application to have his son John Picton* a promising lad appointed a Cadet - From the subsequent appointment of James Diven* the son of our Steward & from other circumstances I was led to suppose that the Professors application had been mislaid. In pursuance of this opinion I allowed Master Picton to be examined with other candidates on the 1^t inst. & being found qualified he was admitted into the Institution provisionally until I should have time to ascertain whether the Secretary of War would send him an appointment

* See Index

TO (John C. Calhoun)*

Mil. Academy
West Point Sept 2^d 1819

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose herewith the several communications which accompanied your letter of the 18th ultimo together with Lieut Gardiners* statement of facts relating to the subjects of those communications - In the month of May last the Genl Court Martial then sitting at W Point was ordered at my request to try the prisoners of the Company of Bombardiers but before the receipt of the order The Court adjourned sine die from this time The number of prisoners confined for capital offences increased to an alarming extent & by the middle of July the number of men remaining fit for duty was no longer sufficient to furnish the usual guard. I then saw myself under the necessity of resorting to summary punishments or of exposing the public property to the almost certain depredations of the gang of thieves which infest the Mountains about this place - watching every opportunity to plunder - within the last two years the public-stores altho under the eye of a sentinel have been broken open three times & a considerable amount of arms & clothing carried off. I did therefore authorize Lieut Gardiner to inflict exemplary punishments on all prisoners who were confined for sleeping on Post & to release them for duty - The more hardened offenders were punished with severity but as you will percieve from Lt. G.'s statement I am fully convinced that in no instance has the punishment been more severe than was necessary in order to be efficacious

*See Index

FROM John C. Calhoun*

Department of War, 7 Sept, 1819.

Sir,

The Revd Professor (Thomas) Picton's* application to have his Son John Picton* appointed a Cadet, transmitted by you to this Department, was overlooked.

I approve this provisional admission, and enclose a letter of appointment for him. I have the honor to be,
Your most obedt, Servt. J. C. CALHOUN
Major S. Thayer, etc West Point.

*See Index

FROM Walker K. Armistead*

Engineer Department
Washington 7 Sept. 1819

Sir,

The Resolutions of Congress, of which a copy is here-
with enclosed, have been referred by the Secretary of War
(John C. Calhoun) to this Department for the information
therein required.-

The records of this office not affording the requisite
information, You are hereby required to furnish it as soon as
practicable, with such views in relation to the objects of
the Second resolution as your experience may enable you to
suggest. -

To save unnecessary time and trouble, copies of all the
rules and regulations applying to the Academy, in the
possession of this Dept. are enclosed; - which can be in-
corporated with your report. - I have the honour to be Sir
Your obt. Servant W.K.ARMISTEAD Col Engineers
Major S Thayer Supt M.A. West Point
P.S. The Son of the Revd. Mr. Picton (John M.W.Picton) will
receive a Cadets appointment W.K.A.

*See Index

FROM John C. Calhoun*

Department of War, 11 Sept, 1819

Sir,

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Cadet Geo: O'Driscoll*. As he presented himself at the Academy so soon after the time appointed for admission, and the delay in his arrival does not appear to have arisen from neglect on his part, but from unavoidable circumstances, you will, if, on examination he proves qualified, admit him. I have the honor to be, Your most obedt. Servt. J.C. CALHOUN
Bt. Major S. Thayer, Supert. Mily. Acay. West Point

*See Index

FROM Daniel Parker*

Adj: & Insp: Gen. Office
September 23. 1819

Genl Order.

The General Court Martial which adjourned at West Point on the 29th. of May last "until ordered to meet again by the War Department" of which Col. J. Hindman* is President is President and Lieut S.S. Smith* Special Judge Advocate, will reassemble at West Point, on the 4th of October next. The President of the Court will lay before it the former proceedings herewith enclosed, together with the opinion of the Attorney General (William Wirt) which the President of the United States (James Monroe) approves. The Court when reassembled will resume the trial of the Cadets named in the order appointing the Court, and will also proceed to the trial of C. Crozet* Professor of Engineering, of the Military Academy, on charges to be preferred by Major Thayer Superintendent, and such other prisoners as may be brought before it. The President of the Court will give orders and notice to all concerned. By Order. D. PARKER
Adj I Genl

*See Index

FROM Daniel Parker*

Adj. & Insp. Genl. Office
10 November 1819

General Order

The President (James Monroe) having considered the proceedings of the General Court Martial, which, by his order of the 23d. of September last, was reassembled at West Point to proceed in the trial of Thomas Ragland*, W.M.C. Fairfax*, N.H. Loring*, Charles Vining* and C. R. Holmes* cadets of the Military academy, disapproves the decisions of the Court, in declaring that its jurisdiction was not competent to the trial of Cadets, & orders it to be dissolved.

The President is of opinion, that the professors, teachers & Cadets are governed by the rules and articles of War- altho the institution is intended for instruction & is preparatory for military promotion, it is nevertheless evidently governed by Martial law.

He disapproves also the conduct of the Cadets in the instances stated by the Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) in his letter of the 15 of January last to Major Thayer, which, with the order he directs to be read by the Major to the officers of the station, the Professors, Teachers & Cadets, who are to be forthwith assembled for the purpose.

If Military orders are not promptly obeyed all discipline is at an end. And if any order is supposed to impose onerous conditions the objections to it will always be heard & will have more weight when urged by a Cadet, giving proof of his obedience to the order of his attachment to discipline.

In consideration however of the long suspension of the Cadets, which, from their age, has operated as a severe penalty, he orders that their suspension be removed, & that they be restored to the Academy. He adopts this measure, in the expectation, that these young men, will by their future conduct, give such an example of obedience to orders, and of good discipline, as to merit the approbation of the Executive. By order D. PARKER Adj I Genl

*See Index

MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST-POINT, N.Y. (1820?)

Cadet (Eustace) Trenor* 2 Section of the 3d Class, has returned in good order as received, (allowing for ordinary wear,) all public property, issued to him for his instruction and convenience in the Department of Mathematics

J GREEN* Asst QMtr

and in the Department of the Ast. Dep. Q Mas

J GREEN Asst QMtr

and in the Department of French

Excepting nothing

C. BERARD* T of F.

and in the Library of the Institution, Excepting

C. BERARD Librarian.

and in the Department of Tactics and Corps of Cadets,

Excepting-----

D(aniel) D. TOMPKINS*

Cadet Quartermaster.

*See Index

FROM Abigail Thayer*

Hartford Jany 5th 1820

Dear Brother,

I left the vicinity of Boston a few weeks since & shall spend the winter with Sister Lue* in Vermont. I intended to have written you before I left Massachusetts, Majr. Hill of Bellingham (about fifty miles from Boston) wishes to have his brother enter the Mil. Academy. I am well acquainted with him & know him to be an excellent schollar possessed for fine talents, has been fitted for College. I know you will find him a good faithful, persevering schollar of popular talents, & noble as popular - he (S(olon) Hill, formerly of Philadelphia) now resides with his brother Majr. Hill of Bellingham Mass. his father is dead - I do not know his age exactly, sixteen perhaps, he would be very glad to enter next June if possible, as he is amply qualified, if not can he enter the year following?

Phinahas Davis* is in Hartford this winter, is studying Latin, French, & Mathematics. he anxiously waits for his Commission, which I suppose he will receive in March. please to send it to Hartford, Vermont.

Sister Lue & family are well - wishes to hear from you very much. Our friends at Braintree are well. Grandma¹ Faxon died last September Livia has a school in Boston this winter - I hope to hear from you soon both on my own account & those who depend upon going to W. P. Do write when we may hope to see you we were much disappointed last Spring? Does all go on favourable & well at W. Point at present. Depend upon it I shall send you no Patridge* schollars, nor any base enough to be made such Your affectionate sister A. THAYER

*See Index

FROM Walker K. Armistead*

Engineer Department
Washington Jany 7th 1820

Sir

As early as practicable you will furnish the information required by the following extract from Regulations issued by Mr. Crawford* when Secy of War for the Government of the Military Academy at West Point -

"12. A Course of Studies embracing definitely
"all the branches of Science & instruction to be
"pursued at the Military Academy and also
"all rules for classification of Cadets, shall be
"compiled by the Superintendant and Academic
"Staff, which, when approved by the Secretary
"of War shall be considered as comprising a com-
"plete course of education at the institution"

The above information is necessary to enable the Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) to complete a report to Congress, which is suspended only until it shall be received. I have the honor to be very respectfully your obdt Servant

W. K. ARMISTEAD Col Engineers
Major S Thayer Supdt Mil. Acdy West Point

*See Index

FROM Abigail Thayer*

Braintree Jany 18th 1820

Dear Brother,

From intimations communicated in the last letter you wrote me, I was induced to hope you would visit us this winter. may we still expect to see you? Or have you made new calculations for the winter? Do you expect to continue at West Point another year? Has anything of an unpleasant nature taken place there lately? ~~From~~ Some observations of Mr. (Mustinges) & other friends of Capt. Patridge* occasions my asking the last question. Your character as a gentleman & schollar is unrivalled, if you had not enemies, it would be because you had not worth. greater merit could not be attributed to any one than is generally thought belongs to you. there are others who impute to you the barbarity of a (Russian) with the principles of a (Voltaire), & have written or designed to write to Govt. etc, etc, (Exertions) have been made to engage the President (Adams) & family to sanction their proceedings- Our family know nothing about it, perhaps it is something of no consequence, my success in school, has brought me schollars both gentlemen & ladies from the first families in various places. by which I am introduced into society where information of various kinds may be obtained - My Brother I thank you for taking such ready notice of my letters. you know not how much you obliged those who are desirous of entering the Academy. Davis, particularly, writes constantly, wishing to (hear) every thing relating to the subject, & how long it may be before he can know whether he can go or not, whether he can have any time to study after he receives an appointment he is now at Savannah engaged in mercantile business for his father who is not willing to release him for study. unless he could go. Is there a possibility of knowing untill next spring?

I have just arrived at at Braintree our family are all well & desire to be remember'd to you & are hoping to see you this winter. Your affectionate sister ABIGAIL THAYER
Majr. Silvanus Thayer

*See Index

FROM Christopher VanDeventer*

Washington Feby 16th 1820

Dear Thayer

The friends of Capt. Douglass* have made application to the Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) to detail him at his own request, to accompany Govr. Cass* on an exploring tour on the Southern Shore of Lake Superior. Govr Cass will leave Detroit the 1st of May - and it is probable he may not return before Septr. Now, I believe the Secretary of War is disposed to permit him to go on that tour, provided his absence from West Point will not deprive you of going on furlough as you have proposed, and which the Dept. is entirely willing now to grant you if you still desire it. And provided, if you elect not to go on furlough, Capt. Douglass can be spared from the Academy during the Summer and Autumn without manifest injury to the Academy. In a word, can Capt. Douglass be spared from the Academy as professor for 5 or 6 months? and if he can without injury to the Academy, will his absence prevent you from going on furlough as you have proposed to do? Will you favour me with your reply, keeping before you a willingness of the War department to grant you a furlough if still you desire it, and always looking to the prosperity of the Academy in the constant attendance of the professors to their duty. Consult first your own inclinations about a furlough, & then the necessity of Capt. D's presence as professor. You see I am repeating, but I am very desirous that your reply should be such as to enable me to further your wishes & interests before any other. God bless you Your affectionate friend VANDEVENTER

Lt. Baker* has applied to be put on the duty of running Indian Boundary lines. But at present there are no such lines to be run. Perhaps there may be in the course of the Summer, in such case could he be spared from the Academy without injury to it? V.

*See Index

FROM Daniel Parker* to Jacob Brown*

Copy

Adj. & Insp Genl's Office
Febry. 22. 1820

Sir.

The Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) directs that Major W. J. Worth* of the 2nd Inf. be detailed as Instructor of Tactics at West Point, to repair to that place and to report to the Commanding Officer by the 15th. of March next, to relieve Captain J.R. Bell* of the light Arty.

A copy of this order has been sent to Major Thayer Superintendent of the Military Academy, Commanding at West Point. I have the honor to be Sir yr. Obt Servt
(Signed) D. PARKER A. & Insp Gen
To Major Genl Brown Comg. N. D.

Copy D. PARKER
Adj & I Genl

For Major Thayer

*See Index

FROM Abigail Thayer*

Braintree Febr 23 1820 -

Dear Brother,

I cannot sufficiently express the pleasure and gratitude I felt upon the reception of your letter in which you so clearly and affectionately answered every enquiry, & removed every unpleasant sensation. - I well know it was but the "fate of place, & the rough brake that virtue must go through to be traduc'd by ignorant tongues who neither know the faculties nor worth of those they revile," But, as I sometimes heard the subject mentioned, & particular enquiry made, & occasionally statements to your disadvantage, I was anxious to be able to meet your enemies, gratify your friends, & never to evade the subject when it would seem like guilt to elude. I rejoice the interruption of your happiness has been so trifling, & congratulate you upon the just esteem Govt. appears to entertain of your character. Though all are liable to err, I was less apprehensive of impropriety on your part, than that the friends of Capt. Patridge* might avail themselves of some circumstance whereby they might wound your feelings, & impose upon the public, his friends though few, are exceedingly malicious, & view with envy, the increasing popularity of that seminary since you have had the superintendence of it. We have, it is true, long been separated, but are no less interested in whatever relates to you, than if you were constantly with us, rejoicing always in your prosperity, & shall ever most deeply sympathize in adversity, we are all happy in your calculation to visit us & wait with impatience for the time to arrive On account of some arrangements you would probably have a much pleasanter visit in April than before.

I had forgotten I had not given the necessary particulars concerning ye young gentlemen who are desirous of entering ye Mil. Acady I fear it may prevent their obtaining Commissions, which would be a great disappointment. Phinehas Davis*, aged eighteen, is son of Mr. Phinehas Davis of Northboro' his grandfather a distinguished patriot in ye revolution. Esqr Sibley has probably written you (& has requested me to introduce him) he is a lawyer in ye town of Sutton, is eminent in his profession & of unblemished reputation. His description of Joseph W. Wright of Millbury, County of Worcester is as follow, "Mr. W. is now in my office reviewing those studies, a thorough knowledge of which is required by ye rules & regulations for admission. I find him a young man of extremely good talents & will be shortly perfectly acquainted with those branches required. Is capable of making an accomplished schollar & soldier. I think he would exactly suit your Brother, is active, bold & resolute, full of ambition, his only & sole object is to qualify himself for ye actual service & in my opinion would be an ornament to ye Army should he be so fortunate as to obtain an appointment. his moral character is good & his habits perfectly correct. these I will avouch for. He is about six feet high & of an uncommonly handsome form." anything you should communicate concerning them would be most gratefully rec'd by them, as they are very solicitous & constantly writing me. there are besides other applications, but I am careful to introduce none but those who would probably meet your approbation, & whose friends are respectable & influential - You will not forget, my Dear Brother, that we place the greatest reliance upon seeing you. likewise many other friends in many places request the honor of waiting upon you.

Your affectionate sister ABIGAIL THAYER

FROM Abigail Thayer*

Northboro' May 1st 1820 -

Dear Brother,

We are almost overwhelmed with disappointment & anxiety on account of not seeing you as we expected & fearing we shall be deprived of a visit at last. A month past you have been the subject of conversation by day, & dreams by night, an hundred times have we seen you at a distance rapidly approaching; an hundred times have we heard the rattling of your carriage at the door. I delayed untill the last moment my departure from Braintree, have arrived here just in season to commence my school. Northboro' is only about thirty miles from Boston & the road excellent. Do write us immediately & let me know why this delay? or what is far better, gratify our every wish by letting us see you soon. Our friends are all well Livia* expects to leave Braintree on ye fifteenth.

Yours very affectionately ABIGAIL THAYER

Major S. Thayer

P.S. Can any encouragement be given those who are desirous to enter at W. Point

*See Index

FROM James Cutbush*

Philada. May 11th 1820

Dear Sir.

Permit me to introduce to you my friend Col. Ferguson, one of our Magistrates, whose object in going on to West Point is to place his grandson in the Academy, having obtained for him an appointment for that purpose.

Any attention paid to the Colonel will be highly gratifying. - With great respect, Your friend & obedt. Servt. JAS. CUTBUSH
Major Thayer U.S. Military Academy.

*See Index

FROM Walker K. Armistead*

Engineer Department
Washington 18th May 1820

Sir,

The accompanying letter to the Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) of Edward C. Ross* late a Cadet of the Military Academy at West Point, requesting that he be restored as a member of that institution, is referred to you.

The standing of this young gentleman in his class and his good conduct heretofore while a Cadet, are considerations greatly in his favor, and it is the wish of the Hon. Secretary of War that he be restored, provided, this can be done consistently in your opinion with the interest of the Academy, and the good of the service.

You will report your opinion upon this subject as soon as practicable I have the honor to be Sir your Obt. Servt.

(signed) W. K. ARMISTEAD Col. Engineers.

Major S. Thayer Supt Mily Acady W. Point New York.

*See Index

FROM Christopher Van Deventer*

War Dept. June 3rd 1820

Dear Thayer,

Mr. Calhoun* informed me on the morning he left town that Genl Jackson* had expressed a wish to have his nephew (A.J.) Donaldson* promoted into the Engineer Corps, & his other nephew (E.G.W.) Butler* in the Artillery. The Secretary replied to him that it would depend on their standing on the merit roll after examination, & that he hoped that standing would enable the department to promote them as he (the genl) desired. I am sure it would give the Secretary much pleasure to have it in his power to gratify the general's wishes in relation to the promotion of these young men if it can possibly be done consistently with the rules of the School. The General also wishes Donaldson to visit him at Nashville so soon as his examination is over, you will permit him to go to Nashville. Col. Armistead* is instructed to address you officially on this subject. The Veteran General is about retiring, and whatever one can do in compliance with his personal wishes not incompatible with public regulations or good ought to be cheerfully rendered to him. This sentiment I believe pervades every branch of the administration but none more than the chief of this Department.

In relation to the formation of rules & by laws for the Academy, the Secretary wishes you to prepare them with the aid of the academic staff if you need it, and forward them to him for examination & approval; perhaps he will use them with congress next session - therefore make them to satisfy your notions of the requisitions of the institution. I hope I may be able to pass a week with you in July next. Genl Jesup* has been excused from attending the examination as one of the Board of Visitors, but to attend as a Literary gentleman. If Govr Dickinson do not attend, put Dr. Mitchell on the Board, in failure of that put Lecount on. who has been invited as a literary gentleman.

No news, - considerable apprehensions are evinced here by the foreigners respecting the State of Europe especially that of France. They anticipate a mighty revolution in that devoted country. Thine forever VANDEVENTER

*See Index

TO Gouverneur Kemble*

Exn. Hall West Point
19th June (1820?)

Dear Sir,

The latitude & Longitude of West Point were accurately determined by Andrew Ellicott* late Prof. of Mathematics but I am unable to get access of the record kept by him in consequence of the absence of Capt Douglass*

The Latitude I am confident was Forty one degrees, Twenty Three minutes & Thirty six seconds. The Longitude is not recollected yours truly S. THAYER

Lat. by observation on Sun 21 June	41.24.23.
by -----	41.24.18
Antares	41.24.19
Altitude	22.35.32
Refraction	
as noted Bar & chain	<u>2.19</u>
	22.33.13
North Polar distance	<u>116.2.28</u>
	<u>138.35.41</u>

Lat 41.24.19

By mean of 4 Sights by face of instrument alternately to the east & west 5¹/₂" 20."5 watch slow

↓ mean if 4 sights taken in same way 5¹/₂" 20."8

24.19
<u>41.23.36</u>
.43

*See Index

FROM Abigail Thayer*

Northboro' June 24th 1820-

Dear Brother,

I fear my letters may be very troublesome as this is the third letter I have written since I heard from you yet I almost under the necessity of writing again. Davis has return'd from New Orleans in expectation of going to West Point & calls almost every day to know if I have any formation from you. perhaps I have never introduced any one who may be compared to him for abilities. he is eighteen, his qualifications doubtless are ample. his family noble, & morals excellent. I think you would be well pleased with him. he is not very tall but his form very good, if you could give him any information upon the subject it would gratifying. can he go this year? if not, may be indulge the hope of going next? his whole mind is bent upon it. what studies could he be attending most advantageously untill he does go? Is now now studying French. will that be useful if he cannot I should be happy to have him know it. he would be relieved from much anxiety. -

I am very pleasantly situated as good & popular a school of young Ladies & Gentlemen as I could wish for. Millora is studying French & Latin & progresses rapidly, Livia* has a good school in Spencer, our friends are all well at Braintree May we expect to see you this summer- Your affectionate sister A. THAYER

*See Index

FROM Henry Gilbert*to Quartermaster General

(29 June 1820)

Requisition for twenty one Knapsacks for the Military
Band and Martial Musick of the Company of Bombardiers
Sappers and Miners

I certify that the above requisition is correct & Just

HENRY GILBERT Lt Corps Artilly

The Military Store Keeper will issue on the above requisition

S. THAYER Maj. Comdg

Received Jno. Fellows Esq Military Store Keeper the above
requisition in full

Signed Duplicates

HENRY GILBERT Lt Corps Artilly

West Point

June 29. 1820

*See Index

MILITARY ACADEMY, WEST-POINT, N.Y.
(30 June 1820)

From the foregoing Certificates, it appears that
Cadet Trenor* of the Class Company,
has returned all public property, received by him at this
post, in proper order, excepting the damages therein
mentioned, amounting, in the whole, to -----Dollars,
and ----- Cents, which the Paymaster will stop from his
pay, agreeably to the regulations of the Institution.
S. THAYER Superintendant of the Military Academy.

Registered this day }
of 18 }
Cadet Trenor will be paid to 30th June 1820

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 7 July 1820.

Sir.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 1st instant enclosing Capt. Whiting's* application to be relieved in the duties of Instructor of Artillery at the Military Academy. By the new regulations for the government of the army & of the academy the officer of Artillery stationed at West Point is to perform the duties of Instructor of that Arm, so that as soon as this arrangement goes into effect Capt Whiting will of course be relieved.

The report of the academic Staff on the Conduct of Cadets Thomas Johnson*, Westwood Lacey*, William Bissell* and Thomas F. Buck* has been laid before the Secy of War (John C. Calhoun), by whom I am instructed to enquire of you the reason, why they were not included in the report on the examination in June last as proper persons to be discharged and he further requires that they be reported in the same manner and form as those reported on the roll setting forth the number of years they have been present at the academy, years of study, in what branches deficient etc etc with other remarks and explanations with _____ to their general conduct. The Secy. after carefully examining the Report of those recommended to be discharged and after laying the form before the President (James Monroe) has concluded to give those, whose conduct is represented to have been military another opportunity of coming forward, but it is distinctly to be understood that if they fail another year they must either resign or suffer themselves to be discharged. This indulgence is extended to Cadets J. J. Abercrombie*, W. B. Dyer*, J. G. Stone*, A. Gloster*, J. Engle*, E. W. Lewis*. - Cadets R. A. Thruston*, J. H. Coolidge*, W. L. Harris*, A. H. Radcliff*, R. Y. Conrad* - G. F. Bent*, E. Armistead*, Z. F. Johnson* - E Sevey*, T Collins* H. B. Hoffman*, S. P. Haines* J Hamilton*, J. R. Ward*, F. T. Kneass*, & JG Bruff* may have option to resign or to be discharged. With esteem & respect I am, Sir, your obt Sv ALEX. MACOMB

Maj Genl Chief Engineers

To Major Sy Thayer Corps of Engineers
Supt of the Mily Academy

P.S. The services of Major Long * will be required _____ his proper department, it is therefore deemed inexpedient to assign him to the (position) you recommend in the military academy. A. M.

*See Index

FROM John Lind Smith* to Alden Partridge*

Engineer Department Washington
Augt. 5th 1820

Sir,

The Sword alluded to in the above letter of 16th Jany
1818 is now in the office of the Engr. Dept, and will be
delivered to yourself or to any person bearing your authority
to receive it. I have the etc By order, Signed, J. L. SMITH
Lt. Corps of Engrs

*See Index

FROM Abigail Thayer*

Northboro' August 15th 1820

Dear Brother.

I yesterday received a couple of registers from West Point, but no letters, I thank you for them. It was a great disappointment to (Phineas) Davis* that no letter accompanied them, who has long waited with extreme anxiety to know if it were possible for him to find admittance. as you have always immediately answered my letters I concluded you had not rec'd the last I wrote, or that yours had been unfortunately lost. I expect his qualifications are ample. you will find him an excellent schollar, possessing uncommon energy & perserverance I think you would be much pleased with him would it not be too much trouble a few lines would confer a great favour. nothing can be more unpleasant than his present state of suspense. Will it be possible for him to enter within five or six months? It would be gratifying to receive a line soon as possible as he will be obliged to leave Northboro' for New Orleans in four or five weeks should there be no prospect of his going to West Point. Should there be, his father would permit him to stay & continue his studies, I fear my letters will be very troublesome, but this once if you will write I hope to have no more requests, His age is seventeen, of a noble family, who would gladly comply with any requirements. Our friends are all well, Sister Livia is with me on a visit, sends love -- Your affectionate sister A. THAYER
In great haste --

*See Index

FROM Abigail Thayer*

Northboro' Aout 27th 1820

Dear Brother,

By the request of Phinehas Davis* I once more ask the favour of some information respecting his going to W. Point his age & education are such as are required, his talents, are doubtless superior to those I have formerly recommended, is an excellent schollar, of a noble family, he is extremely anxious to enter the Mil. Academy & waits with the utmost impatience to hear from you, what renders his situation peculiarly at present is, he will be obliged to leave Northboro' for N. Orleans in the course of three or four weeks should there be no prospect of his going to W. Point, could he go at all, his father would permit him to stay & continue his studies, Could he enter next spring? What studies could he most profitably attend to untill till that time? A few lines from you upon the subject would be most gratifying. You may possibly receive a letter containing the sum of this, written a few days past, but as we heard it was not put in the P. Office in town we concluded it was not sent at all -- He is at present studying french - his father's name is Phineas Davis of Northboro' - Your affectionate sister

ABIGAIL THAYER

*See Index

FROM John C. Calhoun*

War Dept 7th Octr 1820

Dear Sir,

I received by this day's mail your's of the 2d Inst, containing the reply of Mr Adrain* to your conversation with him at New York. As he has mistook the object of your conversation, you will write to him, and ascertain, if he would accept of the vacancy in case the President (James Monroe) should confer the appointment on him. I have written to Mr Bødetch* on the Subject, and as soon as I am informed of the determination of him & Mr Adrain the appointment will be made without delay. Accept the assurance of my respect etc J. C. CALHOUN
Maj. Thayer.

*See Index

FROM John L. Smith*

Engineer Department
Washington October 7th 1820

Sir

The absence of the President (James Monroe) will prevent an immediate decision on the Scheme of Regulations for the Police & Discipline of the Military Academy that accompanied your letter of 15th Ult.

The Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) is of opinion that such alterations as may be deemed necessary and such additional regulations as ought to be adopted, under the existing Laws, in regard to the general organization of the Military Academy, should be brought before the President at the same time with the above Scheme of regulations.

With that view he directs that you will prepare and transmit to this Department as early as practicable a project which will contain the alterations to the existing regulations together with such other additional regulations, conforming to existing Laws, as may be necessary to the general organization of the Military Academy.

The Secretary of War would particularly call your attention to such regulations as may be necessary to define the persons who ought to constitute the Academick Staff and the duties of the Academick Staff, the duties, as far as they may be susceptible of definition, of the Officers, attached to the Academy, respectively; the periods of making, and the nature of the reports to be made, to the Department of War through the Engineer Dept; and the mode of determining the Standing of Cadets on the roll of general merit which of course will regulate the relative value of the several objects, (studies & conduct) that constitute that roll.

The Secretary of War also suggests the propriety of a regulation to prevent Cadets from receiving money from their friends or guardians without the Consent of the Superintendent of the Military Academy. I have the honor to be
Sir, very respectfully your Obt Servant By Order J L SMITH

Lt Corps of Engrs

Major S Thayer Supdt Mil. Acady, West Point

*See Index

FROM John C. Calhoun*

Department of War
October 16th 1820.

Sir,

I enclose for your information an order to allow the Superintendent of the Military Academy at West Point tripple rations. I have the honor to be, Yours Respectfully -

J. C. CALHOUN

Major S. Thayer Mily. Academy

*See Index

FROM Christopher VanDeventer*

War Department Nov. 2d 1820.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) to say that he has recd. your letter of the 27th Ult. covering one from Dr. Adrain* to you concerning his acceptance of the appointment of Professor of mathematics at West Point.

On the receipt of your former letter on the same subject in which you stated your belief that Dr. Adrain would not accept it, Capt. Douglass* was (a) appointed & has been notified of it. But had not Capt. Douglass been appointed it would not be practicable to meet the expectations of Dr Adrain without additional endowments by Congress.

With great regard & esteem I am Dr Sir Your mt obt
Servt C VANDEVENTER

Major S. Thayer West Point

(a) on the recommendation of the Superintendent S. THAYER

*See Index

FROM John L. Smith*

Engineer Department
Washington November 23d 1820.

Sir.

The situation of Assistant Professor of Natural Philosophy at the Military Academy which had been offered to, and it was supposed would be accepted by, Mr. Kenwick continues unfilled by the refusal of that gentleman to accept it. The Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) would prefer that the person to be appointed should be an officer (subaltern) of the Army, and desires if you know of such a one of undoubted fitness as to talents and character that you will recommend him. Respectfully Your Obt Servant.
By Order (signed) J. L. SMITH Capt. Corps of Engrs.
Major S. Thayer Supt Mily Acady West Point.

*See Index

FROM Walker K. Armistead* to Alden Partridge*

Engineer Department Washington
January 6th 1821

Sir

Your letter of 25th ult. addressed to Lieut. (Capt. John L.) Smith* has been received.

The letter of 16th January 1818 which you acknowledge to have received, attempts, in the most conciliatory manner, to reconcile you to the mode it proposes for the restoration of your Sword, which by an unavoidable circumstance there explained was prevented at the promulgation of the order releasing you from arrest, agreeably to the usage of the army. As that was not satisfactory and you still ask for a formal delivery of your sword.

That letter in my opinion has fulfilled every requisition of formality. But as you think otherwise and as I would wish the delivery to be made in a manner that will be acceptable to you, I submit for your choice two other modes, and will cause to be carried into effect that you may select, viz, to receive it personally, or by proxy from the officer having charge of the Engineer Department, or at West Point from Lieutenant (George) Blaney* the adjutant of that Post. Should you prefer the latter, you are requested to give notice to that effect, in order that means may be taken in time for its transmission to West Point. I have etc Signed, W. K. ARMISTEAD
Col. Engineers

*See Index

FROM John Lind Smith* to Alden Partridge*

Engineer Department Washington
January 30th. 1821

Sir,

The delivery of your sword shall be made agreeably to the mode, preferred by you, as expressed in your letter of 19th instant.

For that purpose it shall be forwarded to West Point by the first opportunity, of which at the time you shall be duly notified, as well as of the name of the officer who may be selected to receive it as your representative. I have etc
By order, Signed, J. L. SMITH Capt. Corps of Engrs.

*See Index

FROM Walker K. Armistead*

Engineer Department
Washington March 7, 1821

Sir.

The sword of Capt Partridge* which was taken from him when he was put in arrest in the Summer of 1817, and which was not received by him, when he was officially notified of his release from that arrest, in consequence of the informality of the manner in which it was offered and which on account of the same objection has not been since received although several times offered, was transmitted to West Point under the care of Capt. Whiting* of the Artillery with a view to its being delivered to Capt Partridge or his proxy in the following manner which it has been ascertained will fulfill to his satisfaction the requisitions of form and ceremony heretofore contended for by him.

Should Capt Partridge not appear in person Capt Whiting who has consented to become his proxy will receive for him from the Adjutant or acting Adjutant of the Post, the sword which, agreeably to the wish of Capt Partridge, he will deposit with Major O. G. Burton*, accompanied by a note declaring that it was delivered with due solemnity to him as the representative of Capt Partridge.

When this ceremony shall have been concluded you will apprise the Department thereof in order that it may officially communicate the result to Capt Partridge.

Very respectfully for I have the honor to be Your Obt
Servant W. K. ARMISTEAD Col Engineers
Major S. Thayer Supt Mil Acady West Point

*See Index

FROM Walker K. Armistead* to Alden Partridge*

Engineer Department Washington
12th April 1821

Sir

In pursuance of the notice contained in the letter of this dept to you dated 30 Jany last, Your Sword was transmitted to West Point, by the hands of Capt T. (Fabius?) Whiting* who as you will perceive by the enclosed Copy of a letter from Major Thayer, which has been just received, acted as your proxy in receiving it, and has, in passing it over to your Agent accompanied it by a note declaring that it had been delivered with due form & Solemnity. I have the honor to be

W. K. ARMISTEAD Col Engrs.

*See Index

FROM Abigail Thayer*

Boston May 25th 1821 -

Dear Brother,

I have an invitation to go immediately to Lexington, Kentucky with Capt. Dunham of Windsor Vt. & instruct in the great "Female Litirary Institution" with him - The situation I expect is very advantageous. I shall be obliged to go in about one month, if at all. I must spend all my money in preparations to go, & shall need \$100 for the expences of my passage there. I should, indeed, be greatly obliged could you assist me. I hope hereafter to be in a situation to trouble none of my friends. My expences have been great, & perplexities innumerable, as I have moved only in the first class of society wherever I have been, my dress etc. has been more than it otherwise would have been, have spent about \$300 in fixing our house, for people would call sometimes, have supported Millora at school three years, spent considerable in taking lessons myself & getting the little education I now have, lent Mr. Marsh fifty dolls. last autumn which I cannot get one farthing of before I go, etc. etc. many other things which I cannot mention. It is thought I shall do very well now. my situation will be highly respectable & very lucrative. it is designed to be the greatest female lit_rary institution in the United States. I hope to succeed.

Had I time I would make some apology for the letter I wrote Mr. Moulton. I was never more mortified in my life, than when I understood he had sent it you. it was written for him only. he had written me just before in great perplexity & much depressed in spirits not knowing what to do. as he was about to leave Wilkes barre, or where to go. I knew he had long been declining as a preacher, for he does not study, he has always been wishing me to engage in an Academy with him & prefer'd such a situation to preaching. I intended to rouse up his spirits & move him to do something to his advantage. If he had made any considerable exertion, Livia would have gone on with Millora or if necessary I would even have gone on. the school however I had in view & which my mind was fixed upon when I wrote you was at Philadelphia. Dr. Staunton was on last summer, visited & examined my school, was much pleased & invited me there some exertions had been made & the probability was I should go either there or very near the city I had likewise an opportunity of going to Georgia where I had much rather go even without friends than stay here. I know not what variety of untried _____ I have to pass thro' but must say I have been deeply harmed in the rigid school of adversity. the malice of some, the jealousy of others on account of our success & popularity has caused us affliction indescribable. they would never have dared attack a gentleman in such a manner, nor even a Lady who had any friends to appear in their defence. I know our characters stands high in whatever palce we are known, let it remain so. could go where the small beginnings from whence we rose, were less known, & consequently less envy'd we must be happier -----

I must inform you Davis at present is very sick, he has applied himself as closely to his studies the winter past, in order to make a splendid (appearance) at West Point. it has injured his health exceedingly. Physicians advise him

to take a voyage immediately. as the most probable means of recovery. he is greatly disappointed. Could he hold his appointment, should he take a voyage to Europe & return directly? his spirits are much depressed for fear he shall lose it. he is an excellent schollar & possessed of a noble mind. Dear Brother do write soon as possible. Could you meet me at Newyork city if I pass that way? I am very anxious to see you --- In great haste your affectionate Sister A. T. Livia sends love--

*See Index

TO George Ticknor*

Military Academy West Point
29th May 1821

Dear Sir

Your favor of yesterday came to hand this morning. The prospect of seeing you at West Point on Friday next affords me the most lively pleasure. I shall meet you at the Wharf to conduct you to the lodgings which I have engaged for you. I was greatly disappointed in not meeting with you in Europe. I had left Paris to hunt you up in Germany when I unexpectedly received orders to return home I remain with great regard
your obed servant
Professor George Ticknor

S. THAYER

*See Index

FROM Josiah Moulton* and Dorcas Thayer Moulton*

Wilkesbarre June 6th 1821

We received your letter dear Brother in due time and read it with much satisfaction, and with peculiar pleasure when we learned your intention to visit us. Your sister anticipates the time with mixed sensations of pleasure and impatience. We hope you will not disappoint us. Since I wrote you we received another letter from Abigail(Thayer)*. she is anxious that I should go on and establish the school. It is a great undertaking, and requires a large capital. But when I see you we will discuss the subject. The Mr & Miss Bowman who will bring you this letter are truly respectable They are of a very worthy family well educated and acquainted with good company Samuel the older brother is reading law in this borough and is nearly or quite through with his course. Hamilton (Alexander Hamilton Bowman)* the younger who comes as a candidate for admittance into Military school is universally esteemed as one of the finest young men in the place. My own personal acquaintance with him is but very small as to his scholarship I am entirely ignorant But he is reported as a fine scholar. Mary is in very low health but eminently pious and of a golden mind. Eliza is worthy of what she enjoys universal friendship. They all (however) profess to be ignorant of the requirements and regulations as to introducing Candidates to your institution. You will give yourself the pleasure and the honor of rendering them tranquil and happy Their Mother is a widow of high reputation. Be good enough to write us as often as may be convenient and accept assurance of our true fraternity. J. MOULTON

P.S. The sisters would like to hear their brothers examination. Dear Brother can you realize that more than twelve years have elapsed since I saw you, it is so but I have not forgotten you, the length of time only increases my anxiety to see you let nothing but the loss of health deprive us of a visit, we have both of us no doubt grown old but I shall know you - I could write many thing but will omit them till you come Your sister DORCAS

*See Index

TO John O'Connor*

(June 28, 1821)

Dear Sir,

If you have no previous engagement will you & your friend Mr. Cumming take dinner with me to day. I dine at 1. o'Clock
respectfully Your friend S. THAYER

Major O'Connor

Maj OC. has the honour to present his most respectful compliments to Miss Mansfield and takes the liberty to send for her perusal at leisure hours some of the french _____ poets, in a pocket edition; and he hopes that Miss Mansfields elegant taste and just discrimination may be much gratified if not improved by the study these masterpieces of the tragic & comic muse. Major OC would have great pleasure in reading to Miss Mansfield some of the most celebrated scenes, if she would do him the honour to listen to him.¹

*See Index

¹Notes scribbled on bottom of this letter.

FROM Andrews Norton*

Boston Augt. 13th 1821

Dear Sir

During the time which I had the pleasure of spending at West Point, something was said in conversation either with yourself or Prof. Douglas* about La Croix'* Algebra, which led me to mention that a translation had been published for the use of the students at Cambridge. I have taken the liberty to send it, with two other works used in the course of instruction at our College.

I believe however I should not have troubled you with these volumes and the present note, if it did not afford me an opportunity of expressing the pleasure which all our party felt from our visit to West Point and our gratitude for the very polite and kind attention which we there received. I cannot help hoping likewise, that the knowledge which Mr. Ticknor* and myself acquired of the admirable discipline and system of instruction at the institution over which you preside may be turned to some accounts in application to the College at Cambridge. It presents, I think, in some important points a model for our literary institutions

With great respect Dear Sir, your obed't sev't

ANDREWS NORTON

*See Index

FROM Phineas Davis*

Northboro' Sept. 10th 1821

Maj. S Thayer,

Sir,

I regret exceedingly I have not been able (on account of ill health) to report myself at West Point, at the time stipulated in my appointment. Yet I will not despair of going at some future period. Dr. Shattuck of Boston (the physician who attends me) thinks my health is so established, I shall be able to enter in June, or indeed before, if it is necessary. Will my appointment remain good untill then? Would you take the trouble to inform me of the above, as soon as convenient, I should feel myself greatly honoured, as well as obliged. I am Sir, your very humble & obt. Servt PHINEAS DAVIS
Maj. S Thayer, Superintendent of the Military Academy
at West Point

*See Index

TO Henry W. Griswold*

West Point 27th Dec. 1821

Sir,

Please to send me yesterdays Reports of the officer of
the Day & of the guard
respectfully your obedt sevt S. THAYER
Lieut Griswold Com of Cadets

*See Index

TO Henry W. Griswold*

(27 December 1821)

Sir,

You will make out & send me a detailed Report of the attack made on the Prisons by a Party of Cadets on the Evening of the 25th instant stating the damages done & the names of the Persons suspected of having been engaged in the riot

yours respectfully S. THAYER
Lieutenant Griswold Comm of Cadets
27th Decr..1821

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 15 Jany 1822

Engineer Orders

All communications of a professional nature, and all requisitions for assistance from the line of the Army requiring a detail from the Adjutant Genls office, will be addressed to this Department and not to the Adjutant General.

When the Services of an officer acting under an Engineer or Topographical Engineer, are no longer required the officer under whom he is serving, will order him to return to his station or Company, agreeably to the instructions contained in the order of the Adjutant General by which he had been detailed, and will upon so doing immediately report the fact to this Department.

Officers of the Corps of Engineers and of the Topographical Engineers will make the Reports required of them by the order of this department of the 1st October 1820, in a detached shape, excluding all matter not therein required, excepting the names of the Subalterns of the Army who may be acting with them, which will hereafter be included in these reports. The Reports must be regularly made on the 1st of each month as required by the order.

Major Roberdeaux* who is charged with the Topographical bureau, will make to this office a semiannual return of all the Instruments, Maps, charts and books belonging to the Engineer department, and also a special return stating the names of the Officers, in whose possession the said Instruments Maps, Charts & Books are, which return will be deposited with the 2nd Auditor, and the officers will be then charged accordingly, and held strictly accountable for each article - ALEXR. MACOMB M Genl Chief Engineer

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 19 Jany. 1822

Sir,

Enclosed is an order accepting the resignations of Cadets Beck* and Beddinger*.

Resignations are accepted, of course, upon your recommendations; but it is desirable that hereafter you will accompany your recommendations with such explanations of the causes inducing resignations as will enable the Department to answer enquiries which may be made by the friends of the parties concerned. With great respect I am Sir, your
obt. Servt. ALEXR. MACOMB M. Genl
Major S. Thayer Supt. Mil. Acady.

*See Index

FROM Henry Stanton*

Washington Jany. 26th 1822

My dear Sir

Immediately on the receipt of your letter of 12 Instant I called on the Gentleman from whom I received the information alluded to in my communication of 31st. ulto.- and who further informed me that the Olde grumbler*, during the last session of Congress, complained in a letter to General Beacher*, then a member, of the Government of the Military Academy, and recommended alterations in its organization, and also the reduction of the number of Cadets to the former establishment, to save himself the trouble of teaching no doubt. - This winter he has written to Mr. Edwards* a representative from Connecticut, reiterating his former complaints etc his letter he desires Mr. Edwards to shew to members of Congress I have had the promise of the sight of it; and have been for that purpose several times to the Capital, but have as often found the Gentleman engaged.--

I have mentioned the Subject to General Macomb* who expressed much indignation at the conduct of the old P---- I suspect he has written him a severe letter which I hope will bring him to his senses. - and save you from any trouble on the subject -

I will neglect no means to obtain further information which shall be communicated to you ---

The Tennessee Cannon*, which has been for some time charged and primed, went off a few days since in Congress Hall, pointed as usual against the Army, but I suspect with little effect. - The military committee will make a report on the subject of a further reduction of our military establishment in a few days when I suppose we shall be able to ascertain the disposition of Congress on the Subject - Nothing has been said in Congress of the Military Academy The importance of the institution appears to be generally acknowledged - Its present organization and government are spoken of in the highest terms of approbation by all who have visited West Point - I remain with the highest respect & esteem

Your Obt Servt HENRY STANTON

Major S. Thayer Superintendent Military Academy West Point

* See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 8th Feby 1822

Sir

Your letter of the 31st Ulto together with the Reports of the Academick Staff, agreeably to the 78th para. of the 78th Art. of the General Regulations, have been received, and laid before the Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun).

The Secretary has directed Warrants to be made out for those who have been recommended as qualified to continue at the Military Academy after the probationary examination. And has confirmed the report with regard to B. Cape*, Th. H Clay*, Wm Inge*, E. P. Marcellan*, W A McRea*, J. J. Meredith*, A. J. Miller*, Edwd Pettit*, H Polk*, and W A Stackpole* who are reported as not qualified to remain at the Institution. On the recommendation of the Board, he has thought proper to restore Cadets Maurice* and Hughes* - and Cadet McGehee*, against whom there is no report of deficiency in studies, and whose conduct appears to have been unexceptionable except in the case which was lately enquired into.

The President (James Monroe) has thought proper to withhold his decision in the cases of Cadets Dessausure*, Kilty*, Mills* & Tibbetts* until he receives an additional report from the Academick Board. By adverting to the 78th Article, you will observe that it not only requires that the Board should report their conduct and proficiency but also the degree of Intellect of those who are unfavorably reported. The Board has omitted to report upon the last particular, which makes it necessary to refer to them as it regards those four Cadets. The Misconduct of the others appearing to be strongly marked, it is not necessary to acquire an additional report in their case, as it would be improper to retain them let their natural capacity be what it may, but the misconduct of those in question, not appearing to be so strongly marked, whether they should remain or not at the Military Academy, ought to depend in some measure on the degree of their Intellect. You will accordingly report whether the want of proficiency be caused by inattention to their studies, the want of aptitude for the particular branch in which they are deficient or upon natural ~~inability~~ ^{feebleness} of Intellect. You will also state the degree of deficiency for which they are reported. I have the honor to be very Respectfully Your Mo Obedt Servt

ALEXR. MACOMB M. Genl

To Major S. Thayer Supt Mily Acady West Point

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 11th Feby 1822

Sir

I have received your letter enclosing the form of a Circular to the parents & guardians of the Cadets to be admitted into the Military Academy, and also of the Article which the Cadets are to sign, binding themselves to serve 5 years; which are approved. It will not be necessary to apply them to the three elder classes but to the junior class, and to all such as shall hereafter enter the Institution.

Cadets Sanford* & Shepherd* who are now here, have expressed great anxiety to be reinstated, and they seem to be sensible of their errors, and declare their determination, should they be so fortunate as to be received again into the Military Academy, to conform to the Rules & Regulations established for its government. I have examined into their case, and find with the exception of their conduct in the late irregularities, they have stood very fair, in the reports of their respective classes; as they appear to be intelligent young men, the President (James Monroe) is inclined to view their case in a favorable light, still is unwilling to act without referring the matter to the Academick Board, who will report on the propriety of their reinstatement, taking into consideration the effect which such a measure might have on the discipline of the Institution, as these Young Gentlemen are now here upon expense, it is desirable that the report be forwarded as early as possible. Their applications to the Secy of War (John C. Calhoun) are herewith enclosed.

The President having expressed in the enclosed extract of a letter to his friend Mr. Cooke, his assent to the restoration of Cadet Westwood Lacey* you will accordingly receive him, provided he can proceed with his class. I have the honor to be
Your Mo Obedt Serv ALEXR. MACOMB
Major S. Thayer Supt Mily Acady West Point

*See Index

In the House of Representatives of the United States
Feby 19th 1822

On Motion of Mr Woodcock

Resolved. That the Committee on Military affairs be directed to enquire into, and report to this House, a Statement of the number of Cadets educated at the Military Academy, who have remained in the Service of the United States five years: and the number who have received Commissions, and resigned or been discharged from the service, before the expiration of five years; also the number who have left the Academy without Commissions, and the amount of money that has been paid each; also the amount paid to Cadets between the time of their Appointment, and that of their being mustered at the Academy, and the time of leaving the Academy, and the time of receiving Commissions, and entering the Service of the United States: also the number educated at the Academy who were in the service during the late war; also the expense of maintaining the officers & Instructors of the Academy each year since 1802, and the expense of ammunition which has been furnished for the use of the Academy, and the soldiers who have been stationed at the Academy for the Assistance of the Officers and Cadets since its establishment; and also the number of Cadets educated at the Academy since its establishment, distinguishing those who are the Sons of officers & Soldiers who have fallen in the defence of their Country or died in its Service

A True Copy G. A. BIBBY

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 25th Feby 1822

Sir

You will cause to be made out and transmitted to this Department as early as possible a Statement in conformity with the enclosed Copy of a Resolution of the House of Representatives of the 19th Inst in relation to the Cadets at the Military Academy, which has been referred to this Department by the Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun).

It is important that the Resolution be complied with immediately, and that its transmission meet with as little delay as may be. I have the honor to be very Respectfully
Your Obed Servt ALEXR MACOMB M Genl
To Major S Thayer Supt Mily Acady West Point

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb

Engineer Department
Washington 12 March 1822

Sir

The Report of the Academick Staff with regard to Cadets Dessausure*, Kilty*, Mills*. Mills¹ & Tibbets* has been received and approved. The deplorable situation of the friends of Mr Kilty, and the Revolutionary Services of his Uncle the late Chancellor of Maryland have induced the Secy of War (John C. Calhoun) to inquire whether he could be appointed among those who shall be offered as candidates for admission in June next. It appears by the report of the Academick Board on the January examination, that he is not deficient on Mathematicks, but is so in French and that his conduct is indifferent, not positively bad. The number of faults also set against his name is not very large, and only two or three are of a bad character. Taking all these things into consideration, it is desirable to know the opinion of the Board, whether he could be reappointed, as proposed, without injury to the discipline of the Institution, a point, the Secretary has every disposition to maintain.

The friends of Cadet Marcellan* have been also anxious that he should be reappointed for June next his father came early to this country, and partook of the dangers of the Revolution, as an officer in the American Army. his case is also submitted to the consideration of the Board.

Cadet Mounger* who is now in this city has addressed a letter to the Secy of War, asking to be restored to the Military Academy. A Copy of which is inclosed. The Conduct of Mr. Mounger does not appear on inspection of the evidence to have been so strongly marked with impropriety as that of the two other cadets who were tried with him; he did not break his arrest by recrossing the river at the times Cadets Gibbs* & Cox*² came over contrary to orders, and although he made his escape from the guard, he seems to have acted from an idea that he was unjustly confined; he denies having used a pistol with a view, to make his escape, or his having pledged his word & honor that he would return with the Corporal of the guard. The allegations on these points do not appear to be supported by evidence and there is perhaps some mistake in regard to his case. The Secretary of War therefore, as he thinks there are paliating circumstances in favor of this young man, and as he seems convinced of his errors and promises to act in strict conformity with the regulations, directs that his case be reconsidered by the Board, and that they report their opinion

whether he may not be permitted to return to the Academy,
without detriment to its discipline and good Government. I
have the honor to be Very Respectfully Your Obedt Servt

ALEXR MACOMB M. Genl.

Major S Thayer Supt Mily Acad West Point

P.S. In the hurry of business, my letter of the 11th was
written and this is intended to supply its place.

*See Index

1. The Register of Graduates lists only one Mills as an
ex-cadet of the class of 1825.
2. The Register of Graduates lists two Coxes as ex-cadets of
the class of 1825.

FROM Dorcas Thayer Moulton*

Wilkesbarre May 1 1822

Dear Brother,

Yes an only one, I write a few lines in haste by Col. Bowman*, who I expect will hand this to you; He is a respectable man and a great taste for the military - He goes from NY to W.P on purpose to visit the institution he will be gratified with some attention, he politely gave me notice of his going and offered to carry a letter I received yours & Mr M letter which gave me great pleasure Mr M has not returned yet expect him this week, when he will tell me more about you Indeed I want to know how you look, now thirteen years since I saw you - received a letter from Abigail a few days since Parents & all well - When we are again established write often O how fast time flies & how many changes we have been taught some by experience since we saw you _____ in haste I remain your sister D MOULTON

*See Index

FROM John C. Calhoun* to John Le Conte*

Department of War,
May 13th 1822

Sir,

The regulations of this Department for the government of the Military Academy at West Point, direct that the students of that institution "shall be examined in all of the branches of science and instruction through which they have passed, in the presence of a Board of Visitors, and such other literary gentlemen as shall be invited to attend," In conformity with which I have the honour to invite you to attend the examination of the Cadets at West Point, which will commence on the 1st day of June next, and shall be highly gratified to receive a report of your observations upon the actual state and progress of the institution, and such suggestions for its improvement as you may deem necessary.

Should you accept this invitation Major S. Thayer, Superintendent of the Academy, will be instructed to make suitable arrangements for your accommodation at West Point. I have the honor to be very respectfully, Sir, your mo. obedt. servt.

J. C. CALHOUN

Captain John Le Conte Corps of Top- Engineers New York

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington May 31. 1822

Sir

In consequence of the absence of Gen Izard* at Charleston, The Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun) has appointed Genl Cadwallader* President of the Board of Visitors at the approaching examination which will be composed of the following gentlemen who have accepted their invitation for that purpose viz-

	Gen Cadwallader President	
Gen Swift*		Col. Totten*
Gen Bernard*		Profr. Silliman*
	Capt. LeConte*	

I have the honor to be very respectfully Yr Obdt Servt
ALEXR. MACOMB M. Genl. Insp. M.A.

Major S Thayer Supt Mil Acad West Point

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington June 11th 1822

Sir

An order has been this day issued to Lieutn Blaney* of the Corps of Engineers, who has just returned from L' Croix, directing him to report to you for duty at West Point as adjutant of that Post. I have the honor to be very respectfully
Yr Obed Servt ALEXR MACOMB M. Genl.

Chief Engineers, Insp. My. Acady.

Major S Thayer Supt Mily Acady West Point

*See Index

FROM Lewis Cass*

Detroit June 11. 1822

Sir,

The two young gentlemen, who will hand you this letter, have been recently appointed Cadets at the military Academy. They are the sons* of two of our most respectable Citizens, Col. Edwards and Maj. Whipple. They are very promising intelligent young men, and their friends may safely anticipate from them a career of honour and usefulness.

I beg leave to recommend them to your particular attention and favourable notice. With much respect, I am,
Sir: Your Obedt Servt: LEW. CASS
Maj. Thayer.

*See Index

FROM Henry Gilbert* to Gouverneur Kemble*

(17 August 1822)

Mr Kimble

Sir,

Major Thayer has directed me to send to you for Sixteen Tampions of the following dimensions, required to complete the number for the Park of Artillery at this post--

Viz -

Eight	for Six Pounders
Two	for Twelve "
One	for Eighteen "
One	for Twenty four "
One	for 5 8/10 Howitzer
One	for 8 inch "
One	for 10 inch Mortar
One	for 5½ inch do.

I am Sir respectfully Your Ob Servt. H. GILBERT

*See Index

FROM Alexander Macomb*

Engineer Department
Washington 22 Augt 1822

Sir

The several reports of the Visitors at the last General examination of the Military Academy have been received by the Secretary of War (John C. Calhoun), who has attentively perused them, and has directed me to communicate to you the satisfaction which the general State of the Institution has afforded him. [The Mathematical and Philosophical studies are reported as having attained a very respectable degree of advancement, and that all the other branches are progressing in the most satisfactory manner, with the exception of what relates to Tacticks, and particularly military exercises. The Board of Visitors remark that Tacticks are not so much attended to as the other branches of studies, & that the Artillery exercises are totally neglected, an extract from their report is herewith enclosed that you may see the particular grounds on which the Board makes this assertion. The Secretary of War relying on your intelligence and professional knowledge desires that you will examine the subject attentively, and propose such modifications, if any are necessary to insure a competent knowledge of Tacticks, as your judgement & experience may suggest. You are aware that the character of the institution is Military and not Philosophical, and while the several branches of the sciences, which are taught at the Academy are deemed highly important and essential in forming Scientific Officers, the main object of the institution is to predominate over all others.] If the value given to Tacticks in the scale of merit is not in your opinion sufficiently high to insure a proper attention to that branch of instruction, or if there be not sufficient time allotted to acquire it, or should you discover any other defect in its pursuit, you are required to point out the same, that it may be laid before the Secretary of War, who is desirous of having the remedy applied as far as possible.

The Study of the human figure, was deemed by the Teacher of Drawing as essential to just delineation and proper to be introduced into the course; you are at liberty to make the experiment this year, and if you find it any improvement, it will be permanently adopted in the General Regulations.

It is the intention that the course of education at West Point shall be completed within five years; In the case of Cadet Burley*, the circumstance of his being turned back twice, was not adverted to, but Since the President (James Monroe) has been pleased to let him have another trial, the operation of this rule cannot now be applied to him - If he still finds he cannot proceed with his class, he had better resign - I have the honor to be very respectfully Your Obedt Serv

ALEXR MACOMB M Genl Inspector of the Military Acady
Major S. Thayer Supt Mil Acady West Point

*See Index

TO Benjamin H. Wright*

Military Academy West Point
12th Sept 1822

Dear Sir,

I have recd your letter of the 2d instant enclosing a Memorandum of the prices of labor & materials charged in the construction of the Erie Canal. For your kind attention in sending me this most valuable paper I tender you my grateful acknowledgements. I am also very thankfull for your fathers (Benjamin Wright, senior)* obliging offer to furnish me with such other information on the same subject as may be required & shall hereafter avail myself of it. Before I had recd. your letter Lieut. Blaney* had forwarded your appointment & orders. I am glad that you have determined to join your Regiment & hope that you will find your station & duties agreeable. I desire that it may be distinctly understood by every one that your being assigned to the Infantry did not proceed from any personal considerations I am sure that there was not a member of the Board who did not consider you as being in every respect well qualified for the Corps of Artillery. With great regard I am your obed svt S. THAYER
Lieut. B. H. Wright

*See Index