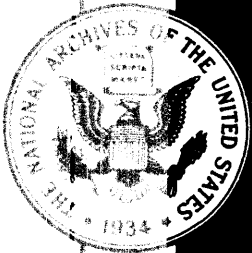


NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS
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**U.S. Military Academy
Cadet Application Papers
1805 - 1866**



NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 1968

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U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY
CADET APPLICATION PAPERS
1805-1866

On the 242 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced application papers of cadets for appointment to the U.S. Military Academy, 1805-66. The unbound papers include letters from applicants requesting appointment, letters of recommendation, notifications from the War Department if the candidate was appointed, and letters of acceptance from the candidates. The records are part of Record Group 94, Records of The Adjutant General's Office.

After the British military victories in New York in October 1777, Gen. George Washington recommended the erection of military defenses along the Hudson River in the area of West Point. Washington believed that a fort on the plateau at West Point would secure the river from attacks by the British and preserve communication between the colonies by insuring their geographical unity.

Plans for the design of the military post at West Point were made initially by a young French engineer, Lt. Col. Louis Deshaix de la Radière. In January 1778 a brigade under the command of Brig. Gen. Samuel Holden Parsons of Connecticut began constructing fortifications at West Point, on the west bank of the Hudson River in New York. By June 1778 work was completed on Fort Clinton, one of the earliest forts erected on the site. In July 1779 Washington moved his headquarters to West Point, where he remained until November of that year.

The garrison at West Point by August 1782 consisted of artillery, sappers and miners, the 10th Massachusetts Regiment, and the Corps of Invalids. The Corps was an early version of the organization that became the U.S. Military Academy in 1802.

One of the earliest recommendations for a military academy came from Col. Henry Knox, Chief of Artillery of the Revolutionary Army. In September 1776 Knox suggested the establishment of an academy for training military officers in the theory and practice of their profession. On October 1, 1776, the Continental Congress resolved that a committee of five be designated to prepare a plan for a Military Academy. The result was the appointment of an Invalid Corps by an act of Congress on June 20, 1777. The Corps, consisting of eight companies, was to be employed for garrison and guard duty and "also to serve as a military school for young gentlemen." Col. Lewis Nicola, a French officer, was elected Colonel of the Corps. Part of the Corps was stationed at West Point by November 1781 and the entire Corps by August 1782. An arsenal, an engineering school, and a library were erected by the Corps. After the war, Congress dissolved most of the Continental Army, including the Corps, but a garrison was retained at West Point.

Little was done about founding an academy for training military officers until May 9, 1794, when an act of Congress provided for a Corps of Artillerists and Engineers to be stationed at West Point. At this time the rank of cadet was established. The act provided for four battalions of four companies and each company was allotted two cadets, which made a total of 32 cadets. They were to receive an apprenticeship in military affairs rather than formalized training. The number of authorized cadets was increased by an act of March 3, 1799, that established a regiment of infantry and a regiment of cavalry, each to have 10 cadets, and a regiment of artillery, which was to have 32 cadets.

The U.S. Military Academy was established by law on March 16, 1802. Congress authorized the President to organize a Corps of Engineers that was to contain, in addition to the officers, 10 cadets who were to receive a military education and who were to receive pay. The Corps was stationed at West Point and constituted the Military Academy. Under the terms of the same act 40 cadets were authorized for the Artillery Corps. By an act of April 12, 1808, 156 additional cadets were authorized when the Army was increased by five regiments of artillery, one of riflemen, one of light artillery, and one of light dragoons, and each company of the regiments was to have two cadets. An act of January 11, 1812, authorized an additional 10 regiments of infantry, two of artillery, and one of light dragoons, and also provided that each regiment of artillery should have 40 cadets and that the regiment of cavalry should have 24 cadets.

The Academy was reorganized by an act of April 29, 1812, which provided that the number of cadets appointed in the service of the United States was at no time to exceed 250 and that they were to be attached, at the discretion of the President, to the Military Academy. The sum of \$25,000 was appropriated for buildings and equipment. Congressional regulations relating to the Academy remained stable until an act of March 1, 1843, which limited the number of cadets to the number of Representatives and Delegates in Congress and one from the District of Columbia. In addition, the President was permitted to appoint 10 cadets on an "at large" basis.

Maj. Jonathan Williams of the Corps of Engineers was appointed as the first Superintendent of the Military Academy in April 1802. The Academy was formally opened on July 4 of that year. Superintendents of the Academy were selected from the Corps of Engineers until July 13, 1866, when Congress authorized the selection of the Superintendent and the officers on duty at the Academy from any arm of the service. Under the same act Congress transferred the supervision of the Academy to the Secretary of War.

Under the provisions of the act of 1812, cadet appointments to West Point were made at the discretion of the President, with the advice of the Secretary of War. Applications for appointment could be made to the Secretary of War by the candidate, his parents, guardian, or any of his friends. Recommendations were received from relatives, friends, or Members of Congress.

The act of 1812 also required that candidates for appointment should be not younger than 14 nor older than 21 years of age. By a joint resolution approved June 16, 1866, the age of admission of cadets was thereafter to be between 17 and 22 years of age. Another provision in the act of 1812 was that each candidate should be "well versed in reading, writing, and arithmetic." These were the basic requirements from 1812 to 1866.

Applications for cadet appointments for the 1812-66 period were referred to the Engineer Department. Selections were made yearly by the Secretary of War to fill the number of vacancies for the year, and those selected were conditionally appointed as cadets. They were notified by letters of appointment and were directed to inform the Secretary of War of their acceptance. Before 1843 appointments were customarily distributed throughout the country in proportion to the number of Representatives and Delegates in Congress, and they were made upon the advice of the Congressman. Equal distribution of the appointments was required by a law passed by Congress on March 1, 1843, with the additional provision that the cadet who was recommended should be a resident of the District, State, or Territory from which he was appointed.

Most of the application papers in this microfilm publication are arranged by year and thereunder numerically by file number. The file designation for an applicant consists of the year in which the application was received and the number assigned to the file. Letters of application that for one reason or another were not numbered have been filed by the National Archives as unnumbered letters at the end of the year of the application and thereunder alphabetically by the name of the candidate.

In some instances errors were made by War Department clerks in assigning numbers to files and some numbers were repeated. Where the numbers were repeated, the clerks added "1/2" to the number of the second letter to distinguish it from the first one bearing the same number. Where this has not been done, the National Archives has added, in brackets, "No. 1" and "No. 2" to the file designation.

Some cross-reference slips prepared by the War Department appear in this series. They indicate the file number under which letters concerning the same applicant were consolidated.

The National Archives has not located application papers for the year 1811. During the war years 1810-12 few applicants were admitted to the Academy: 2 in 1810, 0 in 1811, and only 12 in 1812. Secretary of War William Eustis assigned the officers and the cadets of the Academy to other duties in those years and academic instruction declined.

Reproduced on the first roll of this microfilm publication is a name index to the letters of application. The index is arranged alphabetically by the initial letter of the surname of the applicant,

thereunder by the initial vowel sound of the surname, and thereunder chronologically by the date of the application. The index contains the name of the applicant, the year of application, the State from which the candidate applied, and the file number of the application papers. Entries for which correspondence has been found have been marked by the National Archives with an asterisk.

In some instances the name of the candidate has been spelled incorrectly in the index. The National Archives has not attempted to correct this type of error. For a few entries, the file number for the correspondence has been omitted; where this has occurred the National Archives has added the number to the index in brackets.

Not all names of applicants were entered in the index by the War Department clerks. In those instances where names have been omitted, the National Archives has prepared supplemental index entries that are filmed in the appropriate places.

A list of a number of early applications (1804-9), which were forwarded to the Record and Pension Office in 1896, appears at the beginning of the name index. Many of the papers to which the list relates are now filed among the letters received by the Secretary of War, Main Series, 1801-70 (Microcopy 221).

A list of applicants for whom no papers have been found in this series has been prepared by the National Archives. The list is filmed after these introductory remarks. Cross-reference slips in the file indicate that a few of the papers that were not found were withdrawn from the file or returned to the applicant.

Most of the records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers relating to the Military Academy were forwarded to the Office of The Adjutant General in 1867. Other related records in the same record group include a series of records relating to the U.S. Military Academy, 1812-67 (Microcopy 91). Additional records concerning the Military Academy may be found in Record Group 77, Records of the Office of the Chief of Engineers, and Record Group 107, Records of the Office of the Secretary of War.

The records reproduced in this microcopy were arranged for filming by Violet M. Alexander, Ellen S. Garrison, and John L. Matias. Aloha Broadwater wrote these introductory remarks and provided the other editorial material.

LIST OF APPLICANTS FOR WHOM
NO PAPERS HAVE BEEN FOUND
IN THIS SERIES

Abbott, Henry L.	1849/1	McAlester, Miles	1852/187
Alexander, DeAlba E.	1864/273	McDuffee, Franklin	1845/194
Aycock, Thomas B.	1845/1	McHenry, William	1863/231
Ayres, Douglass	1826/209	Merchant, Silas	1842/199
Bagly, John C.	1845/26	Miller, John	1847/187
Batchelder, A. G.	1846/38	Moffitt, _____	1844/152
Baylor, John R.	1858/24	Moore, Samuel H.	1862/206
Blair, Lewis H.	1849/11	Nelson, P. J.	1846/205
Boyd, O. B.	1863/20	Nouman, Joseph D.	1845/169
Bunker, Daniel, Jr.	1846/35	Ormstreet, James T.	1841/236
Burke, John G.	1865/54	Parker, E. T.	1848/326
Butts, _____	1829/43	Parker, H. S.	1847/214
Cheves, Francis F.	1850/50	Parker, Thomas	1849/263
Clark, _____	1823/3	Perine, Henry C.	1846/223
Coss, George	1827/93 1/2	Poe, Edgar Allen	1829/156
Cowles, Samuel	1842/200	Risteau, _____	1845/243
Davis, Jefferson	1824/307	Robb, O. D.	1842/311
Dinsmore, Silas	1824/44	Robinson, John M.	1849/287
Dudley, Allanson W.	1818/113	Rodgers, John K.	1824/43
Easley, Thomas W.	1849/111	Rogers, W. T.	1850/339
Emory, A. W.	1846/79	Ross, Harvey P.	1848/236
Forsythe, Benj. D.	1843/160	Russell, Albert	1852/243
Gannell, W. C.	1853/107	Saunders, F. W.	1847/258
Gibbs, Robert	1818/1	Shepperd, Thomas P.	1852/252
Hale, John R.	1848/146	Sidney, J. N.	1856/278
Hammett, John P.	1849/149	Smith, Horace	1821/6
Hanson, R.	1850/118	Smith, W. P.	1843/271
Hearn, F. P.	1854/272	Steptoe, Edward J.	1833/136
Hearn, Theo. S.	1828/171	Sumner, Charles	1825/106
Henderson, Thomas J.	1841/169	Surles, Wm.	1863/438
Hendrel, C. B.	1849/141	Taylor, George	1832/74
Higgins, Eugene	1850/128	Trapier, Paul	1830/158
Hopkins, James, Jr.	1861/391	Vanderwerken, Charles	1856/316
Hughes, William B.	1851/127	Ward, Robert A.	1849/364
Hulburt, William W.	1846/105	Ward, Thomas	1853/295
Inglis, Thomas M.	1850/150	Ward, Thomas	1859/278
Irwin, William W.	1824/404	Wheeler, Thomas W.	1855/223
Johnson, William W.	1854/255	Williams, Thomas	1832/269
Jones, Adam W.	1845/2	Williams, W. W.	1850/327
King, John	1848/166	Wolfenden, John	1828/172
Kingsbury, George S.	1849/188	Wood, S. W.	1849/386
Lee, Robert E.	1824/116		

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	1-8		<u>1823</u>
	<u>1807</u>	23	1-59 4
	1-8	24	60-112 4
	<u>1808</u>	25	113-179 4
	1-10	26	180-249 3
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	Unnumbered	34	319-364 4
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59	72-112	3	100	102-149	4
60	113-162	3	101	150-196 and	4
61	163-197	3		Unnumbered	
62	198-226	3		<u>1836</u>	
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64	246-274	3	103	58-106	4
65	275-293	3	104	107-159	4
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66	1-35	2	106	209-250 and	3
67	36-67	3		Unnumbered	
68	68-115	3		<u>1837</u>	
69	116-151	3	107	1-44	3
70	152-204	3	108	45-94	4
71	205-226	3	109	95-143	4
72	227-248	3	110	144-183	4
73	249-269	3	111	184-225	3
	<u>1831</u>		112	226-275	4
74	1-35	3	113	276-315	3
75	36-79	4		<u>1838</u>	
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77	119-153	3	115	57-101	3
78	154-191	3	116	102-157	3
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80	1-32	3	119	246-262	4
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83	105-149	4	121	66-115	4
84	150-191	4	122	116-170	4
85	192-234	4	123	171-203	4
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87	1-38	3	125	49-105	5
88	39-78	3	126	106-165	5
89	79-118	3	127	166-215	4
90	119-162	4	128	216-268	4
91	163-211	4	129	269-309	4
	<u>1834</u>		130	310-360	4
92	1-38	3		<u>1841</u>	
93	39-77	4	131	1-73	4
94	78-132	4	132	74-105	4
95	133-170	4	133	106-154	3
96	171-209	4	134	155-212	3
97	210-252 and	4	135	213-261	4
	Unnumbered		136	262-318	4

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156	80-130	4	194	227-329 and Unnumbered	5
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158	199-259	5	195	1-86	4
159	260-310	4	196	87-204	5
	<u>1846</u>		197	205-273	4
160	1-71	4		<u>1855</u>	
161	72-138	4	198	1-91	4
162	139-210	4	199	92-169	4
163	211-281	4	200	170-239	4
164	282-325	3		<u>1856</u>	
	<u>1847</u>		201	1-101	5
165	1-83	4	202	102-235	5
166	84-160	4	203	236-353	5
167	161-235	4		<u>1857</u>	
168	236-302	4	204	1-100	4
169	303-335	4	205	101-207	4
	<u>1848</u>		206	208-299	3
170	1-79	4	207	300-385	4
171	80-160	4		<u>1858</u>	
172	161-214	4	208	1-75	3
173	215-278	3	209	76-150	3
174	279-330	3	210	151-271	5
	<u>1849</u>		211	272-351	5
175	2-77	4		<u>1859</u>	
176	78-165	4	212	1-115	4
			213	116-224	5
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	<u>1860</u>	
215	1-92	\$4
216	93-170	4
	<u>1861</u>	
217	1-135	5
218	136-294	5
219	295-381	4
220	382-492	5
221	493-641	5
222	642-752	4
223	753-851	4
224	852-973	5
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225	1-114	5
226	115-228	5
227	229-345	5
	<u>1863</u>	
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229	101-200	5
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233	1-101	4
234	102-235	5
235	236-339	4
236	340-428	4
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237	1-139	5
238	140-255	4
239	256-360	4
240	361-434	3
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242	121-200	3

	Total	\$908