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AZTEC CLUB OF 1847



SPRING TOUR GUIDE

WEST POINT
WASHINGTONS HEADQUARTERS AT
NEWBURGH
VERPLANCK HOUSE AT MT. GULIAN

MAY 2, 2002

THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY

The mission of the U.S. Military Academy is to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets so that each graduate is a commissioned leader of character committed to the values of Duty, Honor, Country; professional growth throughout a career as an officer in the United States Army; and a lifetime of selfless service to the Nation.

Founded on March 16, 1802, the Academy is now celebrating its Bicentennial. But West Point's role in America's history dates back even earlier to the Revolutionary War, when both sides realized the strategic importance of the commanding plateau on the west bank of the Hudson River. General George Washington considered West Point to be the most strategic position in America. He personally selected Thaddeus Kosciuszko, one of the heroes of Saratoga, to design the fortifications in 1778. In 1779, General Washington transferred his headquarters to West Point. Continental soldiers built forts, batteries and redoubts and extended a 150-ton iron chain across the Hudson to control river traffic. Fortress West Point was never captured by the British, despite Benedict Arnold's treason. Today, several links from that chain are arranged at Trophy Point as a reminder of West Point's original fortifications. West Point is the oldest continuously occupied military post in America.

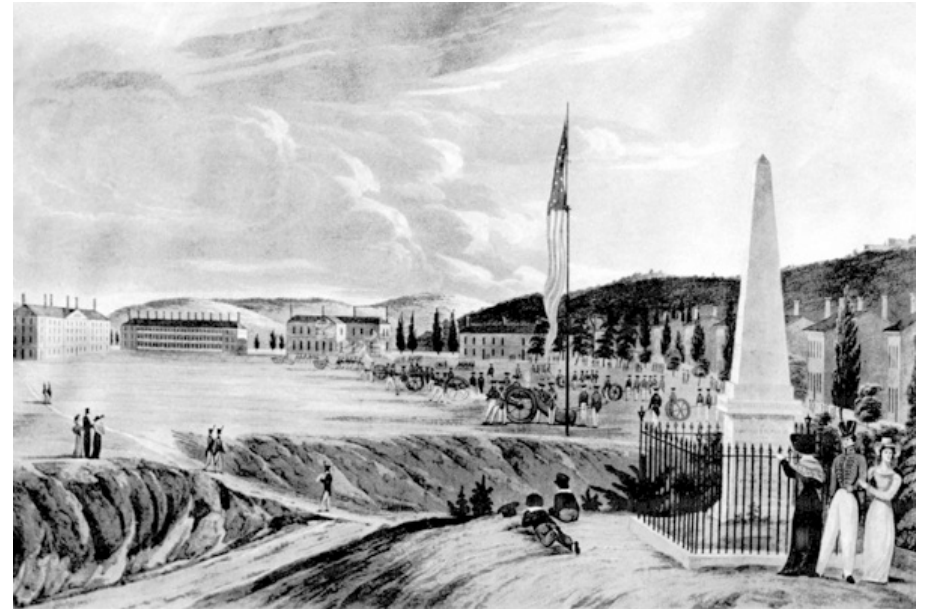
Several soldiers and legislators, including Washington, Knox, Hamilton and John Adams, desiring to eliminate America's wartime reliance on foreign engineers and artillerymen, urged the creation of an institution devoted to the arts and sciences of warfare.

In 1802 President Thomas Jefferson signed the legislation establishing the U.S. Military Academy to create an institution devoted to the arts and sciences of warfare. He took this action after ensuring that those attending the Academy would be representative of a democratic society. This effectively eliminated America's wartime reliance on foreign engineers and artillerymen. West Point became the nation's first engineering school and served as the model for engineering programs which were eventually established at other colleges.

Today's Military Academy is a vastly different institution from the small academy legislated into being by Congress in 1802. Originally just 1,800 acres, the Academy has grown to more than 16,000 acres. The first graduating class numbered just two men; today's classes graduate more than 900 new officers annually, both men and women.

Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, the "father of the Military Academy," served as

Superintendent from 1817-1833. He upgraded academic standards, instilled military discipline and emphasized honorable conduct. Aware of our young nation's need for engineers, Thayer made civil engineering the foundation of the curriculum. For the first half century, USMA graduates were largely



West Point as it appeared in 1828

responsible for the construction of the bulk of the nation's initial railway lines, bridges, harbors and roads.



The Hudson River from Trophy Point

Although today the curriculum maintains its focus on engineering, in recent decades the program of instruction has markedly changed to permit cadets to major in any one of more than a dozen fields. This tradition of academic and

military excellence, guided by a unique standard of moral and ethical conduct, remains the cornerstone of the West Point experience.



Cadet Chapel Above Washington Hall

It is said at West Point that “much of the history we teach was made by people we taught.” The Academy has produced famous leaders throughout its illustrious past. After gaining experience and national recognition during the Mexican and Indian wars, West Point graduates dominated the highest ranks on both sides during the Civil War. Academy graduates, headed by generals such as Grant, Lee, Sherman and Jackson, set high standards of military leadership for both the North and South.

More recently, 34 of the 38 World War I corps and division commanders were graduates. World War II would see 59 out of 164 graduates reach brigadier general or higher, to include Eisenhower, MacArthur, Bradley and Patton. In more recent conflicts — MacArthur and Ridgeway in Korea, Westmoreland and Abrams in Vietnam, and Schwarzkopf in Desert Storm — West Pointers were in command. Academy graduates have also excelled in air and space exploration, and countless others went on from military service to be leaders in medicine, law, business, religion and sciences.

The development of other technical schools in the post-Civil War period allowed West Point to broaden its curriculum beyond a strict civil engineering focus. Following the creation of Army post-graduate command and staff schools, the Military Academy came to be viewed as the first step in a continuing Army education.



Cavalry Training

important goal. Additionally, the cadet management of the Honor System, long an unofficial tradition, was formalized with the creation of the Cadet Honor Committee.

Eisenhower, MacArthur, Bradley, Arnold, Clark, Patton, Stilwell and Wainwright were among an impressive array of Academy graduates who met the challenge of leadership in the Second World War. The postwar period again saw sweeping revisions to the West Point curriculum resulting from the dramatic developments in science and technology, the increasing need to understand other cultures and the rising level of general education in the Army.

In 1964, President Johnson signed legislation increasing the strength of the Corps of Cadets from 2,529 to 4,417 (more recently reduced to 4,000). To keep up with the growth of the Corps, a major expansion of facilities began shortly thereafter.

Since its founding two centuries ago, the Military Academy fulfills the same mission as it always has to educate, train, and inspire the Corps of Cadets. It accomplishes this mission by developing cadets in three essential areas: intellectual, physical and military. These developmental paths are balanced and fully integrated into the daily life of each young man and woman at the Academy.

Intellectual growth is fostered through an academic curriculum consisting of a core program of 30 courses providing a fundamental knowledge of the arts and sciences. The core program builds the foundation for electives that permits the cadets to explore in greater depth a field of study or an optional

In World War I, Academy graduates again distinguished themselves on the battlefield. After the war, Superintendent Douglas MacArthur sought to diversify the academic curriculum. In recognition of the intense physical demands of modern warfare, MacArthur pushed for major changes in the physical fitness and intramural athletic programs. “Every cadet an athlete” became an

major. The four-year course leads to a Bachelor of Science degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the Army.



Washington Monument at West Point

Physical development is achieved through a rigorous athletic and physical education program. Each cadet participates at the intercollegiate, club or intramural level each semester. This readies the cadet for the physical demands of military life and helps teach good judgment and self-discipline, even while under mental and physical stress.

Military development begins with the cadet's first day at West Point. Most military training takes place during the summer, with new cadets undergoing Cadet Basic Training, or Beast Barracks, their first year, followed the second summer by Cadet Field Training. Cadets spend their third and fourth summers serving in active Army units around the world; attending specialty training such as airborne, air assault or northern warfare, or helping to train the first and second year cadets. The Cadet Leader Development System seeks to give the cadets increasing responsibility until they are ready to receive their commissions and assume their duties as leaders in today's Army.

Moral and ethical values guide cadets throughout their four years at West Point. Commitment to the academy's Bedrock Values, based on integrity and respect for dignity of others, begins on the first day.

Integrity is reflected in the Cadet Honor Code which states: "A cadet shall not lie, cheat steal, or tolerate those who do." Respect denotes that cadets treat others with the same respect and dignity they themselves would expect. At West Point, it is not enough to train leaders - they must be leaders of character.

Admission is keenly competitive and is open to young men and women from each state and socio-economic level. Prospective cadets must receive a nomination by a member of Congress or from the Department of the Army. Candidates are evaluated on their academic, physical and leadership potential, indicating all-around individuals.

The life of a cadet is demanding, but leisure time does permit such activities as golf or skiing, sailing or ice skating. Intramural clubs include a cadet radio station, orienteering and Big Brother-Big Sister. A wide variety of religious activities are available to cadets from virtually all religious backgrounds.

With the expansion of knowledge and the changing needs of the Army and the nation, life at West Point has changed to keep pace. Ever aware of its rich heritage, the U.S. Military Academy is developing leaders for tomorrow, and its focus remains the national needs of the 21st century.

In concert with the increasing role of minorities and women in society and the military over the past three decades, greater numbers of minorities and the first women were brought to the Military Academy and the Corps of Cadets. Their presence has enhanced the quality and maintained the traditional representativeness of the institution.

In recent decades, the Academy's curricular structure was markedly changed to permit cadets to major in any one of more than a dozen fields, including a wide range of subjects from the sciences to the humanities.

Academy graduates are awarded a bachelor of science degree and a commission as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army, serving a minimum of five years on active duty.

As the Academy celebrates its bicentennial in 2002, the institution continues to ensure that all programs and policies support the needs of the Army and nation now as well as in the foreseeable future. The Academy, with its long and noble history, remains an energetic, vibrant institution that attracts some of the best and brightest young men and women. It offers a challenging and comprehensive array of opportunities while retaining its enduring commitment to Duty, Honor, Country.

THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY COAT OF ARMS AND MOTTO

"Duty, Honor, Country," a striking expression of West Point's time-honored ideals, is the motto of the U.S. Military Academy and is imbedded in its coat of arms.

Though not as old as the institution they represent, the USMA coat of arms, also referred to as the seal, and motto have a long and interesting history.

According to archival records, the coat of arms and motto were adopted in 1898. Col. Charles W. Larned, professor of drawing, headed a committee to design a coat of arms for the Academy and stated several criteria for the design. The committee decided that the design should represent the national character of the Academy, its military function, its educational function and its spirit and objectives.

Symbolism in the Coat of Arms. The committee began with the creation of an emblem that consisted of a sword, a universal symbol of war, and the helmet of Pallas Athena. Athena, a fully armed mythological goddess, is associated with the arts of war, and her helmet signifies wisdom and learning. The emblem is attached to a shield, bearing the arms of the United States, and on the shield's crest is a bald eagle, the national symbol. The eagle's claws hold 13 arrows representing the 13 original states and oak and olive branches, traditional symbols of peace.

THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY COAT OF ARMS AND MOTTO – 2/2/2

Duty, Honor, Country. The eagle is grasping a scroll bearing the words "West Point, MDCCCII (1802), USMA," and the motto, "Duty, Honor, Country."

The motto as such was never previously stated, but in writings of early superintendents, professors and graduates, one is struck by the recurrence of the words "duty," "honor" and "country." Colonel Larned's committee believed Duty, Honor, Country represented simply, but eloquently, the ideals of West Point.

The committee did not express an opinion as to the relative importance of the three words; however, there is perhaps significance in the fact that "honor" is in the center of the motto. As Maj. Gen. Bryant Moore noted in a 1951 article in *Assembly* magazine, "honor" forms the keystone of the arch of the three ideals on which West Point is founded.



The coat of arms was used without change until 1923, when Captain George Chandler, of the War Department, pointed out to Superintendent Brig. Gen. Fred Sladen that the eagle and helmet faced to the heraldic sinister side. The helmet, eagle's head and sword were soon turned to their current position.

Since 1923, the coat of arms has been in regular use at West Point and is carved on many of the older buildings. In 1980, the coat of arms was registered with the Library of Congress as an "identifiable logo" for the Academy.

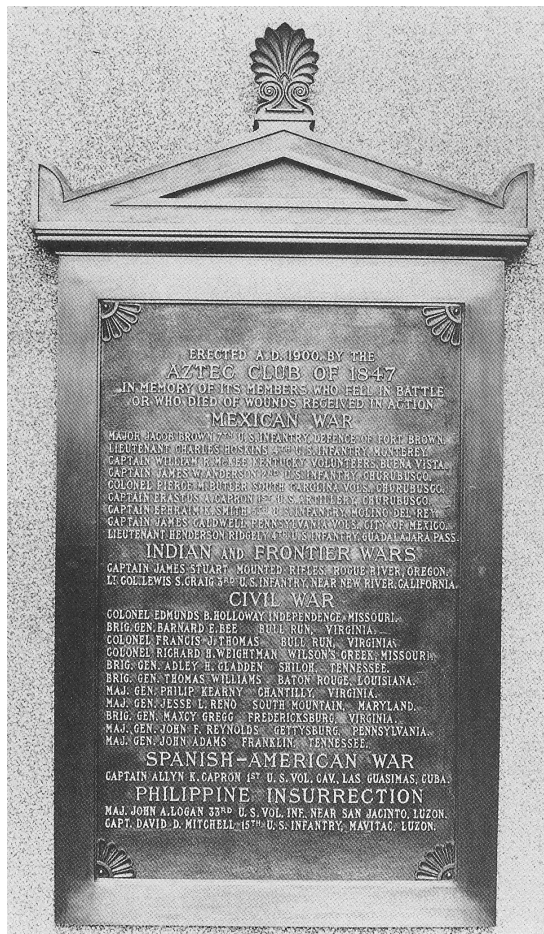
The West Point Cemetery

The West Point Cemetery overlooking the Hudson River served as a burial ground for Revolutionary soldiers and early West Point inhabitants long before 1817 when it was officially designated as a military cemetery. Until that time several small burial plots scattered in mid-post served as places of interment. The graves from these plots and the remains subsequently found during building excavations were removed to the new site. An improved road to the cemetery was constructed in 1840, and the caretaker's cottage was erected in 1872. Development and expansion of the grounds were made in 1890, 1900, and at various intervals to the present time.

As you enter the cemetery grounds, you will pass through what is possibly a set of the original West Point gates. Inside them is the Old Cadet Chapel, built in 1837, an example of Greek Revival Architecture. It was previously located on the corner adjacent to the USMA Library across from the clock tower. When the new Cadet Chapel was completed overlooking the Plain in 1910, the Old Chapel was supposed to be demolished. Many graduates objected and organized a fund-raising effort to save it. Beginning in August 1910 it was moved and reconstructed stone by stone in its present location. A columbarium has been established underneath it.

The inside of the Old Cadet Chapel is historic and impressive. In the rear is an index listing all those interred in the cemetery with the location of their graves. Above the altar is a three-dimensional painting entitled "Peace and War" by Robert Weir, Professor of Drawing at West Point from 1834-1876. Located on the east wall are black memorial shields for the Revolutionary War generals of the Continental Army. On the west wall are tablets primarily honoring officers who fell in the Second Seminole War and the War with

Mexico. The cannons embedded in the walls were captured from the British during the Revolution and were among the original pieces that formed the West Point Museum.



Aztec Club Tablet

The most famous plaque on the wall of the chapel is on the east wall over the balcony railing. It says simply "Major General, born 1740" without a name or date of death. It is for Benedict Arnold, who contributed to the capture of many of those British cannons. The shield recognizes his service as probably the American Army's best combat commander in the Revolution, demonstrated on battlefields from Montreal to Saratoga. But he eventually turned traitor and tried to betray West Point to the British. His example demonstrates that for military leaders the traits of courage and competence alone are not enough; they must be combined with the character that USMA works so diligently to develop in its graduates.

The Aztec Club commissioned a large bronze memorial tablet which was first placed at Cullum Hall to the Cadet Chapel on December 12m 1901. It remains on display today.

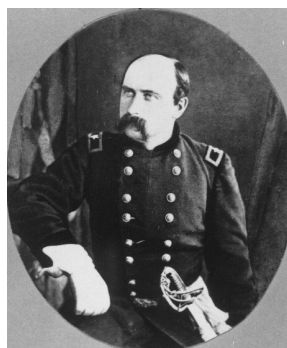
To further illustrate the importance that USMA places on character and self-discipline, outside the gate of the cemetery is a black marble fountain donated by the Class of 1957. They were dubbed "The Black Class of '57" after many broke ranks and ran to the reviewing line during their graduation parade instead of marching solemnly into position. This breach of discipline brought them punishment for the rest of graduation week and a tarnished reputation. Obviously, however, the class retained its sense of humor as

reflected in the color of its fountain.

There are a number of special monuments around the Old Cadet Chapel. To its front is the Dade Monument. It was erected in 1845 as a memorial to Captain Francis L. Dade and his command of 107 officers and men who were wiped out in an ambush by Indians in Florida on December 28, 1835. The massacre launched the Second Seminole War.

On the west side of the Chapel is the grave of Margaret "Captain Molly" Corbin. During the British attack on Fort Washington in 1776 she was wounded "whilst she heroically filled the post of her husband who was killed by her side serving a piece of artillery." She received a pension from Congress for her actions. After the war she lived and died in Buttermilk Falls (now Highland Falls). In 1926 the Daughters of the American Revolution verified her records, and 150 years after her act of heroism her remains were transferred to their present location. She is the inspiration for the Corbin Seminar, a council incorporating all the female cadets at the service academies.

Though the West Point Cemetery has not been designated officially as a "National Cemetery" it is maintained by federal funds and follows most of the same rules as other military cemeteries. It is more restrictive on who is eligible for internment (primarily graduates and their families or key post personnel) and also allows more flexibility as to the size and configuration of headstones.



Egbert Ludovicus Viele

The center of the circular pattern of the cemetery was laid out by Brigadier General Egbert Viele at the turn of the century. He served as Vice President of the Aztec Club, 1898-1899, and as President, 1899-1900.

Among the most massive and ornate are those from the era around the turn of the century, such as these markers in Section XX for two graduates killed in the Spanish-American War. Edmund Benchley and Clarke Churchman were dead within months of their graduation with the Class of 1898, two more additions to the lengthy list of the Long Gray Line's sacrifices in our nation's wars. There is no "grand plan" for the pattern of burials in the cemetery, over the years caretakers have tended to try to place friends and classmates close together. There are also whole sections dominated by the casualties of our largest wars.



Section X of the cemetery lying to the east of the Chapel contains the graves of a number of notable figures from USMA's rich sports heritage. The most garish stone in the cemetery belongs to legendary football coach Earl "Red" Blaik, USMA Class of 1920, and his wife. One of the great innovators in the sport, he won National Championships with his great Army teams in 1944, 1945, and 1946. He is enshrined in the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame, and was awarded a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1986.

Facing the circle at the front of Section IV is the cross identifying the grave of Major General Albert Mills, a Medal of Honor winner and the USMA Superintendent from 1898-1906. A graduate of the Class of 1879, he was the most junior officer to have ever been appointed to that post. He was only a First Lieutenant in Cuba when he lost an eye when shot through the head at San Juan Hill. President McKinley met him while Mills was convalescing in Washington, and as a reward for his ordeal appointed him to be Superintendent (with an immediate local promotion to Colonel) despite the objections of the Secretary of War and Commanding General of the Army. Though he was energetic and innovative, Mills' abrasive and imperious leadership style caused many clashes with the rest of the West Point faculty. Mills had an important impact on new construction at West Point at the turn of the century, as well as on many cadets under his command, such as Douglas MacArthur, First Captain of the Class of 1903.



Section XXVI southwest of the oldest part of the cemetery contains many Civil War Graves. Closest to the river is that of Frederick Dent Grant, the president's son. He visited his father at the front during the war and once even got himself wounded. He graduated from USMA in 1871 and had a distinguished career in diplomatic service. He succeeded his father into membership in the Aztec Club of 1847.

Northwest of Section XXVI at the beginning of Section XXVII is the grave of Winfield Scott, called "the greatest living soldier" by the Duke of Wellington after the Mexican War. A hero of the War of 1812, conqueror of Mexico City,



Winfield Scott

commanding general of the U.S. Army on the eve of the Civil War, Scott was the greatest American military leader of the first half of the 19th Century. Though he did not graduate from West Point, he loved it and appreciated its contributions to Army professionalism. He spent most of his later years here, where he died in 1866. An estimated 15,000 spectators witnessed his funeral procession, which included the largest group of distinguished personages ever to gather at West Point at one time. He rests today with his wife and daughter. Souvenir hunters and the elements wreaked havoc with their gravestones, and the current ones were recently supplied by a direct descendent in Australia.

Robert Anderson, Class of 1825, commander of Fort Sumter in 1861, is buried in the northwest corner of this section. He was already a veteran of the Seminole War and Mexican War when the Civil War began. He once taught artillery tactics at USMA, and one of his former students, Pierre G. T. Beauregard, orchestrated the Confederate shelling of the fort.

Next to Robert Anderson is the often-visited memorial to George Armstrong Custer, Class of June 1861. He was originally buried at the Little Big Horn with his men, in a dual grave with his brother, Tom. A year later an expedition was sent out to recover the remains of the officers. Weather, Indians, and animals had disturbed the graves, and there was great difficulty in identifying the sites. The first grave thought to be Custer's contained a rotting uniform blouse with the name of a Seventh Cavalry corporal. The one next to it contained only a skull, rib cage, and femur, but the searchers

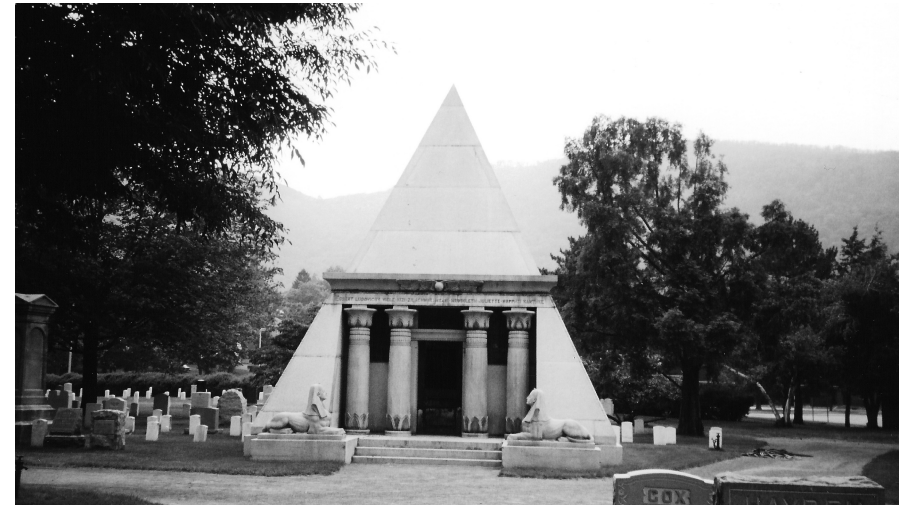


decided those were Custer's and brought them back to be reinterred at West Point. Some of the witnesses at the exhumation had strong doubts about the accuracy of that identification, and the archeological evidence seems to support their suspicions. The bones were reinterred in a solemn ceremony in 1877, though the present memorial is not the one that originally marked the grave. The pedestal currently on the site belonged to a statue of Custer commissioned by Congress and erected in the cadet area in 1879. Mrs. Custer was

not consulted on the design and hated it, and many others also objected to the swashbuckling pose. Eventually her campaign to have the statue removed was successful, and in 1884 Secretary of war Robert Lincoln ordered that action. After spending years in Quartermaster's storage at West Point, the bronze figure was dismantled from the pedestal and sent to the John Williams Foundry in New York City for modification. It has not been seen since. The statue pedestal was placed on Custer's grave, and Mrs. Custer added an obelisk to it in 1905. She died more than fifty years after her husband, defending his reputation to her last breath, and is buried alongside. Perhaps only she really knows whose bones are buried under that monument.

North of Section 13 are the two most massive individual monuments in the cemetery. On the right is the columned memorial for Major General Daniel Butterfield. Though he served as Chief of Staff for the Army of the Potomac at Gettysburg and later in Hooker's Corps in the west, his most notable accomplishment during the war was composing the bugle call "Taps." The columns on the ostentatious memorial of this nongraduate display the names of the battles he participated in. Butterfield had much money from his family and service with American Express, as well as powerful political connections. He was awarded a Medal of Honor in 1892 for heroism at Gaines Mill thirty years earlier.

On the left is the pyramid of Brigadier General Egbert Vielé, USMA 1847, and his wife. They are entombed in ornate sarcophagi inside. The writing is Etruscan. Viele was a landscape engineer who played key roles in designing Prospect Park and Central Park in New York City. His Topographical Atlas of the City of New York, published in 1876, is still used by New York City engineers. In 1890 he applied his talents to the expansion of the cemetery. Probably due to the Victorian fear of being buried alive, there was some sort of electric signaling device placed in the tomb. Legend has it that mischievous cadets would try to set it off to startle the caretaker and get him to run out to the tomb.



Tomb of Egbert Ludovicus Vielé

The sphinxes guarding the front of the Viele pyramid are not the original ones. Mrs. Viele did not like the physical characteristics of the first version, and they were dumped in the river and replaced. Years later one of the original statues was salvaged, and currently lies in the back yard of Quarters 105b at West Point. A comparison of this picture of it with images of the pyramid reveals that the original sphinx was indeed much more buxom than the final version.

Washington's Headquarters - Newburgh, New York

Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site, corner of Liberty & Washington Streets, Newburgh. Guided tours of 1750 stone farmhouse used by General George Washington as army headquarters, from April 1782 - August 1783, his longest stay of the War for Independence. This Jonathan Hasbrouck property, acquired and opened by the State of New York in 1850, is the first publicly operated historic site in the United States. Birthplace of the original purple heart award.

Here, the general, his wife, his officers, slaves and servants lived and worked in close quarters. The mixture of utilitarian folding furniture and elegant appointments in the house recreates the furnishings which greeted visitors 200 years ago.



In the critical months spent here, Washington maintained a strong army while planning to disband it. He negotiated with contentious individuals in the congress and elsewhere and dealt with problems of supply, training, pay and morale affecting his troops. He rejected a suggestion of an American monarchy, defused a potential mutiny among his officers, and proffered advice on the future of the new republic, In order to recognize the heroism of enlisted men, the commander-in-chief, at his Newburgh headquarters, created the Badge of Military Merit, the forerunner of the Purple Heart.

Washington's Headquarters ***Francois Jean, Marquis de Chastellux***

...At length, after riding two miles along the right flank of the army, and after

passing thick woods on the right, I found myself in a small plain, where I saw a handsome farm; a small camp which seemed to cover it, a large tent extended in the court, and several waggons round it, convinced me that this was his Excellency's quarter; for it is thus Mr. Washington is called in the army, and throughout America. M. de la Fayette was in conversation with a tall man, five foot nine inches high, (about five foot ten inches and a half English) of a noble and mild countenance. It was the General himself. I was soon off horseback, and near him. The compliments were short; the sentiments with which I was animated, and the good wishes he testified for me were not equivocal. He conducted me to his house, where I found the company still at table, although the dinner had been long over. He presented me to the Generals Knox, Waine, Howe, &c. and to his family, then composed of Colonels Hamilton and Tilgman, his Secretaries and his Aides de Camp, and of Major Gibbs, commander of his guards; for in England and America, the Aides de Camp, Adjutants and other officers attached to the General, form what is called his family. A fresh dinner was prepared for me, and mine; and the present was prolonged to keep me company. A few glasses of claret and madeira accelerated the acquaintances I had to make, and I soon felt myself at my ease near the greatest and the best of men. The goodness and benevolence which characterize him, are evident from every thing about him; but the confidence he gives birth to, never occasions improper familiarity; for the sentiment he inspires has the same origin in every individual, a profound esteem for his virtues, and a high opinion of his talents. About nine o'clock the general officers withdrew to their quarters, which were all at a considerable distance; but as the General wished me to stay in his own house, I remained some time with him, after which he conducted me to the chamber prepared for my Aides de Camp and me. This chamber occupied the fourth part of his lodgings; he apologized to me for the little room he had in his disposal, but always with a noble politeness, which was neither complimentary nor troublesome.

At nine the next morning they informed me that his Excellency was come down into the parlour. This room served at once as audience chamber, and dining-room. I immediately went to wait on him, and found breakfast prepared....

Whilst we were at breakfast, horses were brought, and General Washington gave orders for the army to get under arms at the head of the camp. The weather was very bad, and it had already began raining; we waited half an hour; but the General seeing that it was more likely to increase than to diminish, determined to get on horseback. Two horses were brought him, which were a present from the State of Virginia; he mounted one himself, and gave me the other. Mr. Lynch and Mr. de Montesquieu, had each of them, also, a very handsome blood horse, such as we could not find at

Newport for any money. We repaired to the artillery camp, where General Knox received us: the artillery was numerous, and the gunners, in very fine order, were formed in parade, in the foreign manner, that is, each gunner at his battery, and ready to fire. The General was so good as to apologize to me for the cannon not firing to salute me; he said, that having put all the troops on the other side of the river in motion, and apprized them that he might himself march along the right bank, he was afraid of giving the alarm, and of deceiving the detachments that were out. We gained, at length, the right of the army, where we saw the Pennsylvania line; it was composed of two brigades, each forming three battalions, without reckoning the light infantry, which were detached with the Marquis de la Fayette. General Waine, who commanded it, was on horseback, as well as the Brigadiers and Colonels. They were all well mounted: the officers also had a very military air; they were well ranged, and saluted very gracefully. Each brigade had a band of music; the march they were then playing was the Huron. I knew that this line, though in want of many things, was the best clothed in the army; so that his Excellency asking me whether I would proceed, and see the whole army, or go by the shortest road to the camp of the Marquis, I accepted the latter proposal. The troops ought to thank me for it, for the rain was falling with redoubled force; they were dismissed, therefore, and we arrived heartily wet at the Marquis de la Fayette's quarters, where I warmed myself with great pleasure, partaking, from time to time, of a large bowl of grog, which is stationary on his table, and is presented to every officer who enters....

The rain spared us no more at the camp of the Marquis, than at that of the main army; so that our review being finished, I saw with pleasure General Washington set off in a gallop to regain his quarters. We reached them as soon as the badness of the roads would permit us. At our return we found a good dinner ready, and about twenty guests, among whom were Generals Howe and Sinclair. The repast was in the English fashion, consisting of eight or ten large dishes of butcher's meat, and poultry, with vegetables of several sorts, followed by a second course of pastry, comprized under the two denominations of pie and puddings. After this the cloth was taken off, and apples and a great quantity of nuts were served, which General Washington usually continues eating for two hours, toasting and conversing all the time. These nuts are small and dry, and have so hard a shell, (hickory nuts) that they can only be broken by the hammer; they are served half open, and the company are never done picking and eating them. The conversation was calm and agreeable; his Excellency was pleased to enter with me into the particulars of some of the principal operations of the war, but always with a modesty and conciseness, which proved that it was from pure complaisance he mentioned it.... Marquis de Chastellux. *Travels in North-America, In the Years 1780, 1781, and 1782.* (London: 1787), I:112-125.

Mount Gulian — The Verplanck Homestead



Mount Gulian is the Verplanck family homestead located in southern Dutchess County, New York on the scenic Hudson River. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the home was originally built by Gulian Verplanck, a prominent Dutch merchant, between 1730 and 1740. The Mount Gulian Society, a non-profit, private organization, was formed in

1966 to restore the original building which was destroyed by fire in 1931 and to promote the Site as an historical educational and cultural facility

When you visit, you'll notice several interesting architectural features, including the gambrel roof which slopes down and outward in a graceful bell-like curve to become the roof of the veranda, the original colonial kitchen with the large cooking fireplace and beehive oven, and the four capped chimneys. The home features a large meeting/exhibit room, a museum room with Revolutionary War era collections, and a dining room with period furnishings. Adjacent to the home is a restored 18th century Dutch barn built by the Verplancks.

Mount Gulian is historically significant because of its role in the Revolutionary War. In 1783, during the final period of the War, the home served as the headquarters of America's General von Steuben. An unheralded hero of the Revolution von Steuben was the Continental Army's Drillmaster and Inspector General. Under his supervision, the rag-tag American army was transformed into a disciplined and victorious military force.

It was also at Mount Gulian that the Society of the Cincinnati was formed on May 13, 1783. Our country's first veterans' organization, the Cincinnati was formed by officers of the Continental Army as a fraternal organization. Still in existence today, the Cincinnati has thirteen chapters for the thirteen original states, and one in France, in recognition of France's role in the War. Mount Gulian is the official headquarters of the New York Society of the Cincinnati. It is interesting to note that the city of Cincinnati takes its name from the Society.

Table of Contents

The U. S. Military Academy	1
Its Coat of Arms and Motto	7
Map	12
The West Point Cemetery	8
Aztec Club’s Memorial Tablet	9
Egbert Vielé	10
Winfield Scott	14
Vielé Tomb	16
Washington’s Headquarters	17
Marquis de Chastellux’s Description	18
Mount Gulian — Verplanck House	20

Edited by Richard Breithaupt, Jr.

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Included in the Roster of Original Members, which listed some 160 original members of the Club, are, in the words of K. Jack Bauer (The Mexican War, New York, 1974), “most of the major figures in the Mexican War army and a large group whose fame would come a decade and a half later as leaders of the Union and Confederate Armies in the struggle of 1861-1865”. These Original Members included:

Union

- John Milton Brannan (1819-1892)
- George Cadwalader (1803-1879)
- Philip St. George Cooke (1809-1895)
- William Henry French (1815-1881)
- Ulysses Simpson Grant (1822-1885)
- Schuyler Hamilton (1822-1903)
- Joseph Hooker (1814-1879)
- Philip Kearny (1814-1862)
- George Brinton McClellan (1829-1885)
- Robert Patterson (1792-1881)
- Fitz-John Porter (1822-1901)
- Jesse Lee Reno (1823-1862)
- Charles Ferguson Smith (1807-1862)
- George Sykes (1822-1880)
- Zealous Bates Tower (1819-1900)

Confederate

- Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard (1818-1893)
- Bernard Elliott Bee (1824-1861)
- Richard Stoddert Ewell (1817-1872)
- Maxcy Gregg (1814-1862)
- William Joseph Hardee (1815-1873)
- Joseph Eggleston Johnston (1807-1891)
- Robert Edward Lee (1807-1870)
- Mansfield Lovell (1822-1884)
- John Bankhead Magruder (1810-1871)
- John Clifford Pemberton (1814-1881)
- Henry Hopkins Sibley (1816-1886)
- Gustavus Woodson Smith (1822-1896)
- David Emanuel Twiggs (1790-1862)
- Earl Van Dorn (1820-1863)
- Cadmus Marcellus Wilcox (1824-1890)

Many other members of the Club, not original members in 1847, were equally significant leaders of the Army and Navy, both Federal and Confederate, in the great struggle of 1861-1865, including: Federal, William Tecumseh Sherman, Philip H. Sheridan, George C. Meade, David D. Porter, etc.; and Confederate, Jefferson Davis, James Longstreet, Edmund Kirby-Smith, and others.

